

ADRA Asia Profile



About ADRA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is the global humanitarian organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA exists to serve humanity so that all may live as God intended. Through its international network, ADRA facilitates the delivery of relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 118 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, or religious association.

ADRA's Asia Regional Office is based in Bangkok, Thailand and was established to provide administrative and programmatic support to ADRA offices in Asia. The support includes strategic planning, financial system advice and monitoring, organisational development, program design and development, program evaluation and human resource development.

In Asia ADRA currently operates in seventeen countries. These are: Bangladesh, Cambodia,

China (Hong Kong), India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. ADRA has also previously operated in Malaysia and North Korea.

ADRA's History

Established in 1956 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ADRA underwent two name changes before becoming the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in 1984. While our name changed throughout the early years, our core principles remained. In 1958, SAWS reported disaster relief shipments to 22 countries with a total value of \$485,000. Four years later, the number of countries increased to 29, totalling \$2.3 million worth of supplies. By the mid-1970s, we began to broaden our mission from disaster relief to long-term development projects in vulnerable communities. In 1997, ADRA was granted General Consultative Status by the United Nations, the highest status given to nongovernmental organisations. This allowed us the opportunity to participate in the international community on a broader scale.

Today, ADRA is a leading humanitarian agency operating in more than 118 countries with a dedicated team of over 6,000 staff and volunteers. While our offices are often miles and oceans apart, we work together as a unified whole, bringing positive transformation to a world in need. In 2016, 15.7 million lives were impacted by the compassion and generosity of ADRA supporters and partners all around the world.

ADRA's Approach

ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action. At the core of our mission is the deep conviction that through empowering partnerships, we are able to create positive changes and meet the challenges and opportunities posed by the Sustainable Development Goals. We pursue strong, equitable relationships with community-based and grassroots organisations to ensure that our work directly impacts those who need it most. We also rely on the invaluable partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental partners—on all levels—to foster lasting change in the countries we work.

For decades, ADRA has maintained a strong partnership with agencies of the United Nations. By supporting UN initiatives and implementing programs on the ground, ADRA and the UN work jointly to meet the needs of the world's poorest. Through our membership in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), we participate in discussions on innovative thinking and sustainable development. Throughout the years, ADRA has forged partnerships with the WFP, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, and other UN Agencies. Together we reached an estimated 14 million people around the world in 2019 alone.

ADRA's Accountability

At ADRA, we are committed to implementing a high standard of transparency and financial accountability in business practices, as well as in the design of our programs. Through a licensing and accreditation mechanism ADRA offices around the world are held to a common set of standards that align with the Core Humanitarian Standards and the Global Standard for CSO Accountability. The ADRA International annual and financial reports are available and provide an overview of the global impact of our worldwide network.

ADRA Asia Personnel and Contact Information

Regional Director

Mark Webster has over twenty years experience working in international development with ADRA and holds a Master of Science (International Development). He has lived and worked in South Korea, Laos, Nepal, USA and Australia before moving to Thailand in his current role with ADRA Asia. Over the course of a career that began as a volunteer and has included roles as Country Director (ADRA Nepal), Vice-President for Programs (ADRA International) and Chief Executive Officer (ADRA Australia), he has developed expertise in organisational and leadership development, faith and development and building partnerships and coalitions. In 2017 Mark was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Sector Award by the Australian Council for International Development.

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Programs and Planning Director

Brendon Irvine has lived and worked in south-east Asia since the early 1990's and has more than 25 years service with ADRA. He has served as ADRA Country Director in Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. He also previously occupied his current role with ADRA Asia during 2006-2007. Brendon holds graduate degrees in Agricultural Science and International Development. He has extensive expertise and experience in sustainable agriculture, livelihoods and value chain development. He also has considerable experience in vocational training, education, health and emergency management and disaster risk reduction. His deep knowledge of the operating context across Asia and of working with ethnic minorities in multiple Asian countries is an asset to ADRA Asia.

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Finance and Operations Director

This position is temporarily vacant.

Contact:

Emergency Management Coordinator

Prabhook Bandaratilleke has been actively engaged in international development and emergency management for over 15 years. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business and a Master of Science in Administration with a focus on organisational disaster response preparedness. Most of his work has been in his home country of Sri Lanka, but he has also undertaken deployments in a number of Asian countries including Bangladesh and Indonesia. His roles have included a range of program positions in ADRA Sri Lanka where he was Programs Director before taking up his current role with ADRA Asia. Prabhook's expertise in building community resilience and disaster preparedness have recently seen him appointed in 2019 as Chair of ADRA's Global Resilience Technical Learning Lab.

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