



The Northern Regional Forum



FIRST YEAR COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 321-900-1805ZG



MISEREOR
● IHR HILFSWERK

**Project Title : Women Empowerment Through Access To Livelihood & Rights
& Entitlements**

Project Number : 321-900-1805 ZG

Reporting Period : December 2020 - November 2021

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIGs	Common Interest Groups
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DPO	Differently-abled People's Organization
DSSS	Diocesan Social Service Society
FCRA	Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act
FFS	Farmer Field School
FIGs	Farmer Interest Groups
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
PDC	Panchayat Development Committee
SHG	Self Help Group
UKSVK	Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra
VDC	Village Development Committee

1. FORMAL DETAILS

1.1	Name of the partner organization	Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra (UKSVK)
1.2	Project Number	321-900-1805 ZG
1.3	Project Title	Women empowerment through Access to Livelihood and Rights & Entitlements.
1.4	Reporting Period	December 01, 2020 – November 30, 2021

1.5 Brief description of the project activities

UKSVK presents its annual report of “**Women empowerment through Access to Livelihood & Rights & Entitlements**”, in the Northern region of India, through the kind assistance of MISEREOR, Germany. The proposed outcomes of the program are:

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

Since the inception of the new FCRA norms, UKSVK is directly implementing the aforesaid project in coordination and mutual support from the diocesan partners. The year **2020 – 21** has been a year of experimentation and learning. The year threw up many challenges that prompted us to face many situations where we were confronted to transform, modify or recreate the modality to work with our target stakeholders.

This first-year completion report is being prepared by UKSVK secretariat staff consisting of the Executive Director, General Coordinator, Associate Coordinator, Project field staff and the Accountant. The inputs cover the entire report assembled from the monitoring/field visit, coordinators meet, monthly – quarterly report, data compilation format and other achievement articles shared by the project staff.

As per the DIP all the proposed activities couldn't be realized due to the unfavourable circumstances during the Covid lockdown. But our team was in continuous touch with the beneficiaries and assisted them physically and socially.

The participatory community approach and trust-building dialogue assisted in creating a favourable condition for the fruitful intervention of activities. The formation of CIGs like

SHG, Farmers group, Livestock group, Labor group, VDC group, PDC group, and DPO group assisted in creating a platform wherein the community members have developed a social connection and a sense of belonging.

2. CHANGES IN THE PROJECT IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT

2.1 Important changes in the external framework conditions and project setting

Political Factors

2017 proved once again that there is never a dull moment in the Indian politics. And so, it was a year of consolidation for the Central Government which now has ruling governments in 19 states. A lot of political upside-down is happening making it quite tough to take decisions. The proposed GST (Goods and Services Tax) makes foreign companies feel unsafe in India as an investment destination.

As the COVID 19-second wave gained strength day by day we noticed scaring distress of humankind. The second wave threw away the whole health machinery out of gear. Thousands of patients died due to shortage of beds, oxygen cylinders and medicines. In India, the number of new cases of infections alarmingly peaked on 7th May 2021 with a record number of **414188** patients. (Source: WHO update No. 70) The highest number of death in a single day was **4529** which was recorded on **18.05.2021**. It is one of the highest number recorded in the world. Several state governments have been compelled to clamp lockdown in the month of April 2021 in different modes and schedules to contain the out-spread pandemic.

Farmers faced a difficult situation and are demonstrating their opposition by holding rallies, movements and meetings to oppose the Government decisions. Though the national government has passed a bill pertaining to the agricultural. It repealed the three laws that aimed at deregulating agricultural markets. However, the farmers put up a year long protest because of which the govt. had to bow and roll back the bill.

Economic Factors

The economy of the states of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is predominantly agrarian, but is changing fast with rapid economic growth that has ranged above **8%** annually. According to IMF (International Monetary Fund), "India's economy is picking up and growth prospects look bright—partly thanks to the implementation of recent policies, such as the nationwide goods and services tax".

But the aforesaid data is not realistic when it comes to implementing site. Most of the beneficiaries of the two states are involved in agriculture and allied activities. As a result the main economic source remains agriculture. Moreover, the input has gone up, while prices obtained for the final agricultural products have not risen commensurately. Withdrawal of subsidies by the govt. has further aggravated the burden of the farming communities. In general they are at the mercy of nature and markets.

Social Changes

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. These changes in the attitude of women were imbibed from various national and international movements.

The Govt. Economic Survey **2017-18** states that with the growing rural to urban migration by men, here is 'feminisation' of the agriculture sector, with the increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs and laborers. Rural women are responsible for the integrated management and use of diverse natural resources to meet the daily household needs. Still the women force fails to get the recognition and remains "invisible contributors" under the cultural backdrop of Indian society.

2.2 Relevant Social Issues Affecting Community Life

Caste-related Violence

It's a regular phenomenon in India where the Dalits and marginalized are the most vulnerable groups. They are often ill-treated and are kept out of the basic amenities and infrastructural facilities. They face exclusion and are often subjected to communal violence.

Safety of Women

Safety of women in India is a major concern. The major threats surrounding them are domestic violence, eve-teasing, rape, female infanticide and child marriage.

2.3 Important Changes Within the Partner Organizations

All the staff members at the secretariat are experienced hands and are implementing the proposed interventions with renewed vigor.

Fr Pious Philip had been working as the Assistant Director of UKSVK since **May 28, 2021**, under the leadership of Fr Antony Fernandes the then Executive Director.

3. IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT AND ACHIEVING ITS OUTCOME



Training for work with Partners, Families & Street Play, Film Shows

As part of community mobilization activities street plays, puppet show and film shows were organised across the project areas. The project team of SAFFAL has been instrumental in highlighting the project objective on sustainable agriculture, access to govt. schemes and services and role of women members in Panchayati Raj Institution. The communication activities helped in disseminating the message between the people in a very effective and attractive way.



Puppet Show Place: Gorakhpur



Film Show Place: Ajmer



Street Play Show Place: Bareilly



Capacity - Building Program for the Project Team

Capacity building is valuable and important because of its many long-term impacts. It helps in strengthening the skills, competencies and abilities of the project staff. A series of training was organized for the project to improve their ability to perform through learning and by changing their attitude, skills and knowledge. The following training programs were organized in the year 2021 for the project team:



Orientation cum induction meeting

Date: January 22-23 Place: Agra

Participants: 22



Concept, Formation, Management and Strengthening of Common Interest Group

Date: April 06-08 Place: Agra

Participants: 42



Analysis of Baseline Survey
Date: April 09 Place: Agra
Participants: 42



Management and Strengthening of Common Interest Group
Date: July 24, 26-28 Place: Ajmer
Participants: 41



People/Community - Led Organization
Date: July 25 Place: Ajmer
Participants: 41



Horticulture Development
Date: July 29-30 Place: Ajmer
Participants: 42



Livestock Management
Date: September 06-08 Place: Lucknow
Participants: 45



Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Farming
Date: September 09-11 Place: Lucknow
Participants: 45



Community Mobilization and Facilitation Skills
Date: September 13-16 Place: Lucknow
Participants: 45



Developing Monitoring and Evaluation System
Date: November 10-13 Place: Agra
Participants: 17



Reporting and Documentation
Date: November 14-17 Place: Agra
Participants: 17

After the completion of the aforesaid training program, the participants are expected to have learned the following:

- The project team have realized the importance of CIG formation and the role of CIG members in mainstreaming the project outcomes.
- The team members have been mobilized on the importance of horticulture plantation and its impact.
- Process and tools that can be used to identify livelihood intervention opportunities in the farm and non-farm sector.
- Participants committed themselves to apply the learned knowledge and skills in their workplace.
- Developed ability for developing a monitoring tool as per the project outcome and documentation of activities and case studies.
- Advocacy efforts initiated by the project team in mobilizing resources.



Training on Horticulture Place: Ajmer



Training on Good Agriculture and Organic Farming Place: Lucknow

Outcome 1 : Increased sustainable sources of livelihood for 12000 marginalized families in twelve districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

The following activities were implemented to achieve Outcome 1:

A. Formation of CIGs

In order to achieve the desired objective, different types of CIGs have been formed. Each group was formally organized and has clearly defined roles for the group members. The following CIGs has been formulated in the first year:



CIG Group Meeting Place: Lucknow

Type of CIG	Proposed Targets	Targets Achieved	Reason for Deviation in Targets
SHGs	151	155	
Farmer's Club/ FIGs	110	105	
Labours Group	67	123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outbreak of the Covid Pandemic and the sudden economic crisis resulted in unemployment and many had to return back to their respective villages. • There had been a constant request from the community members to the project team to include them in labours groups. As per the need the labours group got increased.
VDCs	50	45	
PDCs	04	04	
Livestock Groups	108	65	The project team could not achieved the target because few livestock groups have been integrated the farmers club and few livestock groups are under formation.
DPOs	26	29	
Women's Institutions	12	09	



CIG Members Visit to KVK Place: Mathura, Agra



Labour Group Formation Place: Jhansi



VDC Group Meeting Place: Bareilly



MGNREGA Work by CIG Members Place: Dausa

B. Rabbi Crop Demonstration Through Traditional and Organic Methods

The farmers who overwhelmingly dominate the region's agricultural sector have few opportunities to improve agricultural productivity, mainly because of poor extension services, institutional and cultural constraints, and continued adaptation of using traditional practices.

Major limitations to crop production include low soil fertility, low and erratic rainfall, low yield potential of indigenous crop varieties and poor crop management practices. Most smallholder farmers are ignorant of the potential benefits of improved seed and continue to grow their own-saved seed.



Crop Demonstration Place: Ajmer

It was felt that there was a need for closer interaction with farmers through extension services and on-farm demonstrations. Hence, various group meetings were organized to

create awareness about improved seeds. Gram (Ajmer – Rajasthan) and Wheat (Uttar Pradesh) demonstration plots were established on farmers' fields to introduce improved gram and wheat production.



The proposed activity was supposed to be conducted with **1920** farmers (**160** farmers per DSSS x **12** DSSS) during the Kharif season. Due to covid lockdown and govt. guidelines the project team could not deliver the activity in the specified period. Later it was decided to implement the demonstration in Rabi season with **80** farmers per location. **507** farmers were selected for the crop demonstration from the following DSSS:

DSSS	No. of farmers selected for the crop demonstration
Ajmer	80
Allahabad	74
Bijnor	23
Gorakhpur	84
Meerut	97
Udaipur	65
Varanasi	84

The selected farmers for the demonstration were trained at farmers' field schools, wherein they were instructed on the sustainable practices and use of organic inputs. Each farmer was provided with **23 – 24** Kg of gram and wheat seeds. Before sowing the seed the following process was practiced by the farmer: Germination, Seed Treatment and Sowing.

In regular intervals, the field team and CIG members undertook a follow-up visit to ensure the growth and maintenance of the crops. This activity will be expanded to cover more farmers to enable them to benefit fully from crop demonstrations. Strategies are being planned for the direct sale of agricultural produce by keeping out the mediators, thus ensuring better economic benefits for the farming community.



Place: Bijnor



Crop Demonstration

Place: Banswara

C. Training Sessions Through Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) on Land Preparation, Soil Testing, Seed Selection, Seed Sowing, Intercultural Practise & Harvesting/Storage

Farmer's field school is the learning ground where **25-30** farmers meet monthly in a local field setting under the guidance of the project team. **1100** farmers were mobilized through **60** FFS session and were mobilized on the following:

- Importance of soil fertility, impact of prolonged use of chemical fertilizers.
- Use of organic manure in holding the soil's micro-nutrients.
- Preparation of Liquid manure - growth promoters such as Jeevamrut, Vermi wash, EMO (Effective Micro Organization), Fish tonic, Bija amrut, Vermicompost etc.
- Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient management.
- Multiple cropping systems to maximize land productivity in a small area by improving the intensity of land and labor.
- In multi-cropping systems, even if one or two crops fail, farmers still are able to harvest other crops to guarantee food throughout the year and ensure enough fodder stocks for cattle.

In FFS the Govt. officials from KVK, Agriculture University and Animal husbandry were also

invited for facilitating different sessions resulting in good bonding among the farmers and officials.



Place: Banswara



Training on FFS

Place : Bareilly



Seed Treatment Place: Meerut



Seed Germination Test Place: Jhansi



Training on FFS Place: Ajmer



D. Demonstration of Horticulture Units and Grafting of Existing Plants

Horticulture is one of the potential agricultural enterprise in accelerating the growth of the economy. Accordingly, the farmers of our intervention area were mobilized to develop horticulture units. Mobilizing farmers for the horticulture demonstration was an uphill task for the project staff since the farmers have small land holdings.

As per the DIP, **96** horticulture demonstration sites were to be developed, presently **64** horticulture demonstrations sites have been established across **12** DSSS. The remaining sites are under process and will be completed by February **2022**.



Horticulture Demonstration Place: Banswara



Taking Distance for Horticulture Tree Plantation Place: Dausa

The objective of establishing the demonstration sites by the small farmers is to do integrated farming and increase income as well as to motivate other farmers to adopt these methods and become self-reliant. A mutual contract was agreed upon by the farmers by which they will follow all technical recommendations made by the project team with regard to planting, irrigating, weeding, using organic manure, controlling pests and diseases. In order to ensure the safety of the plot fencing was promoted to ensure to stop stray animals from destroying the crops.

As per the topography of the area, the farmers were provided with hybrid saplings like banana, papaya, mango, guava, Indian jujube, pomegranate and gooseberry. Each farmer was given **50** saplings and in some places the farmers procured **100** more sapling for cultivation



Horticulture Demonstration Place: Jhansi



Fencing of Horticulture Demonstration Place: Gorakhpur



Drip Irrigation Place: Ajmer

E. Promotion of Organic Farming

Organic Farming is a method that involves using organic materials like farm waste, crops and organic agents like aquatic fish. This farming method totally discourages using fertilizers, pesticides and other chemical products for healthy farming. During the group meetings, it was observed that many farmers were applying chemical fertilizers like urea and DAP in their farm. Since the members of the existing target group had little knowledge on the use of organic farming, a series of training programs and allied activities were organized wherein the farmers were mobilized to adapt organic inputs like Vermicompost, NADEEP compost, Mataka Khaad, Botanical Pesticide, Jeev Amrit and Darash Parni. Demo sessions were organized on preparing the organic materials and their usage in the field.

In one DSSS procurement of drum and other logistics has been done for preparing the organic inputs whereas in other location the team is under process.



Training on Organic Farming Place: Banswara



Demo of Organic Inputs Place: Lucknow

F. Developing Vermicompost Pit

Vermicompost is a low-cost organic amendment known for its effectiveness on agricultural productivity. Vermicompost is a method of preparing enrich compost with the use of earthworms whose excreta is rich in humus and nutrients. The compost developed helps the plant to grow vigorously.

48 Vermicompost pits were developed with the participation of those farmers who were involved in demonstration activity and who had land and one or more cattle. Before developing the pit the farmers were introduced to vermicomposting and the appropriate use of vermicompost by organizing various training.

Cattle dung (except pig, poultry and goat), farm wastes, crop residues, vegetable waste will be used by the farmers for vermicompost production. A standard size was fixed: Length **6 ft**, Width **3ft** and Depth **1.5ft** but in some places, a few farmers modified the size of the pit as per their convenience.





G. Livestock Management: Breed Improvement, Disease Control, Feeding Practices and Fodder Management

Livestock plays an important role in enhancing the economy of small landholder farmers. In the region being discussed, many small farmers are into livestock rearing. But they lack appropriate knowledge in dealing with sporadic disease outbreaks, scarcity of water and fodder, lack of appropriate livestock extension services, vaccination and inadequate information on how to improve animal performance and marketing.

A series of training on livestock management, goatery development, disease control, feeding practices and fodder management were organized across all 12 DSSS with farmers group and livestock group. The objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of community members on the following:



Breed Improvement Training Place: Jhansi

- To provide technical knowledge on livestock breed, fodder health & housing management, prevention & control of diseases in Livestock.

- To help participants in understanding the existing market structure & develop innovative market strategies.
- Development of fodder & feed.
- Enhancement of procurement, processing, production & marketing of livestock products.
- To share strategies for successful commercial goat enterprise and develop a clear cut perspective on opportunities & challenges.
- To disseminate govt. and other welfare schemes regarding commercial goat enterprise.



After the training program the following steps of awareness were organized:

- Discussion with the community and understanding major issues and set priorities – like most urgent, urgent, least urgent.
- Generate need and convert into demand after providing knowledge and information/benefits.

- Collect the name of the farmers who want support and service.
- Taking some token money for the service to ensure the timely action.
- Delivering service by organizing camp/ demo.

Efforts to increase productivity will be undertaken simultaneously with the provision of necessary inputs: improved breeding stock, disease management, fodder management and marketing facilities.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen society's commitments towards sustainable livestock production practices and policies and contribute in a tangible way.



H. Training on Goatery Development/ Backyard Poultry/ Fishery

Four sessions on Goatery development have been organized in Gorakhpur and Banswara diocese and was attended by 107 participants. The objective of the training was to equip and encourage the small farmers, especially women to adopt goat farming as an income generation activity by which they may improve their livelihood.



The women members from different CIGs have expressed their desire of initiating goat farming but the financial crunch is hindering their dream. In the coming period the project team will be working on a revolving model wherein the interested families will be supported financially in procuring good quality goat and bucks.

I. Half Yearly Vaccination Camps

Vaccination camps/program was designed to protect the animals from diseases caused by infectious organisms such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoans. During the CIG meetings, members shared that no veterinary health centre are present in most of the villages, no routine vaccination and veterinary care is available for the livestock. The villagers informed us about high mortality, less production and the very high cost of veterinary services during any emergency in their locality. The residents are not aware of the improvement of the breed to have good quality animals.



Vaccination camp Place: Ajmer



Place: Jhansi



Place: Lucknow



Place: Banswara

A series of livestock management training was organized with the farmers and livestock group. Vaccination camps for livestock were organized in October and November **2021**, wherein **1717** Cows, **1808** Goats, **629** Sheep and **1186** Buffalos were vaccinated. The goats and sheep were given P.P.R. (Peste Des Petits Ruminant) and cattle were given haemorrhagic septicemia. The camp was organized in coordination with Animal Husbandry and cattle rearers. A team consisting of two doctors, a cattle inspector and

Pashu Sakhi visited the villages and vaccinated the cattle.

As per the plan, the vaccination camp could not be organized in all DSSS, the camp was organized in Ajmer, Jhansi, Lucknow and Udaipur DSSS.

Outcome 2 : Increased demand and access to services and entitlements for all eligible and marginalized families in twelve districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

A. Orientation Cum Training of Community Members on the Various Rights and Entitlement Especially Related to Government Schemes

No training on rights and entitlement especially related to government schemes were organized for the CIG members during this reporting period.

B. Half Yearly Interface Meeting with Different Line Departments for Available Scheme and Services at Block/District Level Office

Interface meetings with different line departments and govt. officials were organised in all **12** DSSS in which **600** participants participated and were informed on different govt. schemes and services.



Half Yearly Interface Meeting Place: Jhansi

The project team is creating and making available online screening of applications.

Improved outreach is being organized in villages and the group meetings are making it easier for the low-income families to apply and stay enrolled for the benefits they are entitled to receive. During this period more than **250** people applied for the benefits of which **158** received the benefits.



Place: Bareilly



Half Yearly Interface Meeting

Place: Banswara



Outcome 3 : Improved Performance of Women Representatives in PRI to Promote Good Governance in 31 Gram Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan through Active Participation of Women Members

A. Training Cum Orientation on Importance of Formation of GPDP Plan to WDP (Village Level).

The project team is yet to organize a training program on the importance of the formation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan to Ward level Development Plan.

B. Training of CIG for Strengthening, Group Management Role and Responsibilities of the Members.

535 CIGs have been formed and each CIG meets monthly to discuss on the activities initiated around a defined agenda. Training programs on group management, livestock management, organic farming, goat management etc. have been organized for the groups. Coming together helped the women shed their inhibitions and realize their potential by working towards personal growth and amplify their voices in confronting differences.



Training on CIG Strengthening, Place : Varanasi

The women SHGs have started saving among themselves, some groups up to Rs. 100 while

others up to Rs. 50 monthly. The savings among SHG have driven interest and has a comparative advantage over bringing interventions directly to individuals. Many SHGs have started inter loaning and soon they will be linked with different financial institution.



Place: Bareilly



Place: Banswara



Place: Allahabad



Place: Gorakhpur



Training on CIG Strengthening, Group Management Meeting Place: Dausa

C. Training Cum Workshop PRI's Members on their Roles and Responsibilities (GP Level).

45 VDCs have been formed by the end of the project period and 40 VDCs are being formulated. A series of meetings have been organized with the VDC group to make them aware of their role in the PRI systems.

4. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS AND RISKS

The project has generated additional effects in the following:

Gender: women are playing a tough role in agriculture and allied works but still they lack equal rights in land ownership. Women in agriculture are affected by issues of recognition and in the absence of land rights, female agricultural laborers are left bereft of recognition as farmers, and the consequent entitlements.

Ecology: Important days like World Water Day, Toilet Day, Earth Day etc. were celebrated. These celebrations created a sense of awareness and unity for the importance of ecology. In some places groups have been formed responsible for promoting and maintaining a sustainable environment.

Civil society: Enhanced participation of villagers in project activities is being witnessed. The social boundaries still persist and this hinders project activities. In Rajasthan, women abide by the 'pardha system' as a mark of respect for the elders. Some of these social boundaries are a bit hard to overcome.

5. EVALUATION

As of now no external evaluation has been conducted. The secretariat team by themselves conducted the monitoring/field visit at all 12 locations. These visit were conducted twice annually. The findings and the knowledge gained were shared with the diocesan partners and staff. Besides, the diocesan directors also visited the villages to assess the progress and understand the difficulties faced by the project staff. Internal staff meetings were held month-wise wherein the director and sometimes the Program Manager of the diocesan society would monitor and evaluate the project interventions. In some instances, the village leaders and other influential people also accompanied the director during the monitoring visit.



Monitoring Visit
Place: Agra



Monitoring Visit
Place: Ajmer



Monitoring Visit
Place: Allahabad



Monitoring Visit
Place: Bareilly



Monitoring Visit
Place: Banswara



Monitoring Visit
Place: Bijnor



Monitoring Visit
Place: Dausa



Monitoring Visit
Place: Gorakhpur



Monitoring Visit
Place: Jhansi



Monitoring Visit
Place: Lucknow



Monitoring Visit
Place: Meerut



Monitoring Visit
Place: Varanasi

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Lessons learned through the project

Rapid changes in approaches and strategies are realities of development programs and this generates tremendous learning opportunities. The above-described activities have enhanced the learning, capacity and skills of the project staff.

The program has moved towards a comprehensive integration of issues of agriculture, wider livelihood options, and entitlements to services, productive resources and women's rights. Integrating the fast-evolving approaches were extremely challenging. However, the process created important learning lessons on how to handle a constantly changing program.

6.2 Lessons learnt till date by the organization from the project implementation?

The organization felt the need for capacity building for the project team. Accordingly, training programs on the different aspects of the project helped in enhancing the capacities and skills of the project team.

The CIG members are the key stakeholders of the ongoing project. The training programs being organized for the farmers and other CIG members are helping them in developing new knowledge and skills to improve their yields, income, business opportunities and food security. The curricula and methodology brought large number of farmers together as adult learners, allowing their interaction to facilitate behavioural change processes.

The project also managed in pooling benefits from the other ongoing projects of the organization supported by other donors. Networking and liasoning with govt. officials have helped in identifying and mainstreaming the available resources for the benefit of the target group.

During the second wave of Covid -19 pandemic, communities actively participated in supporting its members to overcome the problems posed by the pandemic. The project team played a vital role in mobilizing the community members for the Covid vaccination. In collaboration with the Asha workers and ANM vaccination drives were organized in the project area and many people were vaccinated with 1st and 2nd dose of Coved.

6.3 Methods of rating the current status of the achievements of project objectives.

Within a year of the project implementation we succeeded to reach out to the communities but more efforts are required. At the field level, our intervention took a setback due to the poor economic condition of the beneficiaries and some of their migration. To ensure their participation achievable strategies are being formulated which will enhance the chances of attaining our objectives.

6.4 Reflections on strategy and approach.

As of now, we are content with our approach and strategies for achieving the outcome. But the present Omicron surge remains a point of concern. Though the entire project team has been vaccinated still there exists a fear among the community members. It will be ensured that all precautionary measures and Govt. guidelines will be followed by the



A RAY OF HOPE...

Seemadevi, w/o Ravi Shankar, from Ajay Nagar Mathura District has **3** girls and a son, her husband is an auto-rickshaw driver the lone breadwinner of the family.

On 20th September **2020** the auto-rickshaw stopped working and he couldn't ferry passengers further. Due to financial crunch, he was not able to repair the auto-rickshaw nor did he have any other financial solution.

As a result, he was forced to remain at home and slowly the family's economic condition began to worsen and children have to stop going to school.

Under the SAFFAL project in Ajay Nagar, an Ambedkar Self Help Group was formed on **12th** March **2021**. The members of each group contributed **Rs. 200/-** per month. When Seemadevi learned about the group she too expressed her desire of joining the group. The group accepted her and started attending the group meetings but never contributed to the monthly saving.

Seemadevi with the help of the project team expressed her economic condition with the group members and urged them to help her financially by approving a loan for **Rs. 10,000**. The loan amount was to be used for auto-rickshaw repair and promised to revert the loan within five months.



Considering her plea the group sanctioned her loan amount and gave her six months' time for the repayment. After getting the loan in November **2021** the rickshaw was repaired and the husband started working again and is earning around **Rs. 800 – 1000** daily.

Seemadevi recalls if she wouldn't have joined the group her financial condition would have worsened. She remains thankful to the group and SAFFAL project and is also taking the lead in mobilizing the community members into different groups.

Glimpses







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