



The Northern Regional Forum



# HALF YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT

## Women Empowerment Through Access To Livelihood & Rights & Entitlements



# Women Empowerment Through Access To Livelihood & Rights & Entitlements

**Project Number : 321-900-1805 ZG**

**Reporting Period : December 2020 - May 2021**

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CHC</b>	Community Health Centre
<b>CIG</b>	Common Interest Group
<b>COVID</b>	Coronavirus Disease
<b>DIP</b>	Detailed Implementation Plan
<b>DSSS</b>	Diocesan Social Service Society
<b>DPO</b>	Disabled People's Organization
<b>FCS</b>	Farmers Clubs
<b>GPCC</b>	Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee
<b>GPDP</b>	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
<b>LIG</b>	Livestock Interest Group
<b>LG</b>	Labour Group
<b>MGNREGA</b>	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Centre
<b>PLCPC</b>	Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee
<b>POP</b>	Package of Practise
<b>UKSVK</b>	Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra
<b>UP</b>	Uttar Pradesh
<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee



# INTRODUCTION



**A** livelihood comprises people, their capabilities and their means of living, including food, income and assets. In rural India, the rural people are isolated from economic opportunities as compared to urban people. The rural people have less access to social services such as health, sanitation, education, knowledge of rights and entitlements etc. This makes it hard for rural people to exert pressure for change in systems which have often actively discriminated against them both in the allocation of resources and in pricing policies for their produce.

The present project proposes to women led sustainable development to achieve desired results of the project i.e. increased livelihood, access to rights and entitlements and active participation in the development of the community through Gram Sabha and Planning. The project is expected to achieve following outcome by the end of the project

- Increased income of the **12000** marginalized families in **12** districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Increased realization for access to rights and entitlements to **12000** marginalized families in **12** districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Improved functioning of local self-governance in the **31** gram panchayat of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

This Half yearly progress report demonstrates the efforts and initiatives taken by the project from December **2020** to May **2021**. Few proposed activities could not be organized due to Covid 2<sup>nd</sup> wave and lockdown. The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave had a huge impact wherein many community members got infected and **128** casualties were reported. During the lockdown period our team collaborated and assisted the Corona warriors in distributing grocery kit, cooked meal, hygiene kit, sanitary pads, medicines and psychosocial support. Eight of our team members also got infected with Covid. Timely treatment and guidelines as prescribed were followed by them and have recovered.

The activities implemented during the reporting period are as follows:

- Appointment of project staff.
- Capacity building of project staff.
- Baseline Survey.
- Sessions on Leadership for members of Community Based Organization.
- Sessions on Harit Abhiyaan.
- Training on formation and management of Common Interest Groups.
- Formation of CIG especially Farmer's Club and Self-Help Groups.
- Workshop on Baseline Report Analysis



# DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

## Appointment of Project Staff

as proposed all project staff at the Secretariat have been appointed. Twelve Program Implementer and Twenty-Four Junior Program Implementer have been appointed at the field level for project implementation.

## Project Orientation

Project Orientation cum Capacity Building workshop was organized on January 22-23, 2021 at UKSVK, Agra for the Program Implementors. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the Project Objective and the desired Outcome of the project.



The project team were capacitated on the three phases of developmental activity, i.e. pre-activity planning, during the activity and post activity. They were also informed on process documentation, monthly progress report, documentation of case studies and video documentation. A detailed



implementation plan for first year was developed as follows:

- Steps or process to conduct activities.
- Expected month of implementation.
- Expected beneficiaries.
- Specific role of every project staff in the concerned activities.
- Reporting deadline

## Baseline Survey

Baseline survey was planned and organized at the beginning of the project to obtain better understanding of socio-economic situation of the target communes and to collect the baseline data for each of the three outcomes, which will provide the basis for progress monitoring and evaluation. Under each outcome, a list of data to be collected was developed with clear indication of data sources and data collection methodologies. Based on the data list, a questionnaire for household survey was developed.

The questionnaire was shared with the project team for their inputs and feedback, further they were informed that baseline survey will be done online in Google form. Few participants expressed their inconvenience of organizing online survey due to connectivity problems and requested to conduct the same offline. Permission was granted for offline survey on condition that the respective coordinator will enter the data in Google form.



Baseline survey was conducted in all **107** villages covering **15289** households, details are as follows:

S.No	Name of Diocese	No. of Households interviewed
1	Agra	1418
2	Allahabad	1313
3	Ajmer	1498
4	Banswara	1252
5	Bareilly	1039
6	Bijnor	1090
7	Dausa	1242
8	Gorakhpur	1183
9	Jhansi	1518
10	Lucknow	917
11	Meerut	1473
12	Varanasi	1346
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15289</b>





# CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR PROJECT TEAM

## Training on Formation and Management of Common Interest Group.

A three days training program on Common Interest Group formation for field staff was organized from April 06 – 08, 2021. The training was facilitated by Mr. Varun Sharma and was attended by **11** Project Implementer and **24** Junior Project Implementer animators. Due to some unforeseen circumstances the resource person could not come, but facilitated the training through virtual platform. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge of participants on the following:

- Concept of CIG.
- Strategies on formation and management of CIG.
- Roles and Responsibilities of CIG members.
- Different Government Schemes related with project's outcomes.



The project team were explained on the importance of having CIG and how CIGs will assist in meeting the project objectives. The participants were also elaborated on GPCC (Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee), GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) and PLCPC (Panchayat level child protection committee).

A format on tracking of activities was also briefed as follows.

Time / year / month (1)	Activity / Task (2)	Output (3)	Narrative of Change (4)	How to measure this change (5)	Means of Verification (documents /institutions/ case study) (6)	Remark/ description (7)
Outcome 1: Increased sustainable sources of livelihood for 12000 marginalized families in twelve districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan						
Outcome 2: Increased demand and access to services and entitlements for all eligible and marginalized families in twelve districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.						
Outcome 3: Improved performance of women representatives in PRI to promote good governance in 31 gram panchayat of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan through active participation of women members.						

# WORKSHOP ON “ANALYSIS OF BASELINE SURVEY”

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On **April 09, 2021** a workshop was organized wherein the baseline survey report was analyzed by the respective program implementer. The study established key baseline figures for the ongoing livelihood project against which progress will be measured at the end of the project. In order to achieve the outcomes it was decided to develop appropriate Common Interest Groups. The groups finalized by the project team are as follows:

- Self Help Groups.
- Farmers Group / Kissan club.
- Disabled People's Organization.
- Livestock Interest Group.
- Labour Group.
- Village Development Committee .

The aforesaid group will mostly comprise of women members from the most marginalized sections and will be formed at ward, panchayat and block level for effective representation.



# STREET PLAY

As planned the street plays could not be organized in all **12** DSSS, only three DSSS, Bijnor, Bareilly and Jhansi could manage to organize the street play. Rest have postponed due to covid lockdown and Section **144** was imposed.

The objective of the street play was to raise awareness among the community members on livelihood problems and improved agriculture practice. The strategy adopted by the street play team were as follows:

- Environment Building: formal and creative announcements were made through speakers and transact-walk in which songs and musical instruments were used.
- The theme of play was informed to the people in advance by the project staff and the team.
- An appropriate place for performing the play was identified in consultation with community members participants.
- The play involved placards and informative songs involving some comedy in between to gather maximum audience.
- At the finishing of the play formal messages were explained to the people and general feedback were collected for review.



# SESSIONS ON “LEADERSHIP FOR MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION”

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**70** Sessions on Leadership were conducted for members of existing Community-based organizations, Self Help Groups and Farmers' Clubs (FCs). The main objectives of these sessions were to capacitate women to lead and address their issues through community-based organizations. Total **1,636** participated in these sessions and were trained on following issues:



- Current economic and social status of women in concerned villages.
- Need of SHGs/FCs and how SHGs/FCs can contribute in coping up from current poor conditions.
- How to conduct Meetings of SHGs/FCs (discussion on decision taken in last month and follow up).
- Role and Responsibilities of Office Bearers of SHGs, FCs, Clusters and Federation.
- Management of Books of accounts of SHGs/FCs.
- How to identify and address issues of group and concerned villages.
- How to involve groups' members in decision making process







# SESSIONS ON HARIT ABHIYAAN (Ecology Promotion)

**9** Sessions on Harit Abhiyaan were conducted across **107** villages, of 12 districts and were participated by **2,146**. The sessions focused on greenery promotion, promoting and developing kitchen garden, terrace garden, promoting organic manures etc. Besides the aforesaid, sessions on Package of Practice (PoP) were also disseminated, this practice makes farming more efficient and sustainable in the long run. Modern agri-technology plays a critical role to ascertain that the package of practices is being adopted and adhered to by farmers during the period of crop cultivation. The farm practices that were explained are as follows:

- Field Selection and Land leveling.
- Seed selection and pre germination test.
- Seed treatment.
- Seed sowing (line sowing).
- Post sowing methods.
- Different methods of irrigation.
- Harvesting methods.
- Post harvesting methods (grading, sorting and storage).
- Developmental approach towards Sustainable Agriculture.

Community members too expressed their desire and assured their contribution in designing, practicing and promoting new agriculture practices to enhance their agricultural productivity.



# FORMATION OF COMMON INTEREST GROUPS

**C**ommon Interest Group is a small voluntary association of poor people of same socio-economic background, who come together on the basis of common interest. These CIGs will play a vital role in enhancing the economic status of the family. These group will serve as a platform wherein the group members will be trained and sensitized on various aspects pertaining to agriculture, increased realization for access to rights and entitlements and improved functioning of local self- governance.



In order to develop and create CIGs the project staff had organized community meetings and focus group discussions and were also informed on the project objective, activities and process involved. The community members were also briefed on the importance of CIG, these CIGs are being formed as per the baseline analysis. The general guidelines and roles and responsibilities of CIGs were also

briefed with the community members.

The outbreak of Covid 2<sup>nd</sup> wave did halt the progress of CIG formation. As planned all CIGs could not be formulated but the project is in progress and soon the desired number of CIGs will be formulated and will be functional. During this reporting period the following number of CIGs have been formed:

S. No	Type of CIG	No. of CIGs proposed to be planned	No. of CIGs formed
1	Self Help Groups (SHG)	151	38
2	Farmers Group / Kissan club	110	19
3	Disabled People's Organization (DPO)	26	01
4	Livestock Interest Group (LIG)	108	2
5	Labour Group (LG)	67	30
6	Village Development Committee (VDC)	50	-
7	Community Based Organization (CBO)	10	-





## WORLD WATER DAY

**W**orld Water Day was celebrated on March **22, 2021** across the target villages of **12 DSSS**. The project has conducted an event on World Water Day in the target villages to raise awareness of water crisis across the globe.

The participants were informed on different water preservation methods like roof top harvesting, ground water recharge, developing trenches etc. The youth groups and younger individuals were mobilized to confront water resources management challenges.



# COVID - 19 PANDEMIC

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**C**COVID-19 pandemic second wave has been deadlier in the country, It had reached highest ever single-day spike (around **3.5** lakh fresh infections as on April **24, 2021** in COVID-19 cases in the world since the pandemic begun, the hole globe has witnessed not the just numbers but the huge scarcity of resources and emerged crises that have accompanied. News media across the world have focused with detailed reports on India's situation and the health infrastructure which is almost on the verge of collapse due to lack of planning and preparedness in key aspects that led to it.

India surge in infections rapidly increased, officials reported nearly **350,000** new infections, and the deaths continued to rise. The acute shortage of medicine supplies and lifesaving drugs, oxygen cylinder, and hospitals beds at this crucial time in the second wave of the Covid-19.

Unemployment has been on the rise in the intervention area since March **2021**, savings had dried up and many have fell into poverty. Community members are taking up work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), but no work available.

During our visits we noticed the following:

- **264** people were affected with Covid and **128** casualties were reported.
- People were not practicing Covid norms.
- People were afraid to undergo Covid test though many had symptoms like cough, cold and fever.
- Nominal health infrastructure, lack of medicine and staffs.
- No psychological support or counselling were organized by Pradhan / village head for people affected with Covid.
- No vaccination at PHC / CHC.

## Sessions on “Awareness Generation for Covid Second Wave”

Due to strict curfew followed by complete lockdown to limit second wave of Covid we were not able to implement planned activities. Project staff made whatsapp group of community members and shared information regarding Covid Advisory, precautionary methods etc.

Meetings were organized with the Block Development Officer, CHCs/PHC incharge, Frontline health workers, Pradhan etc. and Counselling and psychosocial sessions were organized and people were mobilized for vaccination.



# CONCLUSION

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The first six months of the project has enabled the project team to get acquainted with the beneficiaries their needs and how this project will impact their living. Though many planned activities could not be realized due to covid second wave and panchayat elections. The panchayat elections were conducted in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

In spite of the hurdles our team continuously communicated with the target group and government stakeholders. Meetings, household visit were organized with the CIGs especially women to realize their quality of living during the covid pandemic.

During this tough time the community and CIG groups collectively contributed in fight against covid. The selfless service of community volunteers and CIG members helped the diocesan team and frontline health workers in reaching and serving the covid infected.





# Glimpses...





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