

# MASHAL

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2023-2024



*Presented by :*

# MASHAL

20-C, Patliputra Colony, Patna-800013, Bihar, India

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



As we reflect on the progress captured in this year's Annual Report, I feel an immense sense of pride and gratitude. I wholeheartedly appreciate all of our Sisters and field-based staff for their unwavering commitment to the Society's mission and vision. Your dedication to putting our priorities first and working tirelessly for the upliftment of society has been truly remarkable.

Through the implementation of diverse projects and programs, the positive impacts and achievements we see today are a direct reflection of your efforts. Our Sisters and field teams have successfully embodied the Society's aims and objectives in the communities we serve, making a tangible difference in the lives of many.

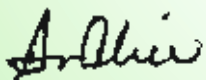
Your relentless dedication is contributing significantly to the realization of our organization's mission. Whether it is through ensuring quality education for children from marginalized communities, empowering women and girls, providing Home and care for Girls, focus on persons with disability, promoting sustainable livelihoods and agriculture, or working towards entitlement realization and poverty alleviation, your work is breaking the cycle of ignorance and poverty that has long held back many of our communities.

Equally important is the vital role played by the members of our Health wing. Their outreach to underprivileged and economically weaker families through preventive and curative healthcare has been a lifeline for many who would otherwise have no access to regular medical care. Through their dedicated efforts, countless individuals have gained the essential support needed to build resilient families towards healthy communities.

Together, we have touched lives and sparked hope, making communities stronger and more self-reliant. As we continue this journey, I have every confidence that our shared commitment and passion will drive us towards even greater success in the coming years.

Let us remain united in our purpose and look to the future with hope and determination.

With deepest gratitude



Sr. Mary Alice  
President,  
Mashal

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

The Annual Report for this year highlights Mashal's enduring commitment to positive transformation, built upon the pillars of commitment, resilience, and a collaborative spirit. With profound gratitude and immense pride, I have the honour of addressing you as the Secretary of this esteemed organization. Together, we have touched many lives and made lasting impacts.



Our health centers have successfully extended their reach to unreached communities, making a significant impact where it was most needed, coupled with the successes we've achieved in women's empowerment and community development which demonstrate our holistic strategy for elevating society.

In the education sector, our projects were successful in meeting the targets to enhance basic numeracy and literacy, progressing towards the empowerment of adolescents through digital literacy and 21st-century and life skills. This focus has significantly contributed to school enrolment among dropouts and irregular students. With focus on vulnerable children, particularly girls in need of care and protection, the Asha Kiran Home for Girls provided a safe refuge and nurturing environment that supports their overall development. Additionally, the project emphasized the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities by offering regular therapeutic care at both home and Day Care Centers, as well as providing assistive devices to enhance their quality of life. Furthermore, focusing on sustainable agriculture our projects have empowered marginalized farmers, helping them enhance their income while promoting responsible environmental practices, thus contributing to the well-being of both the community and the ecosystem.

With my deepest gratitude, I acknowledge the thoughtful leadership and strategic insight of our respected Board Members, whose direction has led Mashal steadfast to the forefront of community development, empowerment and creating lasting impact. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank our generous donors, whose commitment, unwavering trust and belief in our work have been the key to Mashal's success. With your contributions the projects were able to bring smile in the children's lives and kindled hope in the hearts of the communities we serve.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to our devoted team, whose relentless hard work, passion, and perseverance have been instrumental in the success of our project. I am confident that with the same spirit, we will continue to achieve even greater milestones. Let's carry forward this journey with the same determination and enthusiasm, knowing that our collective efforts are making a real difference in the community.

This Annual Report serves as evidence of the impactful work we've done together. Let's come together to celebrate these successes and renew our dedication to creating a brighter, more equitable future.

With gratitude,



Chinnamma KC,  
Secretary,  
Mashal

**MASHAL** is a charitable social organization, registered under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860 (Reg. No: 708/2000-01) and FCRA, 1976 (Reg.No:031170409). It has 12/A and 80G Certificates. Its registered office is in 20-C Patliputra Colony, P.O. Patliputra, Patna, Bihar, India.



**VISION: An Egalitarian Society Based on the values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.**



**MISSION: Committed to accompany and to enable the marginalized communities to affirm and uphold their rights and dignity.**



### THRUST AREAS

- ❖ End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)
- ❖ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)
- ❖ Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all (SDG 3)
- ❖ Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education (SDG 4)
- ❖ Promote gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)
- ❖ Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic Growth (SDG 8)
- ❖ Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems(SDG 13, 15)
- ❖ Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development(SDG 16)
- ❖ Revitalize partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17)



### PRIORITY GROUPS

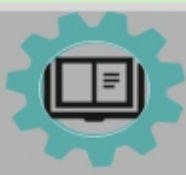
MASHAL primarily focuses on the following priority groups:

- ❖ **Women, children, and youth from vulnerable communities:** We work to empower these groups by providing support and opportunities for education, livelihood, and overall well-being.
- ❖ **Victims of natural calamities and disasters:** MASHAL responds to the needs of those affected by natural disasters, offering relief and rehabilitation efforts to help them recover and rebuild their lives.
- ❖ **Persons with disabilities:** The organization seeks to promote inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities, ensuring they have equal opportunities and rights.

# STRATEGIES



**Comprehensive Health Advancement**



**Empowerment through education**



**Sustainable Agricultural Promotions**



**Strengthening Community Based Organizations**



**Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods**



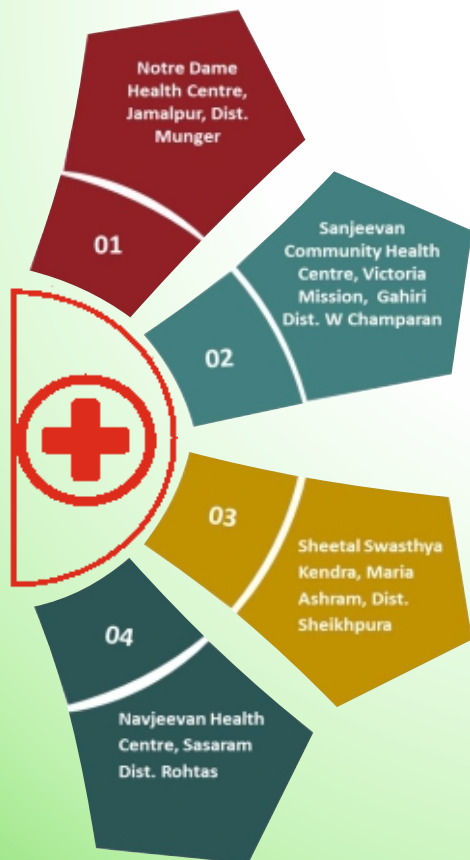
**Synergize Collaborations and Networking**



**Inclusive Community Engagement**

## UNITS OF MASHAL:

### HEALTH CENTERS OF MASHAL



### SOCIAL ACTION CENTERS OF MASHAL



## Report of Health Care Activities:

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the services delivered by Mashal's healthcare units in Sasaram, Jamalpur, Gahiri, and Sheikhpura, evaluating their impact on the rural population. Mashal's Healthcare Units are committed to delivering services with compassion, professional responsibility, and a deep respect for the human dignity in the rural communities of Bihar. Our ministry emphasizes curative, preventive, and promotive healthcare, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of the poor and marginalized, especially women and children.

### Alignment with SDGs and Government Healthcare Initiatives:

Our community-based health services are designed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Health Mission of India. By providing accessible and equitable



healthcare, particularly to marginalized populations, we contribute to SDG 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. Additionally, our focus on preventive, promotive, and curative care supports the National Health Mission's objectives to enhance healthcare access, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes across rural communities.

Some of our units collaborate with government health services. For instance, the Navjeevan Health Centre in Sasaram is approved as a Diagnostic Microscopy and Treatment Centre under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP). Similarly, in Jamalpur, our units work with government programs for immunization, polio surveillance, and the Bihar State AIDS Control Society.

### Curative Health Service

- Outpatient care
- Provision of alternative systems of medicine like physiotherapy, Nuga bed, and massage.
- Care for persons with disabilities
- Minor surgical procedures, including incision and drainage
- Laboratory investigations for various health conditions, including TB, HIV, and diabetes.
- Snake bite treatment services offered daily in Gahiri.

### Preventive and Promotional Services

- Immunization services for children under five, covering various diseases like BCG, DPT, measles, and Hepatitis B.
- Health education programs conducted for staff, patients, and community members, focusing on communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Health camps organized for early diagnosis and treatment, especially for TB patients.
- Herbal garden cultivation to prepare traditional medicines for patients.

## Impact on Rural Communities:



**Improved Access to Healthcare:** The establishment of healthcare facilities in rural areas has significantly enhanced access to quality healthcare for marginalized communities, with a notable positive impact on women and children.



**Reduction in Disease Burden:** Timely diagnosis and treatment provided through medical camps and village visits have significantly decreased the prevalence of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria.



**Enhanced Maternal and Child Health:** The provision of immunization services and antenatal care has significantly improved maternal and child health, resulting in lower infant mortality rates.



**Increased Health Awareness:** Health education programs have effectively raised awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures, resulting in a reduction in waterborne diseases and an overall improvement in community health.



**Improved Living Standards:** The healthcare services provided by the ministry have significantly uplifted living standards and socioeconomic well-being among the poor and marginalized. By reducing the burden of diseases and cutting down on medical expenses, these services have enhanced overall quality of life and financial stability.

## Statistics:

HEALTH SERVICES	JAMALPUR	SASARAM	GAHIRI	SHEIKHPURA
No. of Staff	23	14	6	2
Patients/Yr	1,13,287	21,468	14,765	5,197
Immunization	980	---	---	454
Snake Bite Cases	---	---	220	46
Day Care	---	---	--	10
Dental Care	---	18	---	---
Physiotherapy	---	1,188	---	---
Tuberculosis patients under RNTCP	---	66	---	---

## Medical Camps:

Free medical camps were held in 4 villages of Haveli Kharagpur Block Munger Districts by Notre Dame Health centre in Jamalpur in collaboration with staff of Integrated Community Empowerment Centre. Total 9 free medical camps were organised reaching 912 patients. Similarly, Navjeevan Health Centre, organised free medical camps in 2 villages of Sasaram blocks reaching 247 patients. Whereas 450 patients were reached through COPD (chronic obstructed pulmonary disease) testing organised in the Health centre. General checkups and blood tests for haemoglobin and blood sugar were conducted, and all patients received free medication.



Mashal's healthcare units in Sasaram, Jamalpur, Gahiri, and Sheikhpura have significantly improved the health and well-being of rural communities in Bihar. Through dedicated service, we have enhanced access to quality healthcare, especially for marginalized populations, including women and children. Our alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Health Mission of India has strengthened our impact. We remain committed to promoting health equity and improving living standards as we continue to expand and refine our services.



The Outpatient Department (OPD) of the health centre operates from Monday to Friday, providing a combination of herbal and allopathic treatments to patients. Services are aimed at addressing common health issues, ensuring holistic care through both traditional herbal remedies and modern medical practices. This integrated approach supports patient health and well-being, offering a wider range of treatment options.





# Report on Strategic Interventions of MASHAL's Social Action:

## SECTOR- EDUCATION



**MASHAL** has been actively implementing 5 projects that significantly contribute to human development and empowerment in rural communities, particularly through the promotion of education for girls from marginalized communities in Bihar. By aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4), which focuses on quality education, our initiatives have created a profound impact on the lives of out-of-school, dropout, and irregular students.

Through targeted efforts, we ensure that parents understand the importance of education, especially for girls, by conducting regular parental meetings. These meetings sensitized mothers and fathers to the value of the girl child and the crucial role education plays in their future. Additionally, the projects also emphasize gender sensitization for men and boys to foster a gender-neutral community and eradicate the gender inequality prevalent in households and the broader community. These comprehensive interventions not only promote educational access and retention for girls but also contribute to the overall development and empowerment of the communities we serve.

Sl. No	Donor	Project Name	Target
1	UNICEF	Empowering girls to lead the way for education in Bihar, (45 marginalised villages under Sheikhpura and Ariari Blocks of Sheikhpura Districts)	2840 Children
2	Notre Dame Congregational Fund	Transforming Lives in Bihar: A Comprehensive Initiative for Empowering Adolescents of marginalized communities through Flexible Learning, Gender Equality, Life Skills, and Digital Literacy 20 villages, Raxaul, East Champaran District, 30 villages, Gahiri, West Champaran District, Bihar	500 Children
3	Italian Bishop's Conference, Italy	Promotion of Basic Education of the Girl Children of the Deprived Communities in 120 hamlets of 4 districts of Bihar namely, Rohta's, Bhojpur, East Champaran, West Champaran	1200 Children
4	Notre Dame Congregational Fund	Empowering Adolescents in Bihar: A Holistic Approach to Flexible Learning, Gender Sensitization and Life Skills Education. 20 villages, Chenari, Rohtas District 30 villages, Sasaram, Rohtas District 20 villages, Piro, Bhojpur District, (Bihar State)	700 Children
5	Kindermission swerk, Germany	To Promote Basic Learning Among the Children of Marginalised Communities of 15 villages in Munger District, Bihar	600 Children
6	Bhushancorp Private Limited, Patna	Promotion of Basic Education of the Children of the Deprived Communities in Nehru Nagar, Patna	36 Children

## 1. Empowering Girls to Lead the Way for Education in Sheikhpura, Bihar supported by UNICEF.

The partnership between MASHAL and UNICEF Bihar is transforming the lives of children aged 6-8 and adolescent girls aged 9-14 from 45 Mahadalit communities under (Sheikhpura and Ariari Block) Sheikhpura District in Bihar through targeted programs that focus on education and community empowerment to promote girls' education. These initiatives address the challenges faced by girls in rural communities, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge. Emphasizing foundational literacy and numeracy ensures age-appropriate learning and school enrolment, while digital and financial literacy prepares girls with 21st-century skills. Life skills training nurtures critical thinking and resilience, and gender sensitization promotes equality. Teacher's and Parental meetings highlight the importance of education for girls. Together, these efforts have enhanced academic performance and empowered girls to become confident, informed, and agent of change.



## Activities and Achievements:

- Established 45 Flexible Learning Centers (FLCs) across marginalized communities.
- Enrolled 1200 children (Girls- 720 and Boys- 480) aged 6-8, reintroducing them to education.
- Conducted capacity-building sessions for 60 project staff members.
- Distributed learning materials to empower 2840 students.
- 1175 Children (721 Girls and 454 Boys) out of School were enrolled into school.
- Demonstrated significant literacy and numeracy improvements through FLCs.
- Established 100 transformative clubs, uniting 1000 girls aged 9-14.
- 1040 girls engaged in regular digital literacy classes.
- 1000 girls capable of accessing various skill-oriented courses, financial literacy, career-focused web platforms and social security schemes through tablets.
- Engaged 2058 parents (2044 Females and 14 Males) in monthly meetings, emphasizing the importance of education and raising awareness about early marriage.
- 1662 mothers were informed about social security schemes and Income Generation Programs.
- Promoted positive behaviours for valuing girl child education.
- Conducted gender sensitization training for 3714 persons (2911 Men and 803 Boys) in 30 villages.
- 2911 fathers who encourage and support higher education of girls and delay marriage of their daughters
- 828 boys pledge to delay their marriages to adulthood.
- Conducted 61 interface meetings involving 1727 stakeholders from village.



## Observation of Special Days:

- Republic Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January- 1381 Children (872 Girls and 509 Boys) from 30 villages observed Republic Day.
- International Women's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March- 1726 women and girls from 30 intervention villages of Sheikhpura participated in the International Women's Day program.
- Day Against Child Labour, 12<sup>th</sup> June- 558 Children (366 Girls and 192 Boys) of 30 villages participated on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the World Child Labor Prohibition Day program commemorated at the Mahila Shikshan Kendra.
- Children's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> November-1697 children (G-1054, B- 643)
- International Day of the Girl Child, 11<sup>th</sup> October- 986 children (G- 586, B-400).

## 2. Empowering Adolescents in Bihar: A Holistic Approach to Flexible Learning, Gender Sensitization, Life Skills Education, and Digital Literacy in Marginalized Communities Supported by SND Congregational Fund:

### Introduction:

The project focuses on enhancing educational opportunities and social awareness among marginalized girls and adolescents in Chenari, Sasaram in Rohtas district and Piro in Bhojpur district. Flexible Learning Centres are established specifically designed for children who have either dropped out of school or lack age-appropriate learning, with the ultimate goal of ensuring their enrolment in local schools. Additionally, the project promotes gender sensitization training to foster a just and equal society by raising awareness and encouraging positive action on gender-related issues. Life skills training is also included, equipping adolescents with essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, resilience, and self-esteem, empowering them to navigate challenges and make informed choices for their personal, social, and academic development.

### Major activities and the achievements:

**Flexible Learning Centres:** The project has established 26 Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) to provide Children with a platform to regain educational opportunities, acquire essential skills, and improve their future prospects. A flexible curriculum, along with the use of teaching-learning materials (TLM) and play-based methods, focuses on core subjects like language and mathematics to ensure literacy and numeracy. Currently, the project operates 8 FLCs in Chenari with 260 children, 6 FLCs in Piro with 168 children, and 12 FLCs in Sasaram with 300 children. Facilitators are working to ensure these girls are enrolled in local schools or government-run residential schools.



### Staff Training and Capacity Building:

10 female project field-based staff from all the 3 units received comprehensive training in Basic Literacy and Mathematics, addressing the critical need to promote age-appropriate learning and support the re-enrolment of children who have dropped out of school. The primary objective of this workshop was to equip the staff with essential tools, strategies, and the use of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) to effectively enhance literacy and numeracy skills among children in their communities. By focusing on age-appropriate learning methodologies, the training ensures that educational interventions are designed to meet the unique needs and developmental stages of each child, thereby fostering more effective and impactful educational outcomes.



### 3. Promotion of Basic Education of the Girl Children of the Deprived Communities in 120 hamlets of 4 districts of Bihar namely, Rohtas, Bhojpur, East Champaran, West Champaran supported by Italian Bishop's Conference.

#### Introduction:

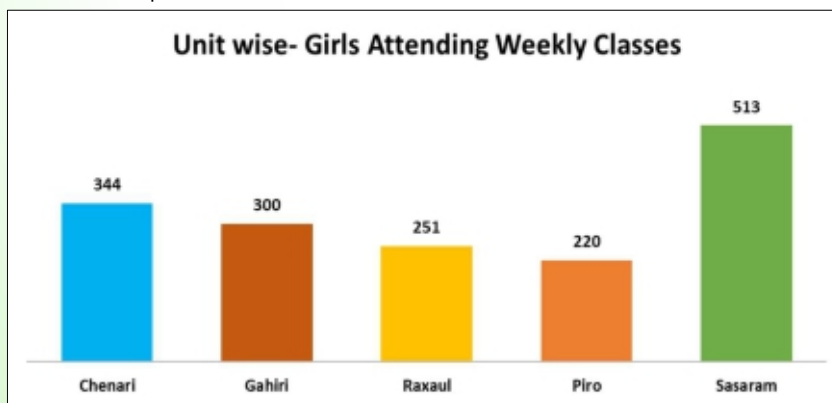
The "Promotion of Basic Education for Girls in Deprived Communities in Bihar" project is a focused initiative aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, aiming to enhance education access and promote gender equality for girls in 120 villages across the Rohtas, Bhojpur, East Champaran, and West Champaran districts of Bihar. The Project's efforts have been concentrated on enrolling and retaining out-of-school or dropout girls from marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, and the most economically disadvantaged groups, within the age range of 6 to 18 years. This year, the Project enrolled and retained 1,628 such girls while also working to sensitize these communities about their Right to Education, thereby fostering improved enrolment and retention rates in mainstream schools.



#### Major Activities & Achievements:

##### A. Weekly Literacy Classes for Adolescent Girls:

Weekly literacy classes led by our trained project staff for adolescent girls have been highly effective in enhancing their reading and writing skills. These classes not only improve academic performance but also boost self-confidence and empower the girls to actively

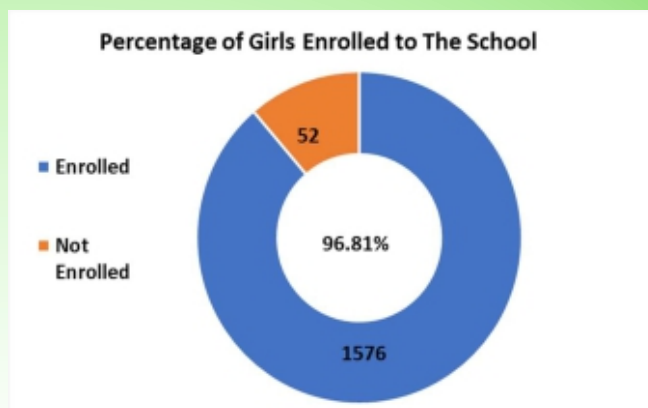


participate in their schools. Although our target was to reach 1,200 girls, we have successfully engaged 1,628 girls from marginalized communities in 120 villages who continue to actively participate in these literacy classes as highlighted in the table

below.

Out of the 1,628 girls engaged in our program, 1,576 are now enrolled in school. The remaining 52 girls, who have recently joined the literacy classes, will be enrolled in school in the next academic year. School attendance has shown a significant improvement, rising from below 30% to 70%, highlighting the positive impact of our intervention. Through targeted efforts and dedicated support, the Project have not only increased enrolment but also created a more conducive learning environment that encourages consistent attendance among the girls.

The Project initiatives have also positively impacted over 1,000 parents, who are now motivated to actively support their daughters' higher education aspirations. Among them, approximately 500 parents have taken proactive steps to encourage and advocate for their girls' education. This signifies a transformative change in mindset, where parents are becoming champions for their daughters' education, fostering a sustainable and positive shift in the community's perception of the value of girls' education. Additionally, the project's interventions have successfully protected approximately 20% of the girls under our care from early marriage, showcasing the effectiveness of our efforts in safeguarding their futures.



### B. Interface Meeting:

The project organized a series of interface meetings aimed at strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs), held primarily within school premises. Total 380 participants consist of Teachers, Parents and PRI members attended for the fruitful discussion. As a result of the interface meetings conducted in all five project locations, 30 schools that previously did not hold School Management Committee (SMC) meetings began organizing them. These meetings significantly enhanced cooperation in student enrolment and emphasized equal educational opportunities for both genders. Parents and teachers noted improved learning outcomes, attributing this success to the collaborative efforts among parents, teachers, and facilitators. The meetings also contributed to creating better learning environments in village schools by bringing together government officials, teachers, local representatives, parents, and students.

### C. 20 Days Residential camp for Intensive coaching:



Summer camp was organized during the school vacation in the respective units (Chenari, Sasaram, Piro, Raxual & Gahiri), providing training to 132 girls who were struggling with basic studies but were eager to continue their education. Over the course of 20 days, they received instruction in Mathematics, Hindi, English, and other relevant subjects through child-friendly teaching methods. Additionally, the camp included extracurricular activities aimed at developing their personalities and enhancing their foundational knowledge to support their educational journey.

The residential intensive coaching program has had a profound impact on participants, significantly improving their language and mathematical skills, and enhancing their ability to communicate, read, and solve problems. Alongside academic growth, the program successfully raised awareness of environmental and social issues, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy within the community. Moreover, it instilled a deep appreciation for Bihar's rich heritage, encouraging participants to connect with and take pride in their cultural roots.

#### **D. Enrolment to Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE):**

During this reporting period, 16 girls from Scheduled Communities in Nautan Block, West Champaran, 8th grade dropped out, received support for BBOSE. Through BBOSE, they were given the chance to pursue higher education. The 20 days Residential Intensive coaching have helped them to address their challenges in reading, writing and strengthen their foundational skills.

### **4. Transforming Lives in Bihar: A Comprehensive Initiative for Empowering Adolescents of marginalized communities through Flexible Learning, Gender Equality, Life Skills, and Digital Literacy Supported by SND Congregational Fund:**

#### **Introduction:**

The project focuses on enhancing educational opportunities and social awareness among marginalized girls and adolescents in Raxual in East Champaran district and Gahiri in West Champaran district of Bihar. Flexible Learning Centres are established in specifically designed for girls who have either dropped out of school or lack age-appropriate learning, with the ultimate goal of ensuring their enrolment in local schools. Additionally, the project promotes gender sensitization training to foster a just and equal society by raising awareness and encouraging positive action on gender-related issues. Life skills training is also included, equipping adolescents with essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, resilience, and self-esteem, empowering them to navigate challenges and make informed choices for their personal, social, and academic development.

#### **Major activities and the achievements:**

##### **Flexible Learning Centres:**

The project has established 14 Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) to provide girls with a platform to regain educational opportunities, acquire essential skills, and improve their future prospects. A flexible curriculum, along with the use of teaching-learning materials (TLM) and play-based methods, focuses on core subjects like language and mathematics



to ensure literacy and numeracy. Currently, the project operates 8 FLCs in Gahiri with 239 children, 6 FLCs in Raxual with 168 children. Facilitators are working to ensure these girls are enrolled in local schools or government-run residential schools.

##### **Staff Training and Capacity Building:**

07 Staff (4 males and 03 females) project field-based staff from both the units received comprehensive training in Basic Literacy and Mathematics, addressing the critical need to promote age-appropriate learning and support the re-enrolment of children who have dropped out of school. The primary objective of this workshop was to equip the staff with essential tools, strategies, and the use of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) to effectively enhance literacy and numeracy skills among children in their communities. By focusing on age-appropriate learning methodologies, the training ensures that educational interventions are designed to meet the

unique needs and developmental stages of each child, thereby fostering more effective and impactful educational outcomes.

## 5. Promote Basic Learning Among the Children of Marginalised Communities of 15 villages in Munger District, Bihar Supported by, Kindermissionswerk, Germany.

### Introduction:

The project "Promotion of Basic Learning among Children of Marginalized Communities in 15 Villages, Munger District, Bihar" addresses the urgent need for fundamental education among tribal communities in Kharagpur Block, Munger District. Running from April 2023 to March 2024, it has benefited 615 children (305 Girls and 310 Boys) by providing basic education and essential life skills.

Bridge schools and educational programs have been established, teaching children fundamental knowledge and life skills necessary for their academic journey. The curriculum focuses on age-appropriate learning in language (Hindi) and numeracy, as well as holistic development in social, emotional, and practical competencies.



The project achieved a 92% attendance rate in junior schools by addressing issues like poverty, lack of parental support, and inadequate infrastructure. A nurturing environment was created to improve engagement and retention.

Community involvement was key, with awareness campaigns, monthly parent meetings, and discussions on the importance of education. This collaboration has been crucial in securing parental support and enhancing children's educational advancement.

### Major Activities:

#### Orientation and training of the Project Staff:

Following the appointment/ renewal of the appointment of all project team, 15 staff (8 Male and 7 Female), a three-day (June 29th, 30th & 1st of July 2023) orientation/training program was conducted at Patna. Starting with an overview of the project's concept, team members were briefed on its goal, objectives and planned activities. The training sessions also prioritized foundational literacy and numeracy, the utilization of Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM), and assessment methods, including group formation and lesson planning.



#### A. Village level Meeting with Parents:

Series of Village-level meetings were organized for parents in each hamlet, where total 1790 parents (292 Male and 1498 Females) were empowered. These meetings informed parents about the project's objectives, methods, and expected outcomes. Open discussions empowered families with a deeper understanding of the importance of education, project's



significance and potential impact on their children's Literacy and Numeracy skills. This led to collaborative atmosphere nurtured mutual understanding and cooperation, ensuring children's regular attendance.

#### **B. Establishment and Furnishing of Bridge Course Centre in the Santhal Villages:**

15 BCCs have been formed within 15 Santhal hamlets as result of the awareness meetings



with parents. Classes are held in school classrooms or verandas after regular hours, and in communal spaces accessible to all children in other villages. These 15 BCCs are equipped with essential amenities, including carpets, writing boards, Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM), and sports equipment. The TLM includes textbooks, exercise books, storybooks, alphabet grids, charts, number charts,

sticks and beads.

#### **C. Conduct daily learning and extra co- curricular activities in Bridge Course Centre:**

The Bridge Schools (BS) at the village level have significantly enhanced literacy and numeracy among 615 designated children (305 Girls and 310 Boys). Before and after school, children participate in educational programs to improve these skills. Trained Animators use structured activities and resources to teach foundational skills and address individual learning needs, engaging children in playful activities to reinforce lessons and deepen their understanding of key concepts.

#### **D. Observation of Special Days:**

At the Bridge Schools (BS), celebrating important days like Children's Day, Republic Day, and Independence Day is integral to nurturing patriotism, cultural pride, and societal awareness among children.

Republic Day (January 26th): To create an understanding of democracy, the constitution, and the importance of fundamental rights and duties among the children.

Independence Day (August 15th): Celebrated with children, the nation's freedom, inspiring appreciation for freedom fighters' sacrifices and promoting national unity.

Children's Day (November 14th): it was observed to honour children's rights and welfare, nurturing creativity and imagination.

These celebrations include cultural performances, flag hoisting ceremonies, and educational sessions, introducing values of respect, unity, and patriotism.



## Achievements:

- Increased literacy: 70% (419) of children can read and write by recognizing all the letters and numbers, 60% (362) of children are able to identify letters and pronounce them correctly, and 49% (293) of children can read simple sentences.
- Basic math skills: 62% (370) of children can do simple addition, 58% (348) can do simple subtraction, 60% (362) can do simple multiplication, and 51% (308) can do simple division.
- Improved numeracy: 58% (347) of children can read and understand numbers from 1 to 100, and 55% (331) of children can read and understand numbers from 1 to 200. 58% (348) of children understand zero, and 56% (333) have a place value understanding of numbers.
- Increased enrolment: 37 children who were out of school were enrolled in school. 16 girls have been enrolled in schools.
- Increased regular attendance: 92% (549) of children have been regularized in junior schools.
- Increased participation in extracurricular activities: 50% (300) of children participated in activities like sports, singing, dancing, painting, etc.
- Increased parent awareness: 596 mothers have better understanding the right of their children to education and are ready to send their children for higher education.
- Improved leadership potential: 49% (293) of children developed their leadership potential.
- Increased parental involvement: 64% (382) of parents attend Core Committee meetings to support their child's education.

## 6. Promotion of Basic Education of the Children of the Deprived Communities in Nehru Nagar, Patna, Bihar Supported by Bhushancorp Private Limited, Patna:

### Supplementary Education Centre:

The project has successfully established a supplementary education centre to support the education of 36 children (15 girls and 21 boys) from the slum areas, where many have either dropped out of school or attend irregularly. These children, aged 7-12, often used to engage themselves in child labour activities such as rag picking and dish washing, leaving little time for their studies. The centre focuses on providing age-appropriate learning in Hindi and numeracy, helping them bridge educational gaps and regain their academic footing. Additionally, the project promotes awareness among parents about the importance of their children's right to education, encouraging them to prioritize schooling over labour. This initiative is key to empowering these marginalized children and nurturing a brighter future for children belonging to the Harijan colony. During the reporting period, 14 children were successfully mainstreamed into the Government school.



# SECTOR- AGRICULTURE



15 LIFE  
ON LAND



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



**MASHAL'S** agricultural projects are transforming the livelihoods of marginalised farmers and tribal Santhal families through sustainable practices. We establish orchards with fruit and wild plants to boost income and employment. Our approach uses land, water, and manpower efficiently, and supports eco-friendly activities. Key to our strategy is empowering Women Producer Groups (WPGs) by forming Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for market access and sustainability. We focus on organic farming, sustainable composting, and natural methods using bio-fertilizers to cultivate staple crops, vegetables, and fruit trees. This approach helps marginalized farmers grow produce with eco-friendly techniques, enhancing their sustainable income and development, eventually contributing towards SDG 13 and 15.

Sl. No.	Donor	Project Name	Target
1	NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme (TDF1)	200 families
2	NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme (TDF2)	300 families
3	German Doctors	Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems Among Small & Marginal Women Farmers	300 women farmers
4	KFB, Austria	Integrated community empowerment program / Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems (PSAS)	500 women farmers
5	SND Congregational Fund	Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture practices among tribal farmers in 10 villages in Munger Dist. of Bihar, India	300 tribal farmers
6	SND Congregational Fund	Promotion of organic farming among 1500 marginal women farmers of Rohtas and Sheikhpura Dist.	1500 women farmers

## 1. Integrated Tribal Development Program- 1, Supported by NABARD:



Project Location:

Haveli Kharagpur Block,  
Munaer- District, Bihar



Target Group:

200 Santhal tribal farmers (160  
Wadi holders + 40 landless)

### Introduction:

The project has provided livelihood security to 200 targeted tribal (Santhal) families by establishing 160 orchards with selected fruit and wild plants, which will eventually increase their income and employment levels. This has also reduced their dependency on the forest by meeting fodder, firewood, and timber needs. Additionally, livelihood-promoting activities were provided for 40 landless families. Project's Specific objectives include effective utilization of land, water, and manpower resources, implementation of eco-friendly income-generating activities, development through people's organizations, women's participation and empowerment, and improvements in health, sanitation, and access to drinking water.

## Key activities and Highlights:

### 1. Wadi Establishment:

#### a. Horticulture Plantation & Maintenance:

Under the Horticulture Plantation & Maintenance initiative, major activities included planting fruit trees such as mango, guava, and lemon across 160 acres of 160 tribal families. Boundary plantations and live hedge fencing were established to protect the orchards, while intercropping practices were implemented to maximize land use efficiency. These efforts aim to provide sustainable livelihoods, increase income, and improve food security for the tribal communities involved.



#### b. Soil Conservations:

In the Soil Conservation initiative, key activities included completing field bunding and graded bunding on 10 acres of land to prevent soil erosion. Additionally, 117 water absorption and cattle-proof trenches were constructed to enhance water retention and protect against livestock damage. These measures significantly contribute to soil preservation and improved agricultural productivity for the community.

#### c. Water resources development:

Under the Water Resource Development initiative, we provided 12 bore wells, each equipped with motors, reaching a depth of 250 feet with a 4-inch diameter. These bore wells significantly enhance water availability, ensuring a reliable water source for irrigation and daily use, thereby improving agricultural productivity and the overall quality of life for the community.

### 2. Programme for landless (Livelihood activities):



Under the Programme for Landless initiative, we provided goat units (4+1) to 40 families, established a nursery for one household, and constructed vermicompost pits for 20 households. These activities aim to enhance livelihood opportunities for landless families, offering sustainable income sources through goat rearing, nursery management, and organic compost production.

### 3. Health:

Significant health interventions were carried out, including the organization of 2 health camps, which provided medical services and education to the community. Additionally, 6 kitchen gardens and 6 herbal gardens were established, promoting better nutrition and access to medicinal plants. These initiatives have led to improved health outcomes, increased awareness of nutritional practices, and enhanced self-sufficiency in managing health through locally grown produce.

#### 4. Women Empowerment:

The project significantly advanced women's empowerment by forming six Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and providing training to 10 SHG members. These initiatives have fostered financial independence, enhanced leadership skills, and promoted community solidarity among women. As a result, women are now more actively participating in decision-making processes, contributing to household income, and supporting each other in personal and professional growth.



#### 5. Training and capacity building:

The project focused on training and capacity building



initiatives to empower the community and enhance their skills across various domains. 2 capacity-building sessions were conducted for staff members, equipping them with enhanced knowledge and skills to effectively implement project activities. Additionally, awareness creation meetings were held in 10 villages, fostering a deeper understanding of key project objectives and encouraging community participation. 16 training sessions on Wadi and improved agriculture techniques provided farmers with sustainable practices to enhance crop yields and income. Furthermore, six health training sessions addressed prevalent community health

issues, promoting better health practices and disease prevention strategies. Training on kitchen gardening was conducted in 6 sessions, promoting self-sufficiency and nutritional improvement at the household level.

The project also organized 7 training sessions on herbal medicine, preserving traditional knowledge and promoting natural healthcare practices. 2 exposure visits for Village Project Committee (VPC) leaders facilitated learning from successful models, enhancing leadership and project management skills. These capacity-building efforts have significantly contributed to the empowerment and sustainable development of the community, fostering resilience and improving livelihoods.

## 2. Integrated Tribal Development Program- 2

Project Details	
Project Name	Integrated Tribal Development Programme-2
Project Location	Haveli Kharagpur Block, Munger- District, Bihar
Targeted Beneficiaries	300 Santhal tribal farmers (240 wadi holders + 60 Landless)

The Second Integrated Tribal Development project made significant steps towards enhancing livelihood security for 300 Santhal tribal families from Haveili Kharagpur, Munger. The project was successful in establishing 120 orchards. Notably, 120 acres of land were planted with fruit-bearing trees such as mango, guava, and lemon, alongside essential border plants like Teak and

Mahogany, benefiting 120 tribal families. The project also prioritized soil conservation, completing 68 water absorption and cattle-proof trenches, which contributed to improved water retention and agricultural productivity. Water resource development was advanced through the installation of 2 bore wells and 4 hand pumps, ensuring a reliable water supply for irrigation and daily use. In addition, the project focused on building the capacity of the community through 5 program promotion events and 5 training sessions aimed at strengthening the Village Planning Committee (VPC) and Primary Tribal Development Committee (PTDC). These initiatives are instrumental in fostering sustainable development and improving the quality of life for the community.

### 3. Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems Among Small & Marginal Women Farmers in Bhojpur Dt. of Bihar, India supported by German Doctors:

#### Introduction:

The Project mainly focus on building the capacity and empowering Women Producer Groups (WPGs) to ensure their sustainability by organizing them into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to market their produce. The project has already empowered 200 women from 20 villages by forming 20 WPGs. These women have been trained in the benefits of WPGs, organic farming, and sustainable bio composting. Recognized by the government, about half are now registered farmers benefiting from various schemes and have begun producing vermiculture and bio compost for cultivation.

#### Key activities and Highlights:

##### 1. Training on Financial literacy:

Financial literacy plays a crucial role in empowering individuals, particularly in women from rural communities where access to financial resources and knowledge may be limited. In response to this



need, a comprehensive financial literacy training program was conducted across 20 distinct villages, aimed at enhancing the financial capabilities of women. This training program effectively reached and provided training to 300 women in diverse facets of financial management and decision-making. By equipping these women with essential financial knowledge and skills, the project seeks to foster economic empowerment and contribute to the sustainable development of these rural communities.

##### 2. Training on Planning of Crop for Summer Crops, Integrated Nutrition management (INM) and Organic farming:

The training on Crop Planning for Summer Crops, Integrated Nutrition Management (INM), and Organic Farming was a crucial initiative to enhance agricultural practices in rural communities. Conducted across 20 villages with 300 participants, the training comprised two sessions per village. The first session focused on effective crop planning for summer and the

principles of organic farming, with the aim of equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively plan and manage.

The second training session focused on Integrated Nutrition Management (INM) to enhance soil fertility and plant nutrition by integrating diverse nutrient sources, including organic materials. INM helps farmers optimize crop production, manage soil health, reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers, and promote sustainable agriculture, thus boosting productivity while preserving environmental integrity for future generations.

### 3. Farmer's exposure visits in Agricultural farms:

The Farmer Exposure Visit to Kanti Farms Nursery in Bhojpur, Bihar, on March 13, 2024, enabled 34 farmers to learn modern agricultural practices and innovative techniques. The visit aimed to promote knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration among farmers to improve productivity and sustainability. Activities included an orientation, a guided farm tour showcasing organic farming methods for various crops, and interactive sessions for discussion and idea exchange.

4. **Training on Mushroom cultivation and farm exposure:** The project has successfully trained 80 women in mushroom cultivation, equipping them with skills for profitable agricultural activity. The training covered all aspects from substrate preparation to harvesting and marketing. This has enabled women to boost their income and economic independence. An exposure visits to Sun Moon Organic Mushroom Farm for 30 women provided insights into organic mushroom farming. Led by Nagendra Kumar Singh, the visit included a tour of cultivation stages, demonstrations on substrate preparation and composting, and information on pest management and marketing strategies.



### 5. Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO):

The Food Processing Plant for the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) of the women farmers has made significant steps with the acquisition of essential machinery, including a 3 hp pulveriser for grinding wheat, spices, and sattu, a 1 hp water lifting pump, a deep freezer for mushroom storage, and a mushroom drier for producing mushroom powder. FPO leaders attended a district-level meeting at the District Industries Centre (DIC) and applied for a flour mill. Additionally, a shop has been selected, and an agreement has been signed for seed retail business, with an application for a Fertilizer and Seed business license also submitted. The FPO has applied for registration in eNam, the National Agriculture Market, to access a pan-India electronic trading portal. Moreover, the FPO showcased its products and initiatives at a district-level Farmer's Fair organized by the Bihar Government.

### 6. Observation of women's day:

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Dairy Hall in Charpokhari, Bhojpur, Bihar, recognizing and honouring the vital contributions of women, particularly as farmers. The event brought together 300 women farmers, alongside distinguished guests including local health workers and government officials. Government officials at the event reaffirmed their commitment to supporting women in accessing government benefits. ANM Anita Kumari and GNM Vibha Kumari provided essential health guidance, emphasizing the importance of maintaining health and the prevention of early marriage. As a significant outcome of the event, an online camp facilitated the successful application of AYUSHMAN CARDS for 104 women.



## 7. Observation of Farmer's Day:

On December 20, 2023, the Farmers' Day celebration at Dairy Hall in Charpokhari, Bhojpur, Bihar, honoured 200 women farmers for their contributions to society. The event featured distinguished guests, including key government officials from Agriculture Office, Animal Husbandry, ATMA and a representative from MASHAL Patna. Highlights included a free oral health check-up camp by Dental Surgeons from Patna, and a workshop on organic farming by the General Manager of Shaktiwan Pesticide group. Women farmers showcased handmade products like Sattu and Besan, with various Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) setting up stalls. The program ended with refreshments, fostering a strong sense of community and agricultural pride.

## 8. Networking with Government Agriculture Department:

Throughout this reporting period, **Charpokhari Farmer Producer Company LTD.** visited various Government institutions and Departments to establish its network. Such as-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Agriculture Office, Bhojpur,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Industries Centre,</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Office</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Animal Husbandry office, Bhojpur</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KVK, Bhojpur</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Horticulture Officer, Bhojpur</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Development Commissioner.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Block Office, Charpokhari.</li></ul>

## 4. Promoting Scientific Agricultural Systems (PSAS) supported by DKA Austria:



Project Location:  
Munger District, Bihar



Target Group:

500 Women Farmers, 300 Adolescents Girls from tribal and Scheduled caste communities.

### Introduction:

The project aims to empower marginalized tribal and scheduled caste communities by enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices. A key focus is on supporting women marginal farmers to increase their sustainable income through the cultivation of staple crops such as paddy, wheat, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, and fruit trees, all utilizing sustainable scientific agricultural methods. The project also seeks to elevate the influence of women in local governance and decision-making bodies, ensuring they realize their rights and contribute to community development. In addition to agricultural initiatives, the project prioritizes the education of adolescent girls, encouraging them to pursue higher education and delay early marriages. Furthermore, it equips both adolescent girls and boys with the skills necessary for employment in both organized and unorganized sectors, paving the way for a more secure and prosperous future for these communities.

## Key activities and Highlights:

### 1. Staff Capacity Building Training:

A capacity-building workshop on fruit tree cultivation was organized by the Integrated Community Empowerment Centre to enhance the skills and knowledge of its staff. The workshop aimed to equip staff members with advanced techniques, best practices, and innovative approaches to fruit tree cultivation, contributing to better agricultural outcomes and improved food security. Key topics covered included an introduction to fruit tree cultivation, selecting appropriate fruit species, site preparation and soil management, irrigation and nutrient management, pest and disease management, harvesting and post-harvest handling, as well as sustainability and innovation in fruit farming practices.

### 2. Training for Women Producer Group Members on New Agricultural Practices:

Two training workshops were held at ICEC, Jamalpur, for 40 women farmers from Jamalpur and Dharahra Blocks, Munger District. Facilitated by Dr. Bishnu Deo Singh, Agriculture Scientist at KVK Munger, the workshop aimed to improve participants' skills in organic farming for paddy, wheat, pulses, and oilseeds. Dr. Singh covered key principles of organic farming, emphasizing the use of natural inputs over chemicals to enhance soil fertility and crop yield. Participants also learned how to prepare organic manure using leaves and farmyard waste, promoting sustainable farming techniques. The training has significantly impacted the women producer group members, enhancing their understanding and confidence in applying organic farming techniques. By focusing on natural inputs and organic manure preparation, the women are reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers, which is expected to improve soil health and crop productivity.



### 3. Training for WPG on Vegetable Cultivation:

A comprehensive training on vegetable cultivation was conducted for 32 Women Producer Group (WPG) members at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Munger, led by Dr. Vishnu Deo Singh. The in-person sessions were highly interactive, combining lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and practical exercises. Key topics covered included soil preparation and management, seed selection and germination, crop planning and rotation, planting techniques, irrigation and water management, nutrient management, and the marketing and business aspects of vegetable farming. This holistic approach equipped participants with the essential skills and knowledge to successfully cultivate vegetables and manage their farming operations.



#### 4. Training WPG on Insect, Pest and Disease Control:

A training session on insect, pest, and disease control in paddy, wheat, pulses, and oilseeds was held at ICEC, Jamalpur, for 37 women farmers. The session focused on improving crop yield through integrated pest management (IPM), teaching participants to identify common pests and diseases. It also covered biological control using natural enemies and biopesticides, safe chemical pesticide practices, crop rotation, and post-harvest management techniques to reduce losses and enhance sustainability.

#### 5. Interface Meeting with Block Development Officer:

An interface meeting was conducted where the Block Development Officer of Dharahra actively engaged with the women leaders of various Federations. The meeting facilitated in-depth discussions on several government schemes, allowing for valuable exchanges and insights into how these initiatives could better serve the communities.

#### 6. Life Skill Training for Adolescent Girls (Residential):

The five-day (dates) residential life skills training for adolescent girls provided a comprehensive



learning experience, focusing on essential skills such as self-awareness, empathy, stress management, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal relationships, emotion coping, problem solving, decision making, and effective communication. Each day began with yoga and meditation, followed by interactive sessions where participants engaged in exercises like storytelling, role plays, and games. The training included practical activities such as creating story charts and learning through videos, enhancing their understanding of these skills. By the end of the training, the 244 girls who

attended showed increased self-awareness, confidence, and motivation to pursue education and personal growth. They learned to handle their emotions, build self-esteem, and understand the importance of effective communication and problem-solving. The integration sessions each evening allowed for reflection and feedback, resulting in the girls becoming more expressive and optimistic about their futures.

#### 7. Skill Development Training for Youths:

A diverse skill development program was successfully conducted to empower youth with practical vocational training. A total of 65 youth, including 39 girls and 26 boys, completed a diploma in Computer Applications, equipping them with essential digital skills to enhance their employability. Additionally, 36 young women participated in a Beautician course, gaining valuable expertise for potential careers in the beauty industry. Furthermore, 14 young women were trained in Tailoring, a skill that not only fosters self-reliance but also opens opportunities for entrepreneurship. These programs are crucial in creating pathways for sustainable livelihoods and boosting confidence among the youth.



## 5. Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agricultural practices among tribal farmers in 10 villages in Munger District of Bihar, India, Supported by SND Congregational Fund:



Project Location:  
Munger District, Bihar



Target Group:  
300 Farmers from Santhal communities.

### Introduction:

The project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices among Santhal tribal farmers across 10 villages in Munger District. Central to the initiative is advocating for natural farming using bio-fertilizers, ensuring marginalized farmers can cultivate their land with eco-friendly methods. Key activities include the installation of 10 hand pumps with borewells and submersible pumps to support irrigation, enhancing food security and nutrition from local resources. The project also addresses critical social issues such as preventing migration and trafficking by fostering local leadership and empowering tribal communities to sustainably manage their agricultural resources for long-term resilience.

## Key activities and Highlights:

### 1. Promotion of natural farming:

A total of 60 training sessions were conducted across 10 tribal villages, focusing on raising awareness about natural farming techniques among local farmers. Led by KVK scientists, the sessions engaged 310 participants, providing them with essential knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices. Following the training, demonstration plots were set up in each village to showcase the practical application of natural farming methods. This initiative aims to reduce dependency on chemical inputs, promote environmental conservation, and enhance crop yields, soil health, and long-term food security within the tribal communities of Munger District.



### 2. Irrigation of dry farm lands and Horticulture plantations:

The project successfully completed the installation of 10 hand pumps with borewells across fields belonging to farmer collectives in the targeted tribal communities. This initiative aims to ensure reliable irrigation for dry farmlands and horticulture plantations, significantly boosting agricultural productivity. By providing consistent access to water, the installation promotes sustainable farming

practices and strengthens food security among local farmers.

### 3. Health Melas:

The project successfully conducted 12 health camps across 10 villages, in collaboration with the Notre Dame Health Centre, focusing on raising awareness about balanced diets. A total of 239 participants were educated on the nutritional value of various vegetables, grains, and locally available food resources. Practical demonstrations on preparing nutritious meals were also provided, highlighting simple and effective ways to incorporate local ingredients into their daily diets.

### 4. Leadership Development of Village Planning Committee:

The project successfully empowered 150 VPC members with the skills and knowledge needed to become catalysts for change within their communities. The initiative focused to address critical issues like alcoholism, drug addiction, and migration. Targeted training sessions prepared participants to take proactive measures and mobilize their communities. Additionally, 1,500 Timber plants/ border plants trees were planted, fostering sustainable development and promoting a more cohesive and resilient society in the villages.

## 6. Promotion Of Organic Farming Among 1500 Marginal Women Farmers of Rohtas and Sheikhpura District, Supported by SND Congregational Fund:



#### Project Location:

Nokha Block, Sasaram, Rohtas District. Sheikhpura and Ariari Blocks of Sheikhpura District.



#### Target Group:

1500 women (500 from Nokha Block and 1000 from Sheikhpura).

#### Introduction:

The project "Promotion of Organic Farming Among 1500 Marginal Women Farmers in Rohtas and Sheikhpura Districts" has greatly impacted its participants. It provided training on organic farming and vermicomposting to 1500 Self Help Group members, including practical exposure visits that inspired 75 women to adopt these practices. This initiative not only improved village hygiene and sanitation but also enhanced their understanding of organic farming as essential for healthy food, fertile land, and environmental protection.

## Key activities and Highlights:

### 1. Awareness creation trainings on organic farming:

The project delivered comprehensive training on organic and natural farming to women across clusters, with four sessions held in each cluster, totalling 120 one-day sessions annually. These sessions educated women on the harmful effects of excessive chemical fertilizers and promoted the benefits of organic practices. The goal is to encourage a shift towards sustainable agriculture, ensuring healthier farming practices and environmental sustainability in the region.



### 2. Assistance to set up demo plots of vermin culture, bio compost natural farming and kitchen garden and exposure visits:

The project has successfully helped women set up demonstration plots for vermicomposting, bio-composting, natural farming, and kitchen gardens. In Sasaram, 25 demo plots were established, and in Sheikhpura, 50 vermicomposting plots were initiated. These efforts promote sustainable agriculture and provide income opportunities. Additionally, 75 women received training and visited government-managed vermicomposting facilities, enhancing their skills and knowledge in organic farming to benefit their communities.



### 3. Exposure visits to Vermin Compost:

Exposure visits to KVK vermicomposting sites offered practical insights and sparked enthusiasm among participants. As a result, 75 women actively engaged in vermicomposting, enhancing village hygiene and sanitation. Specialized training helped them understand organic farming's benefits, including waste management, healthy food production, and land preservation.



### 4. Interface meetings:

The project successfully organized interface meetings with the District Agriculture department to share information on government schemes. 03 meetings were held in Nokha Block and 06 in Sheikhpura, allowing women to engage with agricultural experts and officials. These sessions empowered participants with vital knowledge to access schemes, improving agricultural practices and fostering community development. The initiative greatly contributed to women's self-reliance and strengthened their connection to government programs.

## Enhance Inclusive, Empowerment and Participation:

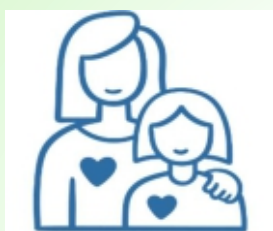


Sl. No.	Donor	Project Name	Target
1	DCPU, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Bihar	Home for Girls, Patna (Asha Kiran)	193 Girls
2	Aktion Arme Welt Stiftung, Germany	Promote Integrated Living of Persons with Disabilities	500 Children 1000 Parents
3	SND Congregational Fund	Enhancing Skills of Grass Root Level Staff of Mashal	100 Staff

# 1. Home for girls in need of care and protection, Home for girls, Patna, supported by the Social Welfare Department, Bihar:

## Introduction:

Asha Kiran home, established on May 17, 2018, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit, Patna under the Social Welfare Department of the Bihar State Government, serves as a safe haven for girls in need of care and protection. Located on the campus of Notre Dame Academy, Patna-13, Bihar, the home provides refuge for girls who have experienced distress, sexual abuse, or violence from society or their family members. Designed to be a home away from home, it offers comprehensive child care facilities to ensure the all-round development of its residents. The home is dedicated to enhancing the capabilities and skills of these children, while also working closely with their families to facilitate their reintegration and rehabilitation into mainstream society.



**Children Admitted-  
193**



**Children Restored  
to Family- 157**



**Adoption- 04**



**Vocational training-  
08**



**Children residing as on  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2024- 36**

## Key events and initiative:

- Health care check-up and session on health and hygiene for children by the team from Gardanibagh hospital, comprising doctors, paramedics, and a lab technician.
- Inspection and visits by the Government Officials-
  - ✓ Five-member inspection team at the state level, including the principal secretary and director of the social welfare department, visited Asha Kiran.
  - ✓ Child Protection Officer (CPO), Shri Prabhakar Ranjan, made his inaugural visit to Asha Kiran - Home for Girls.
  - ✓ Seven-member District Inspection Committee visited the Home. The team included Assistant Director Shri Ashok Kumar Das, also the Minority Commission Welfare Officer, along with CPO Shri Mukul Kumar, CWC Chairperson Ms. Abha Prasad, and Special Juvenile Police Officer Shri Ramashanker.
  - ✓ Auditor General Mrs. Pushpalata came to inspect the Home, prior to the auditing of books of accounts, registers etc.
  - ✓ The minister of Social Welfare Department Shri Madan Shahni visited and had inspection of the Home, provided stationery as gifts for the children.



- Conducted family identification efforts and facilitated residential school admissions to ensure the well-being of girls.
- Celebrated cultural and national festivals to promote a sense of belonging and patriotism among children.
- Sr. Alka including other home staff attended seminars, training sessions, and workshops to enhance caregiving and relational skills.
- Celebrated special occasions such as birthdays, Independence Day, Republic Day, Environment Day, Human Rights Day, Rakhi festival, Children's Day, and Teachers' Day to foster bonds and appreciation.
- Actively participated in events and exhibitions to showcase the girls' talents and achievements.

#### Impact:

- The caring and nurturing environment at Asha Kiran supported the emotional well-being of the girls.
- Cultural and national celebrations enhanced the girls' sense of identity and pride, while also empowering them with the skills to organize and host programs and events.
- A holistic approach to development was emphasized through a focus on education, health, and family restoration.
- Interactions with dignitaries and committee members created a sense of importance and care among the girls, while also boosting their confidence to come forward and share their thoughts.
- Staff participation in training sessions enhanced caregiving skills, leading to improved quality care and protection.
- Vocational training empowered the girls with practical skills for self-reliance and a brighter future.
- Positive feedback from various committees and dignitaries reinforced the high standards of care provided at the home.
- Celebrating special occasions and festivals created joyful and lasting memories for the girls.
- Participation in events and exhibitions boosted the girls' confidence and self-esteem.

## 2. To Promote Integrated Living of Persons with Disabilities Supported by Aktion Arme Welt Stiftung, Germany:



#### Project Location:

13 Panchayats East Champaran District, 21 panchayats of Gahiri, West Champaran District of Bihar and 16 Panchayats of Sumbuck, Darjeeling District of West Benaal. India



#### Target Group:

500 persons with disability and 1000 parents and care takers



#### Introduction:

The project aims to provide timely and regular therapeutic care for the identified differently abled children, while also enhancing the skills of families and communities in home-based care and education. Additionally, the project seeks to establish Disabled Children's Parents' Associations (DPA) to facilitate access to government schemes and ensure sustainability through community support.

## Key activities and Highlights:

**Objective 1:** To facilitate rehabilitation of 500 persons with disabilities through regular therapeutic care both at home and Day Care Centers, and with assistive devices. Data from Comprehensive PRA and Baseline Surveys in 13 panchayats in Raxaul block, 21 in Gahiri unit, and 16 in Sumbuck unit were compiled. From the identified People with disability, 501 Persons with Disabilities were selected and categorized. Each person was assigned to project staff based on their care needs. A care plan for each individual was developed by CBR staff members and a physiotherapist, in collaboration with coordinators.

**Objective 2:** To promote health and prevent further disabilities of PWDs through medical and surgical interventions:

The PWD program has supported 500 differently-abled children across the Gahiri, Raxaul, and



Sumbuck units, emphasizing education and holistic care through the 5 pillars of the CBR Matrix. The initiative encompasses the provision of disability certificates and medical consultations with specialists from Duncan Hospital and Government facilities in Raxaul and Motihari in Bihar and Eden and District Hospitals in Darjeeling West Bengal. Awareness training sessions were conducted for 122 pregnant women across

Gahiri, Raxaul, and Sumbuck. These sessions highlighted the importance of antenatal, prenatal, and postnatal care, safe institutional delivery, early disability identification, and preventive measures.

**Objective 3:** To capacitate the skills of 200 families for holistic care (physical, social and spiritual) of the persons with disabilities:

CHESHTA in Raxaul organized a training session on home-based therapy and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for 115 parents and caretakers of children with disabilities. Led by Vinod Srivastav (BPT, National Medical College, Birganj) and Niranjana Kumar (experienced CBR worker), the training covered home care, physiotherapy, education, and social inclusion. They demonstrated playful, simple techniques for engaging children in daily activities and stressed the importance of cost-effective nutrition and accessing government entitlements, encouraging hesitant parents to seek treatment and physiotherapy. Additionally, CBR workers assisted 18 children and their parents with obtaining Disability Certificates and initiating the Disability pension process at Sadar Hospital, Motihari, in coordination with the Civil Surgeon.

**Objective 4:** To promote inclusive education and the rights of the children with disabilities for a dignified living: Project personnel actively engaged with school authorities and conducted door-to-door visits to gather personal data for the school enrolment of children. Meetings with both government and private school teachers emphasized the



mandates of the Right to Education Act 2009, which requires the compulsory enrolment of all disabled children aged 6 to 14 years and provides access to free education. Efforts were made to enhance inclusive education facilities and create a disability-friendly environment in schools, aiming to promote barrier-free education for all children.

Objective 5: To enhance the socio economic and enabling environment of the PwDs for self-reliance and sustainability:

Following are the major activities conducted by all the unit under these objectives:

- Physio therapy by CBR workers includes both centre and home-based therapy for 500 differently abled children.
- Disability certificate and pension benefits for all the registered differently abled children.
- Education includes both centre and home based for the registered differently abled children.
- Home visits and counselling for parent and children by trained CBR.
- Electrotherapy and physiotherapy for adult patients with various neurological and health-related issues in the centre.

### 3. Enhancing Skills of Grass Root Level Staff of Mashal, Supported by SND Congregational Fund:

#### Staff Training on Integral Ecology:

In a world grappling with environmental degradation and social inequity, the need for holistic approaches to sustainability is more pressing than ever. Integral ecology, which incorporates environmental, social, and spiritual dimensions of sustainability, provides a framework for addressing these complex challenges. Recognizing the crucial role of field staff in driving grassroots-level change, MASHAL organized training in 3 batches: the 1st Batch from February 15th to 17th, the 2nd Batch from February 20th to 22nd, and the 3rd Batch from February 26th to 28th, 2024. The training aimed to



enhance their capacity in integral ecology. The three-day training was designed with the overarching objectives of cultivating spiritual and social consciousness and transforming relationships (empathetic society) to promote sustainable development. Through a series of interactive sessions and experiential learning activities, field staffs embark on a profound journey of self-discovery and empowerment, exploring key themes and concepts essential for fostering integral ecology. Thought- It's our responsibility to empower our family and then society.

## Integral Ecology Participants

#### Participant's Details - Total 109 trained

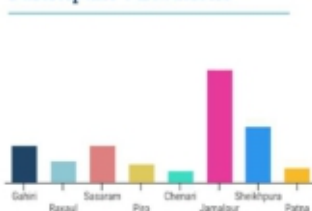


46%  
Total- 50

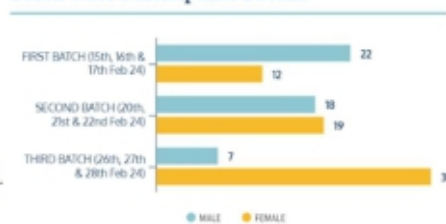


54%  
Total- 59

#### Participant's Locations



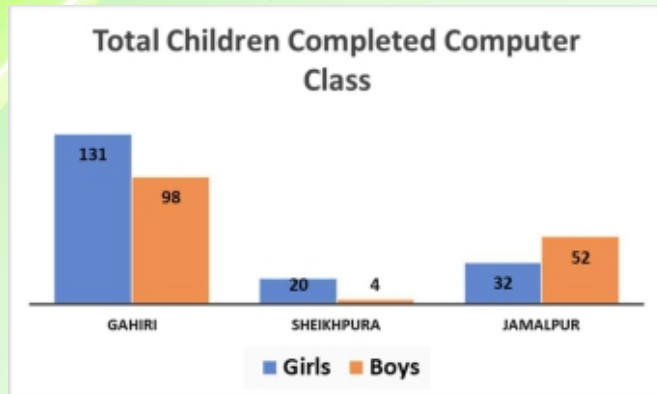
#### Batch Wise Participants Details



# Computer and Vocational Skill Development:

## Computer Skill Training:

MASHAL has successfully implemented DCA (Diploma in Computer Applications) training for youth across different units, equipping them with essential computer skills that are crucial for today's job market. This training covers fundamental computer applications such as MS Office, internet usage,



and basic programming, providing participants with a strong foundation in digital literacy. The DCA training has significantly enhanced the career prospects of the youth, making them more competitive in the job market. With these newly acquired skills, many have found better employment opportunities, gained confidence in using technology, and are better prepared to pursue further education or professional growth in IT-related fields.

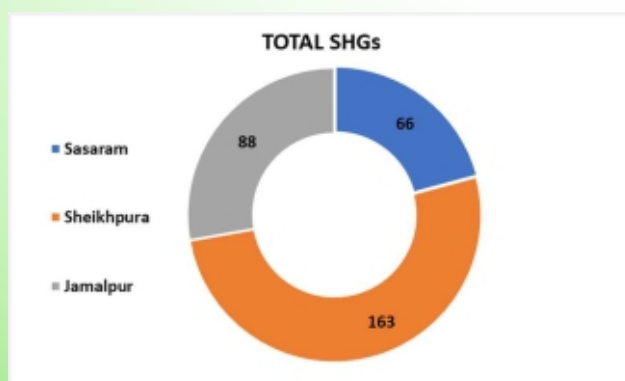
## Vocational Skill Training:

The organization has also successfully implemented vocational skills training for youth across various units, focusing on trades such as beautician services, bakery, and carpentry. These programs provide hands-on experience and practical knowledge, enabling participants to develop specialized skills that are in demand in their local communities. The training has significantly enhanced the career prospects of the youth by equipping them with marketable skills that can lead to self-employment or better job opportunities. Many trainees have already begun to apply their new skills, whether by starting their own businesses, securing jobs in their respective trades, or offering services within their communities. This training has empowered the 10 Gahiri, Beautician 36, tailoring 14 Jamalpur youth to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the economic growth of their regions.



## SHG Formation:

MASHAL has been actively engaged in working with women in the community to advance their rights, empowerment, and financial independence. The organization closely collaborates with women to form and strengthen Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has greatly benefited women in the community by providing them with access to financial resources and support networks. Through SHGs, women have gained the ability of saving, borrowing, investing in income generating activities, allowing members to access microcredit and achieve financial stability. This has led to improved economic independence and enhanced entrepreneurial skills. Additionally, SHGs offer a platform



for women to share knowledge, build confidence, and collaborate on community projects, thereby strengthening their role in local development and promoting gender equality.

## OUR MAJOR DONORS:



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## MEMBERS OF OUR GOVERNING BODY:

Sl. No	Name	Post Held in the Association	Address
1	Sister Mary Alice	President	Provincial House, House No. 98, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
2	Sister Mary Udaya	Vice President	Notre Dame Convent, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
3	Chinnamma KC	Secretary	20-C, Patliputra Colony, Patna, Bihar -800013
4	Shiny Pozholiparambil	Treasurer	Notre Dame Convent, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
5	Mary Shaija Pulikkiyil	Member	Notre Dame Convent, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
6	Sukreeta Xalxo	Member	Nav Jeevan Health Centre, Sasaram, Munger Dist. Bihar
7	Sujita Kallapurakkathu	Member	Notre Dame Convent, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
8	Sister Mary Suprabha Minj	Member	Notre Dame Convent, Patliputra P.O. Patna, Bihar -800013
9	Thresiamma Joseph Neendukunnel	Member	Asha Kiran Home for Girls, Patna Dt., Bihar

**Conclusion:** The Annual Report 2023-24 reflects our collective commitment to addressing the urgent needs of marginalized communities, with interventions closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we continue making strides towards building an egalitarian society rooted in justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors and partners for their unwavering support and trust. Your contributions have been instrumental in making a positive, lasting impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey together for a better, more inclusive future.



## Testimonies of Resilience and Hope:

### "From Struggle to Success: Radha's Path to Empowerment and Hope"

Radha, a young girl from the marginalized Paswan community, from Bishaiya village is the youngest of four siblings. Her family, facing poverty, lives in a modest home and struggles to make ends meet. With no land of their own, they rely on sharecropping, earning barely enough to survive. Radha's eldest sister had to abandon her education, followed by another sister and her brother, who completed his studies up to Class XII before migrating to Nagpur to work and support the family and his sister's marriage.



Despite these challenges, Radha's determination to pursue education remained unwavering. Her family's financial constraints meant that none of her siblings could continue their studies beyond high school. Yet, Radha's story took a hopeful turn when she was enrolled in a Digital Literacy class through a Project partnership between UNICEF

and MASHA. Initially, Radha hesitated to use the tablets provided in the program, as she had never touched a smartphone in her life. However, with the guidance of the project's trained facilitator, she quickly adapted, learning essential digital skills and gaining confidence in using e-tools like e-Lots, Read Along, and Yuwaah P2E.

The program also introduced Radha and her peers to financial literacy, social media, and electronic communication, empowering them with knowledge and skills for the future. They learned about various government schemes, such as the Bihar Student Credit Card Yojana, Balika Samridhi Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat, designed to promote social security and income generation. These initiatives have been instrumental in ensuring that the girls are not only educated but also equipped to secure their futures.

These initiatives not only enhanced Radha's digital and financial capabilities but also helped her address educational gaps. Through e-Lots, she managed to access school textbooks that her family could not afford entirely. Her perseverance and the support she received enabled her to clear her Class X board exams with flying colours. She is now enrolled in Class XI, in Islamiya High School Sheikhpura, pursuing Arts as her chosen subject with dreams of further education.

Radha's mother, once burdened by the need to seek favours for basic bank transactions, now proudly relies on Radha to manage these tasks. Though financial challenges remain, Radha's resolve to succeed and her ambition to become a nurse are undeterred.

## Rising Above: Binita's Journey from Poverty to Purpose

This is the story of Binita Kumari, from Mahdev Nagar village, Sheikhpura Dt. Bihar. Coming from the Scheduled Caste community, Binita faced significant challenges growing up. She lived with her mother, Manti Devi, and eight siblings—five brothers and three sisters. The family's economic situation deteriorated after the passing of her father,



**Binita Kumari at Mahila Shikshan Kendra, Sheikhpura.**

the primary breadwinner, making it difficult to meet the basic needs of the ten-member household, particularly in terms of the children's education.

Although Binita was enrolled in the Government Primary School 2 kilometers away, her attendance was irregular. The long distance to the school and her fear of the teacher were significant obstacles. As a result, she struggled with basic literacy and

numeracy skills

The turning point came in 2008 when Binita got selected and joined the Flexible Learning Centers (FLC) under the UNICEF and MASHAL education partnership project. With the dedicated support of trained Field Consultant Mrs. Girija Devi, Binita's literacy and numeracy skills improved significantly. She regained her interest in studies and was re-enrolled in formal education. She successfully completed her Class IX and Class X at Murlidhar Muraka, clearing her Xth board exams with II Division marks. She continued her education, passing her Class XII board exams with III Division marks from Ramadhin College, Sheikhpura. Binita is now pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Hindi and is in her third year. She participated in the life Skill training a number of times and has developed self-confidence and leadership.

Inspired by the positive impact of the FLC, Binita has taken on the role of a Field Consultant in the same project now, working at a Flexible Learning Centre at Budauli, her neighboring village. She believes that the FLC was instrumental in guiding her toward a brighter future despite her family's poverty. Hence, Binita is passionate about serving underprivileged children in her village, aiming to provide them with better opportunities and a pathway to a promising future.



## "From Forest to Fortune: Sumanti Devi's Journey of Resilience and Transformation"

Sumanti Devi, a resident of Kuladhiya village, in Haveli Kharagpur Block, Munger District, had long dreamt of improving her family's economic situation. However, as a landless farmer, she faced numerous challenges in pursuing her aspirations. She relied on forest wood collection and daily wage labor in the local area, earning an annual income of only around Rs. 20,000.

Through the Integrated Tribal Development Programme, implemented by Mashal with support from NABARD, Sumanti Devi was selected as a beneficiary under the



*Sumanti with her flock/©Mashal*

livelihood initiative for landless farmers. As part of the program, she received five goats worth Rs. 20,000. These goats not only provided her with sustenance but also presented new opportunities for economic growth.

With dedication and hard work, Sumanti Devi turned her small goat-rearing venture into a successful business. Over two years, her careful breeding and efficient management allowed her to grow her herd from the initial five goats to nine. Though she faced setbacks, such as the loss of three goats to disease, her perseverance paid off, showcasing the transformative potential of the Integrated Tribal Development Programme.

Sumanti Devi's success has become an inspiration to her entire community, demonstrating how sustainable livelihood activities can positively impact the lives of landless farmers. As she continues to nurture her goat-rearing enterprise, she exemplifies resilience, perseverance, and the pursuit of a better life. Her journey serves as a beacon of hope for those who dream of a brighter future, no matter their starting circumstances.

# Our presence in Bihar: (7 Districts)



# Our presence in West Bengal & Assam:

