



India Development and Relief Fund

NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2025

FOUNDER 'S MESSAGE

See How Your Support Is Changing Lives!

Dear Friend,

Namaste! I hope you are inspired and doing well as you read this message. At IDRF, we often say change doesn't happen overnight, but with your support, it *does* happen. This past quarter, your generosity has been hard at work: helping women reclaim their health, providing livelihood training to school dropouts, supporting youth aging out of orphanages, and even getting rural students back in classrooms-on two-wheels.

Everyone can make a difference, whether it's by volunteering, donating funds, or just telling others about the good work we do. With your unwavering support and commitment, we can keep forging a better future together.

Thank you for being such a vital part of our journey.

Dr. Vinod Prakash

NEW! JOIN OUR MONTHLY LIVE CONVERSATIONS

Stories From The Field

We're bringing the voices of our partners, project leaders, and beneficiaries straight to you through our LinkedIn Live series-and you are invited!

These monthly sessions feature:

- Real stories from the communities you support
- Insights from grassroots leaders
- Transparent updates and behind-the-scenes learning

*Couldn't make it to the last session? You can catch the replays anytime. **Watch past conversations here***



[Initiatives in Water Harvesting and Conservation](#)

Guest Speakers- Gazala Paul, Founder and Krishna Srinivasan, Senior Program Advisor, Samerth Trust



[Empowering Rural Communities for Sustainable Growth](#)

Guest Speaker- Dr. Vibha Gupta, President, Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti

CERVICARE INITIATIVE

Join Us in Protecting More Women Against Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is still a leading cause of death in rural India, especially where stigma, lack of awareness, and poor access to healthcare go hand in hand.

IDRF and **Arpana Trust** are implementing a cervical cancer prevention program in **Haryana** that helps raise awareness, provides early detection, and promotes the use of simple and efficient methods for detection.

Across 103 villages:

378 women were reached through door-to-door screening

154 tested

37 referred to hospitals for urgent care

And we are taking the next step: starting **HPV vaccinations for girls ages 8-14** to stop cervical cancer *before* it starts.



PATIENT ASSISTANT & DRIVE WITH PRIDE

Providing Livelihood Opportunities to School Dropouts and Disadvantaged

IDRF and Vatsalya Trust Mumbai provide training and certification to women to work as Patient and General Duty Assistants in hospitals, clinics and at-home care. **Since 2013, we have benefitted more than 1,150 women.**

We also provide training and licenses to drive 3-4-wheeler vehicles like autorickshaws, cabs, vans, etc. **Since 2018, we have benefitted more than 645 young men and women.**



"I am now driving my own life with pride! I am very thankful to IDRF and Vatsalya Trust for supporting me in my turbulent times and providing me with a life of dignity".

Ambika, a mother left to care for her family after her husband passed away, learned about the Drive With Pride program from a friend. She signed up for the training, and started working as a driver for a school van. She is now able to financially support her family.



AMBIKA PANGHANTI

WHEELS FOR EDUCATION

Improving Access to Education by Providing Bicycles to Rural Students

Most students in rural India are economically disadvantaged and cannot afford to take public or private transport to school. For many children, particularly girls, riding a bicycle is a practical way to get to school, enabling them to skip long, exhausting walks and commute farther for greater chances. Many students, however, lack the funds to purchase bicycles for convenient and safe commutes.



PROJECT SITE VISIT

Preparing Young Adults Transitioning Out of Orphanages For a Bright Future

IDRF and California-based A Future for Every Child (AFEC) support **Catalyst for Social Action's** program that provides higher education or livelihood training to 51 youths aging out of orphanages in **Karnataka**. The beneficiaries receive assistance with education, career advice, and mentorship to make sure they are headed in the right direction.

Gita and Madan Gopal, Founders of AFEC, on their recent trip to India, met care leavers, government institutions, and partners to gain insight into aftercare challenges and possibilities.



YOUR IMPACT IS REAL

Every life changed in the newsletter started with someone like you.
Together we're building futures filled with dignity, health, and opportunities.

Make a difference today!

Donate Now

Check us out at www.idrf.org

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