

Supporting Administration in **COVID-19 Relief Response**


April-June 2020





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▶ Alone WE Cannot; Together WE Can



“The COVID-19 helped provide [an] umbrella for synchronization.”

- PRADAN SPDC

“We need to engage on [PRADAN’s] task-oriented vs process-oriented approach.”

- PRADAN JMDC



“This [Pandemic] was not a project with log frames, milestones and deliverable. In COVID-19 we framed [our] own project indicators and managed to deliver.”

- PRADAN KNODC

“State administration realized that the current situation needs extra hands and the CSOs were making these available. Ultimately, the state [BDO] has to do the work. The extra hands were a huge opportunity.”

- BDO, Basia, Jharkhand

“During this crucial time, we engaged with PRADAN’s team and surveyed the areas to assess the ground realities. PRADAN’s team through their focused lens have identified vulnerable families and together we supported 690 families.”

- Member of Legislative Assembly,
Bankura, West Bengal

“During the lockdown, PRADAN’s team reached out to all Gram Panchayats of the Abu-Road block and supported the families. PRADAN also ensured at all the MGNREGS sites there are masks and sanitizers available at all times.”

- Assistant Engineer, Panchayat Samiti, Abu-Road, Rajasthan

“Collaboration helped us put behind our egos in achieving a common purpose - money, work, health [that saw] a natural convergence. It gave us a human point of view.”

- PRADAN, NCDC

“We had to work shoulder to shoulder with the Police during these trying times and we don’t fear the administration or the police. *Pehlae bhi thana mein chai aur thanda piya hai abhi bhi achhe se kaam kiye. Rishta pehlae sae hai.*”

- Federation member, Mahila Vikas Mandal, Basia, Jharkhand

[The] pandemic necessitated a multi-dimensional response. It called for a re-orientation of PRADAN’s way of thinking, working and managing the challenge. [We] realised that collaboration was no longer a choice. PRADAN had to reimagine itself to work in a campaign mode with the local administration.”

- PRADAN, SCDC

“Being the President of the Federation, it’s my responsibility to support the administration during this crisis time. I stepped out and helped them to distribute ration and safety equipment to the vulnerable people.”

- President, Nari Shakti Mahila Sangh, Abu Road, Rajasthan

“We worked with the government, did not create any parallel system, it’s a joint plan. Even government knows what their strengths are and where we can play a complimentary role.”

- PRADAN NSCDC

“If the administration is with you, the work gets speed, there is no doubt about it.”

- PRADAN MKDC



Introduction

The above are a series of quotes that emerged in the various conversations conducted across PRADAN's eleven Development Clusters (DCs) in seven states. These conversations were conducted to understand PRADAN's engagement during the pandemic. As is evident from the above quotes, many PRADANites felt that their mode of engaging and strategizing during the Pandemic was a diversion from their usual way of working which has been largely driven by sector specific projects and their mandates. In contrast, the pandemic demanded multi-dimensional approaches in a short time, giving little or no time to brainstorm or prepare. Yet, PRADAN delivered.

PRADAN believes that creating a 'a just and equitable society' demands persistent work..... It also requires all relevant stakeholders, including the community, to come together and forge a systemic collaboration and add to each other's efforts (Chatterjee, 2018). In effect, during the Pandemic, PRADAN witnessed the operationalisation of collaborative modes of working across state and non-state stakeholders. The experience, since March, 2020 holds many learnings for

PRADAN. These learnings offer a window of opportunity for PRADAN to re-strategize on its future modes of engagement towards an enhanced and effective intervention. While the discussions with the teams in the DCs were largely on their efforts during the Pandemic, the conversations took place in context of the pre-COVID-19 (hereafter the Pandemic) engagement of the teams (in the DC). This documentation aims to capture pandemic responsive interventions across the states, DCs and their respective teams to tease out the challenges and the learnings from these interventions as well as the relevance of these engagements in context of COVID-19 and thereafter. In addition, it aims to address some pertinent questions that were raised during the DC level conversations: Where do the new relationships [with communities, administration at all scales and other CSOs] take us? How does this impact our working in the future? How do we orient ourselves towards a different mode of engagement?

Methodology

The documentation relies both on primary and secondary data analysis. Secondary data analysis included, one, scanning through the local, regional and national print media coverage of PRADAN as regards their work on the pandemic related challenges. Two, comprehending and analyzing state specific strategy notes shared by PRADAN. Three, scanning through various online and news and social media articles contributed by PRADAN teams. Of critical importance here are the stories posted on PRADAN's Workplace by different teams. These provided valuable insights into PRADAN's on-ground engagement and how some of these are being leveraged to address the pandemic related challenges. These stories were useful in that they gave snippets into how these interventions contributed in making communities resilient and what relevance these hold in a post-COVID-19 world.

Primary data analysis relied mainly on a series of discussions and interviews. These included cluster-wise discussions with teams on the COVID-19 response strategies, processes involved, modalities, and attendant outcomes, challenges encountered, and lessons learnt. Attempts were made, to ensure as far as possible, a representation of all the teams in the cluster. Notably, these





discussions also saw the participation of representatives from local, block and district administration, local and state elected representatives as well as the federation and SHG members. Their views and observation go a long way in comprehending the strategies as well as their outcomes.

Book Organization

Following this introduction, Chapter two encapsulates the pandemic responsive engagements followed by most of teams in the various clusters. Chapters three to nine are organized state-wise – with some states like Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and West Bengal having only one cluster and others like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha having several clusters. In addition, two clusters – Santhal Pargana Development Cluster and the Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster (KNODC) cut across state boundaries. These seven Chapters discuss the state specific journey while highlighting innovative approaches deployed by some states / DCs and, or the respective teams in their geographies. Notably, the processes while similar at one level, given the similarity in the emerging challenges,

vary simultaneously, given the specific socio-cultural as well as politico-economic contexts. While across states, most teams, especially in the initial few weeks, worked through their community cadres, eventually forged relationships of varied nature and with a variety of objectives, be these at the block district or state scales. The Chapters endeavor to encapsulate this variety of experiences, ensuing challenges and the lessons learnt. In addition, the Chapters cover ‘engagement stories’ from each of the states to highlight the thinking involved and the strategies that the teams are relying on to address the multi-dimensionality of the challenges experienced. These stories on promotion of livelihoods, natural resource management (mainly land and water management), entrepreneurship promotion, improving local governance, gender equality and other pandemic responsive initiatives offer a spotlight on the ongoing approaches to achieving PRADAN’s larger goal of just and equitable society.

The concluding Chapter of the book reflects on Pandemic responsive strategies to elucidate the working modalities, partnerships and alliances forged, across states, and the lessons these hold for PRADAN’s future engagement strategies.



Pandemic Responsive Engagements across the Development Clusters

The pandemic-triggered lockdown manifested overnight in a host of challenges, many of which were multi-dimensional, requiring an immediate response. The responses had to be mobilised outside the 'project-mode' and could not be structured around pre-defined indicators or milestones. The lockdown impacted the rural economy and the society along multiple dimensions across various scales. March is the financial year ending and marks the onset of the new agricultural season. It is a busy time for the rural communities with the harvested Rabi crop ready for sale. Planning for the Kharif season is initiated. Under normal circumstances, migrant workers return to their villages (in May-June) with enough remittances (coupled with the earnings from the harvested crops) to initiate planning for the Kharif crop. With the lockdown, while many migrants returned to their homes a month or so earlier, this time around they did not have their wages or remittances to invest in Kharif cropping. The lockdown curtailed movement that was necessary to sell the harvested crops as well as access the inputs for the Kharif season,

namely seeds, fertilisers, manure as well as labour. At another level, several ultra-poor or the very vulnerable families became visible. These included those whose livelihood/s depended on daily labour wages or income through pension schemes; landless villagers, those who sold Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) for a living; migrant workers whose income either stopped or became minimal; the stranded labourers who had no money to feed themselves; the old, differently abled as well as pregnant and lactating women, to name a few.

Rumours, information asymmetry and misinformation, coupled with a complete ban on mobility aggravated the situation further. Eventually, the villages saw a spurt of returning migrants from the cities. That these returning migrants could potentially be carriers of the Coronavirus led to undesirable social behaviour of exclusion and avoidance. Adding to the woes was the conditions under which many had returned to their homes. In the absence of public transport, many migrants walked for several days without adequate food and water. Upon reaching their destinations, the inability to access the comfort of their homes and families coupled with aggressive social behaviour and the austerity of the

quarantine facilities aggravated the situation further. Psychological counselling emerged a necessity in many geographies. In other words, the challenges emerging from the pandemic-triggered lockdown were not just numerous and overwhelming, these were multi-faceted. Disaster management is not PRADAN's forte, hence addressing these challenges required a fresh and innovative approach, albeit one that could neither be conceptualised nor had the luxury of time to be framed as a project with well thought through deliverables and milestones. The response had to be immediate. What perhaps

merits mention here is that while responding to the multiple challenges emanating from the Pandemic and the associated lockdown emerged an imperative that had to be met alongside PRADAN's normal day-to-day work.

The central government's notice directing CSOs to work in close coordination with the state, district and block machinery served as an opportunity to forge alliances and multi-sectoral and multi-hierarchy partnerships.

Emerging Opportunity: Government and Civil Society Organisation Alliances

In an attempt to combat the wide-spread of the Coronavirus, the Government of India declared a nation-wide lockdown on the March 23rd 2020. On March 29th it constituted 11 Empowered Groups (EGs) to guide and facilitate the ramping up of healthcare facilities, reviving the economy and mitigate the negative impacts of the lockdown on the people.

Empowered Group 6 responsible for coordinating with private sector NGOs and international organisations reached out to 92,000 NGOs, registered on the 'NGO Darpan' portal of Niti Aayog

– Government of India's think tank - appealing for assistance 'in identifying hotspots and deputing volunteers and care givers to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, transgender persons, and other vulnerable groups; to create awareness about prevention, social distancing, isolation, and combating stigma; to provide shelter to homeless, daily wage workers, and urban poor families; set up community kitchens for migrants.'² CSOs were directed to coordinate and work closely with state, district and block administrations to ensure that 'no one goes without shelter and food.'

The above policy move acknowledged the role and the ability of the CSOs to provide the last mile connectivity and reach out to the millions of otherwise disconnected rural poor. The presence of CSOs like PRADAN served as a crucial bridge – a connecting link - between local communities and the government organisations and institutions. Communication with the communities, be this through government orders or other

means, emerged as a challenge for the state. It is here that the CSOs provided a crucial initial link. Several Government Orders on the dos and the don'ts were facilitated via the CSOs and their networks.

Chapter Two encapsulates the Pandemic responsive interventions across states, development clusters and teams.

²The empowered groups have been set up under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The EGs will look into various facets of the pandemic such as medical emergency management, availability of hospitals, isolation and quarantine facilities, ensuring the availability of essential medical equipment such as Personal Protective Equipment, masks, gloves and ventilators, augmenting human resources and capacity building, public grievances and take suggestions from different stakeholders, coordination with private sector and the CSOs.

³https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/covid-19-niti-aayog-ceo-writes-to-ngos-for-assistance-in-relief-measures/articleshow/74994183.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

During the Pandemic



Introduction

The lockdown with its complete ban on mobility and gatherings (be it those of the Federations, Self-help Groups or the Gram Sabhas) meant huge challenges at all scales. The challenges were further compounded by a lack of awareness on the Pandemic and its implications at the individual, family and society level. Thus, awareness campaigns on the Pandemic emerged as the first imperative. Yet, implementing these campaigns demanded mobility that was banned, at least in the initial days. District and block administrations were approached for e-passes, the availability of which depended on several factors, primary one being PRADAN's engagement and relationship with the state; and by extension, the state's willingness to give these passes.

Time emerged as a critical factor. An initial and timely outreach to the communities was possible given PRADAN's deep rapport with the people in the villages. The social capital that PRADAN has amassed over the decades through its engagement on various challenges faced by the communities was critical in handling the Pandemic. The rest of the Chapters describe the main interventions of PRADAN during the Pandemic. It is narrated through experiences from the field.

Awareness Campaigns : Jagrukta Abhiyan

Given the inability to physically visit the communities, the first attempts at awareness were through the community leaders such as women leaders of the Federations, tribal heads (in tribal areas), Gram Panchayat Pradhans, village level government functionaries such as school teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers,



1. Community cadres are frontline workers that have been trained as part of PRADANs on ground interventions on SHG mobilization, gender, livelihood, agriculture, MGNREGS, NRLM and others.



Awareness Campaigns through *Jagriti Rath*

Auxiliary Nurses and other frontline departmental functionaries. Community cadres in the villages were another conduit to spread awareness.¹ These agents were accessed via mobile and trained using WhatsApp, Zoom calls and regular calls. The focus was on accuracy of information to minimise rumours, false narratives and misleading news. PRADAN's social capital built over decades of engagement with the communities at the grassroots proved useful and was leveraged appropriately and extensively, especially in initiating the first critical response: spreading awareness on the Pandemic while negating rumours and misinformation.

Communicating with communities to bring in quick and accurate awareness was replete with challenges. To begin with, CSOs were not allowed to get involved in awareness campaigns without permissions from the Information and Public Relations Department of the state governments. Awareness campaigns had to be designed keeping in mind the local language and or the dialect which in many development clusters varied within the cluster. Furthermore, the content of the awareness materials had to be ratified by the block and the district administration. The central message of the awareness campaigns – to keep safety at the individual and society level- had to be demonstrated to the communities. Across states, PRADAN hired vehicles – *Jagrukta Rath* and mike systems

to spread awareness which included accurate information on the nature of the Pandemic, the dangers it poses to the individual and the community and, the need for safety measures such as masks, frequent hand washing, social distances and above all to spread the message on restricted movements or need based movements. Apart from making announcements on mikes, visual media using WhatsApp message system and flex banners were used. In many places audio skits were designed to reach out to the communities. In some states like Bihar, Chirag Mobile Vani (an IVRS Platform) community radio was used to spread awareness. The criticality of following social distancing in public places - shops, dug well, hand pump, PDS (Public Distribution System) shops, local *haats*, meeting places - was communicated through ward members and volunteers who marked circles/ spots at required distances to access these places.

While remote geographies such as those in the forests and in difficult terrains were an additional challenge, all efforts were made to reach out to communities in these terrains in the shortest possible time. Several SHG federations awareness composed songs in their native languages (such as Gondi, Korku, Santhal).

The health of our villagers lies in our hands (West Bengal)

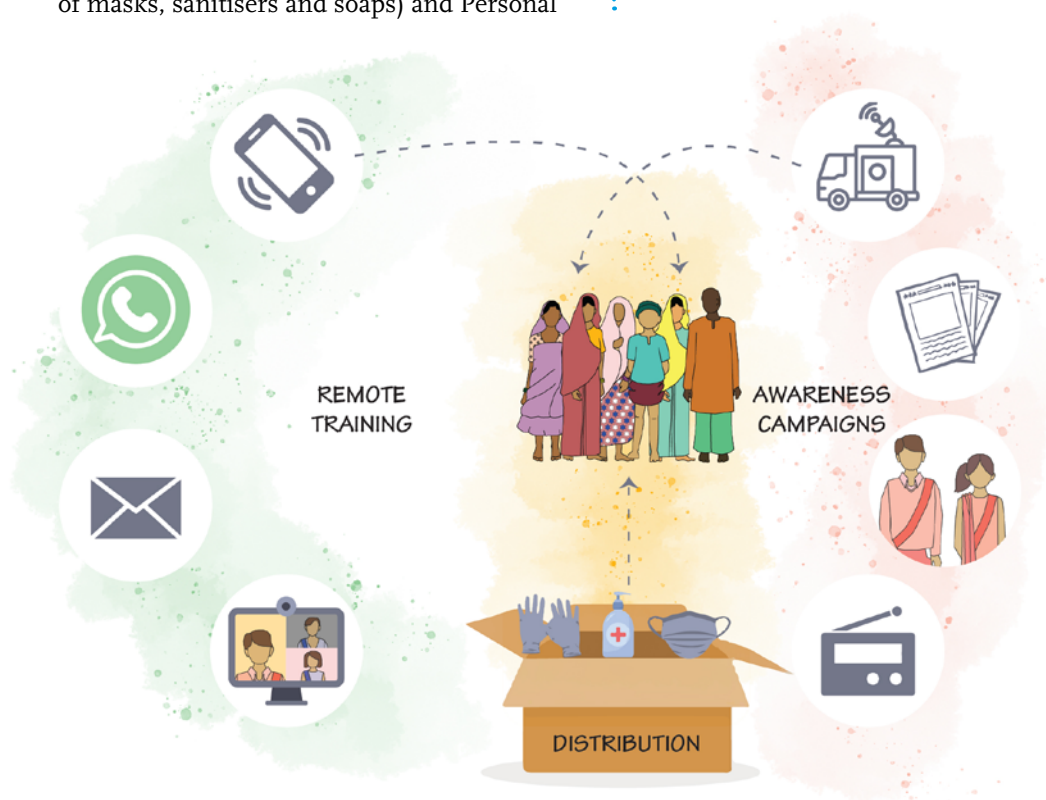
This statement was echoed by many of the villagers in remote Jhalda-I and II blocks in Purulia of West Bengal during the unanticipated COVID-19 outbreak. Amidst the Pandemic, it was the women from these villages who took up the responsibility of raising awareness within the community and collaborated with local health care workers. The village-appointed ASHA worker, along with trained locals, conducted discussions with the villagers

on the COVID-19 Do's and Don't's. During these sessions, the trainers emphasized on the importance of regular and proper hand washing, avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth, contacting the health department in case of any respiratory difficulties and following the rules imposed during the lockdown. The central theme of the discussions was - prevention is better than cure, and panic is to be avoided.



Community Cadres, especially those with access to mobiles and other technologies were the primary conduits to reach these geographies. Making these frontline functionaries aware in themselves and then equipping them with safety kits (comprising of masks, sanitisers and soaps) and Personal

Protection Equipment (PPE) was the first step. Distribution of masks, sanitisers and soaps amongst the communities and their mandatory usage was the next step. Groups of SHG women were mobilised and trained to make masks.

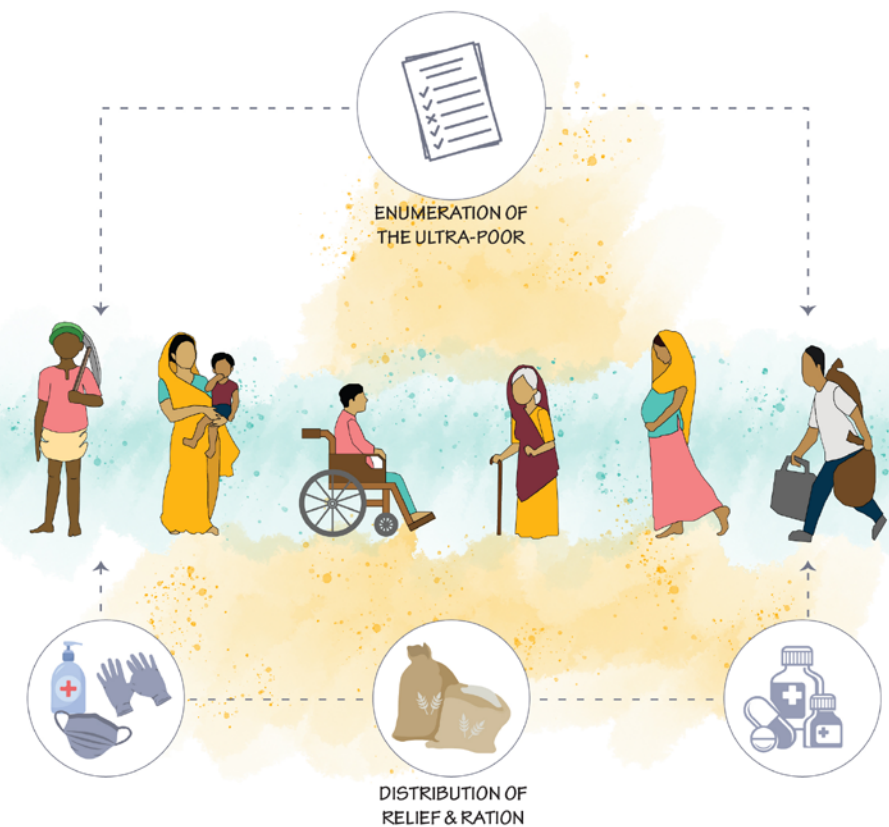




Identification of the Ultra-Poor : Enumeration and Data collection

While vulnerable sections of society are PRADAN's target groups, the Pandemic foregrounded and made visible the very vulnerable amongst the vulnerable – the ultra-poor. These include daily wage earners, women headed households, differently abled and the elderly, especially those living alone and pregnant and lactating women. The Pandemic and the attendant lockdown rendered these families extremely vulnerable, many of them unable to access food and essentials such as soaps and masks. Outreach to these vulnerable sections, assisting them, on a priority, to manage the emerging vulnerabilities emerged an imperative.

While targeted and appropriate relief would go a long way in addressing the vulnerabilities, a first step in this direction meant identifying these families and the associated vulnerabilities. This was attempted through enumeration and data collection done through community / village level cadres who were trained to undertake the enumeration task. In several states enumeration / surveillance teams consisting of SHG members, ward members, Anganwadi and ASHA workers and, where possible respective Gram Panchayat Pradhans were tasked with this work. These teams conducted house to house surveys to enumerate the ultra-poor. Once the enumeration was done and data



lists generated, these were ratified by the PRI members. This activity went a long way in targeting relief appropriately. Those who could not access Public Distribution System (PDS) for various reasons – absence of a ration card or linkage with the Aadhaar card – were identified and prioritised in relief and ration distribution as well as the distribution of medicines and safety requirements. Using Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) funds, PRADAN teams supplemented ration kits as relief and welfare.

Distribution of Ration Kits to the Ultra-poor in Torpa



The lockdown in the country has impacted the vulnerable – the ultra-poor disproportionately. Torpa team has been working for the past few weeks in streamlining the process of surveillance to identify the most vulnerable families and also keeping a track of the inflow of migrants. The lockdown made the divide between the haves and have nots even more visible. Most of the vulnerable families didn't have a ration card. PRADAN had to support the immediate needs of these families and hence Ration- Kits were prepared. This was discussed with the block administration and with the support and permission of the Block Development Officer, ration kits consisting of 20 kgs of rice, 2 kgs of pulses, half a litre of cooking oil, 2 kgs of potato, 1 kg salt, 50 gms of turmeric and two soaps for washing and bathing were assembled. Amrit Hemron, the mukhiya of Barkuli panchayat acknowledged that 'We were also trying to provide ration to needy families but due to the lack of resources and unavailability of ration, we couldn't accomplish the same. It feels great that we can benefit such families with the help of PRADAN.' The compassion and empathy removed all the barriers of going out in public during the time of pandemic and imbibe a sense of strong collective to fight the Pandemic.



To ensure that communities and the ultra-poor do not go hungry, community kitchens were established in a few states with Jharkhand leading. These community kitchens were instrumental in combating hunger and malnutrition, especially amongst the ultra-poor.

No one will go hungry: Didi Kitchens supported all

In Jharkhand, PRADAN's innovative community kitchen intervention also referred as didi kitchen, was started to provide food to the vulnerable families. Around 333 community kitchens were started in collaboration with APPI, various SHGs and the administration across the four development clusters.

Backyard Gardening: Improving Health in Communities

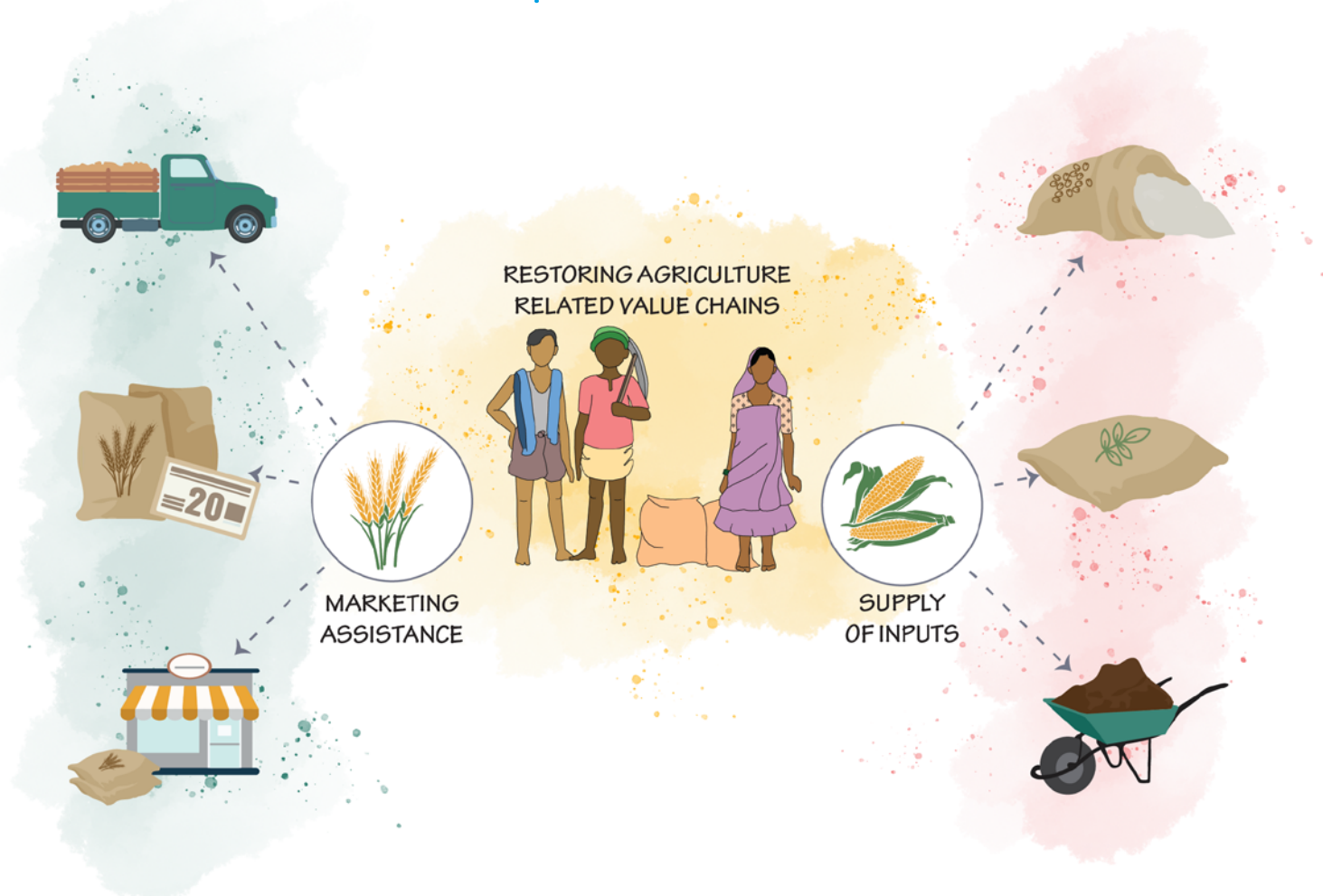
The Kitchen Garden initiative aims at promoting health and nutrition through utilising small homestead land holding that families own. The teams in Jharkhand planned large-scale kitchen gardens planting numerous green leafy vegetables and other day-to-day consumption crops, giving families access to fresh home-grown vegetables. The nutrition mentor played a huge role in the process of packaging of seeds and the preparation of layouts for these gardens.



Disrupted Practices, Value Chains and Reduced Incomes: Bridging Demand and Supply Gaps

The lockdown led to all major and minor works halting across the rural and the urban. The shutting down of mandis, haats (markets) and other commercial establishments led to the disruption of agriculture-related value chains. On one hand farmers were unable to mobilise labour to harvest the Rabi crop as well as market it. On the other, there was an unwillingness to hire outside labour to prepare for the upcoming Kharif season. Markets could not be accessed and where accessed the produce had to be disposed of at throw-away prices. Similarly planting for the Kharif season required access to seeds, fertilisers, manure amongst other inputs which were not accessible, thus impacting the preparation and planting activity. Put together, it impacted the agriculture sector and the small and marginal farmers along several dimensions. While the long-term impacts on the food security situation in the country will unfold in the years to come, the immediate impact of loss of livelihoods, diminishing and in some instances near zero income and associated mental well-being needed immediate responses. These came in the forms of:

- Marketing assistance for the sale of harvested produce through hiring vehicles to the nearest markets. In some instances, PRADAN teams managed to ensure a better than 'the rock-bottom price' for the produce. In other instances, PRADAN professionals arranged for direct supply to the consumers.
- Ensuring timely and adequate supply of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, manure, either through a direct interface with the suppliers or indirect sourcing and then distributing. In many areas, teams have interfaced with the government departments for procuring seeds. In addition, APPI funds were leveraged extensively to make available the numerous inputs.
- Several teams across the states have been engaging with the farmers and with state and district administrations to shift the focus from high-investment crops like hybrid vegetables and cash crops to cereals, pulses, millets, oilseeds and pumpkin which are suitable for local agro-ecological climatic conditions.



Reaping the Benefits of the Trellis Model

During the Pandemic, the PRADAN JMDC Bangla team focused on cash income for farmers. They initiated planning processes, demonstrations and preparation for various agriculture-related activities. Part of this initiative involved a demonstration of a trellis model, and a few farmers who had already implemented this model were reaping the benefits when the lockdown was announced. The team also played a huge role in ensuring that farmers received better prices for their produce. The farmers of the region were able to sell cucumbers in the domestic market at an average rate of Rs. 8 to Rs. 30 per kg, in contrast to the Rs. 3-4 per kg that they were receiving during the Pandemic. Eventually, it was noticed that local vendors were visiting the villages to buy cucumbers at a rate of Rs.13 - Rs.14 per kg. The team hopes to revive the aspirations of farmers and migrant youth staying in their villages, and continue to help them build financially viable models.

Similarly, in MP, the prices of winter maize were severely impacted. The farmers were forced to sell the crop for as low as Rs.9/kg, as against an expected price of Rs 17 to 18 kg. Bhoura team roped in the FPOs to buy approximately 100 tons of maize at Rs 12.25/kg. This proved to be a huge support to the farmers in this crisis situation.



Chakai, Bihar: Linking Farmers to Micro Finance

In Bihar, as elsewhere, the Pandemic created financial crisis for many and negatively impacted the ability of the marginalized to prepare and invest in their agriculture-related activities. PRADAN began a new initiative which aimed at mobilising farmers in collective farming. Through the initiative, the most vulnerable families were linked with Rangde P2P - a micro finance organisation that supports marginalized farmers by providing interest free loans. The team was able to mobilize 25 lakhs in loans for the farmers of Chakai block of Bihar, which would allow the farmers to make immediate investments in resources required to plant timely cash crops.

Innovation in rural economy: Agri-Entrepreneur

Muniya Murmu (43 years), an active member of her Banwasi Self-Help Group creates footprints for her fellow SHG members to follow, through her strong determination and her enthusiasm to learn new things and to experiment. In the year 2003, Muniya along with

12 other fellow members formed the Banwasi Self-Help Group to learn, evolve and grow together. Muniya and her husband Ramesh Kisku (52 years) primarily depend on agriculture and allied activities (Tasar-silk rearing, livestock rearing) to feed their family of eight. They have a son - Mukesh (23 years) and a daughter - Indu (10 years). Mukesh runs a petty shop in his home to support his family, while Indu is a 4th standard student enrolled in the nearby Missionary school. The family owns 1 acre of land, 0.6 acres of which is cultivable. For the past 3 years, Muniya has been engaging with other women farmers under the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) project. She conducts trainings, planning for and counselling on crop to be adopted, as well as building input linkages to farmers at doorsteps.

In the past year (2018-19), she transitioned from a VLT (Village-level trainer) to Women agriculture entrepreneur. She supported around 150 farmers across 8 villages of her Panchayat by establishing seed and medicine linkages as well as providing Training and Handholding support to women farmers. This year, she started poly-house nursery and she plans to sell over a 100,000 vegetable saplings by the end of Rabi Season. With the onset of the Kharif season, she has also managed to sell around 7500 saplings of Chilli

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and 2600 saplings of Eggplant to other women farmers with whom she engaged in agricultural planning for the year 2020. In addition to these nursery saplings, Muniya has also managed to sell seeds of Paddy (500Kgs~Rs36000), Chilli (280gms~Rs8120), Ladyfinger (300gms~Rs1020), Eggplant (40gms~Rs680), Beans (900gms~Rs 423) with a gross turnover of Rs 46,243. Muniya and Mukesh are also hoping to gain a competitive edge in the business by learning about the Polyhouse techniques of establishing soil less nurseries that use Coco bricks and trays.

Seeds on Wheels

The PRADAN Mahagama team made tireless efforts to help the community and the local administration throughout the lockdown period. The team distributed food kits to the vulnerable, supplied PPE items to the line department, and provided support in quarantine centres. To address the farmers worries on planning for the Kharif season, the teams initiated 'Seeds on Wheels' that delivered seeds at the doorsteps of the farmers. The initiative developed a new relationship of trust between PRADAN and the farmers. Planning for agriculture was done in May, and now the idea is being actualized through the support of Agriculture Entrepreneurs and Agri-cadres.



Stranded Migrants: Leveraging Technology (Control Rooms) and Networks

The sudden announcement of the lockdown led to several stranded migrants in different cities and states across the country, many without the ability to travel back and still more not being allowed to travel to their homes in the villages. That many had not got paid for the labour already rendered manifested in lack of food and other basic necessities in the locations where they were stranded. State administrations made efforts to facilitate the return of these migrants while also reaching relief to them at their locations. The former was facilitated through App based registrations coordinated through district (and in

some locations, Block) level control rooms while the latter was operationalised via PRADAN (and other CSO) networks. In many states, PRADAN professionals played a key role in coordinating the activities of the control rooms. This included coordinating the enumeration of migrant workers, tracking and coordinating the stranded workers, tracking and monitoring those who were making their passage back to the villages, coordinating ration and health relief, setting up, managing and coordinating quarantine centers at the district, block and in some cases, atleast in the initial phase, at the Gram Panchayat level.



Leveraging Mobile technology for Outreach

In the early stages of COVID-19, Pradan Kathikund took proactive steps to spread general awareness within the community, through the creation of information platforms. They initiated a WhatsApp group called Corona Jagruktha that included all Government Staff from the Block as well as representatives from the Village Organisations and Cluster level Federations, community cadres as well as PRADAN staff. The WhatsApp group was used to share awareness material across the villages and to receive information or distress calls that could be connected to the line department. Within a day of the initiative, information of migrants returning to several villages was received and directly conveyed to the Block Administration. Immediate steps were taken to send medical checkup teams to the villages of Silangi (Ormo Panchayat), Khushchira (Khuschira Panchayat) in the Gopikander block, where migrants had returned from Barddhaman (West Bengal). The migrants were checked by the medical team and placed into quarantine. The same platform now continues to be used actively to monitor the movement of migrants, to convey all village level information to the government and to create general awareness about COVID-19.

In yet another instance, MP team came across workers who had been working as agricultural labourers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where the land owner had abandoned them to fend for themselves. There were also workers who were stuck in cities such as Mumbai and Daman and Diu who were packed in small rooms – sometimes as many as 15 persons - in the peak of summers. These people had to pay to use the toilets and shell out at times double the price to purchase rice and pulses. Most of these labourers were very anxious and stressed due to their situation and wanted to return home as soon as possible. The team members talked to these workers and initially worked towards linking them to local NGOs and Nagar Palika for ration supplies.

In Jharkhand, teams have extended the help to stranded migrants with cash that was sourced from crowd funding. Approximately Rs 1,30,000 was crowd sourced by the team members. This helped the team to extend support - cash to buy essentials - to nearly 1900 migrants while connecting with different organizations.

Lost Livelihoods, Migrant influx and Heightened Insecurities: Data collation Monitoring, Surveillance and Enhancing Employment Opportunities.

Livelihoods in both the rural and urban areas were the first casualties of the lockdown. Having started as a health crises, the Pandemic has ultimately manifested as an economic crises with widespread loss of work and income. Daily wage workers employed through MGNREGS or otherwise found themselves without work and income. The latter emerged particularly vulnerable. Outmigration is an issue in most states, although in some like Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, the numbers are staggering as compared to the others. Thus, with the easing of the lockdown, most geographies witnessed large numbers of returning migrants commensurate with the outmigration. The challenges with the returning migrants were numerous while adding a degree of complexity. Reports of exhausted migrants, bypassing the Panchayats and other administration established testing, monitoring, screening and surveillance

mechanisms abound. Thus, the risk of a wider spread. This in turn led to undesirable social behaviour amongst the villagers.

An initial challenge was to convince people to get screened and tested. The support of SHG leaders and volunteers was sought actively in this process. In collaboration with Panchayats, line department functionaries, CBOs and volunteers from each village, surveillance groups were formed to register the returning migrants, convince them of the criticality of testing for the virus and then the mandatory quarantine either at the assigned center or at home. The two quarantine options brought in their own challenges. In the former, apart from the conditions of the quarantine centers, the psychological well-being of the returning migrants had to be ensured. As was mentioned by one of the government functionaries during a conversation “after having returned home with swollen legs

after weeks of walking with little or no food and having braved other hardships, asking these people to stay at the quarantine centers rather than going home is prolonging their hardships..... it is like an extra punishment.” (Tehsildar, Sarai, BSDC, Madhya Pradesh)

In the latter, home quarantine itself remains a concern as houses in rural areas are not spacious, making social distancing with other family members a major challenge. PRADAN staff along with the Panchayats and the block officials as well as community cadres and volunteers were instrumental in tracking the returning migrants in terms of their health and mental well-being. Extensive data on the migrants was collated

and shared continuously with the block administration for better management and coordination of relief and ration. In addition, an immediate response to addressing the challenge of lost livelihoods was in opening up MGNREGS works, ensuring job-cards for those who did not have them and in some cases innovating on how the number of days per family (100 days under normal circumstances) could be enhanced to cater to the immediate requirements of work and stability. In states like Jharkhand Pradan staff remained actively engaged at the state and the district levels advocating for an enhanced role of MGNREGS while also pitching for relevant works that can be opened up under MGNREGS

MONITORING, SURVEILLANCE & ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Revitalizing the local forest cover

The Adivasis of Chakai village in Barmasiya valley took an oath to restore the lost forests of their once lush green hills. Any visitor to Barmasiya will witness all the families of the village coming together to dig pits across the hills, in the hope of reforesting the now barren landscape. This was made possible through connecting the adivasi communities with the forest department.



Enhancing Income through Millet Cultivation

Millet is the primary major food crop for the farmers of Koraput district. Despite the food crisis amidst the Pandemic, the women farmers came forward to participate in the OMM (Odisha Millet Mission) programme, and cultivate Millet in their fields. The transplantation of millet has been taking place throughout the Lamtaput block, covering around 700 acres of land. 1000 farmers have newly enlisted with the programme.



Poultry: A Reliable Source of Income

Saving indigenous poultry birds is top priority for the Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) in Patna block, Kendujhar team. Each evening, a CAHW goes door to door to de-worm and vaccinate all birds in the household, while ensuring full adherence to health protocols necessitated by COVID-19. The market price of an indigenous live bird has increased to Rs 500 per kg. These birds are now a reliable source of income when the cashflow to households is limited.



Drought Proofing with 30 x 40 model plantation model

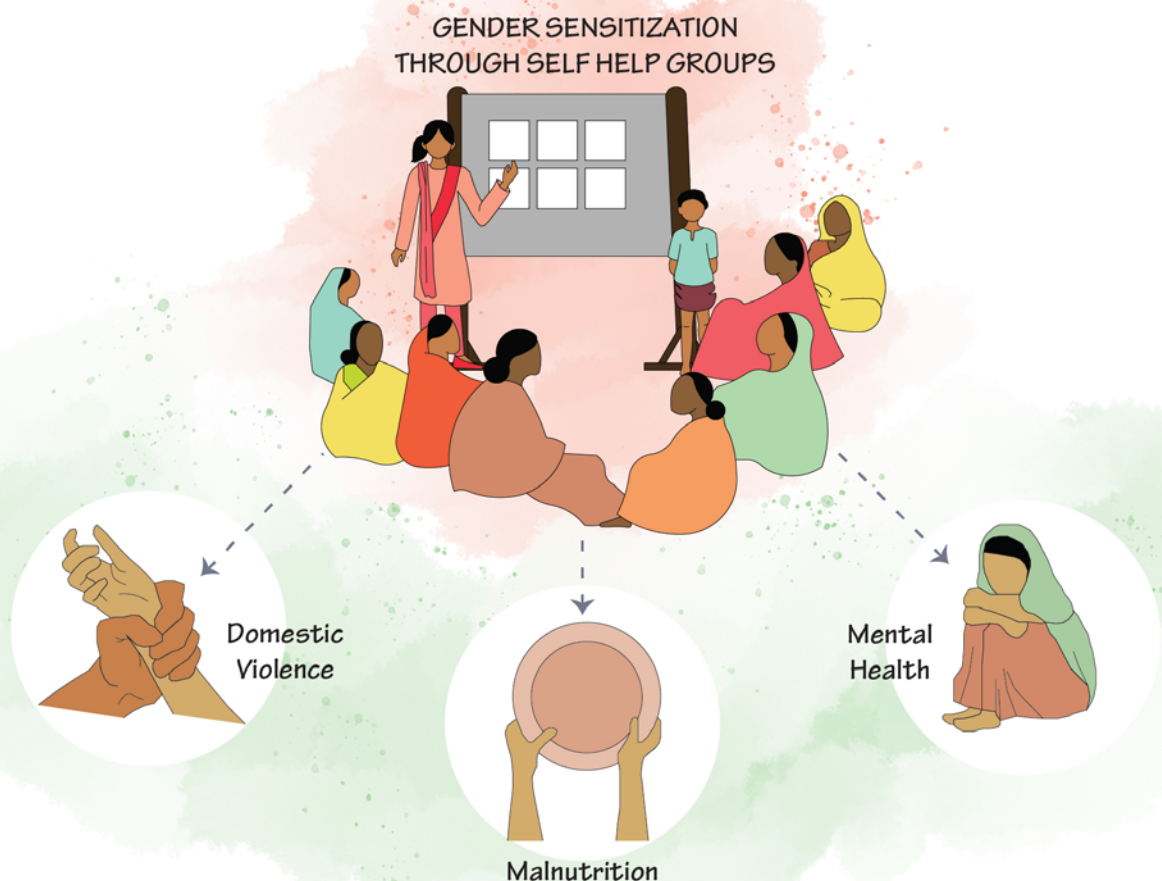
In the Lutgaon village under the Amarpur team, a 30x40 plantation model was initiated to serve as an example that could be scaled throughout the block. In the model, 8 acres of land is planted with fruit or timber plantation in modules of 30x40. The entire planning and execution process is being carried out by the women collectives of Lutgaon - from patch selection and setting the layout, to monitoring the quality of the structures, as well the payment made to the labourers. The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive model of community planning, implementation, monitoring, reviewing and quality control in the village through these women-led collectives.



Escalating Gender Violence, compromised nutrition – Gender sensitization and Activating 'Nari Adalats'

The lockdown and attendant loss of livelihood created a fertile ground for domestic violence and well as increased starvation. This coupled with a reduced interaction of women within their respective groups has compromised the otherwise available psychological support. This lack of interaction further triggered violence. In many cases, women were locked

up with their abusers for prolonged period. Although this still remains a challenge, there have been few positive experiences from Nari Adalat interventions, as many women were trained on their rights and entitlements. PRADAN's work on gender sensitization over the years have also helped women to fight for their rights.



Critical Times call for Joint Measures

The Pandemic has had adverse impacts on the health sector, with the pregnant and lactating women suffering the most. The impact of the lockdown on the regular immunization of women was immense. The Poraiyahat Team has been working towards bridging this gap. The team conducted a meeting with the Sahiya Sathis at the block level to develop a shared understanding of the importance of complete immunization. The team also discussed the steps and joint efforts necessary to achieve this, while ensuring that adequate precautions necessitated by COVID-19 are taken. This was discussed in the presence of the block level officers



In addition to the above, in many states, PRADAN was engaged intensively to facilitate access of communities, especially the identified ultra-poor to welfare and social security schemes. With returning migrants, Pradan professionals revisited many of the older 'successful interventions' to assess their applicability in context of the Pandemic and associate challenges. These were popularised amongst communities for them to adopt these. For instance, the nutrition / kitchen gardens pioneered or experimented with in the state of Odisha are now advocated

across majority states. Communities are encouraged to set up these gardens in their backyards not just from a nutrition and food security perspective, but also to generate employment, retain returning migrants and revive local economies.

In addition, care was taken to avoid disrupting the regular immunisation of the vulnerable sections especially women and children while also ensuring that there was no disruption of medicines for the elderly, sick and the differently abled.

Livestock a mark of a stronger community

Livestock is a critical disposable asset, usually resorted to in acute cash flow crises. The Pandemic manifested in this crises across households and geographies. Poultry is a source of animal protein that the household can avail at any time. In Banspal and Patana blocks of Kendujhar district in Odisha, PRADAN has worked with communities in livestock rearing. For many households, goats and indigenous poultry contributes approximately 20-25% of household's income per annum. While the team had set a target of reaching 12000 families under livestock intervention this year, the Pandemic

triggered acute poverty affected the overall progress of work in April-May period. However, the CRLR project supported by APPI has allowed for vaccination and deworming of goats and other poultry by Master Trainers(MTs) and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who went about door-to-door administering the required medicines. These cadres were trained by the livestock thematic group in the DC using internet based platforms. Experienced practitioners and thematic experts were roped in and support from Animal Resource Department was sought.

Bihar



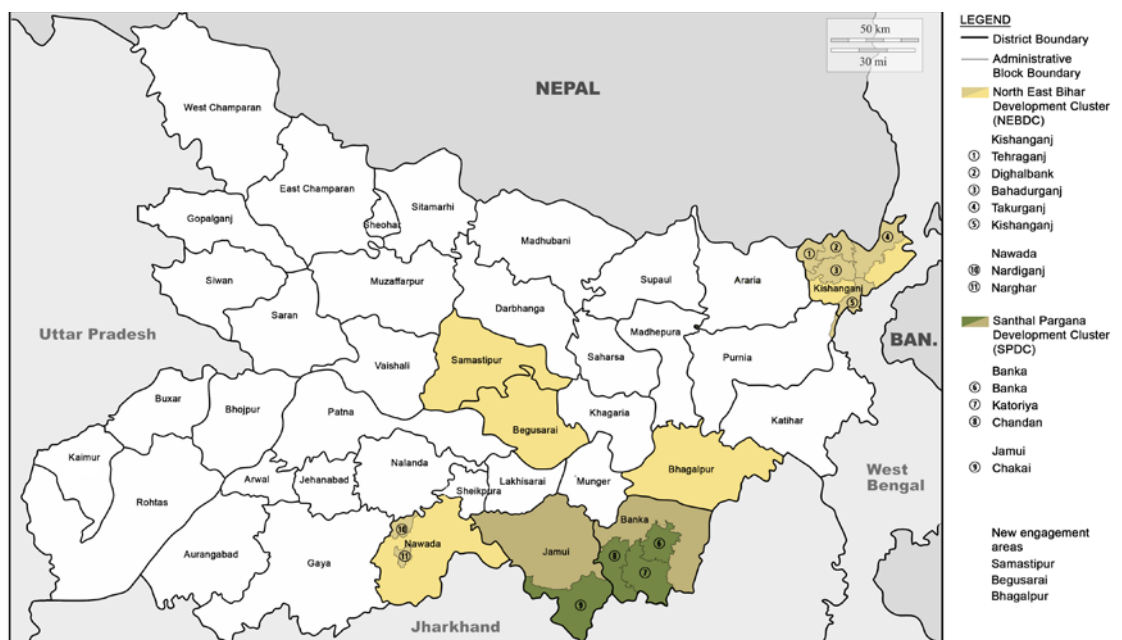
Geography and Description

PRADAN has been working in Bihar in two clusters namely, Santhal Pargana Development Cluster and North East Bihar Development Cluster. Santhal Pargana Development Cluster is spread across two states; Bihar and Jharkhand. In Bihar, it covers two districts namely Banka and Jamui. Blocks covered under Banka district are Chandan, Banka and Katoriya. Chakai block is covered under Jamui district.

North East Bihar Development Cluster is spread across the central and north Bihar covering Nawada, Samastipur, Begusarai and Bhagalpur and Kishanganj. Kishanganj district lies close to international borders with Nepal and Bangladesh, which makes it an

important strategic zone. The northern part of Bihar is a flood-prone area as it receives high rainfall during monsoon season and has a wide network of rivers and tributaries. A large part of the area constitutes the flood plains of the Kosi river. Flash floods and submergence are common in the region. Soil quality is adversely impacted due to soil erosion during floods. Consequently, livelihoods through agriculture practices are limited. Thus, floods are the biggest threat for food security and livelihood. The region is characterised by low forest cover and high population density. Small and scattered landholdings have led to subsistence farming. The caste, class and landholdings are key visible dimensions of inequality in rural Bihar. A study conducted by Praxis-Institute for Participatory Practices found that the average landholding size of 0.75 hectares in Bihar is far below the national average of 1.41 hectares. Hence, farming is not seen as a viable option. By extension a large section of society migrates for better livelihood opportunities.

MGNREGS does generate work in the rural pockets but there is much variation across the blocks. A study conducted by Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE)¹ reflects that the number of person-days created were significantly lower than the norm



¹Women's Workforce Participation In India: State wise Trends <https://Iwwage.Org/Wp-Content/Uploads/2020/03/Bihar-Factsheet-3.Pdf>

of 100 days per household and women participation in MGNREGS work are lowest in the country. The counter urban informal economy provides a much higher wage rate than MGNREGS.

Prone to natural disasters, small landholding, ingrained caste disparities, poor education and health facilities and patriarchal social norms push male members to migrate to cities creating a large remittance based economy.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

PRADAN has been working in Bihar since January 2013. The initial intervention focused on improving agricultural productivity, especially of small and marginal farmers.

During the course of this engagement, PRADAN collaborated with Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS) – JEEViKA for strategic support across multiple frontiers. The focus has been to strengthen self-sustained community institutions (Village Organisations and Cluster Level Federations) across six blocks of four selected districts of Bihar. PRADAN is going to extend its support towards strengthening systems and processes for farm-based livelihoods interventions across 38 districts. PRADAN has been orienting all the key staff, building capacity of master trainers and has been preparing training materials and modules for JEEViKA. In 2017, PRADAN supported BRLPS in developing capacity of key functionaries of National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and the Block Project Implementation Units towards effective implementation of MGNREGS through CFT program in 25 blocks of 10 districts.

Given the large scale out-migration that the region faces, the focus of the interventions has been on skill-development and education, especially that of the younger population. Towards this end, NEBDC team launched the UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) Programme to bring in transformative change through learning, entrepreneurship and employment pathways for empowering the most disadvantaged women and girls. The programme has three objectives: re-entry into formal education; vocational education that provides a pathway to employment; and,

entrepreneurship training and skills to start their own business. The programme has been launched in three blocks of Kishanganj district namely Thakurganj, Bahadurganj and Dighalbank. Across three blocks, 408 women have been enrolled in the programme.

BRLPS has played an active role as a partner towards creating awareness regarding the programme and mobilizing women to enrol under the programme.

During the Pandemic

The NEBDC team reached out to the neighbouring team of Jharkhand on how they are responding to the crisis and the kind of support extended by the block and district administration. This helped the team to engage with the community cadres to gather first-hand information to assess the situation. Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS) – JEEViKA supported PRADAN extensively in coordinating with various agencies of administration at block and district level to provide relief measures in the communities. The ground level teams of BRLPS, community mobilizers and community resource persons were also part of the community cadres along with SHG members, Sarthis (education mentors) and Village Resource Persons (VRP's). Community cadres were actively involved in identifying the needs of the local communities. Initial support for addressing the Pandemic triggered challenges came from Corteva Agriscience, under which around 450 vulnerable families were provided essential food kits across 13 Gram Panchayats in four blocks namely Chandan, Banka, Katoria and Chakai. Soon after PRADAN received funds from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Pvt Ltd. (APPI) which assisted in addressing the multifaceted challenges of the Pandemic.

Awareness through Chirag Mobile Vani

In Bihar, the awareness programme was extensively done through Chirag Mobile Vani, an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) communication platform. Subsequently, the same IVRS platform was used to conduct in-depth phone interviews and analysis of secondary data to look at how lives and livelihoods are affected by the pandemic, maintaining an emphasis

on sustainable food systems. Specifically, the focus was to understand the four core aspects of the crisis: 1) preventative protocols, 2) basic needs (e.g. food, shelter, healthcare), 3) livelihoods (e.g. agriculture, forestry, markets), 4) migrants and labour.

Remote learning and developing local entrepreneur



In Bihar the focus has been on skill building through re-schooling and vocational training with a focus on young women to make them employment ready. Most of the women who were trained under the programme were working in blue-collar jobs. With the Pandemic many of these women returned home. Gender, poverty and education are inextricably linked. Low-income families prioritize other expenses over the education of a girl child. The lockdown and the associated cash crunch pushed young women to drop

KoBo Tool -
Indent Form

out of school. The team sought support from UN Women and leveraged a sum of Rs. 600,000 to support women who were enrolled under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) allowing them to continue their schooling.

The team has been exploring a few new online courses, which can provide scope for remote learning. PRADAN has engaged Nudge Foundation to provide an online digital literacy programme.

Agriculture planning through online platform (KoBo Toolbox)

The near negligible returns from the Rabi crop directly impacted the planning of Kharif crop especially among the small and marginal farmers. Katoria team has done comprehensive agricultural planning with twenty thousand families. This was only possible through the KOBO based online form. The challenge was to train around 45 community cadres. However, the pressing challenge was that most agriculture village resource members were non English speakers and first-time users of the internet and online tool. PRADAN conducted online trainings through ZOOM platform in two batches. Installing Zoom platform itself was a daunting task. The effort helped towards generating a comprehensive plan by the community cadres.

Recovery support to restart livelihoods

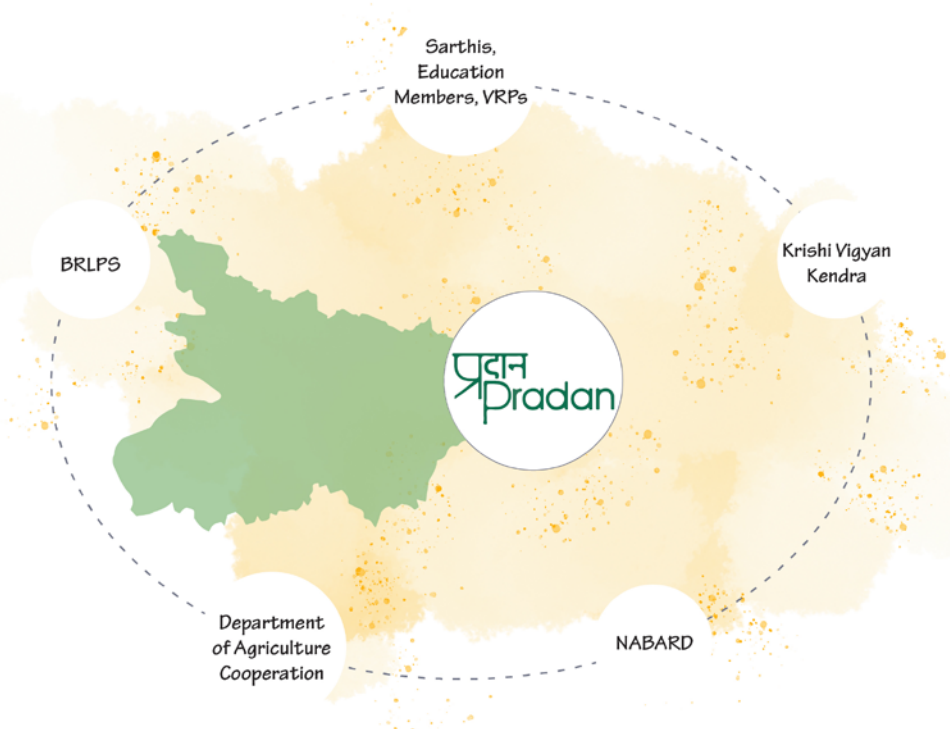
PRADAN has been engaged with the agriculture department of Newada to provide inputs to small and marginalized farmers for Kharif cropping season. Approximately 1600 farmers were provided seeds for paddy and millet. Around 800 farmers were supported with additional fertilizers and pesticides. In Jamui, the forest department has sanctioned 6000 plants worth Rs 60000/- for plantation in the villages of Chakai. These collaborations with agriculture and forest departments will aid towards developing a structured engagement in future.

Bihar Rojgar Kalyan Yojana is engaging semi-skilled and skilled migrants who have returned and are looking for avenues to join the local economy. The government has taken an initiative to train them under various skills. Krishi Vigyan Kendra is running a residential

training programme in agriculture and allied enterprises. The focus is to promote livestock management and horticulture through promoting these skills and transform farmers into agriculture entrepreneurs. The NEBDC team has collaborated with the community cadres to identify and mobilise community members to enrol under the programme. This will aid in developing knowledge and expertise in the field of agriculture.

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS) -JEEViKA provided tremendous support to PRADAN both at the ground level and helped in coordinating with block and district level administrations. The emerging collaboration with various departments like Krishi Vigyan Kendra, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of Agriculture Cooperation especially in Banka, Jamui and Nawada



districts has been prolific. This has been a very crucial development to further engage with the agriculture department and improve agriculture practices in these areas.

Conclusion

In Bihar, given the difference in socio-economic-cultural factors the interventions are distinctive across the two development clusters. In Kishanganj district of NEBDC, the focus has been towards enhancing youth employability through skill-building programmes. In Banka and Jamui districts of SPDC and Nawada district of NEBDC the focus has been to strengthen livelihoods of small and marginal farmers and promote women Agri-Entrepreneur.

PRADAN has been nurturing the women's collectives. Women members of these collectives are able to explore avenues to diversify their livelihoods. Persistent interactions and trainings through village resource persons have stemmed the need to bring in change. These women farmers have transitioned to Agri-Entrepreneur and have been providing a range of services to other farmers like training and handholding support to women farmers, seed and medicine linkage, poly-house, nursery and vegetable saplings. The recent collaboration



with the agriculture department in the respective areas has paved the way towards further engagement. The NEBDC team will strengthen these ties through a larger community engagement programme to promote agriculture in the region.

BIHAR

4

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



Awareness generation done in

1,021 hamlets



97

community surveillance cadres



7,650

cadres & families received PPE kits



3,943

vulnerable families received food kits



Rajasthan



Geography and Description

PRADAN's presence in the state of Rajasthan is through a single cluster - South Rajasthan Development Cluster (SRDC)-comprising of five districts of Pratapgarh, Baswara, Udaipur, Dungarpur and Sirohi. Of the five, PRADAN is directly engaged in two blocks of Sirohi district namely Abu Road and Pindwara. Sirohi has been identified as one of the country's 250 most backward districts and is one of the twelve districts in Rajasthan currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). Sirohi is also one of the 5 aspirational districts of Rajasthan. The region is predominantly inhabited by Grassia and Bhil tribes. These tribes reside in hilly areas, which are still not well connected through roadways. The underlying challenges

such as landlessness, low rainfall and extreme remoteness coupled with low agriculture production and high livestock mortality has manifested, over decades, into food insecurity, loss of livelihoods and distress migration.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

PRADAN has been working in this cluster for a decade. The primary focus is to improve livelihoods through the promotion of natural resource management. As elsewhere, PRADAN has strengthened SHGs as its partners. A second engagement is to empower women and gender mainstreaming through defined interventions on women rights and entitlements as well as health and nutrition.

Poverty Mitigation

Poverty mitigation is attempted through strengthening capacity of SHG members, improved livelihoods, sustainable enterprises, natural resource management and increased access to credit and markets



for target groups. PRADAN was one of the facilitating CSO in implementing the state-wide project Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project (MPOWER 2008-2017). The project was funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Rajasthan (GoR), as well as contribution from Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT). The objectives of the project were to (i) secure and enhance the present livelihoods; (ii) promote income and employment enhancing opportunities by building capacities, providing financial services and establishing partnerships with private sector for securing better market access; and (iii) promote inclusion by empowering and organizing the target households into SHGs, marketing Groups/producer companies, and village development committees. The project was implemented in the entire block of Abu Road and extended to Pindwara block in 2016 where it was implemented till 2018. In Abu Road and Pindwara blocks around 2100 and 2400 households respectively were supported under Goat-Based Livelihood Groups (GBLG). Poultry as an income augmenting activity was undertaken only in Abu Road Block across 20 clusters, covering 393 households.

The cluster has focused on promoting off-farm and on-farm activities to combat low-rainfall and landlessness. The focus is to integrate the agriculture and livestock-based livelihood interventions into an integrated

livelihoods approach (ILP) targeting the unit of the family. SHG based planning process is a basic approach that teams adopted through ILP. Agriculture and livestock entrepreneurs are being identified and trained. As the region is rain-fed the team is focusing on converging the ILP with MGNREGS to improve groundwater recharge and efficient use of irrigation systems.

PRADAN has been working with the SHG members to enhance the capacity of women farmers through training on agricultural practices and organic farming. These training also focus on other farming practices related to water management, seed selection, nursery management and stacking crop rotation techniques. Finally, women from SHG groups are encouraged to participate in Gram Panchayat planning.

Combating Anemia: Health and Nutrition

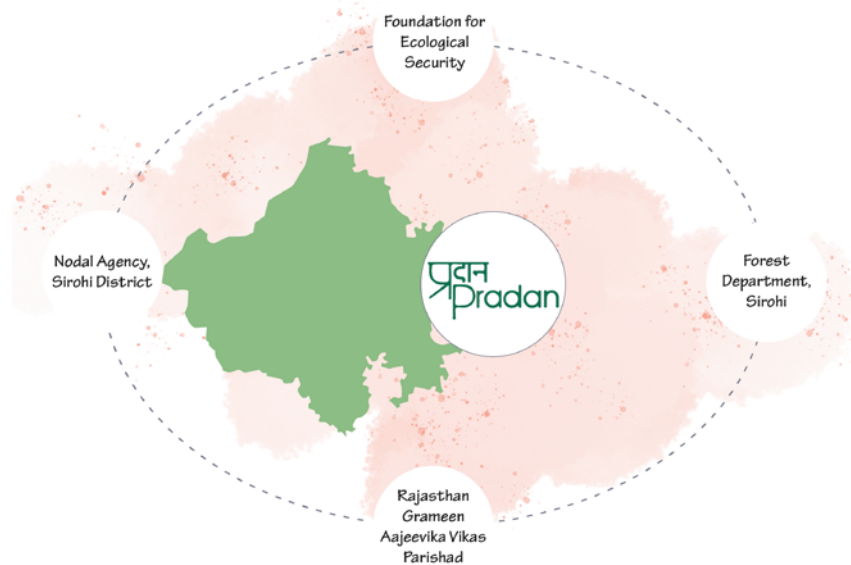
South Rajasthan has a high prevalence of anaemia. There have been several cases of fatal deliveries due to really low Hb levels (4-6mg/l) of the mother. *Poshanwadi* initiative has been adopted by the members of the collectives. These members have enthusiastically engaged themselves in cultivating vegetables near their houses to ensure nutrition security.



SHG members from Kyariya Panchayat participated in Gram Sabha to Submit Village Development plan (VDP)



Poshanwadis in Pindwara block



During the Pandemic

The first case of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rajasthan was reported on 2 March 2020 in Jaipur. This was a few weeks before the country acknowledged the Pandemic and announced the lockdown. While the information on the Pandemic was disseminated through televisions, newspapers and digital news, there were no definite plans stated to be followed. Communities collectively took a strong decision to follow the precautionary measures. However, the magnitude of challenges increased when the migrant workers started to return. Sirohi district witnessed both the transit migrants and migrants who were returning home.

An initial response – by way of distributing masks and safety materials as well as PPE kits – was organized through the teams' own resources. Gradually, with funds made available by The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) the team supported 618 ultra-poor families in the Abu-Road block. Soon after PRADAN received funds from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Pvt Ltd. (APPI) which assisted in addressing the multifaceted challenges of the Pandemic. A surge in demand for masks coupled with an insufficient supply manifested in high prices. PRADAN collaborated with the SHG groups to procure cloth for stitching mask. Across various SHG groups, 65000 masks were stitched and distributed across different MGNREGS sites. These masks were prepared by the SHG members and women involved in the process were paid their remuneration @ Rs 4 per mask as stitching charge. In this process, around 35 women were involved and earned around Rs 260000 from this enterprise. Eventually, the

engagement emerged as a livelihood support for the women SHG members. However, 'during the initial period, SHG groups provided 500 masks for free to the frontline workers, PRADAN professionals police and block administration. The crisis has fostered a sense of common ownership to fight COVID-19. The longstanding engagement with the self-help groups to empower women has the collective consciousness among the federation members' (Interview, PRADANite, 24th July20)

The team mobilized its SHG members in creating extensive awareness programmes in the villages, especially at the MGNREGS worksites where the risk of exposure and transmission was high. At the outset, across all the worksites there were facilities for washing and sanitizing hands. Access to safe drinking water was ensured. Maintaining physical distance while working and wearing masks at the worksites emerged a priority. PRADAN ensured that this behavioural change was implemented to prevent the spread of the Pandemic. The teams supported *Apna Khet Apna Kaam* campaign of MGNREGS to engage farmers for vegetable cultivation. In addition, the teams initiated digital training (using videos and audio tapes) using *Ajeevika Rath* to disseminate information around agricultural practices in the communities.

PRADAN in collaboration with Foundation for Ecological Security(FES) has been working in 23 panchayats across two blocks towards an assessment of pre- and post-monsoon water levels. in identified 167 wells (130 in Abu road and 37 in Pindwara). This will aid in designing effective water management systems to promote natural resources and agriculture.

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

PRADAN's engagement during the Pandemic earned it recognition from the district administration while also opening up new avenues for collaboration with the state in areas of livelihood, nutrition, irrigation and livestock. 'In the last few months during COVID-19 relief measures, our collaborative efforts both from PRADAN and block and district administrations have been a great journey. PRADAN being recognized as NGO that understands the needs of local communities. This has paved the way to further engage with the state government on sustainable livelihoods project to create the much-needed shift.' (Interview, PRADANite,

24th July, 2020). PRADAN was selected as a nodal agency for Sirohi District which allowed it to effectively co-ordinate with PRI members (Ward members and Sarpanch), frontline workers (ANM, AWW and ASHA) and block administration in identify the local needs and addressing challenges.

In the process of building linkage with the stakeholders, the teams in the district further made efforts to partner with the district forest office in Sirohi. This was the first time PRADAN's team has approached the department and it was well received at their end.

Conclusions

The SRDC has been working on community mobilization through strengthening self-help groups and promoting water resource management to agriculture. Active engagement of SHGs clearly reflected a strong collective consciousness in supporting communities during the Pandemic.

The initial fear of the unknown aspects of the Pandemic gradually faded as the team witnessed a strong sense of agency capable of working collectively with communities and administration not just to combat the Pandemic, but also in a post Pandemic situation. Earlier PRADAN had a much lower visibility with the district administration. However, during the Pandemic, the collaborative engagement between PRADAN and block-district administrations led to a transformative change. 'The well-coordinated efforts that the team experienced during the Pandemic have suffused hope to design and develop projects on sustainable livelihoods to revive the rural economy' (Interview, PRADANite, 24th July, 2020). PRADAN being the nodal agency in Sirohi district and its decade long efforts to strengthen and empower communities was acknowledged. This has transformed into a strong relationship with the various block and district officers. In future, the focus is to strengthen and nurture these relationships into collaborative arrangements with the state and district administration to implement sustainable projects towards revitalizing the rural economy and creating livelihoods. Efforts are already on implement a collaborative project on sustainable livelihood pivoted on water management, nutrition and livestock.



RAJASTHAN

4

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



Awareness generation done in

392 hamlets



43

community surveillance cadres



29,312

cadres & families received PPE kits



1,058

vulnerable families received food kits



West Bengal



Geography and Description

PRADAN's presence in the state of West Bengal is through one cluster-Jangal Mahal Development Cluster. The cluster is spread over four districts: Jhargram covering Binpur I and Binpur II blocks. In Paschim Medinipur district the teams are working in Gopiballavpur-1 and Nayagram blocks. In Purulia, blocks covered are Jhaldia-1, Jhaldia-2, Barabazar, Baghmundi and Kashipur and in Bankura district it

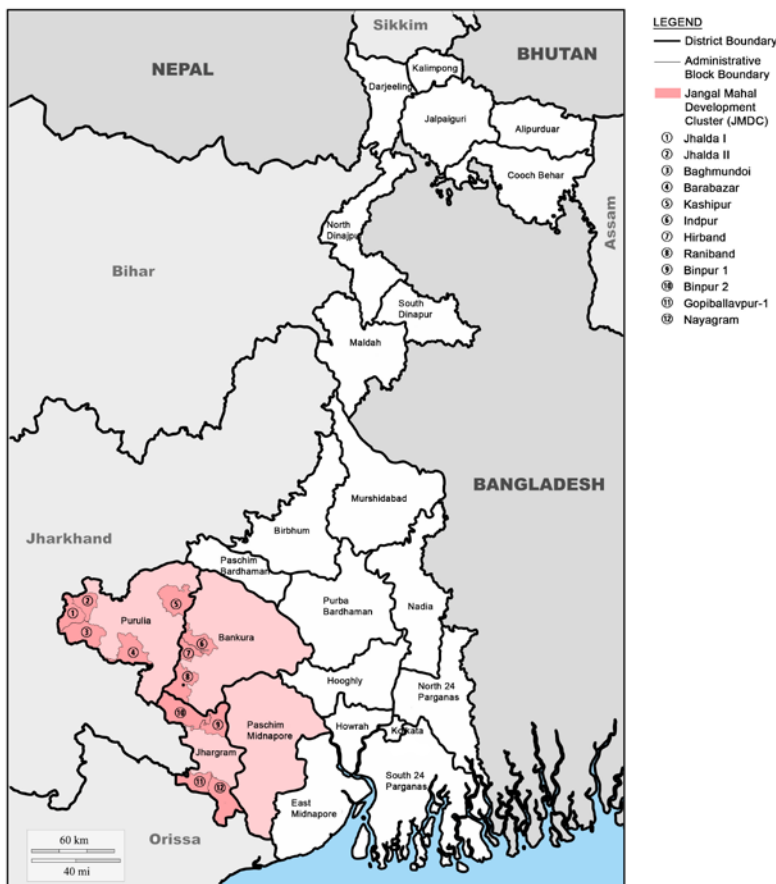
is Ranibandh block. Santhal, Gond and Oraon are the dominant tribes of this region. Nearly 47 percent of the families live below the poverty line. One-fifth of the total area is under forest. The region is deficient in water resources due to the plateau structures and absence of perennial rivers. It has undulating terrains with forest-covered uplands and terraced farmlands hence these lands are marginally cultivated. Small and marginal farmers grow paddy to meet their daily needs. The region also has erratic monsoons which affects agriculture adversely. As a result, outmigration is high from the region

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

The Jangal Mahal Development Cluster has been active since the last three decades. The focus has been on the promotion of natural resource management-based livelihood practices and SHG based community mobilization. Later PRADAN intervened in issues related to women empowerment through work on gender justice, functional literacy, and rights and entitlements. PRADAN works in this area in partnership with other agencies including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Gram Panchayats and government departments.

Transforming water scarce areas to water secure areas

The team is working on water security through the *Usharmukti* (freedom from barrenness) scheme that was launched in 2017, in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF). The main objective is to bring in positive change in the water scarce areas of Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur and Paschim Bardhaman. Primary interventions include rejuvenating dying rivers and rivulets through water conversation and harvesting mechanisms. This increase in water retention capacity of the soil helps rejuvenate barren



lands to be eventually brought under cultivation. In this programme, PRADAN is one of the CSOs engaged in three districts Bankura, Pashchim Medinipur and Purulia. Orchard and timber wood plantation is done on fallow barren uplands. The teams have collaborated with the block administration, MGNREGS functionaries, SHG members, Gram Panchayats to implement the 30x40 model at a large scale. These water harvesting structures are created in mid and low lands to promote ground level water recharge. PRADAN's main role is in site selection and providing technical guidance. Through the scheme, capacity enhancement is done for farmers on natural resource management.

PRADAN engaged with West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) towards converting the existing water harvesting structures or ponds into fish ponds to ensure steady income to families while increasing their nutrition intake. In addition, fallow land is brought under horticulture through mango plantations. Farming of vegetables such as cucumber and brinjal in newly created mango orchards is seen as a viable solution.

During the Pandemic

PRADAN's teams were grappling with circumstances of uncertainty unleashed by the Pandemic. The Baghmundi team has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts at the control room at the block level, providing real time information of the ground. The CDCs (Community Data Collector) and CSPs (Community Service provider) were key resources through which data was generated. The approach towards designing the relief measures were data-driven, which helped the administration to provide support to different sections of the community. In addition, there are four areas where engagement during the Pandemic has yielded results. These are : one Direct Cash Transfer and Pension Schemes for ST/SC. The team leveraged the *Jai Johar Bandhu Prakalpa* scheme to cover pensions for people belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes over 60 years of age.¹ A monthly pension of Rs 1000 is provided. Along with Gram Panchayats, the team ensured that all the eligible people are registered under the scheme and are regularly availing the scheme.



Farmers engaged in growing chilli saplings

Two, crop diversification and a shift towards commercial agriculture. In Jhargram district, marginal farmers in Binpur I and Binpur II blocks are cultivating chilli as a cash crop. With a minimum growing area of 0.42 hectares, there is a possible guarantee to earn INR 100,000 annually. Three, the teams across the JMDC has been engaged with the MGNREGS to ensure employment security to the extent possible. 'While relief materials will only meet the basic and immediate needs there is a need to create income-based opportunities to deal with the crisis' (Interview, Gram Panchayat member, West Bengal). Premised on the understanding that a relatively large family of five to six members cannot rely on one earning member, working for 100 days in a year, the team in collaboration with respective Gram Panchayats has enrolled two members from one family under MGNREGS. This provided relief to the families as it substantiated their income. Horticulture / plantation related works were opened up in various locations. Khatra team in Ranibandh block has plantations over more than 514 ha; Bangla team has initiated work in over 870 Ha. In addition, in Bhagmundi block, 141 Ha of land has been identified for fruit orchards to ensure all the targeted families are covered under the MGNREGS.

Four, Bhagmundi team supported pregnant and lactating women who were adversely affected by the lockdown. Many women were surviving on just rice. Striving to ensure a healthy well-balanced diet, the team, prepared nutrient mixture of Sattu (Gram flour and other cereals mixture- 1400 gms), Gur

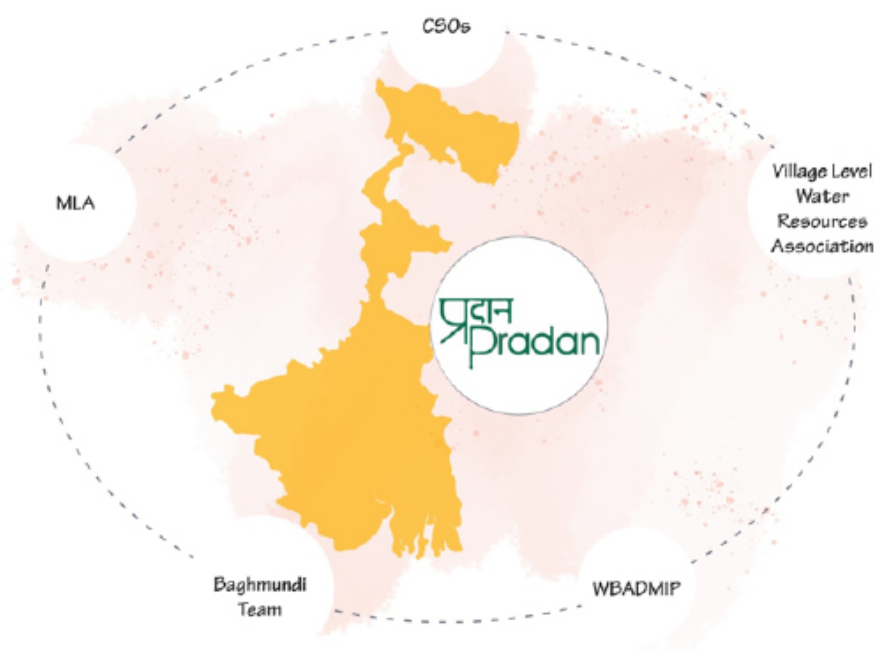
(Jaggery- 900 gms) and Almond (100 gms) which was distributed amongst 1800 women who were advised to take 100 gm mixture daily with water or milk (if available). Other

medical services such as medical facilities and transport support during delivery were also extended by the team.



Supporting pregnant and lactating women through nutrient mixture

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations



Jangal Mahal Development Cluster has taken an initiative to form a network of CSOs working in the region to enable cross learning as well as create a common platform for leveraging resources jointly to initiate development action in identified areas. PRADAN supported a few CSOs to leverage funds and initiate relief programmes in their respective working areas. A collaborative platform has been established with multiple stakeholders such as state and district administration, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), block administration, Gram Panchayat Samiti members, Gram Panchayat members, self-help groups and civil society organizations to work towards a common objective of empowering communities and strengthening communities.

Conclusion

The JMDC has been working on the *Usharmukti* project for the last two years. The project has been implemented through collaborative efforts of block and district administration, MGNREGS functionaries and Gram Panchayat functionaries. This provided a very strong foundation to collaboratively combat the Pandemic. JMDC started sensitizing the PRIs, block and Gram panchayat level functionaries to open livelihood from MGNREGS under

'Usharmukti' programme. Gradually the teams have extended the works in additional blocks across all the four districts. The current work plan has provided jobs to all the job-card holders with a month of work through MGNREGS. The initiative towards converting the existing water harvesting structures or ponds into fishery was fruitful in meeting local needs, paving the way towards subsistence farming as a means to sustainability.

WEST BENGAL



Awareness generation done in

1,578 hamlets



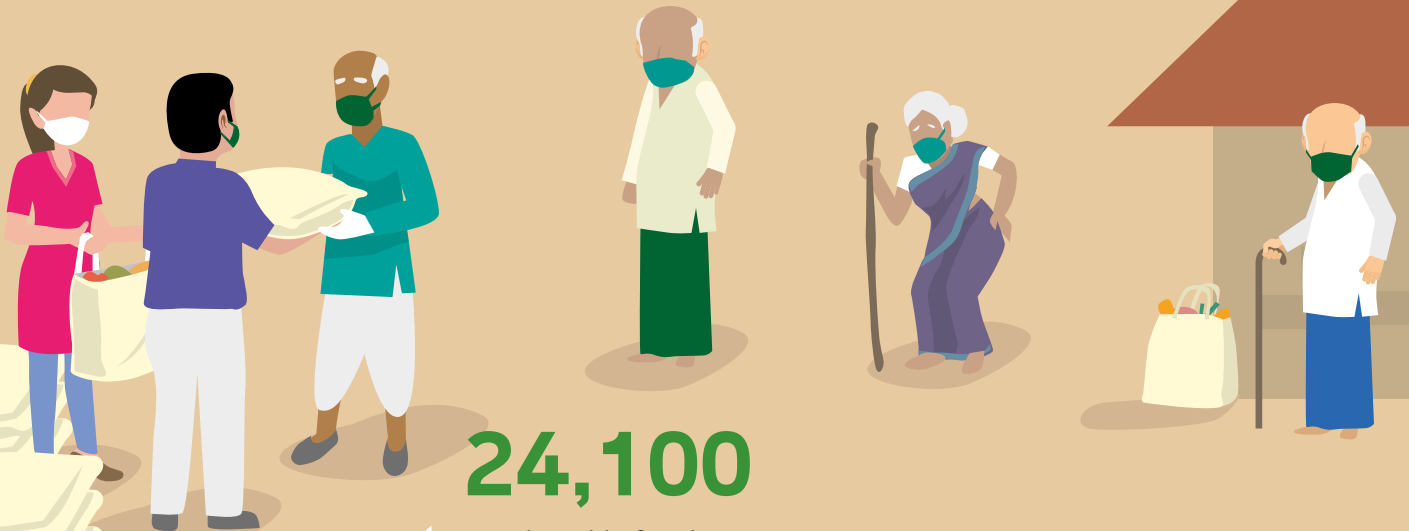
576

community surveillance cadres



22,580

cadres & families received PPE kits



24,100

vulnerable families
received food kits

Chhattisgarh



Geography and Description

PRADAN's engagement in the state of Chhattisgarh is through one development cluster namely the North and South Chhattisgarh Development Cluster (NSCDC).

North and South Chhattisgarh Development Cluster covers 13 districts of Chhattisgarh, of which PRADAN is directly engaged in the four districts of Raigarh, Bastar, Dhamtari and Kanker. Darbah and Tokapal blocks covered in Bastar district. Nagri, Narharpur and Magarlod blocks covered in Dhamtari district. Lelunga, Tammnar and Rajgarh blocks covered under Raigarh. Bhanupratappur block covered in Kanker district.

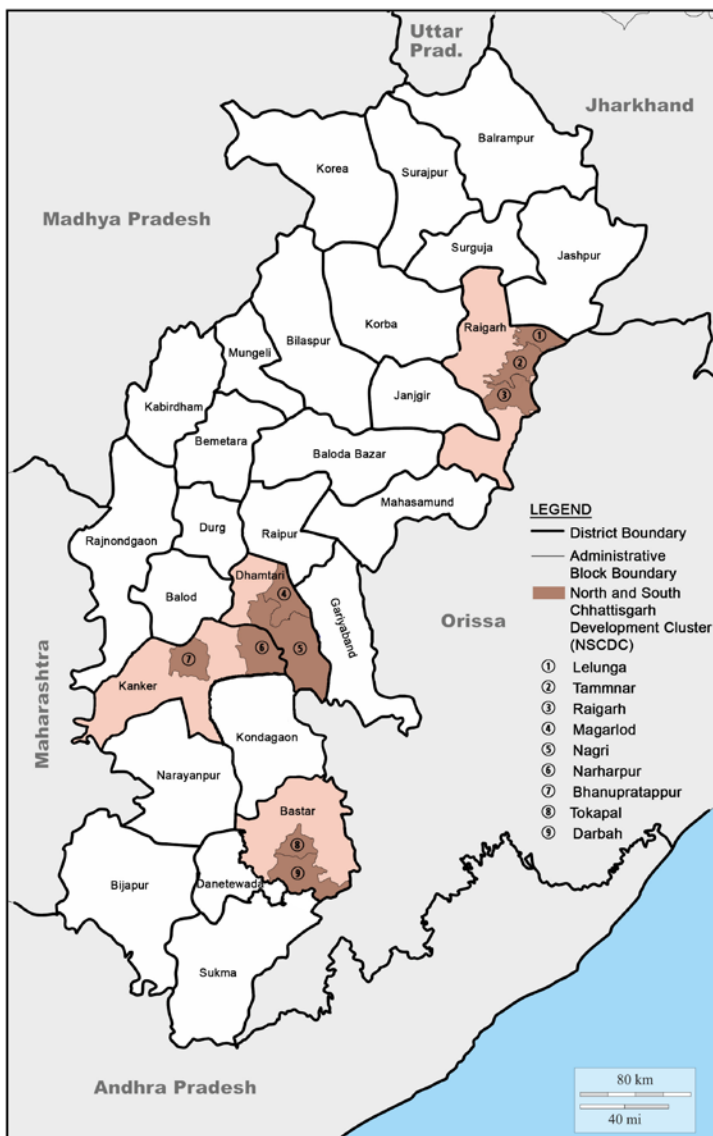
The engagement started with Bilaspur district (then part of MP), in the year 1991 and later extended to Raigarh district in 1999. NSCDC has around 82% of rural population with 60% of the population being tribal. In several districts and blocks, the team has partnered with other CSOs and various state departments, over the years.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

Over the years, NSCDC has promoted and strengthened women's institutions, livelihoods, access to assets and services, and facilitated women's participation in local governance. Primary intervention areas include:

Strengthening local governance through women collectives

The NSCDC PRADAN team has developed capacities of women collectives, especially village organizations (VOs), to facilitate women's participation in Gram Sabhas. This includes strengthening delivery of, and access to social security programs such as PDS, participating and framing the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) and MGNREGS plans.



Solar powered micro lift irrigation in Kelour village

Agriculture is the primary livelihood in villages, although most farmers rely on rainfed agriculture. Thus, the income farmers earn is highly dependent on good rainfall. Villagers of Kelour sought a solution by installing a solar panel, solar pump inverter and a solar lift irrigation system with support from the government. SHG members of this village had setup piped water systems by collecting money from the community and federation. PRADAN provided extensive technical support and guidance. With piped water system, community members were able to use the water for vegetable cultivation, mango plantation as well as setting up small nurseries in their *Badis* (kitchen gardens) With this, each SHG member is earning up to Rs 30,000 annually. A committee was constituted by SHG members of the village with each member contributes Rs 40 per month for the maintenance of pipes and the motor. The committee has appointed a person for regular maintenance of pipe and motors and pays remuneration from the collected money



Notably, the NSCDC teams have established the community cadre of 'Bank Sakhis' to facilitate bank linkage, with door-to-door cash delivery of payments and entitlement cash to the citizens. Approximately 178 SHGs are linked to banks with credit amount of Rs 504 lakhs. In addition, women have been trained on their rights and entitlements under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Women collectives are mobilized to demand employment, discuss issues related to delayed payment, linking of Aadhar and bank account numbers with job card as well as participate in asset creation by mobilizing funds from MGNREGS. The focus is on ensuring that landless and marginalized farmers are provided employment under the scheme.

Gender sensitization and Inclusion

The team is extensively engaged on challenges around gender discrimination and violence, while training women collectives on their rights. In order to have a deeper

understanding on the issues potential gender trainers were identified and trained at the Cluster Federation Level. These trainers further conduct trainings at SHG level. VOs play a key role in planning, conducting, and reviewing gender related trainings at village level. In addition, the team participated in project *Lalima* launched by the district administration to tackle acute malnutrition amongst communities.

Strengthening livelihood (Agriculture, Livestock, Horticulture)

Livelihood interventions in the state focus on both farm and non-farm-based livelihood activities. PRADAN has worked with women collectives on goal setting at federation level around income realization, food and nutrition sufficiency. Agriculture entrepreneurs (AEs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have been groomed and trained on technical aspects of crop cultivation and marketing aspects of the produce. The latter includes identification of potential markets, sorting

and grading produce and potential options for entrepreneurship. The AEs were supported with kits that facilitate the planning process. Farm based activities include millet promotion, demonstration of livelihood prototypes of crops like tomato, chili, creeper crops and mango. Non-farm activities include promoting fishery in farm ponds constructed through MGNREGS. This was done in collaboration with the fishery department. In addition, promotion of livestock rearing is undertaken with the support of Pashu Sakhis. Finally establishing prototypes of Tasar sericulture is also promoted across the state.

Notably, the team is promoting and supporting the implementation of the *Narwa-Garuwa-Ghuruwa-au-Badi* (NGGB) scheme that was launched by Chhattisgarh

government in 2019. PRADAN is involved with the NGGB since its conception. This scheme primarily focuses on four components. The first is the development of *Narwa* the regeneration of small streams or rivulets as a source of water. Second is *Garuwa*, the conservation of cattle. This includes providing shelter (*Gothan*), food and water, supporting breeding programs and vaccinations for the cattle. The third component is development of *Ghuruwa* or bio-composting primarily aiming to improve soil fertility through organic manure produced from farm residue and organic waste. The final is the development of *Badi* or kitchen gardens catering to the nutritional aspect of the families. PRADAN's role includes providing technical guidance on the scheme.

High valued vegetable farming through modern farm-based technologies in Darbha block, Bastar.

In Alwa and Madarkonta villages of Darbha block, under the NGGB scheme, large scale vegetable farming in *Badis* has been implemented with small-farm holders. PRADAN has worked with around 2000 farmers on high value vegetable farming using modern technologies such as nursery, trellis, pit and raised bed cultivation and mulching. The programme was with support from DMFT Bastar, horticulture department, agriculture department, NRLM (BIHAN) funds and Teerath dhara Mahila Sangh Darbha



In addition, the teams have strengthened livelihoods through the Agriculture Production Clusters (APC) concept.¹ The Bhanupratappur team is promoting millet production, working with 1200 families on an average intervention area of approximately 15 decimals. With another 800 families, the team is engaged on

livestock rearing. The Lailunga team has mobilized around 800 farmers collective into Micro Production Arrangement (MPAs) where each MPA comprises of 150 to 200 farmers from three to four villages.² Narharpur team has designed interventions like fishery (15 villages), where farmers have procured fish fingerlings to be cultivated

in their individually owned farm ponds as well as community ponds. Farmers are also encouraged to adopt backyard poultry and market led vegetable cultivation along with cereal crops, all towards increasing income, health, hygiene status, and nutrition of women and children in the area.

Other areas of engagement include technical support on INRM with a focus on watershed management. PRADAN has been identified as lead CSO for the project High Impact Mega Watershed Project in Chhattisgarh to be implemented over a period of four years. This is a joint intervention of government of Chhattisgarh, Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation and Axis Bank Foundation, initiated in October 2018. PRADAN's primary responsibility in the project is capacity building of the front-line functionaries, PRI members, community members and other CSOs.

During Pandemic

Prior to the announcement of the national lockdown, the state and district administration in Chhattisgarh had imposed restrictions, curtailing the opening and closing time of shops and offices as well as general mobility. This gave the team a head-start in thinking through and preparing for the lockdown. By the time the national lockdown was announced, the team was already working remotely on awareness through its community cadres such as the *Ajeevika Krishi Mitra* and *Pashu Sakhi* as well as master trainers from SHG groups. The teams collaborated with over 500 Gram panchayats and SHG groups across the DC to work on awareness campaigns. Simultaneously, the teams intervened in major flagship programs like MGNREGS and NGGB across the state to provide relief as well as help revive rural economy. This led to some innovative, out of box outreach during the pandemic as discussed in the rest of this section.



To overcome the challenge of accessing cash in the event of the closure of the banks and limited mobility options, the team ensured that Bank *Sakhis* moved door-to-door to provide support through Micro ATM facilities that were supported by PRADAN. This allowed people to withdraw money that they had received in their accounts from different schemes like Jan Dhan Yojna, pensions and MGNREGS payment.

April and May are usually key months for enrolling into many competitive exams. This was hampered as aspirants were stranded in villages with poor or no internet connectivity coupled with the difficulty of adapting to technology. The team was instrumental in aiding in enrolment into various exams.

While PRADAN supported migrants stranded outside the state with ration kits, health kits, sanitary napkins, the teams also provided food and shelter to several migrants and nomadic groups who were stranded within Chhattisgarh. These included families from Maharashtra who were stranded in Dhudhav Gram Panchayat of Narharpur block as well as families stranded in Masulpani, Jamgaon and Saroni Panchayats.

¹Production Cluster (APC) concept is to facilitate farmers, especially women farmers, to identify crops such as tomato, ginger and pea for large-scale cultivation. These include generating indent at SHG level for inputs like seeds, fertilizers and services, select agri-entrepreneurs for input and market linkages, arranging finance for seed procurement and nursery bed preparation

²MPA comprises of 150 to 200 farmers to discuss about the winner crops, timing, input and output marketing. The agri-culture entrepreneur is placed at MPA level. 10 to 15 MPAs in a contiguous area contributes to one APC

The teams ensured that ration and health kits that lasted 25 days were supplied to all the families. Each family received a bag of rice, 10 kg of lentils, 8 kg soybean, potato, oil, soap and other essentials

In collaboration with other CSOs and government functionaries, PRADAN successfully advocated for an increased rate on forest produce especially of Mahua, which was enhanced from Rs 15 to Rs 30 per Kg. PRADAN has leveraged active community

participation in the sale of forest produce. It created a direct linkage between SHG groups and the forest department where the former could sell their produce directly to the latter.

PRADAN has worked with government and engaged with various stakeholders such as JP, ZP to develop the plans on land and water management and convergence of various flagship programs and missions related to agriculture, horticulture and forest produce with NGGB and MGNREGS.

Convergence of MGNREGA, NRLM, NGGB and Activities related to Forest Produce and Horticulture.

PRADAN pushed for and became a part of a strong convergence between departments of agriculture, horticulture and the MGNREGS cell. Of the many migrants who returned home, some of them had land to cultivate but most were without any land or livelihood. PRADAN with the support of district administration started identifying and categorizing workers as unskilled workers who were connected to NRLM and MGNREGS, farmers with land were supported with agriculture interventions and inputs of seeds, manure and fertilizer for the Kharif season and landless labourers were connected to livestock rearing and other associated works.

In Dhamtari district, PRADAN has been supporting the administration since 2009 on MGNREGS and NRLM works. This region had a huge outward migration few years ago, however, migration has reduced to a great extent in last four or five years due to intensive planning on MGNREGS. Land pattern and size as well ownership of land (4 to 5 acres per family) are the factors contributing to efficient work on MGNREGS, NRLM as well as land development (Interview with Dharm Singh, APO, Dhamtari district).

Narharpur block too has a similar experience. It was noticed that post the lockdown the block witnessed the return of only 650 migrants pointing to a significant shift in outward migration. As against an

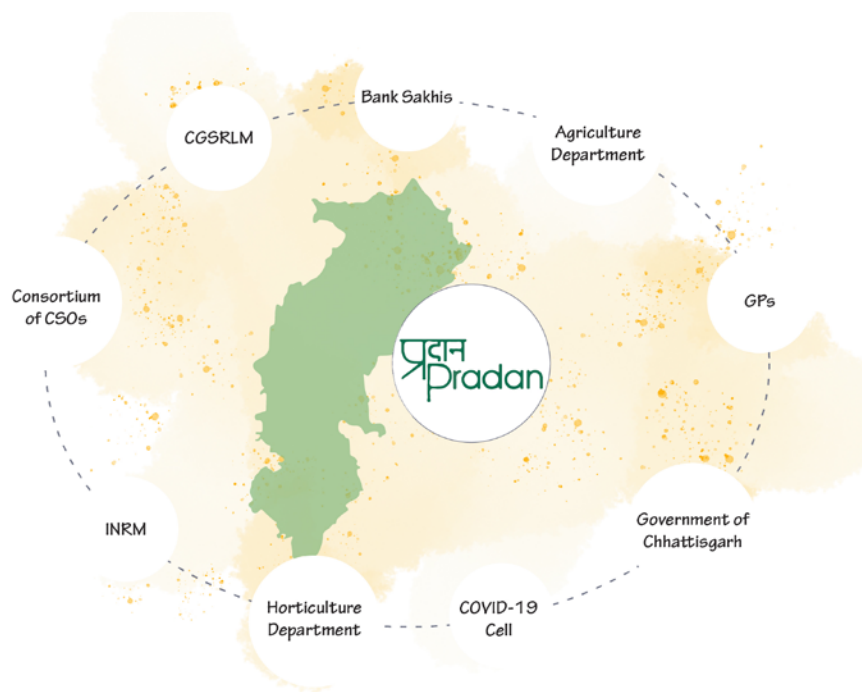
earlier 30% to 40% migration, the current outward migration is approximately 2%. During the Pandemic, PRADAN's continued technical support in the past helped leverage INR 4 crores worth of work in six villages through the convergence of MGNREGS, agriculture and horticulture departments. These included works pertaining to construction of trench cum banks, bore well, drip irrigation and mango plantation related activities

In order to provide employment to more people, apart from a speedy provision of job cards - in Narharpur block, Kanker, 700 new job cards have been issued within 15 days – innovative measures like the introduction of two shifts: between 7am to 11am and 1pm to 5pm helped immensely. In Tokapal block of Bastar, on an average, around 4000 per day labor work was generated in the block, the payment of which was facilitated through Bank Sakhis (Interview with Somnath, PO, Darbha block, Bastar District).

The convergence between these departments helped PRADAN to collaborate and procure seeds from the agriculture and horticulture departments for distribution for the Kharif season. PRADAN distributed around 50 quintal seeds to farmers through agriculture and horticulture departments.

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

PRADAN had been part of strategy level discussions of state level Covid-19 cell comprising of state administration and state planning commission. As part of this cell, the teams were involved in policy matters relating to facilities in quarantine centers, counseling and addressing mental stress, linkages with, and convergence of different schemes and associated stakeholders, grievance redressal, PRI -CBO collaboration and identification and supporting the ultra-poor. The constitution of a state level committee formulated under MGNREGS scheme saw PRADAN in the lead CSO role, with many professional working as resource persons across different levels. This collaboration has helped both in influencing policy decisions at state level as well as on-ground implementation. For instance, works under MGNREGS are closed post 15th of June. Given the Pandemic triggered demand for jobs the team advocated successfully for allowing additional works- goat shed construction, vermicompost pits – to be opened under MGNREGS for a prolonged period. The team is also working with the



State Planning Commission in framing a policy specific to migrant workers - both skilled and unskilled workers - livelihood opportunities. Additionally, PRADAN is also part of NRLM in a resource capacity.

Conclusion

The sustained engagement of the team with the state administration allowed it to be a part of several need-based policies during the Pandemic. The team is keen to leverage its strengthened relationship with the state and district administration, other CSO's as well as the communities to relook at its own focus areas and orientation. For instance, it would like to shift the focus of the Kharif season from cash crops to food crops, given that the availability of the latter may emerge a challenge in the future. The team recognizes the need to shift focus and

enhance productivity of food crops like rice, millets, pulses. In this context, the team is relooking at ways of imparting trainings to its cadres and SHG groups. Online training modules on improved agriculture and livestock has also been developed by the teams. In areas where PRADAN is not working, support will be provided through different departments while PRADAN will provide technical support and remote training.

CHHATTISGARH

6

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



Awareness generation done in

1,363 hamlets



700

community surveillance cadres



4,594

cadres & families received PPE kits



13,301

vulnerable families received food kits

Jharkhand



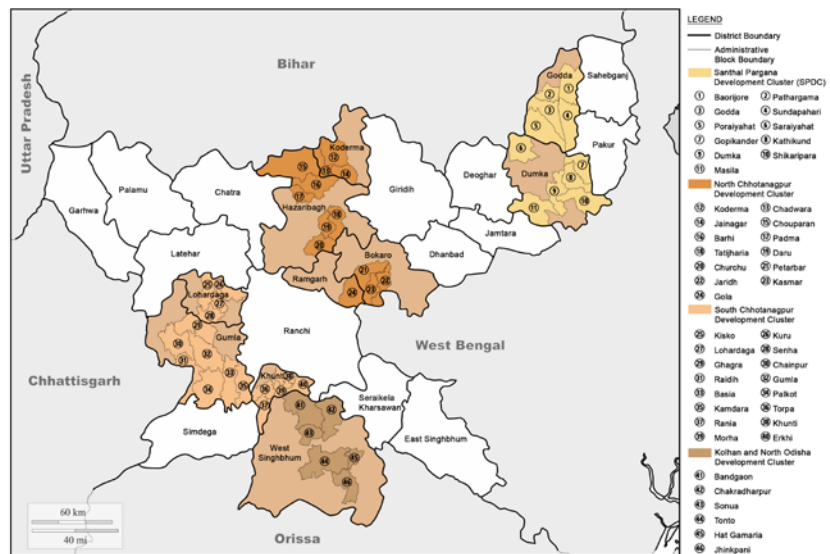
Geography and Description

PRADAN has been working in Jharkhand in four development clusters namely, Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster (KNODC), North Chotanagpur Development Cluster (NCDC), South Chotanagpur Development Cluster (SCDC) and Santhal Pargana Development Cluster (SPDC). KNODC and SPDC are unique development clusters as these cut across two states: Jharkhand and Odisha and Jharkhand and Bihar respectively.

In Jharkhand KNODC covers West Singhbhum district. Bandgaon, Chakradarpur, Sonua, Jhinkpani, Hatgamaria and Tonto blocks are covered in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. The majority of the population of West Singhbhum consists of the Boho tribe and 50 percent of the district is covered by dense forests. PRADAN has been working in this cluster for over two decades.

NCDC covers the four districts of Bokaro (Peterbar, Jardih and Kasmar blocks), Hazaribagh (Churchu, Tatijharia, Daru, Chouparan, Barhi and Padma blocks), Koderma (Chandwara, Jainagar and Koderma blocks) and Ramgarh (Gola block). A major part of the region falls in the Damodar-Barkara river basin. The predominant tribes here are Santhals, Munda and Oraons and the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Birhors.

SPDC covers two districts namely Dumka and Godda. Blocks covered under Dumka district are Gopikander, Kathikund, Shikaripara, Masalia and Dumka. In Godda district it is the Godda, Mahagama and Poraiyahat blocks. The region has



approximately 40 percent tribal and dalit population, with Santhal being the predominant tribe. More than 60 percent of the population of this development cluster depends on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. PRADAN has been working in SPDC for over three decades. This is one of the first direct intervention areas. The cluster has pioneered scientific Tasar sericulture as a livelihood option for women.

SCDC covers the three districts of Gumla, Khunti, and Lohardaga. Blocks covered under Gumla are Gumla, Raidih, Chainpur, Ghagra, Kamdara, Palkot and Basia. In Kunti it is Erki, Khunti, Murhu, Torpa, and Rania and in Lohardaga it is Kisko, Kuru, Lohardaga and Senha blocks. The region is inhabited by adivasi groups like Munda, Oraon, Khariya, Chik Baraik, Lohra and Mahli and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like Asur, Birhor, Kharwa and Birjia. The major source of livelihood are farming, livestock, and forest based products.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

Strengthening and mobilizing women into strong collectives

PRADAN has extensively engaged with women of low-income groups and has organized them into collectives to combat poverty. The SHG collective has transformed from being a small savings and credit groups to an institutional platform capable of collective action. PRADAN imparts regular training on gender caste-class justice, rights and entitlements, livelihoods, water, sanitation and health.

Livelihood Promotion (Agriculture, Livestock, Horticulture, MGNREGA)

The focus on livelihood promotion continues in Jharkhand too with agriculture as the major focus area. Key activities include vegetable, cereal and cash crop promotion in Rabi and Kharif seasons, along with farm demonstration and trainings across these activities. Second key intervention area under livelihood is livestock which includes goat rearing and poultry farming. For this, PRADAN has trained women to establish the community cadre of Ajeevika Pashu Sakhi with similar

skills as Para-veterinary staff, associated closely with vaccination and deworming. Third intervention area is horticulture where PRADAN is providing technical support on mango plantation and other activities, in convergence with MGNREGS. In KNODC, given the low soil productivity (for agriculture) and prevalence of subsistence farming, primary focus is on horticulture activities like Mango plantation.

The state has witnessed significant progress in the women's access and control over resources, assets, financial services through Kisan Credit Card and linkages with national forums like Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (Forum for Women Farmer's Rights). The team is working with women farmers to engage in mass production of vegetables like cauliflower, brinjal, tomato, bittergourd, drumstick spearheaded by women agriculture entrepreneurs.

Strengthening Local Governance

PRADAN has partnered with "We the people" (WTP), to engage with the larger community and women to participate and make decisions in local government decision making. The focus has been on activating Gram Sabhas and empowering SHG groups to access entitlements and citizenship rights. For the past three years, PRADAN has been working towards strengthening gram panchayats, primarily across two development clusters – SCDC and NCDC. Currently, both the clusters are attempting to expand this work to other development clusters. PRADAN has taken an initiative to facilitate improvement of service delivery by the Gram Panchayats and also institutionalize mechanisms of social accountability through Gram Panchayat Help Desk. The help desk ensures that all citizens are covered under the eligible social security net schemes and availing the timely benefits under it.

Addressing Gender Inequality

Gender mainstreaming is one of the core intervention areas of PRADAN. Primary focus is on addressing issues of domestic violence, maternal mortality, child marriage, social taboos around menstruation, nutritional deficiency and women's health. These issues are manifestations of underlying socio-



cultural norms through which gender roles have been constructed. Significant efforts have been made towards empowering women by creating access to information and resources and taking decisions through promoting women as farmers, ownership of assets and control over income and expenditure and advocating participation in public forums. Women federations have acted as catalysts for change to empower women. Federations have organized *Mahila Kisan Mela* (Women Framers' Fair), *Mahila Adhikar Manch* (Platform for Women's Rights) and *Nari Sahayata Kendra* (Women Help Center) to address gender-based violence and discrimination.

During the Pandemic

PRADAN's engagement with the community was hampered not only by the pandemic triggered restrictions on mobility but also because the core teams across all four clusters (as in other states) were grappling with the multidimensional nature of challenges. PRADAN's commitments towards developing strong inclusive and empowered communities reflected when local institutions enrolled willingly in fighting the Pandemic. While Gram Panchayats in Koderma, Hazaribagh and Gumla districts took initiatives even before the lockdown was announced, an immediate response came when vulnerable families were provided support by the GPs through utilization of Rs 10,000 from emergency fund (*Akasmik Khadyan Kosh*). Panchayats started discussing the issues, first level of crisis and the possible support that could be provided. Panchayats started setting-up village level task forces to create awareness as well as identifying places that could be converted into quarantine centres.

Gram Panchayats showcased themselves as effective institutions capable of responding to the situation while comprehending local needs. Institutional capacity building of these panchayats equipped them to take various initiatives during the crisis and build a collective response.

PRADAN was recognised as a Mother NGO across seven districts by the Jharkhand state government. In this capacity, PRADAN in co-ordination with the state administration and other CSO's arranged extensive relief



Didi kitchens providing meals to the vulnerable families

and welfare materials. In these efforts the social capital accrued over decades with the community cadres, resource persons and the SHGs paid off as these local institutions showed resilient and capacity to understand local needs while designing effective solutions.

PRADANs most innovative intervention across the four clusters was that of community kitchens popularly referred to as *Didi* Kitchens.

In collaboration with APPI, various SHGs and the administration across the development clusters started Didi Kitchens (community kitchens) to provide food to the vulnerable families who had no means to secure their livelihoods. Across four clusters there were 333 community kitchens which provided 3 meals a day continuously over three months. SHG members prepared food with approximately 200 meals served on a daily basis. PRADAN supported regular supply of ration in these community kitchens. Gradually community kitchens were set-up in many areas in

collaboration with JLPS (Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society). Some active GPs initiated a grain donation fund at panchayat level with support from the local community. GPs further reached out to PRADAN to support more families.

Federations such as Sayansidha and Sampurna of Jashipur block and Karanja block respectively used crowd sourcing to raise funds - Rs 65000 and Rs 38000 respectively - to help vulnerable families who were identified in collaboration with the PRI members at local level.

The day lockdown was announced around 40 people (16 adults and remaining adolescents, kids and infants) were found to be stranded in Tamai Panchayat. Locally these people are termed as 'Gulguliya', a community which earns their living by playing music, rope dancing and begging for alms. These extremely poor families barely have their basic necessities in place. Initially the block administration tried to drive them away. However, they were not accepted elsewhere and had to return to

Tamai. With no support forthcoming from the block administration, Tami Panchayat members came forward to help. They went door to door to raise around 100 kgs of rice, pulses, spices, potato etc, although this was not sufficient to sustain these families over a month. The Panchayat then linked these families to *Didi Kitchens* while efforts were made to raise resources from local businessmen who offered their support till the lockdown was lifted.

Integrated control room for Covid-19

Given PRADAN's strong relationship with the administration as well as their ability to collaborate pro-actively during the Pandemic, members of the team were assigned to the District Control Room (DCR) in Khunti. The DCR is a coordinating unit within the government administration that addresses the queries /calls from community members across different villages and blocks in the district. The teams was authorised to receive requests and relay these messages to the relevant government officials; district officials or block development officers (BDOs). The team worked 24 X 7 receiving calls most of which were regarding food supplies and sometimes around law and order situations.¹

"I get a call from one of the farmers who complained about the restricted hours of sale. Farmers are only allowed to travel to the markets and sell their produce between 7 and 11 AM. It is hard to sell their stock in such a short time. Moreover, people are not in a habit of shopping at these hours. This puts more pressure on prices. Depending on how many farmers (and how many customers) turn up at the market, the same vegetable can sell



Coordinating with the teams to address the issues- DCR

for anything between INR 10 and INR 40 per kg on any given day. There is also added pressure when it comes to transporting produce. With fewer vehicles allowed on the roads, the cost of hiring them is higher."

Jharkhand has a high rate of outmigration. According to the Jharkhand government records, about seven lakh workers, stranded outside the state had registered with the government to return home. PRADAN started collecting information on migrants

¹<https://idronline.org/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-district-coordinator/>

through volunteers and village cadres. The Jharkhand team constituted an exclusive WhatsApp group focused on addressing issues of stranded migrant workers. The modus operandi included outreach through networks of local organizations who assisted through food kits and travel support. PRADAN was reporting the information on stranded migrant workers to the district and block administration.

Revitalizing the rural economy

PRADAN has been working on The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)–Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)–Cluster Facilitation Team (CFT) project for many years and across the states have supported government departments towards effective implementation of the programme to improve livelihoods and develop community assets. It was important to restart the MGNREGS programme to revitalize the rural communities.

The state government of Jharkhand announced the *Birsa Harit Gram Yojana*, a welfare programme under MGNREGS focussing on providing employment to the resident workers and the incoming migrant laborers. The focus is to bring fallow land under cultivation through initial plantation of fruit-bearing plants, maintenance, land works and afforestation works. Across the development clusters, plantation work under the *Birsa Harit Gram Yojna* has been taken up.

Under this scheme, the Poraiyahat team for the first time collaborated with district/block administration and the PRI, and targeted agro-horticulture activities in 250 acres of land. In Boarijore Block 140 acres of land has been converted under the scheme. In Kathikund block around 75 acres of land has been identified for sericulture. In Bokaro district extensive training for *Aam Bagwani* (mango plantation) was undertaken. The training included members from block administration, junior engineer and block development officers and focused on the importance of mango plantation while the team provided technical guidance on patch selection, layout, pit digging and quality of sampling. The training



Support and mobilizing people to demand for work in MGNREGS-Chakradharpur team



Site Selection under BHRV

Master Agri-entrepreneurs

Godda block saw the emergence of a network of Master Agri-entrepreneurs. These agri-entrepreneurs provided seedlings to SHG members at the doorsteps. Seeds worth Rs. 29.23 lakhs were sold by¹ these Master Agri-Entrepreneur. Jainamore team notably has been engaging with 1000 SHG members to promote rural entrepreneurship with women selling the produce at the block level. The team has engaged with of 11000 households across 22 panchayats



Agri-Entrepreneur

Rampant increase in domestic violence – Gender sensitization through SHG groups

The lockdown saw a rampant increase in domestic violence for various reasons, loss of livelihood, increasing starvation, reduced interaction of women with other members in the community to name a few. As SHG platforms were unable to meet on a regular basis as was the norm before the lockdown, women were unable to communicate and share their stories. Although this still remains a challenge, there have been few positive experiences from *Nari Adalat* interventions, as many women were trained on their rights and entitlements under this intervention.

Disruption in basic health services- Immunization and other services

Pregnant and lactating women and children were severely affected by the lockdown. Services such as immunization, ante-natal and post-natal care, nutritional supplements, take home ration were affected. Anganwadi workers were engaged in additional role in creating awareness and collecting data regarding health status of migrant workers.

PRADAN's team, Poraiyahat, along with Block Program Officer and mentors held meetings with the block health officials in order to restart the VHSND (Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day). The issue was discussed with Medical officer In-charge (MOIC) of the block, the Block Project Officer (BPO) and District



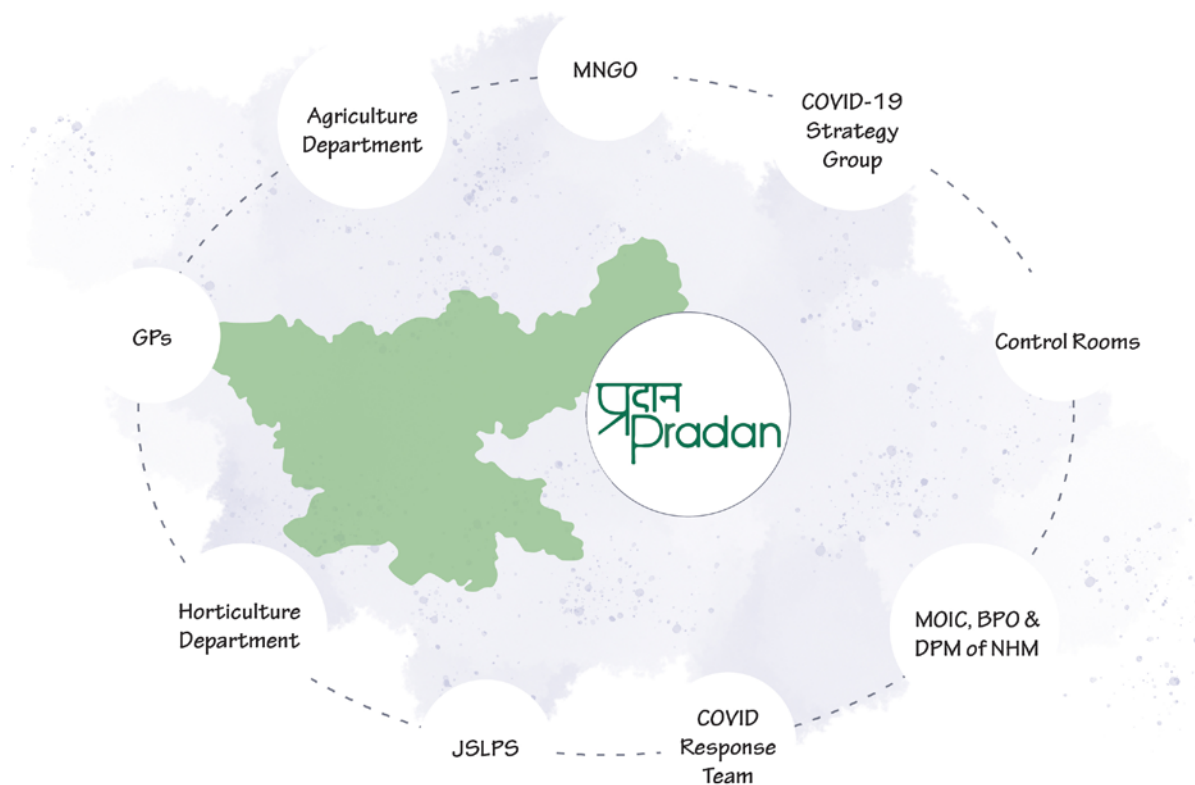
Resuming routine immunization services

Project Manager and (DPM of National Health Mission). After a series of efforts, the immunization process finally started in two villages. The event proved to be successful as women and children of the village received vaccinations after a gap of two months. Physical distancing, masks and sanitizers were distributed to ensure safety of the people.

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

PRADAN has been working in Jharkhand for more than three decades. Across development clusters, there are different projects that have been implemented, which created a strong platform to collaborate across multiple levels and with multiple stakeholders. PRADAN has been recognized as a Mother NGO across seven districts (Bokaro, Dumka Jila, Gumla, Khunti, Lohardaga and West Singhbhum). This helped PRADAN to take the lead role in designing relief interventions.

PRADAN's strong collaboration both at the community level and with the block and district administration helped the teams across the development clusters to engage with multiple relief interventions. Didi kitchens were an outcome of empowered women's groups. Active involvement of Gram Panchayats to identify quarantine centres and equip them with basic facilities was a reflection of a strong institutional mechanism to address the challenges. PRADAN's team played a significant role in collecting and organizing data through control rooms. In



turn, this facilitated effective planning under *Birsa Harit Gram Yojana* to provide livelihood support to the migrant workers. PRADAN also collaborated with the administrative units of the Health and Family Welfare department to resume health services.

Conclusion

PRADAN's extensive engagement with communities, local institutions and state administration helped in co-creating and developing relief measures which led to a synergy of efforts in combating the Pandemic. PRADAN's recognition as a Mother NGO in Jharkhand and an active member of Steering Committee-COVID-19 helped in better coordination across all administration levels in mitigating the crisis at the ground level. A resilient community

and support from the government helped PRADAN's team across the clusters to expedite the relief measures and reach to the most vulnerable families. In SPDC and NCDC the Gram Panchayats demonstration how strengthened and capacitated local governments are well equipped to understand problems and deliver services. These panchayats, operating as effective local governments, are leading the way in managing the crisis, and offer solutions to panchayats across the country. In future the team has prioritised health as an intervention area where focused efforts to build capacities at the local level in management of health, behaviour change and communication is the need of the hour. Towards this end, a collaborative approach of panchayats, CSOs and government agencies will need to be pursued.

JHARKHAND

84

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



Awareness generation done in

8,306 hamlets



1,914

community surveillance cadres



47,119

cadres & families received PPE kits

333

Community Kitchens supported



38,733

vulnerable families received food kits

Odisha

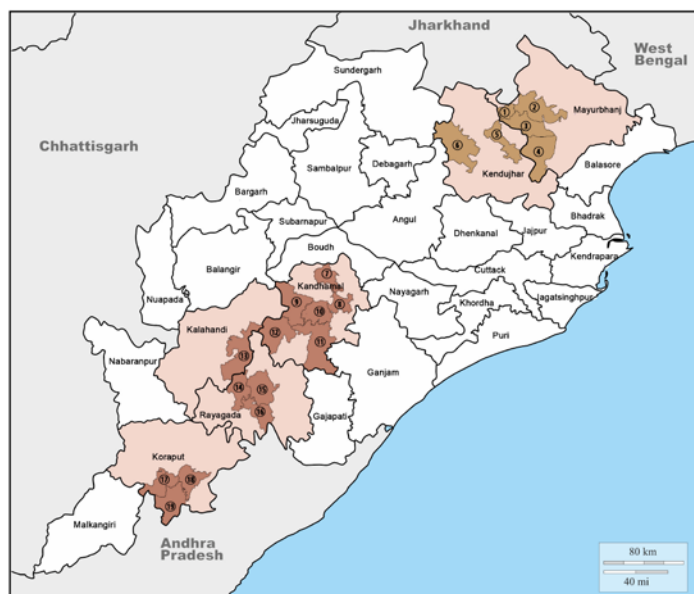


Geography and Description

PRADAN has been working in two development clusters in Odisha, namely, Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster (KNODC) and South Odisha Development Cluster (SODC). PRADAN's engagement in KNODC area began in the year 1992. SODC was initiated in 2002.

KNODC is a unique as it cuts across the two states of Jharkhand and Odisha. It covers 14 blocks across three districts: Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar in Odisha and West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand state. In Kendujhar district, PRADAN is present in Banspal block, while in Mayurbhanj it is active in Jashipur, Karanjia, Patna, Sukruli, Bajag and Thakurmunda blocks. The KNODC operates in a unique context. It has about 40% of forest coverage, 95% of India's Iron ore deposits, and more than 70% of population here are tribal. Boho tribe in Jharkhand and Kodo tribe in Odisha are native, only, to this cluster. This is amongst the most marginalized region in Eastern India with poor infrastructure, large outward migration and over 70% of women being anaemic in this region. It is this context that led PRADAN to work intensively in this region for the past 25 years.

PRADAN's intervention area in SODC covers 14 blocks across 4 districts namely Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Koraput in southern Odisha. Phulbani, Tikabali, Baliguda, K.Naugaon, Daringbadi, Tumudibandh, Lanjigarh, Kalyansinghpur, Bishmakatak, Kolnara, Lamtapur, Semliguda, Nandapur under Kandhamal district, Laxmipur,



Lamtaputa and Nandpur under Koraput district, Kolnara block in Rayagada district and finally Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district. Almost half of SODC's landmass is under forest cover. Except Kalahandi and Nuapada, other six districts of the region are among the poorest districts of India.¹ The region has large diversity of tribal groups, major amongst these are, Kandha, Gond, Paroja, Saura and Gadaba. The region is also a resource rich with large deposits of bauxite, chromites, graphites and manganese. Displacement due to mining has led to massive displacement in the region.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

While agriculture is the main livelihood generator in the state, in tribal areas such as Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar livestock and poultry rearing as well as collection and sale of minor forest produce are important livelihood sources. Out-migration is high amongst the landless labourers as is daily wage work. Natural disasters such as cyclone, heavy rainfall, drought is common to Odisha, occurring every year, destroying livelihoods on a massive scale. PRADAN engagement in Odisha encompasses disaster awareness. Major engagements include

¹Human Development report 2004

Community institutions and collective approach

PRADAN has been engaging with the community institutions and their overall empowerment through agriculture, livestock rearing, gender mainstreaming and grass-roots governance. Over the years, SHGs and VOs have been imparted training towards livelihood expansion and strengthening women's collective voice. PRADAN have also conducted para legal trainings for the federations so that the system of delivery of gender justice can be strengthened within the Federations to ensure support on issues related to violence against women.

Livelihood Promotion

Promotion of livelihood strategies focus on agriculture, livestock-rearing, horticulture, collection and sale of minor forest produce as well as opening of employment through MGNREGS works. There is a high dependency on NTFP with approximately 40% of household income coming from forest produce. The production of Tasar is an important activity in the state. In 2018, PRADAN entered a four-year partnership with the Government of Odisha and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), for the Promotion of Agriculture Production Clusters (APCs) in Tribal Regions of Odisha. The main objective is to double the income of around one lakh farmers in 40 tribal-dominated blocks of 12 districts of the state.² Various activities under this initiative include facilitation of farmer producer groups for market-linked production of identified horticultural crops,

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grooming market-linked Agri-entrepreneurs (AEs) to provide farm based services, livestock – goat, sheep and backyard poultry - rearing, creation of livelihood assets specific to irrigation, orchards, sheds for goat and backyard poultry as well as leveraging government schemes. These AEs will also be groomed as value chain enablers

In addition, PRADAN is also working on a special programme for promotion of millets in Tribal Areas of Odisha through a tripartite project between the Agriculture Technology and Management Agency (ATMA), Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) and PRADAN. The goal is to cover 1,000 Ha. with improved agronomic practices of millets over five year.

Livestock is seen as dependable source of livelihood across the region and livestock and backyard poultry practices are intrinsic to communities residing in the remote hilly terrains of this region. However, the region lacked access to livestock healthcare. PRADAN has actively promoted mass vaccination of goats and birds as well as preventive health care program through Integrated Livestock Rearing (ILR) programmes. The community cadre - Animal Health Workers (*Ajeevika Pashu Sakhi*) are groomed to conduct routine checks on animal health and growth, deworming and vaccination, thus constituting critical partners on the ground. More recently, horticultural activities have been undertaken through mango plantation drives.

In Mayurbanj district of Odisha, PRADAN in partnership with Cargil Animal Nutrition and Heifer International is working on an initiative called Hatching Hope. The initiative introduces poultry farming to households currently not involved in the poultry supply chain with following objectives i) improve supply among small and medium poultry producers; ii) improve awareness and strengthen backyard poultry production; and, iii) enhancing consumption of poultry for nutritional value, thereby addressing poverty and malnutrition issue. Interventions, especially in agriculture and horticulture are converged with the MGNREGS. A major intervention in this area is that of nutrition gardens.

²This is a project of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment in collaboration with the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of India.

Mo Upakari Bagicha (a nutri-garden in the homestead) is one of the major interventions under MGNREGS in Odisha. The Nutrition Garden model is an integrated model that includes kitchen garden and small livestock rearing. The main objective of setting up nutrition gardens is to promote self-reliance, especially in nutrition and food security. With the support of APPI, a nutrition vertical was established in Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM). PRADAN, Living Farms and Harsha Trust are identified as the resource NGOs. The role of the Resource NGOs is to build the capacity of the OLM staff and help in rolling out the Nutrition garden in 750 GPs in 107 blocks across 30 districts of Odisha. A cascading training model was developed to provide training at four levels, Odisha Livelihood Mission staff (from State unit to Block unit), master trainers at state level, community cadres at the gram panchayat level and SHG members at the village level. So far one lakh nutri-gardens have been set-up through this initiative. For farmers who are landless or having less than 2 decimal land in their backyard (the requirement of nutri-garden scheme), the Bag Model is introduced. Farmers will be provided with a bag (3 bags per family member) to grow vegetables. The Government of Odisha has set a target of 5,00,000 nutri-gardens in FY 2020-21, catering to approximately 5 lakh landless and small farmers



Gender equality

A major focus area in the state is asserting land rights, primarily to bring in gender equality. PRADAN has worked with communities to secure women's land rights on forestland, homestead land allocation and title transfer (name as joint holders). To sustain interventions around land rights, Pradan in engaged in enhancing women's participation, understanding, decision making and ownership of the process of securing land rights. Finally, in 2018, in collaboration with Mahindra and Mahindra, International Council of Agricultural Research, Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, the programme *Prerna* was conceived to empower women farmers through promotion of gender-friendly farm Equipment. This programme is conceived

During the Pandemic

Like rest of the India, communities in Odisha (KNODC & SODC) too faced challenges when the lockdown was implemented. Since the time period coincided with beginning of the Kharif season, it was difficult to procure seeds required for sowing. As the region is a remittance-based economy, most people depend on the money sent by those who migrated to cities. Since these migrants themselves were stranded without much work, it was difficult to arrange for this critical financial support required to prepare for Kharif season. All the activities related to NTFP or construction too came to halt.

With the access to markets getting curtailed, sale of perishable produce, especially fruits and vegetables emerged a challenge.



Watermelon harvested from Jai Jagannath Producer group and sold with help of District Administration



Tomato marketing in Phullbani



Sayangsiddha Federation of Jashipur block packing ration kits for distribution from raised funds

PRADAN, in coordination with the district magistrates and horticulture departments, hired vehicles to assist farmers to sell their produce. Watermelon, mushroom, tomato and brinjal were the main produce sold with the support of farmer producer groups. The team collated a list of all traders in the locality and shared it with communities through its on-field cadres as well as with the district administration to enable permissions to carry out trading activities.

Mobilization of funds was a challenge for PRADAN during initial days of lockdown. Money was crowdfunded by Federations such as Sayansidha and Sampurna of Jashipur block and Karanjia block respectively. The two Federations raised Rs 65000 and Rs 38000 respectively. Collaborating with PRADAN, the block administration and PRI members, the Federations reached out to vulnerable families, primarily supplying ration kits.

One of the SHG (Maa Laxmi) group of Nirbhaya federation also took initiatives in making masks for their village. This was much appreciated by BDO of Kolanara who further helped the SHGs with an additional order of 5000 mask for the administration, thus providing additional source of income during the pandemic.



Collection of rice at Nuapada village by SHG members in Thakurmunda block

Vegetable farming is the primary source of income for the villagers of Nandapur block. During lockdown due to COVID-19, villagers' anguish was doubled as they did not have access to any platform to sell their produce that adhered to govt COVID-19 guidelines, resulting in mere wastage of vegetables and distress selling at nominal price. PRADAN in consultation

with horticulture department envisioned and set up a temporary "Haat" adhering to COVID-19 precautionary measures. Two volunteers were assigned to provide sanitizer at the entrance, sellers were asked to wear mask. In Nandapur, it was possible to sell produce of around 30-40 tonnes of vegetables.



Temporary Haat in Nandpur Block with support of Horticulture dept. and local administration

As livelihoods were impacted severely, it was a priority to adapt to crops with high returns quickly. In Lamptaput block, communities with support of PRADAN identified mushroom cultivation as a prime source of income. Other factors supporting mushroom cultivation include: high nutritional value; easy cultivation; easy access to input material; suitable weather; land requirements are low, requires less water, low labour intensive, 3 times return on investment within 45 days, high market demand with a separate market for dry mushrooms

Faced with nutritional challenges owing to Covid-19 pandemic and unprecedented reverse migration, one of the major interventions, nutri garden in Odisha, has emerged as a largest livelihood opportunity during pandemic. Odisha state government has converged MGNREGS with the existing 'Mo Upkari Bagicha' scheme to boost rural economy and improve livelihoods. PRADAN has played a crucial role in influencing the government in this decision, this was possible due to its sustained and prolonged experience



working in MGNREGS. Under this initiative, around six persons are to be employed, for land development of one garden, under MGNREGS with a daily wage of Rs 207. In the migration-prone districts, the wage rate is increased to Rs 298 per day³.

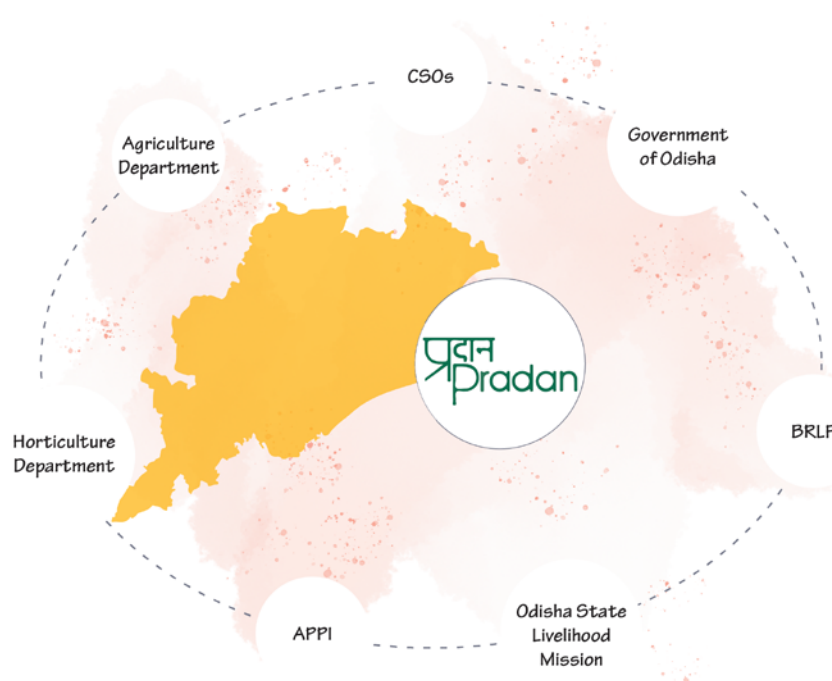
³<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bhubaneswar/2020/jun/24/kitchen-gardens-to-mitigate-covid-impact-on-nutrition-2160566.html>

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

Covid crisis aided in improved collaboration between PRADAN and block/district administration, further strengthening the relationship. PRADAN, local administration and other stakeholders quickly realized how a collaborative approach can be more effective in providing timely support rather than working in silos. Administration has been very flexible and open to suggestions for support that was required at ground level.

Community cadres, SHG groups and other volunteers at village level emerged as a strong support to PRADAN as well as administration, providing required ground support. PRADAN created a WhatsApp group at block level with cadres at village level comprising of volunteers

from villages, federation members, ASHA worker, Anganwadi worker, teachers, block officials, nodal officer appointed at block and PRADAN along with other CSOs. This group was constituted to: Spreading awareness in villages; enumerate vulnerable families in their villages to assist with food distribution; collecting data of migrant families stranded outside the state as well as those who returned; providing information on migrants to PRADAN and block officials for further assistance as well as monitoring; keeping track of families unable to avail PDS or pension schemes; supporting PRADAN professionals and block officials in data collection on migrant workers.



Conclusion and Strategizing on the Way Forward

In Odisha, PRADANs major pre-covid interventions to improve livelihood (Odisha Millet Mission, Agriculture Production Cluster Intervention) and nutrition (*Mo Upakari Bagicha*) and associated collaborative engagement with state administration and communities helped the team to address challenges during and post lockdown. PRADAN's collaborative approach with Odisha Livelihood Mission on nutri-garden project can be replicated in other states to address malnutrition, enhancing livelihoods of the

families and employment generation through MGNREGS convergence.

Apart from nutrition project and livelihood intervention, focus would be largely around MGNREGS in collaboration with the administration on skill mapping of all migrants to generate employment. PRADAN would continue assisting with access to agriculture inputs, awareness and linkage of farmers with Kisan Credit Card scheme.

ODISHA

64

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



Awareness generation done in

1,450 hamlets



989

community surveillance cadres



24,263

cadres & families received PPE kits

1

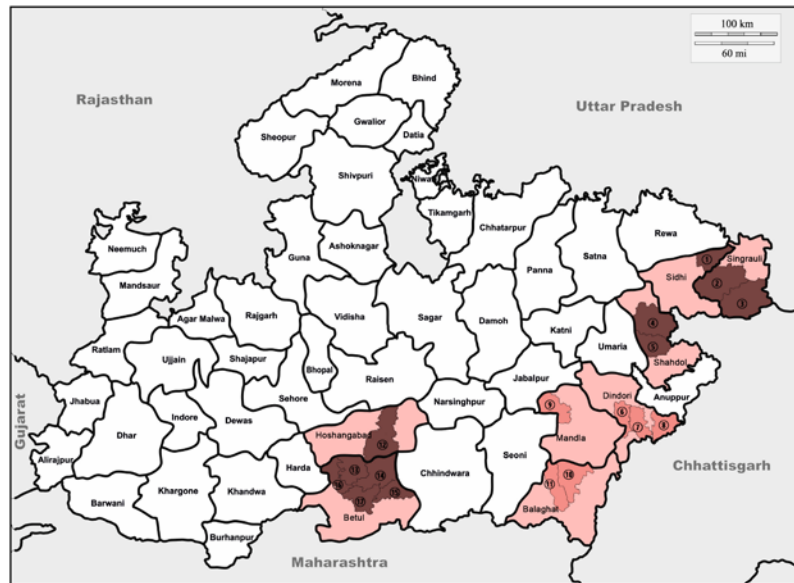
Community Kitchens supported



10,778

vulnerable families received food kits

Madhya Pradesh



Geography and Description

PRADAN has been working in two development clusters in Madhya Pradesh, namely, Baghelkhand and Satpuda Development Cluster (BSDC) and Mahakaushal Development Cluster (MKDC). The Baghelkhand and Satpuda Development Cluster (BSDC) consists of following two regions: the Baghelkhand region that includes Sidhi, Shahdol and Singrauli districts, and the Satpuda region that includes Hoshangabad and Betul districts. Blocks covered in Betul district are Chicholi, Ghoradoongri, Betul, Shahpur and Kesla block is covered in Hoshangabad district. Blocks Jaisinghnagar and Gohparu are covered under Shahdol. Sihwal and Sidhi blocks are covered in Sidhi district. Finally, Waidhan and Deosar blocks are covered in Singrauli district. PRADAN started its intervention in Satpuda region in 1986 and later expanded its work to Baghelkhand region.

Baghelkhand region has predominantly backward communities, with Gonds being the chief tribe. Although this region has significant number of mines and other industrial units that offer employment, it

has not translated into job opportunities for most tribal families. On the contrary, these communities have lost livelihoods and are subject to frequent displacements due to land acquisition. Forests in Satpuda region are intrinsically linked to livelihoods. The region is connected to a national highway, thus providing economic opportunities.

Mahakaushal Development Cluster (MKDC) covers the Maikal hills and covers three districts, Mandla, Dindori and Balaghat. Intervention areas in MKDC include: Mohgaon, Ghugri and Narayanganj of Mandla district, Karanjia, Samnapur and Amarpur of Dindori district, Paraswada and Balaghat blocks of Balaghat district. PRADAN began its intervention in this DC in the year 2005. In MKDC, Gond and Baiga are the main tribes. This region is rich in mineral resources such as manganese and copper. Copper deposits in Malajkhand is the largest in the country. Besides manganese and copper, the region has major deposits of bauxite, kyanite and limestone. Lack of livelihood opportunities coupled with poor quality basic services and social infrastructure related to education and health has manifested in massive outward migration from the region.

Engagement Contours: Pre-Covid

Across the two clusters, PRADAN's key intervention areas include:

Strengthening grassroots institutions for development

For strengthening SHGs, the teams have developed a pool of trainers and trained them on skills related to SHG accounts, norms and processes. Primary focus is on improving women's participation in village planning. In the past three decades, PRADAN promoted SHG federations across the development clusters, which made significant progress in community mobilization, institutional strengthening, innovative on and up-scaling of livelihood prototypes; gender, nutrition and governance. VO and CLFs are facilitated towards active participation of women in village forums that discuss development issues.

Livelihood promotion

PRADAN has been establishing models to promote comprehensive livelihoods which include food sufficiency, enhanced income for investments and incorporation of multiple strategies to smoothen income vulnerabilities. The engagement in these models since the past three years has seen several interventions with small and medium farmers on promoting multiple cropping and installing water-efficient irrigation systems. The primary focus is on cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables. The teams are actively involved in conceptualizing innovative agriculture practices to rejuvenate barren patches of land. The 30x40 model, is one such innovation that has been experimented with within the area. The model aims to plan for water and land resources in undulating barren landscapes in the state. Vast tracts of these landscapes belonging largely to the marginalized tribal communities, despite heavy rainfall continue to remain barren due to surface run-off. For instance, in Khamariya village of Narayanganj block (Mandla District) the Gond and Baiga communities occupy such barren lands. To enhance the productivity, plots of land are bunded with trenches measuring 30 feet along the slope and 40 feet across the slope supporting a water harvesting pit in a strategic location. The objective is to increase

In Chubhawal cluster area in Mohangav, rabi cultivation is difficult due to water scarcity. However, some of the SHG *didis* decided to utilize the land and plant vegetables. Sadhana *didi* [picture] planted vegetables such as cabbage, potato, fenugreek and coriander in her *Badi*.



the moisture content while preventing soil erosion. The labour requirements are converged with MGNREGS, thus increasing employment opportunities. The 30x40 model has proved to be successful and is now being experimented within other blocks and districts such as Amarpur in Dindori, where during the Pandemic, the 30x40 model was implemented on an eight-acre plot of land.

Additionally, the teams have collaborated with NRLM and district administration to work on converging activities related to MGNREGS. These include agriculture-horticulture works, small farm pond construction, composting units and kitchen garden.

Leveraging linkages for livelihoods

SHGs looking for finance for the expansion of poultry enterprises had options in the form of MFIs (Micro Finance Institutions), but the interest rate of such MFIs is high. As an alternative, SHGs were linked to public sector banks for better deals. Central Madhya Pradesh Grameen Bank (CMGB) offered a loan of INR 0.25 million to Narmada federation to expand their enterprises, which eventually helped renovate their poultry sheds, increase space and double their flocks.

Partnership with SRLM and MGNREGS to promote agriculture, livelihood and generate employment

In Madhya Pradesh, both BKDC and MKDC teams engaged closely with SRLM and MGNREGS. PRADAN has signed a formal agreement with SRLM and other groups promoted by State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) which allowed it to intervene in 19 blocks to provide its expertise in livelihood and other areas. Krishi and Pashu Sakhis and trained by PRADAN on Kharif crop planting. The main role of these community resource persons (CRP's) is to enumerate farmers and prepare plans for Kharif season. They also provide field level support on cereal and vegetable crops. Under this partnership, PRADAN has reached out to around 76000 families in agriculture and horticulture interventions. In BSDC, Cluster Facilitation Teams are constituted in four blocks namely Shahpur, Sihawal, Deosar and Jaisinghnagar with the objective of leveraging MGNREGS investment for livelihoods asset development. Similarly, in MKDC, Cluster Facilitation Teams are constituted in four blocks, Amarapur, Mohgaon, Narayanganj and Paraswad across 3 intervention districts.

During the Pandemic

The sudden announcement of lockdown created fear and anxiety amongst the communities. There was a sense of cluelessness and helplessness with miscommunication and rumors like 'the cure for the Pandemic is in drinking alcohol' (interview MKDC team). This resulted in many people consuming alcohol, hoping it would cure them. Addressing misinformation and combating rumors was the first challenge that the team had to deal with. In addition, an immediate impact was on the prices of NTFP produce which dipped, especially in case of Mahuwa as there was uncertainty in selling the produce. In addition, access to banks and cash availability was a major challenge. Even though, direct money transfers have taken place through various government schemes, people didn't have access to cash as many banks in rural areas were closed.

Given that the teams could not travel to the villages, it took a few days to strategize ways to support the community. Teams

initiated conference calls internally, gradually involving community cadres and SHG members to understand the situation on the ground and the immediate needs of the community. A quick adaption to technology (Google forms and WhatsApp) was noticed which in turn led to an effective data collection process as well as identification of the ultra-poor families. Community cadres, SHG members, ward members and other leaders were provided with training on Google forms to identify and collect information of ultra-poor families. From each village, around 15 to 20 families were identified as ultra-poor families and linked with *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna* (PMGKY). Wherever vulnerable families were in large numbers, block and district level administration helped PRADAN with the enumeration.

While PRADAN mainly focused on rural villages, they have also managed to distribute the food kits to families in smaller towns with support from administration. In Betul, SHG women of Kolgaon village, Ghoradongri, distributed cereals and pulses to most distressed families. PRADAN also hired vehicles for a distribution drive across its operational areas. Gram Panchayats approached SHG groups to stitch masks. Masks and sanitizers were prepared by several SHG women, which were sold to government at nominal rates. In Sihawal block Sidhi district, 4 centers for mask stitching were initiated. A total of 15,000 masks were stitched by SHGs.

The Madhya Pradesh team was amongst the first few to set up relief camps for transit migrants, who were on their way to their homes in the villages. The State Highway connecting many of the Northern and Eastern states with that of the South, passes through Deosar. With many migrants returning from Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and other metro cities, Deosar team witnessed first-hand the distress many migrants were going through. Countless men and women wanted to reach their respective villages in Jharkhand, UP, Bihar, braving the exhaustion of walking hundreds and thousands of kilometers. The mid-April sun and the hot weather only made matters worse. Some were traveling by foot, others on cycles, and still others who managed to hitch rides in trucks. Majority of them had no food or water. Deosar team

On the 8th of May, 2020, close to Aurangabad, twenty migrant youth belonging to ST families, met with a train accident, while returning to their villages in Madhya Pradesh from Maharashtra. Unfortunately, sixteen of the twenty passed away in the mishap. Families of these youth were largely dependent on remittance economy. As an immediate support, PRADAN realized that it was imperative to support these families to create a means of living, especially for the women in the context of patriarchal society. Jaisinghnagar team quickly spoke to the families to understand their situation and availability of resources and explore possible interventions for support. As the families had some non-irrigated or unused land, the teams supported the families with equipment such as power weeders and sprayers which facilitated vegetable cultivation. Individual families were also provided with pump and pipes to lift water. This helped the families to access from small streams in close vicinity. With this support, the affected families now have the potential to earn from their otherwise barren lands. Support was sought from APPI which contributed an amount of Rs 3,76,539 for equipment and other inputs such as tools, seeds and fertilizers.



Relief camps for migrants who were in transit to their homes

realized the need to step out of their 'work from home'. The team setup a 24x7 relief camp. The need was also premised on the ongoing construction work on the highway that, in-turn had led to the removal of shops and other amenities. The relief camp was operational for 18 days on a 24x7 basis providing food packets, water, masks, soaps, milk-powder for babies and sanitary napkins for women. Those who were traveling by trucks were also provided with ration and hygiene kits from the relief camp. This relief camp catered to the needs of around 1700 migrants, majority of them were traveling back to Jharkhand and Chiktrakoot and Singrauli areas in MP.

In addition, the teams collaborated with #WalkInMyShoes (a group of local volunteers) to arrange for new slippers and sandals for migrants on foot.

How did your chappal (slippers) become like this? How long have you been walking? asked a PRADAN professional. *I was working in Andhra Pradesh, it's been more than 15 days and I guess I have already covered 1000 kms – managing a nook on the trucks at times,*

and on foot for at least half the distance. I must go to Uttar Pradesh, some 100 kms yet to cover. With no money left in my pocket, I could not change my chappal, see my feet is full of blisters", narrated Siyaram, a migrant from Andhra Pradesh

Existing Stakeholders and emerging collaborations

As elsewhere, in MP too the teams have leveraged community cadres, CRPs and SHG groups for intervention on the ground. They also constituted Covid Action Committees (CACs), comprising of five volunteers at village level. These committees were to spread awareness and the need for safety measures, identification of the ultra-poor, opportunities presented by the MGNREGS as potential to support landless households, surveillance on domestic violence and reporting the same to PRADAN and police authorities. In addition, the teams were a part of the committee formed at district level comprising of CEO ZP, SDM and other officials, primarily for enumeration and distribution of relief to vulnerable families. The teams also provided technical support

to the administration on MGNREGS works like farm ponds, bunding, horticulture, drainage works, many of which were opened on a priority to generate employment. Consequently, the works opened under MGNREGS to respond to a heightened

demand of employment were 3-4 times that of normal provision. This collaboration, in-turn, provided an opportunity to work with the block and district administration, which earlier was a challenge.



To boost local economy post Pandemic, a new vertical that the teams are exploring is ecotourism. PRADAN Karanjia has collaborated with Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board for developing two villages for eco-tourism. *Patangarh* village located in Narmada valley between Satpuda and Vindhya ranges supports beautiful landscapes, forest cover and pleasant weather. Its rich history and heritage in Gond art painting, an internationally recognized art form, offers tourism potential. PRADAN is facilitating the community in developing these villages as tourist spots, setting up systems and processes for the same. There is a plan to convert some of the houses as homestays, art galleries, painting workshops as well as a whole package of rural activities for the tourists. This will boost the income levels of the families in living in the villages as well as neighboring villages.



on the MGNREGS. The Pandemic crisis provided an opportunity for PRADAN to further collaborate with state and district administrations. During the Pandemic, most of the team's suggestions were welcomed and acted upon. PRADAN is actively formulating ways for future engagement and interventions like Agri-production clusters and increasing irrigated area with newer technologies. PRADAN is also working towards developing and strengthening newer livelihood models like livestock, youth employability and entrepreneurship, and other available livelihood avenues through community cadres. The teams are exploring opportunities to collaborate with panchayats to promote livelihood interventions as well as assessment of acutely vulnerable households for support.

Conclusion and strategizing on the way forward

Prior to the Pandemic, PRADAN had a sustained and effective ongoing engagement with administration primarily

MADHYA PRADESH

13

Quarantine Centres supported

Quarantine centers



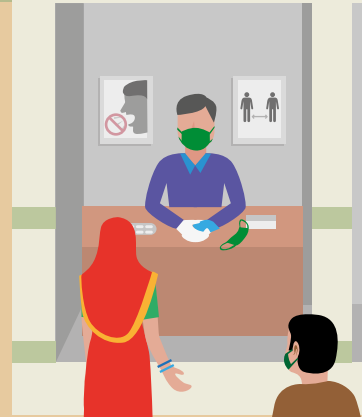
Awareness generation done in

1,987 hamlets



1,210

community surveillance cadres



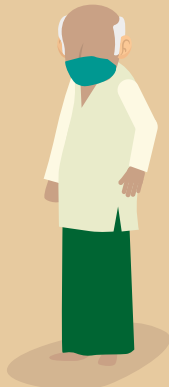
8,133

cadres & families received PPE kits



12,190

vulnerable families received food kits



Conclusions



The COVID 19 Pandemic and the associated nationwide lockdown(s), to begin with, foregrounded several existing challenges with an unprecedented intensity. In addition, several new challenges emerged, both of which required immediate responses. While PRADAN embraced the challenges - consciously and cautiously - on a war footing, it also realised that many of the challenges were multi-faceted, demanding a multi-faceted approach. This report has documented these challenges as well as the responses. Moving away from the immediacy of the required interventions, the Pandemic and the lockdown triggered a reflection on PRADAN's development assumptions as well as its way of functioning. What started off as a health crises manifested (and continues to do so) as a deeper livelihoods (economic) crises. It triggered, at the minimum, reflections on PRADAN's approach to development challenges in general and, in particular, the need to redesign its interventions towards finding new avenues for livelihood.

PRADAN's target group or its constituency comprising of the marginalised amongst the marginalised, daily wage earners, unorganised labour class, agricultural labourers and others – the differently abled, old and the sick, amongst others - at the fringes of society are disproportionately affected. In this scenario, PRADAN with its direct presence in 10,000 villages of India across seven States with 500 professionals engaged at the grass-roots, found itself in a unique position to ameliorate this situation. That state and district administrations were realising this strength – the ability to reach the field -while being aware of their own

limitations to do so, provided opportunities to collaborate. The much needed response to the field needs and requirements were facilitated by donors such as the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), Axis Bank Foundation, Tata Trusts, FORD Foundation, CORTEVA and many more who extended their support. As PRADAN takes stock of the massive response that it is engaged in with a host of partners at various scales, PRADAN is keen to expand as well as deepen its partnerships with diverse stakeholders premised on an acknowledgment that 'building rural assets and grassroots governance should be at utmost priority in the coming future' (Deep Joshi, Magsaysay Awardee, 2009).

The process of collaborations that were (or are) forged in responding to the Pandemic require strengthening. Some of the areas where PRADAN can initiate alignment towards a full engagement are listed below:

1. Expanding the Safety Net to cover the Ultra-poor:

This would require identifying, mapping and visibilizing this segment through linkages with bank accounts, ration cards, MGNREGS job cards and other such documentation to avail state benefits. Working with the Gram Panchayats for identification and with the various line departments for linking to welfare measures were forged during the lockdown. The work along bringing the people from the fringes to centre-stage is critical.

2. Public Health:

The Pandemic has reiterated the criticality of deeper engagement in this sector. Moving beyond awareness on safety and hygiene issues, the need for behavioural change amongst communities, bridging gaps in vaccinations and other medicines, especially for the ultra-poor, women and children while ensuring food and nutritional security is an emerging imperative. The lockdown saw a renewed focus on nutrition and kitchen gardens in many states with Chattisgarh and Odisha taking the lead. Dwindling of food stocks has and is likely

to have a negative impact on the nutrition status of households, especially of women, adolescent girls, small and young children. Ensuring nutrition security through kitchen gardens and convergence with MGNREGS has worked well in Odisha. Thus, it is a support for the most vulnerable as well as vulnerable opportunities. PRADAN aims to support 1,00,000 most families to set up their kitchen gardens by providing inputs and training support.

3. Enhancing Employment through MGNREGS:

The rural employment scheme is a critical scheme that has, and can be leveraged to enhance employment and ensure livelihoods for a vast majority of the rural workforce. In most states, PRADAN has worked extensively with state and district administrations to provide employment to not just resident rural workforce, but also to the numerous returning migrants. Not only have the teams engaged with the administrations to open up new and enhanced number of works, while connecting numerous job card holders to these works, in many states, teams are actively engaged in advocating policy changes in making MGNREGS more responsive and context specific. For instance, given the current situation, ensuring 100 days work per household was found insufficient. Teams are advocating 100 – 200 days work per household. Much needs to be done in

- Supporting Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats in drawing up plans for works that can be opened up in different contexts while maintaining the new norm of social distancing and other safety measures.
- Supporting state and district administrations to use MGNREGS funds for creating assets like plantations, horticulture, water-harvesting structures, installing renewable energy-based irrigation systems, land treatment measures, etc. which can provide immediate cash as well as improve livelihoods in the medium and long-term.
- Convergence of the MGNREGS with natural resource – land and water - management measures towards mitigating challenges of climate change and enhancement of the carrying capacity of the local area. Eco-system based adaptation that focus on ecosystem services as buffers providing water and food

PRADAN is exploring self-employment opportunities whereby it plans to groom and promote 10,000 such youth as Entrepreneurs or Self-employed (YSE). These youth would be supported in developing their business plans while providing necessary linkages for setting up their business. Support through commercial banks and other sources of working capital will be facilitated.

security is the need of the hour. This would entail a larger vision of establishing land capability and restoration of the same.

- Enhancing livelihoods through backyard poultry and goat rearing with provisions for improvement on sheds, vaccines and other support.

4. Addressing the needs of the Returning Migrants:

Most teams across PRADAN have been involved in creating data sets and skill mapping of the returning migrants. With many seeking employment in their home geographies, an emerging imperative is to bridge the gap between skills, and available as well as future employment opportunities. Mapping of skills-sets with industries and sectors while also identifying alternative livelihood options in villages is the need of the hour. PRADAN is exploring self-employment opportunities whereby it plans to groom and promote 10,000 such youth as Entrepreneurs or Self-employed (YSE). These youth would be supported in developing their business plans while providing necessary linkages for setting up their business. Support through commercial banks and other sources of working capital will be facilitated.

5. Enhancing and Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture Economies:

The Pandemic associated lockdown disrupted value chains of the Rabi and the Kharif season, be these markets or availability of and access to inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, manure etc. Most teams across states worked on

- Mending these chains working in collaboration with administrations, markets and the farmers themselves. In some states the setting up of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO's) have proved beneficial in restoring these supply chains. For instance, in Jharkhand, the Bhoura team engaged with the FPOs who bought the produce of approximately 100 tons at reasonable price for further distribution and marketing. This ameliorated the farmer crises considerably. Going forward, PRADAN will expand its engagement with the FPOs or similar organised farmer groups to support agriculture economies. PRADAN plans to support 100 such FPOs through provisioning of working capital of around Rs 30 lakhs to each FPO's as grant support from the project. Creating linkages between FPOs and small and medium farmers to cultivate cereals, oilseeds and pulses as a move towards food security at the household, village and national levels is the critical. It is envisaged that the 100 FPO's would support around 400,000 small and medium farmers through providing such inputs and services on credit.

- In addition, creating shorter, localised and durable value chains is the need of the hour, especially for perishable items like vegetables and fruits, both in terms of volume uptake of commodities as well as wholesale prices. Creating localised / decentralised sorting, grading and storage facilities at sub-district level is critical. Experiments such as 'food on wheels' and 'seeds on wheels' has triggered a thinking on creating a direct pick-up facility from the farm with direct linkages to the final consumer. Concepts such as "Veggies-on-wheels" need to be innovated upon. FPOs will be encouraged to take on these innovations on a service-charge basis for commercial viability and sustainability.

- Setting up Agriculture Production Clusters (APCs) that serve as the growth nuclei facilitating an eco-system servicing the farmer. For the coming years, the focus would be on cultivation of cereals, oilseeds and pulses to ensure food security at the household level as well as contributing to the national food security. This would also minimise the risks associated with growing perishables due to the broken and disrupted value-chains. Furthermore, a direct engagement with small and marginal farmers on crop diversification and ensuing benefits thereon is needed.

- Working with and promoting Agri-entrepreneurs (AE's) training them to provide services like custom-hiring centres for small farm implements, providing vegetable seedlings, para-vet services for small ruminants and poultry, and marketing services to the farmers of various commodities. Some of them would also produce Organic manure and plant protection products to be sold to the SMFs to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides and reduce investments.
- Finally, in line with PRADAN's ongoing work on natural resource management and enhancing sustainable agriculture, there is a need to shift from the current chemical-based agriculture to adopting sustainable eco-friendly agriculture practices. PRADAN envisages to work with 250,000 farmers towards this new paradigm.

6. Working with Tribal Population

on Forest Based Economies: Given the sizeable tribal population in PRADAN areas, reliance on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) an important livelihood option. There are schemes under TRIFED for MSP of forest produce (Pradhan Mantri Vandhan Yojana) however, the access is not very smooth due to information deficit and other issues. The Village Organisations or similar collectives formed by SHGs could be supported for aggregation and produce selling to the TRIFED channels so that forest produce gatherers have better and fair price realisation.

PRADAN has been at the frontline of the Pandemic response. As economies and societies move – albeit painfully – towards a new normal, engagement in the next phase of re-building is equally, if not more critical. PRADAN's ability to roll out a multi-faceted response to the Pandemic (as discussed in this report) has triggered a deeper reflection on its mode of operation as well as areas for future engagement as discussed in this Chapter. To roll-out the above set of activities in all its 120 blocks, covering an average population of 50,000 people per block, across 7 states clearly calls for enhanced investments targeting defined intervention areas. Deeper and wider collaborations and partnerships is an emerging imperative for PRADAN, one that calls for enhanced efforts.

Anode Governance Lab & Team

Anode Governance Lab

Anode Governance Lab is a Bangalore based organisation that works towards strengthening governance and enabling public institutions to function effectively. Its work is anchored in the belief that vibrant and learning institutions adapt and negotiate with the external environment to deliver their mandate consistently. Anode's institution-building efforts leverage organisation development (OD) and management principles, which adopts a systemic view to change, associating with members of institutions as participants and not recipients of change. Anode's work includes research and analysis of legal frameworks, strengthening institutional capacities of local governments, leveraging technology for better transparency and accountability and impact evaluation. Starting in Karnataka in 2009, Anode presently works in Jharkhand, MP and Maharashtra.

Dr. Anjali Karol Mohan

Dr. Mohan is a regional planner with a PhD in governance and public policy. Her research and professional practice over the last twenty-seven years straddles development, institutional and policy frameworks, urban planning and management and information and communication technologies and development (ICTD). She has successfully completed several planning assignments in her individual capacity and as part of multi-disciplinary teams, both as a team leader and a team member. She is a partner at Integrated Design, a Bangalore based planning and design practice and a visiting faculty at the Centre for Public Policy at the National Law School University of India, Bangalore and the Takshashila Institutions, a public policy think tank headquartered in Bangalore India.

Dr. Mohan consults with Anode Governance Lab where she leads research and policy initiatives. She brings her deep understanding of government functioning along with facilitative pedagogy to guide the work at different stages of Anode's work. She has published in academic journals as well as popular media, in addition to delivering talks and presenting her work globally. She has served on several task forces and expert committees.

Pragya Pathak

She is a trained sociologist in studying human behaviour, interactions and social institutions. She has extensively worked on workers' rights, gender equality and promotion of livelihood initiatives. Her current work focuses on strengthening public institutions through improving governance in rural public institutions. She is a History graduate from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi and holds a Masters in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Padmavathi Baredy

Padma Baredy is a social development professional. Her current work focuses on strengthening public institutions through improving governance in rural public institutions. She has previously worked with IBM as an SAP consultant. Padma has a Master's in Public Policy and Governance from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and Bachelors in Computer Engineering from Pune Institute of Computer Technology, University of Pune.

Abbreviations

APPI: Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative
ANM: Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery
ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist
AWW: Anganwadi Worker
APC: Agriculture Production Clusters
BRLP: Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society – JEEViKA
BRGF: Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme
BRLF: Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation
BDO: Block Development Officers
BPO: Block Project Officer (BPO)
BSDC: Baghelkhand and Satpuda Development Cluster
BRKY: Bihar Rojgar Kalyan Yojana
CDC :Community Data Collector
CSP: Community Service provider
CLF: Cluster Level Federation
CMGB: Central Madhya Pradesh Grameen Bank
CRP: Community Resource Person
CEO: Chief Executive Officer
CAC: Covid Action Committee
CSO: Civil Society Organizations
CAHW: Community Animal Health Workers
CRLR:
DCR: District Control Room
DC: Development Cluster
EG: Empowered Groups
FES: Foundation for Ecological Security
GoR: Government of Rajasthan
IWWAGE :Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy
IVRS: Interactive Voice Response System
IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
JMDC: Jangal Mahal Development Cluster
LWR: Lutheran World Relief
MGNREGS: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MSP: Minimum Support Price
MP: Madhya Pradesh
MPOWER: Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project
MFI: Micro Finance Institutions
MLA: Member of the Legislative Assembly

NRLM: National Rural Livelihood Mission
NTFP: Non-Timber Forest Produce
NEBDC: North East Bihar Development Cluster
NGO: Non-Profit Organization
OMM: Odisha Millet Mission
PMGKY: Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
PRI: Panchayati Raj Institution
PDS: Public Distribution System
PPE: Personal Protection Equipment
SHG: Self Help Group
SRLM: State Rural Livelihood Mission
ST: Scheduled Tribe
SDM: Sub-Divisional Magistrate
SPDC: Santhal Pargana Development Cluster
SCE: The Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning Programme
SRDC: South Rajasthan Development Cluster
SRTT: Sir Ratan Tata Trust
TRIFED: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India
VRP: Village Resource Person
VLT: Village-level trainer
WBADMIP: West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project
ZP: Zilla Parishad

Pradan: Development Clusters, Geographical Spread and Team

Bihar			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
Santhal Pargana Development Cluster (SPDC)	Banka	Chandan Banka Katoria	Katoria
	Jamui	Chakai	Chakai
North East Bihar Development Cluster (NEBDC)	Kishanganj	Terhagachh Bahadurganj Dighalbank Takkurganj	Kishanganj
	Nawada	Nardiganj Narhaar	Nawada
	Samastipur		
	Begusarai		
	Bhagalpur		

West Bengal				
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team	
Jangal Mahal Development Cluster (JMDC)	Bankura	Khatra	Raniband	
		Indpur Hirband	Bangla	
North East Bihar Development Cluster (NEBDC)	Jhargram	Binpur I Binpur II	Silda	
	Pashchim Medinipur	Gopiballavpur-1 Nayagram	Kharika Mathani	
	Purulia	Jhalda-2 Jhalda-1	Jhalda	
			Barabazar Baghmundih	Baghmundih
			Kashipur	Adra

Rajasthan			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
South Rajasthan Development Cluster (SRDC)	Sirohi	Abu road	Abu road
		Pindwara	Swaroopganj

Jharkhand				
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team	
North Chotanagpur Development Cluster	Bokaro	Petarbar	Petarbar	
		Jaridih	Jainamore	
		Kasmar		
	Hazaribagh	Churchu	Churchu	
			Tatijharia	
			Daru	
			Barhi	Telaiya
			Padma	
			Jainagar	
			Chouparan	
			Chandwara	
			Koderma	
Ramgarh	Gola	Petarbar		
Santhal Pargana Development Cluster (SPDC)	Dumka	Gopikander	Kathikund	
		Kathikund		
		Shikaripara	Shikaripara	
		Masalia		
		Dumka		
	Godda	Sundarpahari	Godda	
		Godda		
		Pathargama	Mahagama	
		Boarijore		
		Poraiyahat	Poraiyahat	
Saraiyahat				
South Chhotanagpur	Gumla	Gumla	Gumla	
		Raidih		
		Chainpur		
		Ghagra	Ghaghra	
		Kamdara	Palkot	
		Palkot		
		Basia		

Jharkhand			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
Development Cluster (SCDC)	Khunti	Erki	Khunti
		Khunti	
		Murhu	
		Torpa	Torpa
		Rania	
	Lohardaga	Kisko	Lohardaga
		Kuru	
		Lohardaga	
		Senha	
	Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster	Paschimi Singhbhum	Bandgaon
Chakradharpur			
Sonua			
Jhinkpani			Jhinkpani
Hatgamaria			
Tonto			

Odisha			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster (KNODC)	Mayurbanj	Jashipur Karanjia Patna Sukurli Bajag Thakurmunda	Jashipur Karanjia Thakurmunda
	Kendujhar	Banspal	
	Kalahandi	Lanjigarh	Ambodola
South Odisha Development Cluster (SODC)	Kandhamal	Phulbani Tikabali Baliguda K. Naugaon Daringbadi Tumudibandh Kalyansinghpur Bishmakatak Semliguda Nandapur	Balliguda Phulbani
	Koraput	Laxmipur Lamtaput Nandpur	Nandpur Lamtapur
	Rayagad	Kolnara	Jaykapur

Madhya Pradesh			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
Baghelkhand and Satpuda Development Cluster (BSDC)	Sidhi	Sihwal Sidhi	Sihawal
	Shahdol	Jaisinghnagar Gohparu	Jaisinghnagar
	Singrauli	Waidhan Deosar	Sarai Deosar
	Betul	Chicholi Ghoradoongri Betul Shahpur	Betul Bhoura
Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster	Hoshangabad	Kesla	
	Mandla	Mohgaon Ghugri Narayanganj	
	Dindori	Karanjia Samnapur Amarpur	Samnapur
	Balaghat	Paraswada Balaghat	Paraswada

Rajasthan			
Development Cluster	District	Block	Team
North and South Chhattisgarh Development Cluster (NSCDC)	Bastar	Darbah Tokapal	Tokapal
	Dhamtari	Nagri Narharpur Magarlod	Dhamtari Narharpur
	Raigarh	Lelunga Tammnar Raigarh	Lailunga Rajgarh
	Kanker	Bhanupratappur	Bhanupratappur

List of Participants

Sr.No	State	Development Cluster	PRADAN Professionals	Others	Discussions conducted on
1	Bihar	NEDBC	Sahana Mishra (Integrator)		10th July 2020
			Prabhat Jha		
			Nayan Tarai		
			Amit Kumar Thakur		
			Prachi Gupta		
2	Rajasthan	SRDC	Binod Dahal (Integrator)	Arvind Godwat- Assistant Engineer at Panchayati Raj Department, Rajasthan, Sirohi, Abu road Chunnilal Ghanchi - Block in-charge during COVID-19 (Pindwara) Hanveer Singh- District Help Desk (Sirohi) Community Members: Members from Federation: Johara Bai, Laxmi Bai and Hemalata Bai (Ajeevika Mitra- PRADAN)	24th July 2020
			Bipin Bihari		
			Anif Khan		
			Shreya		
3	West Bengal	JMDC	Arnab Chakraborty (Integrator)	"Jyotsna Mandi (MLA) Community Members: Dhiren Majhi (Hirbandh Block President), Rajkumar Mondal (Panchayat Pradhan, Brahmondiha GP) "	30th June 2020
			Himadri Das		
			Pijush Kanta Burnwal		
			Tapas Paul		
			Saranmoyee Kar		
			Ritesh Pandey		
			Rajsekhar Bandopadhyay		
			Sumanta Adhikary		

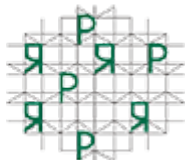
4	Chhattisgarh	NSDC	"Saroj (Integrator) "	"Somnath - Program Officer(PO), Dharbha Block PR Sahu - Dhamtari district, CEO Dharm Singh, APO, Dhamtari Rakesh - CEO, Lailungh Block"	17th July 2020
			Naresh		
			Dinesh		
			Mohini		
			Kamakshi		
			Rakesh		
			Kuntal		
			Tamali		
			Supriya		
5	Odisha	KNODC	Sarbani Bose (Integrator)	" Parmeshwar Kushwaha-Block Development Officer-Hatgamaria Aditya Ranjan-Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Prakash Sethy (Block Project Management(BPM) Kusumi Block)"	3rd July 2020
			Dolagobinda Panda		
			Sreeja Basu		
			Sangita		
			Hasan Adib Khan		
			Sisir Kumar Sahoo		
			JyotiRekha Roy Pradhan		
			Deepshikha		
			Tarak Nath Das		
			Deepshikha		
		SODC	Jagat Jyoti Barik		
			Sailabala Panda		19th June 2020
			Sashanka Sekhar Sahu		
6	Madhya Pradesh	BSDC	Rabindranath (Integrator)	"Sampada Saraf (Tehsildar Sarai) "	8th July 2020
			Sibin		
			Anshu Kumar		
			Smriti Sah		
			Shamshad Parvez		
			Pawan Kumar		
			Mahendra Singh		
			Anshuman Singh		

		MKDC	Neeraj Joshi	Vatsala Shivhare (CEO, Janpad, Narayanganj)	19th June 2020
			Archana Singh		
			Sumendra Punia		
			Abhishek Pachori		
7	Jharkhand	SCDC	" Binju Abraham - Integrator "	Ravindra Kumar Gupta-Block Development Officer-Basia	22nd June 2020
			Rajeev Ranjan		
			Prem Shankar		
			Prakash Kumar		
			Md. Meraj		
			Surbhi Mahatma		
		NCDC	Bala Devi Ningthoujam		
			Sukanta Sarkar		
		KNODC	Sarbani Bose (Integrator)	Parmeshwar Kushwaha-Block Development Officer-Hatgamaria Aditya Ranjan, Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Prakash Sethy (BPM, Kusumi Block)	3rd July 2020
			Dolagobinda Panda		
			Sreeja Basu		
			Hasan Adib Khan		
			Sisir Kumar Sahoo		
			JyotiRekha Roy Pradhan		
			Deepshikha		
			Tarak Nath Das		
		SPDC	Pranjal Saikia (Integrator)	"Somnath Banerjee -Block Development Officer Mahagama Rajneesh- Block Development Officer- Kathikund Sunil Kumar- Block Development Officer Chakai Saurav Suman : Block Development Officer- Sundarpahari Community Members: Federations Members MYMVS Guriya Didi- Adhyaksha Meralmandi - Sachiv Sarita Devi- Member "	6th July 2020

			Rajesh Mit (Integrator)		
			Anita Sil		
			Rahul Singh		
			Md. Fahad Khan		
			Sushmita Dutta		
			Ashisa Ratha		
			Mehmood Hasan		

प्रदान
Pradan

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE
FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION



Azim Premji
Philanthropic
Initiatives