



गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS



# IMPACTFUL INITIATIVES

UNDER THE SPECIAL CENTRAL  
ASSISTANCE SCHEME  
IN JHARKHAND

Year : 2021-22 to 2023-24

**A compendium of Best Practices**



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# List of Abbreviations

1.	ANC	Ante-natal Care
2.	ASER	Annual Survey of Education Report
3.	ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
4.	AWC	Anganwadi Centre
5.	AWW	Anganwadi Worker
6.	CHC	Community Health Centre
7.	DLC	District Level Committee
8.	DMFT	District Mineral Foundation Trust
9.	ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
10.	FGD	Focus Group Discussion
11.	FPO	Farmer Producer Organisation
12.	GMD	Growth Monitoring Device
13.	GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
14.	HSC	Health Sub-centre
15.	ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
16.	IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
17.	IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
18.	JSLPS	Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society
19.	KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Bal Vidyalaya
20.	LWE	Left Wing Extremism
21.	MAM	Medium Acute Malnutrition
22.	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
23.	MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
24.	MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
25.	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
26.	MNV	Mobile Nutrition Van
27.	MUAC	Mid-upper Arm Circumference

# List of Abbreviations

28.	NFHS	National Family Health Survey
29.	NHM	National Health Mission
30.	NRLM	National Rural Livelihoods Mission
31.	PDS	Public Distribution System
32.	PHC	Primary Health Centre
33.	PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
34.	PPIA	Public Policy in Action
35.	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
36.	RIMS	Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences
37.	SAAMAR	Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and
38.	SAM	Severely Acute Malnutrition
39.	SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
40.	SCA	Special Central Assistance
41.	SES	State Economic Survey
42.	SHG	Self-help Group
43.	SNCU	Special Newborn Care Unit
44.	SRC	State Resource Cell
45.	TRIF	Transform Rural India Foundation
46.	U5MR	Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR)
47.	VHND	Village Health Nutrition Day
48.	VHS&NC	Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committee
49.	VHSND	Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day
50.	WFA	Weight-for-age
51.	SP	Superintendent of Police
52.	DDC	Deputy Development Commissioner
53.	DC	Deputy Commissioner



**HEMANT SOREN**  
**CHIEF MINISTER**



### MESSAGE

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has formulated a two-pronged strategy – law and order and development approach – to combat the challenges of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in the State. The Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme is an important flagship initiative of the Government of India to bridge critical gaps in public infrastructure and services of an emergent nature in LWE affected districts.

To holistically address the LWE insurgencies, the State Government has adopted steadfast implementation of the multi-faceted strategy to ensure the rights and entitlements of local and tribal communities along with security, and development as per the Action Plan, focusing on transformative changes.

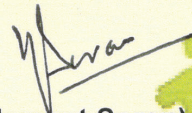
The scheme is being implemented in the eight most LWE-affected districts. These districts have a higher concentration of tribal population, and people who live in isolated villages and hamlets remain marginalised in access to development schemes. Various initiatives under the scheme are implemented in these areas to bring about the desired socio-economic development and sustainable livelihood opportunities for mainstreaming the tribals.

System-strengthening initiatives are being undertaken to bridge critical infrastructure and capacity gaps in agriculture, health and nutrition, education, and infrastructure. Public Policy in Action (PPIA) Fellows deployed by the Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRIF) support the district administration in planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioners.

The State Left Wing Resource Center of the Department of Home, Prison, and Disaster Management extends its support to implement the scheme effectively. The combined efforts of the administration and implementation partners have led to incredible socio-economic development within a short time. The changes are visible in the most remote parts of the state that have remained isolated in the development process. The development initiatives undertaken through the scheme provide insights into how mainstream development can shrink the LWE influence.

I congratulate all the stakeholders for their wholehearted efforts to improve critical infrastructure and public services in LWE-affected districts of Jharkhand. This document is a miniature version of the more significant development in the conflict-prone areas. We look forward to bringing more stories of change from the ground and setting an example for the country. The speed and extent of positive changes reaffirm the belief that increased expenditure on government development programmes will win the hearts and minds of the local population and lead Progressive Jharkhand.

Johar!

  
(Hemant Soren)

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### Foreword

LWE incidents have been reduced consistently, and the conditions have improved over the years in terms of violence and geographical spread. The Government of India has followed a holistic approach to combat LWE with the 'National Policy and Action Plan to Address LWE' in the year 2015. The Government of Jharkhand has supplemented the efforts with a wide range of measures, including security, development, and ensuring the rights and entitlements of local and tribal communities.

The Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme is categorized as the Central Sector Scheme to fill the critical infrastructure gaps and provide essential services that are emergent in nature. A district-level committee (DLC) headed by the Deputy Commissioner is fully empowered to prepare a shelf of works, approve proposals, and execute projects as per the requirements to ensure speedy implementation.

In Jharkhand, LWE-affected districts have adopted a unique approach under the scheme to address critical gaps and bring development change to remote and hard-to-reach marginalised communities. This multi-faceted approach has included many innovative practices at the district level, leading to effective implementation at the ground and improved quality of life. The PPIA Fellows, working with TRIF, expanded local capacities by providing on-ground technical assistance, promoting convergence, and ensuring effective programme implementation support.

I would like to congratulate all the stakeholders for their inspiring and commendable work to implement the scheme effectively. The State Departments, Deputy Commissioners, line departments, development partners, and all the field functionaries deserve much appreciation for playing a proactive role in this effort. These stories will stimulate convergence among government programmes to accelerate efforts to eradicate multidimensional poverty and provide better insights for policy action.

Best wishes.

  
(L. Khiangte)



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प्रधान सचिव  
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### Preface

Special Central Assistance Scheme is a sub-scheme categorised under 'Modernisation of Police Forces', which addresses the district's critical infrastructural gaps and development deficits. The scheme is implemented by the District Level Committee led by the Deputy Commissioner, consisting of the Superintendent of Police and the District Forest Officer. The District Level Committees prepare and approve the shelf of works and monitor progress on the ground with support from the PPIA Fellows placed by the Department of Home, Prison and Disaster Management, GoJ.

The lack of access to basic amenities in interior areas has contributed to increase LWE incidents. Special Central Assistance Scheme has accelerated its efforts to bridge the deficits and restore faith among local communities into development plans of the government.

Jharkhand has a concentrated tribal population, hilly topography, and undulating terrain with relatively low population density. The district administration is providing infrastructure and public services to LWE-affected areas through the Special Central Assistance Scheme fund. It has also ended discriminatory manifestations of governance, universalized basic services, and provided sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The scheme has been implemented in several ways to ensure success. A bottom-up approach to planning at the district level has been made possible by people's participation, consultation with local communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and including people at the ground level in identifying, planning, and implementing programmes.

PPIA Fellows stationed in the districts have provided technical support and monitoring at the ground level to augment local capacities by facilitating convergence and ensuring the effective rollout of the scheme.

This document aims to pen down transformative stories from the ground, which bring hope for improved governance and better public service delivery. I would like to congratulate all the stakeholders for their inspiring and commendable work to implement the scheme effectively. This document will benefit the District Administration of LWE-affected zones for scale-up and replication of similar kinds of projects.

Thank you.

  
(Vandana Dadel)



# वन धन

## विकास केन्द्र झारखण्ड,

ग्राम- सिलादोन, पंचायत- सिलादोन, प्रखण्ड- सुँटी

# प्रधान मंत्री वन धन योजना

आदिवासी उद्यमी को लघु वनोत्पाद में मूल्यवर्धन के माध्यम से बढ़ावा देने की एक पहल /

क्रियान्वन पुँजेसी : झारखण्ड स्टेट लाईवलीहुड प्रमोशन सोसाईटी

ग्राम विकास विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार



अनुराग गुप्ता, भा०पु०से०,  
महानिदेशक एवं पुलिस महानिरीक्षक  
झारखण्ड।

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### Message

In 2015, a holistic approach was adopted to combat Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) insurgency through 'National Policy and Action Plan for LWE'. As part of this multi-pronged strategy, the Special Central Assistance (SCA) Scheme was approved in 2017 and implemented under the umbrella of the 'Modernisation of Police Forces.'

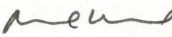
The primary objective of this scheme is to address critical gaps in public infrastructure and services, including the provision of basic infrastructure facilities around deployment areas. Special efforts have been made to identify areas for transformational initiatives and policies that can accelerate the holistic development of LWE-affected districts.

This document contains case studies that highlight key aspects of initiatives offering the best opportunities to improve livelihood and build resilience in rural-tribal communities. In addition to agriculture, health, and nutrition; SCA initiatives have also leveraged the untapped potential of allied sectors through micro-planning and localized solutions for innovations, such as small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and livelihood for landless communities. These efforts aim to build resilience in the face of economic development, social transitions, and climate change.

The State Left-Wing Resource Cell (State LWRC) has facilitated the convergence of various state-level departments, enabling district-level grassroots initiatives under SCA. A wide range of effective solutions to eradicate poverty in the state has been identified. This compendium of case studies attempts to capture transformational changes in health, agriculture, education, and women's empowerment. We hope it will serve as a valuable reference to guide dialogue and transform the rural landscape in the backward LWE-affected districts of the state.

I would like to congratulate all the stakeholders such as district administration, state LWRC, and PPIA fellows for addressing development deficits at the grassroot levels, improving basic infrastructure facilities around deployment areas, and for promoting innovations to improve rural governance.

Ranchi, Jharkhand

  
(Anurag Gupta)



# INTRODUCTION

The National Policy and Action Plan launched in 2015 to address LWE envisages a holistic, multi-pronged strategy involving security measures, development interventions, and protection of local communities' rights and entitlements.

In addition to flagship development schemes, the Government of Jharkhand and the Government of India have undertaken several initiatives in LWE-affected states, with a special thrust on road network expansion, telecommunication connectivity, skilling, and financial inclusion. The SCA scheme aims to boost development efforts in the Most LWE-affected States – those generating almost 90% of LWE violence – by addressing gaps in public infrastructure and services in these areas through the construction of roads, installation of mobile towers, banks and post offices, skill development, and healthcare and education improvements.

A decrease in the geographical spread of LWE violence was reported in 46 districts in 2021 compared to 96 districts in 2010. The number of Most LWE-affected Districts decreased from 35 in 2018 to 30 in 2021. These districts, 13 of which were in Jharkhand, were covered under SCA from April 2018 until July 2021, when the central government revised its assistance to eight districts due to the improved LWE scenario.

The socio-economic cost of the conflict to society and the economy has been overwhelming. SCA follows a location-specific, need-based developmental approach to conflict resolution by creating livelihood and employment opportunities, expanding the social security net, developing educational institutes, strengthening the healthcare system, and empowering women. Culture and sports have been leveraged to introduce tribal youth to national and international opportunities.

The plans are formulated in consultation with local communities to ensure their active participation in the development process. Strengthening grassroots-level government organisations, such as panchayats and gram sabhas, has helped reinforce institutions of local democracy, enabling local people to participate in and develop a stake in the area's development. Measures to improve connectivity between district headquarters and remote areas have expanded the administration's reach to the remote parts of the Jharkhand.

## Conceptualisation and Rollout

A District Level Committee (DLC) with the Superintendent of the Police and the District Forest Officer as members and headed by the District Collector, approves the projects to be implemented under the scheme. The DLC can flexibly spend the funds based on the specific needs of the district. The State Level Committee is headed by the Chief Secretary, who examines and approves the projects.

To ensure effective implementation and synergy with on-going programmes, SCA was converged with the Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme (TADP) and the Mahalia Lakhpati Kisan Programme. The scheme was implemented by PPIA Fellows who assist the DLC with project conceptualisation, implementation, management, and monitoring.

## The State Resource Cell

The Government of Jharkhand, operating under the Department of Home, plays a crucial role in state-level planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the TADP and Mahalia Lakhpati Kisan Programme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and SCA initiatives. The Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) supports the Department of Home and Police Headquarters in planning, implementing, and monitoring the scheme, as well as in human resource support through PPIA Fellows.

In Jharkhand, PPIA Fellows (Annexure 1: List of PPIA Fellows) have supported the DLC in implementing several innovative development projects to strengthen government institutions, leverage on-going government schemes and programmes, and improve community participation to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of existing programmes.

The case studies in this publication showcase SCA projects whose implementation was supported by PPIA Fellows in key sectors, such as agriculture and water resources, sustainable livelihoods, education, health and nutrition, infrastructure, and gender empowerment. They illustrate how government deficits and the core concerns of communities in LWE-affected areas were addressed in villages previously cut off from development initiatives.

The criteria for selection of the case studies were developed in consultation with the SRC, LWRC, and PPIA Fellows. Data was collected through primary and secondary sources, such as video calls with the PPIA Fellows, interviews with programme implementers, field visits to project locations, focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews, and a review of project reports and documents.



# 1

## Health and Nutrition

**M**aternal, infant, and child health, an important indicator of the overall well-being of a state, is essential for poverty reduction and development. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) of 2019—21, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has shown improvements in women's and children's health indicators in Jharkhand. For instance, 45.3% of children were stunted in 2015—16, compared to 39.6% in 2019—21. NFHS-5 data shows a significant improvement in the infant mortality rate in Jharkhand (38 deaths before one year per 1,000 live births, down from the NFHS-4 estimate of 44 in 2015—16). The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is estimated to be 45 deaths per 1,000 live births, also indicating a decrease since the NFHS-4 (55 per 1,000). Social welfare and nutrition constitute the third-highest priority for budgetary allocation, with the state government allocating Rs 6,624 crore in 2021—2022. This is 4% higher than Rs 6,357 crore allocated the previous year.

The NFHS-5 shows that Jharkhand has also registered significant improvements in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which has declined from 261 (NFHS-3) to 71 (NFHS-5). About 78.4% of women underwent four ante-natal care (ANC) check-ups. Chatra, Deoghar, Garhwa, Pakur and Palamu districts reported poor ANC coverage and need greater focus on maternal health indicators.

Anaemia is a pressing concern, especially among women and children in the state, with over two-thirds (67%) of children aged six months to five years, and 65% percent of women reported to be anaemic. Anaemia in women aged 15—49 has increased marginally from 65.2% (NFHS-4) to 65.3% (NFHS-5). This includes 29% with mild anaemia, 34% with moderate anaemia, and 2% with severe anaemia. While its prevalence exceeds 55% in every group of women, it is particularly high among scheduled tribe rural women aged 20—29. Almost 30% of men in Jharkhand are anaemic.

Despite improvements in various parameters under NFHS-5, there is still much to be achieved. On 29 December 2021, the state government launched the Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction (SAAMAR), a 1,000-day flagship initiative to address malnutrition and anaemia among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The state government engaged the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Food and Civil Supplies, Rural Development, and Women and Child Development to work collaboratively to improve the state's health and nutritional indicators.

The focus of initiatives to strengthen Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) under SCA

at the district level has been on infrastructure upgradation and community-based prevention and management of malnutrition among children and lactating women in high-priority clusters.

Anganwadi centres (AWCs) were upgraded and holistic improvements in feeding and caring behaviour promoted through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) campaigns and capacity building of frontline workers. Critical gaps in water supply, sanitation, hygiene practices and the shortage of Growth Monitoring Devices (GMDs) in AWCs were addressed.

A total of 882 AWCs were upgraded with infrastructure and preschool learning material through SCA funding. The model was scaled in all 1,104 AWCs in Chatra through convergence of SCA and the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT). In West Singhbhum district, the initiative to establish ANC corners in the AWCs was scaled through the DMFT. Evidence from the model AWCs in Palamu, Chatra and West Singhbhum shows that infrastructure availability and quality of the AWCs have a significant bearing on implementation outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

Key initiatives that strengthened the health system at various levels include a campaign to prevent and control malnutrition through mobile vans, construction of Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) in Chatra, and a blood bank in Khunti, among others. Upgraded and refurbished infrastructure and equipment at AWCs and hospitals has increased uptake and helped restore public faith in government facilities.

<sup>1</sup> LaQshya guidelines have been drafted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with care around delivery in the labour room and maternity operating theatre, and to improve overall maternity care.



**FACTSHEET**  
**1.1**

## Nutrition on Wheels, Khunti

A holistic facility- and community-based intervention to prevent and cure malnutrition through mobile nutrition vans (MNVs) in clusters with a high prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderately Acute Malnutrition (MAM) among children.

**Focus Area:** Khunti, Karra, and Murhu blocks

**Cost:** Rs 98.37 lakh

**Duration:** Eight months

### Intervention

- 982 *poshan bagicha* kits distributed to mothers; technical assistance by the Better World Foundation to develop *poshan bagichas*.
- 525 AWCs in 47 panchayats underwent intensive eight-month training in focused outreach to lactating women and children under age three.
- 975 *poshan sakhis* and *sahiyas* trained.

### Key Stakeholders

- District administration for planning and supervision in coordination with the NHM and ICDS.
- 47 panchayats, 525 AWCs, 975 frontline workers (*poshan sakhis* and *sahiyas*) trained.



## 1.1 Nutrition on Wheels, Khunti

### Rationale

The majority (91.5%) of the inhabitants of Khunti district, belong predominantly to the Munda tribe, live in its hilly, densely forested rural tracts. Road and telecom infrastructure has increased significantly in the last decade, making the remote interiors more accessible.

Malnutrition and undernutrition among children under age five and adolescent girls are rife here. Undernutrition increases the frequency and severity of common infections, delays recovery and puts children at greater risk of dying from them. Consequently, nearly half of all deaths in children under five in the region are attributable to undernutrition.

The baseline need assessment revealed that malnutrition was chiefly caused by exclusive breastfeeding and misconceptions about complementary feeding, which was initiated late. Mothers began complementary feeding

depending on the perceived ability of their children to accept it. Non-tribal mothers began feeding complementary foods after the ritual of *muh joothi* was performed. Biscuits, bread, fried fritters, and plain rice were most fed.

NFHS-5 data for Khunti district reveals that only 10% of breastfeeding children aged 6 to 23 months received an adequate diet. Other social determinants that contribute to undernutrition are poor food security and seasonal male migration, which compound the burden of childcare, household chores, and income generation on mothers. Women in nuclear households, in particular, make a trade-off between childcare and earning a livelihood, which directly affects the frequency and timeliness of feeding, as well as access to healthcare, including care-seeking for malnutrition, which is delayed until the illness approaches a crisis.

### Intervention

The gaps identified in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices demanded intensive and proactive measures. The multidimensional approach of the implementation strategy



involved SBCC, capacity building of frontline workers for community-based management of malnutrition, distributing poshan bagicha kits, and developing nutritional kitchen gardens, among others. A focused intervention campaign was launched through 15-day village health camps to identify children with SAM and MAM. Heads of gram sabhas and panchayats, self-help groups (SHGs) and others were engaged to promote community participation to improve Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

An MNV intervention named 'Nutrition on Wheels – Malnutrition Free Khunti' was designed for areas where childhood malnutrition is highly prevalent. The model, one of whose advantages is its mobility, sought to improve complementary feeding practices through counselling for mothers, to enhance food diversity through *bagan* kits and to build the capacities of frontline care providers for screening. Services are provided at Village Health Nutrition Days (VHNDs) at AWCs and children are regularly screened, dewormed, provided Vitamin A supplementation, and vaccinated.

## Impact

### a. Increased screening and identification of undernourished children

The capacity building of frontline workers has increased the participation and competence of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in screening undernourished children in the most remote and forested villages. This has accelerated screening and identification of undernourished infants at the household level. Prior to the MNV intervention, ASHAs screened only by weight-for-age (WFA). This was subsequently changed to screening by mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC).

### b. Improved food diversity and dietary behaviour

The nutrition-specific interventions implemented to enable communities to prevent and control malnutrition among children have been reported to have led to behaviour change among young mothers. These include child feeding interventions, such as early initiation of breastfeeding, and counselling on

“Instead of biscuits and packaged chips, women now prefer to feed their children leafy greens like lal saag, munga, jhara, khesari and chana, eggs, ragi malt, and khichdi. The greens are cooked with maad (rice starch) and eaten with rice and potatoes. Traditional forest foods like seasonal leaves, edible flowers, fruit, ruda and fukli mushrooms, and local dals and madua (ragi) have diversified diets and enriched nutrition.”

**Sahiya**

Selldah Village, Murhu Block

IYCF and Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA). Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) through mother-child health cards on VHNDs at the community level has facilitated early identification of children at risk for stunting and anaemia. Complementary feeding and hand hygiene practices have improved significantly because of SBCC and service delivery through trained frontline workers.

**c. Increased care-seeking, breaking away from myths**

Malnutrition was believed by the community to be caused by illness and evil eye. Focused IYCF counselling at the household level and in SHGs, and awareness programmes on Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) have led to a decline in superstitious beliefs and care-seeking from faith healers. Mothers have begun to recognise the need to avail care if a child loses appetite, wails constantly or becomes weak and lethargic. Those whose children are enrolled in ICDS visit on VHNSDs, because of which screening, identification and referrals of SAM cases for facility-based management are no longer delayed.

**d. Improved hand hygiene practices**

Community awareness about the importance of handwashing has grown, particularly after COVID-19. Mothers and caregivers bathe their children regularly and wash their hands before eating or feeding.

**e. Improved growth**

The data reveals an average increase of 220 gm in children's weight and 0.1 cm in MUAC. Counselling on IYCF, sensitisation through community events such as Poshan Pakhwara, and sharing information on the importance of supplementary nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers has increased acceptance of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets, paediatric Vitamin A supplements and food at the AWCs.

**f. Increased uptake of ASHA and sahiya services**

ASHAs and sahiyas assist mothers with ANC, institutional deliveries and post-natal care, which includes visiting them to initiate complementary feeding when their children complete six months of age. ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) are responsible for encouraging colostrum feeding, exclusive breastfeeding, and recording the newborn's weight. Most mothers in the intervention area reported being visited by an ASHA in the post-natal period.

**Challenges and Sustainability**

Sustainability has been ensured by implementing the project through existing government programmes under the National Health Mission (NHM) and ICDS Poshan Abhiyan through AWWs, ASHAs, and poshan sakhis.

The MNV intervention presents evidence for further improvements in healthcare and nutrition practices for newborns, infants, and young children. Nutrition-dense, ready-to-eat food must be provided to children under age three to address inadequate social safety nets and food insecurity, and combat malnutrition sustainably.

## 1.2 Community Blood Bank, Khunti

### Rationale

Health infrastructure, particularly at district hospitals in Jharkhand, remains a concern as most of the state relies on Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi.

NFHS-5 data suggests that Khunti has a high prevalence of anaemia, as well as well as sickle cell anaemia among the tribal population. Miscarriages, premature births and pregnancy distress inevitably increase the demand for blood in the district. In the past, the lack of a blood bank at the district hospital forced people to travel to Ranchi for blood transfusions; accident victims, high-risk pregnancies and Caesarean sections were also referred there, increasing the burden on RIMS, as well as out-of-pocket expenses and deaths due to delayed treatment.



The district administration of Khunti has undertaken measures to improve facilities at Sadar Hospital so that low-income communities in the area can have access to quality care. The blood bank at the hospital is a milestone in secondary healthcare in the district, as ensuring the availability of safe and adequate blood is integral to the National Health Policy.

### FACTSHEET 1.2

## Community Blood Bank, Khunti

The NFHS-5 reveals that Khunti has a high prevalence of anaemia and sickle cell anaemia among women and the tribal population. The blood bank is a significant relief, particularly for severely anaemic pregnant women, and sickle cell anaemia patients.

**Focus Area:** Sadar District Hospital, Khunti

**Cost:** Rs 128.81 lakh

**Duration:** 2018—2019

#### Intervention

- Construction of a new facility for blood bank, cold storage and other technical infrastructure.

#### Key Stakeholders

- District administration
- Department of Health
- District Planning Office
- District Rural Health Society for planning and monitoring support.



## Intervention

The blood bank was established in 2018—19 under SCA, at a cost of Rs 128.81 lakh. Two buildings were constructed at the hospital, and four freezers for cold storage installed. A full-time doctor from the district hospital, two lab technicians, and one staff nurse were recruited for daily operations.

“Availability of blood is critical because it is the only thing that can save lives during emergencies like accidents and high-risk deliveries. Even anaemic patients require immediate transfusion at times. Since Khunti has a high prevalence of anaemia, the blood bank is filling a critical gap and referrals to RIMS, Ranchi, have decreased significantly.”

**Dr Ajit Xalxo**  
Civil Surgeon, Khunti

## Impact

The blood bank has brought much-needed relief to the public and increased faith in government healthcare facilities. It has catered regularly to 45 sickle cell anaemia patients and three thalassemia patients over the last three years. Its collection and storage facility is proving to be lifesaving for managing pregnancy-related complications.

## Challenges and Sustainability

The key challenges lie in ensuring sufficient and varied supply of blood, proper storage and handling of blood products, complying with strict regulatory standards, managing the limited shelf life of blood components, promoting voluntary blood donations, and addressing logistical and transportation challenges for prompt delivery of blood.

The blood bank was handed over to the District Health Department, for regular functioning and maintenance. The district administration, civil society groups and concerned citizens regularly organise blood donation camps, drives and campaigns to help sustain demand and supply. Rare blood group donors have been listed with the blood bank to reduce the burden on patients and their caregivers during emergencies.



## 1.3 Open Gyms, Gumla

### Rationale

Obesity and the rising rate of non-communicable and lifestyle diseases are growing concerns even in small towns in the hinterland. In Gumla, access to neighbourhood parks with free fitness equipment was unheard of until the district administration reclaimed a dumpsite to develop a park with an outdoor gym to introduce people to a holistic fitness experience.

### Intervention

The open-air gyms launched by the district administration are equipped with aerial strollers, sit-up stations, standing waist twisters, double big shoulder wheels, chest and shoulder presses, and double parallel bars to promote functional fitness in the city.

### Impact

The open-air gyms are a blessing for the people of Gumla. Freely accessible, with varied equipment, solar lighting and neatly laid walking tracks for the security of women and girls during

the early hours, they attract senior citizens as well as adolescents, encouraging all age groups to lead a healthier lifestyle.

### Challenges and Sustainability

The key concern for the initiative's sustainability is maintenance. Since the gym is located next to the play area, children unwittingly damage the equipment by swinging on it. To address the issue of maintenance and regular upkeep, the district administration has mandated a five-year maintenance period to the agency that installed the equipment.

“We started it on a pilot basis and a received tremendous response from the public. Now we are looking to expand it to other parks and open spaces across the city.”

**District Sports Department  
Officer  
Gumla**



## Open Gyms, Gumla

Open air gyms set up in Gumla district are introducing people to a holistic fitness experience.

**Focus Area:** Gumla town

**Cost:** Rs 150 lakh

**Duration:** One year

### Intervention

- Land reclamation,
- Park and children's play area development,
- Installation of gym equipment.

### Key Partners

- ♦ District Sports Officer
- ♦ External agency for installation and maintenance of gym equipment for five years.

## 1.4 Model Anganwadi Centres, Palamu

### Rationale

NFHS-5 data reveals that the preschool attendance rate in Jharkhand is 9.1%, with only 19% of children aged two to five years enrolled. It also indicates that the AWCs have an "insufficient learning environment". Only a few have a creche and quality recreational and educational facilities, which deters parents from leaving their children there.

In Palamu district, most of the AWCs were inadequately equipped. They lacked drinking water facilities, and 36% needed toilets. The Government of Jharkhand sought to improve sanitation and drinking water facilities, power supply, and essential medicine supply at the AWCs.

### Intervention

Upgrading infrastructure and improving preschool attendance and learning outcomes have been priorities for the district administration of Palamu. A total of 165 AWCs were upgraded into model centres to improve learning

outcomes for children as well as mothers' health holistically. GMDs have been installed at each model AWC, and ASHAs and AWWs trained to use them efficiently.

The upgrades include better infrastructure and materials to offer quality recreational and learning facilities. Colourful walls, toys, child-friendly chairs and tables, and a play-based learning approach combine to promote children's cognitive development and motivate parents to bring in their children.

### Impact

#### a. Increased preschool attendance

The model AWCs have benefited approximately 12,000 beneficiaries in backward areas of the district by combining supplementary nutrition programmes with pedagogical processes that stimulate learning. Preschool attendance increased and remained constant during the lockdown.

#### b. Increased outreach

The model AWCs have led the way in strengthening community-based management of malnutrition. With increased outreach and



**FACTSHEET**  
**1.4**

## Model Anganwadi Centres, Palamu

Fresh infrastructure and sanitation, colourfully painted walls, and child-friendly furniture and with BaLA elements have created a conducive environment that reassures parents about leaving their children at any of these 165 centres upgraded into model AWCs.

**Focus Area:** Gumla town

**Cost:** Rs 279 lakh

**Duration:** 2021—22

**Intervention**

- Upgradation of infrastructure
- Training of AWWs on preschool education

**Key Partners**

- District administration and District Planning Office for overall implementation support, including financial support and periodic progress reviews.
- ICDS Department
- External agency for renovation and refurbishment

“My child looks forward to going to the AWC. She enjoys learning with the other kids and has learned to eat by herself. It’s a big relief to have her there for three hours. I used to have to neglect her to do my household chores. Now I can finish my chores while she’s there.”

**Vinita Devi**  
Paswan Tola, Rajwari Village

children attending regularly, they are better able to cater to the nutrition, health, and education needs of the core focus group of children aged three to six, as well as pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls who have also benefitted through regular VHNDs at the centres.

### c. Reduction in SAM

Although undernutrition persists, indicators for the state show a decline in SAM. Nutrition services and health counselling on VHSNDs have facilitated early screening, early intervention and referrals for care and treatment to prevent malnourished children from falling into the SAM category. GMDs installed at the model AWCs have enabled regular tracking of children’s growth and attract their mothers to the VHNDs. Women from Paswan tola of Rajwadi village said they take their children for regular weight and head circumference check-ups, and that the *sahiya didis* report any challenges to the officials.

## Challenges and Sustainability

The model AWCs have improved preschool attendance and learning outcomes and can continue to support early childhood development and reduce malnutrition in the region. Outcomes by upgrading infrastructure, providing essential resources and training ASHAs and AWWs to use GMDs effectively. However, sustaining these improvements requires continuous support and staff training to ensure quality education and health services. Community engagement efforts are necessary to encourage regular attendance and foster sustainability.

## 1.5 Ante-natal Care Corners, West Singhbhum

### Rationale

According to data from the Registrar General of India, Jharkhand has the lowest Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in eastern India, dipping from 165 per 1,00,000 in 2014–16 to 62 per 1,00,000 in 2019. This is especially noteworthy because the state recorded an MMR of 312 in 2004.

The percentage of mothers who had had an ANC check-up in their first trimester in West Singhbhum district was 62.6%, up from 19.6% during NFHS-4. While the state has made significant progress in Maternal and Child Health (MCH), inequities persist, especially among the tribal population. The data shows that only 34% of mothers had had at least four ANC check-ups and 37% of pregnant women had taken IFA for 100 days or more, indicating that efforts to improve MCH must continue.



## Ante-Natal Care Corners

A step towards improving ANC coverage and other ICDS services.

**Focus Area:** 650 model AWCs across the district

**Cost:** Rs 910 lakh

**Duration:** 2019—20

### Intervention

- ANC corners set up at 650 model AWCs, each equipped with a basic inspection bed, step tool, and bedside folding screen for ANC check-ups in privacy.

### Key Partners

- District administration, District Planning Office.
- District Social Welfare Office to identify AWCs for project implementation

Newborns whose mothers did not have four ANC check-ups face the highest risk of neonatal mortality. One reason for fewer ANC visits is the absence of basic facilities, including for privacy, which tends to deter young women.

### Intervention

The district administration sought to improve ANC coverage and other ICDS services at 650 model AWCs by creating separate ANC corners for check-ups. Established to make healthcare for pregnant women and newborns more efficient, the ANC corners are equipped with basic inspection beds, step tools and bedside folding screens to facilitate check-ups at the village level.

### Impact

#### a. Increased uptake of ANC check-ups

The installation of ANC corners has improved coverage and registrations for ANC check-ups, with three to four visits by pregnant women recorded. The availability of basic facilities and privacy has restored public faith in the services offered at the AWCs.

#### b. Increased utilisation of other ANC services

The NFHS-5 revealed that vital supplement uptake by pregnant women was low. The multi-dimensional approach incorporating infrastructure strengthening and SBCC has increased utilisation of services in the

“The ANC corners have transformed the way we receive prenatal care. The basic inspection bed, step tool and bedside folding screen protect the privacy and comfort of pregnant women and enhance the quality of the services. This intervention has made me feel valued and cared for, knowing that my health and well-being matter. It's a blessing to have such dedicated spaces that prioritise our needs and contribute to a healthier community”

**Vinita Devi**  
Paswan Tola, Rajwari Village

intervention area. With better ANC services and infrastructure, ASHAs and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) can promote IFA use by individually counselling mothers during home visits and at VHSNDs. They track and ensure service utilisation through home visits for two Tetanus Toxoid injections and IFA tablets for pregnant women as less than 19% of women the recommended IFA dose.

#### **c. Utilisation of skilled attendants**

District health officials assert that first trimester ANC tests conducted at the ANC corners have enabled early detection of high-risk pregnancies and lowered the risk of low birth weight babies, thus also reinforcing the 1,000-days approach to combating malnutrition.

#### **d. Serving the most marginalised**

The services offered at the ANC corners cater to the most vulnerable women, often managing pregnancy with the support of ASHAs while their male relatives migrate in search of work. Before the establishment of functional ANC facilities at the village level, it was a challenge for them to access services at the Community Health Centre (CHC) and district hospital.

### **Challenges and Sustainability**

The ANC corners have made remarkable progress in improving maternal and child health outcomes. With continuous capacity building for healthcare workers, they have increased ANC check-ups and utilisation of other services by vulnerable women. Community engagement has been instrumental in promoting skilled attendants for pregnancies, resulting in the early detection of high-risk pregnancies and a lower risk of low birth weight babies.

## **1.6 Growth Monitoring Devices, Chatra**

### **Rationale**

NFHS-5 data indicates that about 42.2% of children in Chatra are underdeveloped, 39.8% are underweight, and 17.2% are affected by wasting. Despite improvements since NFHS-4, childhood stunting and wasting are higher than the national average, indicating the need for close monitoring. Targeted interventions in the form of digital devices to monitor growth and lower the number of underweight children are essential in the fight against malnutrition.

### **Intervention**

Chatra district has 1,124 AWCs with about 1.2 lakh children enrolled. SCA has funded GMDs in the form of digital scales for adults and infants, MUAC tapes and a stadiometer for 100 AWCs. Monitoring and tracking children's growth curves allows for early identification and intervention.

### **Impact**

- Improved tracking, identification and referrals of underweight children

The newly installed GMDs have enabled tracking and identification of underweight children at the community level, greatly facilitating the tracking and referral of children in the district and transforming unstructured VHNSDs into effective community events.

“We regularly visit the AWC for immunisation and weight measurement. The AWWs and sahiyas take our children's weight and height at the VHNSDs. If a child is not growing as per her age, the sahiya didi takes us to the Malnutrition Treatment Centre for treatment.”

**Mother at AWC,  
Sabona village, Chatra**

## Growth Monitoring Devices, Chatra

Despite an improvement since NFHS-4, childhood stunting and wasting in Chatra remains above the national average. Targeted interventions in the form of digital devices to monitor growth and reduce the proportion of underweight children are essential steps in the fight against malnutrition.

**Focus Area:** Chatra district

**Cost:** Rs 4.79 lakh

**Duration:** 2019—20

### Intervention

- GMDs (infant weighing machines, stadiometers and MUAC tapes) in 100 AWCs in one block.
- Scale-up in all 12 blocks.

### Key Partners

- District administration
- District Planning Office
- District Social Welfare Office for identification of AWCs for project implementation, tenders and set-up.
- DMFT for convergence with SCA.

### Challenges and Sustainability

Inadequate infrastructure at the AWCs was one of the main factors affecting the impact of the VHNSDs. Without functional GMDs, children's developmental progress could not be registered; VHSND events were limited to immunisation and distributing rations

The intervention has aimed to establish a sustainable framework through institutional support, technological integration, capacity building, community engagement, and monitoring and evaluation.

The data management and tracking complexities, community engagement, resource availability, follow-up and referrals, are some key challenges of the intervention. Addressing them will improve monitoring of children's growth and timely identification of underweight children.



## 1.7 Special Newborn Care Unit, Chatra



### FACTSHEET 1.7

## Special Newborn Care Unit, Chatra

Despite an improvement since NFHS-4, childhood stunting and wasting in Chatra remains above the national average. Targeted interventions in the form of digital devices to monitor growth and reduce the proportion of underweight children are essential steps in the fight against malnutrition.

**Focus Area:** Chatra Town

**Cost:** Rs 12,95,382

**Duration:** 2019—20

### Intervention

- A 12-bed facility with state-of-the-art equipment, such as baby warmers, advanced closed incubators and kangaroo mother care for diagnosing, monitoring, and treating pre-term and newborn babies.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Health Society, Building Division
- Civil Surgeon and Medical Officer-in-Charge for overseeing project implementation.
- UNICEF for technical support and training.



## Rationale

Newborn children are particularly vulnerable to disease and infection. In rural India, where children are often born underweight and malnourished, they are susceptible to infections that require specialised care and treatment in the early days.

## Intervention

The SNCU established at Sadar Hospital, the district hospital at Chatra, provides specialised newborn care, with technical support for training by UNICEF. The project converged state funds with SCA gap funding. SCA components included basic civil work, electrification, and furniture.

The SNCU is not just limited to the medical care of newborns. The nurses underwent a two-day specialised training on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a simple, low resource yet high impact method that improves the health of low birth weight infants and trains families to care for their infants during facility stay as well as after discharge.

## Impact

The SNCU is a separate ward that provides intensive care to over 3,000 children annually. It has enabled premature and low birth weight newborns, and babies with infections and sepsis recover from diseases in the early days of birth.

## Challenges and Sustainability

An intensive care unit requires adequate personnel for optimal functioning. With only one paediatrician and two nurses, Sadar Hospital and its SNCU are understaffed to meet the demands of the delivery load and newborn admissions but the commitment and motivation of the current staff to work overtime keep the facility going.

The district team is responsible for operating, funding, and maintaining the unit, handed over to NHM to ensure sustainability.

“If the baby is underweight, we tell mothers about Kangaroo Mother Care and the importance of skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding in the first hour after birth.”

**Paediatric Nurse**  
Sadar Hospital, Chatra

“The SNCU is a blessing for people here. Children and pregnant women are admitted to Sadar Hospital, Chatra, instead of private nursing homes and RIMS, Ranchi, not only saving travel costs and out-of-pocket expenses of people who cannot afford paediatric care but babies’ lives through timely care.”

**Civil Surgeon,**  
Sadar Hospital, Chatra

“I gave birth to twins at Sadar Hospital. Both children were very weak, weighing only a kilogram each. In the past, people from my village who faced similar issues would go to specialists in Ranchi for treatment, which was very expensive. Seeing the facilities at Sadar Hospital, we decided to continue my children’s treatment at the SNCU. I’m grateful that the doctors and nurses have been so supportive. Both children are stable now and drink milk at regular intervals.”

**Pushpa Kumari**  
Ara village, Chatra

## 1.8 Health Sub-centre, Gidhaur, Chatra

### Rationale

Gidhaur block in Chatra district has a population of approximately 41,000. In the absence of a Health Sub-centre (HSC), people in the community had to travel about 15–20 kilometres to the district hospital in Chatra or 60 kilometres to Hazaribagh district.

### Intervention

The Planning Office conceptualised and implemented the HSC with SCA funds in the prime area of the block.

The 24/7 centre has a four-bed maternity ward and stocked delivery room that delivers 25–30 babies every month. The safety of institutional deliveries is assured and risk of infection to mothers and newborns minimised by a resident doctor and two ANMs who can safely deliver babies in normal circumstances. Complicated

cases, such as emergency Caesarean sections, are transported to the district hospital.

ASHAs have been instrumental in raising awareness about regional institutional deliveries. They have scope for increased remuneration by encouraging institutional deliveries, strengthening referral services, and through postpartum home visits.

### Impact

#### a. Improved coverage

The HSC, which acted as an isolation ward during COVID-19, caters to Gidhaur block and its adjoining blocks and districts to serve an average of 100–150 people every day. The local population relies on it for family planning services, deliveries, vaccination, sanitation, and health promotion. The availability of essential medicines and the facility's cleanliness and spaciousness with on-site drinking water have filled a critical healthcare gap in the region.

FACTSHEET  
1.8

## Health Sub-Centre, Gidhaur

Strengthening primary healthcare by constructing a functional health sub-centre.

**Focus Area:** Gidhaur block

**Cost:** Rs 94,88,523

**Duration:** 2017–18

### Intervention

- A 24/7 facility with a four-bed maternity ward and stocked delivery room, attended by a doctor and two permanent ANMs.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Health Society, District Board for project implementation, including tenders and civil work.
- External agency for construction and civil work



“The district sub-centre is a relief for the people of this area. We used to have to go to Hazaribagh for coughs and colds, especially in children, and spend on transport and medicines.”

**Pushpa Kumari**  
Ara village, Chatra

#### **b. Reduced out-of-pocket expenses**

The HSC has improved rural access to equitable, affordable, accountable, and effective primary healthcare, especially for poor women and children.

The need to travel to Hazaribagh or Chatra in the absence of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) has decreased significantly now that comprehensive ANC, institutional deliveries, family planning commodities, prevention and treatment for diseases such as dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, and emergency care for accident victims are available locally.

#### **c. Inter-sectoral convergence**

Multiple sectors and programmes have converged for the initiative, particularly for monitoring and coordination for Village Health Plan preparation and implementation through a local team headed by the panchayat's Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (VHS & NC). This has optimised public acceptance and participation and the utilisation of funds and infrastructure. The block's healthcare concerns have been effectively integrated with the District Health Plan.

### **Challenges and Sustainability**

The HSC in Gidhaur block has made significant strides in overcoming challenges, including resource constraints, by efficiently utilising available resources. Skilled healthcare professionals, along with a committed team, have been providing excellent care to the community. Transportation for complicated cases has been managed effectively through timely arrangements. Community awareness about institutional deliveries and the services offered by the centre has steadily improved. Continuous efforts towards maintaining the facility and fostering inter-sectoral coordination have enhanced its sustainability, thereby ensuring better healthcare access and services to the local population.

The integration of the HSC's activities and concerns with the broader District Health Plan also ensures its sustainability, and addresses inter-district disparities and unmet needs for public health infrastructure.

Aligning the programme with the larger health infrastructure and planning initiatives has also helped secure support and resources for long-term operation and expansion.

# 2

## AGRICULTURE

**A**s 43% of the rural workforce of Jharkhand relies on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood, the state has made strong efforts to improve productivity in this area. According to the State Economic Survey (SES), 2021, the output of both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops has grown over the past five years. The production of horticultural crops and vegetables, as well as of the allied livestock sector, such as milk, meat, and eggs has also grown. There has been a consistent rise in the credit extended to the agricultural sector.

The total geographical area of Jharkhand is 7.97 million hectares, of which 2.32 million hectares (29.33%) are forested; 0.566 million hectares (7.12%) are barren, and 1.795 million hectares (22.58%) constitute the net sown area. Of the cultivable area of 3.8 million hectares, 80% is drought-prone and about 7%, flood-prone. Only 12% of the cropped area is under irrigation. The total cultivable land in the state is 52%, which is comparable to the national average of 55%. However, only 43% of this is net sown, compared to the national average of 76%. Cropping intensity is only 26%. According to the SES, *kharif* crops predominate over 78% of the gross cropped area. The cropped area, growing period, cropping intensity, and productivity are low despite good rainfall due to inadequate technology adoption.

The state suffers from critical gaps in the agricultural and allied sectors. To cater to local demand for enhanced production, the state government has sought to expand the net sown area by reclaiming wastelands, bringing fallow land under cultivation, and increasing cropping intensity by expanding the area under irrigation. The LWRC and district Fellows have worked to reduce the vulnerabilities of small and marginal farmers by streamlining the utilisation of SCA funds for agricultural growth.

Schemes under SCA have supplemented agricultural initiatives to boost irrigation through rainwater harvesting and micro solar lift pumps, check dams, field bunds, and pond renovation in the rural areas, thereby also conserving water that would flow away during the monsoon and generating employment for the villagers. SCA funds have also been leveraged for one-stop training hubs to enable farmers to adopt new technologies and opportunities in agriculture and allied activities by focusing on crop yield, irrigation potential, and farm productivity. Jharkhand's agro-climatic conditions provide ample opportunities for horticultural cultivation. Cold storage facilities installed in Latehar, Palamu and Khunti have significantly increased the output of fruit crops over the years with many high-value agriculture clusters developed.

This section is a compilation of best practices employed in agriculture and its allied sectors.

## 2.1 Lemongrass Cultivation, Khunti

### Rationale

Khunti's hilly terrain and small-scale land ownership ranging from one to three acres is characterised by monocropping and rainfed agriculture. The district administration has launched an initiative to cultivate lemongrass for its low water and agricultural input requirements and as an alternative to opium, which has been a problem in the district.

### Intervention

The district administration has collaborated with the Agriculture Department, Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society (JSLPS), PRIs, and the Sewa Welfare Society, a local non-governmental organisation, to improve economic conditions in poor and LWE-affected districts such as Khunti. It is hoped that the introduction of lemongrass farming will help reduce opium cultivation and associated Naxal-related activities in the region.



The initiative involved facilitating lemongrass cultivation on half-acre to one-acre plots over 200 acres across six blocks. A distillation plant operated and managed by the Aasawan Kendra Sanchalan Samiti of Surunda village, Murhu block, has also been installed. Farmers sell their lemongrass at the distillation plant and are paid on the spot. The oil produced at the distillation plant is sold to bulk buyers from Agra and Meerut.

### FACTSHEET 2.1

## Lemongrass Cultivation, Khunti

Lemongrass cultivation and essential oil distillation plant as an alternative to opium cultivation, which is rife in the district. It is also in keeping with the district's low water and agricultural input requirements.

**Focus Area:** Rania, Arki, Torpa, Karra, Muruh and Khunti blocks

**Cost:** Rs 21 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—ongoing

### Intervention

Value chain of lemongrass created by facilitating cultivation, establishing a distillation plant and market linkages for essential oil through the Aasawan Kendra Sanchalan Samiti.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- Sewa Welfare Society, a voluntary organisation, for technical support.



## Impact

### a. Socio-economic progress

Once infamous for extremism, Khunti district is gradually beginning to change. Government schemes have fuelled socio-economic progress as farmers whose fields lay fallow after paddy harvesting now also earn from herb cultivation. The intervention has widened the social security net for about 2,500 farming households as the farmers earn Rs 30,000—50,000 annually from the sale of lemongrass and its value-added products, such as lemongrass oil to the JSLPS.

### b. Pivoting during the pandemic

During COVID-19, sakhi mandals from the district's Anigara Rural Service Centre produced low-cost sanitiser using lemongrass essential oil and provided the much-needed product to the community at an affordable price.

“I’m a member of the Roshni Utpadak Mahila Samuh. I cultivated the lemongrass seeds I received from JSLPS on 50 decimals of land and sold it at the distillation plant for Rs 14,000, net. I didn’t have to spend on transport as the plant is in my village. I could buy myself a new bicycle. I’m really happy.”

**Pushpa Kumari**  
Ara village, Chatra

### c. Heightened awareness about alternative cash crops

An increasing number of farmers are expected to adopt the intervention in the coming years as those from Murhu block put up stalls at district exhibitions to raise awareness and encourage others to cultivate cash crops such as herbs.

## Challenges and Sustainability

Challenges remain in ensuring stable markets, providing technical and agricultural support, addressing climate resilience, and enhancing community engagement. Skill development, income source diversification, and value-addition opportunities also need attention. The initiative can foster economic growth and resilience in the region by adapting to farmer needs, strengthening processing facilities, and promoting sustainable practices.

A processing plant for oil extraction has been constructed in Surunda village. Kisan Samiti Surunda either buys the lemongrass or charges farmers who opt to process the lemongrass an extraction fee. The extract is sold in the market. This way, farmers either sell or add value to their products. Some young farmers have set up small oil processing plants in their fields.

## 2.2 Check Dams, Khunti



### Rationale

Agriculture and related activities constitute the primary livelihoods in Khunti, with about 67% of the workforce dependent on these. Approximately 80% of farmers in the region are small and marginal.

Despite an average annual rainfall of 1,200–1,400 mm, mainly during the monsoon months of June–September, only about 12% of the state's total net sown area is under irrigation. Porous soil and undulating topography combine to reduce the soil's water retention capacity. About 60% of rainwater is lost to surface runoff and leaching, leaving only 40% available for crop use.

The most effective method of rainwater harvesting under these geographical and soil conditions is to collect runoff in streams (*nalas*) by constructing small check dams. These dams promote water conservation and control soil erosion. Although the Koel Karo River, its subsidiaries and streams flow through Khunti,

most farmers only managed to monocrop with *kharif* crops in the past due to low irrigation efficiency from inadequate water supply.

### Intervention

In 2019, the district administration began constructing check dams to conserve water for irrigation, promote agriculture and increase farmers' incomes in four blocks. The intervention was undertaken in consultation with the Minor Irrigation Department, local Block Office, and PRIs, at a cost of Rs 416.24 lakh. Convergence of SCA and Minor Irrigation Department schemes enabled the construction of 16 check dams across perennial streams from 2019–2021. A combination of flow irrigation and micro-irrigation using drip and sprinkler technology has since assured 90–100% irrigation in the *kharif* season, 80–90% in the *rabi* season and 20–30% in the summer for cultivable land in clusters of 20–25 hectares.

## Check Dams, Khunti

Check dams to conserve water for irrigation, promote agriculture and increase farmers' incomes.

**Focus Area:** Khunti, Karra, Muruh, Arki blocks

**Cost:** Rs 416.24 lakh

**Duration:** 2019—2021

**Intervention**

- 16 check dams in four blocks to bring 350+ hectares under irrigation.

**Key Partners**

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- Minor Irrigation Department for construction of the dams.

### Impact

In addition to supporting agriculture, the initiative has provided livelihood enhancement opportunities in fish farming. Micro-irrigation has helped the farmers increase yields, support new technologies and increase employment. Extensively promoted through subsidies of up to 90% of the set-up cost, it is expected to go a long way in promoting efficient water use.

**a. Increased farm income**

The check dams have increased the groundwater level in the intervention area. Formerly fallow land is now under irrigation, enabling farmers to increase sales and incomes up to four times, in some cases, by cultivating three or four crops and flowers in small holdings.

**b. Increased nutrition security**

When farmers were dependent on rain, they cultivated only paddy and maize during the *kharif* season. Mono-cropping offered food security without diversity for three to four months. Rabi production of vegetables was almost negligible. The irrigation potential of over 350 hectares has reduced the severe water stress of the *kharif*

season and increased cropping intensity of both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops. It has assured the paddy crop and transformed *rabi* and summer cultivation into regular practices, increasing *rabi* production by 70—80 % as farmers in the intervention area can now raise crops without interruption. The shift from just paddy to arhar dal, maize, vegetables such as okra, brinjal, peas, cauliflower, carrots, French beans, tomatoes and potatoes, mustard, sargooja and watermelon has diversified the food platter and ensured nutritional security for the 1,000 households in the intervention blocks.

“As Khunti relies on subsistence agriculture with inadequate agricultural infrastructure and irrigation facilities, with no major dams, these check dams are life changers for farmers.”

**District Agriculture Officer**



### c. Living standards

Increased earnings of more than Rs 50,000 and above have significantly transformed the farmers' lives. Since these blocks are far from the rest of the district, the residents would depend on occasional private vans to transport their goods. With most of the farmers now owning two-wheelers, the mobility of 1,000 households has increased, with it, access to the marketplace, school and hospital.

### Sustainability

The sustainability of the intervention has been ensured through several measures, including community involvement, capacity building for farmers, regular maintenance and repair of the dams, impact monitoring and evaluation, exploring sustainable financing options, promoting climate-resilient practices, such as micro-irrigation, and knowledge sharing and replication.

## 2.3 Kishan Pathshala, Karra

### Rationale

Delayed monsoons due to climate change directly impact food security in states that depend on rain for agriculture. In Jharkhand, rainfed agriculture and mono-cropping pose huge challenges for smallholder farmers.

In Khunti district, cropped area, the growing period and cropping intensity are low despite good rainfall as technology adoption is poor leading to low productivity. With most of the population engaged in agro-forestry, and the Munda communities depending on the forests for their livelihood and food security, it is essential to widen the scope of agriculture and agro-forestry in the district.

### Intervention

The district administration has established a Kishan Pathshala in Karra as a centre for excellence in the agriculture and allied sectors and handed it over to the Sarjumba Mahila Samiti Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO).

Spread across 25 acres, the Kishan Pathshala seeks to raise awareness, increase the cultivable area, provide access to high-value crop plants, and train farmers throughout the year through demonstrations on integrated farming, crop mixing, soil improvement, vegetable cultivation, horticulture, risk management of crops, pisciculture, duckery, dairy and other advanced technologies. Most of the training is conducted on demand, such as on the cultivation of exotic fruit such as dragon fruit, or Murrah buffalo and Gir cow rearing. Training is also conducted on drip irrigation, mulching, pond construction, sprinklers and other irrigation methods, agricultural tools and machines.



## Kishan Pathshala, Karra

Holistic demonstration and training centre to empower farmers on agriculture and allied activities with the aim to increase their efficiency and yield through crop intensification and allied activities.

**Focus Area:** Karra block

**Cost:** Rs 301.73 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—22

### Intervention

A centre for excellence spread across 25 acres to demonstrate vegetable cultivation, horticulture, pisciculture, duckery, dairy, and other advanced technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. .

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Agriculture Department
- Fisheries Department for coordination and overseeing implementation.



A nursery with fruit and vegetables such as dragon fruit, chikoo, mangos, papayas, capsicum and lettuce, is being developed to provide information on and access to these plants. A residential facility is also being developed and three-day residential training programmes planned on agriculture and allied activities, such as livestock, dairy, poultry, apiculture, goatery, and mushroom cultivation.

## Impact

### a. Bridging gaps in livelihood opportunities

The Pathshala has an average daily footfall of 50—70 farmers since its opening. By offering opportunities for self-sufficiency in the agriculture and allied sectors, it is bridging critical gaps in livelihood opportunities for smallholders and has encouraged tribal youth to take up farming for self-employment. About 15—20 youth visit every day to avail agricultural subsidies to start their own orchards, fisheries, duckeries and dairy units.

### b. Exposure to new crops and training

Over 1,000 farmers have visited for exposure visits and training, enthusiastic to see how fruits they have never seen before are cultivated.

## Challenges and Sustainability

The Kishan Pathshala in Karra has made a positive impact on smallholder farmers and the community, but challenges persist. Encouraging farmers to adopt new practices, securing resources, accessing markets, and addressing climate change is essential. Engaging youth in agriculture, scaling up the initiative, and effective monitoring and evaluation are critical to maximise the Pathshala's effectiveness and promote sustainable livelihoods and food security in Khunti district.

The district administration and Agriculture Department support the Sarjumba Mahila Samiti FPO. The District Agriculture Department provides technical inputs on management and

operations. The administration is working on replicating the models in the other blocks of the district to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for smallholders.



## 2.4 Solar Energy-based Lift Irrigation, Latehar

### Rationale

Approximately 40% of Latehar's population, scattered across villages amidst densely forested hills, belongs to the Schedule Tribes. The economy revolves around forest produce, agriculture, mines and minerals. Marginal and small farmers depend mostly on rainfed irrigation. During a drought, most families migrate in search of work as daily wage labourers or at brick kilns.

### Intervention

One hundred solar energy-based units were set up across the district, benefitting 1,000 farmers on 1,000 acres of land. The initiative was approved by a DLC, which appointed the Agriculture Department for procurement and implementation at the field level in collaboration with government officials and local communities. Effective communication, collaboration, and coordination between the stakeholders have been critical for the success of the project.

**FACTSHEET**  
**2.4**

## Solar Energy-Based Lift Irrigation, Latehar

Solar energy-based lift irrigation system to supply irrigation through nearby water resources.

**Focus Area:** Latehar district (all blocks)

**Cost:** Rs 829 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—22

### Intervention

One hundred units established across the district, benefitting 1,000 farmers on 1,000 acres of land.

### Key Partners

- District Agriculture Officer for overall planning, implementation and supervision.



### Impact

#### a. Increased resilience to climate risks

The district's tribal communities are heavily vulnerable to climate risks as they cannot afford inputs such as diesel for irrigation. The solar lift irrigation pumps have enabled them to adapt to unpredictable rainfall, thereby lowering

migration for work and encouraging a return to agriculture.

#### b. Greater financial and nutrition security

Marginal tribal farmers, the primary beneficiaries of the intervention, had food security for a maximum of six months prior to the project. As they only cultivated paddy, they

“After the paddy harvest in November, I migrated to Punjab to work as a farm labourer, leaving my wife to manage the family by selling non-timber forest produce, which barely made ends meet. With irrigation assured now, we’re growing vegetables, we have a vermicompost pit and piggery with six pigs.”

**Ram Oraon**  
Banduva Village, Herhanj block

had no nutrition security and depended on the Public Distribution System (PDS) for dry rations. Assured irrigation has enabled them to diversify their crops to include seasonal vegetables such as okra, tomatoes, peas, cabbage and gourds in addition to rice, which is grown throughout the year, and the surplus sold. With many vegetables ready in three months, the farmers are assured a more reliable income, greater food security for their households and nutritional density from homegrown produce. Household stability and incomes have increased to Rs 50,000—100,000 from one acre of vegetables annually. Investing in the alternative livelihoods of piggeries, poultry farming, and goateries has decreased vulnerabilities and increased the social security of these 1,000 families.

## 2.5 Solar-Powered Cold Storage, Latehar

### Rationale

Latehar district sees large-scale production of fruit and vegetables, primarily tomatoes, litchis and mangoes, that face the risk of loss from wastage or very low prices.

### Intervention

Ten state-of-the-art cold storage facilities were thoughtfully installed to mitigate the risk of agricultural produce wastage and enhance

farmers' income in Latehar.

These cold storage units play a vital role in extending the shelf life of fresh produce, particularly during times of overproduction or fluctuating demand. By preventing spoilage and preserving the quality of perishable goods, these facilities help farmers avoid significant losses and maximise their earnings.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement and sustainable management, the ownership of these cold storage facilities was transferred to a Self-Help Group (SHG). The SHG takes charge of the day-to-day operations, covering recurring costs and maintaining the facilities to ensure optimal functionality. Moreover, this unique approach empowers the SHG to make crucial decisions regarding the fees charged to farmers for utilizing the cold storage services, considering the economic viability and benefits to the farming community.

### Impact

#### a. Better livelihoods through risk mitigation

The initiative has mitigated the risk of wastage and improved livelihoods for 5,000 farmers by enabling them to extend the shelf life of their produce and sell it at a fair price and good profit.



## Solar-Powered Cold Storage, Latehar

The installation of solar-enabled cold storage facilities in Latehar have helped farmers reduce the risk of wastage of harvested fruits and vegetables.

**Focus Area:** Mahuadar, Manika, Garu, Barwadih Cluster

**Cost:** Rs 275 lakh

**Duration:**

### **Intervention**

Solar-powered cold storage to reduce dependence on electricity, promote green energy, and reduce product wastage economically.

### **Key Partners**

- District Agriculture Officer
- District Horticulture officer

“The weather is erratic these days. In the hailstorm last summer, all the mangoes fell off the trees, requiring immediate storage. The cold storage facility at the block came to the rescue. We need cold storage especially in summer for tomatoes, mangoes and lichees. “When I had no storage, I had to sell my produce before it turned bad at whatever price was offered to me. I can now hold on for a better price”

**Bandhu Oraon**  
Farmer, Manika Block

### **b. Enhanced well-being for farmers**

In the past, the farmers could earn as little as Re 1 for a kilo of tomatoes during peak season. The lack of returns on their farm investment was a source of financial and mental stress. The cold storage facilities across blocks in Latehar have provided much-needed support.

### **Challenges and Sustainability**

The initiative has been made sustainable by the SHGs, promoting farmer awareness and participation, addressing power supply and infrastructure issues, managing market fluctuations, and maintaining long-term viability and inclusivity.

Sustainability has been embedded into the model by building the capacities of SHG members, establishing a viable pricing model, promoting community participation, ensuring regular maintenance, and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems so that the initiative can yield long-term livelihood benefits.

# 3

## EDUCATION

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns significantly impacted the education of over 27 crore Indian children when in-person classes were suspended from March 2020 to late 2021. During this period, the Government of Jharkhand launched several initiatives to support online education for over 42 lakh students in Classes 1—12 in 35,000 government schools across the state. However, the latest Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER), which focuses on the digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic, reports that only 15.3% of school students in the state accessed online education in 2021. There were also disparities in access to electronic devices such as smartphones, computers, televisions, and internet connections, whether 3G, 4G, or broadband. Despite these challenges, the number of students aged 6—14 years enrolled in government schools in Jharkhand increased by 2% from 2018 to 2021, according to the ASER. In 2018, 76.1% of eligible students were enrolled at school, while 78.6% were enrolled in 2021.

Ranchi, Khunti, Latehar, Giridih, and Garhwa are pioneering the mitigation of the digital divide. The district administrations have implemented several educational initiatives under SCA, the most prominent being the tab labs in government schools. The case studies presented in this section highlight how digital education is being made accessible to students in the most vulnerable blocks of the district.

## 3.1 Tab Labs, Khunti

### Rationale

Access to technology and the internet has been a major gap in the digital education of government school children in Jharkhand as many schools are situated in remote and underserved areas. The technology gaps impact the quality of education the students receive and create a digital divide between them and their urban peers.

Another critical need is for trained teachers and digital literacy among educators. Many teachers in government schools are unfamiliar with digital teaching tools and methods, resulting in ineffective and inefficient use of technology in the classroom.

### Intervention

The Khunti district administration implemented the 'Digital Education Through Tab Labs' initiative to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban students and provide equal access to quality education, regardless of background or location, to over 84,000 students in Classes



1—10 in the district. The project utilises cutting-edge technology to enhance students' overall development and increase opportunities for learning and exposure among teachers and students.

The pilot phase equipped 57 schools in 86 gram panchayats with digital learning and teacher training materials that encourage both self-paced, independent study, as well as peer-to-peer learning.

### FACTSHEET 3.1

## Tab Labs, Khunti

The tab labs or tablet laboratories catering to government school students promote digital learning and enhance the educational experience of students through digital resources and training materials for both students and teachers.

**Focus Area:** Rania, Arki, Torpa, Karra, Muruh and Khunti blocks

**Cost:** Rs 301.73 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—21

**Intervention:** Tab labs set up in 57 government schools in 86 gram panchayats, benefitting over 84,000 students in Classes 1—10.

#### Key Partners:

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Education Department to identify schools and for coordination.
- CINI Tata Trusts



“Through the tab lab initiative, government school students can access the best digital learning materials with just one click. This has helped to bridge the digital divide.”

**District Education Officer**  
Khunti

## Impact

The tab labs are an important step towards minimising the digital gap by focusing on relevant and need-based content in a language the children understand. They provide digital knowledge and skills, support on device usage, and a gender-inclusive attitude towards digital use in the family and community by providing equal access to girl students.

### a. Mitigating the digital divide

The tab labs have enabled first generation learners from tribal backgrounds, and those whose parents are marginal farmers and migrant labourers to access quality digital learning material for the first time. The in-built digital content meets students' need for quality learning material on science, general studies, math, and English.

### b. Easier self-study

Students from Government Middle School, Karra, say that the student-friendly tablets have helped tremendously with self-study as they cannot afford tuitions and coaching like their urban peers in private schools.

### c. Improved learning outcomes

According to teachers in the pilot schools, the students have improved in mathematics, general knowledge, and English reading. They interact with their teachers and ask for help if necessary. Peer-to-peer interaction is also proving to be conducive to the learning environment.

## 3.2 Solar-Powered Smart Classes, Latehar

### Rationale

One of the most pressing challenges that government-run schools in Jharkhand face is that of frequent power outages, which hinders the functioning of smart classrooms.

### Intervention

Technological advances demand that traditional teaching methods be updated. The 20 solar-based smart classrooms with computer labs established in Latehar district integrate advanced technology with renewable energy sources to provide a complete learning solution. Cutting-edge technology provides interactive lessons and activities through interactive whiteboards, projectors and audio-visual aids.

### Impact

The smart classes in Latehar district have had a significant impact on the quality of education of over 15,000 students in the district.



**FACTSHEET**  
**3.2**

## Solar-Powered Smart Classes, Latehar

Solar-powered smart classes to bridge the digital education gap faced by students in areas with frequent power outages.

**Focus Area:** Latehar district

**Cost:** Rs 0.99 crore

**Duration:** 2020—21

### **Intervention**

20 solar-powered smart classes bridging the education gap for 15,000 students in 20 schools across the district.

### **Key Partners**

- District Education Officer: for implementation and supervision
- District Education Officer
- District Planning Office

### **a. Improved access to digital education**

Solar power has eliminated the need for continuous electricity and provided uninterrupted access to digital education and modernised teaching methods to enable students from marginalised communities to thrive in the digital age.

### **b. Enhanced learning environment**

The smart classes are driven by modern technology to create an interactive learning environment by providing students hands-on experience that is essential in the digital age. Teachers can access multimedia resources to illustrate complex concepts and make learning enjoyable and memorable.

### **c. Increased student attendance**

Attendance has increased as students are attracted to the new and improved learning environment.

“We don’t have a smartphone or TV and power cuts are a huge problem in the village so I had to discontinue studies during the lockdown. After school re-opened, we have access to digital learning through the tab lab. I like operating the device; it’s helping me learn English”

**Roslina Kongadi**  
Government Middle School,  
Rania block

## 3.3 Government Model Schools, Chatra

### Rationale

Basic amenities such as clean drinking water, electricity, and functional toilets are essential for the overall health and well-being of students. In Chatra district, government school classrooms, toilets, and playgrounds needed to be upgraded to meet the basic standards of a safe and comfortable learning environment. Well-stocked libraries were required to provide access to books and other learning resources. The district administration aimed to provide these amenities to increase student attendance and improve performance.

### Intervention

The infrastructure upgrades in the 12 schools included basic civil work and Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA) painting to increase the aesthetic appeal of the schools with colourful wall paintings of the number system, health and



hygiene, values, and resource conservation. New furniture, including cupboards, tables, chairs, and mats was installed. Spaces equipped with learning materials were set up to motivate children to study, read and learn. Libraries were set up, and art and craft supplies, gardening tools, musical instruments and sound system provided to encourage students to acquire new skills through extra-curricular activities. Virtual-aided learning labs were installed with projectors, smart classes, and other equipment to provide access to digital learning resources and interactive lessons.

### FACTSHEET 3.3

## Government Model Schools, Chatra

Upgradation of school infrastructure and amenities to meet basic standards and provide a safe and comfortable learning environment.

**Focus Area:** 12 blocks in Chatra district

**Cost:** Rs 28,86,132

**Duration:** 2019—2020

### Intervention

Furniture (cupboards, tables, chairs, mats), learning materials, co-curricular activities set-up (art and craft supplies, gardening tools, musical instruments, sound system), virtual-aided learning labs (projectors, smart classes), library and extra-curricular room set-up, STEM kit lab.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Education Office for identification of schools and project implementation.

“Advanced technologies have greatly aided the learning process. Access to the internet in the smart classrooms enables high school students to explore career options and acquire information about competitive exams.”

**Perween Nagesia**  
Principal, Project High School,  
Mahuadar

## 3.4 Self-Learning Braille Technology, Giridih

### Rationale

The lack of accessible infrastructure in educational institutions has hindered progress and opportunities for disabled children in Jharkhand. Outreach and support services, such as counselling and rehabilitation services for visually impaired children, are essential to lowering the barriers to their education. So far, the onus for this has mostly lain upon their parents.

### Impact

#### a. Readiness for scale-up

The intervention has benefitted approximately 10,000 students across 12 schools. It was later extended under the district's DMFT funds to convert another 22 senior secondary schools into model schools. Similar initiatives are planned for 12 Kasturba Gandhi Bal Vidhyalaya (KGBV), Jharkhand Awasiya Balika Vidyalaya residential schools, and five schools under the District Welfare Department.

#### b. Enhanced secondary education

The critical infrastructural gaps faced by the government secondary schools, most of whose students are from marginalised backgrounds, have reduced. Access to libraries and computer labs has reduced apprehension about digital education and information access.



## SELF-LEARNING BRAILLE TECHNOLOGY, GIRIDIH

Smart class devices equipped with braille writers, abacus, and educational games, have made learning inclusive, accessible and engaging for visually impaired children.

**Focus Area:** Giridih District

**Cost:** Rs 12 Lakh

**Duration:** 2021—22

### Intervention

Teacher training and the provision of support services and smart braille devices.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Education Office for identification of schools and project implementation.
- District Social Welfare Officer

### Intervention

The district administration of Giridih has sanctioned a project to improve the quality of education for visually impaired children through modern technology. The Annie Smart Class device made available to visually impaired students provides a self-learning platform for language learning, including for Hindi and English. The device features tools such as a braille writer, abacus, interpoint, wooden slate and number plate. Educational games are bundled in to provide an engaging learning experience.

### Impact

#### a. Greater independence in learning

The intervention has had a profound impact on education for children with visual impairments and provided a much-needed boost to inclusive education. Prior to this, disabled students faced significant barriers in accessing information and participating in the classroom. The child-friendly smart braille device with audio-guided lessons and interactive content, such

“She is very creative and interested in studies. She’s learning well with the self-learning device provided at school.”

**Shishulal Marandi**  
Father of Madhu Marandi

as games and quizzes, has helped address these barriers by providing a convenient and accessible way to learn the braille alphabet and numbers so that they can read and write independently. Class 2 student Niyati Kumari, for example, is very fond of the device allotted to her by the school as it helped her learn braille independently. .

#### b. Access to educational accommodations

Teacher training has been a step towards enabling visually impaired children to receive the support and accommodations they need to maximise their academic potential.

### 3.5 Government School Renovations, Ranchi

#### Rationale

Schools in the remote parts of Ranchi district struggled with inadequate, unsafe infrastructure that had taken a toll on student learning and morale. The renovation of kitchens, toilets and basic infrastructure at government primary and middle schools needed to be addressed promptly so that the students could have proper educational facilities.

#### Intervention

The need for new classrooms was highlighted by the Department of Education in view of student absenteeism at the dilapidated schools. In 2021, the district administration allocated SCA funds for renovation and construction of additional classrooms in two primary schools and five middle schools. It was led by Department of Planning and implemented by the Department of Engineering. In Kanke Government Middle

School, the kitchen was also renovated and water supplied by deep boring in the premises.

#### Impact

The project has been appreciated by the local community for improving educational infrastructure for 1,600 primary and middle school students. The newly renovated classrooms are safe, comfortable and have created a better learning environment with less absenteeism.



## Government School Renovations, Ranchi

Construction of additional classrooms and renovations of old structures in government schools.

**Focus Area:** Angara, Burmu, Kanke, Namkum, Rahe and Ratu blocks, Ranchi district

**Cost:** Rs. 117.34 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—21

### **Intervention**

Construction of new classrooms in seven government primary schools and middle schools in six remote blocks of the district.

### **Key Partners**

- Department of Planning for planning, costing and fund mobilisation from SCA
- Department of Engineering for implementation, review and monthly monitoring
- Department of Education for identification of schools for new classrooms, kitchens and toilet facilities.

“We had no water in our school premises. This led to unsanitary habits, such as not washing hands after using the bathroom or before eating the midday meal. The availability of water and renovation of the kitchen has helped improve sanitation and hygiene in the school.”

**Principal**

Kanke Government Middle School

### **Sustainability**

A comprehensive maintenance and repair plan will be developed for the newly renovated infrastructure. Community engagement will be fostered by involving local stakeholders in decision making and by working closely with community representatives in the School Management Committee on maintenance and sustainability.

# 4

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Data from NFHS-5 survey on the status of women in Jharkhand highlights the complex and interconnected nature of women's economic and social empowerment, influenced by a range of social, economic, and cultural factors. The findings suggest that while progress has been made in some areas, significant gender disparities persist in the areas of employment, decision-making power, and access to resources and technology.

Only 26% of women aged 15—49 are employed, compared to 79% of men. Most employed women work in non-agricultural occupations, with 90% earning cash, and 10% earning both cash and in kind. Fifty two per cent of women spend their earnings at their discretion. The number is highest for women who are paid in cash. Eighty per cent of women have a bank or savings account that they operate themselves. Forty nine per cent of rural women have a mobile phone that they themselves use. Attitudes towards gender roles and domestic violence are concerning, with 27% of women agreeing that a man is justified in hitting his wife under certain circumstances.

Despite the challenges, there are positive developments in women's empowerment in Jharkhand. NFHS-5 data shows that the percentage of women involved in decisions pertaining to their healthcare has increased. Menstrual hygiene has improved, with 52% of women using sanitary napkins and 56% using cloth. The percentage of women who use modern methods of contraception has also increased, indicating that they have greater control over their reproductive health.



# Government Initiatives Towards Women's Empowerment

Most government schemes and programmes claim to be gender inclusive in policy, planning and implementation. ICDS, NHM, MGNREGA and most importantly JSLPS have worked towards gender mainstreaming in the state. Employment opportunities and micro-enterprise development through SHGs under JSLPS has provided rural women, especially those from marginalised groups, a new identity.

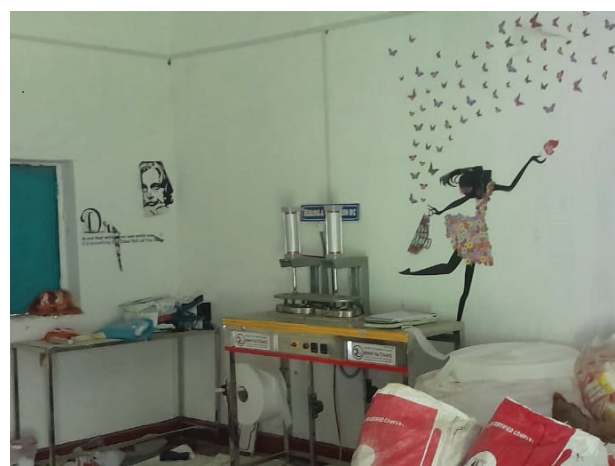
Several SCA initiatives at the district level have been focused on women's empowerment through livelihood interventions. These are explained in detail below.

## 4.1 Sanitary Napkin Production Unit, Palamu

### Rationale

Women's empowerment is a pre-requisite to gender equality. Among the major findings of the NFHS-5 released by the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai, is that 49% or fewer women in Jharkhand use period products. Menstruation is associated with taboos and myths that give rise to shame and stigma, particularly in the rural areas. The high cost of sanitary napkins is another major barrier to their use, as identified by the PPIA Fellows in Palamu. FGDs with adolescent girls and SHG women revealed that most girls depend on free sanitary napkins from school. Financial constraints and limited markets prevent many girls and women from using menstrual products.

The Government of Jharkhand has launched schemes such as Swachh Vidyalaya to improve water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) scheme under the NHM to increase awareness and access to menstrual pads. At the local level, the district administration in Palamu



**FACTSHEET**  
**4.1**

## Sanitary Napkin Production Unit, Palamu

Empowering women and girls and transforming their lives through affordable sanitary napkins for menstrual hygiene.

**Focus Area:** Chainpur and Hussainabad blocks, Palamu district

**Cost:** Rs. 45 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—21

### **Intervention**

SHG identification and training; establishing a sanitary napkin production unit.

### **Key Partners**

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- JSLPS for SHG identification and training on machine operation and manufacturing.
- Tejaswini Club to promote adolescent participation, menstrual hygiene and SBCC programmes.

has set up an SHG-managed sanitary napkin production unit.

### **Intervention**

The pilot project was built on an enterprise model in Chainpur block. The project involved JSLPS SHGs, the Tejaswini Club, and district frontline workers. SHG women were trained to run the business with handholding support and assured regular supply of Rs18 per six sanitary napkins.

In addition to supplying affordable sanitary napkins, the aim was to generate demand and raise awareness among adolescent girls and women on the importance of personal hygiene and menstrual hygiene management in the marginalised communities. Personal hygiene behaviour change among the women and girls in the villages was sought through SHG members.

### **Impact**

FGD participants state that girls are taught about menstrual hygiene at school. Peer-to-peer counselling and Tejaswini Club meetings have helped them in break away from myths and taboos.

### **Sustainability and Challenges**

The introduction of other products into the market has impacted sales. Difficulties have also been encountered with running the unit, since it requires electricity. The district administration and Fellows are working on ways to resolve this.

“Empowering women, transforming lives, breaking taboos, providing access – this was the journey of menstrual hygiene management in Palamu”

SDM, Palamu

## 4.2 Apparel Park, Lohardaga

### Rationale

The Government of Jharkhand provides school uniforms to over 1.25 lakh students either free of cost or by transferring the equivalent amount into their accounts every year. This has been a major step towards overcoming the barriers that prevent students from underprivileged backgrounds from receiving a quality education. However, the lack of a large-scale clothing manufacturing unit in the district meant that uniforms had to be procured from outside the district.

A project to establish a clothing manufacturing unit that would employ underprivileged women in the district was proposed to a DLC. In addition to reducing dependence on external sources for quality school uniforms, the unit was visualised to provide livelihoods to women, that would empower women to contribute to the local economy and break out of the cycle of poverty.

### Intervention

The district administration set up an industrial apparel park since the demand for uniforms could generate employment for a significant number of women in the district. The park caters to the annual demand for school uniforms as well as to local and non-local apparel markets.

### Impact

The initiative has generated employment for almost 150 women. Their economic empowerment has led to social progress on a range of indicators, as described below.

#### a. Greater financial independence for women

The results show that economic gender disparity is reducing as the women can now contribute to family expenses. Greater financial independence has increased their decision-making power about household purchases, meeting friends and relatives, and their own healthcare, including with regard to family planning and contraceptive use. All the women



## FACTSHEET 4.2

# Apparel Park, Lohardaga

Breaking barriers, creating employment, and promoting financial independence by empowering women through apparel manufacturing.

**Focus Area:** Kisko block, Lohardaga district

**Cost:** Rs. 93 lakh

**Duration:** 2019—20

### Intervention

Organising SHGs, forming the Saksham Mahila Utpadak Samuh, capacity building and installing machinery.

### Key Partners

- DLC for planning, coordination, organising the SHGs and training the District Programme Manager.
- JSLPS

at this unit have their own bank accounts. They have learnt to use banking facilities, ATMs and UPI as most of them manage their own money, manage their time effectively and negotiate sharing of childcare with their husbands.

### b. Greater mobility

With money in their hands, the women have access to public spaces and can travel alone. Previously mostly restricted to their homes or villages, they now engage with women's groups in other villages.

“I was scared to join the training programme as I had never used a sewing machine but my friends formed a *samuh* and encouraged me. Slowly, I learnt and today I'm self-reliant and the Secretary of the Saksham Mahila Utpadak Samuh”

**Savita Devi,**  
Nawadih village



## 4.3 Sweater Production Centre, Lohardaga

### Rationale

Lohardaga is one of Jharkhand's most impoverished LWE-affected districts with 90% of its population heavily reliant on rainfed agriculture. Most farmers here struggle to generate a sustainable income as they can only cultivate one crop a year. The dependence on agriculture and low income levels have led to widespread migration in search of seasonal work.

### Intervention

Equipped for an annual production capacity of 40,000 sweaters, the Sweater Production Centre, Senha, is an alternate income source that empowers women economically and socially. Thirty *didis* and returned migrant workers in rural Senha were trained to operate the machines, thereby acquiring new skills and improving their employment prospects in the process. The centre is run by a sakhi mandal with the support of the JSLPS.



**FACTSHEET**  
**4.3**

## Sweater Production Centre, Lohardaga

An alternative income source to empower women socially and financially by training them to run a sweater production centre.

**Focus Area:** Sneha block

**Cost:** Rs. 34.6 lakh

**Duration:** January 2020

### **Intervention**

Organising SHGs, forming the Saksham Mahila Utpadak Samuh, capacity building and installing machinery in a sweater production unit employing 30 women.

### **Key Partners**

- District administration for conceptualisation and coordination.
- DPM, JSLPS for organising the training of SHGs and establishing the unit.

## **Impact**

### **a. Greater equality through financial empowerment**

The initiative has promoted gender equality and empowerment by providing steady employment and financial independence to its women employees. For many of them, it has been the first opportunity for steady employment and a steady income. Their daily income of Rs 275 enables them to contribute to their household expenses and support themselves instead of being reliant on their husbands or families.

### **b. Increased sense of self-efficacy**

The women's stories of improved relationships, being able to provide for their families and pay for their children's education, show that they are proud of their work and the difference it is making to their lives. Women like Basanti have found financial independence and are able to navigate the world better. Such initiatives equip women to play a more proactive role in society and make their voices heard.

## **Sustainability and Challenges**

Bulk orders for school sweaters from government schools in the district maintain a steady demand and provide a stable source of income for the women. Their improved self-efficacy and ability to support their families are evident, creating positive social change. However, market competition, seasonal demand, skill development, and market access must be addressed to ensure sustainability and long-term success. With a focus on eco-friendly practices and overcoming social barriers, the centre can continue impacting the lives of women and the community, fostering a brighter and more inclusive future.

“The initiative is empowering women, both financially and socially. Their newfound financial freedom gives them a sense of self-worth and confidence, allowing them to take charge of their lives and shape their future.”

**Manager**

Block Mission Management Unit

## 4.4 Dari-weaving Unit, Peshrar

### Rationale

Peshrar is one of the remotest, most underdeveloped LWE-affected areas in Jharkhand, with most of the population relying on agriculture and the forest for a living. Insurgency has bred insecurity over the years, disrupting development and depriving communities of basic amenities and opportunities for growth by hindering the government and development organisations from reaching the remote areas.

### Intervention

Women in the region are skilled at weaving *daris*. To capitalise on this, the district administration undertook a two-year initiative that included six months of training, design assistance, and marketing of products produced by 35 selected women. The products are sold at weekly *haats*, district level exhibitions, *saras melas* and through private orders.



**FACTSHEET**  
**4.4**

## Dari-Weaving Unit, Peshrar

The dari-weaving initiative has empowered women economically, raised awareness against witch-hunting, and fostered financial inclusion and digital empowerment.

**Focus Area:** Villages of Peshrar block, Lohardaga

**Cost:** Rs. 19.8 lakh

**Duration:** December 2020

### Intervention

Identifying SHGs and enhancing their craftsmanship by establishing a dari-weaving unit.

### Key Partners

- District administration for conceptualisation and coordination.
- DPM, JSLPS for training SHG members and setting up the project.

## Impact

### a. Financial inclusion

The project has generated livelihoods for 30 highly vulnerable women from the district's most backward block. Training by master craftsmen has enhanced their traditional skills. They have learnt financial management from day-to-day operations of the unit. All 30 women have bank accounts and ATM cards. Some also use online payment platforms.

### b. Digital empowerment

The increased income has enabled the women to purchase touch-screen mobile phones for themselves and learn to use WhatsApp.

## Sustainability

Linking the product to market demand has helped improve the women's economic status. The involvement of a master craftsman and designer to create market-relevant designs and identify markets across the country also helps ensure the sustainability of this initiative.



“I'd never been in a bank. Now I have an account and use an ATM card as well.”

**Parvati Devi,**  
Peshrar block



## 4.5 Jal Minars, Garhwa

### Rationale

The State Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation reports that 9.79 lakh (17%) of 59.23 lakh rural households in Jharkhand received tap water supply as of March 2021. Plans are afoot to provide tap water connections to all rural households, schools, AWCs and other public institutions by 2024. In Garhwa, one of the state's most water deficient districts, the water contains a high degree of arsenic and minerals.

### Intervention

The district administration's solar-based Jal Minar scheme has taken water to over 1,500 households in 10 villages in seven LWE-affected blocks in Garhwa district, namely Bargar, Bhandaria, Ranka, Ramkanda Dhurki and Chinia.



### FACTSHEET 4.5

## Jal Minars, Garhwa

The solar-based Jal Minar scheme has provided accessible and safe drinking water, benefitting women and improving villagers' quality of life.

**Focus Area:** 20 blocks in Garhwa district

**Cost:** Rs. 3.85 lakh—4.57 lakh per unit

**Duration:** January 2022

### Intervention

Twelve solar Jal Minars were constructed by the PHED Department and 15 Jal Minars by the District Welfare Department through SCA, benefitting over 1,500 households in 10 villages.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- PHED and PRIs for identification of blocks for the scheme.
- Mukhiya and Jal Sahiya for identification, mobilisation and upkeep of the Jal Minars.

Twelve solar Jal Minars, pegged, were constructed by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and 15 by the District Welfare Department through SCA. The water is stored in tanks and supplied through a pipeline powered by solar panels and a submersible pump. The extension from each water supply unit provides households in the intervention area with tap water, effectively meeting the increasing demand for domestic water supply.

## Impact

The Jal Minars have improved lives considerably for rural communities who had to previously struggle for this basic resource. The use of solar energy helps lower electricity consumption.

### a. Access to safe drinking water

Access to safe drinking water is a distant dream for many communities in rainfed rural areas. In Garhwa, the women collected water from wells that ran dry in summer and turned muddy in the monsoon. The unsafe drinking water led to a high prevalence of diarrhoea, especially among children under five. By providing access to safe drinking water, the Jal Minars have reduced the burden of disease among households in the intervention area and raised awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and health. Schools and AWCs have also benefitted from running water.

### b. Greater well-being of women

In rural India, the burden of fetching water for the family traditionally falls upon the women of the household. The summer months of April and

“City people have running water in their kitchens and bathrooms. For us, that was a distant dream. I’d walk a few kilometres every day to fetch water from the well for my family of four. I can’t explain how relieved and happy I am to have a tap with running water near my home. Now I have time to feed my children.”

**Shardha Devi**  
Akalwani village, Garhwa district

May are particularly difficult, with them having to walk several kilometres in the searing heat to the nearest well or handpump. Women in the intervention area reported at an FGD that they carried heavy pots of water even during pregnancy. The Jal Minars have resolved many issues, leaving them with more time for childcare and leisure.

## Sustainability

The project aims for long-term sustainability by transferring ownership to the community. The district administration has involved mukhiyas for maintenance and awareness building. The Jal Sahiyas take care of the Jal Minars, ensuring that there is no wastage of water.

## 4.6 Soap and Detergent Manufacturing Unit, Giridih

### Rationale

The health risks and strict lockdown measures imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic led to an economic slowdown that exacerbated socio-economic inequities with harsh implications for the most vulnerable groups. About 91.3 million casual workers and small traders lost their jobs (Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, 2020) and 260 million others were plunged into poverty. Millions of migrant workers were left with no choice but to return to their hometowns and villages. After Bihar, Jharkhand had the highest number of returning migrants. In Dumri panchayat, SCA helped transform this challenge into opportunity with JSLPS support.

### Intervention

A production unit for soap, handwash, and detergent powder has been established and managed by the Pouraiya Ajeevika Mahila Sankul Sangathan, Dumri. The women persisted in training to operate the machines despite the early challenges. The effort has paid off, and the unit now runs smoothly, with the 16 women each earning Rs 5,000—6,000 per month.

**FACTSHEET**  
**4.6**

## Soap And Detergent Manufacturing Unit, Giridih

A production unit for soap, handwash, and detergent powder that transformed pandemic-related challenges into opportunity.

**Focus Area:** Dumri block, Giridih district

**Cost:** Rs. 23.39 lakh

**Duration:** 2021-22

### Intervention

Establishing a soap and detergent manufacturing unit involved identifying SHGs, forming a Pouraiya Ajeevika Mahila Sankul Sangathan and training 16 women on soap and detergent production.

### Key Partners

- District Planning Office
- JSLPS

### Impact

The initiative has been transformative in the way it has empowered women to contribute to their families and communities by becoming financially independent. Its success is a testament to the determination and resilience of the women involved and the positive impact of such initiatives.

#### a. Increased purchasing power

Members of the Pouraiya Ajeevika Mahila Sankul Sangathan keenly recall the hard times they endured as migrant labourers during the lockdowns. They value their earnings, prioritise their spending and avoid making unnecessary purchases. Most report that they spend their earnings on their children's education and nutrition. Their increased purchasing power has translated into better diets with fruit and milk for the children, as well as the ability to prepay their mobile phone bills. Nemiya Devi of Jai Ma Santoshi SHG says that she makes better use of her time now that she manages both work and home. Since she earns a substantial income, her husband supports her by taking care of the children in her absence.



## b. Increased savings

All 16 women have bank accounts and ATM cards, which they use independently.

## c. From migrant workers to assured incomes locally

Becoming self-reliant has enabled the women to carve a new identity for themselves. They feel confident about navigating public spaces and institutions such as banks, the Block Office and JSLPS saras *melas*, and are role models for other women in their villages.

## Challenges and Sustainability

The products are sold at saras *melas* and Palash stores across the state. The annual turnover last year was Rs 12 lakh. It is expected to exceed Rs 20 lakh in 2023—24. Market competition, product quality, and effective marketing and distribution are crucial. Ensuring a stable supply of raw materials, financial planning, and technical skill development are essential for continued success.

## 4.7 Sewing Training Centre, Giridih

### Rationale

Tisri, Dumri, Pirtand, Gawan and Deori blocks of Giridih district have been known for mica mining as generations of local families have collected and traded the shimmery, translucent mineral used in cosmetics and automobiles. Locally known as *dhibra*, mica scraps are freely available in the mud around mining sites. Depending on their quality, they sell for Rs 3—15 per kilogram, earning the seller Rs 150—250

for a full day's work. According to the District Programme Manager, JSLPS, "Most people in the district are involved in mining and crushing activities in some way. They are reluctant to shift from the familiar". As severely as they were affected by LWE, there was little access to other opportunities.

### Intervention

Alternative livelihood creation for these areas has been a long standing demand raised by civil society. Given the pressing need, the district administration initiated vocational training, skill development, and access to financial services for women in these blocks. The intervention involved establishing a Sewing Training Centre and Skill Development-cum-Production unit in each block.

### Impact

#### a. From unemployed to self-employed

The initiative has trained 450 women so far. Most have used their newly-acquired cutting and sewing skills to become self-employed in the district, with a monthly income of Rs 3,000—4,000 for uniforms, women and children's garments, quilts and curtains. The unit also contributed to the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign by making 1,00,000 flags.



**FACTSHEET**  
**4.7**

## Sewing Training Centre, Giridih

Alternative livelihood option involving vocational training, skills development and access to financial services for women with little access to safe livelihood opportunities.

**Focus Area:** Tisri, Maduban, Dubba, Devari and Gava villages, Giridih district

**Cost:** Rs. 1.10 Crore

**Duration:** 2020-22

### **Intervention**

Establishing 55 sewing training centres and training 450 women.

### **Key Partners**

- District Planning Office
- JSLPS

### **b. Households breaking the cycle of poverty**

The assured, stable and sustainable monthly income has enabled 450 households to escape the cycle of poverty towards a better future. Parmila's story (right), highlights the potential of such initiatives to succeed.

### **Sustainability**

JSLPS continues to support the unit. An apparel production unit is planned to utilise the skilled workforce created through the initiative and to generate steady livelihoods for more people in the area.



“We used to earn very little by selling mica. It was risky work as we had to dig and enter holes in the ground but we had to do it to survive. We don't own agricultural land and there was no other work for us to do.”

**Parmila**

Now Self-employed, Tisri Block

## 4.8 Sports Bank and Hostel Renovation, Gumla

### Rationale

Jharkhand's tribal youth have distinguished themselves in hockey, athletics and archery. Accustomed to playing in fields with no infrastructure, they have excelled nationally and internationally when provided proper facilities. Yet, the state's tribal belt, particularly Gumla, Khunti and Simdega are source districts for human trafficking and youth dropping out of school and college due to the conflict and multidimensional poverty.

### Intervention

The administration's measures to strengthen sports culture and infrastructure in the state, particularly in the tribal districts, include the Gumla District Sports Bank, a hostel for girls and an indoor stadium.

The Gumla District Sports Bank is a unique initiative under the state's Come & Play campaign, where hockey, football, athletics, badminton and cricket kits are issued to players during block and district tournaments. It acts as a one-stop solution to provide tribal individuals and teams with access to quality sports equipment free of charge. The equipment is returned after use.

Physically intensive and engaging sports, such as football, hockey, badminton and kho-kho are heavily promoted. Over 20 sports talent hunts were organised at the block and district levels in the past two years under the Khelo India campaign, Fit India, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and the CM Football Competition. The administration has renovated seven stadiums, including an indoor stadium to host tournaments and runs 14 boarding training centres with state-of-the-art facilities to promote sports as a career option for teenage girls.

FACTSHEET  
4.8

## Sports Bank And Hostel Renovation, Gumla

Measures to strengthen sports culture and infrastructure in the state, particularly in the tribal districts.

**Focus Area:** Gumla town

**Cost:** Rs. 20 Lakh

**Duration:** 2021-22

### Intervention

Gumla District Sports Bank, a hostel for young sportswomen, and an indoor stadium to promote sports for tribal youth.

### Key Partners

- District Collector
- District Planning Office
- NDC office in coordination with the District Sports Department.

## Impact

Sports facilities have changed the lives of rural girls and boys in the area by catering to their previously unmet needs for proper nutrition, sports kits and stadiums. Sports have become a catalyst for change for tribal girls, many of who would drop out of school to migrate in search of employment as labourers and domestic help in the cities. The focus on sports and the environment fostered at the hostel have instilled confidence and life skills in the girls, encouraging them to speak their minds and opt for careers that give them control over their lives.

"I love football! I dream of playing internationally. I won't give up on my dreams. We get nutritious food, sports kits and a well-developed playground at the hostel."

**Anita Dungdung**

Footballer, Under-17 champions at the Subroto Junior Football Cup

## Tribal Sportswomen Shining For India

In 2022, India participated in the FIFA Under-17 Women's Football World Cup for the first time. Sportswomen from tribal and rural Jharkhand made up half the team. Captain Ashtam Oraon of Gumla district believes that tribal youth are hardy because of their circumstances. Her teammates Neelu Linda, Anjali Manda, Anita Kumari, Purnima Kumari and Sudha Ankita Tirkey were also from Jharkhand.

Like most tribal sportspersons from Jharkhand who come from poor families, Ashtam's house had no electricity or television. When she became a successful sportsperson, the Deputy Commissioner, Gumla, installed a TV and inverter in her house. Appointed brand ambassador of the Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojna by the district administration, Ashtam is now a role model for girls across her state. The District Sports Officer reports that the youth, especially girls, are looking at sports as a viable career option.



# OTHER INITIATIVES



## 5.1 Latratu Dam, Khunti

### Rationale

Latratu Dam in Karra block of Khunti district is serenely located amid forest and rocky hills.

### Intervention

The scenic beauty of the reservoir was leveraged as a picnic spot with boat rides, food court and a children's park. A pathway was constructed to the dam, with stairs, benches and landscaping alongside.

Construction was assigned to a private company through a tender. The Dumargarhi Nauka Vihar Samiti headed by the District Tourism Officer, Khunti, manages the site. The Samiti has trained a group of young men from Karra to operate the motorboats and kayaks. The food stalls and small hotels, including a *dhaba* owned and managed by a woman, are run by Karra locals.



### FACTSHEET 5.1

## Latratu Dam, Khunti

Leveraging the scenic beauty of Latratu Dam for tourism and self-employment.

**Focus Area:** Karra block, Khunti district

**Cost:** Rs 192.76 lakh

**Duration:** 2021

### Intervention

Construction of a viewpoint, stairs, benches and a guesthouse. Training of 11 youth from Karra block in manual and electric boat operation by the Dumargarhi Nauka Vihar Samiti.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision in coordination with the District Tourism Department.
- Dumargarhi Nauka Vihar Samiti under the District Tourism Department for site management.



## Impact

By combining recreational activities with economic opportunities, this initiative has helped build a better future for the people of the district. In doing so, it has proven to be a shining example of the impact of successful community development initiatives.

### a. A much-needed leisure spot

Latratu Dam is a beacon of hope in an area once plagued by LWE. With the restoration of normalcy in Karra, it has become a much-needed leisure spot, drawing large weekend crowds of all classes and ages from Ranchi and Khunti.

### b. Increased livelihood opportunities

The boost in tourism has generated self-employment opportunities for the local people. The district administration plans to further develop the dam's potential to empower SHG women with income-generating opportunities in pisciculture.

## 5.2 Opium Eradication, Chatra

### Rationale

Illegal opium cultivation constitutes a key hurdle to development in Chatra district, where the topography and dense forest facilitate the clandestine activity. Extensive plantations illegally occupy forest land in the LWE-affected areas of Kunda, Rajpur, Pratappur and Hunterganj. Many locals are heavily dependent on the illegal income and are not particularly interested in pursuing alternate livelihoods. The resulting health concerns for growers and high risk of substance abuse among the youth have created a law and order crisis with serious, long-term implications, requiring the police to eradicate.

### Intervention

A plan of action to counter illegal cultivation through eradication drives using DMFT and SCA funds was developed through a series of meetings between the district administration, Police Department and Forest Department. The drives involved awareness raising through *nukkad nataks*, banners and posters on the adverse consequences of opium cultivation. Drones are used to locate opium plantations, which are subsequently destroyed.

The District Forest Department requested Rs 10 lakh from SCA for the destruction of cultivated opium. Following approval by the



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Longitude: 85.024272  
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## Opium Eradication, Chatra

Eradicating illegal opium cultivation through law enforcement, awareness campaigns and alternate livelihood options for the community's sustainable development.

**Focus Area:** Kunda, Kanhachatti, Pratappur, Hunterganj Blocks, Chatra District

**Cost:** Rs 10 Lakh

**Duration:** 2020 - 2021

### Intervention

Identifying and destroying opium fields.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Forest Office for identification of opium-affected areas and planning the elimination of activities.
- SP's office, police force and CRPF commandants to undertake the eradication.

SCA DLC in 2020—22, the district arranged for JCB tractors, grass-cutters, knapsacks, and chemicals and herbicides for crop destruction. A team from three police forces and CRPF commandants undertook a mission to eradicate about 340 acres of plantation in the Rajpur thana, Kanhachatti block of Chatra. Similar interventions were undertaken in other affected blocks.

### Impact

The opium eradication intervention in Chatra district has had a positive impact on multiple fronts. The drives have countered illegal opium cultivation, addressing a major obstacle to development in the region. By raising awareness about the adverse consequences of opium cultivation through *nukkad nataks*, banners, and posters, the intervention has fostered a shift in mindset among the locals. The use of drones to locate opium plantations has improved the efficiency of eradication efforts, ensuring a

more targeted approach. Destroying about 340 acres of opium plantations has curtailed the illegal income source and the risk of substance abuse among the youth. Overall, the intervention has paved the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future for Chatra by promoting alternative livelihoods and fostering socio-economic growth.

“By eradicating opium cultivation and empowering the community, we are breaking the chains of dependency and paving the way for a brighter future. This initiative is not just about enforcing the law but also about fostering hope and creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.”

**DDC,**  
Chatra

## 5.3 Road Connectivity, Rural Garhwa

### Rationale

A well-connected road network is essential for the economic growth of a state. Although Jharkhand has seen an increase in the length of national highways and other roads, the road network demands further expansion. The lack of proper road infrastructure in underdeveloped districts such as Garhwa hinders economic and social development, isolates communities, and limits access to essential services.

### Intervention

The district administration identified hard-to-reach areas through a rapid needs assessment in consultation with local teams and field staff, based on demands from the ground. It then contracted out the construction of the Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) roads. The contractor is responsible for maintaining the upkeep and functionality of the roads for the first two years.



### FACTSHEET 5.3

## Road Connectivity, Rural Garhwa

All-weather road construction in remote, LWE-affected areas to connect isolated villages to main roads, provide access to basic services and boost the local economy.

**Focus Area:** All blocks, Garhwa district

**Cost:** 20 lakh—90 lakh

**Duration:** 2018—21

### Intervention

Construction of 42 road connectivity assets.

### Key Partners

- District administration for overall planning and supervision.
- District Planning Office, Block Development Office to survey LWE-affected blocks and locate remote regions that needed road connectivity.

The Rural Engineering Organisation (REO) has created 42 road connectivity assets under SCA, benefitting 2,33,040 people. A total of 54 roads were constructed, including other schemes, of which 30 were completed in the financial year (FY) 2018—19, seven in FY 2019—20, and 10 completed and seven partially completed in FY 2020—2021.

## Impact

Deep in the heart of rural Jharkhand, the new roads are bringing development to remote tribal regions where Maoists once held sway. Connecting villages to main roads in this far-flung and strife-torn region, among the poorest in India, has not been without its challenges but the situation has begun to change for the better.

### a. Improved access to services

Tribal populations in Jharkhand have little, if any, access, to basic amenities. People drink directly from ponds and rivulets, frequently contracting water-borne diseases that exact a heavy toll when medical services are hard to reach. The new road brings a ray of hope to this sparsely populated region. Tractors and three-wheelers now take people and goods to market, and children to school; ambulances can ply to transport the sick and pregnant to health centres on time.

The construction of a 1.3 km road in Dipatoli village in Bargarh block, for example, has

“Roads are the lifelines of development, connecting communities and opening the doors of opportunity. The construction of these new roads has brought a ray of hope to remote tribal regions, transforming lives and enabling access to basic amenities. It's a game-changer for our community.”

**Bichna Devi**  
Bargawa Village

brought significant development to the remote Barigawa village. Connecting the village to the main road has made commuting to the AWC and school easy for the children. Bichna Devi, a 35-year-old resident, reports that her child now cycles easily to the local market and school in town. The community has easy access to nearby markets to buy and sell goods, and school attendance during the rainy season has increased, as has the footfall at local banks.

## 5.4 Road Connectivity, Peshrar

### Rationale

Peshrar block, deep in the interiors of Lohardaga district with a tribal population of over 85%, used to be a hotbed of LWE activity. Since it was unconnected to the rest of the district by a *pucca* road, two of its particularly remote panchayats comprising 37 villages with a population of about 12,500, took about an hour and a half to reach by the *kaccha* road.

### Intervention

A 4.7 kilometre road was constructed from Nawadih Fatehpur Road to Mungo-Pundag More via Shahi Ghati under SCA.

### Impact

The benefits of the road project have been numerous and far-reaching. It has brought about a new era of ease and convenience for the villagers.

### a. Enhanced livelihood opportunities

The road provided employment opportunities to the villagers during its construction and has subsequently opened new avenues for livelihood enhancement by connecting them to the rest of the district. In the past, they struggled to take their agricultural and forest produce to the nearest market. The new road enables them to reach the town market in just 15 minutes,

**FACTSHEET**  
**5.4**

## Road Connectivity Pashrar Block

All-weather road construction in remote, LWE-affected areas to connect remote villages, improve livelihoods, enhance accessibility to markets and services, and facilitate anti-Naxal operations.

**Focus Area:** Two panchayats of Peshrar block, Lohardaga district

**Cost:** Rs 317.07 lakh

**Duration:** 2018—21

### **Intervention**

Road connectivity for 37 villages in two panchayats in the block.

### **Key Partners**

- Rural Works Division for road construction.
- District Planning Division for fund allocation and project monitoring.

in stark contrast to the previous journey of a gruelling 1.5 hours.

### **b. Improved quality of life**

The new road has improved the overall quality of life for the rural population. It has made it easier for police and central forces to conduct anti-Naxal operations in the region.

### **c. Better access to healthcare facilities**

The road has improved access to the PHC, especially for children, pregnant women and the elderly.

### **d. Improved attendance at school**

Attendance at secondary and higher secondary schools in the block has increased.



“The road project in Peshrar block has been a game-changer for our community. Once isolated and faced with numerous challenges, we now have a well-maintained road connecting us to the district. It has given us access to essential services and opened opportunities for livelihood improvement. Our 1.5 hour journey to the market now takes 15 minutes. This road has truly transformed our lives and given us hope for a better future”

**DC**  
Lohardaga

## 5.5 District Library, Simdega



### Rationale

Simdega Nagar Panchayat data indicates that the town has a population of about 52,467. With a female sex ratio of 962, the sex ratio is higher than the average for the state (which stands at 948). The literacy rate of Simdega is also higher at 85.46 % against a state average of 66.41%. Male literacy is at 89.22 %, while the female literacy is at 81.54 %.



With the citizens realising that public libraries play an important role in developing informed communities concerned about development and nation-building, they demanded that the district library be upgraded. The existing facilities, lacking chairs, tables and washrooms, had become unfit for sitting or studying.

### Intervention

The intervention involved constructing, renovating and upgrading the district library. Established in 2006, poor maintenance and deteriorating infrastructure had made it unsanitary and unfit for public to use.

### FACTSHEET 5.5

## DISTRICT LIBRARY, SIMDEGA

The renovation and upgradation of the district library has increased footfall, mitigated the digital divide, and provided a dedicated space for studying and accessing information, benefitting students and the community.

**Focus Area:** Simdega Town

**Cost:** Rs 29 lakh

**Duration:** 2020—21

### Intervention

Construction, renovation and upgradation of the district library.

### Key Partners

- District Planning Office
- NREP
- Building Division

The renovations began in 2020. A hall, shed and parking area were constructed, and windows, magazine stand, Wi-Fi and solar lights installed to rejuvenate the libraries and its services.

## Impact

### a. Increased footfall

The footfall has increased from five or six a month to 30—40 every day. The increased demand has led to the construction of another study hall and an accessible washroom for disabled users.

### b. A step toward mitigating the digital divide

Students pay a minimal annual subscription fee for access to the internet, computers, and a variety of newspapers, magazines and study

material for competitive exams in a learning space for individual and group study.

“I’m preparing for the JPSC exam. Since I live in a small house, I have no private space to study. The library allows me to concentrate. I come in at about 9—10 a.m. and stay till 3—4 p.m. I also get to do peer learning with like-minded people. When the library was in poor condition, it had only about three or four people coming in but now 20—30 people come in every day.”

**Ashish Dungdung**

Student

Simdega town, Lohardaga

## 5.6 Social Policing, Simdega

### Rationale

The Ministry of Home Affairs has made a special mention of community-oriented policing to address LWE in India. The National Policy Action Plan, 2015, also envisages a multi-pronged strategy that emphasises the protection of the rights and entitlements of communities in LWE-affected areas.

The Civic Action Programme approaches the problem holistically with community policing schemes that add a humanitarian dimension to policing. A detailed analysis of the spread and trends of LWE violence has led to interventions planned for 70 districts in 10 states to foster a connection between security forces and locals through personal interaction and by projecting the human face of the forces.

### Intervention

The social policing undertaken by the Simdega police and the CRPF had three components: the Police Uncle tutorial, Janta Darbar and Khelo Simdega.

The Police Uncle tutorial aimed to bridge the trust deficit between the police and the public by demonstrating the Police Department's commitment to underserved children. Launched in November 2019, its initial focus was on providing Class 10 students with poor academic records after-school coaching classes by dedicated teachers and retired police officers. In the first year of the programme, 80% of the students who availed coaching passed with distinction. This success prompted the expansion of the initiative to include Class 9 students in 2021.

Janta Darbar, initiated at the panchayat level with police officials participating, aimed to improve the rapport between police and community, address the community's unwillingness to approach the police, and steer people away from LWE activities. Public issues and demands were addressed and resolved. Umbrellas and raincoats were distributed during the monsoon. The local police launched a drive against human trafficking that involved raising awareness about lodging FIRs, informing schools, and keeping a record of adolescent girls at the panchayat level. The outreach campaign was intensified by *nukkad nataks* on the consequences of forcing minor girls into migration or trafficking.



## Social Policing, Simdega

Social policing through interventions such as the Police Uncle tutorial, Khelo Simdega, and Janta Darbar.

**Focus Area:** Simdega Town

**Cost:** Rs 5 Lakh

**Duration:** 2019—2020

### Intervention

Enhancing community-oriented policing in LWE-affected areas through initiatives such as Janta Darbar for conflict resolution, anti-trafficking awareness campaigns, and Khelo India.

### Key Partners

- Simdega police
- Block administration
- Local communities
- Youth (10—25 years)

Khelo Simdega was launched to raise the youth's interest and participation in sports. Hockey and football were promoted for interested children, and their guardians advised on how to guide them. The 15 police stations formed hockey teams for boys and girls, distributed hockey kits, and conducted inter-station competitions with the winners going on to compete at district level. Three girls were selected for training in the United States and Taiwan but were unable to go due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## Impact

### a. Improved public relations

The social policing initiatives had a positive impact on trust, dialogue, and awareness. People have become more willing to approach the police, report cases and help in identifying issues related to youth migration and dropouts. The Simdega Police won the Capacity Building Award for its Police Uncle tutorials at Governance Now, India Police Awards, 2020, for bridging the trust deficit with the local population.

### b. Improved tracking of Naxal movement

Members of the public have become more amenable to helping the police track and monitor Naxal movement.

### c. Increased awareness about opportunities

The initiatives have raised public awareness about sports. Khelo Simdega increased awareness about sports among parents and children, encouraging a larger number of parents to urge their children to participate in sports.

“Through the Police Uncle tutorial, we witnessed a remarkable transformation in the academic performance of students. The personalised coaching and support enabled us to excel in our exams. It not only improved our educational prospects but also strengthened the trust and bond between the police and the community.”

**Naresh**

Student who used the  
Police Uncle Tutorial

# Annexure I : List of Contributors

## **Vision**

- Mrs. Vandana Dadel, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Home, Prison and Disaster Management, GoJ

## **Guidance**

- Amol V. Homkar, IPS, IG-OPS cum SNA, Police Headquarter, Ranchi
- Pradeep Tigga, IAS, Additional Secretary, Dept. of Home, Prison and Disaster Management, GoJ

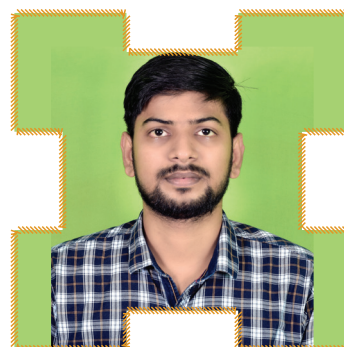
## **Technical Inputs**

- Manisha Joseph Tigga, JAS, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Home, Prison and Disaster Management, GoJ
- Karimuddin Malik, Director, State LWRC, Dept. of Home, Prison and Disaster Management, GoJ

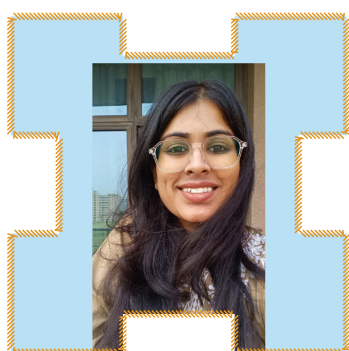
## Annexure II : List of PPIA Fellows



**Sonali Layek**  
Latehar



**Sourav Kumar**  
Ranchi



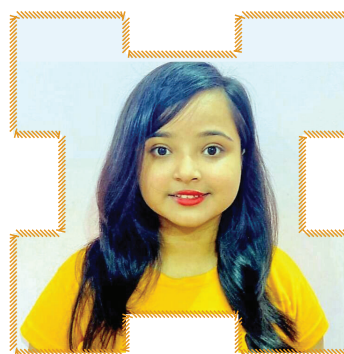
**Ananya Ayengar**  
Simdega



**Priya Shruti Gidhi**  
Ranchi



**Hemlata Bajaj**  
Lohardaga



**Ena Ray**  
Palamu



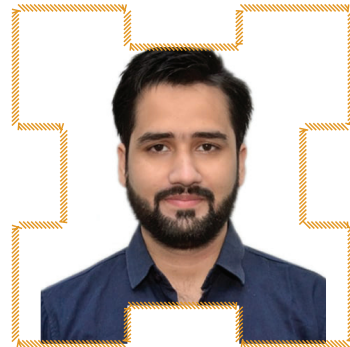
**Venkatesh**  
Saraikela Kharsawa



**Abhanshi Dixit**  
Palamu



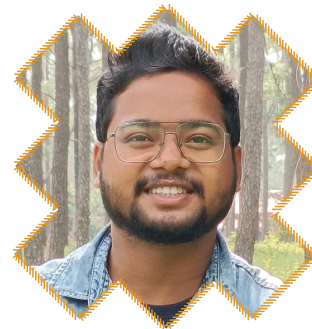
**Sandra V**  
Simdega



**Gautam Mishra**  
West Singhum



**Ramesh Kumar**  
Gumla



**Ram Kumar**  
Garhwa



**Shweta Verma**  
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**Pallav Jain**  
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**Abhijeet Kumar**  
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