

MARCH 2021 | INDIA

Thank you.

Thank you for showing up.

Thank you for celebrating the small joys and big wins, finding creative ways to fundraise, advocating for the mission of Outreach, sharing our story, being a mighty voice for this important work and partnering with us to support local leaders and community-led groups who are developing lasting solutions to poverty-related issues.

We envision a world where communities are working together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty and your partnership makes this vision a reality. Thank you! We are proud to present you with this partnership update so that you can get a glimpse of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support.

Enclosed you will find a copy of your 2020 giving report which includes a summary of the contributions made towards your partnership throughout the year.

Finally, we've also enclosed a recognition gift as a token of our appreciation for your continued support! We hope that this gift finds a place where it can be proudly displayed and shared with those that made this possible.

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but if anything, we've learned that together we can do hard things. Thank you for your continued partnership. Through grace and grit, we will continue to change the world together. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust and support. You make so many good things possible!

We hope you enjoy this March 2021 edition of the Partnership Program Updates! If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at outreach-international.org/resources. If you have specific questions about your giving report or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at m.penrose@outreachmail.org.



Pensions that Build Confidence

Outreach's community partners strive to create innovative solutions to poverty-related issues. However, sometimes the solutions are not that new per se, but rather reinforce important opportunities available through the government. Check it out!

The government in India provides monthly pensions for all eligible widows, elders, and handicapped individuals. These pensions contribute to families' income, which can be limited. Many widows, elderly, and handicapped individuals have shared that they feel like a burden on their families. While the available pensions can be a helpful resource to many, unfortunately, they are oftentimes difficult to access and sometimes the individuals that can apply for them don't know that they exist. Applying for and securing these payments can be an uphill battle to overcome when working alone. However, with the support of their Outreach and local Human Development Facilitators (HDFs), these individuals are mobilizing to access their pensions. Not only will the financial burdens be lightened, but a monthly pension can mean so much more. It also comes with a regained sense of dignity. Pensions empower individuals in a way where they can actively contribute to the wellbeing of their family and to access basic needs.

One widow shared, "I was feeling sad because always I [was] dependent upon my son and daughter for my basic needs... But after access[ing] my pension I provided some assistance to maintain the family, especially [when we experienced] sickness. Now I am self reliant and not depending [on] others like before for my basic needs."

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A mother shared, “Before I had no confidence to negotiate with the agencies and I [was] dependent with others [to access] my son’s handicap pension. But after [I] participated in the village activities through [the] PHD process, I developed my capability and knowledge on negotiation. Then through the facilitation of [Outreach’s partner] MGS I prepared [the] required documents and mobilized [to] the Block Office and after 4 follow ups [additional visits] my son’s pension was approved. So, now I am very happy because the pension is the additional help to buy his study materials and I am not worried to provide him [with] his basic needs.”

Last month alone, 104 families accessed \$742.84 (52 widow’s pensions, 39 elder’s pensions, and 13 handicapped pensions) to help with family expenses- cooking oil, vegetables, soap, as well as medicine. Monthly expenses are so much more manageable with the confidence and knowledge to access these resources.



Gumiguda School Update

The Gumiguda School is anxiously awaiting the “green light” from the Indian government to reopen, after nearly a full year of COVID-related school closures. 190 students are enrolled and ready to get started!

Meanwhile, the school has undergone some exciting facility improvements. Funded by Outreach donors, a new well was drilled and shower and toilet facilities were constructed in the fall of 2020. When students return to campus, clean water and safe sanitation facilities will surely help keep everyone healthy!