

CONTENTS



DIRECTOR FOCUS



STORY FOCUS



REGIONAL FOCUS



TECHNICAL FOCUS



COUNTRY FOCUS



STAFF FOCUS





VOLUME 1 | NUMBER 2 September - November 2021

ADRA Asia Focus, launched in 2021, is the official quarterly magazine of the ADRA Asia Regional Office that provides programmatic and administrative support to 17 country offices in Asia.

Editorial

EDITOR/DESIGNER Emma McCrow

SUPERVISING EDITOR Mark Webster

CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Webster Himangshu Bailung Trisha Mahajan Rajan Pydimalla Prabhook Bandaratilleke Aki Sugimoto

GET CONNECTED









PUBLISHER ADRA Asia Regional Office

WHAT TO DO WITH WASTE

I sat on the raised porch of a hut with walls made of dried leaves in a bamboo framework and a thatched roof wondering about the family who lived there. My task as an intern was to interview the woman sitting across from me in order to prepare a monitoring report for ADRA's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project. Busy ticking boxes, I asked how many children she had. The answer was five - then she added without pausing - and six who have died. My note-taking paused while I processed her words - I was still thinking about them when I sent my report to the donor a few weeks later.

November 19 was celebrated a few weeks ago (at least by some of us) as World Toilet Day. For most of us, myself included, toilets are not often at the forefront of our thinking - that is until we are out in an unknown location and can't find one when we need it; or discover that the one we use at home has malfunctioned. Yet the World Health Organisation estimates that around 3.6 billion people do not have access to a safely managed sanitation system.

That means 1.8 billion women and girls remain at risk of offering similar answers to the woman I interviewed in Laos more than twenty years ago. The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation records that in the last twenty years, under-five mortality rates have been almost halved. But that's still 40 children in every 1,000 who die from preventable diseases: like malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Across Asia, ADRA offices are working with communities and government counterparts to make a difference for these children.

Mark Webster

Regional Director ADRA Asia Regional Office

Diarrhoea results from the inadequate management of waste. Toilets - along with basic hygiene - are a proven solution, even if we have not yet succeeded in making it universally available. We face other waste problems too. An increasingly consumerist and urban population is enormously wasteful of essential resources like food and water. Our cities and systems of production and transport increasingly generate pollution as well as solid waste - especially plastic - that are beyond our ability to process safely for ourselves and the environment.

Perhaps we have something to learn from people who have not yet forgotten what a sustainable lifestyle involves. For all that the women I interviewed in Laos welcomed and benefited from the knowledge and technology that ADRA brought to their community, I believe they had things they could have taught us too about minimising

On my wall hangs a traditional Lao table from Attapeu, much as it would have hung from the bamboo frame of a hut in the village where I purchased it. Beautifully crafted from sustainable natural materials with not a single piece of plastic or metal to be found, it is as functional now as when it was first crafted to hold meals for a family. To me it represents a reminder to look for a future that does not discard valuable lessons from the past.





This quarter's theme focuses on WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) in honour of World Toilet Day which falls annually on November 19. ADRA is supporting vulnerable communities to introduce and raise awareness on proper hygiene behaviours and practices by advocating handwashing, utilization of latrine and sanitation facilities, providing hygiene kits and training teachers and key community members to act as agents of change.







HEROS AS CHANGE AGENTS IN THE TEA COMMUNITIES

Hand washing has been considered a world-changing innovation in public health, capable of significantly reducing disease burden globally. However, what is considered by many a basic activity like washing hands, is actually considered a luxury for thousands in India. Lack of education, awareness and access around handwashing has been a serious problem for India. The National Sample Survey 76th round, 2019, report stated only 25.3% of rural households wash hands with soap and detergent before a meal, and 66.8% after defecation. This can often lead to life-threatening health problems and diseases.

While working with the Tea Garden communities in the north-eastern state of Assam, ADRA India observed lack of hygiene and sanitation among the communities. Tea Garden communities or tea garden Labour communities are multi-ethnic groups of Tea Garden workers in Assam. It is a term used to denote active tea garden workers and their dependents who reside in worker quarters built inside 800 tea estates spread across Assam. These garden communities are grappling with several issues. A primary challenge among these is a lack of hygiene and sanitation causing severe health related complications and facing the highest number of maternal mortality rates, infant mortality rates, and cases of anaemia.

ADRA India realized that this could be changed with one simple step - the practice of hand washing. ADRA implemented an innovative solution to inculcate hand washing habits in communities by addressing the issue with change-makers – namely the children. Under the Fresh Hope Project, ADRA devised a sustainable and innovative approach called HEROS, translating to

"Handwashing Education for Restoration of Overall Sanitation" Programme. As a first step, 60 school children from 60 tea gardens of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts were selected as agents of change for a healthier future. These children were educated on the importance and proper methods of hand washing and were encouraged to spread awareness in their communities. They were then supervised, with the help of school teachers and ADRA volunteers, for the number of persons they sensitized. Initially, three children from each school, who educated the highest number of people, were given the tag of 'HERO' and were felicitated in the community. This motivated more and more children to become agents of

The programme has been a great success as an increasing number of children from the community are putting in efforts to become HEROs. These HEROs have also made "HEUJ DARPAN" or 'Green Mirror the hygiene corner' in their schools using waste products. The initiative was covered widely by the local media.

Before the pandemic, HEROs of a few schools even started bringing recyclable waste to their schools. The school management sold the waste, and with the money, purchased hygiene products for the students such as; soaps, disinfectants, and towels. This simple innovation supported by ADRA has created a ripple effect in the tea estates of Assam.



Himangshu Bailung & Trisha Mahajan ADRA India

REGIONAL FOCUS

Despite substantial progress in the area of WASH, the continued practice of poor hygiene behaviours remains the leading causes of child mortality and morbidity. In South Asia alone, 610 million people still practice open defecation - over 60% of the world's global burden. Furthermore, 134 million people still do not have access to clean water sources.

ADRA is working to combat this by supporting **7** WASH focused projects in 5 countries in Asia to reach 1,054,427 beneficiaries with a total regional project budget of USD \$7,942,391.

134

MILLION PEOPLE IN ASIA HAVE **UNCLEAN WATER**

MILLION BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED

MILLION USD REGIONAL BUDGET



JAPAN

Japan is providing financial support to improve hygiene and sanitation practices in Kule Refugee Camp in Ethiopia by constructing and promoting the use of 318 latrines to reduce open defecation rates and conducting 234 WASH awareness sessions on hand washing, jerry can washing, and environmental cleaning.



THAILAND

In Thailand, ADRA is implementing 2 projects in 9 refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border by increasing awareness to change behaviours for reducing infection rates caused by the spread of COVID-19 in distributing hygiene kits to 102,829 camp residents, and strengthening health care services by raising awareness and sharing information for increased health protection.



CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, ADRA has contributed to community and child well-being for poor and vulnerable households in Pursat Province, Bakan District by installing 198 latrines to improve latrine utilization for 792 family members and supporting better hygiene and sanitation practices.

INDIA

In India, ADRA is implementing 2 projects to supply hygienic sanitary pads for vulnerable women & girls, support community awareness towards proper health and hygiene practices, train 3,000 teachers in 1,500 schools in hygiene education, distribute hygiene materials for improved handwashing practices and creating agents of change in the communities.

> In Sri Lanka, ADRA is working to improve the health, nutrition, hygiene & sanitation of rural and estate communities in Uva and Central Provinces by increasing access to safe water facilities, establishing sanitation facilities, and improving health and nutrition practices at household and community levels.

SRI LANKA



The United Nation marks 19th November as 'World Toilet Day' annually to raise awareness about access to safe and hygienic toilets and the human costs of unsafe sanitation. This year the theme remarks the importance of "Valuing Toilets". According to WHO/ UNICEF 2021, it is estimated that 3.6 billion people in the world do not have access to toilets. Toilet access and availability plays a major role in ensuring gender equality and a healthier environment.

Unsafe sanitation practices increase the risk of preventable diseases that overburdens the health infrastructure at the community level. The impacts of poor sanitation disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, particularly children, women and people living with disabilities. There is an urgent need for improvement in sanitation infrastructure in communities, public schools, and ICDS centres. Where facilities exist, cleanliness and hygiene remains a challenge. Gender separated toilet facilities need to be mandated especially in public schools. Separate accessible toilets designed to better accommodate people with physical disabilities are required to be created in both private and public spaces.

The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report - Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000 - 2020 presents estimates on household access to safely manage; drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services over the past five years, and assesses progress toward achieving the sixth sustainable development goal (SDG) to 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030'. For the first time, the report also

also presents emerging national data on menstrual health.

ADRA India's projects are often designed to include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions as a cross-flowing subsector. To meet our communities' needs for safe drinking water, sanitation and improved hygiene practices, ADRA India has developed strong technical expertise over the years in community mobilization and awareness approaches on water use, hygiene and sanitation practices. ADRA's response considers DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) features to increase resilience to future shocks.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) software includes community mobilization and awareness on water use, hygiene and sanitation practices and mainly targets women and caregivers in the home, and children in schools. WASH hardware approaches include construction of latrines and repair and installation of tube wells along with on-line chlorination techniques connected to storage tanks when appropriate.

ADRA also has experience in the establishment of simple household waste management systems. In an emergency scenario, ADRA begins with forming and strengthening a WASH committee at the village level through which it conducts a participatory assessment of damaged toilets (be it at community, school or at ICDS level) being used during normal and emergency times in a pre and post disaster situation. The WASH committee is responsible to ensure community based participatory implementation of Disaster Resilient Toilet programs. Due to the need for

Disaster-Resilient Toilets (DRT's) in the targeted vulnerable areas, toilet repairing, and construction is focused on high raised locations considering the water levels in the area during flooding. Constructing toilets on high raised locations reduces risk of inundation and overflow. Toilet-pits with solid materials stabilizes the structure and allows minimal liquid waste infiltration to surrounding soil and ground water. The WASH Committees are trained on how disaster resilient toilets are constructed and maintained for sustainability.

From start to finish, deliberate participatory actions are taken in collaboration with community residents, local authorities and government bodies. This includes events such as assessments and information gathering, planning and design, priority setting, identification of construction sites and long-term maintenance plans. Water user groups, committees and mechanics are trained on how to maintain established hardware services with linkages to the support of local Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments for long lasting sustainable impact. In addition, maintenance kits are provided to the trained committees in the communities.

Call for urgent Investments include:

- Collaboration and convergence for positioning WASH as a cross-cutting support.
- Supporting the Government of India's flagship programmes which include the Swachh Bharat Mission & National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to support planning and implementation and

incorporating behaviour change into state and national guidelines and coasted plans.

- Mobilizing public institutions and partners, including the private sector on WASH services.
- Expanding WASH programme from rural areas to urban areas, to support urban poor who are often left out of the sanitation equation.





Rajan Pydimalla ADRA India











BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, annual flooding reduces cultivable land impacting health status, and fundamental to developing self-sustainability at the community level. ADRA Bangladesh continues its Food Security intervention after more than 12 years by striving to build resilience and establish a sustainable livelihood in flood-prone areas through its Community Empowerment Project (CEP), by assisting vulnerable communities in Daulatpur, Manikganj in growing vegetables through Tower Gardens.

The CEP project adopts Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) demonstrating how to construct a 'tower', an innovative method of farming used to establish what is known as Tower Gardens. By following the CSA method, farmers can now grow vegetables year-round in land which remains underwater. After successful implementation, farmers are getting unbelievable produce from their garden.

Making the best use of agricultural blocks is the main idea of dike-cropping. The borders of the agricultural blocks are used for planting creeper vegetables, which climb the sticks. Traditionally, in some low-lying areas, farmers keep their land fallow after one harvest, unlike higher leveled areas. Through the CEP project, ADRA demonstrates how multi-cropping is possible. Instead of farming a single crop in a year dependant on the condition of the weather or soil, farmers are now learning to plant different weather-resistant varieties in different soil types and weather conditions.







JAPAN

In Takeo City, Saga Prefecture, more than 1,600 houses were damaged by heavy rain that began on August 11, 2021 and continued for several days. In the past few years, Takeo City has been hit by heavy rain several times. Two years ago, the city was flooded above 0.5m or more, with many people having only just finished renovating their houses since. The rain this year further added to the situation affecting the local population both economically and mentally. Furthermore, when the scale of damage is as large as this flood, it can become difficult for people to express their distress to others. For this reason, it was challenging to conduct a needs assessment for those affected to receive the necessary support.

In response to these floods, ADRA Japan has been working with Omoyai, a local NGO, to provide a place to relax, and spend time for 'tea' for people who are busy cleaning and drying their homes each day after the floodwaters began to subside.

ADRA staff travelled to the affected areas with the Disaster Response Bus. Here, people can relax and have a place to drink tea, take a foot bath and receive a massage for their shoulders and arms. "I'm tired, so I appreciate the footbath and massage," commented one beneficiary. "We don't have many opportunities to get together, so this was a good time for us to gather," another stated.

ADRA Japan will continue to work closely with the communities to support those affected.

CAMBODIA

This quarter, an Adventist Community Services National Emergency Management Plan & Humanitarian Assistance Response training was conducted by ADRA Cambodia's Adventist Community Services (ACS) project with funding provided by ADRA Netherlands. The objectives of the training were to; prepare disaster response agents in SDA Churches, support local churches/ACS/ADRA to meet the real needs of communities, better enable local churches to communicate and mobilise resources, and enable community members to understand the relevance of the church as an Emergency Response partner.

27 local pastors and church representatives attended the 4-day training from key locations around Cambodia from 20-23 September 2021. During the 1-day practical training, participants were required to prepare a real-world rapid needs assessment, budget, and mini emergency response plan. The developed plans were then analysed for potential implementation in early November 2021. Of the 27 participants submissions, 20 proposals were approved and awarded budgets to support vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19, floods, typhoid, and drought by distributing food kits, water filters and soap.

"I received a water filter and hand soap from ADRA through the Adventist Church. This is a very special help for me, who is always at risk for typhoid fever and stomach ailments.", said 37-year-old farmer Chek Phan from Stung Treng, a beneficiary resulting from the assessment.







MONGOLIA

Mongolia, being a landlocked country with the absence of large bodies of water to regulate temperatures, experiences 4-5 months of bitter cold winter. Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic with intermittent lockdowns and travel restrictions, communities around Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, were struggling. In January 2021 during a staff meeting, ADRA Mongolia staff and their families decided to support those affected by voluntarily contributing a portion of their salary to reach the most vulnerable including single-headed households, children, and persons with disabilities. The total amount collected was 10.2 million Tugriks (USD\$3,580) over 10 months. With this newfound budget, the "In Their Shoes" project was born with 'Love Wins!' as the adopted theme.

In September 2021, ADRA Mongolia provided essential food commodities to 100 vulnerable families in 4 locations in Bayanzurkh, Khan-Uul and Bayangol districts of Ulaanbaatar. The food packs included 10kgs of flour, 5kgs of rice, 1L of vegetable oil, a pack of sugar, salt noodles, and cookies.

In November 2021, coinciding with National Giving Day, ADRA Mongolia alongside social workers from the 11th and 41st Khoroo of Songinokhairkhan District, distributed winter boots and socks to 50 children ranging in ages from 6-15 from single-headed households. Ulaanbaatar experiences one of the coldest winters for a capital city in the world where children have to walk to school in -25 degree weather. With these new shoes, the children can now keep their feet warm.













LAOS PDR

Poverty, food insecurity, and poor nutritional practices are to some extent synonymous with malnutrition. Malnourished children do not grow the way they are supposed to. This health condition leads to a whole range of issues including sickness, diminished cognitive and physical development, and in severe cases, disabilities and increased risk of degenerative diseases in future.

Through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ADRA Canada funded ENHUP II project, ADRA Laos is targeting 16 villages in Xiengkhouang Province with PD Hearth activities to reach approximately 200 children where acute malnutrition is as high as 10.43%, chronic malnutrition at 33.43%, and those considered underweight at 12.71% in children under the age of 5. For those found underweight/stunted, they are enrolled in a 12 day feeding session as a part of their rehabilitation. Children and mothers learn educational activities such as nutrition awareness, cooking demonstrations, hygiene awareness and fun games. There are also regular checkups throughout the year on days 12, 30, 90, 180, 270, and 360 to monitor their continued health.

"I want to see women and children receive more care and support from their families. I want them to have access to good nutrition, healthcare, and information. These things may not make them rich, but they will have good health, know how to care for themselves and their families; children will grow healthily; and everyone will be free from malnutrition," said Chef Touktik, ADRA Lao's Health & Nutrition Officer.





NEPAL

ADRA Nepal is supporting smallholder farmers in improving their livelihood through increased agricultural productivity and production, leadership skills, and integration in value chain mechanisms. To achieve this objective, ADRA Nepal is working collaboratively with the local government (LGs). One of the areas of collaboration with LGs has been in developing agriculture related infrastructure, especially irrigation and water conservation schemes.

Through the project "Generating Opportunities in Agriculture and Livelihoods (GOAL II)", ADRA Nepal is implementing in 2 LGs of Rolpa and Pyuthan districts, 13 irrigation construction schemes benefitting 1,675 individuals from vulnerable communities. Similarly, in another project entitled "Local Initiatives to Reduce Impacts of Climate Change (LIRIC)", ADRA is implementing in 6 LGs of Dhanusa and Mohattari districts, 11 integrated water management technologies.

Through the "Food Security Enhancement and Agricultural Resilience of the Earthquake-Affected Rural Nepalese Farmers (FOSTER-II)" project, 8 water schemes were constructed benefitting 1,285 individuals from rural hilly communities facing water scarcity issues. With increased access to water, target communities have begun cultivating seasonal vegetables utilizing the water from these schemes in most of the covered areas, thereby providing individuals with an opportunity for diversification of livelihood and an additional income from the sale of locally produced vegetables and crops.

PHILIPPINES

A part of the 2021 Pacific typhoon season, Severe Tropical Storm Maring (STS Maring), as it is known in the Philippines, wreaked havoc across the Philippines, Taiwan and southeast China making landfall on 11-14 October 2021 causing landslides and flash flooding. 40 casualties, 5 injured and 17 missing were reported in the Philippines alone with an estimated USD\$75.7 Million in damage only days after Tropical Storm Lionrock had hit exacerbating the situation.

As a result, 2,000 people were evacuated with an estimated 567,062 people affected nationwide in the areas of Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Mimaropa, Central Luzon and Cordillera Administrative Region in Luzon, as well as Caraga in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

In response, ADRA Philippines activated their Emergency Response Team (ERT) working with local ACS (Adventist Community Services) partners to assess the damage caused by STS Maring in preparation for a response in northern Luzon. ADRA Philippines also held a virtual orientation with ACS volunteers from Mountain Provinces Mission and Palawan Adventist mission on their response.

In partnership with the ACS volunteers from Brooke's Point and Narra, Palawan, ADRA was able to distribute cash assistance to 450 families whose homes had been destroyed by the severe landslides.













SRI LANKA

ADRA Sri Lanka's Building Resilience and Vaccine Awareness (BRAVE) project is working in collaboration with interfaith groups to raise awareness and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines in high-risk communities. However, a study by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health revealed that people are being misled through widespread misinformation on social media. The BRAVE project is working with interfaith groups to identify myths that people have embraced and provide them with correct information, which will be shared through videos, social media posts, and press releases. BRAVE is also working with an Adventist youth group and the Ministry of Health to develop video messages using sign language to reach the deaf community.

In recognition of Global Handwashing Day on October 15, the BRAVE team conducted handwashing demonstrations at a public market and gave out information on vaccine awareness. Those who participated and had already been vaccinated received an ADRA "I Am Vaccinated" re-usable mask. Word guickly spread through the market with a positive response.

As the vaccine rollout in Sri Lanka continues, BRAVE will provide comfort kits to those receiving the vaccine along with information on following safety precautions. The project will also identify 800 low-income families struggling to meet standards of sanitary hygiene and provide them with kits including masks, soap, and sanitizer. Other aspects of the project will involve donating ICU beds and other medical equipment to hospitals and providing business training and material support for small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic.







TIMOR-LESTE

Utilizing the old methods of farming in order to meet daily food needs meant life as a farmer was difficult. With ADRA Timor-Leste's FarMar project, there was hope. The FarMar project, starting in June 2018, aims to support 4,395 beneficiaries. Through agriculture, horticulture and savings programs, the development of community understanding and practices in using existing resources led to improved livelihoods. Activities to train and facilitate farmers in planting ginger, candlenut, elephant foot yam and coconut are aimed at selling produce at a national level by pursuing opportunities through market links. In doing so, the FarMar project is ensuring sustainability for groups and families, as well as savings and loans groups to help develop business and/or credit for family expenses such as school fees, house repairs and buying cows to raise. "When we participate in this project, we notice an increase in leadership, problem solving, decision making and teamwork skills", noted one female cooperative leader and beneficiary of the FarMar project.

In October 2021, the FarMar project inaugurated 12 cooperative building for processing 4 commodities including candlenut, ginger, coconut and elephant foot yam. The event was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishers, Secretary State of Cooperative, Ministry of Tourism, commerce, industry, local leaders and 134 participant farmers. ADRA Timor-Leste is greatful for the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, ADRA New Zealand and ADRA Australia for making this milestone possible for the farmers of Viqueque.

THAILAND

In Thailand, ADRA is working with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, civil societies, and government departments to address some of the daily challenges faced within society.

ADRA Thailand implemented 8 emergency responses, with 6 directly in response to the current situation in Myanmar, by providing relief assistance to 7,831 internally displaced persons (IDPs). In response to COVID-19, ADRA Thailand partnered with the Seventh-day Adventist Church to sensitize migrants while working with the Centre for Disease Control to sensitize the 91,479 strong refugee population. With support from the Chulabhorn Royal Academy, ADRA was able to provide 20,474 doses of a COVID vaccine to vulnerable populations including those considered stateless.

Through regular programming, ADRA is providing education support to 18,305 students and supporting 1,651 teachers in refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border. In collaboration with UNHCR, ADRA is implementing a statelessness reduction project which aims to support the Royal Thai Government meet its pledge to eliminate statelessness by 2024. Recognizing this as a difficult task, ADRA is implementing projects to address some of the challenges faced by stateless individuals including providing over 1,700 beneficiaries with access to medical services through a mobile health clinic and education opportunities as a pathway to citizenship in partnership with the Asia Pacific International University.







VIETNAM

ADRA Vietnam won the Toyota Foundation 2021 International Grant Program. The resulting projects goal is to share mutual understanding about cultural differences, labor laws and related regulations between Vietnam and countries that receive migrant workers from Vietnam such as Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong through labor recruitment agencies, employers, migrant workers and labor management agencies of Vietnam and those countries. To date, there has not been a complete study on this problem and no corresponding solutions.

The proposed solutions will include: 1) Conducting research on issues related to Vietnamese workers in Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong, and challenges of foreign employers in receiving countries and foreign employers in Vietnam; 2) Organize forums and consultative meetings to share research results for relevant employees, employers and policy makers among Vietnam and countries Japan, Korea and Hong Kong; 3) Development of training materials and handbooks for immigrant employers and foreign employers; 4) Organize training courses and knowledge sharing events for those preparing to go abroad for working and for the employers of that labor source.

The project will be implemented within 12 months from November 2021 to October 2022. It is a small but guiet challenging project. We are proud that we won the grant and thankful for the efforts of ADRA Japan who supported us more than we expected.









STAFF FOCUS

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

I joined ADRA in early 2014.

When I was working in Myanmar, for a different organization, I met ADRA staff there and liked what ADRA did. When I found an open position, I applied to be a member of ADRA Japan.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

I love being able to go, meet and assist people in need.

As the Program Manager, I'm able to oversee all the projects and activities that ADRA Japan is implementing around the world, not only in Asia, but also in Africa, MENA (Middle East and North Africa), etc.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

Work that is more to be supported than to support.

Aki Sugimoto
Program Manager
ADRA Japan



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WORKING IN ADRA?

After I joined ADRA, I had the opportunity to join a follow-up visit to Yamamoto-cho in Japan, where ADRA assisted after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Although it had been a few years, I still saw the traces of damage that was caused by the tsunami, the abandoned school building, and people still living in temporary housings. I listened to heartbreaking stories, though I also met many people who welcomed us with happy smiles. It was very encouraging.





