

# ADRA ASIA focus

A woman wearing a purple sari with a brown border is working in a field of green chili plants. She is looking down at the plants, and her hands are visible as she tends to them. The background is a clear blue sky.

TACKLING

*Climate  
Change*

VOL 3 | NO 4  
SEP-NOV 2023

NITU  
TRANSFORMS  
HER LAND AND  
COMMUNITY  
PAGE 4

ADAPTING  
SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT: A  
STEP TOWARDS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
RESILIENCE  
PAGE 8

MEET SHANTI:  
STAFF FOCUS  
PAGE 10



ADRA





ADRA

## Editorial

**EDITOR/DESIGNER**  
Emma McCrow

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Frank Reimann

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Kaylene Pignon  
Dr. Ghanshyam K. Bhatta  
Sujit Kumar Sah  
Shanti Khadka

### GET CONNECTED



**PUBLISHER**  
ADRA Asia Regional Office

ADRA ASIA  
**focus**

**VOLUME 3 | NUMBER 4**  
September - November 2023

ADRA Asia Focus, launched in 2021, is the official quarterly magazine of the ADRA Asia Regional Office serving 17 ADRA offices in Asia, so all may live as God intended.

## CONTENTS



**COUNTRY FOCUS**



**STORY FOCUS**



**REGIONAL FOCUS**



**TECHNICAL FOCUS**



**STAFF FOCUS**



**NEWS FOCUS**



**KEEP UPDATED**

This quarter, we focus on how ADRA is working to address climate change resilience, targeting people and their environment, in Nepal.



This quarter we take you to

# NEPAL

**CAPITAL**  
Kathmandu

**LANGUAGE**  
Nepali

**POULATION**  
30.03 Million

**CURRENCY**  
Nepalese Rupee

**RELIGION**  
Hindu

**PROVINCES**  
7

**TIMEZONE**  
GMT +5:45

**OFFICIAL NAME**  
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal



## 1987

ADRA Office first established





# NITU TRANSFORMS HER LAND AND COMMUNITY

Nitu Yadav is a young woman from a conservative Madheshi community in the south of Nepal. She defied social norms and expectations and stepped forward as an advocate for climate resilience. Her husband is a migrant worker in Qatar, and she raises their twins along with her mother-in-law and extended family. As with many women in her village, her role is to remain in the home.

Nitu's community has experienced significant droughts induced by climate change. They no longer receive the vegetable crop yields they need and are unaware of climate resilient farming practices that could help them thrive even in their drought environment.

Nitu joined ADRA's LIRIC Project, funded by the European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation and implemented with partner CDAFN. She was enthusiastic and determined to equip herself with new knowledge and tools. She attended intensive training through Climate change field schools and discovered the power of climate resilient farming techniques. Nitu assumed the role of secretary in the Jaya Maa Kali farmer group, a collective endeavor primarily led by women. With her training she encouraged others to implement the same techniques, and after some time, the barren fields scorched by the heat were now covered with vibrant crops. They had breathed life into the land once more.

Their techniques include optimized water usage by implementing drip irrigation systems in their fields. Water trickles directly to the plant roots, minimizing wastage through evaporation and runoff. To further conserve precious moisture, Nitu blankets the soil surface with organic mulch.

Her family now has an abundance of crops which reduces their need to buy vegetables, thereby enabling her to use their limited funds elsewhere.

The change has not only been in the landscape, but in the women. Like with Nitu, their voices have grown stronger, they are now participating in decision making and implementing climate resilient initiatives.

Women are not only changing their lives, but their entire community, which is also capturing the attention of the neighboring communities.

The LIRIC project, which finished earlier this year, transformed communities through various activities and programs aimed at improving their resilience to climate change. The project gave community groups, the local government, and schools the training and tools needed to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation techniques. It changed landscapes and changed lives. Through climate change field schools and land reclamation, it also enabled landless marginalized groups to gain immediate and long-term incomes.



# REGIONAL FOCUS

Climate change resilience is about changing processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change with its densely populated cities, low-lying islands, melting glaciers, extreme heat, weather disasters and rising sea levels.

In ADRA, climate change is typically a cross-cutting issue addressed in livelihood or agricultural based projects. In Asia, 2 countries are addressing climate change resilience directly.

39%

OF THE WORLD'S  
GREENHOUSE GAS  
EMISSIONS ARE IN  
ASIA & SOUTH  
PACIFIC

5.6

BILLION AFFECTED  
BY DISASTERS,  
INCLUDING  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
IMPACTS

46.92

PHILIPPINES IS  
ASIA'S HIGHEST  
RANKING ON THE  
DISASTER RISK  
INDEX

## NEPAL



In Nepal, ADRA Nepal, along with partners ADRA Austria and the European Union, are working to address climate change resilience through the 'Local Initiatives to Reduce Impacts of Climate Change' (LIRIC) project. The project being implemented in the municipalities of Bardibas, Gaushala, Aurahi and Bhangaha in Mahottari district, and the municipalities of Bateshwor and Mithila in Dhanusha district.



## LAOS

In Laos, ADRA's 'Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Livelihoods Initiative' (SARLI) project, aims to contribute to sustainable and climate smart agriculture, enhancing rural farmers resilience and livelihood systems through improved institutional and civic capacity in Xiengkhouang and Vientiane Provinces. This is in alignment with SDG 13, 'take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'.

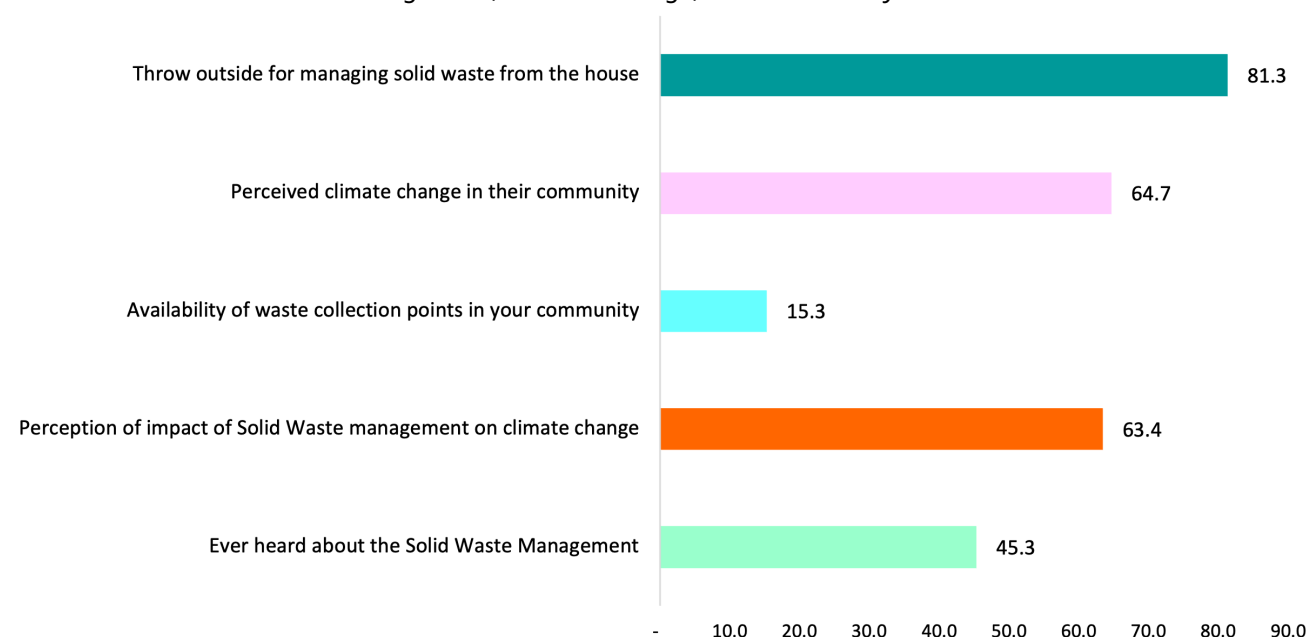


# ADAPTING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: A STEP TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

During the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, ADRA Nepal worked closely with the Nepal government, to ensure the wider reach of vaccination in the vulnerable communities of Madhesh Province. While working closely with healthcare providers and communities, we realized the impact COVID-19 had made in solid waste management (SWM). It added to existing problems, such as not having enough infrastructure, and limited knowledge on disposal of vaccine vials. On one hand, the lock downs imposed due to COVID-19 led to a decrease in the number of vehicles on the roads, positively impacting the overall air quality in many countries. However, the solid waste management associated with the disposal of vaccine vials, and its potential long-term environmental consequences were neglected.

To understand the situation more, ADRA Nepal conducted a cross-sectional study to explore the impact of COVID-19 on solid waste management (SWM) practices in Madhesh Province, and evaluate the need for adapting these practices to enhance climate change resilience. Health facility leaders engaged in COVID-19 treatment, reported a surge in hazardous medical waste during the pandemic posing additional risks. Disruptions to waste collection due to COVID-19 restrictions resulted in improper disposal methods, contributing to environmental degradation and climate change effects. The study conducted on 320 participants suggested that less than half (45%) of the respondents had prior knowledge of SWM. Regarding waste disposal practices, 81% of respondents haphazardly discarded household waste outside their homes, while 9% resort to burning waste. Notably, 80% of surveyed households lacked access to waste collection points in their communities.

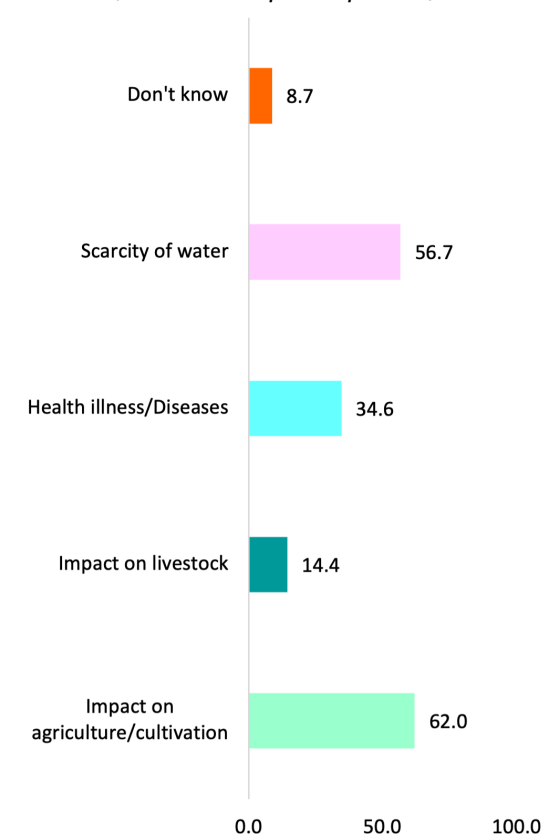
*Gauging Public Perceptions and Practices: Unmasking the Intertwined Effects of Solid Waste Management, Climate Change, and Community Resilience*



In an effort to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on the environment, ADRA Nepal launched a multi-pronged approach by orienting health care service providers on the infection prevention and management of COVID-19 related byproducts, such vaccine vials. ADRA Nepal also oriented them on proper waste collection and its management, and have supported the government in development of guidelines on safe disposal of unused or expired medicine, chemical and medicine related products, along with related media products for wider dissemination of information in the community.



*Perceived effects of climate change by respondents (n=208, Multiple responses)*



After learning various orientations organized by ADRA Nepal and implementation, a health care provider shared, "after properly segregating the waste products from the health facility, we dug a pit to dispose of the waste. The syringe and vials were burnt and kept in the pit. With ADRA's initiative, we were also provided with a mobile incinerator, which has been very useful."

ADRA Nepal acknowledges the environmental impact of COVID-19, and the associated health risks to communities. We believe that an effective strategy should encompass community-based waste management, the establishment of collection points, training for proper waste handling, promotion of recycling, raising public awareness, and implementation of these measures. Such actions can improve solid waste management practices,



**Dr. Ghanshyam K. Bhatta  
& Sujit Kumar Sah**  
ADRA Nepal



# STAFF FOCUS

18  
YEARS  
WITH ADRA

1

## Tell us about your journey since you started working with ADRA

I joined ADRA in 2005 as a Receptionist and Office Assistant. I had been working with another INGO and the project had finished. When I saw the position advertised, I applied as I wanted to continue working in an INGO and focus on serving people.

2

## What do you love most about your position?

I enjoy the involvement with all staff. Nepal is very diverse in terms of ethnicity and faces many gender issues. In ADRA, we strive to maintain a diverse and equal workforce while still focusing on skills. I have had a few different roles during my time with ADRA. I also enjoyed working in procurement with outside vendors to develop relationships and purchase products and equipment. I enjoy the culture of the office too, as it is a pleasant place to work.

3

## Can you tell us about one of your most memorable experiences?

An opportunity arose for me to support the team who were conducting a health camp in a remote part of the country – in Mugu. We flew there in a helicopter to an area with no roads. As I'm normally in the office, this was an excellent experience for me to see the work firsthand and experience what some of our staff experience.

4

## What does the work of ADRA mean to you?

ADRA's work is very important to me. I'm proud that we serve people and make such an impact. I especially appreciate our work in health. As a woman, and knowing about the challenges that women face in the small communities here, it really touches me that ADRA goes in and says 'we are on your side' and provides treatment and empowers women to share the things they are suffering from and going through. Even though I'm not a Christian, in my Hindu faith, I can see how we share some common values of compassion and service. I also appreciate how Saturdays should be work-free, to ensure people rest from work and have a good work/life balance. Additionally, ADRA supported me a lot during a hard time in my life which I will never forget. ADRA is in my heart always and is my second home.



*Meet*  
**Shanti Khadka**

Senior Administration & HR Officer  
ADRA Nepal



# NEWS FOCUS

## BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, ADRA, through the Makeup Your Dream Project (MYDP), is supporting women like Suchona to train in beautification and open their own business. Now Suchona is earning BDT 7,000 month becoming an active contributor to her families finances and achieving independence and freedom.



## CAMBODIA

In October, ADRA Cambodia's Pro-Market project collaborated with Save the Children to arrange a 2-day exchange visit for farmers to share their technical experiences in producing vegetables. 14 farmers from Pursat Province participated visiting farms growing watermelon, melon, cucumber and various seedlings. Farmers discussed seedling cultivation, soil preparation, agrochemicals, post-harvest practices & establishing market connections.



## INDIA

In Uttar Pradesh, ADRA India is employing visual materials, such as 'Photo-Wali booklets', to illustrate potential risks children face if unvaccinated. These compelling booklets have proven to be effective with community teams finding it easier to convey the benefits of vaccination. Thanks to these booklets, more children and youth are shielded from preventable diseases



## INDONESIA

This quarter, ADRA Indonesia welcomed a team from ADRA Canada, reinforcing their strong connection and opening up new possibilities for meaningful partnerships. The highlight of the visit was an exploration of ADRA's projects in Palu where they witnessed the positive changes that have occurred in the local community.



## JAPAN

In September 2023, a strong typhoon hit Chiba Prefecture causing floods. ADRA immediately assessed the situation and found that 40 houses in Otaki Town were severely damaged and needed help for recovery. ADRA Japan collaborated with the Japan Adventist Academy in Otaki Town, and teachers and students volunteered to remove mud and clean up the flooded homes. This was greatly appreciated by the local people.



## LAOS

ADRA Laos welcomes a new Country Director! As Former Country Director Gillian Grolimund completed 7 years of service in Lao PDR, ADRA welcomed Matthias Rimarzik, along with wife Regine and daughter Mara, to the position. Matthias has previously served in Laos with a diverse background in livelihood development and health. ADRA is pleased to welcome Matthias and wishes to thank Gillian for her many years of dedicated service.



## MONGOLIA

Over the past 3 years, ADRA Mongolia, through the In-Their Shoes project, have collaborated with various government agencies to provide food packs to 100 financially disadvantaged single-headed households, and warm boots to 50 school children annually. Nalaikh District, Ulaanbaatar, was the focus of this year's distributions, particularly children with disabilities who are being taught at the Non-Formal Lifelong Education Center.



## NEPAL

In October, ADRA Nepal initiated an emergency response to the 6.3 magnitude Bajhang earthquake that struck West Nepal. In November, another 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck in Baretot. ADRA and partner ENRUDEC, distributed over 1,000 shelter kits to affected families. The shelter kits included tarps, blankets, mattresses, and ropes, vital for the coming winter.





# NEWS FOCUS

## THAILAND

ADRA Thailand recently supported the Seasons of Light Concert in Nakhon Pathom. The concert for a cause was held on December 3 in Bangkok, hosted by the Eastern Region Adventist Alliance to support those in need in Kanchanaburi Province.



## PHILIPPINES

The Central Philippine Union Conference (CPUC) recently completed the Disaster Ready Church Training of Trainers from October 11-14. (ACS) Adventist Community Services, Directors and representatives from 8 missions/conferences under the CPUC territory participated. The vision of the program is to educate, equip, and prepare churches to be ready when disaster strikes and assist those around them.



## SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, participants in ADRA's AIM-RECCEND project, organized a Vegetable Fair in Maskeliya Town on November 8. The fair was a success showcasing fresh vegetables; plants; seeds; and organic fertilizers. The AIM-RECCEND project is increasing farmer's awareness by providing training on producing organic fertilizers; pesticides; and insecticides, as well as nursery management; land use; and water techniques.



## TIMOR-LESTE

On 21 September, the Presidents and representatives from 11 Cooperatives from Viqueque, such as, Chefe Suco; Viqueque Post Administrator; SECOOP; and MAPPF, met to discuss the progress, challenges and action plan of the saving & loan and value chain activities in ADRA's SHAPE TL Project. The consultation was also attended by the Ambassador of the New Zealand Embassy in Timor-Leste.



# KEEP UPDATED

Thank you for reading ADRA Asia Focus and your continual support of ADRA's work in Asia. For the time being, this will be the last ADRA Asia Focus. To keep up-to-date on what ADRA is doing in the region, you may follow our ADRA office's directly.

### BANGLADESH

Head Office: Dhaka



### CAMBODIA

Head Office: Phnom Penh



### HONG KONG

Head Office: New Territories



### INDIA

Head Office: Haryana



### INDONESIA

Head Office: Jakarta Selatan



### JAPAN

Head Office: Tokyo



### KOREA

Head Office: Seoul



### LAOS

Head Office: Vientiane



### MONGOLIA

Head Office: Ulaanbaatar



### MYANMAR

Head Office: Yangon



### NEPAL

Head Office: Kathmandu



### PAKISTAN

Head Office: Lahore



### PHILIPPINES

Head Office: Cavite



### SRI LANKA

Head Office: Colombo



### THAILAND

Head Office: Chiang Mai



### TIMOR-LESTE

Head Office: Dili



### VIETNAM

Head Office: Hanoi







**The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Asia Regional Office**

801 Le Chateau Mansion, 55 Soi Ekamai 12, Soi Sukhumvit 63, Bangkok, 10110, Thailand

+66-2-391 4768 | [www.adraasia.org](http://www.adraasia.org)

