



RURAL AID

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



www.ruralaid.org.in

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



RURAL AID

www.ruralaid.org.in

CONTENT

Secretary's Note	1
The Organisation	2
Governing Board Members	4
Moment of Pride	4
TdH Suisse - VAHDAM India - CSR Project	5
Global Fund For Children (GFC) Project	8
Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project	11
Special Education Support - FADV SAD Project	15
Child Protection in Tea Gardens - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative	18
Ensure Protection of Children of Tea Gardens : Embassy of Switzerland	22
Partners in Solidarity	25

Secretary's Note



It is with great pleasure that I present the 36th Annual Report of Rural Aid for the year 2024–2025. Over the past 35 years, Rural Aid has grown from a small initiative into a committed development organization working with socio-economically deprived women and children across the district of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

Our journey has not been without challenges, but each hurdle has strengthened our resolve. These experiences have expanded our understanding and enabled us to address complex issues affecting vulnerable communities.

We are grateful for the training, exposure, and collaboration offered by various agencies and supporters. These opportunities have helped us sharpen our programmatic and organizational focus. As a result, we have developed multi-sectoral interventions addressing child health, education, protection, maternal health, nutrition, sanitation, environmental protection, and women's empowerment.

As Rural Aid evolves to meet changing needs, we urge our long-term supporters to continue standing with us—especially in Tea Garden Areas where critical issues like child protection and sustainable development need focused efforts.

The path to inclusive development requires collaboration. We thank our donors, communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, government agencies, civil society partners, and individuals for their belief in our mission. Your support enables meaningful, sustainable change.

Special thanks to our Governing Body for their guidance, and to our dedicated staff whose passion drives our work. As we move forward, we seek your continued support and welcome your feedback to keep us rooted in our mission.

Warm regards,

Sutapa Dutta
Secretary

The Organisation

Rural Aid was formed in 1987 by a group of enthusiasts of Belpukur village in Kulpi Block of South Parganas. Sovon Dutt along with some likeminded youths of the village initiated the effort to work for the uplift of the area with inspiration from the local High School head teacher.

Rural Aid is a registered voluntary organization involved in social action and economic development. It was formed in 1987 and later registered in 1989. It got registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 1995. The organization is also registered to be entitled to receive Tax Exemption for the donations received under section 12A and 80G of the I.T. Act, 1961. The work of Rural Aid focuses on ensuring the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society through sustainable development.

VISION

Children and youth realise their full potential and has the right to survival, education, protection, development and participation through community led mechanisms.

MISSION

To prepare and empower children and youth of through holistic support like Quality Education, Training, Dissemination of knowledge and Information, Health etc so that they can become peer educators and ultimately leaders to bring social justice and sustainable changes in their lives.



OBJECTIVES

To provide a platform to the community for leading an Equitable and Dignified Life

To organize and strengthen vulnerable village groups, women, adolescent and children on their Rights and Entitlements through knowledge sharing and empowerment processes

To sensitize, mobilize and build capacities of the community on Right to Food, Work & Livelihood and in increasing the skill, knowledge, experience, ability, of the common people, and liaison with the System upon the same

To mobilize and strengthen small and marginal farmers on sustainable organic agricultural practices aiming at Sustainable and Healthy Environment while addressing issues of Climate Change, and Economic Growth and sustenance of these marginal farmers

To ensure Right to Education with special emphasis on the Girl Child, School Dropouts and children from the Primitive Tribal Groups

To develop community linkages with the Government for provision of services and entitlements

To generate awareness and empower community upon personal health and hygiene through Behaviour Change and Communication

To generate awareness and build capacity of the community, community-based Task Forces and related stakeholders with the Government System upon Climate Change, Sustainable Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

To generate awareness and capacity against exploitation, harassment, and Rights of the people and children among stakeholders within community and governance

To create a conducive environment for women & Children for preventing abuse and trafficking/unsafe migration of children and addressing issues of Child Protection through formation and empowerment of responsive Community Based Groups

Geographical Reach



Rural Aid is primarily operational in the Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts of North Bengal covering Kalchini, Dhupguri, and Madarihat, reaching 11 in Klachini, 4 in Dhupguri and 2 in Madarihat Gram Panchayets respectively.

- 36 villages in Kalchini Gram Panchayat
- 2 villages in Madarihat Gram Panchayat
- 8 villages (tea gardens) in Dhupguri Gram Panchayat

Organisation Credentials

Organisation Name	RURAL Aid
Head Office Address	6/160A BIDHAN COLONY, SANTOSHPUR JADAVPUR, KOLKATA-700075, WEST BENGAL
Registered Through	West Bengal Societies Registration Act 1961
Registration Number	S162602 of 1989 - 90
Date of Registration	4th August 1989
NGO Darpan Registration	WB/2017/0158188
80G Registration	AAAAR2737CF2007601
12AA Registration	AAAAR2737CE20214
FCRA Number	147110345
PAN Number	AAAAR2737C
CSR-1 Registration	CSR00007953
Organisation Website	www.ruralaid.org.in
Contact Person	Ms. Sutapa Dutta
Designation	Secretary
Contact Number	+91 - 98309 33703
Email ID	ruralaid03@rediffmail.com

Governing Board Members

SL	Name of Board Member	Designation
1	Dr. Seilandranath Haldar	President
2	Mrs. Kshama Sen	Vice President
3	Mrs. Sutapa Dutta	Secretary
4	Mr. Tapan Kumar Dey	Assistant Secretary
5	Mrs. Basabi Rozario	Treasurer
6	Mr. Saroj Bandyopadhyay	Member
7	Mr. Alope Kumar Maji	Member



Financial Guidance

A. Mukhopadhyay & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Syndicon Enclave
25/1A/1 Naktala Road,
Kolkata - 700047
West Bengal, India

Moment of Pride



Feroj Oraon has received the **Bravery Award - বীরপুরুষ সম্মান** for 2024 for his courageous effort in escaping himself from the workplace, where he was trafficked by local touts to work. It was a challenging situation, but he has managed to escape and return to his native village.

As a recognition of his courageous act, the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights has awarded him at the observation of International Child Rights Day 2024



TdH Suisse || VAHDAM India - CSR Project

VAHDAM through its flagship program-TEAch ME Social Initiative have reached out to 11,000+ children across different Tea Gardens of West Bengal and Assam, providing quality education support through a “**phygital**” (Physical+Digital) delivery medium. With the collaboration with Terre des Hommes Suisse (TdH Suisse) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation that has been committed to children and solidarity-based development for nearly 60 years. With its headquarters in Geneva, TdH Suisse carries out its actions in Switzerland and in 9 other countries. In India, TdH Suisse operates through National Coordination Office based in Kolkata and has been functioning since 1990s TdH Suisse supports 6 projects on Education, Child Protection and promotion of participation and citizenship in 4 states namely Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Rural Aid is a partner supported by TdH Suisse from 2021 to promote education and protection for vulnerable children across 5 Tea Gardens in Alipurduar district, West Bengal.

VAHDAM India in partnership with TdH Suisse have worked and reached out to 7883 children (633 children in 5 Support Education Centres and 7250 children in 8 Government schools) at 7 tea gardens (Bharnobari Tea garden, Dalsingpara Tea garden, Malangi Tea garden, Madhu Tea Garden, Toorsha Tea garden, Kalchini Tea garden and Dima Tea Garden) of Alipurduar District, West Bengal during 2024. The project envisages education support for the children through digital medium using SMART TV and BYJUS application that have been installed across all Support Education Centres and public schools.



Physical Classes

Physical classes' sessions are conducted in batches across all 5 Support Centres, as per subject matters and schedule by 9 educators for the 633 beneficiaries' both the children of centre and child club children.

The physical classes comprised of the following sessions and activities:

- The teacher and children developed various Teaching Learning Material (TLM) aid as for learning techniques.
- Session on reading and writing for to develop their pronunciations and improve handwriting.
- Drawing session to improve the creative in arts and refresh from their studies.
- The activity of Child Protection (Safety nets) and child rights session were facilitated to the children in Support education centers.
- The practical of science subject, use of plant for medical and environment protection activities were facilitated to children.



Since 2022, the "TEACH Me" digital classes of Byjus App have been installed and started the classes in 5 support education centres and 5 government schools at the 5 tea gardens of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar while during the last year 2024, the 3 public schools were inaugurated for the DLC (Digital Learning Centres).

The objective of digital classes to enhance the quality of learning and teaching. Meet the learning style or needs of students. Improve the efficiency and effectiveness. The digital learning is also far more to engaging and interactive than voluminous textbooks or one-sided lectures in which the children can learn through digital and visual learning aids, Audio-visual aids help children to retain and recall the knowledge easily and Improve learning outcomes through different subject sessions.

During 2024, the initiative has been expanded to one public school with digital learning centre that envisages education support for the students through digital medium using SMART TV and BYJUS application. The objective of Inauguration of DLC in one of the public schools was

- Expansion of TEACH Me program in new public schools
- To teach children through audio-visual learning aids
- Improve better learning outcomes for the children and ensure retention of knowledge

During 2024, total 612 digital classes have been conducted with a reach of 15026 children through the 13 TEACH Me Support Education Centres and 8 public schools.





Myself Simran Ram, I study in Class-VIII at Latabari Hindi High School, and I live in Gangutiya T.G kalchini, Alipurduar with my parents.

I have a family consisting of my parents and two sisters. My father Amit Ram is a small shop owner and mother Sashi Ram is a tea garden labour. For me it is little difficult to take a private tuition so basically, I am depended on my school. I love doing study in school it is interesting, but study became easier after this digital class. I get connect to it every time whichever subject I learn. Right now, my favourite subject is English and I would love to pursue this subject in my future study. My future goal is to be a teacher. Thank you so much Vahdam and Byjus, thank you so much.

Voices From STUDENTS

My name is Chitz Sunwar of Khokhlabasti, Jaigaon-I, Alipurduar district. I study in Class-IV at Toorsa Tea Garden Primary Hindi School. I live with my parents Munna Sunwar and Harka Mukhiya.



My father's occupation is driver and mother is a house wife. I love to go to the school and love to do study. Moreover, after getting the digital classes I got more interests in each subject. Basically, I love the science subjects and I believe that this digital class is very much beneficial for science subjects. I have built more understanding on subject and I am more confident than before. May this digital learning help me to achieve my ambition and that is becoming a doctor. Thank you Vahdam for providing us Smart digital TV.



Myself Joshep Oraon, I study in class VII at Union Academy Kalchini. I live with my parents in Hamiltonganj Guruduwara road. My father Kishore Oraon is a daily wage earner and my mother Lalita Oraon is homemaker. I love the idea of digital learning. I got connected to it from the first day. Before I didn't get the interest in studies that much but now study seems easy to me. I have learnt about the environmental science like water pollution, air pollution and behavioural science.

Today I got to know about biologist Charles Darwin and his research works. In future, I would love to do research just like him. Thank you for your support Vahdam and for this digital class. I would have never got the interest in studies if I was not introduced to this new way of learning, thank you so much.

My name is Trish Oraon from Madhu Tea Garden, Alipurduar. I am the students of Madhu Support Education Centre at Madhu Tea Garden. My father Anu Oraon and mother Geeta Oraon are tea garden workers. Since my young age, I was interested in studies. But due to our poor financial condition I couldn't take the private tuition. It's been two years that I joined the Madhu SEC and very much fortunate by having an audio-visual digital class at our centre.



Initially before functioning of digital classes, I was facing challenges on the subject Mathematic especially on fraction but after the introducing of digital learning classes, I am able to understand the topic very clearly and enjoy the learning from it. Thus, learning became fun these days. I am so grateful to your support and help, thank you so much Vahdam for providing the digital learning.

Global Fund For Children (GFC) Project

Global Fund for Children has partnered with Rural Aid over last four years and supporting 300 adolescents to combat human trafficking and ensure child protection with direct involvement of the parents and community people. Adolescents in 13 - 17 years age group are being catered through the project in Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District.

During July 2024 the GFC project have launched the ARC (Addressing Root Causes) initiative where it has carried out an objective of community ownership and sustainability through addressing the root cause with initiative of community led actions approach by implementing SALTs and CLCP in the community and organizational level. In this community led approach, the Rural Aid has selected two tea gardens i.e. Raimatang Tea Garden and Bhatpara Tea Garden where there is no service available for the implementing community sustainability and community led initiative through SALTs and CLCP. Total 587 numbers of family households have been the beneficiaries including children, youth, parents, panchayat members, teachers, ASHA, ICDS across both the tea gardens.

Raimatang Tea Garden: 316 Children

Bhatpara Tea Garden: 271 Children

School Sensitization Program in Public Schools of Kalchini Block

Rural Aid has organised the School Sensitization programs focusing on the issue of child trafficking at different Public Schools of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District. The main motive to organised the "School Sensitization program" is to generate the awareness and to mitigation by focusing on the issue of child trafficking in the tea garden through the sensitization of school students. The reason to select the school for the sensitization on child trafficking is where we can connect with many students who come from different teagarden of Kalchini Block.



Issues Discussed:

- Cause and effect of Child Trafficking
- Sensitization on prevention of Child Marriage, Child Labour, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.
- Cause and effect of Unsafe Migration among children and their family members.
- Importance of formal education and means to restrict school dropouts.
- Emergency helpline numbers of Childline, WBCPCR WhatsApp and Police Helpline numbers have been shared with the students.



Global Fund For Children (GFC) Project

Children Exhibition Cum Mela

On 24th January 2025, Rural Aid organised Children Exhibition Creative Skills Cum Mela 2025 with adolescent children of Kalchini tea garden on the theme based on National Girl Child Day and International Education Day at Birsa Munda Ground, Satali Tea Garden, Hasimara. Kalchini Block Alipurduar District.

The main objective of the event was to organise the exhibition to nurture creative skills of adolescent children on handicrafts, science creative experiments, drawings, demonstration of cultural traditional food items. While there was the competition such as Slogans writing competition on theme topic based on Education and Environment, Go as you Like act by children and State Wise Traditional Dress Ramp Walk were performed by children. 200 children and communities took part in the event.



Intervention from July 2024 under Addressing Root Causes

Baseline Survey

Under the GFC project of ARC initiative, the Rural Aid has conducted the baseline survey for the quantitative. At initial stage to conduct the baseline quantitative survey, the RA facilitators under GFC project have identified the communities & tea gardens those have not received any service earlier and as a result two tea gardens Raimatang and Bhatpara has been selected. After the selection of tea gardens, the facilitators had also conducted numbering data of households.

SALTs Visit

(S - Sharing, supports stimulate || A - Appreciate || L - Listening, Links || T - Team and transfer)

Under this ARC initiative for the community sustainability and ownership, the SALTs play a vital role as well as laying foundation where it helps and support to reflect the strengths and different qualities of community.

The Rural Aid facilitators has conducted the SALT visits and reached out to each every individual of beneficiary and have conversation of SALTs with them where the community share their proud story which they have in their life where the facilitators listening and appreciate their stories and also reflect their inner different strengths, qualities and capacities.

Global Fund For Children (GFC) Project

Rural Aid Organization Dream Building and Self-Assessment

During February 2024, Rural Aid organised workshop on organizational dream and self-assessment with support of Ms. Ritu Nanda from the GFC with 33 participants. The main objective of organizing this workshop was to conduct dream and self-assessment is to prepare Rural Aid as self-sustained organisation and build ownership through realizing or discovering the different strengths and capacities within the team members.



Monthly Group SALTs

Likewise, as Individual SALTs, the group also motivated to realize the collective strengths, qualities and capacities of group of community members and created a space of bonding relationship among themselves through listening and appreciating. While the Rural Aid facilitators has conducted the monthly group meeting among the women group, father group, adolescent boys, adolescent girls, youth, SHGs group at both Raimatang tea garden and Bhatpara Tea Garden where the facilitators were able to reflect their inner strengths, different qualities and capacities. As results, some of groups have also built their dream building within groups and started taking initiatives as community led actions in their communities.

Community Led Action

Community led Actions is an initiative where the community led action emerges the sense of belongings, ownership and responsibility which results into the action they take. However, during the tenure of ARC project initiative, the communities of both the tea gardens have realized about their ownership and started taking few actions from their group dream built by them.



Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project

Ensuring child protection through access to education with a participatory approach of children and youths at 05 teagardens of Alipurduar District, West Bengal.

Rural Aid has established Partnership with TdH Suisse since 2021 and implementing this project in 5 tea gardens of Alipurduar. The project is designed for the promotion of Child Rights and environment protection, ensuring access to quality education for children, enabling vulnerable children, youth and families to develop coping mechanism during post covid and increasing children's access to existing child protection mechanisms.

In the process, Rural Aid team has been able to identify vulnerable children and organised them through Child Clubs and youth members have been organised through collectives. They have been oriented on Child Rights, Child Participation and Environment Protection. Project team has taken initiative for the development of creative skills among children and youth. In this project period, children have identified local issues and submitted demands before the local authorities for the resolution of identified problems.



To protect children from dropping out of school, community-based Support Education Centres (SEC) has started functioning with a total of 633 children. Project team has created awareness among parents and community members about the importance of children's education. In SEC, trained Teachers have been implementing interactive and participatory teaching learning methods. Digital classroom adopted with the installations of Byju's app application at 8 public school and 5 SECs for children. Teachers have provided psychosocial support to the children post covid situation as children are stressed.



During the term of project period, the Rural Aid organization has also received and installed the solar electricity supports for the 4 SECs such as at Dalsingpara SEC, Bharnobari SEC, Malangi SEC and Madhu SEC for smooth running of centres

Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project

While, along with designed for the promotion of Child Rights and environment protection, ensuring access to quality education for children, enabling vulnerable children, youth and families, the project has start implements ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) in our project objective.

It extended support to the project team to learn the new approach of ESD and implement to the children of SEC, youth members and students of 6 public schools through education awareness on how climate changes, global warming have impacted the surrounding and our mother earth and also facilitated on the three pillars of EDS

- 1. Child rights education**
- 2. Global Citizenship Education**
- 3. Education for Solidarity and Living together**



During the term of project, the project has observed and celebrated the 2 days event on the occasion of 100 years of Geneva Declaration events with support of TdH Suisse in the month of April and November 2024. In this event, the project has able to make our child club children, youth and communities to aware and sensitized on the 100 years of children's rights of Geneva Declaration. The participants' children were sensitized and engaged the children and youth as participatory methods on three different activities process like developing poster, slogan writing and street theatre. In street theatre, the participant children along with youth has also actively performed a two street theatres in their communities especially a. Article 3 of Geneva Declaration " the child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress and b. UNCRC General comment No. 26 " children's right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In addition, some of children and youth has also participâtes in the two events- Exhibition of 100 years of Geneva Declaration and 35th years of UNCRC at Kolkata with the support of TdH Suisse in the month of November 2025.



In the midst of project term, Rural Aid received the funding support from Swiss Embassy with support of TdH Suisse during the month of May to October 2024. The Swiss Embassy project was small fund support to ensure protection of children of tea gardens through access to education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with empowering and impact the 6000 children and 150 youth across 7 tea gardens of Alipurduar to become defenders of children's rights and transform as "Actors of change" including building capacities of 8 public schools and 5 learning centers of Rural Aid.

Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project

Youth representatives have taken the responsibility of monitoring child protection issues. After the covid, they have maintained regular contact with children for the identification on cases of child abuse / violation of child rights specially trafficking cases and redressal of the same. They have provided counselling support for the improvement of mental health of children during their confinement at home.

Youth members from Alipurduar have collaborated with children and led action for submission 07 appeals to the Gram Panchayat, Block Administration level and Forest Department, namely:

- ***Appeal for the Prevention on substance abuse (alcohol)***
- ***Appeal for Solar light, water taps and toilets***
- ***Appeal to BDO for Aadhar Card issue for non-enrolled children***
- ***Appeal for restriction on consumption of alcohol***
- ***Appeal for solar light installation***
- ***Appeal to Forest Department for supply of 100 saplings for plantation with the purpose to save the environment.***

Apart from the above, Child and youth have also organised other events:

- Observation on World Environment Day & Rallies
- Community Sensitization Awareness
- Rallies on Environment
- Community cleanliness Drive
- Street Theatre Plays
- Signature campaign on World Day Against Child Labour
- School level sensitization on Environment protection and child protection
- Celebration of International Youth Day and Global Action Month in the communities / tea gardens.



Project Impact

Orientation and sensitization of children, youth and community adults on Education for Sustainable Development, Child Rights, Gender equality and protection.

- ***Sensitization of parents and community- Sensitization were conducted on child's rights (especially on the risk of domestic violence, child marriage, exploitation) environment protection and protection mechanism.***
- ***Strengthening of community-based child protection committees - during the 4 meetings of Strengthening of Community - Based Child Protection Committees at different committees of teagarden, the build the capacity of VLCPC members focusing on the Child Rights issues at their Sansads and Villages and responding to child rights violation cases.***
- ***Periodical meetings VLCPC / SHGS - Sessions conducted on sensitizations of SHGs members on child rights, child protection including protection mechanisms.***
- ***Awareness of parents on different form of violence, child trafficking, safe migration.***
- ***Awareness generation among parents, children and youth on available protection services***

Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project

Capacity building of children and youth on ESD, gender equality and child rights

- Capacity building of parents and community members on child rights and importance of environment protection.
- Capacity buildings of Rural Aid facilitators on right to participation and formation of child cabinets.
- Training of teachers on pedagogy- to develop their teaching capacities, classroom management, preparation of lesson plans and development of TLM.
- Training of parent, children and youth on protection of children especially on physical, sexual, emotional, verbal abuse & exploitation, bullying, social media and domestic violence and encouraged the children to raise their voice against such incidences.
- Training of teachers, facilitators, youth leader and Rural Aid team on psycho-social, KCS
- Support and tracking of children and awareness on issues of violence, child trafficking and unsafe migration.



Functioning of Support Education Centers and Child Clubs across tea garden

- Out of 633 children, 60% girls benefited from the SECs and child clubs in continuing their education in schools and other institutions.
- Training of teachers on interactive pedagogy reflected in the development of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) and classroom demonstration engage in intuitive and contextualized learning with more joyful learning and learning by doing process in SECs.

Mainstream education across public schools of tea gardens

- The children of SECs and child club have actively participated in the exhibition where they have prepared themselves with support of teachers for the exhibition on the subject especially in science with different topic and themes.
- School level Awareness - the participant students actively participated and sensitized on the child protection and environment protection. During the program, the public-school teachers were also participated along with students in the session on ESD where it was new topic for them.
- Awareness of youth on online safety and prevention of elopement - youth have actively participated and sensitized on the online safety measures and how to prevention of elopement.



Children and Youth Led Initiative

- Program were conducted especially on Observation on World Environment Day - To observe child and youth take initiative such as i. Community Sensitization Awareness; ii. Rallies on Environment; iii. Community cleanliness Drive; iv. Street Theatre play; v. Signature campaign on World against Child Labour Day; vi. School level sensitization on Environment protection and child protection; vii. Celebration of International Youth and viii. Global Action Month.

Ensuring Child Protection in Tea Gardens (TdH Suisse) Project

Preparation and submission of appeals by children and youth on promotion and protection of children's rights

- Total 07 numbers of appeals were prepared and submitted from the children and youth at GPs level, Block level and Forest Department during the project term. The appeals were; Appeal for the Prevention on substance abuse (alcohol); for Solar light, water taps and toilets; for Aadhar issue and consume of alcohol; Appeal at BDO for Aadhar Card issues for those children who were not enrol their name in Aadhar unique identification card and Hamilton Ganj Forest - for 100 samplings and Support of awareness campaign for environment protection and human-animal conflicts for children, youth and community members.

Special Education Support - FADV SAD Project



Rural Aid started the year 2024 with 261 sponsored children in 4 learning centres. A new centre was started in this year at a new location called Moraghat tea estate. In mid of the year 42 students were successfully passed out and completed the SAD project phase. During the end of the year RA have 213 total sponsored children.

The year 2024 was an engaging year for the team Rural Aid where all the team members got plenty opportunity to learn and grow as professionals, work relentlessly and explore beyond expectations.

Activities Conducted During: 2024-25



Quarterly distribution of nutritional & educational materials to the sponsored children.



New learning centre started at Moraghat tea estate with 20 sponsored children.



10 total children health camps and 3 community health camps were conducted.

- Two community awareness sessions conducted on Lymphatic Filariasis and Paday Police
- Collaborations with relevant organizations and government departments
- Felicitation Program for passed out children
- Pre-Christmas gift distribution in the second week of December.
- 3 suggestion boxes have been installed in Laxmikanta, Gairkata and Huldibari centre. This box can be used by the children, their parents and community people to put forward their suggestions, complaints, help requirement etc.

Special Education Support - FADV SAD Project



3 Teachers' training on Child Protection, Positive Parenting and Life Skills have been conducted



FADV volunteers visited the education centres and communities



Annual Sports Meet was organised in November.



Karate Class in Progress

- Reimbursement to the parents of the children for school admission and monthly fees.
- LCMC contribution collection and record keeping system
- Suggestion box installed in three learning centres
- Felicitation of 42 passed out children

Day Observation

- 23rd January Netaji Jayanti
- 24th January International Day of Education
- 21st February International Mother Language Day,
- 24th March Holi
- 20th March International Day of Happiness
- 22nd March World Water Day
- 8th May Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti
- 5th June World Environment Day
- 15th August Independence Day
- 2nd October Gandhiji Jayanti,
- 14th November National Children's Day.



Special Education Support - FADV SAD Project

Collaboration with the two organisations namely Pratham and Prayatn. The organization Pratham provides free skill development training including vocational skills. They also provide placements for the trained candidates. Rural Aid collaborated with the organization Pratham to disseminate information on free trainings provided by Pratham which is expected to help those who cannot continue regular education due to the financial issues. Pratham helps them to find the earning sources and to continue their education from distance education institutions.



On the other hand, team Prayatn helps 12th pass out students to get admission in the different reputed universities. They help students to prepare for CUET (Common University Entrance Test) and also to connect with the other students from rural areas who are currently studying in different universities. Prayatn promotes higher education and tends to encourage youth to be a quality resource for the community.



Christmas gifts were distributed to all 215 children under SAD Project. This year, they received a portable study table and a winter jacket. The reason behind providing these two items were- the children have no particular room or place as their place for studies.



Child Protection in Tea Gardens - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative

Stated during September 2023, the purpose of the project intervention at these tea gardens has been to ensure the child protection through building capacity of vulnerable children and strengthen community safety net for the protection of children with various programmes such as children group meetings, parent meetings, support of nutrition and health and psychosocial support to the children. The specific objectives include:

To the most vulnerable children and families for protection and prevention of vulnerabilities among children of tea garden

To build and strength community safety net for protection of children



Kalchini Block in Alipurduar District

- Dima Tea Garden
- Gangutia Tea Garden
- Rajabhat Tea Garden
- Athiabari Tea Garden

This project has directly been implemented with most vulnerable children and families for protection and prevention of vulnerabilities among children of the four Tea Gardens in Kalchini Block of Alipurduar District.

- Direct beneficiaries of 700 children
- 200 parents of the children
- 250 families from 4 tea gardens

Children Group Meeting

Rural Aid under this project has formed 15 Children groups with 150 children have been provided with capacity building support on child rights, gender issues, with an emphasis of child safety and building capacity of peer leadership among themselves in their community and village.

During the children group meetings topics such as child protection issues were sensitized as based on curriculum activities like mirror game, risk mapping, protection of the environment and child rights has covered.



Child Protection in Tea Gardens - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative

Parents' Group Meeting



Parents have been involved in the project as part of their knowledge and capacity building to protect their children from vulnerable situations. Four groups have been formed comprising 200 parents across the 4 tea gardens. They have been sensitized on child protection issues with special focus on child trafficking and

building their perspectives on gender, human rights as well as raising awareness & sensitivity among the vulnerable communities to respond to protection of their children.

School Kit Support

300 children from the 4 tea gardens have been provided with school and educational materials for them to continue their studies. These four tea gardens have been facing challenges of semi and full closure, resulting in loss of livelihood among the families. Thus, Rural Aid has taken initiative to support the children with educational materials, school bag, tiffin box and water bottle. Majority of these students belong to Class - IX to XII and continuing their studies.



Nutrition and Sanitary Napkin Support

Nutrition support along with provision for sanitary napkins for the girls have been arranged under this project. 500 students have received dry ration support, while 400 girls have received sanitary napkin support. Vulnerable children: orphan, living with single parents or with relatives, surviving in semi & full closed tea gardens and children with special needs have been given priority in providing these supports.



Child Protection in Tea Gardens - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative

Community Health Camp



During this year, two health camps have been organised, one in Gangutia Tea Garden and another one in Dima Tea Garden. 199 children attended the two camps with viral fever, cold and cough diseases, headaches and body weakness. 78 children among them have received medicines including vitamin, iron tablets.

Rural Aid has generated linkage with the doctors of Uttar Lothabari Rural Hospital of Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District and had organised these health camps.

Appeal Submission by Children and Youth

During the month of July 2024, a group of 22 children and youth from all the four tea gardens submitted 5 appeals to the Gram Panchayat and Village Level Child Protection Committees focusing on child protection issues in their areas and community needs. The appeals include:

- Appeal for the provision of sports materials (football) for girls
- A request to establish a shelter home for vulnerable children
- Demand for closure of liquor shops and gambling in their areas
- Facilitate Aadhaar card enrolment for children with no / minimum documents
- Request for installation of solar lights in areas lacking proper lighting in the evening



Strengthen Community Safety Net

During this year, 5 VLCPC meetings have been conducted in presence of 14 members each from all the VLCPC. Meetings have focused on ensuring child protection across all the intervention tea gardens.

Rural Aid had organised meeting for discussion on the Issues of Child Trafficking and Child Protection with PRI members" under Garopara Gram Panchayat. 31 participants attended this meeting in presence of the Gram Panchayat Pradhan.

3 meetings have been conducted with Tea Garden management on Child Protection issues. The tea garden authorities Senior Manager, Senior Assistant Manager and other officials were present at the meetings along with Rural Aid team members. the meetings served as platform to build rapport with the tea garden management for future collaboration to protect children and ensure their well-being.

Child Protection in Tea Gardens - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative

Exposure Visit

During the month of March, Rural Aid had organized the “Exposure Visit” for adolescent children from 4 tea gardens. The visits were conducted at the Garopara Gram Panchayat Office, Kalchini Police Station and the Kalchini Block Development Office (BDO). A total of 25 adolescent children actively participated along with staff members of Rural Aid:



The objectives to organise the exposure visits include:

- To build the capacity of children by encouraging an ‘unlearn to learn’ and developing leadership skills for community engagement.
- To help children understand of various government departments and their functions, prepare them for future interactions and communication.
- To facilitate engagement with Gram Panchayat (GP), Police Station, and Block officials on child protection issues and documentation in the tea gardens.

Day Observation

22nd March 2025	World Water Day
5th June 2025	World Environment Day
12th June 2025	World Day Against Child Labour
21st June 2025	International Yoga Day
14th November 2025	National Children’s Day



Ensure Protection of Children of Tea Gardens : Embassy of Switzerland



Rural Aid has significantly expanded its impact, empowering 6000 children and 150 youth across 7 tea gardens of Alipurduar to become defenders of children's rights and transform as "Actors of Change" with support from the Small Action Fund 2024, of the Embassy of Switzerland in India and Bhutan.

Project Key Milestones

- Ensuring the right to free, adapted and quality education for 6000 children across community centers and public schools through physical and digital learning medium, aligning with SDGs 4 and 5.
- Enhancing the capabilities of 8 public schools and 5 learning centers to offer contextualized Education for Sustainable Development, that is necessary for the generations of today and tomorrow! Aligning with SDGs 10, 11 and 12.
- Ensure right to protection against all forms of violence and exploitation through community sensitization and training workshops, contributing to SDGs 10. And 11.
- Foster resilience through child clubs and youth groups that actively participate in advocacy, networking, liaising and empowering members to become defenders of child rights, in alignment with SDG 17.
- Children and youth advocate for climate actions and become eco warriors, demonstrating their dedication towards environmental stewardship, aligned to SDGs 13 and 15.

This initiative aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030, as well as the Swiss Strategy, focusing on protection, quality education, environmental sustainability, and gender equity. One of the most important components of Rural Aid's intervention is interactive pedagogy and contextualized learning techniques. The project utilizes both physical and digital education mode to ensure that the children retain and reinforce better learning outcomes.

Ensure Protection of Children of Tea Gardens : Embassy of Switzerland

Orientation and sensitization of children, youth and community adults on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Child Rights, gender equality and protection

3840 Children or which 2304 girls, 296 young people of which 172 girls and 1345 community adults including public school teachers and 116 SHG members were reached out across the 7 tea garden areas.



Capacity building of children and youth on ESD, gender equality and child rights

3650 Children (2117 girls), 150 young people (90 girls) and 740 community adults received the training sessions across project intervention areas.

Functioning of Support Education Centers and Child Clubs across tea gardens

7800 children are reached through direct education support and digital classes conducted across 13 locations (including 8 public schools) across 7 tea garden areas.

Mainstream education across public schools of tea gardens

8 public schools across 7 tea garden areas have been oriented to include interactive pedagogies and contextualized learning in their delivery process.

Children and Youth led Initiatives

- 11 events and initiatives have been conducted across the project areas to spread awareness by organising rally, posters, street theatres, campaigns, plantation drives, community clean-ups and other such initiatives.
- 500 children, 210 youth and 680 community adults were reached out through these initiatives.



Ensure Protection of Children of Tea Gardens : Embassy of Switzerland

Preparation and submission of appeals by children and youth on promotion and protection of children's rights

- Children and young people discussed, elaborated, and submitted 7 appeals based on local needs, related to social security and child protection services.
- 3 appeals raised by the children and young people to the Gram Panchayat, have been resolved accordingly.

Eco Reporters Project: Empowers children to understand and advocate for their rights in relation to environmental issues and planetary boundaries

- 18 children have been trained as eco-reporters and identified local climate change issues across their tea gardens including deforestation, man-animal conflicts, air pollution, water pollution, use of chemical fertilizers, flash floods, plastic waste etc.
- A photo-magazine have been developed based on their stories which is under the process of designing and printing, planned to be released during the Child Rights Week in November 2024.

Some of the major findings of the impact highlight:

- 90% of children perceive an improvement in their learning levels compared to last year.
- 61% of children feel safe and are confident enough to confide in their personal issues or lodge complaints, if necessary, at their homes and within community.
- 60% of children feel empowered as their voices are being heard and respected in child clubs and other platforms



Partners in Solidarity

- West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)
- District Magistrate, Alipurduar District
- District Social Welfare Officer, Alipurduar District
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Alipurduar District
- District Health and Family Welfare Department Alipurduar
- District Police Department
- District Child Protection Unit
- Panchayats of All Intervention Locations
- Tear Garden Management
- Fondazione L'Albero della Vita (FADV)
- Global Fund for Children (GFC)
- Terre des Hommes Suisse (TdH)
- VAHDAM India
- Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative
- Embassy of Switzerland



RURAL AID

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



City Office: 6/160 A, Bidhan Colony, Santoshpur, Jadavpur, Kolkata, West Bengal 700075

Branch Offices:

Hamiltonganj, Kalchini, District: Alipurduar, Pin Code - 735214, West Bengal

Gairkata, District: Jalpaiguri, Pin Code: 735212, West Bengal

Contact: 91- 98309 33703 || Email: ruralaid03@rediffmail.com || Web: www.ruralaid.org.in