



**Asian Institute of
Poverty Allevation**

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016 - 2017

“Our approach is to meet poor families and communities where they are, and deliver the tools they need to address the root causes of poverty and adjust to the often-shifting social and economic landscape around them”





Foreword



Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA) enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. AIPA accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, policy research and transforming markets into a force for development.

The year 2016-2017 has set a number of milestones – both unforeseeable and planned: the misery of many poor families and women group shaped by poverty, disasters, and lawlessness has come to our notice and observation. They themselves have arrived here with their hope for a life in safety and dignity. They have shown us in what a sorry state the world is in and that people voluntarily accept months and years of deprivations and the dangers of life and even death. From the inception AIPA has been dedicating itself to people receiving the resources, social security, rights and chances for participation in their local governance that they need for their family's future. This is what we have also been working on with our partners around the region during the last year. We will report on some of these efforts in this report: it all begins with the chance for food security and total health care – for example in rural regions, where there is no clinic and no doctor far and wide. Girls or women should not be subjected to violence simply because they do not have a social status in their society. The climate change with its disastrous effects on agriculture, calls for adjustment measures: farming families have to learn new cultivation methods. 2017 is also the year of hosting international summit on “Transforming Women Lives: Achieving Economic Empowerment and Justice” aligning with, the new global development agenda with its ‘Sustainable Development Goals’.

We will continue our work to support the forgotten corners of our world have food security, safety and dignity in life they need and deserve.

All of this has been possible due to encouragement of very poor women, their participation, participation of local partners, women's involvement in accessing government's social protection policy provisions, well-wishers of organizations, volunteers, donors and members on board. We would like to thank you for your great help and hope that you will also find your trust in our work justified when reading this Annual Report.

Amalendu Pal

Honorary Director and
Board Member
Kolkata, April 16th 2017



Food Security

Addressing the root causes of food insecurity through multi-sectoral programming:

Food insecurity is a complex problem resulting from multiple failures within the social, economic and ecological systems upon which people rely, Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA) works closely with communities through its local partners to understand its root causes. Our approach considers stresses on vulnerable populations such as lack of infrastructure, low agricultural yields, or poor health status – alongside complicating and compounding shocks and stresses, such as increased climate variability, poor governance, or social marginalization. Our food security work reflects approaches from all the sectors in which we work—from migration, economic and market development, and governance to agriculture, public health, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene – as well as the mainstreaming lenses essential to any good programming, such as climate resilience, gender, youth, social inclusion, and ecological sustainability. The comprehensiveness of this approach ensures the true causes of food insecurity. We invest in long-term food security strategies that likely incorporate many programmes and strive to ensure our approach is applicable in different contexts, from development situations to humanitarian emergencies.

In 2016-2017 our initiative has been piloted in three states i.e. West Bengal, Odisha and Assam covering total households 5100.

ASSAM



1900 households

ODISHA



1700 households

WEST BENGAL



1500 households





Cultivating Economic Opportunity for Poor Women and Independence

Approach: Review of local resources for development, Markets, Economic Growth Recovery, and Technical Support

Promoting economic growth opportunity, equity and justice are fundamental to AIPA's work. The objective is review policy provisions and integrate the same with grass root partners for effective implementation with targeted measurement and appropriate indicators. There are three major indicators i. Women are able to plan and decide about livelihood initiative on their own ii. Capacity building through scientific process and adoption of risk mitigation mechanism and iii. Enhanced saving through market linkages. Field experience proves that enhanced economic opportunity, a critical factor to improve women well-being, and supportive social dynamics to reinforce and promote secure, productive, and just communities. Economic opportunity has enabled and shown results in many ways including by ensuring access to business and financial services, gainful employment, technical resources, enterprise inputs, and well-functioning of local markets.

Results for 2016 - 2017

States	Agriculture	Non-farm activities	Small trading	Entrepreneurship
Assam	900	390	170	55
Jharkhand	900	210	260	60
Odisha	1100	440	325	70
West Bengal	700	270	120	50
Total	3600	1510	915	235

We engage the grassroots development organizations in different ways; as a program participant as program partners. By leveraging the resources, relationships, talent and presence the local resources has, our interventions are more sustainable and achieve greater scale. We strive to facilitate, strengthening linkages between existing and new actors, to improve market systems. Our role as facilitator lays the foundation for scale and sustainability: It builds on and aligns with the capacities and incentives of stakeholders. We explore innovation, new technology and harnessing new ideas to work with local partners to bring ideas to scale, enables us to increase our impact across our programmes.





Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Practices through Small Farmers

Agriculture and nutrition have a lot of potential to influence each other – agriculture providing the foods that can improve nutrition, and nutrition supporting agriculture labor by providing the energy and health farmers need to maximize productivity. AIPA field partners continue to research best practices and potential results to offer small farmers a step-by-step guidance to enable market-focused agriculture programmes to adopt increased nutrition-sensitivity. This project is on a pilot basis and initiated in North-East region with 540 women small farmers.



Total Health

Approach: Improved Health and Well-being of Individuals and Communities.

Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA) total health team strengthens the key systems that support improved health and nutrition outcomes in the long term and address disparities systematically through community-based, health facility-based, and policy level interventions. Our primary strengths are in bringing preventive and first level care closer to home through community health workers, ensuring quality facility care at the first level of referral, advocating for key policy and regulation decisions which benefit the health needs of the most vulnerable especially women and children, improving quality of care through both government and private sector, and integrating multiple sectors required for optimal health and nutrition. AIPA focuses on four technical areas of intervention [maternal, newborn and child health; nutrition; infectious diseases and; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)]. Health team underscores the importance of integrated programming to achieve optimal health and nutrition for all.

In 2016-2017 health team organized 72 mobile camps offered health services to 8400 families living in both rural and urban slums.





Education: Ending Child Poverty

Education programme for girl children was initiated by AIPA during the financial year 2016-2017. It was the first initiative for girl children of daily wage women workers engaged as agriculture labour , construction worker and engaged as maid in household work. This programme was undertaken keeping in mind children born in families living in poor condition deserve the chance to achieve their full potential, because girl children are most vulnerable. Being a pilot initiative it was organized for 200 girl children (age group- 6-10 years), comprising 20 groups in 10 locations. This girl child education programme was developed through students volunteer. The objective of such programme is allow all girl children to learn basic education and complete school education programme through coaching and also empowered them through technical education to have market demand vocational skills.



Cancer Care

Cancer is described in many ways: one such is a speeding car with defective brake pedal. It is also a root cause of family poverty. AIPA extends supports to researcher of Indian Association of Blood Cancer & Allied Diseases who are trying to deepen their understanding of cancer and develop new therapy which can reduce the economic burden of the family whose family members are victim of cancer diseases. In 2016-2017 the institute extended support to review the cancer therapeutic models applied to 59 patients who are suffering from cancer and various blood disorders for more than 10 years. Our objective is not only review the therapeutic process of treatment but also explore cost effective approach, which can help families to undergo treatment at a nominal cost and have the benefit of research based treatment protocol.





International Summit

More than 120 guests from 7 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Zambia, India, Nepal, United Kingdom and United States of America) joined the international summit on “**Transforming Women's Lives: Achieving Economic Empowerment and Justice**” from February 22nd, 23rd and 24th February 2017 held in Kolkata.

Distinguished speakers discussed on the following topics:

- Economic policy: Making women advancing toward autonomy
- Livelihood and Financial Inclusion: Economic growth opportunity and women's income security
- Social policy: Universal access to services with social protection
- Policies and practices: Women's economic and social rights
- The role of state in promoting gender-responsive budgeting and substantive equality
- International development support: Supporting pro poor growth agenda

After having three days dialogue, experts concluded their remarks with the following three key points:

- 1 Gender empowerment cannot be put off for tomorrow. It's something we do as we believe in it.
- 2 Gender equality and equity is away, through which we not only safeguard democracy but also deepen it.
- 3 Development is the freedom to make choices and give value to that choice. We need to ensure whether women have that freedom to make choices in their lives.

International summit participants highlighted that “**Empowerment is our journey: To help, participate and serve the communities from vulnerability**”.





Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation

Promoting models that are self-replicating and sustainable to reduce poverty

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Regd. Office: 240-B, Ansal Chambers-II, 6 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 | **Mob.:** +91-93504 92425

HQ: 81C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Sarani, Kolkata 700 054

Tel.: +91-33-6555 5911 | **Mob.:** +91-98314 75718

Email: apal@aipaasia.in | palamalendu@gmail.com

Project Office: 184 Pocket - E, Mayur Vihar Phase 2, Delhi 110 091

Mob.: +91-98682 63356 | 98683 94069

Email: adilfiroze@aipaasia.in | sandipsamajdar@aipaasia.in

 www.aipaasia.in



We believe in growth and scale strategy through collaboration with government, private sector and local NGO ensuring effective governance, leadership stewardship through participatory approaches.