

## A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SEBASTIAN ADYANTHRATH

President of SAFP India Trust



### I owe to the poor . . .

Save A Family Plan is slowly entering into its 50th year of service. The mustard seed which began to sprout in 1965 has grown to be a tree providing shade and comfort for many. We are indebted to our benefactors, staff members, partner families and individuals, and above all, to all volunteers. God has wonderful ways of caring for the people in need and an imagination was given to Msgr. Kandathil, who took the call of God seriously and worked on it.

I have been fortunate to be part of that endeavor; working with him and learning a lot from him. One of the important lessons Msgr. Kandathil taught me was that we should do our best

to be a helping hand to the needy. We are doing it for them not because they are exceptionally good or kind or in need of our attention but because they are God's children. We owe this to God and I keep that lesson still in my mind.

I stand with a deep sense of gratitude for having been associated with Save A Family Plan and to have had the opportunity to study the situation of the poor, the good news Jesus brought to our world and above all our need to change our frame of mind constantly. I should say that this organization has transformed me and made me a better person. I am sure that your association with the Plan has made you different, helped you to look at the reality of our world differently and above all helped you to become a better person. In short, the poor has assisted us in a magnificent way to regain our dignity of life.

I would like to extend my warm wishes to everyone involved with Save A Family Plan as we celebrate 50 years of its existence. We may have struggles in life but our association with the Plan has helped us to look at those struggles in a very different and creative way. Let us celebrate this year with joy and gratitude.



Save A Family Plan would like to give a special thank-you to all of our volunteers and partners. The success of our programs would not be possible without your dedication and commitment.

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## Save A Family Plan

If you have questions, would like to make a donation, or inquire about booking a presentation, please contact us!

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[www.savefamilyplan.me](http://www.savefamilyplan.me)



# Save A Family Plan

partnering with the poor for a just world

Annual Report 2013-2014



[www.safp.org](http://www.safp.org)

100% of your donation reaches the poor

## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2013-2014, Save A Family Plan implemented the Family Development Program in partnership with **10,919** families through **43** Diocesan Social Service Societies, in **five** States of India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu). Local community self-help groups selected 2,322 impoverished families, who were partnered with contributors through SAFP to begin their journey towards becoming self-sufficient. Within six years, families experienced many significant changes with support from their partnered contributors and from our local field staff. During this past year:



Participating families received regular training on important topics, such as financial skills, health, sanitation, food security, environment, education, gender, and good governance. This year, **405** regional trainings were held, with more than **28,000** participants.

- **\$695,297** was used by participants to start or improve on income generation projects (small businesses). The most popular businesses this year were goat rearing, cow rearing, cloth business, tailoring centre, and poultry.
- Local field staff assisted families in applying for government programs and benefits. This year, a total of **\$2,455,430** was accessed by **8,157** families. **70%** of this money was mobilized for housing.
- During the year, **1,415** families completed the six year program and graduated, moving on to become self-supporting.



Ms. Raji from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu explained how the program impacted her life: "Through FDP, my life completely changed. I was very ignorant about the outside world. The trainings and awareness program enlightened me to be self-employed and lead my family. With the financial support received, I bought a tailoring machine and started to stitch clothes. I also undertook cloth sales. Later from the assistance received I set up a tailoring shop. Apart from stitching, I also conduct tailoring class and earn good income. I have also given employment to one woman in my tailoring shop. This program has helped me to gain self-confidence and enriched my knowledge about the outside world. With my earning and savings I have bought 2 cents land and built a house with all basic facilities. I continue to do tailoring and I foresee to give good education to my children and manage my family."

SAFP is committed to seeking justice and working with the marginalized and poor of India, regardless of caste, creed, gender, or political affiliation.



**A MESSAGE FROM MS. LOIS CÔTÉ**  
President of SAFF Canada Board of Directors



A few years back, I was invited to a village meeting in India. The villagers gathered to go through a process to decide which issue they wished to resolve.

While waiting for the people, an older lady began talking to me. She told me that she

had never gone to school because she was from a poor family. Nevertheless, she was able to find solutions, work things out and make the best of her situation. She was obviously aware of her intelligence. As it looked as if the meeting was to start she closed her conversation by making a most poignant comment: "I wonder where I would be now, if I had had an education."

Her conversation has stayed with me, and I have wondered how many people have been severely limited because of their poverty.

That occasion has emphasized for me the importance of the work of Save A Family Plan. As we shall be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of Save A Family Plan in 2015, we can be proud of the thousands of poor people who have been assisted to live a more human life, a life of dignity. However, many still wait for our assistance.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all our donors, volunteers and staff for their commitment and faithfulness. It is a partnership of love.

Kindly spread the word so that others may join with us and be in solidarity with poor men and women of India. Thank you.

Save A Family Plan relies on word-of-mouth to spread the news about our work.

This helps us to maintain our commitment of ensuring that 100% of your donation reaches the poor.

Please help by sharing information about SAFF with your families, friends, and communities!

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment, and Decentralization (SPED) III (2010-2016)

SPED III is a five year program currently being undertaken by SAFF in partnership with the *Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD)* and **27** NGO partners across **12** states of India (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh). Through this program, **540** villages are engaging in a participatory process that supports continuous analysis and learning and leads to local ownership, control, and responsibility.

In Year 3 of the program, the target communities had another opportunity to select and address a poverty-related issue. The most commonly selected issues dealt with Low Income, Agriculture, Education, and Food Security. Communities displayed higher levels of participation compared with previous years and increased ability to plan, budget, identify resources, and implement the activities. Women took on a greater number of leadership roles this year, with 50% of the village level committees headed by women.

The target communities were able to locally mobilize more than **\$5,900,000** Canadian to help fund program activities and they expressed an increase in their confidence in accessing local resources. They also identified higher levels of effectiveness among local government officials and institutions in fulfilling their duties and delivering programs and services to the communities.

In addition to these results, thousands of individuals and families have experienced improved quality of life through the results of the implemented activities, such as:

- 34,936 people developed skills through vocational training
- 16,892 children accessed educational resources
- 19,635 people attended medical camps
- 19,357 people accessed resources to plant kitchen gardens
- 23,100 people gained knowledge on proper sanitation practices
- 27,336 people increased their awareness on gender equality
- 27,031 people got access to safe drinking water



Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada / Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS

SAFF continues to support many small rights/issue based approaches that are designed to address specific and unique regional needs. This past year, **60** partners from **12** states (Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) undertook **78** initiatives. These covered many sectors, including housing, water, sanitation, health and hygiene, income generation, natural resource management and conservation, capacity building, good governance, human rights, education, human migration and trafficking, violence against women, child labour, and micro-credit.



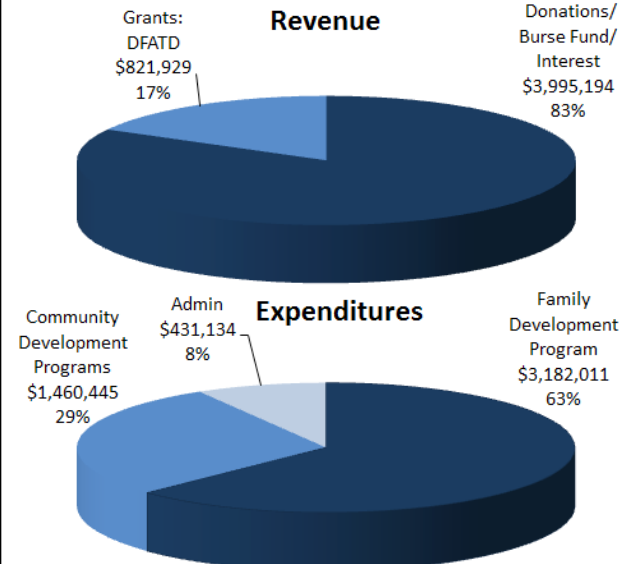
One special project that SAFF has been supporting is in partnership with the Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco – also known as the Madonna Sisters based in Shillong, Meghalaya. This indigenous religious congregation, whose motto "go, disciple – united in mind and heart – to every home" is reflected in their deep roots with the Khasi Tribal peoples. The Madonna Missions project extends to **21** mission centres throughout seven dioceses of the North East Indian States of Meghalaya and Assam meeting the urgent needs of many neglected urban areas and impoverished interior villages. It is not uncommon for the sisters to walk from four to eight hours to reach many of these places. The congregation sets up small communities of its members who live with the poor and experience their daily struggles and help them to preserve their culture. Along with pastoral care, these sisters provide health care by preventive and curative medicine and hygienic living; help to remove illiteracy through non-formal education; and guide people to increase food production through social development.

**HAITI - Empowerment Project**

This year, SAFF began working in partnership with local Canadian NGO *Rayjon Share Care Sarnia* on a project called "**Empowerment Project: Rayjon Canada and Haiti**". This four year project is designed to build the capacity of Rayjon and its partners in Haiti to better serve the beneficiaries of their core programs: their Urban Development Program at the Sacred Heart Centre in Cap Haitian and the Rural Development Program in St. Marc.

By developing the capacity of program stakeholders and strengthening leadership at all levels, the organization will have the necessary knowledge and skills to empower beneficiaries to access resources, assert their rights and improve their economic and social circumstances. The partnership will promote the sharing of lessons learned through SAFF's programs, such as the importance of local ownership, sustainability, and participatory methodology.

**SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**  
2013-2014 (from Financial Statements prepared by Hyatt Lassaline and approved by SAFFC Board of Directors on June 20, 2014)\*



\*Audited Statements Available on Request

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

SAFF continues working to reach out to the wider community and build awareness about social justice and global citizenship in a variety of ways. During this year, SAFF staff members gave 15 presentations to local schools and community groups to inform them about the situation of the poor in India and around the world. Outreach also took place through newsletters and regular posts on the SAFF blog and Facebook page.

Our partnership with local high school St. Edmund Campion in Brampton, Ontario continued this year, as they worked together with us to plan their second mission trip to India in March 2014. Principle Neville Mant shared, "*It was a very successful mission. Our group had the opportunity to live, learn, teach and work in solidarity with people throughout India, most especially the children.*"

Another key goal of our public engagement programming involves working together with other organizations to strengthen the efforts of the international development community as a whole. SAFF achieves this by networking and sharing lessons learned with other NGOs. This year, SAFF staff attended the OCIC Global Citizens Forum in Toronto in November 2014, as well as other forums, workshops, and trainings.

