

ADRA ASIA focus



Livelihood Recovery

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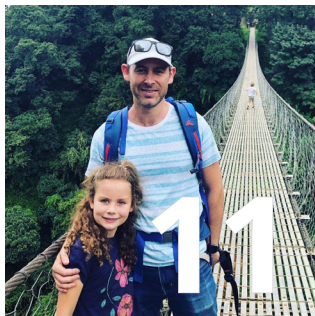
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Livelihood Recovery

This quarter's theme focuses on Livelihood Recovery following Disaster. The Asia region is prone to regular natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones and tsunamis causing food insecurity and impacting economic and livelihood recovery. ADRA is supporting affected populations through providing multi-purpose cash grants, skills based training to increase family incomes and rehabilitating damaged agricultural lands.



ADRA

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GET CONNECTED



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

BUILDING BACK BETTER

In this edition of ADRA Asia Focus, you'll read stories about how ADRA is helping people and communities recover from disaster. This kind of work is unfortunately familiar to most ADRA offices across Asia, since natural disasters are a common occurrence - especially in countries like Indonesia. ADRA's goal in the recovery phase of its work after a disaster is to assist the community to build back better - not just to return to their pre-disaster status.

Building back better is an approach to post disaster recovery that reduces vulnerability to future disasters and builds community resilience to address physical, social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities, shocks and stressors. In the marginalised or disadvantaged communities where ADRA works; facing increased frequency, unpredictability or severity of natural disasters due to the effects of climate change; this is not just a nice slogan, but an essential part of ensuring that all people have the opportunity to live as God intended.

ADRA recently released a resilience policy to guide its practice in working with communities to reduce their risk and, consequently, increase their resilience. In summary this policy recognises that dealing with risk falls into the development space of ADRA's work but that, regardless of the adequacy of measures taken, there is always some residual risk. It is this residual risk that causes emergencies when a community's capacity to deal with an event, such as a storm or flood, is inadequate.

A commitment to building back better is not the easy option. The easy option is to provide immediate support after a disaster and then just leave the community to do their own recovery. ADRA prefers to make a longer-term commitment which requires moving beyond a simple handout approach to disaster response; instead taking the time to build relationships and understanding; involving community members in the process of

re-evaluating risk and making decisions about recovery and building resilience.

For ADRA personnel, taking the time to develop an understanding of the stories of people in these communities is an essential part of this process. To illustrate this, it is helpful to consider some advice from Australian academic and activist Tyson Yunkaporta: "In Aboriginal culture, yarning [people talking together] is more than just a story or conversation - it is a structured cultural activity that is recognised even in research circles as a valid and rigorous methodology for knowledge production, inquiry and transmission."

Yunkaporta goes on to explain that this process, "has protocols of active listening, mutual respect and building on what others have said rather than openly contradicting them or debating their ideas." These are the principles by which ADRA's resilience and recovery teams engage with the community when doing our best work. When we follow these principles and processes the result is, "a set of understandings, values and directions shared by all members of the group in a loose consensus that is inclusive of diverse points of view."

This approach takes more time and effort. It is an approach that doesn't make assumptions about risk or capacity, but seeks to understand them through the stories of people who have experienced what it's like to live through a disaster in their community. It is relational and a bit messy at times; but it is also the foundation on which ADRA and the community can work together to build back better.

Mark Webster

Regional Director
ADRA Asia Regional Office





EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED MAIZE FARMER RECOVERS LIVELIHOOD

On 28 September 2018, a shallow, large earthquake struck in the neck of the Minahasa Peninsula, Indonesia, with its epicentre located in the mountainous Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi. The magnitude 7.5 quake was located just 70 km away from the provincial capital Palu.

Following the mainshock, a localised tsunami struck Palu, sweeping shore-lying houses and buildings on its way. The combined effects of the earthquake and tsunami led to the deaths of an estimated 4,340 people making it the deadliest earthquake to strike the country since 2006, as well as the deadliest earthquake worldwide in 2018.

The earthquake caused major soil liquefaction in areas in and around Palu. In two locations this led to mudflows in which many buildings became submerged. This disaster was deemed as rare and led to significant negative impacts on the economic and livelihood recovery of residents in the area.

In continued response, ADRA Indonesia implemented the RILEAF project to support farmers regain their livelihood. This is just one of many stories.

....

My name is Sulaiman and I am 47 years old living in Balempewa village.

Before the earthquake, I was specifically working in agriculture in corn plantations for my livelihood.

The challenge for me to re-grow my plantation was due to fertilisers. To get subsidised fertiliser, I must have a tiny cart. But since I didn't have it, I was unable to get any fertiliser.

At that time, I was grateful when ADRA entered our village. ADRA provided several types of training such as business training and making organic fertiliser.

In addition, ADRA also provided multi purpose cash assistance of 5,000,000 Indonesian rupiah. We used these funds to buy agricultural materials.

Through ADRA's organic fertiliser training, we learnt to:

1. Gather the natural ingredients required such as chocolate skins, banana stems and gum leaves from the nearby forest.
2. Chop the ingredients into small pieces
3. Begin the process of drying the ingredients over 2 to 3 days
4. and directly apply the organic fertiliser to the corn plants.

For me, the results are very satisfying.

Previously, the corn husks that I planted were yellowish. It meant that the plants were not healthy. After I used the organic fertiliser, there was a change in the colour of the corn leaves from yellow to green. My corn plantation was finally successful.

***Thank you to Swiss
Solidarity and ADRA for
providing us with cash
assistance and training
so we can grow crops
again. We thank you
very much***

REGIONAL FOCUS

57

MILLION PEOPLE
AFFECTED BY
DISASTER IN 21'

214

THOUSAND
BENEFICIARIES
SUPPORTED

\$2.5

MILLION
USD REGIONAL
BUDGET

In 2021 alone, more than 57 million people were severely affected by natural disasters across the Asia-Pacific region. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, landslides, and volcanic eruptions occur frequently damaging agricultural lands, creating food insecurity, and impacting economic and livelihood recovery.

ADRA is working to combat this by supporting 6 Livelihood Recovery focused projects in 5 countries in Asia to reach 214,088 beneficiaries with a total regional project budget of USD \$2,507,972.

INDIA

In India, ADRA is supporting vulnerable migrant populations in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and marginalized communities affected by COVID-19 and flooding in Assam, by providing multi-purpose cash transfers to improve purchasing power of essential needs, facilitating risk communication, and increasing capacities to mitigate risks associated with emergencies.

SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, ADRA is supporting refugee returnees to reintegrate and establish viable livelihoods through the Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantages approach (PACA) and increase awareness on debt management to create durable social and economic solutions.

THAILAND



In Thailand, ADRA is supporting Myanmar Refugees in 9 camps along the Thai-Myanmar border to develop sustainable livelihoods through vocational training activities and affected populations of Tropical Storm Podul and Kaijiki Floods in Ubon Ratchthani through recovery of agricultural livelihoods, training in poultry farming and household economic management.

CAMBODIA



In Cambodia, ADRA is supporting affected populations of the October 2020 Flood in Banteay Meanchey Province, Western Cambodia, by distributing initial food assistance packs, cash transfers and seeds to vulnerable families to increase restoration and maintenance of basic food security.

INDONESIA



In Indonesia, ADRA supported earthquake-affected families to decrease food insecurity, increase livelihood income and develop agricultural lands by providing training in small business development, restoring irrigation canals destroyed during the natural disaster event and distributing multi-purpose cash grants.

LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY IN SIGI, CENTRAL SULAWESI

On 28 September 2018, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake hit Donggala in Central Sulawesi province, Indonesia, with over 490 aftershocks to date. The largest earthquake, in combination with a landslide on the ocean floor, triggered a near-field tsunami with speeds of up to 800km per hour that struck Palu Bay and the western coast of Donggala regency with waves of up to 6m high. The governor of Central Sulawesi stated that 4,547, 3,679 of which were from Palu alone, died in relation to the earthquake, liquefaction, and subsequent tsunami. Included in this figure were 701 missing people and 1,016 unidentified individuals buried in mass graves. According to the Governor's report, 172,999 individuals (53,172 households) were displaced across Central Sulawesi.

Sigi District was particularly affected. In December 2018, ADRA Indonesia's REAF project conducted a situation-based assessment identifying the following issues preventing recovery: (1) food insecurity and reliance on food assistance; (2) loss of livelihoods and facilities; (3) declining household income because of damaged agricultural land, loss of livestock and lack of inputs and technology; and (4) lack of technology, business literacy skills, capital, and weak access to market for successful livelihood activities.

In January 2019, a joint needs assessment was conducted by a team composed of eight staff from ADRA Switzerland and ADRA Indonesia in four target villages across Dolo Selatan Sub-district, Sigi District, and Central Sulawesi Province. 95 people (45 women and 50 men) were involved in the focus group discussions

mapping out the context of their livelihood situation. The two major issues identified by the needs assessment were (1) weak resilience to recovering the families' economy and to reinforce facilities, and (2) declining household incomes because of damaged agricultural land and infrastructure.

Based on the REAF projects Baseline Survey conducted in December – January 2019, 86.8% of respondents (n=234) stated their family had experienced food insufficiency in the last 12 months. All respondents in one of the four targeted villages reported they faced food insecurity, whereas only 72% respondents reported food insecurity in the last 12 months. The main cause of food insufficiency was due to natural disasters (71.9%, n=203), followed by decrease in agricultural production (18.2%). Irrigation canals were damaged, and water became scarce for crop production. Roads damaged by the earthquake and liquefaction also disturbed food availability in the immediate aftermath. Other reasons for food insecurity were the decline in crop production, limited agricultural land, and an increase in family size.

The baseline results showed the average monthly food sufficiency was only 6.25 month/year. When people face food insufficiency, major coping strategies seemed to be consuming less variety of food (29.1%), reducing the number of meals per day (21.7%), consuming lower quality food (18.7%), reducing portion size (16.7%) and reducing meals of adults in favor of children (13.8%).

Continuing livelihood recovery amongst the earthquake affected families, in September 2020, ADRA Indonesia implemented the

12-month 'Recover and Improve Livelihoods of Earthquake Affected Families (RILEAF)' project to assist 9 villages in Sigi District. An assessment conducted in November 2020 found that most of the tertiary canals in 9 villages were open canals still covered by sediment and remained crushed, broken and damaged due to the earthquake. Since 2014, the irrigation and drainage system in Sigi district (where the targeted villages Baluase, Balumpewa, Bobo, Kaleke, Pesaku, Rogo, Sambo, Sibonu, Walatana are located) had been improved, and at the time of the earthquake, had reached nearly 50% of their target areas. However, the earthquake destroyed this progress leaving behind nearly 94 km of damaged irrigation network affecting approximately 7,800 ha of agricultural land.

The RILEAF project aimed to enable farmers to resume and improve the cultivation of arable land, mitigate food scarcity during the COVID-19 pandemic, improve the water distribution mechanism and maintenance of irrigation and drainage systems, and allow the most vulnerable families to recover, improve and diversify their livelihoods benefitting 800 households directly and 1x242 households indirectly.

To address these issues, ADRA Indonesia undertook the following interventions:

1. Providing multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable households to assist communities in covering daily needs and kickstarting sources of income. Livelihood skills training and business/action plan development accompanied the cash transfers.
2. Cash for Work (CFW) programs were implemented to restore important public

facilities and agricultural lands, including the restoring of irrigation canals.

3. Encouraging the adoption of improved agricultural technologies through dissemination and training to support recovery and resilience of affected farmers to ensure the community can improve farming skills to increase income.
4. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) principals applied to protect irrigation canals and agricultural farms.

The implementation of these interventions contributed to a great improvement in the community and even benefited the local government. In line with the district government's plan for the establishment of an Irrigation Commission chaired by Bappeda and its deputy, the RILEAF project "is highly relevant for the government as it helps us to implement our relevant program plan priorities," stated the District's Development Office (Bappeda) representative.

At the community level, beneficiaries felt they were valued due to their participation in the project design and community planning processes to select prioritized interventions for implementation. The livelihood models provided opportunities for women and vulnerable groups to work around their home and generate income receiving training to build relevant knowledge and skills. Community members felt they had a better understanding of how to develop and manage small businesses, develop P3A proposals for water/irrigation management, and prepare and respond to disasters.



“I am happy to be involved in this ADRA project. It is very helpful for me and my family. I can have my own small business. I hope this project will continue and that those in need who have not received assistance yet, can be served,” stated a female beneficiary from Sambo Village

deductions. In addition, through training, beneficiaries were able to increase knowledge on business strategies and develop relevant business plans.

Success of the REAF project is evidenced in the end line survey conducted in August 2021. A 12.05% decrease in the number of households who experienced food insecurity was revealed. Causes of food insufficiency continued to be attributed to; the impacts of natural disasters (55.26%), the COVID-19 pandemic (39.4%), poor crop production (17.1%) and limited land (8.7%). In comparison to baseline survey results, livelihood conditions of earthquake affected families were positively developed through improved agricultural and livestock resources. This resulted in increased food security and local markets returning to normal as economic conditions improved overall in Central Sulawesi.

At an individual level, the RILEAF project supported the community with BPJS Ketenagakerjaan (worker insurance account) by assisting beneficiaries to open their own savings account.

The unrestricted cash assistance provided by the RILEAF project positively affected community income. Respondents informed that funds received were used primarily for income-generating activities resulting in an increase in business of MSMEs, animal husbandry/livestock, fisheries, and agriculture. Livestock groups were formed in 9 target villages ensuring post-project sustainability. Farmer-beneficiaries finally had enough seed funds to reduce their dependence on middlemen/shark-lenders to determine the market and selling price without significant



**Septa Lestari &
Niken P. Utami**
ADRA Indonesia

STAFF FOCUS

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

I first joined ADRA in 2019, coming from a Civil Engineering Consultancy background. It was an opportunity for me (and my family) to use our God-given abilities to serve and help others – and experience a new culture and environment along the way!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

Having overall responsibility for the programs and operations in Nepal was a daunting task initially. But I also get to see how ADRA can do so much to support communities and families across the country. I love seeing how projects are formed – initially from an idea about how to help a community or demographic in need, to developing that into a funding proposal, and then through the actual implementation stage – a lot of work but all for the goal of raising people and communities out of poverty. As an Engineer, I love looking at the data and the numbers too – and using the information we collect to see where we are having the biggest impact improving the health and livelihoods of people.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

The work of ADRA gives me the opportunity to really live out my faith in a practical way, by giving of my time and resources to help others. It is encouraging to see families and communities raised out of oppression and poverty through the Justice, Compassion and Love that ADRA embodies.



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

I recall clearly a bumpy off-road drive to a small village perched on the hillside about 3hrs outside of Kathmandu - a whole community of families living and existing in such a small and precarious location.

ADRA had supported families with plastic shelters to extend the tomato growing season, training on agricultural best practices, and seeds for vegetable crops. We looked at the plastic shelters, and I was amazed to see how every space and plot of land was carefully used. We then walked through the terraced fields where cauliflower and broccoli were growing - they were so excited to show us their crops.

It was heartening to see and hear how this community were able to not only support their families but had produce to spare to sell at the local market. The families were able to increase their incomes in some cases four-fold – and were delighted to tell us how they were able to use that extra income for their children’s’ education.



Leighton Fletcher

COUNTRY DIRECTOR
ADRA Nepal

CAMBODIA

ADRA Cambodia's Best CHOICES project organized a safe migration and anti-trafficking campaign in January in collaboration with local authorities. 200 community members in Bakan district, Pursat province joined.

This campaign came at the completion of the safe migration and anti-trafficking training through a participatory process. Those who were trained reached out to their communities, especially parents, pregnant women, reproductive women and child caregivers to share three messages; (1) Migrants suffer from lack of legal documents, (2) Families living at home also suffer from unplanned migration and (3) Both migrants and non-migrant families suffered because they did not receive information or consultations about safe migration and human trafficking.

Unplanned migration leads to many forms of abuse including sexual, physical, mental, verbal, domestic violence, and exploitation. Safe migration, anti-abuse and human trafficking is important to understand before a person migrates such as consulting before migration, preparing relevant documents through a legitimate company, knowing the place of work, ensuring food security, being in regular contact with family and not trusting brokers.

The 'Best Community Household Opportunities through Improved Community Empowered Solutions (Best CHOICES)' project is supported by the Australian Government and ADRA Australia.



MYANMAR

This quarter, ADRA Myanmar has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through the 'Vocational Education Support for IDPs' (VESI) project funded by LIFT Myanmar and in partnership with AVSI and the Finnish Refugee Council.

Activities have primarily revolved around distributions of hygiene materials, and awareness raising of COVID-19.

The VESI project distributed COVID-19 protective gear to vulnerable communities in IDP camps from 4 townships in Northern Shan State. These IDP camps included; Namt Sa Larp-KBC camp, Namtu-KBC Camp, Kyu Sot Camp, Lisu Church Camp in Namatu Township, Man Kaung/Naung Ti Kyar village in Hispaw Township, Kutkai KBC Church 1 and 2 camp, Zup Awng camp, and Kone Khem camp in Kutkai township.

The COVID-19 protective gear included masks, hand gel, chlorine, soap, face shields and thermometers.

ADRA Myanmar will continue to work closely with the communities to respond to COVID-19.

NEPAL

ADRA Nepal through its livelihood projects is supporting rural communities to increase production and productivity of high value vegetables through climate smart technologies and practices. A two-pronged approach has been used for delivery capacity building events to the community: i) through ADRA capacitated lead farmers who are also members of ADRA facilitated groups to promote farmer-to-farmer extension and ii) through project staff and extension workers. ADRA through the GOAL-II, FOSTER-II and LIRIC projects, is using concise Farmer Field Schools to disseminate knowledge and skills to farmers conducting practical experimentation.

The project participants have now applied various climate smart technologies in their vegetable farming by establishing polyhouses with drip irrigation systems to tackle climatic conditions and water scarcity. The tunnels/polyhouse and micro-irrigation technologies have helped maintain temperature, extend the growing season, preserve moisture to reduce reliance on water usage for production and higher productivity. Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools like yellow sticky traps and lure traps inside the tunnel, farmers have been able to significantly reduce the application of chemical pesticides and insecticide which in turn has improved soil productivity. These interventions have changed farming practices to be adaptative in the context of climate change and has contributed to the economic upliftment and well-being of the community.



INDIA

In India, ADRA has provided Oxygen Generator Plants to hospitals in Pune, Ottapalam, Bangalore and Nuzvid.

As a part of their ongoing COVID-19 response, ADRA is ensuring a provision of adequate healthcare equipment in combatting a rise of infections during the countries third wave.

During the second wave last year, ADRA was able to provide an Oxygen Generator Plant to the Adventist hospital in Surat. A further two Oxygen Generator Plants are on their way to reach Ranchi and Aizawl.



PHILIPPINES

Super Typhoon Rai, known locally as Typhoon Odette, wrought havoc on 16 December 2021 affecting more than 8 million people in the Visayas Islands and north-eastern Mindanao.

Classified as a Category 5 Super Typhoon by the international community and the strongest storm to hit Mindanao in 10 years, the 180-240 km/hr winds caused widespread flooding and landslides resulting in 407 fatalities and destroying over 350,000 homes.

After monitoring the storm, ADRA's Emergency team quickly responded to provide cash or food assistance to over 6,000 households in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Cebu, Southern Leyte, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental and Palawan.

This large simultaneous response was made possible through close partnership and coordination with the Adventist Community Services allowing rapid mobilization of assessment, validation, procurement, and distribution of much needed assistance

ADRA Philippines wishes to thank the ACS Directors, district pastors, Hope Channel for documenting and reporting ADRA's relief efforts and broadcasting an urgent call for donations, all individual and corporate donors, and volunteers that contributed to making this response successful in reaching those most in need.



SRI LANKA

CKDu Research Symposium

ADRA Sri Lanka and Oxfam Sri Lanka through their European Union funded 'Assisting Communities in Creating Environmental and Nutritional Development (ACCEND)' project, facilitated a research to identify the socio-economic impact created by Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Origin (CKDu) and to lobby relevant authorities and policymakers to take necessary measures to better support those affected by the disease.

The study was carried out with the support of APK Researchers headed by Dr. Pasan Jayasinghe (Regional Epidemiologist of Kandy) in the Wilgamuwa Divisional Secretariat (DS) Division of the Matale district. Out of the 1,161 registered patients diagnosed with CKDu for more than one year in the DS division, 262 patients were sampled for the study. Furthermore, the collected data were analyzed by utilizing appropriated statistical parameters – using both descriptive and comparative calculations.

Upon identifying the existing gaps through the findings of the research, the project presented several policy recommendations and created space for further discussion on the matter by organizing a symposium. The symposium was held on 28th of January in Kandy with the presence of various officials representing the health sector and the Governor of the Central Province, Hon. Lalith U. Gamage.

TIMOR-LESTE

The 'Hamutuk Hadiak Nutrisaun Familia (Together Improving Family Nutrition) (HAHAN)' project has supported communities through training in kitchen gardens and installing water systems for vegetable farming. The training aims to teach participants how to grow vegetables, maintain their quality and increase quantity through the use of organic fertiliser.

In addition, the project conducted a market assessment. This market assessment provided information to enable buyers to connect to farmers in order to buy their products and for farmers to understand market demand.

Prior to the project, farmers had to walk long distances to fetch water for watering their vegetables. The project improved access to water sources by establishing a new water point for farmers to continue to water their gardens even during the dry season to maintain their crops.

In the last three months, ADRA Timor-Leste through the HAHAN project, has established 9 kitchen garden groups and 9 water systems positively impacting 170 households.

Thank you to ADRA Australia and the Australian Government for supporting farmers to improve family nutrition and income.



DON'T TAX MY PERIOD!

**Sign the petition and
urge that Sri Lankan
policymakers reduce the
taxes on sanitary products!**

change.org | tinyurl.com/dtmp22



**Periods are not a luxury and should
not be taxed!**

An initiative of the
Assisting Communities in Creating
Environmental and Nutritional Development (ACCEND) Project

Funded by



European Union

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