



Annual Progress Report  
April 2013-March 2014

AADHAAR- An Association for Development, Harmony and Action Research

Administrative Office- 181A, Bhoorgaon, Panditwari II (near Lovely Market) Dehradun,  
Uttarakhand, India

Field Office: Vill. & P.O-Mahar, Tehsil- Devprayag, District-Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India

Registered office: A-12, Vasant Apartment, 181/9, Kishangarh (Opp. B-4), Vasant Kunj,  
New Delhi-110070

Email: [mailaadhaar@gmail.com](mailto:mailaadhaar@gmail.com) Web: [www.aadhaarassociation.com](http://www.aadhaarassociation.com)

Face Book: AADHAAR-An Association for Development, Harmony and Action Research

Phone: 0135 2775900, Cell phone: +91-8171660669

## Foreword

---

It is with great pleasure that we share with you AADHAAR's Annual report for the year 2013-2014. This year, AADHAAR received generous support from donors and NGOs especially Sri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram (Tehri Garhwal), Sehgal Foundation (Gurgaon) , National Hydro Power Corporation Limited (Bharpur, Tehri Garhwal), Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (Mumbai), Space for Nurturing Creativity and others. Our special Thanks are due to our individual donors and volunteers whose support enabled us to respond timely to the flash flood victims of the June 2013 Uttarakhand natural disaster. Thanks you all for standing with the people of Uttarakhand in their hour of distress.

We would also like to especially thank Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai, for extending its support to giving shape to our efforts to conserve the natural resources especially water in Mahar, Devprayag, Uttarakhand. NHPC's support in Devprayag (Tehri Prayag) has also been critical in our endeavours to improve education for children from the rural areas for which, we thank them sincerely.

We deeply acknowledge our gratitude to our supporters, friends and well wishers who have helped us in promoting AADHAAR's work and have provided their invaluable support and guidance and have contributed in our endeavors.

Neha Chaturvedi

President

Kamleshwar Singh

Secretary

## Progress during the year

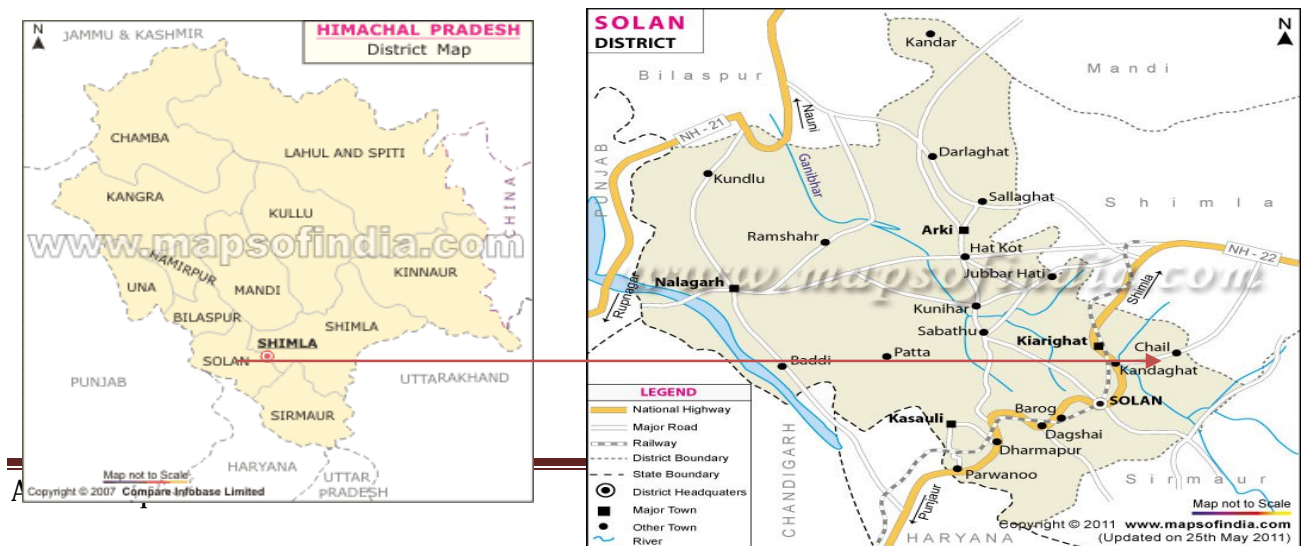
AADHAAR has been working in two north Indian states, namely Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, the organization is working in Block Dev Prayag (Dist. Tehri Garhwal), while in Himachal, the organization is working in District Solan, Block Kandaghat. Activities and events carried out in the last one year can be classified under the broad head of field level intervention, support to Civil Society, liaison and advocacy.

### Field Site in Uttarakhand



Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/tehrigarhwal.htm>

### Field Site in Himachal Pradesh



## A. Field Intervention in Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

AADHAAR had started its field intervention in Gram Panchayat Mahar, Uttarakhand in March-April, 2011. Since then, a number of interventions have been made by the AADHAAR for community awareness and education during current financial year.



Following activities were undertaken by the AADHAAR in Gram Panchyat in SDTT supported project “ Community Action for Sustaining Livelihood through Promoting Rain Water Management and Environmental Conservation ” during the year to conserve and manage the natural resources.

### a. LDPE Tanks for Agriculture Promotion through Rain Water Conservation:



20 LDPE tanks had been constructed in the field as model structures for promoting agriculture through rain water conservation. The proposed size for the tanks was 9 cubic meters but there had been cases where the beneficiaries had contributed their share in cash and kind in which case, the size of the tanks has varied. It is expected that the households would benefit from increased agricultural production (cereals, vegetables etc) due to availability of water for

agriculture in the agricultural fields itself. LDPE tanks would help in storing at-least 180000 liters (9000 liters X 20 Tanks) for agriculture purposes

Also, instead of using plastic sheets at the base of the tanks, a different technique (based on local knowledge) had been used whereby the tank floors had been cemented to give more permanence to the structures.



### b. Catchment Area Protection (gully plugging-Stone cratewire Check-dam):

Five stone crate wire check-dams had been constructed on the seasonal water stream (locally called Gadera) in the Gram Panchayat in order to prevent massive loss of water and soil during the rainy season. Three check dams had been constructed under the project with contribution from the Gram Panchayat in kind.



**c. Ferro Cement Tank:**

30 Ferro cement tanks (3000 ltrs) had been constructed in the villages with contribution in cash and kind from individual beneficiaries. These tanks would serve the daily needs of the households especially during summers when the villages face acute water.



It is clearly visible in the Gram Panchayat that households, who have constructed rain water harvesting ferro cement tanks, are using them for washing cloths and utensils. Interestingly they found tanks very useful in religious or marriage ceremonies. Through these tanks, around 1, 80000 liters (3000 liter X 2 times X 30 Tanks) water would be saved annually.



**d. Infiltration Well:**

One Infiltration well constructed on the same water stream (gadera) which is also being treated through check-dam construction. The site in Jagthi village was selected on the basis of the local knowledge about availability of water in the stream all throughout the year. This is a new technique of water conservation that is being introduced in the region and serving as a model before the community as well as the district administration. This



well is serving the need of potable water of 25 House Holds.



#### e. Plantation:

With community participation, plantation was carried out in about 18 nalis of land both on individual as well as community land. Both fodder and horticulture saplings were planted to promote green coverage in and around villages. Out of the total 2000, about 25% saplings have survived the first year. 80% of the saplings planted in individual land have survived.



### 3. Women Empowerment, Gender and Inclusion

Efforts were made to aware and organise women. Meetings were organised with women in Panchayat Mahar on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month in their collectives. In total, there is a collective saving of around Rs. 1. 50 lacs in 6 Self Help Groups (SHGs). These groups have developed an understanding on the objective and need for formation of collectives and are becoming more articulate.

## Capacity Building of Women Collectives/ SHGs & Community

With no formal or informal community based groups existing in the field area prior to the AADHAAR-SDTT project, it was essential to provide these new groups and its



women members with information and knowledge on issues pertaining to collectivization and group management. Information was imparted to these groups informally during the monthly meetings and through exposure visits. Sri Bhubaneshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA), Anjanisain (Tehri Garhwal) on 3rd June 2014 and Grassroots (Ranikhet) from 21 November 2013 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were visited by the members of the groups to learn from other organizations and the initiatives that women SHGs are involved. The visits have helped these women to understand the importance of these groups and how this could lead the way for their economic betterment.

### Participation in Violence against Women Network Uttarakhand:

AADHAAR is an active member of network and provided support to the network to organise several events in Dehradun and also actively participated in global campaign – “One Billion Rising “. The president and Secretary of AADHAAR, participated in a number of meetings organised to strategies the campaign in Uttarakhand, including the meet organised in Hotel Madhuvan, Dehradun on 29-30 September 2013, attended by campaign’s global steering committee member Ms Abha Bhaiya.



## 4. Health



A health camp was organised on September 12, 2013 in collaboration with N.H.P.C Bharpoor, Devprayag in Gram Panchayat –Mahar. Around 250 patients were checked and provided with free medicine. It was observed in the camp that most of the women and children are suffering from anemia.



## Education

Furthering its objective –“Quality Education for All”, AADHAAR with the support from National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), based on the need of children’s of



Gram Panchayat Muneth, organised extra class for the students studying in Junior high school and Intermediate school from September 2013 to March 2014. These classes were organised in the Primary school of Palisain, Gram Panchayat Muneth. Classes were arranged for junior high school students and high school to intermediate students for 4hours in a day. Two teachers having required qualification (B.ed) from the local

area were appointed as teachers. 86 students attended the classes from 7 villages.



S.N	Name of the Village	No of student attended classes
1	Muneth	48
2	Palisain	04
3	Bagi	09
4	Bhatgaon	02
5	Gorthikanda	19
6	Sajwankanda	03
7	Shera	01

AADHAAR also supported two Aaganwaris and a primary school of Gram Panchyat Mahar with books and toys for children.

## Relief and Rehabilitation

Incessant rains and cloudburst in the upper Himalayas between June 14 and June 17, 2013 had resulted in landslides and flash floods in many places in Uttarakhand and lead to damaged roads collapsed bridges besides causing widespread loss of life and property in villages and towns in catchment areas of river Mandakini, Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Bhilangana and many seasonal water streams. The districts - Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Tehri & Chamoli had been badly affected by the natural disaster. With the Char Dham Yatra underway during this period, loss to human life was immense.



Volunteers from AADHAAR had decided to extend all possible help to the affected people/villages in this hour of urgent need and took part in relief and rehabilitation work. Volunteers of AADHAAR and partner organizations got involved in immediate search, rescue & relief operations in many locations (where ever possible) and also conducted a rapid assessment of the area in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi with the help of partner organisation, SBMA .



AADHAAR pooled financial resources from Sehgal Foundation, Gurgoan and individual donors and managed to provide goods related immediate needs of the villagers like temporary shelter (tarpaulin tents), basic utensils and blankets to save lives in Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag districts.

For Coordination purposes, an office was setup in Dehradun and Uttarkashi. AADHAAR had approached SBMA for facilitation of distributing the relief materials and an initial rapid survey was done for selection of households in the villages. Thereafter, relief material was distributed at an identified site with the support of volunteers. The details of relief material distribution are as follows-

Districts	Block	Village	Relief Distribution
Uttarkashi	Bhatwari	Kamar	180 of blankets, 100 sets of utensils( 4 plates, 4 glass, 4 bowls, one serving spoon, fry pan and karai) to 115 families with the help of partner organisation- SBMA on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 13
do	Uttarkashi town	Dalit Basti	Distributed 50 Tents to 50 families with the help of partner organisation- SBMA on 11 <sup>th</sup> July 13
do	Bhatwari	Siror	Distributed 4 Tents on 11 <sup>th</sup> July 13
Rudraprayag	Ukhimath	Khumera, Masta, Kalimath Narayankoti and Trijuginarayan	Distributed 45 tents, 180 of blankets, 100 sets of utensils( 4 plates, 4 glass, 4 bowls, one serving spoon, fry pan and karai) and 100 sets of (18 X tarpaulin and another same size of light tarpaulin to cover the ground) with the help of partner organisation -Space for Nurturing Creativity

## B. SUPPORT TO OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Evaluation of Institutionalization of the voices of the deprived community for their land and livelihood rights “ Jansatyagrh Campaign ‘’, Mahatma Gandhi Sewa Ashram, Madhya Pradesh.

Kamleshwar Singh, Secretary, AADHAAR with another team member Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi, ASK, Gurgoan did the evaluation of the Ekta Parishad’s national campaign on land rights” Jansatyagarh for Mahatma Gandhi Sewa Ashram (MGSA) and EED, Germany between April 2013 to June 2013. Kamleshwar focused on the programme’s

conceptual review and impact of the programme while Khilesh worked on the organizational assessment of MGSA.

## 2. Training Needs Assessment of Panchayats-Climate Change Adoption –Indian Himalayas Climate Change, Intercooperation Social Development Secunderabad

Team of volunteers of AADHAAR led by Ms. Pooja Sharma organised 88 focused group discussions with all tiers of Panchayats and did interviews with the line departments of Government of Himachal Pradesh during June to July 2013. Four Gram Panchayats in two blocks of two districts (Kullu and Sirmour) were selected for the study. The purpose of the study was to assess the training needs for climate change adaptation.

## 3. Facilitation of Training Programme on SHG Management and Group based Micro Planning for Wildlife Trust of India, West Champaran, Bihar



A training programme was facilitated by the resource persons (Vivek Sharma & Kamleshwar Singh )of AADHAAR for WTI in West Champaran, Bihar in September-October-2013. The Objectives of Training was- To build the knowledge and skills on the Self Help Group Concept and the various processes involved in it and Group based Micro Planning.

Topics Covered During the Training:-

- Why organization, its vision? How to manage Group Dynamics? What is SHG?
- Rules and Regulations of SHG ,Roles and Responsibilities of SHG Members
- Importance of and how to maintain Accountability? Maintaining Account/cash, Book keeping, What is the process of conducting SHG Meeting?, Planning, for local enterprise etc.
- Process of Micro Planning

## 5. Radio Script preparation for Sehgal Foundation, Gurgoan

Script for 12 episodes on different aspects of Panchayat Raj was prepared by AADHAAR for Sehgal foundation to air in community radio in Mewat, Haryana.

## 6. Market Feasibility study for Karchobi workers to form a cooperative, in Bareilly , for SAKAR, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Satyendra K. Srivastava, did the market feasibility study for Karchobi workers, in Bareilly during November- December 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 for SAKAR, Bareilly. The objective of the study was- to conduct a study to find out the market feasibility for starting a cooperative by Karchobi workers.

### Other Assignments-

- AADHAAR team engaged in the rapid assessment of Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship (PMRDF) for Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- AADHAAR team member engaged in Assessment of Municipalities Satisfaction of Capacity Building support provided by Support to National Policies on Urban Poverty Reduction (SNPUPR), a DfID support to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation under Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY).

## C. PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS, LIAISON &ADVOCACY

### Status of Voluntary Sector, Vishwa Yuva Kendra, 9-10 April 2013

Secretary AADHAAR participated in civil society meet to prepare the study guideline for status of voluntary sector in India organised by Voluntary Action Network India (VANI). Detailed discussions were held on strengthening voluntary organizations and impact of work done by the voluntary sector in India.

### Environment Day Celebration , 5 June 2013, Bharpoor, Devprayag

Secretary, AADHAAR represented organization on the eve of environment day celebration in Bharpoor, Devprayag, organised by NHPC. Plantation was carried out in Palisain and other village on the day.

### Advisory Group Meeting , Sehgal Foundation, 25 June 2013

Being a member of advisory group of Sehgal Foundation on Panchayati Raj, Secretary and Vice President AADHAAR attended the meeting and helped Sehgal Foundation to strategize their future activities on strengthening local governance. The specific issues discussed in the meet were as follows:

- Building ownership of Panchayats in micro-planning processes
- Developing synergies with District Administration for supporting empowerment of Panchayats and funding the microplans
- Evaluation indicators for our work with Panchayats
- Strategy planning for future course of action

## Plans for Uttarakhand Himalaya; post June, 2013 Tragedy, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Hotel Pacific, Dehradun

President, AADHAAR shared experiences of relief and rehabilitation in a workshop organised by CEDAR, (A Dehradun based NGO) to prepare the strategy for revamping development and key sectors in Uttarakhand after the flood.

## Conference on Good Governance and Citizen Participation , March 7, 2014, IRRAD, Gurgaon

Secretary and President AADHAAR had participated in the conference. The session 'Sharing of Selected Good Practices for Improving Rural Governance by Practitioners' was facilitated by Navneet Narwal, Program Leader, Governance and Policy Advocacy Centre, Sehgal Foundation, and Neha Chaturvedi, President, AADHAAR, Uttarakhand. Neha Chaturvedi wrapped up the session highlighting the range of issues the participants are working on and especially mentioned the important role of collectives and women as drivers of change. She laid emphasis on exchange of knowledge, capacity building of women as development practitioners as important factors which could be instrumental in furthering the empowerment of rural communities across states in India.



---

## B: Field level intervention in Kandaghat, Himachal Pradesh

This year efforts were mainly focused on the developing Panchayat -Delgi as a model Panchayat in the Himachal Pradesh.