

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021-22





Message

The year 2021-22 stands as a chapter of profound significance in India's history.

The year was a canvas of diverse hues—in a period of global pandemic, a testament to our collective fortitude, innovative spirit, and capacity for transformation amidst COVID-19. As the nation grappled with the pandemic, the year witnessed remarkable strides in healthcare. Vaccination campaigns not only fostered immunity but also hope reinforcing the values of compassion and mutual help. Acts of kindness through volunteering and relief support demonstrated the enduring strength of our social fabric. Individuals and families embraced cooperation as the nation demonstrated resilience in the face of uncertainties.

Amidst this, Actionaid Karnataka Projects (AKP) was able to continue its support to vulnerable communities in various states focusing on poor households and informal workers. We supported the communities by providing verified information on Covid-19 related protocols, preventive behaviour and motivating people for vaccination. AKP also supported the children of vulnerable communities to continue their education to minimise the loss due to school closures and online classes. Informal workers were helped to access government relief and welfare support in several cities and villages.

As we move forward, the lessons of perseverance and resilience and our continued service to humankind will continue to illuminate the path ahead, reminding us that challenges are opportunities and that unity paves the way for a brighter future.

If you are interested in learning more about ActionAid Karnataka Projects, please do connect with me at the address given below. We welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

Sandeep Chachra

President and Secretary
Actionaid Karnataka Projects



About Us

Actionaid Karnataka Projects (AKP) is a society registered on 19 November 1988 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, with its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AKP has been established with the charitable objective of promoting integrated development. AKP seeks to help children, families and communities to eradicate poverty and secure lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

AKP does this by promoting and supporting programmes on health, education, employment and other development-related activities. This includes spreading awareness on issues that help promote socio-economic development of vulnerable communities. In particular, focus is on supporting and promoting schemes for child welfare and their education; schemes that are aimed at empowerment of women and girls and livelihood promotion and skill building programmes for people from low incomes groups. AKP strives to strengthen and stimulates people's involvement in all these initiatives.

AKP also undertakes action studies and supports people-led research on significant issues faced by the vulnerable communities. This is done with the aim of identifying and promoting community led- alternatives. AKP develops awareness material on all these aspects of its work.



Relief and Assistance to Vulnerable Communities during Covid-19 Pandemic

The year 2021-22 marked a pivotal phase in the peoples' battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. As our country grappled with the relentless challenges posed by the virus, various aspects of life underwent transformation, showcasing resilience, adaptation, and collective efforts.

Strengthening Health Interventions

At a time with the healthcare system faced significant stress due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, frontline workers and community volunteers displayed extraordinary resilience amidst such adversity. These frontline workers worked tirelessly, risking their own well-being to save lives.

Actionaid Karnataka Projects identified and trained local community leaders on various aspects of the pandemic who swiftly reached out the makeshift hospitals, quarantine centres and oxygen support centres that were set up to accommodate the growing number of patients.

Across several states, AKP generated awareness among the vulnerable communities about preventive measures to be taken to stay safe and helped in linking the affected persons with medical services. AKP conducted online trainings for its community volunteers, members of women's groups, youth groups and community leaders on prevention to help check spread of COVID-19, awareness on misinformation and need for taking vaccination. With the help of community leaders, AKP initiated public health awareness drives among the vulnerable communities in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi NCR, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha to spread accurate COVID-19 information, promoting preventive behaviour and hygiene, social distancing, masking and countering misinformation. The volunteers reached out to far flung areas and to tribal and other communities in these areas encouraging and supporting immunization. As a result of the awareness, people queued up to receive their vaccines, contributing to achieving higher levels of immunity within the community. These efforts represented a beacon of hope in the fight against the virus.

The resurgence of cases and new variants posed challenges even as vaccination efforts progressed. Our community volunteers continued to work and support the local administration and PHCs with continued vigilance and carrying out regular awareness meetings.

Promoting Children's Education

The pandemic caused severe disruptions in the education sector in the country. Schools and colleges faced closures and shifted to online learning modes. Students, educators, and parents had to navigate the challenges of remote education, adapting to virtual classrooms and e-learning tools. This period highlighted the digital divide between the poor and the rich, and the need for inclusive and accessible education.

In this context, in order to minimize the loss of education due to closure of schools among children of poor families, AKP started neighbourhood classes with due precautions and social distancing norms in around 200 villages in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. With the help of community volunteers, learning material was distributed among the marginalized children who lacked digital access. Across 50 districts, the local community educators played a significant role in supporting and motivating the students to continue their education during the crisis.

Linkages with relief programmes

Given that the informal sector workers and daily wage earners were particularly hit by the pandemic, the government had announced several schemes and relief packages aimed to provide financial assistance to affected families to help ease their economic burdens.

AKP helped create awareness about such schemes and programmes and supported many families particularly the informal sector workers to access government relief and welfare provisions. Support was provided in cities including Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Bhopal and Bengaluru. AKP's volunteer base and community leaders reached out the communities in villages and cities to strengthen the fight against the pandemic.

Financial Assistance

Actionaid Karnataka Projects provided 450 vulnerable and needy households in Delhi, with cash-based support. These households were identified through a vulnerability mapping based on their income, social and housing status. Such community-based and led intervention encapsulated the values of equity, inclusiveness, and comprehensive well-being of families. The support helped address the diverse needs of these vulnerable families basis their different requirements.

The journey through the pandemic was one of ups and downs, marked by challenges and triumphs alike. People's response showcased the spirit of unity, innovation, and determination in the face of adversity.