

ANNUAL
REPORT
2016

IDRF

INDIA DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF FUND



IDRF

Mission

Breaking the cycle of poverty in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka by empowering marginalized people with skills, services, and infrastructure grounded in sustainable development.

Contents

<u>A Message from the President</u>	1
<u>Fundraising and Grant Distribution</u>	2
<u>Our NGO Partners by Focus Areas.....</u>	3
<u>IDRF Mission and Strategy in Action</u>	
I. <u>Women Empowerment: Our Journey with Magan Sangrahalaya</u>	4
II. <u>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</u>	5
III. <u>Our Unique Vision Development Strategy: Shiksha Bharati.....</u>	6
IV. <u>Giving Back: NRIs' Vision</u>	7
<u>Highlights of 2016 Programs</u>	
I. <u>Education/Skill Development.....</u>	8
II. <u>Health.....</u>	9
III. <u>Women's Empowerment.....</u>	10
IV. <u>Eco-friendly Development.....</u>	11
V. <u>Good Governance.....</u>	12
VI. <u>Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation.....</u>	13
<u>Project-site visits by Volunteers/Board Members.....</u>	14
<u>Future Projects.....</u>	15
<u>Get Involved</u>	16
<u>IDRF Team</u>	17



A Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,



My heartfelt thanks to all our donors and well-wishers, for your continued benevolence and confidence in India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF). Your magnanimity and compassion made it possible for us to raise \$2.45 million in 2016 and help improve the lives of tens of thousands of people in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

This report details our key achievements in improving the living standards of marginalized, and broadening the scope of our work. Thanks to our generous donors, our fundraising increased by more than 50% compared to 2015 and we expanded our efforts across the Indian Ocean to Sri Lanka.

During 2016, IDRf continued its work on women's empowerment, education, good governance and eco-friendly development with our old partners while building new partnerships with NGOs like Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka.

This report also salutes our two distinguished donors Dr. G. R. Verma who has raised millions for education in Rajasthan and Dr. George Chacko, who ensured that IDRf would continue to receive substantial donations even after his sad demise!

Due to our exemplary efforts, IDRf is the recipient of highest possible rating (4 out of 4 stars) and that too for four consecutive years by *Charity Navigator* (<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>), the Premier Non-Profit Rating Agency in USA). It commended IDRf for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 11% of rated charities were able to retain 4 star ratings for 4 consecutive years. In recognition of our outstanding contribution, independent reviews on *Greatnonprofits.org* (<https://greatnonprofits.org/>) have placed IDRf once again in the Top Rated non-profit list. IDRf's commitment to transparency has also led it to be recognized as a Gold level participant, by the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations- *GuideStar* (<http://www.guidestar.org>).

I would like to express my gratitude to you that with your support, IDRf team is unceasingly striving to broaden the scope of our programs as well as continue to leverage public resources. I would also like to thank our NGO partners who work hard, often in trying circumstances, to achieve results on the ground.

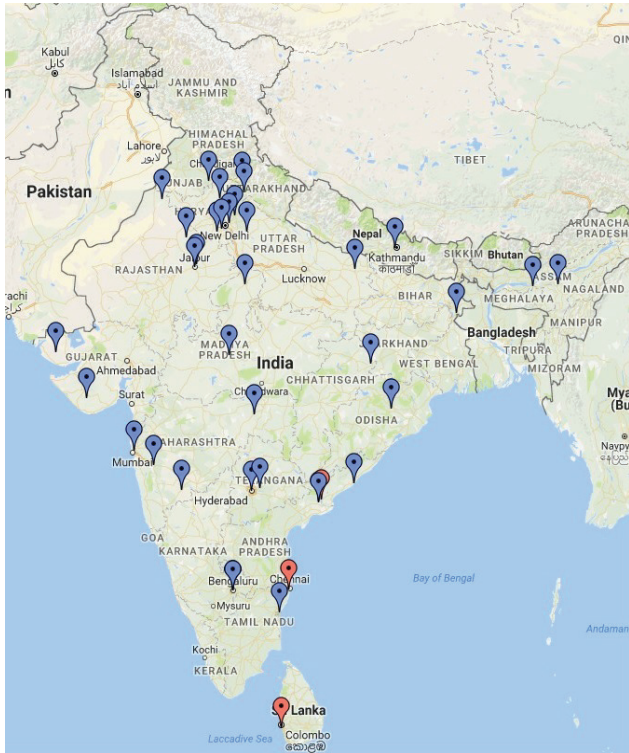
Hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report 2016! We look forward to your feedback and continued support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vinod Prakash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Vinod Prakash
Founder and President



FUNDRAISING AND GRANT DISTRIBUTION



YOU HELPED IDRF RAISE \$2.45 million in 2016



Funds raised (US\$): 2012-2016

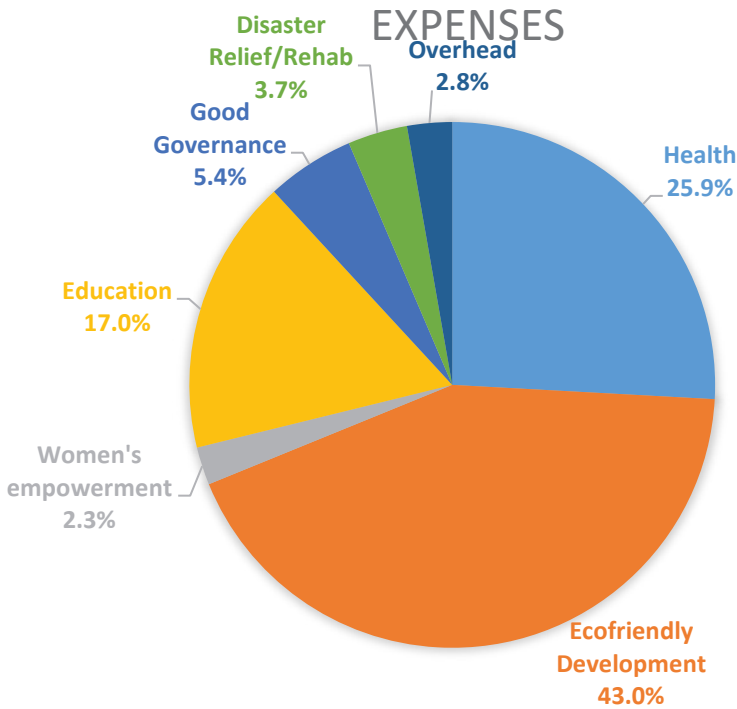
 Disaster Relief/Rehab programs
 Development programs

2016 Grant Distribution by Focus Area

(Total \$2,065k)

-  \$549k Health
-  \$913k Ecofriendly Development
-  \$49k Women's Empowerment
-  \$361k Education
-  \$115k Good Governance
-  \$78k Disaster Relief/Rehab

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



OUR 2016 NGO PARTNERS BY FOCUS AREA



Health

Partner NGO	Project Location
Atma Vidya Ashram Charitable Trust	Andhra Pradesh
Sree Kasturibayi Mahila Samajamu	Andhra Pradesh
Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra	Assam
Health Aid Trust	Gujarat
The Earth Saviours Foundation	Haryana
Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan	Maharashtra
Saraswati Jain Sewa Samiti	Rajasthan
Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society	Tamil Nadu
Sahaj Seva Samasthan	Telangana
Manav Seva Sansthan	Uttar Pradesh
Sri Ram Grameen Kshetra Vikas Samit	Uttar Pradesh
Vardan Seva Sansthan	Uttar Pradesh
Ramakrishna Mission Hospital	Uttarakhand
Economic Rural Development Society	W. Bengal



Ecofriendly Development

Partner NGO	Project Location
Dharma Vana Arboretum	Telangana
Samerth Charitable Trust	Gujarat



Women's Empowerment

Partner NGO	Project Location
Lila Poonawala Foundation	Maharashtra
Magan Sanghralaya Samiti	Maharashtra
Vatsalya Trust	Maharashtra



Education

Partner NGO	Project Location
Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram	Across Tribal India
Shiksha Bharati	Across Tribal India
Upakar Foundation	Across USA
The World Teacher Trust	Andhra Pradesh
Samerth Charitable Trust	Gujarat
Gyan Jyoti	Haryana
Atma Vidya Ashram Charitable Trust	Karnataka
Sri Sivananda Samskrita Veda Agama	Karnataka
Gwalior Hospital and Education Charitable Trust	Madhya Pradesh
Sewa Bharati	Madhya Pradesh
Open Learning Exchange Nepal	Nepal
Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals	Odisha
Society for Welfare of the Handicapped - Patiala Schools	Punjab
Bodh Shiksha Samiti	Rajasthan
Swami Keshwanand Smriti Charit. Trust	Rajasthan
Maharishi Dayanand Mahila Sikshan Sansthan	Rajasthan
Auroville Unity Fund	Tamil Nadu
Yogoda Satsanga Society of India	Tamil Nadu
Sahaj Seva Samasthan	Telangana
Pardada Pardadi Foundation	Uttar Pradesh
Uttranchal Daivi Apda Peedit Sahayata Samiti	Uttarakhand



Good Governance

Partner NGO	Project Location
Janaagraha Center for Citizenship & Democracy	Across Urban India
Arpana Research and Charities Trust	Haryana



Disaster Relief/Rehab

Partner NGO	Project Location
Youth for Seva	Karnataka
Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya	Sri Lanka
Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society	Tamil Nadu
Yogoda Satsanga Society of India	Tamil Nadu

IN 2016 IDRF HAD WORKED WITH 38 NGOs IN 15 INDIAN STATES,
& 1 each in NEPAL, Sri Lanka and USA.

IDRF Mission and Strategy in Action-I

Women Empowerment: Our Journey with Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti



Due to extreme poverty in the region, aggravated by adverse impact of climate change on its local crops, and lack of livelihood opportunities, Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti (MSS) decided to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women in the 100 villages of Seloo block, train many SHGs and help start micro level rural enterprises. However, lack of infrastructure facilities, such as bad roads and absence of public transport, irregular electricity and shortage of potable water in these villages, impeded setting up successful operation of these enterprises. A budding success story was turning into a tragedy when a decade ago IDRF came to their rescue.

Winning the Hearts and Minds

“We were reluctant to take grants from a foreign entity. But to our relief we found that IDRF was not a straight jacketed funding agency but a family where sensitive hearts and constructive minds came together to shake hands with institutions and groups working in critical remote area of India , supporting works related to alternative education, skill development, awareness generation, empowering the powerless and constructive development work. Empathizing with our urgent need for a safe structure to house our enterprises support came from IDRF in 2007 to construct the common facility center for rural women enterprises in Seloo village.” – **Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti**

A decade of IDRF's gradually growing involvement – 10 projects over a decade have brought MSS to a level of sustainability where it has become a hub of women empowerment in the area. IDRF has funded: (a) two buildings to house rural women enterprises; (b) transport to provide access to raw materials and markets; (c) introduction of organic farming; (d) women enterprises for processing and marketing of outputs from organic farms; and (e) setting up a training center for organic farming that provided direct benefit to more than 3,000 farmers in the 50 surrounding villages trained more than 10,000 farmers from Maharashtra and other states, formed 79 farmers federations with 450 member each . MSS has been selected by Government of India as a nodal training center for organic farming. At present the rural enterprises are providing sustainable livelihood to around 500 rural women and reaching out to thousands of women of 100 villages of Seloo block through more than 1,000 SHGs.

IDRF Mission and Strategy in Action-II

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission)

Encouraged by our past work in sanitation which was started in 2010 with Samerth Trust in Gujarat, we continued our involvement in 2016 with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan through (a) Economic Rural Development Society (ERDS) in West Bengal and (b) Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS), Tamil Nadu.

Economic Rural Development Society (ERDS), West Bengal

ERDS (<http://erds.in/>) has a target of completing 3,000 toilets in Bamungola and Gajole Blocks of District Malda.



The project design includes extensive awareness and monitoring programs. Beneficiaries share 20% of the cost through labor. ERDS trains the masons and construction workers in construction of a two-pit model toilet approved by UNICEF, thereby creating technical capacity in the local market.

This eco-friendly toilet technology consists of two alternating pits connected to a toilet. Excrete and waste water are collected in leach pits. Over time, the solids are sufficiently dewatered and can be manually removed with a shovel. A latrine pit if used by family of 10, having size of 4 feet deep with 3 feet base would take more than 4 years to fill when second pit needs to be opened. Soil from the first pit, odorless and germ-free after 15 months of closure, acts as a good organic manure. IDRF's collaboration, launched in November 2015 by organizing special event 'Ramp with a cause' in Houston, has already commissioned 500 toilets for BPL (Below Poverty Line) families this year.

"ERDS arranged many awareness programs on health & hygiene which trigger a positive behavioral changes among the villagers. With the support of ERDS many villagers have taken advantage of toilet construction in their own houses. Now, intestine diseases are reduced..." said Dr. Ajit Das, Hatimari Health Center, Gajole, Malda

Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS), Tamil Nadu



SVRDS, which runs Single Teacher Schools mostly in the poorest communities where public schools programs have not reached, decided to use its outreach for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan program. In 2016, IDRF's grant enabled 16 rural poor families to construct toilet-cum-bathroom units. Focused on the poorest communities in Tamil Nadu, IDRF's program is expected to accelerate in 2017. IDRF program has already been a catalyst in mobilizing public funding as well as support from corporate social responsibility program (CSR) in India.

IDRF Mission and Strategy in Action-III

Our Unique Educational Strategy for Tribal Girls

Shiksha Bharati (<https://www.shikshabharati.com/idrf-girls-hostel/>) runs a non-profit higher secondary school for girls in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. IDRF and Shiksha Bharati collaborated to construct a well-equipped hostel within the campus of the school with a capacity to house 100 tribal girls to provide them free boarding, lodging and education.



The school imparts holistic education through modern technologies like e-learning, smart classes and includes up-to-date Computer, Science and Mathematics labs. In addition, extracurricular activities such as sports, music and dance are also offered. Making good use of an indoor rifle shooting space and a dedicated instructor, girls of this school have won state and national level awards in small-bore rifle shooting. Accreditation by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) enables students more mobility and flexibility in college

admissions. Many tribal graduates return to their native regions, where they teach local girls, thus, making a contribution to breaking the cycle of gender discrimination and poverty in their communities. IDRF mobilized endowment (\$6000 per seat) takes care of expenses of tribal girls; so far 30 endowments have been mobilized and 70 more are needed to put the tribal girls' education on a sustainable basis. In the meanwhile IDRF is helping 24 girls through an annual support program of \$550/student, the remaining are funded by Shiksha Bharati through their operating fund.

The school makes available, free of cost, its two large computer labs and computer instructors over the weekends to the under-privileged girls in the neighborhood. Children also to participate in competitive activities such as Independence Day marching band, shooting, wrestling and yoga. Older girls act as mentors to younger girls and create long-term sisterhood bonds. IDRF instituted a unique award system for teachers and the staff to motivate them to boost hostel girls' confidence in education and life skills. In 2017 Shiksha Bharati plans to start for all tribal girls, education in English conversation and computers after school. They will also provide 2 laptops in hostel's recreation room with internet access, and hire a career counsellor to help with career guidance, course selection, college selection and college aid.



"We the students of Banwasi Chhatravas had done many extra activities in this summer vacation we had learnt paper cutting. By paper cutting we learnt to make the envelopes of different designs & we also learn to make paper bags by quilting the paper we had made the many designs of flowers which was looking very pretty. Now we can make greeting cards, paper flowers, paper baskets etc. By learning this we can start our own business in future."

-- Diksha – Class (XI)

IDRF Mission and Strategy in Action-IV

Giving Back: NRIs' Vision

Dr. Ghasi Ram Verma

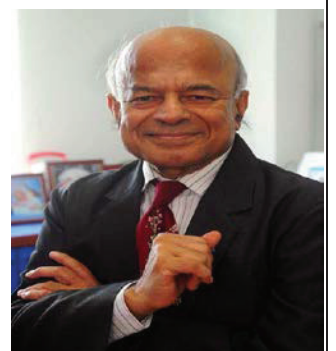
Known popularly as a “millionaire fakir”, Dr. Verma has dedicated himself to the cause of education, particularly girls’ education, in Rajasthan where he was born in a poor farming family in village Sigari in District Jhunjhunu. Starting his education in a village school, and battling his financial difficulties at every step of the way to educate himself and finally becoming a professor of mathematics in University of Rhode Island ,USA, Dr Verma’s journey is an unbelievable inspiration. His journey from Rajasthan to Rhode Island is the stuff legends are made of. He may have ended up as a farm labor but for a scholarship of Rs 2.50 per month to continue in high school, and a saga of academic pursuits with fits and starts in which he was helped by several donors, friends, and the government until completion of his PhD in mathematics from BITS Pilani. What makes Dr. Verma’s story even more exceptional is dedication of his life and life’s savings to the cause of education in India.



As one of the top donors, most of his support for education in India has been routed through IDRF over the last 30 years. Over the years he has funded more than 20 hostels/dorms for students, 17 schools, and 19 social service organizations with an aggregate amount exceeding Rs.80 million. Through IDRF he has established a Dr. G.R.Verma Pratibha Pratishtan which grants scholarship to girls and boys, studying in various institutions of Engineering, Medical and Technical courses. Dr. Verma visits India almost every year and interacts with young students in schools, colleges, and hostels funded by him. He also took sabbatical and taught at BITS Pilani in the years 1971, 1978, 1985, and 1993 without taking any remuneration. His contribution to Gramin Mahila Shikshan Sansthan Samiti have made it possible for one girl to join IAS, one IPS, four doctors,

eight admitted to Indian Institute of Technology, one state administrative service, two gold medalists of Rajasthan University and one a space scientist. His services and philanthropic contributions were recognized by the Governor of Rajasthan Dr. Kamla Devi.

Dr. George Chacko came to US on a scholarship from Princeton University in 1953 and received his Ph.D. from the New School of Social Research. He was the author, editor, or contributor to 79 books and journals. He felt deeply indebted to those who had shown him kindness, and keenly felt the need to show kindness to others in turn. He had enjoyed a long friendship and admiration of our president Dr. Vinod Prakash. Just a few weeks before his demise at age 85 in 2016, he established a ‘**George and Yo Chacko Trust**’ for substantial contributions to IDRF for next 10 consecutive years. His thoughtfulness and confidence in IDRF has left an enduring legacy for all of us!



Highlights of 2016 Programs

I-Education and Skill Development

With a young population- about 50% below 25 and 65% below 35—and more than 45 million unemployed. India faces twin challenges of generating one million jobs a month and imparting employable skills to the youth. IDRF decided to support: (i) a program of Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) to train youth in five poorest districts of Odisha- one of the least developed states in India; and (ii) Open Learning Exchange, Nepal - to leverage digital learning to reach remote schools in Nepal.

Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals Skill Development Trainings in Odisha

ISAP (<http://www.isapindia.org/>) proposed a skill development training program to train youth in sales and marketing, IT enabled services, patient-care, and security services in five of the poorest districts of Odisha. Deploying a very thoughtful, pragmatic, and outcome oriented approach, ISAP identified the skills needed by the local employers; designed focussed training programs that include soft skills, life skills, communication English, basic IT training, and on the job training. Against a target of 300, ISAP trained 303 rural youth (71 girls) and successfully placed 245 (51 girls) of them on jobs.



Gulzar, living in a remote village in Odisha, despite poverty completed her high school with grit and determination. Learning ITES skills and communication English, she successfully landed a job in a computer training center. Now she is not only contributing to the income of the family, she has become an inspiration to other girls in the village. She is determined to take further training to advance her career.

Open Learning Exchange (OLE), Nepal Digital Library

IDRF has been supporting OLE (<http://www.olenepal.org/>) since 2013 in their program to provide laptops to children and an extensive digital library accessible on internet and through an internal network of local servers installed in schools and community centers that are without Internet access (www.pustakalaya.org). The library has built a collection of over 7,000 e-books, thousands of audio books, educational videos, learning software and reference materials that provide invaluable resources to students, teachers as well as to the general reader.



By 2016, there were on average 25,000 views and downloads per month; the offline servers had been installed in 280 public schools in 45 districts of Nepal, benefiting over 75,000 students and teachers. With growth in content volume, obsolescence of the old repository management system, increased traffic, complexity of the system due to addition of audio and video content, and the need for including local script it became necessary to upgrade the system. In 2016, IDRF funded the digital library enhancement project that employed a team of e-library coordinator, library systems engineer, and software programmer to upgrade the content management system and library software.

II - HEALTH

Of several projects supported by IDRF, two are presented below to give the reader an idea of diversity of our engagement.

Manav Seva Sansthan, Uttar Pradesh

Prevention of Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.

The deadly virus of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) which causes Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) has afflicted Himalayan foothills in eastern Uttar Pradesh for nearly three decades. JE kills approximately 15,000 people of the estimated 50,000 cases reported annually in India. Among the survivors, up to 75% suffer from disabilities, including paralysis and mental retardation. Gorakhpur Division is one of the worst affected. Experts have calculated that in the last 30 years the killer disease has claimed the lives of more than 50,000 children. In 2016, out of the 276 deaths, 260 were children in the age group of 6-14 years. Manav Seva Sansthan (MSS) (<http://www.manavsevaindia.org>), a not for profit established in 1988 in Gorakhpur was funded in 2016 for fighting against Encephalitis.



Immunization is the best preventive measure but equally important are public awareness about the symptoms for early detection, link between sanitation and the vector, capacity among local doctors to diagnose and report, and access to safe drinking water. IDRF grant would help develop sustainable community based model to manage Japanese Encephalitis. The project would cover 93 villages in Khorabar block of Gorakhpur district. Baseline assessment has been carried out in all 93 villages, focusing on status of safe drinking water; health and hygiene status of the community; status of using toilets; use of mosquito nets; awareness about JE/AES among community and service providers; and effectiveness of government initiatives to prevent JE. MSS has conducted stakeholder consultations among Gram Panchayat, Block and District officials; cluster level public meetings to spread awareness; counselling of cattle and pig farmers; and training of trainers to convert normal mosquito nets to medicated nets. With the new Chief Minister of UP being from Gorakhpur, and having worked for many years on this issue, this project should get more attention and gain momentum in the current year.

Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama Hospital, Uttarakhand

Hospital Augmentation

Started in 1901 in Kankhal, Uttarakhand, this 150-bed hospital (<http://www.rkmkankhal.org/>) is associated with Ramakrishna Mission in Belur, West Bengal and has been serving people in Himalayan mountain region, neighboring states of Himachal, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The hospital has most of the needed specializations. It also runs a Mobile Medical Unit in Haridwar and its adjoining districts and ambulances to take care of emergency cases. Hospital provides 24 x 7 open Emergency, totally or partially free treatment for poorest of the poor, free medicines for the poor including expensive TB drugs, and free diet to indoor patients.



Because of deterioration in provision of medical services by the government and unaffordable costs of private providers, this hospital is experiencing a rising demand. With partial government and donor assistance, the hospital is expanding its existing facilities to add two more floors and additional equipment. IDRF supported their expansion program by financing medical equipment and air-conditioning of the new patient-care wards.

III - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Arpana Research and Charities Trust, Haryana Women's micro credit program

IDRF and Arpana (<http://www.arpanaservices.org/>) joined hands in the year 2000 and over the years carried out



Training in keeping accurate records

programs regarding gender parity in 100 villages. Gradually, IDRF broadened the scope of its involvement from gender parity to improved healthcare and financial independence by forming self-help groups (SHGs) for women, farmers and differently abled persons leading to their social and economic emancipation.

IDRF-Arpana partnership "Building systems, strategies and creating capacities of women leaders in the women's micro credit program" was planned for two years from April 2015 –

March 2017. By the end of 2016, 820 women's SHGs were formed, comprising of 11,516 rural women. This has led to

an incredible enhancement of women's self-esteem, confidence, and social recognition in their families and communities. The membership of SHGs provided a security of assured access for microcredit and a means to secure financial resources to alleviate poverty. Equipped with financial support from IDRF, and financial training from Arpana, there has been a profound transformation in their lives. These entrepreneurs are running successful local businesses, supporting themselves, and also contributing to their families' livelihood. 5,574 members have taken loans for their small businesses and have received training to learn the importance of new norms for repayment of loans and improving the punctuality and discipline in their groups.

Sumitra took loan to set up a pump repair business for husband and a buffalo to sell milk. Today the business is flourishing and employs 5 workers. They also have 3 buffaloes now!



Women learning to use calculators



"Nobody used to look at us, today we have dignity. I am respected in the village. We are invited to all functions and events. People come to me for advice and guidance. I am also looking after my mother in law's medical care and take her for her treatment, and help her when she needs it"...says Sumitra.

Special events

The United Indian Student Alliance (UISA)'s main purpose is to increase the awareness of Indian culture on the Georgia college campuses unifying its members of all backgrounds. UISA wanted to not only spread the word about the cycle of poverty in India, but also encourage others to help break this cycle. UISA paired with IDRF organized 'Tamasha 2016', South Asian dance competition was hosted on Nov 5, 2016 at Georgia Tech, featuring Bhangra, Bollywood Fusion, classical and Garba-Raas teams from all over the nation. Net proceeds of this show helped IDRF's rural sanitation programs in India.



IV - ECO-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT

Samerth Charitable Trust, Gujarat

Water Security in Kutch

Our association with Samerth Charitable Trust (<http://www.samerth.org/>) started in 2009. We have committed to support their program of creating water security for the underprivileged in rural communities of Rapar and Nakhatarana in Kutch district of Gujarat. The program consists of creating water security plan in project villages (97 in Rapar and 8 in Nakhatarana), covering more than 44,000 household, 230 thousand people, 300 thousand cattle in Rapar and about 10,000 people and 6500 cattle in Nakhatarana. The program works with 70% of the population that is most resource poor, and funds construction of earth check dams (ECDs), dug wells, assistance to avail job cards for Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, and access to healthcare. The program has constructed 127 check dams and ponds, and 147 wells in these two areas. A *Paani Samiti* or water committee from



the beneficiary households is formed for each structure, this ensures maintenance and fair distribution of water from the structure. Kutch is a dry, saline, arid zone with about 350 mm annual rainfall received generally within a few days. In the past dry wells provided drinking water only for 4 to 5 months and women had to walk couple of kilometers to fetch drinking water. Most of the marginal communities (30% of population) migrate with their cattle during seven to eight dry months in a year. In 2016, 280 mm of rainfall was received within three days which makes water storage and recharge infrastructure critical. Samerth's work has resulted in impressive water impoundment and recharge of wells, increasing crop yields and reducing seasonal migration by almost 50%.



In a dry land like Kutch, Samerth has developed a comprehensive long term planning with community's involvement. Good governance and responsive bureaucracy has been supporting in designing a long term solution to the water scarcity, drought management and water availability throughout the year.

Dharma Vana Arboretum (DVA)

Biodiversity Conservation



DVA is a biodiversity conservation project for tropical dryland flora facing pressures from increasing human and livestock populations. Loss of this biodiversity results in degradation of fragile ecosystem and economic hardship to the poor communities dependent on this ecosystem for their subsistence. Situated on 450 acres just outside of Hyderabad, Telangana, the landscape is a pristine example of un-spoilt Deccan geology. Emphasis of the project is on conserving rare and endangered species of native trees and shrubs of the Deccan Plateau and Eastern Ghats in a 'wild' setting. Long-term goal of the project is to re-establish an ecosystem suitable to dry tropical flora and complementary native fauna with over fifty thousand woody plants. While in its early stage of development, DVA serves the local community (Bhongir town and neighboring villages) with all the benefits of an emerging 'Green lung', significant water conservation works, and youth employment. IDRF is funding part construction of infrastructure and facilities of the arboretum that is scheduled to be partially opened to public by 2020 for education, research and the enjoyment of nature.

V- GOOD GOVERNANCE

Arpana –ADIG, Haryana

Ensuring inclusive Growth through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

To promote inclusive development through participatory planning and implementation of developmental programs, Government of India has a large program to fund Gram Panchayats. The recent five year plan, has provided about Rs.200 billion for the program. In Haryana too, Gram Panchayats are likely to receive funds in the range of Rs. 1 to 2 million per year. However, to be eligible to obtain funding, the Panchayats are required to prepare plans for economic development and social justice. Many Panchayats are unable to get funding due to lack of institutional capacity to prepare and implement this plans.



IDRF is funding a three-year program of Arpana Research & Charities Trust with close collaboration with its knowledge partner -Association for Democratic and Inclusive Governance (ADIG) to strengthen the capacity of 15 Gram Panchayats in Karnal district of Haryana to prepare development plans and to enhance participation of Gram Sabhas in these Gram Panchayats. This is a learning-by-doing program that could provide very useful lessons for replicating and scaling up through the state. In 2016, 11,500 members from 820 SHGs of 100 villages were provided orientation training, 5 Gram Panchayats have finalized their development plans, several trainers, including large number of women from SHGs, have been trained.

Janaagraha, Bengaluru

Transforming quality of life and citizen empowerment

Janaagraha Center for Citizenship and Democracy (<http://www.janaagraha.org/>), Bengaluru is a well-respected organization active in finding permanent, scalable solutions to urban challenges through a structured roadmap of action that they call City-Systems Framework. In 2016, IDRF provided them a grant for part funding of their following programs:

(1) Civic Learning that includes a Civic education program (Bal Janaagraha) covering over 27,000 eighth grade students, across 400 odd schools in over twelve cities of India; and an Innovative civic learning intervention for corporate employees (i matter) launched in 2015-16.

(2) Civic Participation that includes: community policing in select police stations covering about 1 million citizens in Bengaluru, operating an online platform (iChangeMyCity) (18,46,995 users) for raising civic issues and complaint resolution, and a new initiative called Open Data that would record and provide geo-coded data on maps on local infrastructure, budgetary allocation and spend at a neighborhood level, and quality of local infrastructure such as street lighting, parks, drainage etc.



(3) Advocacy and Reforms comprises Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS); publication of policy briefs on topical issues; policy primer on city management; and quarterly policy roundtables that bring multiple stakeholders to discuss topical issues. 2015 ASICS was used by Government of India for its economic survey while 2016 survey, launched in February 2017, to review 21 cities on 83 parameters was widely covered by the media. A conclave on shaping urban agenda held in Delhi in March 2016 was attended by eminent policy and opinion makers such as Urban Minister-Mr. Venkaih Naidu, Infosys Chief Mentor-Narayan Murthy, and CEO of Niti Ayog-Mr Amitabh Kant.

VI - DISASTER RELIEF/REHABILITATION

Floods in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

Havoc caused by very heavy rains in December 2015 in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh led to IDRF's funding for relief and rehabilitation programs through Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS) and Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS).

As expected, our relief work was completed in February 2016. This work was followed by reconstruction of flood ravaged houses of very poor rural families by Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS). Total 20 families have benefitted from these rehabilitation efforts.



On February 3, 2016, ten Indian Army soldiers were hit by an avalanche at an altitude of 19,600 feet and lost their lives. Thanks to our volunteers' initiatives, we succeeded in raising a handsome amount and provided financial help to the ten affected families through a new partner NGO "Youth for Seva", Karnataka led by one of our old time volunteers who now resides in India.

Saluting Our Brave Soldiers

Humanitarian assistance and rebuilding the livelihoods in Sri Lanka

IDRF collaborated with Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Sarvodaya) in 2016 to support the people who resettled in Sampoor, in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka. There were around 1272 families. In 2007, Sampoor was declared a High Security Zone, due to some vital military posts in the Civil War that led to displacement of people. It was the cessation of Civil War and the political change in 2015 that allowed Sarvodaya to engage in the resettlement process of people affected by Civil wars. With IDRF's support, Sarvodaya has started: (i) Renovating 5 drinking and agriculture water wells (ii) Constructing 5 toilets (iii) Training 150 people on entrepreneurship development (iv) Supporting 10 beneficiaries to help build their livelihood activities. This is IDRF's first ever program in Sri Lanka.

Special events

A play, 'Kasturba versus Gandhi' produced by 'Natya Bharati' in collaboration with SAHARA and IDRF, was staged in November 2016 at JCC of Greater Washington, Rockville, MD. Net proceeds of this performance were donated to IDRF for Women's Livelihood Programs of Chaitanya Trust, Pune.



Project-site visits by Volunteers/Board Members

Mohinder Gulati's (Volunteer) visit to Shiksha Bharati:

Inspired by his first visit to Shiksha Bharati in June 2016, Mr Mohinder Gulati, one of our donors/volunteer visited



again in October 2016, to celebrate *Diwali* with the children. In his own words: *"I visited the hostel for tribal girls. Of the 78 girls residing in the hostel, 12 had left this year after completing their senior secondary education. It is a sheer joy to talk to these confident and energetic young girls who are full of hopes and aspirations, ready to take on challenges and odds facing them, and firmly anchored in a value-system that would help them realize their potential as individuals and as productive and responsible members of the society. Response to my questions on their aspirations was as inspiring as was the sparkle of determination in their eyes. They want to become civil servants, police officers, doctors, teachers to serve the poor and the society. I have agreed to connect the school with an excellent program of innovative science education funded by a World Bank program called Development Marketplace. I was very pleased to see how the school leverages its facilities for the benefit of girls from poor families in the community by allowing them free access, and providing instructional support, in use of computers."*

Sasala Challa's (Board Member) visit to Dharama Vana Arboretum (DVA), Telangana

Dr. Sasala Challa, a member of IDRF Board, visited IDRF-supported DVA (see page 12 of this report) in June 2016. Dr. Challa visited the plant samples testing site, saw the database they are maintaining since past 20 years, and the site for preparation of manure for plants from different bio-sources. IDRF-supported infrastructure includes boundary wall for protection, easy access for fire tenders to fight forest fire, and small ponds for storing water for dry season. DVA is trying innovative conservation techniques for co-vegetation of different species. Over 2,800 uncommon species of trees shrubs and other woody plants, many of which endangered, are being planted in small colonies of individual species.



Reena Goyal's (Board Member) visit to Tribal Girls' hostel



Ms. Reena Goyal, a member of IDRF Board, visited Shiksha Bharati in December 2016. She was delighted to see the motivation of all the girls to do better for themselves and help others. Ms. Goyal participated in a show put together by the girls of the tribal hostel and felt she has made a strong bond of love with the girls. In 2017 the hostel facilities are being extended to 30 more girls. New initiative for the next year include computer basics and English speaking class, establishing communication of the donors with the girls benefitting from endowment, and hiring a career counsellor to help senior secondary students with career and college options.

IDRF FUTURE PROJECTS

IDRF will keep expanding the scope of its work, by taking on some new programs and coverage by geographical areas in the near future. We hope you would be motivated to support the ongoing and the proposed future projects. Here is a brief description of some of those projects:

Training for Women farmers in Rajasthan

Partner with **S.M. Sehgal Foundation** to build capacities of women farmers in five major skill areas of agriculture namely: land use efficiency, high quality production, production efficiency, and water and energy efficiency.

- ❖ Three year project- will cover 10 villages that grow vegetables in the rugged terrain near Aravalli ranges, in Alwar district and benefit 1,000 women farmers.
- ❖ Create cadre of women farmers- who are empowered in terms of scientific knowledge and have confidence in best practices of farming.

Community Health Research Project: BHIM in Gujarat and Maharashtra

Expand partnership with **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan**. IDRF has collaborated with them for the construction and expansion of the multispecialty-Dr. Hedgewar Hospital. The NGO is now seeking support to conduct a research project focusing on the scheduled castes and tribes-“**BHIM: Better Health Intervention for Reducing Morbidity & Mortality in Malnutrition**”. This study is expected to help improve quality of life and survival of children with malnutrition.

- ❖ One year study in tribal areas of Dang (Gujarat) and Nandurbar (Maharashtra) will cover 5,000 children between ages of 6 months to 4 years.

Rural Energy Self-Reliance in Tamil Nadu

Expand partnership with **Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society (SVRDS)**. IDRF has provided grants for their rural sanitation project under *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and was able to provide relief and rehabilitation to Chennai flood victims through them. In the near future, IDRF will collaborate with SVRDS to support their ‘Rural Energy Project’.

- ❖ One year project will cover 100-Single Teacher Schools in villages by installing solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems.
- ❖ This will generate rural employment, entrepreneurship and modern energy solutions that bring reliable electricity to the schools and become an inspiration for adoption of solar home systems by the community.

Water Secured Villages in Chhattisgarh

Expand partnership with **Samerth Charitable Trust** in Chhattisgarh after the impressive success of water harvesting projects in water scarce areas of Gujarat.

- ❖ Create 4 rain roof water harvesting structures, 8 ponds and 2 spring management for water conservation in 8 villages of Kawardha district.
- ❖ Provide clean water access to about 500 families (2000 individuals) and reduce instances of water-borne diseases and further multiply the economic marginalization.
- ❖ Develop a water structure model that can be replicated through government schemes and programs.

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

More than 95 cents of every \$1 goes directly to our programs

CHECK

Please make your check payable to: "IDRF" and mail it to:

5821 Mossrock Drive
North Bethesda, MD 20852

Please include your email address

ONLINE

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/IDRF>

YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Corporate Employees may double their donation through Charitable Matching Gift Program at their company (Consult your company's HR department)

World Bank Group (WBG)

World Bank Group (WBG) staff and retirees may double their donation by participating in World Bank Community Connections Fundraising Campaign and selecting IDRF

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

US Federal Govt. employees may donate through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

AMAZON SMILE

Support IDRF while you shop—at no extra cost

<https://smile.amazon.com> Choose "IDRF" as your charity

Contact us on admin@idrf.org about:

- Stock Transfer
- Used Car Donation
- Charitable Trust



VOLUNTEER

ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER

VISIT A PROJECT IN INDIA

BE AN ADVOCATE

WRITE A REVIEW OF IDRF

<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/india-development-and-relief-fund-inc>

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST:

www.idrf.org/join-our-mailing-list/

CONNECT



www.facebook.com/IDRFUSA/



www.youtube.com/user/IDRFUS



twitter.com/idrf_us



www.linkedin.com/company/india-development-and-relief-fund

IDRF TEAM

Board of Directors

(As of Dec. 31, 2016)

Dr. Vinod Prakash	<i>President</i>
Mr. Dileep Thatte	<i>Vice-President</i>
Dr. Prem Garg	<i>Treasurer</i>
Dr. Sasala Challa	<i>Secretary</i>
Dr. Neelam Chitre	<i>Member</i>
Ms. Malati Gopal	<i>Member</i>
Ms. Reena Goyal	<i>Member</i>
Dr. Raghu Korrapati	<i>Member</i>
Dr. Ghasi Ram Verma	<i>Member</i>

Auditors

Desai & Shah, PC, CPAs, Maryland, USA

Accounts

Banumati Ramkrishnan CPA, LLC

Executive Team

Dr. Vinod Prakash	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Ms. Vandana Matravadia	<i>Operations Manager</i>
Ms. Niti Duggal	<i>Project Consultant</i>
Ms. Sarla Prakash	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>

Support Team

Mr. Anurodh Agarwal	<i>Audio/Video Technology</i>
Mr. Rajesh Gooty	<i>Public Relations</i>
Mr. Rajeev Jain	<i>Information Technology</i>
Ms. Sudha Jain	<i>Website Coordinator</i>
Mr. Navin Prasad	<i>Advisor (India)</i>
Capital Infotech Inc.	<i>Website Maintenance</i>

Annual Report 2016

Prepared by Mr. Mohinder Gulati, and contributions from Mr. Dileep Thatte, Dr. Prem Garg and Dr. Sasala Challa are gratefully acknowledged.

*IDRF is the Registered Trademark of India Development and Relief Fund, Inc., USA
A 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Public Charity, EIN: 52-1555563*

<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 100 Tribal Girls: free education, boarding, lodging ➤ 303 (71 girls) youth provided skill training, of whom 245 (51 girls) placed in jobs. ➤ 365 special needs children in 3 states ➤ 10,000 students helped in Schools/affection homes in 9 states 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2,230 private Toilets in Gujarat, W.Bengal and Tamil Nadu ➤ 93 villages in UP supported to prevent Japanese Encephalitis (JE) ➤ 14,000 patients through Mobile Clinics in North-East India 	<p>Women Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2,130 SHGs in 333 villages of Haryana, Maharashtra and W.Bengal ➤ 10,000 women farmers from Maharashtra and other states trained
<p>Eco-friendly Development -Water Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 105 villages in Gujarat: 127 check dams/ponds, 147 wells prevented seasonal migration and improved education, health & economic sustainability of 240,000 people ➤ 4 rooftop rainwater harvesting; 8 ponds benefitting 1956 people in Chhattisgarh 	<p>Good Governance-Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 48 Gram Panchayats in 10 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand trained to access public programs and combat corruption ➤ 11,500 Gram Panchayat members of 100 villages in Haryana trained ➤ 5 Gram Panchayats in Haryana: development plans prepared 	<p>Good Governance-Urban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Citizenship trainings for 27,000 students in 400 schools across 12 cities ➤ 1.84 Million citizen complaints raised and resolved through Mobile app 'I Change My City' ➤ Annual Survey of India City-Systems (ASICS) informed Govt. policy and Economic Survey
<p>Disaster Relief and Rehab : 2013-2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ J&K floods: food and woolen gowns; mobile stalls for livelihood of 51 hawkers ➤ Uttarakhand floods: 20 shelter homes, 600 beds and beddings ➤ Nepal earthquake: 160 relief and hygiene kits; set up an ICU at Kirtipur hospital to provide free treatment ➤ Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh floods: 10,075 relief kits; 20 houses reconstructed 	<p>Year 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$2.06m grants disbursed to 41 NGOs in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and USA ➤ 775 Donors contributed \$2.45m ➤ Only 2.8% was spent in administration and fund raising ➤ Collaborated with Sahara-Natya Bharati, UIAS-Atlanta and World Bank Group 	