



ASSISI AID PROJECTS

Snapshot 2019-20

President's message



COVID-19 relief efforts involved emergency food distribution. Image credit: IDT 2020

Dear Assisi Aid Projects Supporters,

We hope you enjoy reading this snapshot of key achievements of the 2019-2020 year. The full copy of the Annual Report is available on our website www.assisi.org.au.

We sincerely thank you all for your ongoing support during the past year which has been one of consolidation, followed by disruption and change as a result of COVID-19.

Since March 2020, the delivery of the projects in India and Cambodia has been significantly affected by COVID-19, necessitating major adjustments to project delivery while ensuring that COVID-19 education, safety, and support was a priority for all. This would not have been possible without the dedication and innovation of our in-country partners in working to ensure the development of safe and secure processes.

As always, it is a privilege to work with our in-country partners, Integrated Development Trust, and Live & Learn Cambodia. We continually learn and grow through these collaborations. 2019-20 marks the final year of our partnership with Live & Learn Cambodia as they pursue important environmental

education priorities and Assisi Aid Projects continues to strengthen its core focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. It has been a privilege to work together and contribute to Cambodia's development over the past ten years.

Thanks to our staff and all our volunteers, including members of the Committee of Management and Sub-Committees, for lending their expertise to ensuring that Assisi Aid Projects continues to be a valued and effective organisation.

To achieve our vision and support the work of our in-country partners, especially the projects and beneficiaries greatly affected by the pandemic, Assisi Aid Projects very much values your on-going support.

Judith Ascroft
Assisi Aid Projects
President

Project: When Every Woman Thrives – India Women

Key Achievements

1400 women participated in group meetings with increased participation in village meetings

26 Village Development Committees meeting with **345 members**

1315 women regularly saving money through savings groups, including via people's banks.

1083 women regularly phoned to discuss COVID prevention

Program budget: AUD 70,572



Women in the Every Woman Thrives Projects created face masks for their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Photo credit: IDT 2020

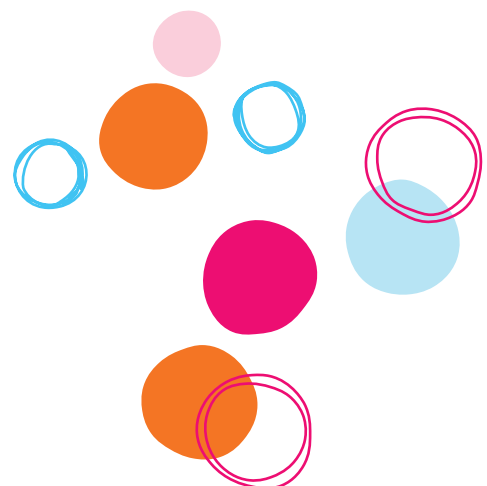
Maintaining secure livelihoods during COVID-19 is a challenge. The India Women's Project provides literacy, finance and vocational skills training to widowed and single women. The project now includes understanding and applying COVID Safe preventative methods. Women are trained and supported to sew cloth face masks.

traditional or accepted ways of living and thinking that cause women and girls to be treated as less than men and boys in most aspects of life.

This is an integrated income, health (including COVID safe), empowerment and life skills project, implemented through 106 Women's Self-Help Groups and 40 Village Development Committees. The project provides practical skill development for income generation, access to loans to support small enterprises, and education on gender and tribal rights. It raises awareness of the availability of government support schemes including pensions, COVID-19 payments, and subsidies.

Widowed, divorced, and unmarried women in rural Indian villages and tribal hamlets face discrimination, isolation and poverty. Widows face additional social stigma and discrimination, impacting on their dignity, self-esteem, ability to participate in civic life, generate an income, and health outcomes.

The project aims to improve economic, social, and civic participation of 1775 single women and their families in rural villages in four districts of Tamil Nadu. The project also works across the broader community to confront and attempt to change the



Project: When Every Woman Thrives – India Youth



Children displaying their work during project activities in India. Photo credit: IDT 2020

Key Achievements

777 children attended tuition classes and Children's Parliaments

517 members of Parents' Groups

30 Child Protection Committees meeting monthly

1000 people received COVID prevention material

Program budget: AUD 99,250

“

I am glad to see that both my children are doing well in their studies and are growing up with good behaviour due to the study centre training. Since COVID there is no school, my children engage in activities at home. They talk to me about child rights, gender and life skills, which is new learnings for me. I am a member of the Parent Committee. Receiving training and phone calls all help us in caring for our children. Rice support was a great help when we did not have enough food to give to our family, especially children.

(Mrs. Radha, Parent's Group member)

”

Children in the rural and tribal areas of Tamil Nadu have few opportunities for quality education, personal development, and future employment pathways. Many are from the Irular tribe, isolated from mainstream Indian society and face caste-based discrimination. Whilst most of the children in this district attend government school, it is widely recognized that they require additional education and extracurricular support to pass the government school tests enabling them to move to the next grade.

The project runs in 15 rural villages and 15 tribal hamlets, in each location there is: evening study classes, children's club, Children's Parliament, and Parents' Group. Activities have been adjusted to COVID Safe delivery, and to provide additional support while access to schools is reduced.

The project adopts a holistic approach through the delivery of a range of activities which improve children's performance at school in Tamil, English, and maths, while building well-being, life skills, and confidence, and understanding of gender equality. Parents and broader communities are also engaged to understand and value the importance their child's education, awareness of child rights, child protection, and gender equality. Parents and community members have demonstrated an increased commitment to education and children's rights, particularly for girls.

Many thanks to the Navitas Education Trust for their ongoing support of this project.

Project: When Every Woman Thrives – Cambodia

Key Achievements

22 women received training on leadership, communication, advocacy, gender equity, COVID prevention

7 female members of Gender Task Force group participated at commune level in meetings where decision-making took place

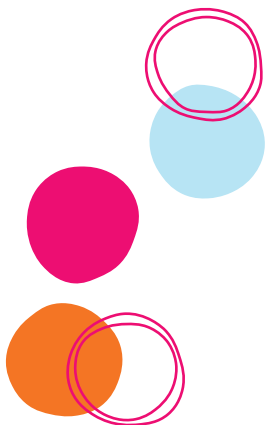
1147 women and 987 men received COVID prevention materials

Program budget: AUD 103,705



COVID prevention activities in Cambodia. Photo credit: LLC 2020

To combat misinformation, front-line volunteers were trained in providing accurate COVID prevention information, hand washing techniques, and COVID safe delivery protocols. Mrs. Tom Sreyleak and other members of Chak Commune received soaps and COVID prevention posters from the Gender Task Force and was happy that the project has informed her and her community in how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Women and youth in the Chak Commune, Cambodia have limited opportunities to create social change and promote their interests and priorities. With low levels of confidence and limited support, participating in Commune Council meetings and working to integrate gender issues into commune plans is difficult.

Women's civic participation is increased by addressing long standing social and cultural structures that create barriers to gender equality and hinder women's engagement. The project increased the participation of women and

young people in taking active leadership roles and improving livelihood resilience. The Gender Task Force is a youth led community group working to increase gender equality and leadership opportunities for women and young people. The Gender Task Force has 15 members, working across five villages in Kampong Chhnang Province.

While Assisi Aid Projects and Live & Learn Cambodia have enjoyed a good working relationship, we believe that our partnership is no longer the best way to work towards our organizational goals. Live & Learn Cambodia is focussing on their core activities of environmental and livelihood development, rather than gender equality. Assisi Aid Projects thanks Live & Learn Cambodia for a productive partnership and wishes them the very best in their future endeavours.

Our COVID-19 response

Assisi Aid Projects has been working with our in-country partners Integrated Development Trust and Live & Learn Cambodia, to support communities that we work in to respond to COVID-19. As the situation evolves, so too does our response. Work practices have been adjusted to implement urgent preventative measures and to keep all staff and communities safe by reducing face to face contact and travel. The approach of the projects has been adapted to focus on remote support and prevention of COVID-19 to comply with movement restrictions and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Distribution of humanitarian relief packages

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on people's economic livelihood in Tamil Nadu, India. Financial pressures are compounded by lock down rules and food shortages. With the help of generous donations, Assisi Aid Projects supported Integrated Development Trust in the distribution of rice, cloth face masks, soap, and lentils to the participants in the women and children projects. The relief packages provided more than 17,000 kg of rice to 2463 families across five districts. Staff at Integrated Development Trust ensured safety measures were adhered to during the distribution with measures in place to reduce contact amongst the community and follow physical distancing guidelines.

When Every Woman Thrives – India Youth

As face to face classes for large groups of children are not appropriate given the COVID threat, the network of community facilitators and tutors provide remote support via telephone where possible to children and their families. To engage children on the importance of COVID-19 prevention, whilst supporting their ongoing education and skills development, innovative new approaches have been needed including home-based educational activities, and COVID safe out-door classes. These approaches encourage children to participate in home-based competitions, such as drawing or writing essays on COVID-19 awareness-

related topics, using materials which are delivered to their homes.

When Every Woman Thrives – Single Women

The women in the project continue to be supported through the provision of individual phone counselling for those facing increased personal psychological problems or challenges at home during this time of emergency. The importance of COVID-19 prevention and awareness is communicated through guidance via telephone to individual women by Community Facilitators. The staff contact members of groups on a daily or weekly basis as required to spread accurate information and provide guidance following updates to government instructions.

When Every Woman Thrives – Cambodia

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, front line volunteers have been trained in COVID Safe prevention measures and have distributed accurate information to the communities. The Gender Task Force, in cooperation with the Commune Council and Health Centre distributed educational posters and leaflets aimed at children and adults to increase understanding of COVID-19 and promote self-prevention including proper hygiene practices and hand washing.



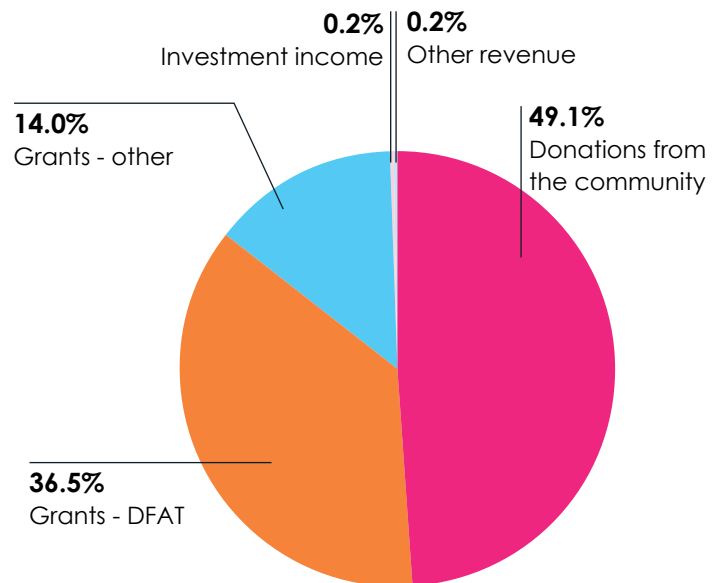
Women engaged in our COVID-19 pandemic response in India.
Photo credit: IDT 2020

Financial summary 2019-20

Assisi Aid Projects had a surplus of \$34,944 for the year ended 30 June 2020. This was a result of savings in staff and operational costs due to government subsidies, slightly reduced overseas programs costs due to COVID-19 restrictions and better than expected fundraising.

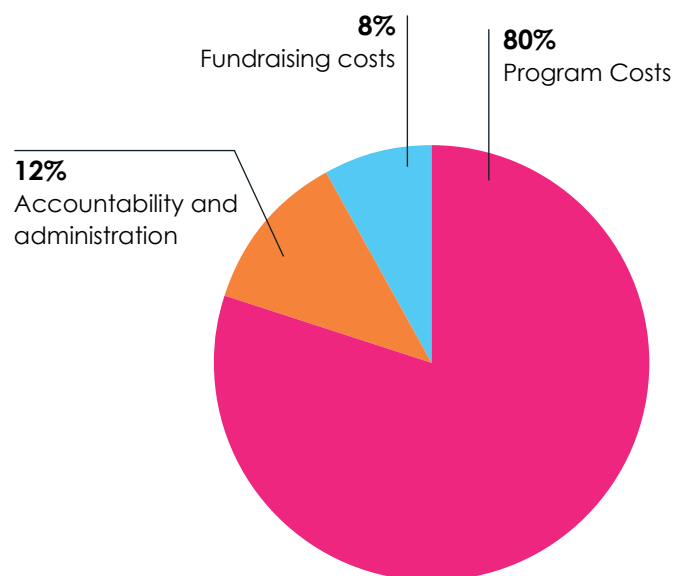
Where funds came from

Donations from the community	49.1%
Grants - DFAT	36.5%
Grants - other	14.0%
Investment income	0.2%
Other revenue	0.2%
Bequests	0%



Where the funds went

Program costs	80%
Accountability and administration	12%
Fundraising costs	8%



Total expenses for the financial year totalled \$376,476 with \$172,311 being applied to International Programs in India and Cambodia. Assisi Aid Project continues to ensure excellent value for money with accountability and administration expenses representing only 12% of total expenditure.

Program cost

Expenditure on our development work which includes funds to international programs, program support, community education, program design and implementation, training, and monitoring and evaluation.

Fundraising

Costs associated with attracting more support for our work through donations and grants, and includes marketing and communication costs and processing of donations.

Accountability and administration

Administrative and other costs involved in running an organisation including finance, human resources, information technology and administration, insurance premiums, professional fees, office supplies and membership of peak bodies.

The complete Annual Report with financial statements is available at www.assisi.org.au



PLEASE DONATE

THANK YOU!

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Assisi Aid Projects offers a range of methods for making donations. You can donate by:

1. ONLINE: at www.assisi.org.au and donate using your credit card.

2. DIRECT DEPOSIT into the Assisi Aid Projects account:

Account Name: Assisi Aid Projects Inc

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 124429424

3. CHEQUE: Please make out to Assisi Aid Projects Inc and mail to us along with this form.

4. DEBIT from a credit card (Visa and Mastercard only).

Card Number: _____

Card Expiry Date: _____

Name (on card): _____

YOUR DETAILS: Please fill in your details below and return so we can provide a receipt.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive future communications via:

☐ post ☐ email

I would like to support Assisi Aid Projects with a:

☐ Once-off donation of \$ _____

☐ Regular donation of \$ _____ per month.

You can change the amount you donate at any time by contacting us.

Please add your name as the reference.
First time donors please contact us with your address details so that we can mail a tax receipt.

Requests: leaving a legacy

Including a donation of any amount to Assisi Aid Projects in your will ensures the beneficiaries of our projects will continue to receive support to empower change in their lives. You are welcome to contact our Chief Executive Officer (ceo@assisi.org.au) should you wish to discuss options for leaving a donation in your will.

Assisi Aid Projects Inc.

247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

T: +61 3 9650 1291 or 0419 316 296

E: assisi@assisi.org.au