

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

It gives me pleasure and joy in presenting the brief activity report and the results achieved during the year 2015- 2016.

Programmes implemented during 2015 - 2016 are:

1. Running of crèches for poor children of agriculture labourers and beedi workers under Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme.
2. Micro Credit assistance for the poor
3. Micro Insurance Scheme for the poor
4. Flood relief programme at Cuddalore & Tuticorin Districts.
5. Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers from the damages caused by Climate Change in Tirunelveli District.
6. Organic Farming strategy for resilience from the damages caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari District.
7. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction programme.
8. Enabling the women to relieve from poverty, violence & Legal Aid
9. Consultancy services to civil society organizations
10. Net working & coordination for ensuring the resilience of the communities prone to risk of disasters:

1. Running of crèches for poor children belongs to agricultural labourers families and beedi workers families under Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme, Govt of India:

Rural Uplift Centre is conducting four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural labourers in Kallathi, Elankulam and Thalapathysamuthram (2 units) in Nanguneri Union limit of Tirunelveli District. One hundred and seven children are being taken care off with the financial support of Government of India, Central Social Welfare Board. They were imparted pre-school training through play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children were provided with nutritional mid day meals. Health and medical facilities are provided in collaboration with the primary health centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings were conducted to the mothers on child care, disease preventive measures and preparation of nutritious meals with the locally available food materials. Crèche monitoring committees are constituted in all villages consisting of elected Panchayat leaders, community leaders, women's group leaders and a representative of Rural Uplift Centre. Independence Day, Republic day, Children's day and Annual day celebrations were conducted in all the centers to demonstrate the skills acquired by the children. It is good news that the Government of India has revised the Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche scheme and revised the budget with effect from first of January 2016. Crèche monitoring committees,

consisting of Panchayat representative, Parents representative, community representative and RUC representative are formed to animate and monitor the functioning of the four creches.

Centre wise list of Children.

S. No	Name of the Crèche centre	Sex			Age			Community			
		M	F	Total	0.6 - 3	3-6	Total	SC	BC	ST	OC
1.	Elangulam	12	14	26	11	15	26	8	17	1	0
2.	Kallathi	17	10	27	19	8	27	26	1	0	0
3.	Thalapathisamudram Unit - I	12	15	27	10	17	27	3	22	0	2
4.	Thalapathisamudram Unit - II	12	15	27	10	17	27	3	24	0	0
	Total	53	54	107	50	57	107	40	64	1	2

The nearby school headmasters of the primary schools reported that the children trained in RUC crèches are performing better than the other children in all the school activities.

2. Micro Credit assistance for the poor

An amount of Rs.4,78,000/- (four lac seventy eight thousand) is paid to nine beneficiaries as detailed below.

Sl.no	Purpose	No. of Beneficiaries	Total Amount in Rs
1	Agricultural activities	1	15000.00
2	Educational expenses	1	30000.00
3	House construction	3	230000.00
4	Land/asset purchase	1	125000.00
5	Social expenses	1	3000.00
6	Debt relief	2	75000.00
	Total	9	478000.00

An amount of Rs: 1, 88,057/- (one lac eighty eight thousand and fifty seven only) is repaid by the beneficiaries during this reporting period. Due to default of repayments, a petition was filed before the District Crime Branch police for initiating action on the defaulters.

3. Micro Insurance Programme scheme for the Poor:

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the micro insurance scheme for poor, who cannot enroll under the regular Insurance scheme. Three hundred live policy holders paid the premium amount of Rs: 2,23,000/-(two lac twenty three thousand) during this year and ensured life risk coverage. Twenty three persons surrendered their policies and received the maturity amount of Rs: 2,18,000/-(two lac eighteen thousands). One person received the death claim amount of Rs: 18,000/-(eighteen thousand only).

3. Flood relief programme at Cuddalore & Tuticorin Districts.

Immediately after the November floods 2015, Rural Uplift Centre conducted the rapid damage assessment of the flood damages in collaboration with Inter Agency Group-Tamil Nadu, which revealed the damages caused by the floods. Based on the assessment, RUC expert team again conducted the need analysis among the flood victims of Cuddalore and Tuticorin Districts. The internally displaced people/ houses damaged families are provided with Rs5000/- (five thousand only) cash assistance by the Government and cooked food by various humanitarian agencies. The internally displaced people are housed in temporary camps in various parts of Cuddalore and Tuticorin District. The internally displaced families and the other flood affected families requested household articles, cloths, mats and Tarpaulins. RUC identified severely affected 4500 families in Cuddalore District and 100 families in Tuticorin Districts in collaboration with REDCE-Bhuvanagiri, CREED-Chithamparam, HFO-Tuticorin local panchayat leaders. Cooking utensils were distributed to one thousand families in Cuddalore District with the assistance of CORDAID-The Netherlands. Dress materials & mats were distributed to one thousand three hundred and fifty families in Cuddalore District with the assistance of Manos Unidas-Spain. Dress materials & mats were distributed to one hundred and fifty families in Cuddalore District with the assistance of Indesch Patens Chaften-Luxembourg and Dress materials, mats, cooking utensils, mosquito nets were distributed to one hundred families in Tuticorin District with the assistance of Indesch Patens Chaften-Luxembourg. Tarpaulins were provided to two thousand dalit & scheduled tribe families to repair their damaged roof by the cyclone and flood in Cuddalore District with the financial assistant of Misereor, Germany. All the relief materials were distributed after ensuring the approval of selecting the beneficiary list by the Panchayat President and his/her presence in person on behalf of the District Administration. The entire relief material distribution was monitored and facilitated by the Inter Agency Group-Tamil Nadu and District Administration.

5. Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers from the damages caused by Climate Change in Tirunelveli District.

Capacity building trainings: Rural Uplift Centre conducted seven days each capacity building training programmes for the 200 small & marginal farmers at Eduppur, Chinthamani, Melapathai, Moonkiladi and Pothaiadialankulam of Tirunelveli District. The topics covered are 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 repellor preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter cropping, mixed cropping, three tier cropping etc. As most of the trainees are illiterates, all the trainings are conducted through demonstration process.

Exposure visits: Three days exposure programme was conducted to the selected fifty farmers to have a firsthand knowledge on the implementation of organic farming technology to the leading organic farmers of Tamil Nadu. They were sent to Sathiamanagalam, Bhavani and Ooty to interact with leading organic farmers, experts and scientists.

6. Organic Farming strategy for resilience from the damages caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari District.

Capacity building trainings: Rural Uplift Centre conducted eleven days each capacity building training programmes for the 175 small & marginal farmers at Marthandom, Kadayal, Moolachel, Kurunthancodu and Nithiravilai of Kanyakumari District. The topics covered are 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 repellor preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter cropping, mixed cropping, three tier cropping, trap cropping, water conservation measures, animal husbandry etc. Five hundred copies of organic farming technology booklet were prepared & distributed to the farmers.

Exposure visits to Universities: One day each exposure programmes were conducted to all the 175 farmers to have a firsthand knowledge on the implementation of organic farming technology by Kerala Agriculture University, Coimbatore Agriculture University and leading organic farmers of Tamil Nadu. 98 selected farmers were sent to Dindugal, Sathiamanagalam, Bhavani, Ooty and Kodaikanal to interact with leading organic farmers. They were oriented by experts and scientists. 22 farmers participated in the Agritex2015 conference held at Coimbatore and acquired scientific knowledge on implementing organic farming strategy..

Organic farmer's conference & exhibition of organic products: RUC conducted one day organic farmers conference cum organic products exhibition at Nagercoil to promote organic farming. Joint Director of Agriculture-Mr.Ponkathaperumal, All India Radio Nagercoil Director- Mr.A.Shanmugiah, ICRA Principal Scientist(retd) Dr.P.Samraj spoke on the need & importance of organic farming. Personal Assistant to District collector (agriculture) - Mr.Nijamudeen inaugurated the organic products exhibition, which attracted the public at large. Nagercoil Municipal Chairperson Mrs.Meenadev released the conference souvenir. Conference participants passed various resolutions demanding the Government to promote organic farming for ensuring food security, reducing global warming and implement Climate Change Adaptation Measures. Nearly 500 farmers and public participated in the conference.

7. Community Managed Drought Risk Reduction programme.

Conducted Climate Change Adaptation capacity buildings in Sentanarkulam, Chinnamoolakarai, Ayakulam, Rengasamuthram, Anumarputhukulam, Sreerengarajapuram,

Alankulam and Valianeri villages. The programmes enabled 245 farmers to acquire knowledge on climate resilient farming strategy. Out of the 245 trainee farmers, 206 farmers are producing organic food grains. 227 farmers are helped to get Identity Cards from Agriculture Department to avail the welfare measures from Government. 340 families replaced the conventional bulb and fitted with CFL bulbs. 217 drought risk reduction taskforce members acquired knowledge and skills on disaster management. Conducted mock drills in all the seven villages to orient the communities to prepare for various hazards with the help of Heavy water plant experts, Tuticorin, Government of India. All the seven communities are helped to update the contingency plans to respond disasters.

Conducted special orientation classes during the evening hours for 380 children in fifteen villages on disaster preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation. The children acquired knowledge on various hazards, vulnerabilities to various hazards and disaster response.

8. Enabling the women to relieve from poverty, violence & Legal Aid

RUC advocate team along with the paralegal workers:

- Conducted two days each para- legal training to 521 women beedi workers on basic principles of Indian constitution, beedi worker's rights and providing with required resource material
- Conducted two days each para legal training to 488 women agricultural labourers on basic principles of Indian constitution, minimum wage Act, Provident Fund Act, Prohibition of sexual harassment at work places Act, welfare measures of Government and providing with required resource material
- Conducted four days paralegal training programme for 297 women Social activist on fundamental rights, offences under Indian penal code, Tamil Nadu prevention of women(harassment) Act, Dowry prohibition Act, Protection of Women from domestic violence Act, Protection of children from sexual offenses Act, Information Technology Act, Indian evidence Act and Law enforcement agencies.
- Conducted two district level campaigns and conference for ensuring the rights of the beedi workers, agricultural workers & women in General

Legal aid to poor women:

- Provided legal aid/interventions to 24 persons through court of law, police and other institutions to assert the rights of victims of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, labour issues of beedi workers and agricultural labourers.
- Provided accommodation, medical care & support to seven victims of domestic violence, two victims of dowry harassment and one victim of divorce case at the RUC refuge centre for women in distress.

9. Consultancy services to Civil Society organizations:

Rural Uplift Centre conducted three one day meetings on compliance of various legislations such as Foreign Contribution Regulations Act 2010, Foreign Contribution Regulations Rules-2015, Amendments on Income Tax Act 1961, Societies Registration Act-1975, Companies

Act 2013 and Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Act 1952 to the Non Governmental organizations working in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari Districts to enhance their efficiency of services.

Rural Uplift Centre represented the 104 NGOs of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts in Ministry of Home Affairs, FCRA division to change the wrong listing of the 104 NGOs from Dindugal District to the respective Districts namely Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts. The Director Mr.Thiripathy of FCRA-wing-1 listened to the grievance and ordered to rectify the defect in the Ministry's website. The wrongly listed 104 NGOs in Dindugal District are now listed under the appropriate Districts and are able to upload the statutory reports online in FCRA website.

10. Net working & coordination for ensuring the resilience of the communities prone to risk of disasters:

Rural Uplift Centre participated in the two executive committee meetings and two planning meetings of the Tamil Nadu Inter Agency Group held at Chennai and Cuddalore to discuss the implementation of flood relief strategy in Cuddalore, Chennai, Tuticorin and Thiruvallur Districts.

Rural Uplift Centre participated in the three days consultation meeting jointly organized by UNICEF & Sphere India at New Delhi to strengthen the network of humanitarian initiatives during disasters in India.

Rural Uplift Centre participated in the one day National consultation for translating the Global framework to frontline action for resilience organized by Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network and SEEDS India at New Delhi.

11. Income & Expenditure account:

During this year an amount of Rs: 74,77,017/-(seventy four lac seventy seven thousand and seventeen) only is received as contribution from various sources and utilized an amount of Rs: 1,14,08,813/- (one crore fourteen lac eight thousand eight hundred and thirteen) only on various charitable activities as detailed in the audited statement of accounts.

12.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, Cordaid - The Netherlands and Tamil Nadu State Social Welfare Board for the financial support to implement the projects, MIVA-The Netherlands & Switzerland for the financial support to four wheeler and two wheeler vehicles respectively to implement the projects, Central & State Government officials, Chairman and Members of State & District Legal Services Authorities, Mr.P.Kulathooranpillai, Auditor-Nagercoil, NGOs of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts, Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable cooperation & solidarity in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2015 - 2016.