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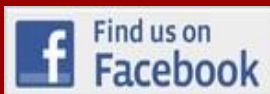
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Newsletter: March 2017

What motivates you to continue giving? Is there a cause you want to support?



Dear Donor/Supporter,

In an age when distraction is a click away, when turning a blind eye to those in need is easier than ever, you have been unwavering in your support. We'd like to update you on our work in the spring of 2017, and ask you to share a few thoughts with us.

Health: Protecting children from Japanese Encephalitis

According to the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is the most common form of vaccine preventable encephalitis in Asia. With IDRF's support, NGO partner **Manav Seva Sansthan's** project aims to reduce death and disability among children from Japanese Encephalitis in Eastern UP districts where more than 50,000 children have succumbed to it over the last 30 years. The project is being covered in three phases. Phase 1-Post Monsoon (Nov-Feb), has

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been successfully undertaken and a survey of 93 villages has been done in order to gather and document information on health and sanitation in various communities. Mass awareness campaigns are conducted using programs like street plays, videos, posters and banners, etc. Pig farmers have been counseled and asked to move the animals away from human habitats and use mosquito nets to prevent the spread of the disease. Communities are encouraged to grow herbal disinfecting plants like *neem* and *tulsi*. Fogging has been done in areas that are water-logged to prevent mosquito breeding.

Phase 2 Pre-Monsoon (March-May) has started now, and will cover immunization and health camps and other programs in coordination with the government.

Good Governance: Increase attendance of women and scheduled caste members at Gram Sabha meetings

IDRF has once again joined hands with our long time NGO-partners **Arpana** and **ADIG** to ensure the strengthening of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat Development Planning. They have started this project to strengthen bottom up planning and functioning of Gram Sabha in selected Gram Panchayats (GP) in Karnal, Haryana. Their main strategy is to encourage Self-Help Groups (SHG) to engage with Panchayats, either as elected representatives or as responsible citizens. Our partners conducted orientation on roles and responsibilities of representatives, rural development schemes, identifying needs of the villagers and prioritizing them and process of preparing GP plans, etc. This project is divided into three phases (2016-2019) and involves five most backwards GPs to be taken up in each phase from the Gharaunda block of Karnal. The first phase accomplished a 50% increase in attendance in Gram Sabha meetings; women SHGs and schedule caste members express their needs and concerns in these meetings. Moreover, functioning of GPs has started becoming transparent and accountable.



Eco-Friendly Development: Construction of Earthen Check Dams and Wells

Since 2009, IDRF has partnered with NGO **Samerth** to provide safe and sustainable water resources for the poor and marginalized communities in Kutch Dist, Gujarat. Kutch, is perennially water scarce and depends heavily on water bodies that are refilled each year by undependable monsoons. The region has rain-fed agriculture that is the backbone of the economy. Due to lack of rainfall in the monsoon season, families have had to migrate with their belongings and cattle. Samerth has identified the locations for the construction of 6 Earthen Check Dams and 3 Dug wells in Rapar, Kutch. This work will benefit over 15,000 households, consisting of almost 90,000 men, women and children and 57,000 cattle. The current phase of the project started in July 2016 and will end in June 2018. After the process of getting approval from new panchayat body set up in January 2017, the construction work is moving ahead.



These are a few of the many successful projects that IDRF has been able to support due to your generosity....

Please continue your support to IDRF and tell us if there is a cause near to your heart, a cherished dream of giving back that we can help you fulfill!

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Regards,
Dr. Vinod Prakash,
President,
India Development and Relief Fund, Inc.(IDRF)