

ADRA ASIA focus



*A Brighter
Future*

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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.

EDUCATION IS CHANGING THE WORLD

*One child,
one teacher,
one pen and
one book can
change the world.*

~ Malala Yousafzai ~

I can still vividly remember observing women's literacy classes run by ADRA Nepal and being impressed by the commitment of busy women, ranging in age from 18 - 60, to showing up for night classes. They must have been tired at the end of a long hard day - and in some cases they faced significant opposition from family members - but they always came. These women were driven - partly by a desire to improve their lives and partly by a strong sense of loss.

Missing out on the chance to learn to read, write and do basic math negatively impacted their lives and they wanted to do something about it. What's more they wanted to ensure that their own daughters did not experience the same sense of loss.

I recall one of these groups of women would go out on weekends and do street theatre to raise awareness of the importance of education. As I watched them rehearse I was impressed by the performance of one particular woman whose

emotion (playing the part of a girl who couldn't go to school) seemed very real - and then I realised that it was.

For many of us who are well educated and grew up in circumstances where it was not a struggle to go to school it's easy to take education for granted. Yet ADRA's own Global Education Report notes that in 2018 there were 258 million school age children who were not in school. Given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine it is likely that the number has increased. Although there has been significant progress over the past four decades - for example the number of out-of-school girls has fallen by half - the data also shows that progress has stalled over the past ten years with little progress.

In this quarter's edition of ADRA Asia Focus, you'll hear about some of the programs that ADRA offices across the region are implementing to ensure that the current generation of children don't grow up needing to attend adult literacy classes.

In communities that are marginalised by poverty children often miss out on education unless an organisation like ADRA steps in. Of all ADRA's programs, those that support children's education carry - with every child who stays in school - every teacher who is supported - every classroom that is equipped - the most capacity to change the world.

Dream of a Brighter Future

This quarter's theme focuses on Education opportunities for marginalized children by empowering them to 'dream of a brighter future'. Education is one of ADRA's core sectors in eradicating poverty by supporting communities access to education services and resources regardless of age, status and location.

Mark Webster

Regional Director
ADRA Asia Regional Office





GIRL FROM THE SLUMS HELPS OTHERS ACCESS PRIMARY EDUCATION

"I want to be a teacher, and I'll help the deprived slum kids so they can obtain a primary education too"

Living in Chalantika slum in Mirpur, Dhaka, 12-year-old Sumaiya was fortunate to complete her primary education. A student a part of ADRA Bangladesh's Chalantika Slum Children Development Project (CSCDP), Sumaiya shared her dream of becoming a teacher.

Her father is a day laborer by profession and her mother is a housemaid for three families. Even before Sumaiya was born, life brought challenges to her parents. After losing their belongings due to river erosion, they decided to move to Dhaka seeking better opportunities. "The catastrophic river took away everything from me," said Sumaiya's mother in deep agony. "I came to Dhaka with much hardship and I could hardly manage two meals for my family".

Sumaiya is an intelligent and smart student in her class. "I want to stand beside the deprived slum kids. I've seen the hardship, I understand their grief". Despite being very young and a slum girl herself, Sumaiya's dreams are big!

"I know there is a lot of money needed to get a higher degree. I do not know if my parents can afford to pay for my studies. Yet, I will not be defeated from my determination."

Living in a slum is always a challenge, but Sumaiya continues to go to school each

day despite her surrounding impediments. "I want to make my family financially stable. I want to live in a better place than the slum and continue my studies".

After completing her primary education at the CSCDP Center, Sumaiya developed interpersonal and leadership skills. Now Sumaiya is providing tuition to 7 other slum children at home. "Since most of the parents in the slum can't read and write, they can't take care of their children in terms of helping them with basic education. I decided to teach the slum kids living around my house and help them acquire a basic education. I think this will help them get admitted to school. I also help them understand their daily lessons and homework. They enjoy the way I teach them".

Sumaiya herself is very creative and has excellent drawing skills. Through the CSCDP Center, she is able to create eye-catching paper crafts. "I would like to do something different using my imagination. I believe everyone has some dormant skills. I prepared a couple of crafts for my teachers and friends. Everybody liked those crafts and encouraged me to continue my work."

Sumaiya always helps her mother with house chores like cooking, collecting water, and cleaning. This striving girl has become famous among her group or friends and in her locality. Everybody admires her for her humble, friendly, and polite manners.



Syed Abu Saleh Mahfuz
ADRA Bangladesh



REGIONAL FOCUS

580

MILLION
CHILDREN
IN ASIA/PACIFIC

35

MILLION
CHILDREN
OUT-OF-SCHOOL

9

ADRA OFFICES
SUPPORTING
EDUCATION

The East Asia and Pacific region is home to more than one-quarter of the world's children – around 580 million children in total. Over the past decades, many countries in the region have achieved impressive progress and increased enrollment, retention and completion rates while also reducing gender gaps, however 35 million children still remain out-of-school or lack sufficient access to quality education services.

ADRA is working to combat this by supporting Education for Marginalized Children across 9 countries in Asia.

BANGLADESH



ADRA in Bangladesh promotes education opportunities for marginalized communities such as slum children from the slums of Dhaka through the Chalantika Slum Children Development Project Centre, education programming for Tongi children and child sponsorship opportunities for children to attend school in both urban and rural settings.

KOREA & JAPAN



Both ADRA Korea and ADRA Japan are strong financial supporters of education-based projects within the Asia region. ADRA Korea provides much needed funds for child sponsorship projects and ADRA Japan contributes funds towards school construction and school material distributions to improve learning environments.

MYANMAR



ADRA Myanmar has the largest education-based project portfolio in the region with extensive experience across multiple sectors such as vocational education, formal and non-formal education and education during crises. Currently Myanmar is implementing 6 education focused projects that support teachers, students and youth from a variety of communities such as marginalized and indigenous groups.

THAILAND



ADRA Thailand also has a strong education-based project portfolio supporting migrant workers, refugees and stateless persons across a variety of education sectors as well as providing child sponsorship for children to attend school.

CSCDP PROJECT: CHANGING THE LIVES OF SLUM CHILDREN

During the 2010s and early 2020s, Bangladesh experienced strong urban economic growth, a reduction in poverty rates, and rapid growth in primary school enrolments. Amongst many factors, these changes are linked to Bangladesh's growing involvement in the global economy, especially in the form of garment factories, and conscious efforts by its government to increase enrolments through its primary education plans.

Although nominally richer and geographically closer to urban job markets than those in rural areas, people in the slums of Dhaka have greater difficulty accessing schooling and have questionable rewards to look forward to at the end of it. The project considers the theory of rates of return to education, but also looks beyond that to consider the factors that impede households from accessing financial and other rewards that supposedly accrue from education. In particular, social connections play an important role in getting jobs and realizing other opportunities; and, unsurprisingly, gender plays a decisive role in deciding boys' and girls' futures.

These results were considered in the light of human and social capital theories and ideas about the reproduction of social class through schooling. The project's goal is to improve the living conditions of slum children in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. The project's outcome is that the children will successfully complete public primary school and get admitted to high school. The project's objective is to improve the educational, health, and living conditions of the slum children of Dhaka city in Bangladesh. Accordingly, through the project

intervention, 80 children and 80 mothers were directly benefited from the project, as well as 32 external children with educational support.

Chalantika Slum Children Development Project (CSCDP) started its activities on June 15, 2013, at Mirpur-6, Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The project was designed to address the lack of education and various health problems in the slum area. People in this slum migrated from different parts of Bangladesh due to family financial crises. Parents would often stop their child's education to involve them in earning money as they are not aware of the importance of education.

Children in this area are malnourished because of their food habits. The mothers are mostly illiterate, and they don't know about the nutritious values of food. These malnourished children suffer from different diseases, and usually go to the pharmacy or unqualified doctors for treatment. The project targeted this community to improve their living conditions by improving their health, education status, and family situation. All the activities were set so that the children could complete their primary education. The project also gave importance to sustainability and raised awareness among parents and community members by conducting frequent meetings, problem-based workshops, and home visits. The project also made a targeted linkage with the Education department and other local NGOs for sustainability.

A baseline survey had been conducted in the work area at the start of the project in 2013. 50

children, aged 5 – 10 years old and not currently attending school, were identified, and selected from the slum's most vulnerable families. For a significant number of these children, fathers are no longer present and/or are not supporting the family financially for various reasons. Children are commonly cared for by their mothers, grandparents, or other relatives. The information collected has been used as a basis of comparison at impact assessment and at the end of project evaluation.

ADRA's Intervention

For child selection, project staff used at least three participatory assessment tools: focus group discussions, household surveys, and observation. Focus group discussions were conducted with children and their guardians in the community to identify their needs. Through this process, staff provided concepts of the project goals and objectives to those interviewed. A house-to-house survey was conducted by project staff to identify the most vulnerable children and their living conditions. This survey has also helped to establish relationships and feedback mechanisms with the guardians. During surveying, each staff member observed and took notes of the settings where the selected children reside.

The project targets slum children, who reside in the Chalantika slum. These children are deprived of their basic needs such as health, education, and vocational skills and are struggling to meet their nutrition needs. They come with their families from different parts of the country for various reasons and live in Chalantika slum's floating houses and temporary shelters. Most of the time, they stay

within the slum to either look after younger siblings, work in the streets collecting recyclable materials, or wandering around with neighboring children while their parents are away working or begging in the streets. Chalantika children are often engaged in the following kinds of labor: collecting waste from streets/markets/bus and railway stations, selling goods at markets, not attending schools, and being forced into- and at risk of being involved in prostitution or other often illegal income-generating activities.

There are 112 children aged 6 - 16 years who were enrolled based on the survey and benefit directly from project activities. Through the project intervention, there are 400 indirect beneficiaries. The project gives priority to those who are really interested to improve themselves through their own participation.





The CSCDP has worked well in its first seven and half years. Primary health care, children's education, and vocational skills training have all been areas of ADRA Bangladesh's strategic planning, addressing the issues through an integrated approach. The informal education classes have been helping slum children, giving them the basic language and education skills needed to bridge the gap to formal public education systems. A strategy has been developed with the education department at the early stages of the project to transition children into formal literacy. The process of needs identification and generating solutions with the slum community, as well as the involvement of local leaders, are all processes that ADRA Bangladesh uses to address poverty reduction and to build a good community for the future. This project is a continuation of an existing project funded by the ADRA Czech Republic and can be replicated in other areas of Bangladesh as well. The goal of ADRA Bangladesh, along with the donor support of ADRA Czech Republic, is to ensure a long-lasting impact in the Chalantika community.

Description of Accomplishments

From January 2021 to December 2021, the project reached 112 students and 80 mothers with the objective of improving the education, health, and living conditions of the slum children in Dhaka city. From January 2021 to December 2021, 1,150 education sessions were held on 230 school days, 5 educational sessions/day with 1 government primary school and 2 private High schools. 18,400 nutritious meals were cooked for 230 days and distributed among 80 students, and 4x children's health checkups were completed with 42 health session classes.



Ruben Sarker
ADRA Bangladesh

STAFF FOCUS

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

I first set foot in ADRA in October 2017. Since high school, I have pictured myself working with or for children, and when God gave me the opportunity, I didn't miss it.

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

There was a girl in Nepal who loved Taekwondo in Korea. She participated in the Child Sponsorship Program in Korea from 5th grade and started receiving tuition assistance. The child's father died when she was young, and her mother was living a difficult life raising her four children alone. Nevertheless, she never gave up on her dream of Taekwondo.

At the end of November 2019, when she was in 10th grade, she heard that the International Taekwondo Federation competition will be held in Korea, but attending seemed impossible as issuing a visa and passport in Nepal is very expensive.

ADRA Korea asked the child's sponsor for help. As a result, she was able to finish second in the competition, and she shared the joy with all of us.

As a Child Sponsorship Program Manager, I don't think the only thing I could give her was a medal. ADRA Korea made small memories for this child giving big dreams for the future.

Kelly Choi

**CHILD SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM (CSP) MANAGER**
ADRA Korea



WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

Although a small desk in one small office is my area of activity, I think the pride that I am serving as a bridge connecting sponsors all over Korea and children in 7 countries every day makes me love this place.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

I think people exist for people.

There is no doubt that ADRA is a very suitable place to put this ideology into practice.





CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, ADRA distributed 'Happy Tap' hand washing devices to 1,020 target households in Kampong Thom province through the 'Baray Santuk Nutrition for Under 2's and Mothers 2' project. Happy Taps are easy to install and use for all household members including young children.

The project promotes the importance of handwashing especially amongst parents, caregivers, children under 5, pregnant women and women of reproductive age. Messages focus on washing hands before food preparation and eating, after defecating and assisting children's sanitation. Besides protection from nutrition related diseases, proper handwashing also reduces risks of COVID-19 transmission.

A project survey showed handwashing had improved from 10% practicing in June 2020 to 31% in August 2021. It is expected these practices will further increase by the end of the project.



INDONESIA

ADRA Indonesia's Op Shop (short for opportunity shop) located in Pasar PSPT East Tebet, South Jakarta-Indonesia, is a shop designed to provide an 'opportunity' for the community to share with others in need as a community service.

The Op Shop accepts donations and provides quality second-hand clothing and goods at affordable prices for those in need relying entirely on items donated by others. The shop is managed, run and funded by volunteers providing an opportunity to be involved in humanitarian service and make a difference and change in the community.

The funds raised from sales are used to fund various humanitarian programs such as; disaster response emergency fund, training and disaster risk reduction, Library projects for children in various areas of Indonesia, and other programs.

The items that can be donated include household appliances, electronic goods, furniture, equipment and children's toys, fashion, and other items that are still functioning properly and are used so that they can be resold.



INDIA

In this quarter, ADRA India supported Shimla Sanitarium, a charitable hospital, with advanced technology known as OCT. OCT is a non-invasive technology to obtain high-res images of the retina which assists in the early detection and diagnosis of optical diseases. This will help the hospital with timely access and treatment towards the needy communities.

Through the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP), ADRA is continuing to maintain India's polio free status since being declared so in 2014 by maintaining vaccine coverage, strengthening routine immunization and preventing re-introduction from neighbouring countries in three districts of Uttar Pradesh including Bagpath, Bareilly and Rampur. To commemorate the declaration week of Polio-free India, ADRA conducted house to house immunizations for children under five through the assistance of 150 Community Mobilization Coordinators, facilitated polio classes in schools forming Bulawa Tolly groups for 209 children to encourage sibling vaccination and engaged 137 Community Action Groups (CAGs) comprised of over 1,000 community influencers to further encourage vaccination. As a result, 51,133 children received OPV doses.

Finally, under the Remedial and Inclusive School Education (RISE) Project, ADRA India reached out to 33 drop-out students to sensitize them on the importance of formal education. The 33 students were successfully mainstreamed into a state government-run school in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu.



KOREA

Last 4th of March, wildfires blazed across Korea's east coast, and it was the country's biggest mountain fire in a decade. Prompted by high winds and dry conditions, the fires burned about 24,000 hectares of forest, equivalent to a 40% of Seoul City. No casualties have been reported, but it was heartbreaking to see that more than 7,300 people from some 4,600 households were forced to leave their homes and move to makeshift facilities.

Having heard the news, ADRA Korea immediately began fundraising, with many individuals and churches reaching out their hands with love. About 250 individuals, churches, and organizations from home and abroad participated to help those affected by the wildfires for a month from March 6th. ADRA Korea also coordinated an emergency team, conducting a needs assessment of the damage with the relevant church conferences and local officials, and dispatched personnel to the site.

To affected areas such as Donghae-si, Gangwon-do and Uljin-gun, Gyeongsangbuk-do, ADRA Korea supported 147 million won (\$120,000 USD) in cash, and 35 million won in value of goods including 1,600 COVID-19 diagnostic kits, 60,000 pieces of Sahmyook soymilk, 1,220 boxes of gim (seasoned seaweed), and 800kg of rice. ADRA Korea also visited the Uljin Fire Station and delivered boxes of fruit expressing gratitude. A total of 182 million won (\$147,000 USD) was provided to the affected households.





MONGOLIA

In Mongolia on the 30th March, 15 Master Gardener Trainers from ADRA's 'SAFER 2' project attended a graduation ceremony at the Mediana Hotel Lounge in Ulgii district after completing 6 seminar sessions on permaculture training.

The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Provincial Food and Agriculture Department, Mr B Nurgulan, local government officials, other participants in the project, and staff from ADRA including Project Manager Asemgul Baitik and Programs Coordinator Zoljargal Sanjdorj.

The SAFER 2 project is designed to increase food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of its' agricultural producers. One of the projects activities is to train selected individuals as Master Gardener Trainers in order to lead, encourage and teach 10 to 20 other households on home gardening, marketing and value chain assessments.



THAILAND

In coordination with the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Coordination Group, ADRA Thailand organized a 16-day Gender-Based Violence Campaign for migrant communities, a part of their CSO-DPAMR Mae Sot project. Two events were organized within this sixteen-day campaign in Bang Saung Khwere, Mae Pa village, and Mae Sot District in Tak Province. Additionally, there was FM radio broadcasting to raise awareness about GBV and talk about the 16-day GBV campaign at the MAP radio office in Mae Sot.

In total, there were 156 participants (M: 30, F: 126) who joined both times during the campaign. The reason that participants joined, as told in an interview, is because "the community has seen an increased in GBV cases, and would like to get some information, so they could apply knowledge to solve problems and build a peaceful family in the community."

Before the 16-day campaign, the ADRA team attended several planning meetings with members of the GBV Coordination Group and migrant youth champions from the Teacher FOCUS/CSO-DPAMR Project. Among them, youth champions played an essential role in the GBV event through raising awareness during radio broadcasting at the MAP radio office, and supporting registration, quizzing, and performing in the mini-theater.

MYANMAR

ADRA Myanmar provided WASH supplies to the Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP relocation site, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State through a project funded by UNICEF.

The WASH supplies distributed included water filters, plastic buckets, sachets of water purification powder, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, bars of soap, hand sanitizer, face masks, and awareness-raising posters to 3,013 households in Kayin State.

The project is also constructing 150 latrines for the 150 targeted households and 4 water supply constructions for 4 communities/villages starting in March 2022.



TIMOR-LESTE

In July 2021, ADRA Timor-Leste through the DRP project (Disaster Response Partnership) conducted a participatory assessment of 20 communities in the Municipality of Viqueque to observe the impacts that flooding had on farmer's livelihoods. This participatory assessment found that floods affected several community resources such as farms, paddy fields and plantations. Farmers in the Uatolari Administrative Post and Viqueque Vila community informed the assessment team that their irrigation systems were crucial for their food production but were damaged due to flooding. Therefore, ADRA decided to rebuild damaged irrigation systems and also repair the irrigation system. The three irrigation canals will cover 1.7 km and benefit 897 households, providing water to 890 Ha of fields.

Many farmers are concerned that though they already have seeds, land and are ready to begin agricultural production, they still lack sufficient water supplies and that is why ADRA has decided to help. Farmers admitted that without water they are unable to produce rice, which ultimately affects their food security status, and that water shortages can cause social problems amongst farmers.

The farming communities in the assessment expressed their enthusiasm and interest for this project when they heard that ADRA will reconstruct their irrigation systems. In the future the ADRA hopes that the farmers will be able to take good care of these irrigation systems so that these farming communities can benefit.





Ukraine Crisis

SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED

GIVE NOW