

RESPONSE

ISSUE TWO 2022

Empowering
MORE
CHILDREN

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 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY



DEAR SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the past year. Our financial year ended on 31 March 2022 and we look forward to sharing our positive results with you at our up-and-coming Annual General Meeting in August.

This year we are embarking on a new growth phase for our Organisation. The focus will always be on the children.

However, as we look to the next five years, we will explore ways to grow both in Partners and Countries. In doing this we will continue our Supporting Ministry to empower more children in the years ahead.

Education will always be our primary focus, providing the children with an opportunity to flourish in faith and future prospects.

In addition to this, our holistic approach hopes to reach beyond the classroom to empower families and communities to improve their health, happiness, and financial prospects. Our programs shift from food relief to food security by empowering the parents with livestock

and farming training, tree planting, kitchen gardens, nutrition lessons and parenting classes. Helping create a safe place at home.

“Education will always be our primary focus, providing the children with an opportunity to flourish in faith and future prospects.”

the teachers and children are happy to be back in the swing of things and the children have expressed their delight in being able to play and catch up with their friends once more.

Some children have expressed that they no longer wish to leave home to go to boarding school. They would prefer to

Healthy families equal happy children. Children can flourish in their learning allowing a better focus in the classroom with a full stomach.

Children have returned to schools in each country and classes feel more like they used to. Both

stay at home with their families to attend school locally. This highlights the need to expand our Programs around our communities that have local Adventist Schools in them already. We want our schools to continue to be beacons of light shining our faith through the communities and countries where we work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Asian Aid team for all their hard work over the past year. The team's commitment in delivering our Vision and Mission allows us to focus on our journey of growth to support even more children. Thank you again for your ongoing support and please continue to remember all vulnerable children in your prayers.

Paul Esau, CEO

BALA THRIVES IN OUR SPORTS PROGRAM

Bala is 14 years old and an enthusiastic and energetic boy who has been part of our sports program in South India since 2017.



NOTICE

We warmly invite you to the **2022 ASIAN AID ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** in Cooranbong at 10 am on Sunday, 7th August 2022 in the Avondale Memorial Church Function Centre. It will also be livestreamed for you to watch from home. If you would like to be more involved in our work, you can become a Member. For a small yearly payment, you will have the opportunity to vote at the AGM. Visit asianaid.org.au/faith-inaction/member to apply or email us at contact@asianaid.org.au or via phone on 02 6586 4250.

Despite all the problems his community has experienced - flooding, sleepless nights due to mosquitoes, alcoholism and domestic violence - and because of your support, Bala is focussed and determined.

He has turned one of his hobbies – playing football – into a passion, and attends our coaching sessions regularly. “I joined the team and saw our coaching session model, which increased my interest in learning football skills and improving my game,” he says. “After joining the sports program, I have improved my fitness and learnt several football techniques, in addition to learning manners and how to behave.” His mother is a house wife and father runs a small shop selling snacks and stationeries. While he has never gone

hungry, our sports program has taught him the value of nutritious food and eating right. Our sports program puts into practice how good nutrition can enhance performance. Having that in mind, the boys are given healthy shakes and fresh fruit during and after their

morning practice. Bala says that in the morning most of them come for practice on an empty stomach and having shakes and fruit helps them maintain their energy levels. This healthy intake also gives them a good start to the day, as well as a full stomach for school.

“Many boys come to the sessions especially because of the

breakfast we give,” says coach Kavi. “Without this, many of them will end up going to school hungry, so this nutrition has been keeping many of them not just healthy, but also in the program where they learn football as well as life skills.”

“After joining the sports program, I have improved my fitness and learnt several football techniques, in addition to learning manners and how to behave.”

ENHANCED CAPACITY LEADS TO FOOD SECURITY AND

LONG-TERM WELL-BEING

In the community where our water program (WHED) has been thriving, we identified an income opportunity for the women in the community and the mums of the children attending our Adventist school.



They are now proactively learning and participating in skill-building. As a result, we have been giving livelihood training on goat and hen rearing.

The women provided positive feedback on this training and acknowledged that this will help them increase their sustainable household income sources. Madina Begum has been part of this training and is learning attentively, especially as she had been rearing others' domestic animals in her yard so that she could earn some money and support her husband. They have two young daughters, and used to entirely depend

on the day-to-day income her husband earns as a daily labourer. She lives near the border of Bangladesh and India in a small house. Cultivable land was not fertile as she lives in a hilly area where it is a struggle to grow green vegetables. Madina says, "I had wished I had my own domestic animals that I could take care of the way I liked, and not be restricted by others' conditions." She adds, "My dream would have never come true if not for your support." Through our program we were able to provide Madina a goat. Within a month, her goat gave birth to a kid. "I am so lucky that now I have two goats within

such a short time," Madina says. By our Partner's report, she was looking very happy and empowered while expressing her gratitude to donors.

Madina is committed to increasing her goat farm in the future. She is confident now because she knows how to provide regular care and immediate treatment if her goat gets sick. She knows when to communicate with the vet if anything goes beyond her capacity of care.

She is eager to share her experience with other women in her community, and hopes they too would find some financial security like she did.



FROM FOOD RELIEF TO FOOD SECURITY

New initiative to promote healthy eating

Our partner staff have an exciting new initiative to promote entrepreneurship, healthy eating, and well-being at our Chennai hubs. Through Cloud Kitchen

Courses, women in our communities are learning to cook everyday meals with healthy substitutes like grains and vegetables. They also learn about the nutritional values of all

of these foods.

Ponmozhi, our Cloud Kitchen trainer, says, "Everyone goes to work in our communities, and women often choose easier options to cook faster, which are not always healthy, leading to diabetes and other health issues. We teach women to substitute other food with grains and to include vegetables rich in nutrients in all the dishes. They learn to cook smarter and faster."

Our goal is for women to take this up as a small business, either as a group or individually, and achieve long-term food and financial security whilst uplifting the overall health of the children and their families in the community.

Susmita comes from a farming family in Nepal that lives on daily wages. For many years she and her family ate simple food, giving little thought to nutrition and balanced meals.

A few years ago, our field staff began teaching families how to provide children with more nutritious meals. Since buying vegetables and fruits was too burdensome financially for many homes, our Kitchen Garden program was established. It became a good avenue to get organic and healthy food. Susmita's family first started planting their kitchen garden in 2018. As a sponsor child, she began learning the basics of gardening and which vegetables provided the best nutrition. Together as a family, they began to take an interest in planting and expanding their garden, encouraged by our team in their village. They then slowly moved from planting seasonal vegetables to perennial produce like potato, onion, garlic, tomato, beans, cauliflower and cabbage. They have been supported with seeds and saplings from our Tree Planting program and this has added much needed vitamins to their diet.

Ever since then their kitchen garden has been flourishing and they are able to eat different varieties of in-season vegetables and fruit regularly.

“In fact, they now no longer buy vegetables from outside and further, they earn an income by selling excess produce. This way they are able to buy additional school supplies and meet other needs.”

Thanks to her sponsor, it also provides Susmita an outside reprieve as she loves the garden and utilises her free time there. She now knows how to take care of the garden and increase production which not only empowers her now but in the future when she has a family of her own.



SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

We were able to supply low-income families with three to four chickens around the Adventist schools in our programs in Nepal. The families are now able to cover the expenses of basic stationery and uniforms for the children from the income generated for the first time.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY IN NEPAL



448

out of 500 households in one district have their own kitchen garden with five types of vegetables including at least three local varieties.



274

are growing five types of fruits and nuts trees/plants.



473

have three types of fodder trees/plants.



22

are engaged in income generation through agriculture of medicinal and aromatic plants.



Our projects in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh are gaining momentum and we look forward to your continued support as we ramp up our growth.

WOMEN'S *Health* CLINICS

Some women do not have access to medical care where they live. We work with our in-country Partner and the Adventist hospital in Nepal to send medical clinics to remote areas for women's health issues including cervical cancer screening and treatment for prolapse.



ADVENTIST EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

You can help us increase the quality of life of children that attend our Adventist schools by improving their school and families' circumstances. Your donations go to improving educational resources, establishing child clubs, raising child rights awareness, teacher training and livelihood training for parents so children and the wider community are benefitted.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

We are excited to see our children returning to schools, but in many instances additional support for both a child and their family may be required because they have been identified from our welfare checks as being at a higher risk of not returning to school post-COVID. You can help us to ensure that no child loses their chance of an education.



FAMILY FOOD FUND

Our Family Food Fund provided food relief for families struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. Moving forward, we have incorporated food security into our Programs that will improve nutritional outcomes for children. Your support helps improve their diets, creates sustainable outcomes and financial income generation opportunities for families.

SPONSOR A CHILD

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 523 CHILDREN UNDER OUR CARE WHO NEED SUPPORT.
By sponsoring a child, you are helping fight social and sometimes systemic problems to ensure that children and their families live wholesome lives in thriving communities.



NISAKIRAN

CD01349 - \$55

Nisakiran is nine years old and lives in Nepal. Her favourite activities are reading books and dancing. She needs a sponsor to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse. By sponsoring her, you will also support the Women, Girls and Child Rights Project in Nepal, where we promote education for all local children, run preventative health education sessions and improve access to women's health services.



TEJA

H101908 - \$55

Four-year-old Teja's father died because he was suffering from a serious illness. When her father died, her in-laws evicted her mother and her from their home, and they now live with her grandmother. Her mother works as a labourer and is paid 250 rupees (4.55 AUD) a day. Teja keeps herself occupied with her favourite activities; singing, dancing and drawing. She hopes she can go to school and become a teacher.



DIGANTA

BBO1375 - \$55

Diganta is six and lives with his family in a small village in Bangladesh, in a hut made of CI sheet, bamboo and leaves. Although his father is a daily wage earner, he is often unable to find work as opportunities are few. Diganta and his family are grateful for the opportunity to have a good English education, and hope he is able to continue at our Adventist School.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (Please write project name below)

- A regular donation of _____ a month
 A one-off donation of _____
 A one-off donation of _____ to Family Food Fund

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

- CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
- FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
- CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

YOUR DETAILS



Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



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