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## [Frequently Asked Questions/Answers](#)

### **What is IDRF?**

IDRF is a *tax-exempt organization* under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (C)(3). It aims to support the grassroots, voluntary, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in serving the most disadvantaged and needy people in India.

### **How does IDRF work?**

IDRF is administered by volunteers from their homes and *has very low overhead*. We generate income to meet all our expenses by prudently managing your donations to IDRF. We also generate income by organizing events such as cultural programs and sporting activities. Moreover, we generally visit NGOs in India at our own expense. Thus, *we disburse 100% of your donations* and that too directly to the beneficiary NGOs. Further, IDRF believes in accountability and transparency. You can see IDRF's Annual Tax Returns and Audits on its website. IDRF receives donations only by checks and/or transfer of stocks/shares, and disburses funds only by wire transfer or checks through its bank accounts in USA.

### **How does IDRF select grassroots NGOs?**

IDRF's Founder/President has been visiting India over the past three decades and identifying NGOs: *managed by dedicated, selfless men and women*, who are imbued with a spirit of missionary zeal and humanitarian service. Fortunately, IDRF's team of volunteers also remains in contact with such NGOs throughout the tribal, rural and urban India: from Jammu to Kanyakumari and from Changlang (Arunachal) to Kandla (Gujarat).

### **Are there any special features of IDRF-supported grassroots NGOs?**

Yes. The NGOs are managed by dedicated volunteers. They focus on integrated human development, creation of self-empowerment, inculcation of responsible citizenry, ecological awareness and better governance, family planning and public health, promotion of social and economic harmony, and bringing the neglected segments of the society (including persons with disabilities) into the mainstream. They operate under a minuscule budget and serve people *without consideration of caste, religion or sect*.

### **What are the accomplishments of IDRF?**

Thanks to the selfless, unstinting support of the IDRF volunteers, and donors' confidence reposed in IDRF; it has raised **\$21.5 million** (including \$3.1 million for Gujarat Earthquake and \$1.2 million for Tsunami). IDRF has made grants over **\$19.0 million**.

Inspired by IDRF, fifteen young couples – mostly born/brought up in USA – have showed *unprecedented generosity* and love for India by donating their (cash) wedding gifts for social service projects. Many NRIs have **fulfilled their dreams** of establishing schools and dorms in their villages, and others have contributed funds that have enabled IDRF to finance as many as 30 mobile medical clinics. Many have sponsored one-teacher schools, and children at residential schools. Many have supported establishing loving homes for children and widows tormented by poverty, illiteracy, natural disasters, terrorism, or insurgency. Many have saved children from blindness, and supported family planning programs, and much more.

Visits to IDRF-supported NGOs have been an exhilarating experience to see the best possible use of our hard-earned money. We are *invariably thrilled with the tears of joy* and inspired to redouble our efforts. You are encouraged to visit those wonderful NGOs. Thereby, you can as well enhance your inner joy and *experience true happiness in life*.

### **Can I be assured that my hard-earned money will be properly used?**

Yes. This is precisely an *inherent strength* of IDRF. We attach utmost importance to the NGOs' accountability and integrity. We select NGOs *with proven track records only*. Dr. Vinod Prakash, the moving spirit behind IDRF, visits *seva* projects in India almost every year. Since his early retirement from the World Bank in 1988, he has virtually volunteered full-time for IDRF. Mr. Mohandas Gupta, another retiree, spends 4-5 months a year in India and visits IDRF-supported projects. Our other volunteers also keep visiting *seva* projects.

### **Will IDRF send my donations to the organizations of my choice?**

Yes, you have the **privilege of recommending** an organization in India. IDRF may accept your recommendation only if the designated organization is tax-exempt, FCRA approved, internet-connected and gets its accounts audited. The total of your donor-advised contributions should be **at least \$5,000**, and IDRF may retain a small portion, which goes down from **6% to 2%** as the total of donations on your behalf goes up.

### Can my employer/corporation match my donations to IDRF?

Yes, as a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization, IDRF does receive the matching corporate gifts, and we promptly take care of the paperwork.

### Can I donate stocks/shares to IDRF?

Yes, you can instruct your stock broker to electronically transfer stocks of substantial value to IDRF through the DTC Routing, which is explained at [www.idrf.org](http://www.idrf.org). But you should advise us about the transfer through email. You can thus save capital gains tax and also deduct the “market value” from your taxable income. In addition, you may also be able to secure employer’s matching gift for your donation.

### Can I designate my donation to IDRF through the UNITED WAY?

Yes, your United Way may allow “write-in” under its “donor-choice designation program”. If IDRF is not already registered under this program, *at your initiative*, we will be happy to get the registration done and enable you to contribute to IDRF through your UNITED WAY.

### Can I donate to IDRF on-line?

Yes, you can *donate on-line* at our website, [www.idrf.org](http://www.idrf.org), by clicking on the PayPal icon. PayPal allows you to donate by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, or Discover) and also direct debit from your bank account.

### Can I donate my old car to IDRF?

Yes, IDRF is registered with CAR PROGRAM LLC under its “Charity Donation Programs”, and you can donate online by following the steps mentioned at our website - [www.idrf.org](http://www.idrf.org).

### When can I donate to IDRF?

You may respond to IDRF’s annual campaign and also to its special campaign (eg. flood, tsunami) appeals. However, we welcome *donations year-round*. You may also donate on *special occasions in your family or community*, such as a birthday, wedding anniversary, graduation party, *pooja, havan*, religious festival, or a death anniversary of your beloved. Further, a wedding ceremony offers an excellent opportunity to **share your joy and care for the needy and/or poor**.

### How can I support IDRF?

You may leave it to our discretion or designate to a project of your choice, such as:

**\$365** – Adopt One-Teacher School/Ekal Vidyalaya (1 Year)

**\$500** – Support-A-Child at a Residential School (1 Year)

**\$900** – Finance a Single Teacher School in Tamil Nadu

**\$1,000** – Save 5,000 Children from Blindness

**\$1,500** – Develop Self-Reliance in a Cluster of 5 Villages

### Can I help IDRF even if I do not live in USA?

Yes, you can certainly help IDRF, in turn the needy/poor people of India by introducing IDRF to your family and friends in the USA and urging them to support it.

### Please mail your check, payable to “IDRF”:

Dr. Vinod Prakash, President

India Development & Relief Fund (IDRF)

5821 Mossrock Dr, North Bethesda, MD 20852

*“The poor, the illiterate, the ignorant, the afflicted – let these be your God. Know that service to these alone is the highest religion.”*  
– *Swami Vivekananda*

# IDRF

## INDIA DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF FUND

[Tax-Exempt under IRS Code 501(C)(3)]

**IDRF raises funds for supporting the most disadvantaged and/or impoverished people through voluntary, grassroots, exemplary, non-governmental organizations engaged in:**

- Providing education and vocational training
- Managing medical clinics and family planning
- Self-empowering tribal girls and women
- Developing economic self-reliance in villages, especially in tribal regions
- Promoting self-help groups in slums and villages in the interior
- Mainstreaming children with developmental challenges/disabilities
- Rehabilitating victims of terrorism, insurgency, militancy, and natural disasters

### Volunteers/Friends at Your Service

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*“Religion is the service of the helpless. God manifests Himself to us in the form of the helpless and the stricken” – Mahatma Gandhi*