

**RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE  
DEEPAM,  
THUMPALY,  
IRENIPURAM - 629 197  
KANYAKUMARI DIST.  
TAMIL NADU.**

It gives me great pleasure and joy in presenting the brief report of activities of Rural Uplift Centre and the results achieved during the year 2017-2018.

**Programmes implemented during 2017 - 2018 are:**

- Ockhi cyclone response in District.
- Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the poor
- Running of crèches for children of poor agriculture labourers and beedi workers under National Crèche Scheme.
- Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change.
- Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence and to get legal aid.
- Service provider under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence
- Means of communication project:
- Net working & co-ordination

**1. Ockhi cyclone response in District-Supported by Misereor, Germany & Indesch Patens Chaften-Luxembourg:**

RUC conducted rapid assessment of damage caused by Ockhi Cyclone in Kanyakumari District (direct interview with the victims & Community leaders) and decided to provide relief materials to the tribal community people, inland fishermen and tenancy farmers (banana cultivators).

As First step, RUC constituted a committee consisting of People's movements representatives and RUC personnel to identify the most affected victim families. Based on the survey findings 500 beneficiaries were selected for providing tarpaulin sheets @ two tarpaulin sheets. RUC requested Church Auxillary for Social Action (CASA) for 1000 tarpaulin sheets. CASA immediately released 1000 tarpaulin sheets and were distributed.

In the meantime, RUC approached Misereor and Indesch Patens Chaften for partnership in the relief activities. Misereor supported for providing relief materials to 546 families and Indesch Patens Chaften-Luxembourg supported for providing relief to 119 families.

RUC provided 14 household utensils, two mosquito nets and one bed sheet each to one hundred and nine Tribal families at Puravilaimalai and ten inland fishermen families at Villukuri with the financial support of Indesh Patens Chaften-Luxembourg.

RUC provided nine Coconut seedlings (444 beneficiaries), fifty Banana seedlings(19 beneficiaries) and two Mango seedlings, one sapota, two Goyya, two pomograne, two Graviola, ten pepper, 20 kg Groundnut cake, 21 kg Neem cake each to 463 farmers, who had lost horticulture , banana, rubber and coconuts. RUC provided roofing materials G.I. Sheets 8 feet x 3 feet – 8 pieces each having 192 square feet each to forty three families, who had lost their houses in various parts of Kanyakumari District.

The relief materials purchased were transported from the supplier to the respective zones. The materials were counted and verified the quantity jointly by the procurement committee. Separate counters were arranged for verification of beneficiaries, obtaining acknowledgement, distribution of relief materials and for grievance redressal. The relief materials were distributed to the beneficiaries after due verification of valid i.d proof and acknowledgement in the presence of Zonal leaders and Government representatives.

The relief distribution details (date, place of distribution, number of beneficiaries, details of relief materials) are circulated among the Inter Agency Group members, Government Authorities and to media for avoiding duplication of services and ensuring transparency. Mr. Ashok Macline, Joint Director of Agriculture Kanyakumari District, who was present in one of the zones during the distribution, praised that the service of RUC is timely, appropriate and the materials are very good in quality. The following officials and leaders were present during the distribution: Mr. Ashok Macline, Joint Director of Agriculture, Kanyakumari District, Mr. Nijamudhin, Personal Assistant to Collector (Agriculture), K.K. District, Mr. Kannan, Thasildar, Vilavancode Taluk, Mr. Sekar, Former councilor of Kuzhithurai Municipality, Fr. Arul Devadhas, Rector, St. Antony's Church, Vettuvenni, Mr. Ebenezer, YMCA, Secretary, Moolachel, Mr. Bagavathi, Agriculture officer, Padmanabapuram, Mr. Thirumurugan, Agriculture officer (Ockhi relief), Fr. John D. Britto, Kadayal Parish Priest, Mr. Y. Satheesh, Agriculture officer, Thiruvattar, Mr. P. Arul Chander, Agriculture officer, Munchirai, Mr. Suresh, Agriculture officer, Boothapandi, Mr. Velayutham, Agriculture officer, Boothapandi, Mrs.Geetha, Assistant Agriculture officer-Kurunthancodu, Mr.Alex, Agriculture officer-Kurunthancodu, Mr.Joseph Rajesh, Agriculture officer-Melpuram and Mr.James - Agriculture officer-Boothapandi.

The local media widely published the relief material distribution events elaborately. The beneficiary representative's involvement was ensured in the selection of beneficiaries, selection of relief material and purchase of relief material. The leaders and the beneficiaries made all the logistic arrangements during the transport, unloading of the relief materials, storage of relief materials, and custody of relief materials till the time of delivery, grievance redressal, arranging the distribution events along with the local officials and in distributing the relief materials. Beneficiaries have taken the ownership of the relief operations.

Two State level multi-stakeholders consultations were conducted one at ICOSA, Chennai and another at Loyola College, Chennai for familiarizing the disaster relief norms of the Government of India. Victims of Cyclone Ockhi, community leaders and leaders of various social organizations participated in the two consultations.

**Results:**

1. The cyclone Ockhi victims (1125 beneficiary families of RUC) removed debris, partly renovated houses and partly restored livelihood means.
2. All the cyclone Ockhi victims are aware of their relief measures of Government and received the relief amount directly to their bank accounts.

**2. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor:**

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor, who cannot enroll themselves under the regular insurance scheme. Two hundred and fifty live policy holders paid the premium amount of Rs: 1, 53,500/- (one lakh fifty three thousand and five hundred) during this year. Two persons surrendered their policies and received the maturity amount of Rs: 31,000/- (thirty one thousand). Three persons received the maturity amount of Rs: 33,668/- (thirty three thousand six hundred and sixty eight).

**Results:** Life risk of two hundred poor people are transferred.

**3. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker families under National Crèche Scheme, Government of India:**

Rural Uplift Centre is maintaining four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural laborers. One centre each at Kallathi and Elankulam and two centres at Thalapathysamuthram in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limit of Tirunelveli District. One hundred children are being taken care of at these crèches with the financial support of Ministry of Women & Child welfare, Government of India. The children are imparted pre-school training through the play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children are provided with nutritious mid-day meals and snacks in the morning & evening. Health and medical facilities are also provided to them in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings on child care are organized for their mothers. Besides, measures to prevent diseases and to prepare nutritious meals with the locally available food materials are also taught to the mothers. Crèche monitoring committees consisting of panchayat leaders, community leaders, leaders of women's groups and a representative of Rural Uplift Centre are constituted in all the four centers to animate and monitor the functioning of the four crèches. Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day and Annual school Day celebrations are organized at all the centers to demonstrate the skills acquired by the children. Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Integrated Children Development Scheme did not release the grant due for the year 2017-2018.

**Results:** All the 100 children acquired pre-school training & improved their health. The headmasters of the nearby primary schools have reported that the children trained in RUC - run crèches perform better than the other children in all school activities.

#### **4. Organic farming strategy for resilience to the damage caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli Districts-supported by Manos Unidas, Spain:**

**Capacity building trainings :** Rural Uplift Centre conducted seven one day capacity building training programmes for 200 small & marginal farmers of Marthandom, Kadayal, Moolachel, Kurunthancodu and Kulasekaram of Kanyakumari District during the year. The topics covered were soil fertility management through various types of composts & green manure, selection process of seeds, nursery preparation, manure management, weed management, plant growth, tonic preparations, pest-repellent preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, three tier cropping, water conservation measures, Government welfare schemes for organic farming and disaster preparedness in organic farming etc. Five days follow-up organic farming trainings were conducted to 170 small and marginal organic farmers of Chinthamani, Eduppal, Melapathai, Moongiladi and potthaiadi Alankulam of Thirunelveli District. Four hundred 35 ltr capacity containers were distributed to the four hundred farmers for preparing plant growth tonic and pest repellors.

**Exposure visits to University and expert's organic farm:** Three days exposure programme was conducted for fifty five farmers to Tamil Nadu Agriculture University-Coimbatore. Three experts of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University-Coimbatore organic farming department conducted orientation classes on soil fertility management, bio-fertilizers, disease control and pest management through organic means. The organic farmers visited the organic farm of the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University-Coimbatore and had interaction with Kothagiri organic farmers. Five one day exposure visits were conducted for the organic farmers of Marthandom, Kadayal, Moolachel, Kurunthancodu and Kulasekaram. They had visited Thottiodu-Mr.Johnson's vegetable farm, Pambamvilai-Mr.Visakamumar & Mr.Sirumani's inter-crop farm and Paddy field, Azhagappapuram-Mr.Henri's vermi compost & Coconut farm and learnt the best practices implemented in these farms.

**Organic farmer's conference & exhibition of organic products:** RUC organized one day each conference & exhibition of organic products at Nagercoil and at Nanguneri. The conference proposed several demands for promoting and familiarizing organic farming and submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu for consideration.

Twenty days exhibition of organic products was conducted at Kuzhithurai during the annual vahaveli function jointly by the Marthandam zone organic farmers & RUC. Marthandam zone organic farmers exhibited their seedlings and products and received the best appreciation award from the Kuzhithurai Municipality as the best exhibition stall.

#### **Results:**

1. Three hundred and seventy small and marginal farmers of Thirunelveli & Kanyakumari District have acquired alternative skills on organic farming strategy to respond climate change induced drought or flood. The alienated organic farming technologies become their own technology and now have control over it. The organic matter of the soil increased and the soil fertility increased to sustain productivity.

2. The above farmers have cultivated various drought resistance food crops by adopting organic farming practices and obtained reasonable yield (paddy, plantain and vegetables) in the first time crop itself. The study conducted by RUC revealed that organic farming was done in 183.59 acres and the farmers received the profit ranging from Rs:4167 to Rs:1,14,204/- in Thirunelveli District; Also organic farming was done in 1544.44 acres and the farmers received the profit ranging from Rs:3365/- to Rs:51,975/- in Kanyakumari District. Most of the farmers included poultry or cattle rearing to enhance their income. They ensured food security at their family level for the whole year. The yield obtained is nutritious, poison free and good for health and preventing various diseases. The cost of cultivation decreased, as the farmers themselves produce organic manure and pest repellants. They are able to find market in and around the community.
3. The 370 farmers acquired organic farming skills and relieved from the dependency on companies for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and technology.
4. The 370 farmers and their family members are resilience to damages caused by Climate Change & relieved from poverty.
5. Disaster Management Committees are formed in all the ten communities to respond emergencies and they are linked up with State Disaster Management Authority.
6. The neighbours of the beneficiaries have started organic farming practices with the motivation and the help of the trained beneficiaries.
7. Thirty two expert organic farmers participated in the All India Radio experience sharing programmes. Their interviews were broadcasted by All India Radio. Out of which twenty two farmers interviews were aired at the rate of ten minutes each and ten farmers interviews were aired at the rate of fifteen minutes each. Some of the interviews were repeated several times.
8. Two organic farmers Mr.Micheal and Mrs.Little Flower received best organic farmer award from the Diocese of Trivandrum and Kerala Agriculture University.
9. Four organic farmers Mr.Henri, Mrs.Little Flower, Mr.Maria Cesil and Mr.Darwin were selected to the “Agriculture scientist cum Farmers forum” constituted by Government of Tamil Nadu at District level.

## **5. Enabling women to get relief from poverty and violence and to get legal aid – Supported by Misereor, Germany:**

The RUC's advocates team along with the paralegal workers conducted thirty eight days para- legal training benefitting 543 women beedi workers on The beedi & Cigar workers Act, Payment of wages Act 1936, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Bonus Act, 1965, The Provident fund and Miscellaneous provisions Act 1952, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923, The Gratuity Act, Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, Payment of Minimum wages Act 1948, Trade Union Act, 1926, Abolition of bonded labourer Act 1976, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Social Security (Minimum Standard) Convention, 1976, Declaration of Fundamental Principles & Rights at Work and Tri-partite consultation (International Labour Standard) convention, 1976.

The RUC's advocates team along with the paralegal workers conducted twenty days para- legal training benefitting 326 social workers on Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, Muslim Marriage Act, 1937, Special Marriage Act, 1954, Divorce Act 1869, Family Court Act, 1984, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens' Act 2007, National Commission for women Act, 1990, Protection of Women from Domestic violence Act, 2005. Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act 2003 and Convention on the "Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. One day Human Rights orientation programme was conducted for 150 students of Women's Christian college in collaboration with Society for Law & Justice.

International Women's day celebrations were conducted on 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March at Ayyappa College - Nagercoil, Munanchipatti and Emenkulam. Two hundred and ninety nine women participated. RUC also participated in the International Women's day jointly organized by the coalitions of women's organizations at Nagercoil on 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018.

International day on "Poverty & Violence against Women and Children" was celebrated with sixty one women at Manavilai, Kanyakumari District.

International Labour Day was celebrated at RUC Nanguneri on first of May, 2018. Three hundred and seventeen workers participated in the function. Mr.H.Vasanthakumar, M.L.A., Mr.S.V.Krishnan, Ex.M.L.A., chief functionaries of five NGOs and several People's movement leaders participated in the function. The participants submitted their grievances to the Government of Tamil Nadu through Mr.H.Vasanthakumar.M.L.A of Nanguneri Constituency.

Nine Women Rights Monitoring cells were formed in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts having an average membership of nineteen each to articulate their grievances to the appropriate authorities. Thirteen follow up paralegal trainings were conducted benefitting to women beedi workers. An average of twenty four participants attended the trainings. Thirteen followup paralegal trainings were conducted benefitting to farmers. An average of twenty farmers attended during these trainings.

- **Legal Aid to victims:**

During the year thirty three cases are conducted to assist the victims to get justice & compensation.

Domestic Violence	-	7 cases.	Women sexual harrasement	-	1 case
Dowry Harassment	-	5 cases.	Sexual harrasement of children by		
Divorce Cases	-	4cases.	custodians	-	2 cases.
Maintenance	-	4 cases.	Charging exorbitant rate of interst-		2
Criminal cases	-	7	cases.		
Theft case	-	1			

**Results:**

- Women's groups leaders, beediworkers & social workers are aware of the means of asserting the rights of women, children, workers and enhanced their joint bargaining capacity to assert their rights.
- Women beedi workers, who were refused passbook & log note received passbook & log note. Due to this they are able to get Rs: 253.20 as wage for rolling 1000 beedies including eight percentage leave wage, eight percentage bonus and ten percentage provident fund contribution. Also received Governments assistance for construction of houses to the two beneficiaries @Rs:1.5 lac each.
- An amount of Rs. 20,03,000/- (rupees twenty lac and three thousand only), Rs. 4,00,000/- (rupees four lac only) worth gold jewels and 20 cents land having worth Rs. 2,00,000/- (rupees two lace only) were awarded in two cases.
- Rs. 2500/- (rupees two thousand and five hundred only) per month amount was awarded as monthly maintenance.
- Two families were united.
- Rescued two women from domestic violence.
- Rs. 9,000/- (rupees nine thousand only) compensation received in a theft case.
- One fisherman was rescued from the custody of Foreign Embassy.

**6. Service provider under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence:**

Rural Uplift Centre was appointed as Service provider under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for District for three years by the Government of Tamil Nadu. RUC along with the District Social Welfare Officer cum Protection officer conducted conciliation for twenty two dowry harassment cases. Out of which, three families were united and the rest of them are under conciliation process. One of the domestic violence victims, Ms.Pandi Selvi, aged twenty (Srivilliputhur, Viruthunagar District) deputed by The Protection Officer Cum District Social Welfare officer of was sent to CAST, Thirunelveli as she preferred to undergo vocational training.

**Results:**

The victims are able to get speedy remedial measures without going to Court of Law.

## **7. Means of communication project supported by MIVA-Switzerland.**

RUC purchased sixteen mobile phones, one computer, six UPS batteries and a UPS for better communication system among RUC personnel and beneficiaries for effective implementation of the projects.

### **Results:**

Project activity implementation, information & knowledge sharing within RUC & among the beneficiaries, documentation of implemented activities & results and RUC personnel attendance were made transparent.

## **8. Net working & co-ordination:**

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC was elected as the District Chief Convener for the Kanyakumari District Social Action Movement having forty two member organizations in 2016-2017. The term of office is for three years. The Social Action Movement, Kanyakumari District and RUC jointly conducted nine meetings cum workshops on Resource mobilization strategies, Compliance of various laws/Government orders governing NGOs such as registration of NGOs in NGO Darpan portal and obtaining Unique NGO i.d, updating of data in FCRA portal, update on FCRA regulations, Income Tax amendments and its consequences and Compliance of Employees Provident Fund regulations etc.

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC participated in the two days National summit on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction jointly organised by the National Institute of Disaster Management, Unicef and Confederation of Indian Industries at Chennai on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017.

RUC along with VANI south India Hub conducted one day orientation on NGO Governance at Gandhigram Deemed University, Dindugal on 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017.

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC participated in the National consultation on Challenges of NGOs 2017 organised by VANI India at New Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017.

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC participated in the National Resilient India summit organised by Sphere India at New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018 for compilation of policy brief papers from convergent frameworks perspective in Indian context and for recommending collaborative strategies for various sectors, Creating Awareness and transformation in discourse to converged frameworks and resilience building in India and to build up a grand multistakeholder coalition for resilience building.



## **9. Staff capacity building:**

Eleven staff capacity building training cum project activity monitoring meetings were conducted at RUC. Mr. Christopher attended five days orientation programme conducted by Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Agriculture University-Coimbatore. Mrs.Lakshmi Devi attended one day orientation programme on Child protection at Holy cross College, Nagercoil and another one day programme on Child protection at Rotary Club, Nagercoil.

## **10. Resource mobilization:**

The members of RUC and the staff took serious efforts to mobilize local resource for implementing the charitable activities. The parents of crèche programme, beneficiaries of Organic farming strategy for disaster resilience programme in Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli Districts, beneficiaries of micro credit programme and other wellwishers contributed. Misereor - Germany, Manos Unidas-Spain, Indesch Patens Chaften – Luxembourg and MIVA-Switzerland supported for the Ockhi cyclone relief project, enabling women to get relief from poverty and violence and to get legal aid project, Organic farming strategy for disaster resilience project and communication project. Ministry of Woman & Child welfare-Govt. of India supported for running crèche programme.

## **11. Income & Expenditure account:**

During this financial year an amount of Rs: 63,67,513/- (sixty lace sixty seven thousand five hundred and thirteen excluding the advances) only was received as contributions and bank interest from various sources and spent an amount of Rs: 72,41,316/-(Rs seventy two lace forty one thousand three hundred and sixteen only including the capital expenses of Rs:1,93,084/- Rs one lace ninety three thousand and eighty four) for various charitable activities as detailed in the attached audited statement of accounts.

## **Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners:**

We, the members, staff & beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre, whole heartedly thank Misereor - Germany, Manos Unidas-Spain, Indesch Patens Chaften - Luxembourg, MIVA-Switzerland, Ministry of Woman & Child welfare-Govt. of India , Director-Integrated Child Development Services-Government of Tamil Nadu, Mr.A.Kulathooran Pillai-Auditor-Nagercoil, Members of the Social Action Movement-Tamil Nadu, Members of Inter Agency Group-Tamil Nadu, Members of Sphere India, Confederation of Indian Industries-South India and Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable co-operation & support in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2017 - 2018.