

Humanitarian Overview 2023

Mata Amritanandamayi Math / Embracing the World

The Mata Amritanandamayi Math (globally known, with its sister organisations, as Embracing the World) exists to help alleviate the burden of the world's poor through helping to meet each of their five basic needs—food, shelter, healthcare, education, and livelihood—wherever and whenever possible. MAM is especially focused on helping to meet these needs in the aftermath of major disasters. Augmenting these efforts, we work in the fields of environmental conservation and sustainability. We have volunteer groups in more than 50 countries, and since 2005, MAM is registered with the United Nations as an NGO with Special Consultative Status.

I. BASIC NEEDS

Food & Water

- Feeding 10 million people annually in India; distributing milk, rice and other items to remote tribal communities
- Amma's Kitchen in 50 cities across North America serves more than 150,000 people annually
- Feeding the hungry in Australia, Brazil, France, Kenya, Spain, Slovenia
- Currently deploying Jivamritam Filtration Systems for clean drinking water in 5,000 villages throughout India to eventually provide water purification for 10 million people

Shelter

- Constructed more than 47,000 houses for the homeless in 75 locations throughout India
- Relocation of slum-dwellers into 1,600 clean, new apartments in Hyderabad and Pune
- Orphanage for 500 children in Kerala that includes high-quality nutrition and education
- Care centre for 160 children from poor families in Nairobi that provides meals, education and healthcare access on a daily basis
- Four care homes for the elderly in India
- Providing new clothing for more than 500,000 people in poverty annually in India
- Working to provide proper homes, community centres and street lights in 101 villages throughout India

Health

- Since 1998, more than ₹816 crore (\$105 million) worth of charitable medical care in India, reaching 5.9 million patients as of 2022
- Amrita Hospitals in Faridabad (2,600 beds) and Kochi (1,350 beds) provide high-quality, affordable care to all and free treatment for the poor
- Five satellite charitable hospitals with three in Kerala, one in Mysore, and one in the Andaman Islands; doctors make rounds to remote tribal hamlets
- Four Mobile Health Buses equipped with advanced facilities to support health camps in villages and provide emergency care including surgeries at disaster sites
- Telemedicine uses mobile and satellite technology to connect with patients in remote locations
- Seventy village health workers in rural and isolated areas throughout India
- Doctors hold 100+ free health camps in remote regions of India every year
- In Africa, more than 8,300 free cataract surgeries and provision of 35,400 eyeglasses to isolated and vulnerable communities in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Burkina Faso
- Providing tribal communities in India awareness on substance abuse, oral contraceptive use, oral hygiene, micronutrient deficiencies, and antenatal health monitoring
- Cancer hospice in Mumbai and clinic for people with HIV & AIDS in Thiruvananthapuram
- Support for wellbeing through yoga and meditation training since 1987 including Amrita Yoga, Integrated Amrita Meditation (IAM Technique), and White Flower Meditation

Education

- More than 55,000 scholarships worldwide—keeping children in school across India and in Canada, Haiti, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Spain
- After-school tutoring for children in villages and slums in India
- Tablet-aided education in rural and remote areas in India; active in 59 villages and has reached more than 10,000 children
- Annual bursaries in Haiti for women from poor communities to study computer engineering and allied subjects

- Peer-to-peer education for village adolescents on substance abuse, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, digital safety, human trafficking, and cultural traditions
- Adult education for literacy and vocational-training programs for some of the poorest tribal communities in India
- Schools for the differently-abled and school for the hearing impaired in Kerala

Livelihood

- Empowering 200,000 women from poor and vulnerable communities in India with start-up capital, vocational training, and microfinance opportunities to create more than 13,500 Self-Help Groups
- In partnership with the Govt of India (Amrita-PMKVY), providing socially marginalised and disadvantaged rural youth access to skill development free-of-cost; training centres in five states
- Lifetime pensions for 100,000 people including widows, women in poverty, and people with disabilities
- Vocational Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya for young people from disadvantaged populations
- Training women to build toilets for themselves and their communities in rural India
- A Traditional Arts School and an Industrial Training Centre in Kerala

Cross-cutting Sustainable Development

In 2013, Amma launched Amrita Self-Reliant Villages (Amrita SeRVe)—an initiative through which MAM has adopted 101 villages across India with the goal of helping them become self-reliant role-models. Amrita SeRVe focuses on seven areas that start from basic needs and progress to a state of independence: health, water & sanitation, education, agriculture, income generation, eco-friendly infrastructure, and self-empowerment.

II. EMERGENCIES

- Ukraine War (2022): At borders with Poland and Romania, volunteer teams helped thousands cross safely by providing basic needs, counselling, and next points of contact; in Europe, refugees were supported through MA Centres

- COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2022): ₹85 crore (\$10 million) in medical treatment, economic relief, vaccinations, outreach in rural areas in India; volunteers worldwide provided basic supplies, counselling, and community support
- Kerala Monsoon Floods (2018): ₹10 crore (\$1.4 million) in relief and rehabilitation; relief camps throughout Kerala; 400 volunteers ran a 24-hour helpline and connected more than 100,000 people with rescue and relief in five days
- Chennai Floods (2015): Provided evacuation help, food and medicine as well as ₹5 crore (\$750,000) to Tamil Nadu Govt for flood relief
- Nepal Earthquake (2015): Food, blankets, shelter and 2 tons of medicines
- Jammu-Kashmir Floods (2014): ₹30 crore (\$5 million) in relief with focus on house construction
- Typhoon Yolanda, Philippines (2013): Immediate response for food and shelter; community rebuilding and \$1 million for 530 orphaned children to complete high school
- Uttarakhand Flash-Flooding (2013): ₹100 crore (\$16 million) in aid, especially for house construction and community rebuilding
- Japan Earthquake/Tsunami (2011): Immediate response for food and shelter; \$1 million for scholarships for education of orphans
- Haiti Earthquake (2010): Medical supplies, materials for shelter construction, scholarships
- Floods in Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh (2009): ₹100 crore (\$21 million) relief package including medical care, food, supplies and 1,000 homes for the displaced
- Cyclone Aila, West Bengal (2009): Medical care, food and supplies
- Floods in Bihar (2008), Gujarat (2006), Mumbai (2005): ₹10 crore (\$1.5 million) in medical aid, food, supplies and shelter
- Earthquake, Pakistan (2005): Food, blankets, shelter, and 3 tons of medicines.
- Hurricane Katrina, USA (2005): \$1 million to Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund
- Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004): ₹200 crore (\$46 million) in relief including construction of 6,200 tsunami-resistant homes, 700 new fishing boats, an evacuation bridge, and vocational training for 2,500 survivors

- Earthquake, Gujarat (2001): Emergency medical teams dispatched; three villages rebuilt from ground up (1,200 homes)
- Earthquake, Maharashtra (1993): Food, blankets, shelter and medicines

III. ENVIRONMENT

- Donated ₹100 crore (\$15 million) to the Govt of India's Namami Gange—Clean the Ganges Project
- Constructed 12,000 toilets for the poor as part of ₹100 crore (\$15 million) project in villages across Kerala
- Member Organisation of the UN Billion Tree Campaign: over 1 million trees planted worldwide
- Saukhyam Pads—developed a cotton-and-banana-fibre reusable and biodegradable feminine hygiene product
- Innovative waste management with comprehensive recycling and composting at our centres, hospitals, university campuses, and schools
- Amala Bharatam (Clean India, Beautiful India): 1,700 annual cleaning drives in public spaces across the country
- Public clean-up drives by volunteers worldwide in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe
- Environmental Awareness Campaigns, including the online InDeed Campaign for Nature which was officially recognised by UNESCO
- Supporting 10,000 impoverished people to grow organic vegetables in kitchen gardens, especially in rural India
- Providing solar- and hydro-power solutions for rural communities across India
- Beekeeping in our centres worldwide to help prevent the decline of pollinators for our world's food production; farming and permaculture gardening

IV. RESEARCH

- Researchers at Amrita University are innovating new uses for existing technology and inventing new products and approaches to solving some of the world's most pressing problems
- In 2021, a grant of ₹100 crores (\$13,400,000) was established to set up 50 state-of-the-art new discovery and innovation labs at Amrita's campuses across India

- Amrita was awarded India's first UNESCO Chair for Women Empowerment & Gender Equality in 2016
- Amrita was awarded UNESCO's first Chair for Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation & Development in 2020
- Live-in-Labs is an experiential learning program where students with Amrita and other universities from across the globe live in impoverished Indian villages to address pressing needs and co-design solutions with the community members
- Development of robots, protective gear, and other medical innovations for frontline health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic; nano-fibre mask with 99.9% filtration efficiency developed and released to the general public
- Amrita RITE: Tablet-based learning for children in villages and isolated communities across India
- OLabs simulates science experiments online for children who are not within reach of labs due to distance and cost, especially rural areas; in partnership with the Govt of India, 400,000 students, 8,000 schools, and 28,000 teachers have been reached
- A-VIEW: Cutting-edge, open-source distance-learning platform
- Created and deployed wireless technology for detecting landslides in Kerala and Sikkim
- Using biotechnology to innovate low-cost solutions for diabetes care
- Providing Internet signal to fishing boats 45 km past normal reach for improved safety
- Vulnerability mapping for India's women
- New method for 30-minute cancer detection and other Nanotechnologies for health