



**MASHAL**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**2024-25**

*Presented by :*

**MASHAL**

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

[WWW.mashalpatna.org](http://WWW.mashalpatna.org)

## *Message from the President's Desk*



As I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year documented in this Annual Report, my heart is filled with immense appreciation and deep admiration. Once again, our journey together has been marked by dedication, compassion, and a shared commitment to our mission of transforming lives and strengthening communities.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our devoted Sisters and the field-based staff who continue to serve as the backbone of our Society. Your unwavering commitment, resilience, and passion for bringing meaningful change to the most marginalized and underserved is truly inspiring. You have not only fulfilled our organization's vision but have also amplified its spirit through

your tireless efforts.

This year, we have navigated complex challenges with courage and creativity, responding to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. From advancing the right to education for children from the most marginalized backgrounds, to empowering women and girls with life-changing opportunities, our impact has been profound and far-reaching. The care provided in our Home for Girls, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts, and the support for sustainable agriculture and livelihood generation have all contributed meaningfully to breaking cycles of poverty and social exclusion.

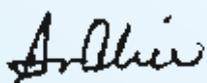
I especially commend the ongoing efforts of our Health wing, whose compassionate outreach has continued to deliver vital health services to those in need. In remote and vulnerable communities, their work has often meant the difference between despair and dignity, illness and recovery.

This year, we have not only touched lives- we have uplifted entire families, kindled hope in dark corners, and laid strong foundations for a future rooted in equity and justice. These outcomes are the direct result of your collective efforts and steadfast belief in our shared purpose.

Let us carry this spirit forward as we prepare for new challenges and embrace new possibilities. With unity, compassion, and determination, I am confident that we will continue to make a profound difference in the years ahead.

Together, let us walk hand in hand toward a future of hope, inclusion, and transformation.

With deepest gratitude,



**Sister Mary Alice**

President,  
Mashal

## *Message from the Secretary's Desk*



It gives me great honour to present this year's Annual Report an inspiring reflection of Mashal's unwavering commitment to uplifting lives through compassion, collaboration, and sustained action. This year, once again, we have stood true to our vision, reaching deeper into marginalised communities and creating ripples of positive change through our integrated and compassionate approach.

Our health initiatives have further extended their reach, delivering vital preventive and curative services to remote and economically vulnerable populations. This consistent presence has brought hope and healing to families who often lack access to basic healthcare.

Equally, our women's empowerment efforts have gained strength equipping women with knowledge, skills, and confidence to become change agents in their homes and communities.

In the sphere of education, we remained committed to bridging learning gaps. Through foundational literacy and numeracy programs, digital literacy initiatives, and life skill education, we supported children- especially girls and out-of-school adolescents- to reclaim their right to learn, dream, and thrive. The Asha Kiran Home for Girls continues to serve as a safe, nurturing haven, helping vulnerable children heal, grow, and envision a brighter future.

Our commitment to persons with disabilities has remained unwavering. Through tailored therapeutic interventions, provision of assistive aids, and home-based care, we have sought to build inclusive environments where every individual is respected, supported, and empowered.

In agriculture and livelihoods, our community-driven approach has enabled marginalized farmers, especially from tribal and rural areas, to adopt sustainable practices. By integrating eco-conscious techniques with income enhancement strategies, we are nurturing both the environment and the economic resilience of farming families.

Behind all these achievements lies the visionary guidance of our Board Members, whose foresight continues to shape our strategy and steer us with purpose. I extend my deepest gratitude to our generous donors and supporters. Your trust and solidarity have been the foundation of every impact we have made this year. Your belief in our mission has brought dignity, joy, and hope to countless lives.

To our field staff and Sisters- your dedication, compassion, and perseverance are at the heart of Mashal's mission. You are the bridge between vision and reality, between despair and hope. Thank you for walking this path with unwavering faith.

As we celebrate the milestones of this year, let us also renew our commitment- to serve with empathy, to lead with integrity, and to uplift with humility. Together, let's continue building a future where every life is valued and every voice is heard.

With sincere appreciation and determination,

*Chinnamma*

**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.

## OUR STRATEGY



## UNITS OF MASHAL



## Report of Health Care Activities:

During the reporting period, Mashal continued its unwavering commitment to strengthening community health through its operational healthcare units located in Sasaram, Jamalpur, Gahiri, and Sheikhpura districts of Bihar. Throughout the year, our dedicated health units strived to ensure accessible and equitable healthcare, prioritizing quality service delivery for the most vulnerable—especially women, children, and the elderly. Driven by values of compassion, professional responsibility, and a deep respect for human dignity, our health efforts continued to emphasize curative, preventive, and promotive healthcare approaches, with a dedicated focus on meeting the needs of poor and marginalized communities.

Mashal’s community-based health services remain aligned with national priorities and global health commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India’s National Health Mission. Our ongoing commitment to accessible, inclusive, and quality healthcare, especially for marginalized rural populations, advances the objectives of SDG 3: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages. Strategic partnerships with government health initiatives enhance our impact. The Navjeevan Health Centre in Sasaram continues to operate as a Diagnostic Microscopy and Treatment Centre under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), while our Jamalpur unit supports public health goals through collaboration on immunization drives, polio surveillance, and programs of the Bihar State AIDS Control Society.



## Curative Services



## Preventive & Promotional Services

### Herbal Garden Cultivation

Herbal garden cultivation to prepare traditional medicines for patients

### Immunization Services

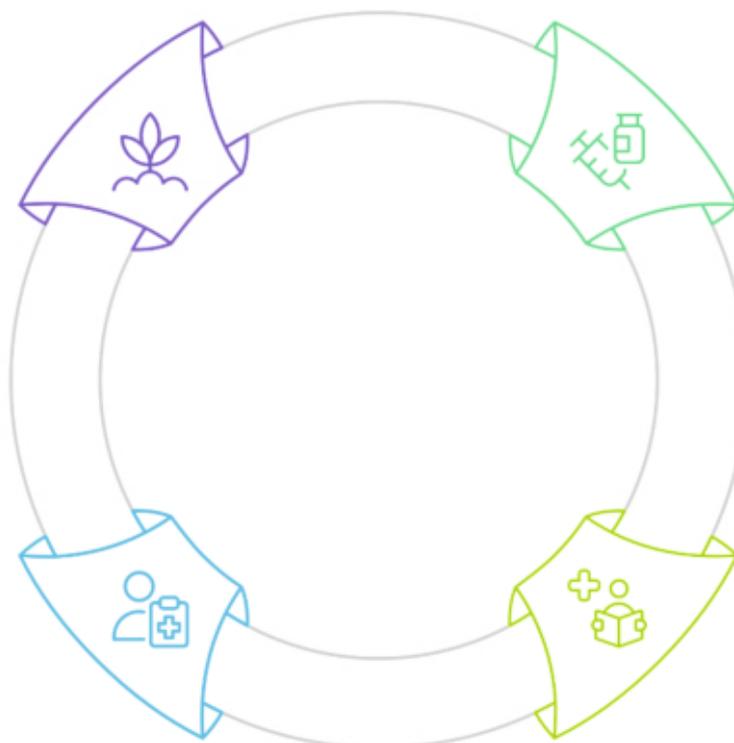
Immunization services for children under five, covering various diseases like BCG, DPT, measles and Hepatitis.

### Health Education Programs

Programs conducted for staff, patients and community members, focusing on communicable and non communicable diseases

### Health Camps

Organizes camps organised for early diagnosis and treatment especially for TB patients



### Impact on Rural Communities:

- ❖ **Improved Access to Healthcare:** The presence of healthcare facilities in rural areas has increased access to quality healthcare for marginalized communities, especially women and children.
- ❖ **Reduction in Disease Burden:** Timely diagnosis and treatment through medical camps and village visits have contributed to reducing the burden of communicable diseases like TB and Malaria.
- ❖ **Enhanced Maternal and Child Health:** Immunization services and antenatal care have positively impacted maternal and child health, leading to reduced infant mortality rates.
- ❖ **Health Awareness:** Health education programs have raised awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures, leading to a decline in waterborne diseases and improved overall health.
- ❖ **Improved Living Standards:** By catering to the poor and marginalized, the healthcare services provided by the ministry have contributed to uplifting living standards and socioeconomic well-being.

## Statistics:

| Sl. No | Health Services         | Jamalpur | Sasaram | Gahiri | Sheikhpura | Total    |
|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|--------|------------|----------|
| 1      | Patients/ year          | 1,13,000 | 23,174  | 18,930 | 4,675      | 1,59,779 |
| 2      | Immunization            | 1,041    |         | 39     | 265        | 1,345    |
| 3      | Snake bites             |          |         | 608    | 29         | 637      |
| 4      | Dental care             |          |         |        |            | -        |
| 5      | Physiotherapy           |          | 1,164   | 48     |            | 1,212    |
| 6      | TB patients under RNTCP |          | 219     |        |            | 219      |
| 7      | Lab test                |          |         | 3,224  |            | 3,224    |
| 8      | ANC                     |          |         | 265    |            | 265      |
| 9      | SPM                     |          | 390     |        |            | 390      |
| 10     | BMD                     |          | 205     |        |            | 205      |

## Medical Camps:

Village-level medical camps organized by the Health Centres, in collaboration with social action staff, have significantly improved healthcare access for rural communities. Sasaram Health centres' specialized camps provided spirometry tests for 390 patients and bone marrow density checks for 205 individuals, enabling early detection of respiratory and bone health issues. Further collaborating with Pushpa Development Centre, Piro, Medical camps and health awareness program was organized in 6 villages benefitting 363 needy patients and reaching 539 persons with health awareness sessions. Similarly, in Jamalpur's Koilo village, health awareness programs focused on lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and anemia, with free medical camps and six months of follow-up care. These initiatives have been especially impactful for women, children, and the elderly, who often face barriers to healthcare. Many villagers, particularly women, were found to suffer from nutritional anemia and received free medication, leading to better health outcomes and increased awareness about disease prevention and management in these underserved populations.



# SECTOR EDUCATION



## **Education:**

MASHAL, by addressing both access and attitudes, our education efforts this year have contributed meaningfully to strengthening learning outcomes and empowering communities through sustained educational engagement. During the reporting period, MASHAL continued its commitment to promoting inclusive and equitable quality education through five active projects across Bihar. These interventions are grounded in Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4), aiming to ensure education for all, with a focused emphasis on girls from marginalized communities. Our programs addressed the persistent challenges of school dropout, irregular attendance, and lack of access by working closely with families, schools, and community stakeholders. Regular parental engagement sessions played a key role in shifting mindsets, especially among fathers and mothers, about the value of girls' education. Moreover, through gender sensitization activities with boys and men, our initiatives sought to challenge deep-rooted stereotypes and foster more supportive, gender-equal environments.

This year also marked the successful conclusion of several impactful education projects—one supported by UNICEF in Sheikhpura (completed in June 2024), two by SND (Notre Dame Congregation Fund) in East and West Champaran, and others in Bhojpur and Rohtas (Sasaram and Chenari), completed by December 2024. These initiatives significantly advanced our goals of inclusive education and gender equality. Building on their success, new projects have been launched: the Residential Special Training Program (RSTP) project funded by SND in Sheikhpura and a continued education initiative in Rohtas, Bhojpur, East, and West Champaran, now supported by the Italian Bishop Conference (IBC) Fund.

| 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)   | 2,840 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  | 1000 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    |
| 7      | Mashal                             | Residential Bridge Course  | 150 girls      |
| 8      | SND Congregational Fund            | Education and Empowerment of 150 adolescent girls from deprived communities through short term (12 months) Residential Education.  | 150 girls      |
| 9      | SND Congregational Fund            | Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowering Rural Students and Persons with Disabilities in Bihar  | 700            |
| 10     | VEREIN SCHULKINDER SWITZERLAND     | Education Support for Students from Poor Families in Sumbuck, Darjeeling   | 110            |

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

## Introduction:

The Project is a collaboration between MASHAL and UNICEF Bihar focusing on addressing foundational learning gaps among children from marginalized communities. With a focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, digital and financial literacy, life skills, and gender sensitization, the project is designed to promote inclusive and equitable education. Over the reporting period, the initiative has worked to ensure age-appropriate learning and support the re-enrolment of out-of-school and dropout children, particularly girls.

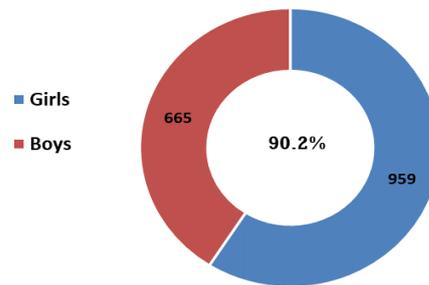
Implementing across 45 villages under two Blocks of Sheikhpura and Ariari under Sherikhpura district, this initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 4, promoting inclusive and high-quality education for all.

## Major Activities and Achievements:

**Flexible Learning Centres (FLC):** 45 Flexible Learning Centers (FLCs) were established across the rural communities of Sheikhpura and Ariari blocks, targeting out-of-school Dalit and Mahadalit children aged 8–12 years. A total of 1,800 children (1,056 girls and 744 boys) were



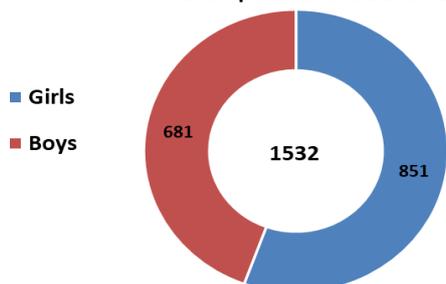
Percentage of children (8-12 years) attending at least 75% classes at the FLCs



identified and enrolled, with each center accommodating 30–40 students. FLC classes were conducted twice daily by trained field consultants who use Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) and a play-based approach to address age-inappropriate learning levels. This engaging methodology has improved learning outcomes and encouraged enthusiastic participation among children, making education more enjoyable and accessible.

During the reporting period, an attendance rate of 90.2% was achieved at the FLCs, with 1,624 children (959 girls and 665 boys) consistently attending out of a total of 1,800 enrolled children (1,056 girls and 744 boys).

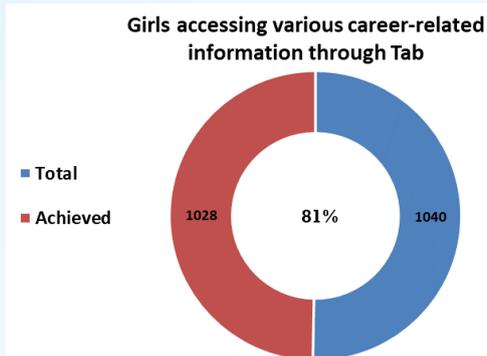
Enrollment of Children irregular, out of school, & dropouts in the Govt. School



As a result, children have rapidly developed their numeracy and language skills, demonstrating remarkable academic readiness. This initiative has been particularly impactful for dropout and irregular school children from the Mahadalit communities, who have been successfully re-enrolled in school. The FLCs have thus played a crucial role in bridging educational gaps and promoting inclusive education in the community.

## Digital literacy and life skills to the Adolescent girls:

The project enrolled 1,040 adolescent girls (aged 9–14), establishing 130 learning clubs equipped with tablets to provide flexible learning and equal access to digital tools. Trained Digital Consultants supported safe and responsible use of technology, emphasizing online privacy. By the end of the reporting period, 1,028 girls had effectively learned to use tablets and access the internet. In



addition to digital skills, the girls gained financial literacy—learning to open bank accounts, use ATMs, and complete withdrawal forms. They are now confident in navigating career portals and educational platforms such as WPS Office, Read Along, Yuwaah P2E, BEP’s YouTube channel, Mera Doordarshan Mera Vidhyalay, e-Lots, Gmail, and WhatsApp, even accessing their school textbooks digitally.

On the other hand, Life skills training has significantly contributed to the personal and social growth of adolescents from marginalized communities. Previously shy and hesitant, many adolescents have gained confidence, improved communication, and begun to show leadership qualities. They are now well-versed in key life skills such as self-awareness, decision-making, emotional management, and effective communication.

**Interface Meeting:** During the reporting period, 47 interface meetings were held in targeted primary schools to strengthen School Management Committees (SMCs). A total of 2,015 participants (425 men and 1,590 women) including parents, teachers, headmasters, education officials, and local leaders, engaged in discussions on key educational challenges. These meetings fostered collaboration to improve student retention, mainstream out-of-school children, manage scholarships, and monitor teacher accountability. As a result, parents became more informed about school enrolment processes and documentation. The project also built strong ties with the education department, aiding the smooth re-enrolment of dropout children.



**Gender Sensitization:** To address gender issues, 38 gender sensitization meetings were held across villages, engaging 2,126 males (1,504 men and 622 boys). Through these efforts, the project aimed to create a ripple effect, encouraging men and boys to become advocates for gender equity in their communities. As a result, 1,876 fathers pledged to create gender-equal environments at home, support their daughters' higher education, and delay their marriages. Additionally, 1,342 boys committed to postponing their own marriages, recognizing the negative impact of early marriage on education, career, and partner well-being.



**Parental Engagement (Mata Samiti):** To address early marriage and school dropouts, the project conducted monthly Mata Samiti meetings, engaging 4,071 parents (4,046 mothers and 25 fathers). These meetings raised awareness about the value of girls' education, encouraged enrolment in government schools, and informed parents about relevant social protection schemes. As a result, no girls enrolled in the centers dropped out or entered early marriage. The meetings empowered mothers to support their daughters' education, challenged stigma, and fostered a more supportive and equitable learning environment.

## 2. 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 aims to enhance educational access and social awareness among marginalized adolescent girls in Raxaul (East Champaran) and Gahiri (West Champaran), Bihar. Through Flexible Learning Centres, it supports out-of-school girls and those lacking age-appropriate learning to transition into formal schooling. The initiative also promotes gender sensitization to foster equality and addresses gender issues through awareness and engagement. Life skills training is also included that equips adolescents with communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and self-confidence, enabling them to make informed choices and build a better future.

### Major activities and the achievements:

#### Flexible Learning Centres:

To support out-of-school children, the project established 14 FLCs with a flexible curriculum and play-based methods to improve literacy and numeracy. 10 centres in Gahiri reached 302 children (127 boys, 175 girls), while 6 centres in Raxaul supported 237 children (78 boys, 159 girls). Trained facilitators helped children, especially girls, transition into local government or residential schools, restoring their access to education. A total of 334 children (229 girls, 105 boys) in FLCs at Gahiri and Raxaul showed notable improvement in literacy and numeracy. In Gahiri, 105 boys and 119 girls progressed well, while 110 girls in Raxaul made marked academic gains. This reflects the impact of the flexible,



activity-based curriculum and facilitator support. Additionally, 285 children (242 from Gahiri and 43 from Raxaul) were successfully re-enrolled in formal schools, underscoring strong community engagement and coordination with education authorities.



**Gender Sensitization:** During the reporting period, 26 gender sensitization sessions were conducted- 14 in Gahiri and 12 in Raxaul—aimed at fostering gender equality and breaking stereotypes among adolescents. A total of 870 participants actively took part, including 697 girls and 173 boys. In Raxaul, 500 girls and 34 boys participated, while in Gahiri, 197 girls and 139 boys were engaged. These sessions helped adolescents

develop a deeper understanding of gender rights, respect, and equality, encouraging positive behavioural changes and more inclusive peer interactions.

**Life Skill Training:** A total of 35 life skills orientation sessions were conducted-17 in Gahiri and 18 in Raxaul—aimed at strengthening adolescents' personal and social competencies. In Raxaul, 829 girls and 49 boys participated, while in Gahiri, 360 girls and 252 boys took part. Through these sessions, adolescents gained essential life skills such as self-awareness, communication, decision making, and emotional management. The training has led to increased confidence, improved peer interaction, and better decision making abilities among participants, especially girls from marginalized communities.



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### 3. Promotion of Basic Education of 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 (IBC):

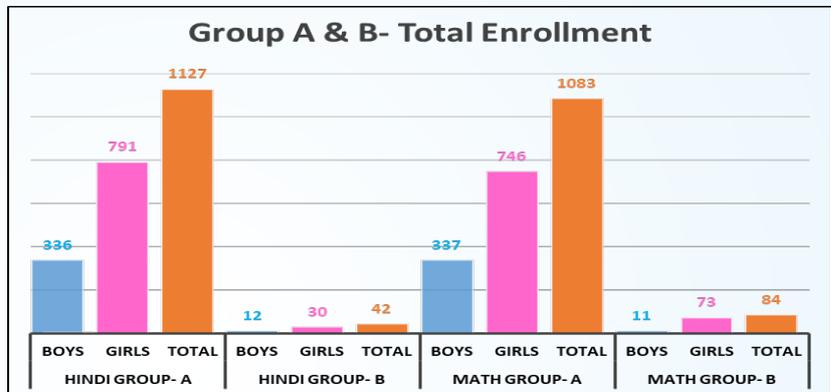
**Introduction:** The "Promotion of Basic Education for Children of Deprived Communities in Bihar" Project aims to advance SDGs 4 and 5 by improving access to education and promoting gender equality across 120 villages in Rohtas, Bhojpur, East Champaran, and West Champaran districts. This project has been initiated in January 2025 to complement and build upon the achievements of the earlier initiative implemented under the SND fund, which concluded successfully in December. Therefore, the current project under the IBC fund is in its initial phase during this reporting period 2024. In this phase, the project also contributes to SDGs 3 and 13, focusing on adolescent health and climate action. Key interventions include Flexible Learning Centres to support the education of out-of-school children, menstrual health and hygiene awareness among adolescents, gender sensitization in 120 communities, and initiatives to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change. These efforts aim to empower young individuals as informed, resilient, and responsible citizens.

**Major activities and the achievements:**

**Flexible Learning Centres:** During the reporting period, the project successfully operated 40 Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) across five intervention areas to support out-of-school children in regaining access to education and developing foundational skills. These centres implemented a flexible, child-friendly curriculum using play-based methods and age-appropriate teaching-learning materials, with a strong focus on improving literacy and numeracy in language and mathematics. A total of 1,167 children (348 boys and 819 girls) were enrolled in the FLCs: 10



centres in Gahiri served 89 boys and 211 girls, 6 centres in Raxaul served 150 girls, 8 centres in Piro served 89 boys and 154 girls, 8 centres in Sasaram served 92 boys and 151 girls, and 8 centres in Chenari served 78 boys and 155 girls. These centres played a vital role in bridging learning gaps and preparing children for mainstream school reintegration. The chart below presents group wise data of enrolled children, categorized under Group A and Group B, highlighting their enrolment in subject-wise learning for Hindi and Mathematics.



**Orientation and capacity building training of consultants on project concept, and teaching - learning methodology:**

To ensure effective implementation of the Promotion of Basic Education of Children of Deprived Communities in Bihar project, Mashal organized a three-day training at Sewa Kendra, Patna. A total of 26 field staff (20 female and 6 male) from five units—Gahiri, Raxual, Piro, Sasaram, and Chenari—participated. The training focused on project objectives, planned activities, monitoring indicators, digital literacy, baseline assessments, and data collection methods through interactive discussions and practical exercises.



As the project is in its initial phase, most of the planned activities are scheduled for the next reporting cycle and will be documented in the subsequent report.

## 4. 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 aims to enhance educational access and social awareness among marginalized girls and adolescents in Chenari and Sasaram (Rohtas district) and Piro (Bhojpur district) of Bihar. To address the needs of school dropouts and children lacking age-appropriate learning, Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) have been established with the goal of facilitating their mainstream school enrolment. The initiative also promotes gender sensitization to foster an inclusive and equitable environment by raising awareness and encouraging positive action on gender issues. Additionally, life skills training has been integrated to empower adolescents with essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and resilience, enabling them to make informed decisions and navigate life with confidence.

### Major activities and the achievements:

#### Flexible Learning Centres:

During the reporting period, the project successfully established 26 Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) across Chenari, Piro, and Sasaram to provide marginalized children with access to foundational education and essential life skills. These centres utilized a flexible curriculum, teaching-learning materials, and play-based methods to strengthen literacy and numeracy, particularly in language and mathematics. A total of 806 children were served through these centres—260 in Chenari (80 boys and 180 girls), 291 in Piro (154 boys and 137 girls), and 378 in Sasaram (124 boys and 254 girls). Facilitators actively supported children's learning and worked towards enrolling them in nearby government or residential schools to ensure long-term educational continuity.



Over the reporting year, a total of 611 children (337 girls and 274 boys) attending Flexible Learning Centres in Chenari, Sasaram, and Piro showed notable improvement in foundational literacy and numeracy. In Chenari, 97 boys and 110 girls demonstrated steady progress, while in Piro, 35 boys and 68 girls, and in Sasaram, 142 boys and 159 girls

made significant gains in reading, writing, and basic mathematics. These outcomes reflect the effectiveness of the flexible curriculum and activity-based teaching approaches adopted by trained facilitators. Furthermore, 605 children were successfully mainstreamed into formal schools—341 in Chenari (151 boys and 190 girls), 133 in Sasaram (46 boys and 87 girls), and 131 in Piro (56 boys and 75 girls)—showcasing the project's strong community outreach and collaboration with local education departments.

**Gender Sensitization:** During the year, focused efforts were made to promote gender equality and challenge traditional stereotypes among adolescents through a series of gender sensitization sessions across project locations. A total of 22 sessions were organized—5 in Chenari, 7 in Piro, and 10 in Sasaram—engaging 1,038 adolescents (637 girls and 401 boys). In Chenari, 264 adolescents (132 girls and 132 boys) participated, while in Piro, 284 adolescents (145 girls and 139 boys) and in Sasaram, 490 adolescents (360 girls and 130 boys) took part. These interactive sessions enabled young participants to better understand concepts of gender justice, equality, and respectful peer relationships, fostering a shift toward more inclusive attitudes and behaviors within their communities.



**Life Skill Training:** A comprehensive 3-day Life Skills and Leadership Training was conducted for 949 adolescents (ages 12–16) enrolled in government schools across Sasaram, Chenari, and Piro. In collaboration with local school heads, 40 sessions were organized—24 in Sasaram, 6 in Chenari, and 10 in Piro —reaching 364 students (225 boys and 139 girls) in Piro, 426 in Sasaram (280 boys and 146 girls), and 305 in Chenari (123 boys and 182 girls). The training focused on essential life skills such as communication, decision making, problem-solving, and teamwork. Interactive activities and group discussions helped participants build confidence, leadership qualities, and a stronger sense of responsibility. Many adolescents are now actively taking on leadership roles in their communities, reflecting the program’s positive impact.



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## 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" was implemented from April 2024 to March 2025 to address foundational learning gaps among tribal children in Kharagpur Block, Munger District. A total of 598 children (310 girls and 288 boys) benefited from access to bridge schools and structured educational support. The initiative focused on age-appropriate learning in Hindi and numeracy, while also fostering holistic development through life skills, social emotional learning, and practical competencies—laying a strong foundation for their reintegration into formal education. Community involvement played a vital role in the project’s success. Regular awareness campaigns, monthly parent meetings, and discussions on the importance of education fostered strong collaboration with families. This engagement proved essential in gaining parental support and significantly contributed to the children’s consistent learning progress and school readiness.

## Major activities and the achievements:

**Bridge School Centres:** Bridge School Centres have become a cornerstone of the project, offering regular academic and extracurricular support to children before and after school hours. Learning is personalized based on baseline assessments, grouping children into Group A (requiring more support) and Group B (requiring less). Currently, 399 children (187 boys, 212 girls) are enrolled in Group A for Math and Hindi, while 199 children (101 boys, 98 girls) are in Group B.



Trained tutors use playful methods, - Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), and hands-on tools like number cards and stick bundles to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy. Weekly assessments help track progress and adjust instruction accordingly. With one year of implementation completed, the project has built a strong academic foundation for children, fostering both learning outcomes and enthusiasm for education.

Significant improvements were observed in foundational literacy and numeracy skills among Group A children during the reporting period. In Hindi, 81 children (39 boys, 42 girls) scored above 50% in assessments. In Math, 147 children (73 boys, 74 girls) scored above 50%. Similarly, Group B children demonstrated strong academic progress in both Hindi and Math during the reporting period. In Hindi, 168 out of 199 children (86 boys, 82 girls) scored over 50% in assessments. In Math, 189 children (95 boys, 94 girls) scored over 50%



### Life Skill and Extra Co- curricular Activities:

A three-day Life Skills and Leadership Training was conducted for 293 Bridge School children (146 girls and 147 boys), aged 10–12, during the reporting period. The sessions focused on building essential skills such as communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork. It also fostered leadership and responsibility among participants. As a result, children showed greater confidence, improved social interaction, and a stronger sense of personal and community responsibility.

Many children began taking initiative in school activities and supporting their peers, demonstrating practical application of their learning. Parents and tutors also reported noticeable improvements in the children's behavior, discipline, and ability to express themselves effectively.



**Celebration of Special Days:** To foster awareness, leadership, and community spirit, five significant days were celebrated at the Bridge School Centres during the reporting period:

- World Environment Day (June 5): 602 children (305 boys, 297 girls) took part in plantation drives, poster-making, and discussions on sustainability.
- Indigenous Day: 100+ parents and community members joined children in cultural performances and storytelling sessions to honor local traditions.

- Independence Day (August 15): 608 children (274 boys, 334 girls) participated in flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and essay competitions.
- Children’s Day (November 15): 800 children (368 boys, 432 girls) enjoyed fun games, talent shows, and group activities focused on children’s rights.
- Republic Day (January 26): 440 children (197 boys, 243 girls) engaged in speeches, parades, and quiz competitions celebrating the Constitution.

These celebrations not only enriched children’s learning experiences but also nurtured a sense of identity, teamwork, and civic responsibility.

**Academic and Sports Competition:** To promote the holistic development of children across the 15 Bridge School Centres, the project has focused on enhancing both intellectual and physical growth through engaging activities. A General Knowledge Quiz competition involved 274 children (145 girls, 129 boys) from five clusters, enhancing cognitive skills and teamwork. Drawing competitions engaged 475 children (229 girls, 246 boys), fostering creativity.



On November 11, 2024, a football match for boys and girls was held to encourage physical fitness and gender inclusivity. A Sports Day event later saw 800 children (432 girls, 368 boys) participate in multiple games promoting teamwork and healthy competition.

Language skills were strengthened through a Spelling Contest in Hindi and English with 376 participants (192 boys, 184 girls), and a Storytelling Contest in Hindi involving 572 children (297 girls, 275 boys), boosting

vocabulary, confidence, and communication abilities.

These activities collectively contributed to children’s intellectual, physical, and social growth, building confidence, leadership, and enthusiasm for learning.

**Parental Engagement and Capacity Building:**

Motivational seminars for parents have been a key part of the project, enhancing their involvement in children’s education and development. During the reporting period, 15 Mothers’ Committees (Mata Samiti) were formed, with capacity-building trainings attended by 462 parents (441 women, 21 men). These sessions focused on positive parenting, gender equality, and the vital role of mothers in supporting children’s aspirations. The training strengthened parent-child relationships and promoted a nurturing home environment conducive to learning and growth. As a result, many parents have become proactive advocates for their children’s education, leading to improved attendance and engagement in school activities.



This increased parental support has directly contributed to better academic performance and overall well-being of the children.

Community Engagement through BSMC Meetings: Monthly Bridge School Management Committee (BSMC) meetings were conducted across



all 15 hamlets to strengthen community participation in children's education. These meetings brought together parents, tutors, local leaders, and project staff to review student progress, attendance, and hygiene practices. Regular discussions encouraged shared accountability and strengthened support for a positive learning environment. Except during festivals, meetings were consistently held, fostering collective responsibility for children's development and well-being.

## 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 for Marginalized Children:

To address school dropouts and irregular attendance among children from slum area in Nehru Nagar, Patna the project established a Supplementary Education Centre supporting 36 children (15 girls, 21 boys) aged-7-12, many of whom were previously engaged in child labour activities like rag picking and dishwashing. The centre provides age-appropriate learning in Hindi and numeracy, helping bridge foundational gaps and reintegrate children into formal education. Alongside, regular parent engagement sessions raised awareness on children's right to education and the long term harm of child labour. As a result, 14 children were successfully mainstreamed into Government schools, marking a significant step toward their educational and social inclusion.

## 7. Residential Bridge Course for Marginalised Girls in Sheikhpura District, supported By Mashal:

### Introduction:

The Residential Special Training Program supports 150 out-of-school, dropout, and irregularly attending adolescent girls (ages 9–14) from Maha Dalit and Dalit communities. Identified through village-level surveys involving local leaders, parents, and village heads, girls are enrolled with their full consent. The program provides a safe, inclusive environment where girls receive age appropriate academic instruction, life skills, and psycho-social support. All enrolled girls reside and study at the Mahila Shikshan Kendra, Sheikhpura unit of MASHAL. The centre is designed to be child friendly and secure, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for learning and overall development.

Its core objectives are to build foundational literacy and numeracy, boost self-confidence, leadership, and decision-making skills, and address previous educational gaps—ultimately preparing the girls for reintegration into formal schooling at suitable levels.

## Major activities and the achievements:

### Residential Bridge Course:



A total of 150 girls are enrolled in the Residential Bridge Course, grouped into five levels based on their reading and writing abilities. The curriculum focuses on Hindi, mathematics, and social science, with individualized support to help girls reach age-appropriate academic standards. Trained tutors use interactive and child-friendly methods, including Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM) like number/alphabet cards, rhymes, pebbles, and stick bundles, to simplify abstract concepts. This engaging, hands-on approach has significantly improved

literacy and numeracy, boosting children's confidence and motivation to learn.

As a result, 150 girls who previously lacked basic reading and counting skills are now able to construct simple sentences and solve foundational math problems. The transformation in their learning journey has not only enhanced their academic abilities but also instilled a sense of self-worth and aspiration for formal education. During the reporting period, 60 girls from the Residential Bridge Course were successfully re-enrolled in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) for continued formal education. This achievement reflects the program's effectiveness in bridging learning gaps and preparing marginalized girls to reintegrate into the school system with renewed confidence and academic readiness.

### Life School and Extra Co-curricular Activity :

Life skill education is an integral part of the Residential Bridge Course, aimed at building the confidence, resilience, and decision making abilities of enrolled girls. Through interactive sessions on communication, problem-solving, hygiene, self-awareness, and goal setting, 150 girls are gradually learning to



express themselves, manage emotions, and make informed choices. This holistic approach has not only enhanced their self-esteem but also empowered them to take greater responsibility for their learning and personal growth. Many girls now actively participate in classroom discussions, demonstrate leadership qualities, and dream of continuing their education in formal schools.

**Celebration of Important Days :** To foster awareness, self-expression, and empowerment, the Residential Bridge Course Centre celebrated important days like International Day of the Girl Child and International Women's Day. On these occasions, the girls enthusiastically participated in group dances, songs, and role plays, showcasing their talents and understanding of gender equality and girls' rights. These celebrations created a joyful and inclusive environment, boosting the girls' confidence and encouraging them to speak up and take pride in their identity. The events also reinforced the value of education and inspired the girls to envision a brighter, more empowered future.



**Academic, Sports Competitions & Educational Exposure :** To promote holistic development, the Bridge Course Centres regularly organized co-curricular activities such as yoga, sports, quizzes, drawing, storytelling, and poetry recitation. These activities enhanced the girls' creativity, communication, and teamwork while building self-confidence and discipline. Yoga and sports contributed to their physical and mental well-being, while academic competitions sharpened their

thinking and expression.

In addition, structured exposure visits were conducted to key public institutions. Visits to Sheikhpura police station and railway control room helped demystify civic systems, raised awareness of legal rights and public services, and sparked curiosity about future career opportunities. These visits empowered the girls with new perspectives and strengthened their sense of belonging and self-worth.



## 8. Education and Empowerment of 150 adolescent girls from deprived communities through short term (12 months) Residential Education, supported by SND Congregational Fund:

### Introduction:

Launched as a continuation of the Residential Bridge Course initiative, the Education and Empowerment of Girls project aims to provide out-of-school and dropout girls from marginalized communities with access to quality education and holistic development. The core objectives remain the same—bridging learning gaps through residential special training, building foundational skills, and preparing girls for mainstream education. A total of 150 girls have been enrolled, including 110 from the Mushaar community, 34 from other Scheduled Castes, and 6 from the general category. This inclusive approach reinforces the project's commitment to educational equity and social empowerment for the most disadvantaged girls.

All enrolled girls reside and participate in educational activities at the Mahila Shikshan Kendra, located within the Sheikhpura unit of the MASHAL building. The centre has been designed as a child-friendly, safe, and secure environment, ensuring that every girl can learn, grow, and thrive without fear or discomfort.

As the project is currently in its initial phase, foundational activities such as enrolment and centre setup have been completed. The implementation of planned educational and empowerment interventions is scheduled for the next reporting cycle, and progress will be documented accordingly.

## 9. Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowering Rural Students and Persons with Disabilities in Bihar, supported by SND Congregational Fund:



The project "Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowering Rural Students in Bihar" was initiated this year to promote digital literacy among 700 children from classes 6–10 across 120 villages in Rohtas, Bhojpur, West and East Champaran districts. These children, from marginalized households of landless agricultural labourers in locations like Gahiri (200), Raxaul (120), Sasaram (150), Chenari (130), and Piro (100), had little to no access to digital devices or functional computer labs in government schools. In the initial phase, 45 tablets are being procured and distributed among 19 trained village animators

and 5 Sisters, who have begun visiting 40 selected villages two to three times a week. Early observations show increased interest and enthusiasm among children, many of whom are handling tablets for the first time. This hands-on exposure is beginning to build confidence, curiosity, and foundational digital skills. The project, integrated with the education initiative supported by the Italian Bishops Conference, is paving the way for a more equitable learning environment for rural students.



## 10. Education Support for Students from Poor Families in Sumbuck, Darjeeling, Supported by Verein Schulkinder Switzerland Fund:

The Education Support for Students from Poor Families project in Sumbuck provided crucial assistance to 110 children (45 boys and 65 girls), ensuring their continued access to education. Support included tuition fees, school uniforms, books, and stationery, significantly easing the financial burden on their families. Notably, 22 children from remote villages studying at Notre Dame Academy were also provided hostel facilities, where they received not only safe accommodation and care but also close academic guidance.

The project has brought meaningful change in the lives of these children—many of whom are first-generation learners—by boosting their confidence, improving academic performance, and motivating them to dream beyond their limitations. With better learning environments and consistent support, children are now more regular in school, actively participating in classroom activities, and showing a noticeable improvement in both discipline and aspirations.



### Agriculture:

MASHAL’s agriculture initiatives continued to advance sustainable rural development by enhancing the livelihoods of small and marginalized farmers, including tribal Santhal families. This year, our efforts emphasized climate resilient farming practices, diversification of crops, and strengthening community-based agricultural systems. A total of five projects focused on the promotion of sustainable agriculture were implemented with support from various donors—NABARD, SND and KFB Austria in Jamalpur, German Doctors in Piro, and Manos Unidas in Sheikhpura. Through the establishment of community orchards, promotion of eco-friendly techniques, and support for organic vegetable and grain cultivation, we aimed to improve food security and increase household income. Special attention was given to empowering women farmers through capacity-building and collective action, particularly via the formation and strengthening of Women Producer Groups (WPGs). These initiatives not only supported environmentally responsible agriculture but also contributed meaningfully to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land), laying the groundwork for long-term resilience and prosperity in rural areas.

| 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 Mungler dist. of Bihar, India | 300 tribal farmers       |
| 6       | Manos Unidas            | Empowerment of CBO Women and Adolescents Girls of Dalit and Backward Communities of Sheikhpura District                     | 1000 women from 100 SHGs |

# 1. Integrated Tribal Development Program- 1, Haveli Kharagpur Block, Munger- District, Supported by NABARD:

## Introduction:

The project is focused on enhancing sustainable livelihoods, improving nutrition, and empowering marginalized tribal communities through integrated development initiatives. A total of 200 families have benefited from the interventions—160 tribal farmers through WADI horticulture plantation across 160 acres, and 40 landless households through livelihood support such as goat-rearing units (5 goats). Key interventions include horticulture plantation and maintenance, soil and water conservation, goat-rearing for landless families, organic farming through vermicompost units, community nursery development, and health and nutrition focused activities. Additionally, the project emphasizes women's empowerment through the formation and training of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and strengthens local governance by building the capacity of Village Planning Committees (VPCs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). These interventions collectively aim to foster self-reliance, environmental sustainability, and inclusive development at the grassroots level.

## Major activities and the achievements:

### 1. Wadi Establishment:

- a. Horticulture Plantation and Maintenance: During the reporting period, fruit-bearing orchards (mango, guava, and lemon) were established across 160 acres, benefitting 160 tribal families. To safeguard the plantations, boundary hedges and live fencing were developed. Intercropping was promoted to optimize land use and supplement income. This initiative supports sustainable livelihoods, enhances food security, and contributes to long-term income generation for the community.
- b. Soil Conservation: Soil conservation efforts included field and graded bunding over 140 acres, along with the construction of 117 water absorption-cum-cattle-proof trenches. These measures reduce erosion, improve water retention, and enhance soil health, ensuring better agricultural outcomes.
- c. Water Resource Development: To improve irrigation access, 12 borewells (250 ft depth, 4-inch diameter) with motorized pumps were installed. These have improved year-round water availability, supporting both farming activities and domestic needs, thereby contributing to better productivity and living conditions.

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

To enhance income opportunities among landless families, the project distributed



goat-rearing units (4+1) to 40 households, established a nursery for one household, and constructed vermicompost pits for 20 households. This intervention has provided a sustainable livelihood option, enabling families to generate regular income through livestock. Early outcomes show improved financial stability, reduced dependency on daily wage labour, and increased confidence among beneficiaries, particularly women, to manage income generating activities independently. On the other hand, organic farming initiatives have empowered farmers to improve crop yields, reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers, and adopt eco-friendly practices, leading to healthier livelihoods and a greener environment.

### **3. Health Initiatives:**

During the reporting period, 3 kitchen gardens and 3 herbal gardens were established at the household level, bringing the total to 12 kitchen gardens and 12 herbal gardens as targeted by the project. These interventions have contributed to improved community health, increased awareness of balanced diets, and enhanced access to homegrown medicinal plants, fostering greater self-reliance in health and nutrition management.

### **4. Women Empowerment:**

As part of the women empowerment initiatives so far, the project has formed 11 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the members have received targeted training to strengthen group functioning and financial literacy. These efforts have enhanced women's confidence, leadership, and economic participation. Empowered through collective action, women are increasingly contributing to household income, participating in local decision making, and building mutual support networks within their communities.

### **5. Training and capacity building:**

The project prioritized training and capacity-building initiatives to empower community members and strengthen local institutions. During the reporting period, 4 trainings on herbal medicine were conducted to promote the use of traditional health practices, 120 participants were fully trained and equipped. While 3 sessions were held for Village Planning Committee (VPC) and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) members to enhance their leadership, planning, and governance skills. These trainings have built local knowledge, encouraged self-reliant health solutions, and improved the capacity of community groups to manage resources and livelihood initiatives effectively.

## **2. Integrated Tribal Development Program- 2, Haveli Kharagpur Block, Munger- District, Supported by NABARD:**

### **Introduction:**

This project is in its second year of implementation. Its objectives aligned to those of TDF-1, focusing on enhancing sustainable livelihoods, improving nutrition, and empowering marginalized tribal communities through integrated development initiatives. The project has targeted total of 300 new families- 240 tribal farmers for WADI horticulture plantation across 240 acres, and 60 landless households through tailored livelihood support, including goat-rearing and piggery units for 27 families each, and tailoring support for 6 families.

Key interventions included horticulture plantation and maintenance, soil and water conservation, health and nutrition initiatives. The project also promotes women's empowerment through the formation and training of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and by building the leadership capacity. Collectively, these efforts aim to promote environmental sustainability, self-reliance, and inclusive growth within the targeted tribal communities.

## Major activities and the achievements:

### 1. Wadi Establishment:

- a. Horticulture Plantation and Maintenance: During the reporting period, fruit orchards of mango, guava, and lemon were established over 55 acres, bringing the cumulative coverage to 175 acres, benefitting 175 tribal families out of the targeted 240. To protect the plantations, live fencing and boundary hedges with teak, Mahogany, and Ghamhar were developed. Intercropping practices were also promoted to maximize land use and provide additional income. This intervention continues to support sustainable livelihoods, improve food security, and ensure long-term economic resilience for tribal households.
- b. Soil Conservation: Soil conservation measures were extended to an additional 10 acres during the period, including the construction of water absorption cum-cattle-proof trenches, bringing the total to 78 acres. These efforts help control soil erosion, enhance moisture retention, and improve soil fertility—resulting in better agricultural productivity and sustainability.
- c. Water Resource Development: To strengthen irrigation and water access, 3 borewells (250 ft depth with 4 inch diameter and motorized pumps) were installed, completing the project's target of 10 borewells. Additionally, 34 plastic water drums (200 litres) were distributed, reaching 74 beneficiaries out of the planned 240. Three handpumps (60 ft depth) were also installed, completing the target of 20. These initiatives have significantly improved water availability for both agricultural and household use, leading to enhanced farm productivity and improved quality of life.



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



To improve livelihood opportunities for landless families, the project provided goat-rearing units (4+1) to 13 households, piggery units to 14 households, and supported 3 families with tailoring initiatives. These interventions offer sustainable income sources, helping families reduce reliance on daily wage labor. Early results indicate enhanced financial stability and growing confidence among beneficiaries- especially women- in managing and sustaining their own income-generating activities independently.

### 3. Women Development:

Under the women's empowerment initiative, the project has successfully formed 9 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) making the total of 15 SHGs and provided 6 targeted trainings focused on group management, leadership development, and income-generating skills. These efforts have strengthened women's confidence, leadership abilities, and economic participation. As a result, women are actively contributing to household incomes, engaging in community decision making, and fostering strong support networks within their groups.



### 4. Health Initiatives:

During the reporting period, kitchen gardens were established in 120 households, promoting better nutrition at the family level. The project also organized one health camp and two health awareness programs within the community. These interventions have improved overall community health, raised awareness about balanced diets, and increased access to homegrown medicinal plants, fostering greater self-reliance in health and nutrition management.



### 5. Training and Capacity building:

The project emphasized training and capacity-building to empower community members and strengthen local institutions. During the reporting period, 5 program promotion and mobilization trainings were conducted, bringing the total to 10. Additionally, 3 Village Planning Committee (VPC) sessions were completed, totalling eight to date. 4 need-based farmer trainings and one technical training were also held, reaching a total of 5. These initiatives have enhanced local leadership, improved community participation, and equipped farmers with practical skills, contributing to more effective and sustainable project implementation.

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

### Introduction:

This project focuses on empowering and building the capacity of women farmers by organizing them into Women Producer Groups (WPGs) and promoting their sustainability through collective marketing under a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) model. So far, 200 women from 20 villages have been mobilized into WPGs and have collectively formed the Charpokhari Farmer Producer Company Limited, with each member contributing a minimum share of ₹500. The initiative enhances economic resilience by strengthening market linkages for small, marginal, and landless farmers. In addition, the project promotes integrated healthcare in six Musahar hamlets of Charpokhari Block, addressing critical health needs in these marginalized communities.

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

### **Establishment of FPO Retail Shop Infrastructure for Seeds, Fertilizers, and Pesticides Business:**

To strengthen the FPO's business operations, FPO has rented a two room shop in the Nagri local market, where it now regularly sells products such as Sattu (roasted gram flour), besan (chickpea flour), pickles, and cattle feed. The FPO successfully obtained a weighing scale and seed license, enabling it to sell 7 quintals of wheat seeds to local farmers this reporting period. The FPO is actively consulting with the concerned Agricultural Department, and has already submitted applications for fertilizer and pesticide licenses to expand its range of agricultural inputs for local farmers. This initiative has enhanced the FPO's credibility, improved access to quality agricultural inputs for farmers, and created a reliable market outlet for local produce—contributing to income generation and economic empowerment of women shareholders.

### **Training FPO Leaders on Marketing and Compliances of Fertilizer Shop:**



To strengthen the leadership and entrepreneurial skills of women-led FPOs, a comprehensive 3 days training session was organized with the participation of 20 women leaders. The training covered essential topics such as market and customer segmentation, product branding, pricing strategies, sales and promotion techniques, supply chain management, and the legal and regulatory framework relevant to agri-business. As a result, the participants gained practical knowledge on how to strategically position their products in the market, ensure legal compliance, and adopt efficient marketing and distribution approaches. This capacity-building initiative has significantly boosted the confidence and business acumen of FPO leaders,

enabling them to make informed decisions and contribute more effectively to the sustainability and growth of the Charpokhari Farmer Producer Company.

### **Training on Supply Chain Management for FPO Leaders:**

A 3-day training on Supply Chain Management was held from 10th to 12th December 2024 for 15 FPO leaders. The training equipped participants with practical knowledge on procurement, inventory, and logistics management. It helped them identify gaps and adopt strategies for streamlining operations, leading to more efficient resource use, reduced costs, and improved profitability for their Farmer Producer Organizations.

### **Training on Contract Farming and Adoption of New Crops for Women Farmers:**

A one-day awareness and training program on contract farming for a new crop was conducted in six villages—Repura, Lilari, Mukundpur, Nagraon, Palliya, and Sahaspura—reaching 222 women farmers. Led by agricultural scientists from the local Agriculture Department, the sessions covered key topics including the concept, legal aspects, roles and responsibilities, and market benefits of contract farming. The training addressed women's queries, built awareness on environmentally friendly and marketable crops, and emphasized the need to engage men, who often influence farming decisions. The initiative enhanced women's understanding of alternative farming models, encouraging economic stability and better market access.

### Setting Up Infrastructure for a Food Processing Unit:

Due to the unavailability of a suitable space in the villages, MASHAL supported the FPO by providing infrastructure within its office premises to establish a food processing unit. The unit houses essential equipment including a grinder, cooler, dryer, and mixer, ensuring the safe storage and operation of machinery. This facility has enabled the FPO to begin value-added production activities, boosting local entrepreneurship and creating livelihood opportunities for women members.



### Training on Value Added Food Products and Handicraft Production for Women Farmers:



A seven-day hands-on training on pickle making was held in two phases, equipping 33 women with practical skills in food preservation. Led by experts Ms. Anushree and Mrs. Vidya Rani, the training focused on producing a variety of pickles and preserves. Participants prepared 65 kg of pickles and 10 kg of gooseberry sweet dish. The initiative has enabled women to begin small-scale production, with the FPO successfully marketing the products both locally and beyond, boosting income opportunities and confidence among members.

### Demo Plots of Paddy and Wheat:

Twenty farmers from nine villages were provided with Sonachur paddy seeds—known for high yield and low water requirements—along with wheat seeds and organic manure for demonstration plots. The initiative aimed to showcase improved agronomic practices and boost productivity. The paddy plants have shown better yields compared to traditional varieties, and farmers can reuse the seeds for future sowing. This hands-on exposure has increased farmers' confidence in adopting sustainable farming techniques.

**Mahadalit Community Wellbeing Initiative:** To assess village health conditions, animators conducted door-to-door surveys across target hamlets. Based on the survey medical camps combined with health education were organized in Lilari, Dhanauti, Mishrawalliya, and Hawelipur hamlets by Nav Jeevan Health Centre, Sasaram. A total of 363 people, including many women, benefited from services like blood pressure checks, blood glucose testing, and BMI assessments. Dr. Sukreeta Xalxo led the screenings. In addition to medical care, awareness sessions covered cleanliness, personal hygiene, maternal and child care, nutrition, and balanced diets. These camps not only improved immediate health access but also promoted preventive healthcare practices, contributing to long-term well-being in the Musahar communities.





Alongside medical camps, quarterly community meetings and training sessions were held across 6 Musahar hamlets to raise awareness on health and hygiene. A total of 539 individuals participated in these sessions. Topics included nutrition, reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, WASH, malaria prevention, and illnesses linked to excessive use of chemical fertilizers. Meetings with ASHA workers were also conducted to understand available government health schemes and ensure better linkages for the community. These consistent efforts have deepened health literacy, encouraged healthy practices, and empowered the community to take proactive steps

toward well-being.

### **Networking with Health Department and Health Initiatives:**

The animator collaborated with the Primary Health Centre (PHC) to encourage community members to seek treatment from government health facilities instead of unqualified local doctors. Regular meetings were held to discuss vaccination schedules and Anganwadi services. In partnership with the local Health Department, filaria awareness sessions were conducted in six hamlets, reaching 123 participants. Filaria prevention medicine was distributed to 944 individuals, including 760 from Musahar tolas, under the government's health campaign.

Additionally, eight individuals received eye treatment through a local eye camp, and three women were supported in accessing care at the Block Health Centre, overcoming their fears with guidance from staff. The Health Department also sprayed mosquito repellents in all target areas. To promote hygiene and prevent disease, cleanliness drives were organized in two locations, contributing to better sanitation and safer water access. These interventions have significantly improved the health-seeking behavior and well-being of the community.

### **Handpump Platform Construction:**



Cemented platforms (5ft x 5ft) were constructed around six handpumps in six hamlets—Mukundpur, Hawelipur, Mishrawaliya, Dhanauti East, Dhanauti West, and Lilari—to improve sanitation and prevent waterlogging. These handpumps now serve clean water to over 886 people from 191 families from 6 Mushaar villages. The intervention has been widely appreciated by the community, as it has significantly improved hygiene around water sources and reduced related health risks. The risk of stagnant water, mosquito breeding, and waterborne diseases has notably decreased. Children and elderly people, who are more vulnerable, are now safer due to cleaner surroundings.

### **Celebrations of Special Days:**

Farmers' Day Celebration was held on 19th December 2024 at the FPO shop (Kisan Bazar) in Nagari, drawing 319 farmers and 20 guests, including agricultural officials, local leaders, and media representatives. The event celebrated farmers' contributions and promoted awareness of modern agricultural practices and government schemes. Officials from the Agriculture Department spoke about subsidies, digital platforms, and sustainable farming methods, while the Block Pramukh shared local

success stories and encouraged community collaboration. An interactive session allowed farmers to voice challenges related to crop diseases, marketing, and credit access, receiving on-the-spot guidance. The event helped bridge the gap between farmers and institutions, boosting motivation and trust.

International Women's Day 2025 was celebrated on March 4 at Dairy Hall, Charpokhari, with 307 women from SHGs, FPOs, and CBOs participating. The event recognized women's contributions and promoted gender equality. Dignitaries, including the BDO, Block Pramukh, ANM, and Agriculture Coordinator, addressed key issues such as women's role in development, health, hygiene, and organic farming. The celebration fostered unity, confidence, and motivation among the women, inspiring them to take more active roles in community development.



#### **Networking with Government Agriculture Departments:**

Project staff actively collaborated with the Agriculture Department to link community members with government schemes and technical support. As a result, three women began cultivating millets (Ragi and Bajra) under a government scheme. Training on safe pesticide use was conducted by Yagyawalkya Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd. in five villages, benefiting 10 farmers. An exposure visits for 15 women to an integrated farming model in Rupibandh, Kochas was facilitated by ATMA, where participants observed crop, livestock, aquaculture, and agroforestry practices. The Horticulture Department distributed 600 mushroom bags to interested women following a motivation session. Additionally, 40 women took part in a winter crop campaign. Project staff were also invited as resource persons by block officials to speak on FPO formation and vermicomposting, further building the capacity of FPO women members. These initiatives strengthened farmer-government linkages and encouraged the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

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

### **Introduction:**

The project- Promoting Scientific Agricultural Systems (PSAS) is implemented by the Integrated Community Empowerment Centre (ICEC), Jamalpur (a unit of MASHAL). This project in Munger District, Bihar, aims to empower marginalized tribal and scheduled caste communities by improving food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture practices. Targeting 500 women farmers and 300 adolescent girls from 30 villages, the initiative promotes the cultivation of staple crops—including paddy, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, and fruit trees—using sustainable scientific methods to enhance income and resilience.

The project also strengthens women's participation in local governance and decision making processes, while supporting adolescent girls to pursue higher education and delay early marriage. Additionally, both girls and boys receive skill development training for employment in organized and unorganized sectors, fostering a more secure and self-reliant future for the community.

## Major activities and the achievements:

### Formation of Women Producer Group (WPG):

To foster collective growth and support systems, four Women Producer Group (WPG) clusters were formed based on crop specialization—oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, and food grains like millets, paddy, and wheat. Women Producer Group (WPG) meetings included participatory planning sessions focused on land use and cropping systems. These sessions actively engaged women farmers in analysing existing agricultural practices, identifying the benefits and challenges of current crops, and exploring strategies for improved land utilization and crop diversification. The initiative also strengthened their access to markets, enhancing income opportunities and promoting long-term agricultural sustainability.

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

A one-day training at ICEC by KVK Munger equipped 40 WPG leaders with skills in millet cultivation, crop rotation, organic farming, and water management. This knowledge was shared across 30 villages, benefiting 499 women farmers who began cultivating paddy, ragi, and pulses organically. Additionally, 29 WPG members received training in vegetable cultivation and storage, and 23 attended an exposure visit to KVK Munger. As a result, 68 women received seeds and are now cultivating vegetables, enhancing both household nutrition and income.



A training session on insect, pest, and disease control equipped farmers with eco-friendly methods to manage crop threats. They learned to identify pests and apply sustainable control techniques, now reinforced by staff at the village level. Women Producer Groups (WPGs) established 18 demonstration plots for millet and paddy and 13 for vegetables, using organic inputs like Jeevamrut khad, liquid mixtures, leaf compost, and Agnishastra insecticide. These sustainable practices improved crop quality and yields, demonstrating the effectiveness of organic farming.

### Training for WPG members on Business planning and marketing:

A business planning session at Jamalpur trained 136 women farmer group members, led by Mr. Rajesh Kumar, on sustainable cultivation of oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, and food grains. The training covered market analysis, budgeting, cost-benefit planning, and value addition. Women learned to align crop cycles with market demand and explore income opportunities through processing and direct sales. Many women began using budgeting techniques and sought local market linkages. The session boosted their confidence and decision-making skills, laying a strong foundation for sustainable agribusiness and economic independence. Followed by a capacity-building session that was held in Jamalpur for 93 members to enhance awareness of government schemes related to agriculture, health, education, and rural development. Participants actively engaged in discussions, gaining clarity on eligibility and application procedures.



**Youth Empowerment:** During the reporting period youth empowerment initiatives made substantial progress. Village-level mentoring sessions reached 300 adolescent girls, with 166 of them receiving structured life skills training. These sessions enhanced their confidence, self-awareness, communication, and decision-making abilities—crucial for navigating adolescence, resisting early marriage, and pursuing education or career goals.



Additionally, several adolescents enrolled in Digital Computer Application (DCA) training. These skills are opening pathways to employment and further education, especially for girls who had limited exposure to technology, thereby boosting their future livelihood prospects and

digital confidence.

### **Holistic Residential Training Program for adolescent girls:**

A one-month Holistic Residential Training Program was organized at the ICEC, Jamalpur, benefiting 58 adolescent girls from classes 5 to 10. Facilitated by Sr. Anima Minz, the program focused on the girls' physical, emotional, mental, and academic development. Each day followed a structured routine comprising yoga, academic support, storytelling, games, karate, and audio-visual learning.



The training fostered discipline, enhanced learning outcomes, and encouraged self-expression. It concluded with a cultural presentation where participants confidently showcased their talents and skills. The program made a lasting impact, boosting the girls' self-esteem, academic performance, and motivation to pursue further education.

### **Interface Meeting Cum Certificate Distribution:**

An interface meeting was held at Dashrathpur with 55 participants, including government officials (BDO, CEO, Agricultural Officer), 60 youth trainees from beautician (21), tailoring (15), and computer (24: 17 girls, 7 boys) courses, and SHG members. The event facilitated dialogue between officials and community members, highlighting success stories, addressing challenges, and exploring future collaboration. Officials recognized the positive impact of the programs and assured continued support. Certificates were distributed to beneficiaries, boosting their motivation. The meeting strengthened coordination among stakeholders and encouraged participants to pursue self-reliant, sustainable livelihoods with greater confidence.



## 5. Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and CBO women of Dalit and Backward Communities of Sheikhpura District, Supported by Manos Unidas:

### Introduction:

The project “Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and CBO Women of Dalit and Backward Communities in Sheikhpura District” addresses deep-rooted gender inequalities and the socio-economic marginalization of women and girls. Implemented through Mahila Shikshan Kendra (MSK) Sheikhpura, a unit of MASHAL, the project adopts a rights-based, integrated approach to enhance access to health and nutrition education, livelihood opportunities, and leadership roles. By promoting organic farming, livestock rearing, gender sensitization, and SHG-led empowerment, the initiative strives to build a more equitable and self-reliant community where women and girls participate confidently and with dignity in personal and public life.

### Major activities and the achievements:

#### Promotion of Livelihood of women through Income Generation Activities and Strengthening of SHG Federation:

The project advanced its strategy to empower women by strengthening SHG federations and promoting leadership. A total of 8 leadership training sessions were held, benefiting 400 SHG members through interactive, experiential learning focused on leadership, teamwork, and financial literacy. As a result, women gained confidence, enhanced their participation in SHGs and federations, and began playing more active roles in community leadership and decision-making.



To promote women’s economic self-reliance, eight batches of livelihood training were conducted in collaboration with KVK and the Department of

Agriculture, reaching 401 women. The first four batches focused on vegetable cultivation, seasonal crops, and dairy farming, while the remaining covered vermi composting and organic farming. Through practical field sessions and visual demonstrations, women gained hands-on skills in sustainable farming practices such as kitchen gardening, composting, sapling care, and grafting. These trainings improved household nutrition and opened avenues for small-scale income generation.



A total of 100 women received dairy farming training in three batches, organized by MSK collaborating with KVK and the Department of Agriculture. Similarly, sessions at RSETI Sheikhpura, led by KVK



experts, combined theory with practical exposure, resulting in official certification for 66 participants. The training covered cattle selection, low-cost feed (including Azolla cultivation), animal health, shed management, and small business planning. Marketing strategies were shared through case studies and videos. As a key outcome, 5 women were selected for a government-subsidized dairy scheme, fostering sustainable livestock-based livelihoods.

At present, 163 SHGs are affiliated with the Chaithanya Jan Vikas Sangh Federation, which conducts monthly meetings, facilitates local credit access, and strengthens collective decision-making. Relying on internal lending systems, SHGs minimized dependence on external loans. These efforts are building a resilient network of economically empowered women, rooted in sustainable practices and mutual support.

#### **Progress Update:**

The project made significant strides in empowering women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and sustainable livelihood initiatives. Currently, 90% of SHGs conduct regular meetings and maintain proper record-keeping, reflecting improved group discipline and accountability. Leadership within the SHG Federation has also grown, with 300 women stepping into leadership roles—surpassing the annual target of 250—following focused leadership trainings. Economic empowerment efforts showed remarkable progress, with 796 women engaged in income-generating activities such as farming, livestock, and small trades—far exceeding the initial target of 200. Many women are now balancing household responsibilities with livelihood activities and exercising economic freedom in their personal choices. In addition, 201 women received training in vermi composting, meeting the annual target. Though not yet commercialized, nearly 300 women are actively using organic compost in their fields, reducing their reliance on chemical fertilizers by over 30% and improving soil health.

#### **Improvement of Awareness among Women and Adolescent Girls in Gender Rights, Health and Nutrition:**

To promote gender equality, a three-day gender sensitization training was organized for 150 women, led by a High Court advocate from Jaipur. A key focus was on raising legal awareness—participants were introduced to critical laws protecting women's rights, including The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005), The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961), The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013), and The Right to Education Act (2009). Alongside exploring gender roles and patriarchal norms, the training equipped women with legal knowledge and advocacy skills to challenge discrimination and assert their rights confidently within their families and communities.



A total of 554 adolescent girls were reached through 11 health education sessions across villages and schools. Of these, 302 girls participated in six sessions, facilitated by Mrs. Pinki Kumari, Mrs. Dulari

Devi, and Miss Sarita Ekka, focusing on nutrition, balanced diets, hygiene, and adolescent health. Key topics included PEM, under/overnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies such as Vitamin A, B-complex, Iron (IDA), and Iodine (IDD). Sessions featured videos, PowerPoint presentations, and discussions on dietary diversity, kitchen gardening, and healthy habits, discouraging harmful practices like tobacco and alcohol use.



Similarly, 252 girls attended five reproductive health sessions led by government ANMs — Mrs. Kanchan Kumari, Miss Virginia, and Miss Nirmala Kumari. Based on the Model Curriculum, the sessions covered female reproductive anatomy, menstruation, fertilization, and fetal development, while also addressing menstrual hygiene, anaemia, and cultural taboos. Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed on May 28 at MSK, fostering safe practices and open discussions. Regular Meena Manch meetings promoted peer learning, life

skills, and health awareness among adolescent girls. These initiatives boosted girls' confidence, awareness of gender rights, and informed decision making, reinforcing the project's commitment to building an empowered and health-aware community of women and girls.

#### **Progress Update:**

The project made notable progress in building gender awareness, health literacy, and decision-making capacity among women and adolescent girls. A total of 150 women have gained confidence to address gender-based issues, supported by legal awareness and regular gender sensitization sessions held during SHG meetings. In the area of health and nutrition, 301 women and 302 adolescent girls were educated through community and school-based programs, leading to improved practices in menstrual hygiene, personal care, and balanced diets. Furthermore, 554 adolescent girls participated in life skills and awareness sessions on reproductive health, child protection, and gender-based violence. These efforts have enabled them to make informed choices on issues such as early marriage, abuse, and their rights, marking a significant step toward gender equity and holistic well-being.

## **6. Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agricultural practices among tribal farmers in 15 villages in Munger District of Bihar, India, Supported by SND Congregational Fund:**

#### **Introduction:**

This project focuses on advancing sustainable agriculture among Santhal tribal farmers in 10 villages of Munger District, Bihar. It promotes eco friendly farming techniques, particularly natural farming with bio-fertilizers, enabling marginalized farmers to cultivate their land sustainably. The project also support irrigation and improve food security, by installing hand pumps with borewells and submersible pumps, optimizing local water resources. Beyond agriculture, the initiative addresses social challenges like migration and trafficking by strengthening local leadership and empowering tribal communities to manage their resources effectively, fostering long-term resilience. The project targets 300 Santhal farmers, aiming to enhance their livelihoods and community well-being.

## Major activities and the achievements:

### Training on Natural farming for Tribal Farmers from- 15 tribal villages:

A total of 406 individuals (302 women and 104 men) participated in natural farming training sessions combining theory and hands-on practice. Key topics included organic farming principles, compost preparation (Jeevamruth, vermicompost, leaf and farmyard compost), and natural pest control using custard apple seed insecticides. Participants also learned kitchen gardening and mushroom cultivation to boost nutrition and income. As a result, tribal farmers adopted organic methods for growing vegetables and staples, improving soil fertility, reducing chemical use, and enhancing the nutritional value of produce—contributing to both



environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

**Demo Plots:** As part of efforts to promote sustainable agriculture, 10 demonstration plots were established, where 12 trained farmers cultivated millets on 0.15 acres each using natural farming methods. The initiative yielded approximately 529 kg of millets, showcasing the productivity and ecological benefits of organic practices. These plots served as live learning models for the community, inspiring more farmers to adopt sustainable techniques that enhance food security while preserving the environment.



### Installation of Borewells for Irrigation:

The installation of 10 borewells enabled irrigation across 42 acres of previously dry farmland, benefiting 40 tribal farmers. As a result, they successfully cultivated a range of crops and vegetables including mustard, moong, maize, brinjal, potato, gram, and arhar. The intervention enhanced agricultural yields, improved food security, and increased household incomes while reducing climate-related vulnerabilities.



Additionally, the borewells supported irrigation for horticulture plantations—guava, mango, and lemon—across 62 acres under NABARD assistance. This ensured healthy plant growth and boosted the long-term sustainability of income-generating horticulture among tribal families, offering a replicable model for empowering marginalized farming communities.

### Leadership Training:

The project empowered communities by conducting 80 leadership training sessions across 15 villages, engaging 1,230 individuals (387 men and 843 women) from Village Planning Committees (VPCs). These trainings enhanced participants' skills in planning, decision-making, and conflict resolution, enabling them to identify local issues and implement effective solutions.

As a result, VPCs are now better equipped to lead sustainable development initiatives, manage resources efficiently, and engage with Panchayati Raj leaders to leverage government schemes. Regular VPC meetings and collaboration with Farmer Producer Groups have fostered greater community participation in development and environmental stewardship, contributing to a more informed and self-reliant society.



### Health Camps:

To improve healthcare access in remote tribal areas, the project organized 18 Health Camps across 18 target villages, benefiting 131 individuals (28 men and 103 women) through free medical check-ups and medicines. A large scale Health Mela was also held in collaboration with Notre Dame Health Centre, where 120 patients received treatment for issues such as Anaemia, malnutrition, and infections.

These interventions aimed to raise awareness about hygiene, balanced nutrition, seasonal diseases, and the importance of timely medical care. Previously hesitant to seek treatment due to cultural beliefs and lack of facilities, tribal families are now more informed and proactive about their health. As a result, community members are increasingly accessing healthcare services, leading to improved health and protection from common illnesses.

## Enhance Inclusive Empowerment and Participation:

| Sl. No. | Donor  | Project Name   | Target                       |
|---------|--|--|------------------------------|
| 1       | DCEPU, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Bihar | Home for Girls, Patna (Asha Kiran)                     | 146 Girls                    |
| 2       | Aktion Arme Welt Stiftung, Germany               | Promote Integrated Living of Persons with Disabilities | 500 Children<br>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 continues to stand as a pillar of safety, healing, and empowerment for girls in need of care and protection. Established in partnership with the District Child Protection Unit, Patna, under the Social Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, the home has evolved into more than just a shelter- it is a nurturing environment committed to restoring hope and dignity to young lives affected by trauma, abuse, and neglect. Established on May 17, 2018 and situated within the secure premises of Notre Dame Academy, Patna, Asha Kiran Home offers not only physical safety but also emotional support, education, and skill-building opportunities. Over the past year, the home has further strengthened its focus on individual care plans, psychosocial support, and family reintegration efforts, reaffirming its mission to help each child reclaim a sense of belonging and build a brighter future.



**Children Admitted-  
146**



**Children Restored  
to Family- 25**



**Children transferred to  
another Home- 14**



**Vocational training-  
07**



**Children enrolled to  
school- 23 (Secondary &  
High-6, Primary17)**



**Children residing as on  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2024- 35**

## 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- 36 children.
- Inspection and visits by the Government Officials-
  - ✓ District Inspection Team (09 Officials) led by District Magistrate was successfully held on April 24, received very good feedback.
  - ✓ Inspection by Child Welfare Committee, received satisfactory response -36 participants children and 10 staff.
- Home Management meeting was led by the Child Protection Officer from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). Key operational and administrative issues related to the functioning of the Home were discussed- 36 participants children and 10 staff.
- Training on Nutrition and Health Issues of Children, led by NIPCCD (National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child development) Delhi for Home Superintendent.
- Mock drill on safety measures through Lodhipur Fire station staff- 36 children and 10 Staffs.

- 9 girls currently enrolled in Julie School successfully promoted.
- 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- 36 children and 10 staff.

#### **Impact:**

- A safe, supportive, and nurturing environment at Asha Kiran continued to promote emotional stability and resilience among the resident girls.
- Participation in cultural events, national festivals, and in-house programs enhanced leadership, teamwork, and planning skills in the girls.
- A consistent emphasis on education, healthcare, and psychosocial support promoted balanced personal growth and future readiness.
- Regular visits and interactions with government officials and committee members strengthened the girls' confidence and communication abilities.
- Capacity-building workshops for staff led to more responsive and informed caregiving practices.
- Hands-on vocational and life skills training opened new pathways for independence and employability.
- External evaluations and visits recognized the efficient management and child-centric practices of the home.
- Joyful celebrations of birthdays, festivals, and achievements nurtured a positive emotional atmosphere.
- Girls actively took part in community events and exhibitions, gaining exposure and recognition for their talents and creativity.

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

#### **Introduction:**

This year, the project continued its mission to ensure consistent and accessible therapeutic support for children with disabilities across selected regions. Emphasis was placed on strengthening the capacity of families and caregivers through hands-on training in home-based care, inclusive education practices, and daily life skills support. To promote long-term impact and sustainability, efforts were also made to mobilize and strengthen Disabled Children's Parents' Associations (DPA), enabling families to access government entitlements and build collective advocacy platforms.

The project is operational across 13 Panchayats in East Champaran and 21 Panchayats in Gahiri, West Champaran (Bihar), and 16 Panchayats in Sumbuck, Darjeeling (West Bengal)- supporting over 500 children with disabilities and engaging 1,000 parents and caregivers through training, awareness sessions, and community-based interventions.

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

**Objective-1 To facilitate rehabilitation of 200 persons with disabilities through regular therapeutic care both at home and Day Care Centers, and with assistive devices:**

During the reporting quarter, all three centers located in Gahiri, Raxaul and Sumbuck the project continued its dual-mode physiotherapy-approach center-based and home-based- ensuring holistic care for Children with Disabilities (CWDs). A total of 86 differently abled children, (Gahiri 12, Raxaul 65 & Sumbuck 9), resulting in noticeable improvements in motor skills and cognitive development. Children previously unable to sit independently are now able to do so with support.



Simultaneously, home-based therapy was extended to 400 differently abled children (Gahiri 134, Raxaul 225 & Sumbuck 41). Community-based teams, including physiotherapists and coordinators, conducted progress assessments, parent counseling, and hands-on demonstrations in Activities of Daily Living (ADL), empowering caregivers to continue therapy at home and ensuring consistent care in remote areas.

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

During the reporting period, the project significantly enhanced access to specialized healthcare for Children with Disabilities (CwDs) through targeted assessments, interventions, and follow-ups. A total of 272 children (Raxaul: 152, Gahiri: 120) were assessed by ALIMCO, with 252 enrolled under the Central Government’s free assistive device scheme. In Raxaul, 16 children with Cerebral Palsy received custom-designed wheelchairs through Buniyad Kendra and the SDO,



Ms. Shivakshi Dixit, improving mobility and independence. Five CP children from Darjeeling underwent successful evaluations and corrective surgeries in Patna. Further medical support included eye care and surgeries for 15 children from Gahiri—three taken to Nepal Eye Hospital (two operated, one under observation), and 12 to Patna, where four underwent surgery and others received medical advice. Orthopedic consultations for 21 children at Duncan Hospital led to improved mobility with AFOs, KFOs, splints, and gaiters. A medical camp at the Gahiri Centre examined 110 children,

where personalized measurements for orthosis and prosthesis were taken.

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

Activities of Daily Living (ADL) training sessions were held across Raxaul, Gahiri, and Darjeeling, reaching 201 participants (Raxaul: 80, Gahiri: 70, Darjeeling: 51), including children with special needs and their parents. The sessions promoted independence in tasks such as brushing, dressing, and tying shoelaces. Special attention was given to autistic children, focusing on hyperactivity management, while parents were trained in therapy techniques and the long-term importance of ADL skills. A focused session in Gahiri reached 135 parents and caregivers in Sota Mushar Tola, enhancing awareness of government schemes for children with disabilities, led by Mr. Abhaynandan and Sr. Priti.



Disability prevention trainings targeted 210 young couples across the three units (Raxaul: 70, Gahiri: 100, Darjeeling: 40), covering causes, early detection, and maternal care, including nutrition and stress management.

In addition, 19 parents from Darjeeling visited the Mentaidd Organization in Kolkata, a parent-led initiative promoting inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities. A separate exposure visits by 24 Gahiri staff to Varanasi deepened understanding of disability-inclusive models. Both groups expressed interest in forming similar community-based support networks in their respective areas.

**Objective-4, To promote inclusive education and the rights of the children with disabilities for a dignified living.**

During the reporting period, project staff across Gahiri, Raxaul, and Sumbuck worked closely with school authorities and families to ensure the regular attendance of children with disabilities. Through door-to-door visits and school engagement, 204 children (76 girls and 128 boys) were supported in their education- Gahiri (32 girls, 57 boys), Raxaul (35 girls, 65 boys), and Sumbuck (9 girls, 6 boys). The project also provided school fees, uniforms, bags, and stationery to encourage continued enrollment and learning.

The “We Ring the Bell” campaign was conducted across Raxaul, Gahiri, and Darjeeling to raise awareness and advocate for inclusive education. The campaign featured a symbolic bell-ringing ceremony, rallies, and slogan-chanting to mobilize community support. It reached a total of 3,804 participants-1,856 in Raxaul, 1,523 in Gahiri, and 425 in Darjeeling- through outreach in schools and Anganwadi centers. The initiative encouraged public commitment to enrolling children with disabilities and generated strong interest from educational institutions to continue such awareness efforts in the future.



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

As part of capacity-building initiatives, the Raxaul unit organized two key trainings in February 2025. On 26th February, Sr. Anupriya SND, Advocate from Patna, conducted a session on the POSH Act for 14 Consultants and Community Volunteers, focusing on prevention, prohibition, and redressal of sexual harassment. On 27th February, a training on government health schemes was held at SDH Raxaul for 60 ASHAs, ANMs, and mothers of CwDs, led by experts from CRC Patna.

Training sessions were conducted for frontline health workers- ASHAs, AWWs, and ANMs- across the two units, with 100 participants in Gahiri and 25 in Darjeeling. The training focused on the prevention and early identification of disabilities in children, highlighting the importance of timely detection, referral, and community-level awareness. Participants were guided on developmental milestones, risk factors, and early intervention practices. These sessions aimed to enhance the role of frontline workers in promoting early support and improving long-term



outcomes for children with disabilities.

A one-day training was held for 87 DPO members- 22 from Darjeeling, 30 from Gahiri, and 35 from Raxaul- focusing on home-based rehabilitation and age-appropriate Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Participants gained practical skills to support children with disabilities at home. In Darjeeling, project staff engaged with district authorities to reopen the UDID portal, enabling 250 persons with disabilities (164 boys, 86 girls) to receive direct support and around 300 others to benefit from counseling and facilitation. The team also streamlined UDID registration, improving access to disability certificates and government welfare schemes.

**World Disability Day:** World Disability Day was celebrated in Gahiri, Raxaul, and Sumbuck with 1,028 participants, including children, parents, and community members. Events featured cultural performances, skits on organ donation, and messages on inclusive education. Officials shared information on disability rights and schemes like UDID, Niramaya Insurance, and assistive devices. Gahiri children received



fruit saplings and warm clothes, while gifts were distributed in Raxaul and Sumbuck. The celebrations promoted awareness, recognized the abilities of persons with disabilities, and ended with a community meal, strengthening the spirit of inclusion and shared responsibility.

**Night to Shine Program:** A Red-Carpet Day was celebrated for the first time in our Units at Gahiri and Raxaul on February 7th, 2024, in partnership with the Tim

Tebow Foundation. This one-time event was specially organized to honour persons with disabilities aged 14 to 50. A total of 147 individuals—73 from Gahiri and 74 from Raxaul—were selected and crowned as Kings and Queens, celebrating their dignity and worth. In Gahiri, 45 Kings (males) and 28 Queens (females) were crowned, while in Raxaul, 48 Kings (males) and 26 Queens (females) were honoured. The celebration was supported by over 100 volunteers, who ensured that each participant received personalized attention, including new outfits, hairstyling, makeup, and a warm welcome into beautifully decorated dressing rooms. The event was graced by district officials and PRI leaders, who actively participated in the crowning ceremony, making it a memorable moment of inclusion and respect. Altogether, around 250 people gathered to witness and uphold the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities through this unique celebration.

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

#### Stress Management and Self Care Training:

To enhance emotional resilience, five batches of training were conducted for 100 staff members (70



female, 30 male) across Jamalpur, Raxaul, Gahiri, Piro, Sasaram, Chenari, Sheikhpura, and Hojai. The sessions focused on types of stress, coping strategies, and the Stress Survival Responses (fight, flight, freeze), while introducing tools like the Time Management Matrix and Nine Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress. Conflict management was also covered through the Thomas-Kilmann Model. This training was crucial in addressing the emotional

demands of social work, equipping staff to manage stress, avoid burnout, and continue serving communities effectively.

**Digital Skill Training:** To boost digital competency among field teams, MASHAL conducted four batches of digital skills training between July and November 2024 in Jamalpur, Sheikhpura, and the Patna Head Office. A total of 89 staff members (73 women, 16 men) were trained in essential tools like MS Office, Google Drive, PowerPoint, Excel dashboards, virtual meeting platforms, and cybersecurity.

Led by professional trainers and the Program Manager, the sessions focused on practical applications such as data reporting, communication, and file sharing. The training significantly enhanced staff confidence, efficiency, and digital proficiency, enabling smoother program implementation and better field-level reporting. The digital skills training significantly enhanced staff productivity and efficiency in daily reporting, documentation, and data analysis. Participants reported improved abilities in preparing presentations, using Excel for data interpretation, and creating professional documents. The training also strengthened remote collaboration through online tools and raised awareness about



in preparing presentations, using Excel for data interpretation, and creating professional documents. The training also strengthened remote collaboration through online tools and raised awareness about

cybersecurity and data protection. By equipping staff with essential digital competencies, MASHAL has boosted their technical capacity and readiness to meet evolving job demands, ultimately contributing to the success and smooth implementation of development projects.

## Computer and Vocational Skill Development:

Under the support of MASHAL, a skill development initiative was launched at the MSK Centre in Sheikhpura to empower young girls from marginalized communities by enhancing their livelihood opportunities. Recently, computer education Diploma in Computer Application was provided to 30 adolescent girls. The training, led by qualified instructors, opened new learning and employment avenues for these girls. Notably, with the support of Gyan Udaya, 15 of the trained girls secured placements, marking a significant achievement in their journey toward financial independence.



Alongside Computer Education, a tailoring training program was launched for 24 young women, aimed at equipping them with practical skills in stitching, garment design, and fabric handling. Conducted by skilled trainers, the program is designed to help these women develop self-reliance and explore income-generating opportunities within their communities. These efforts reflect MASHAL's ongoing commitment to empowering young women through skills that promote long-term growth and self-sufficiency.



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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                         |
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| 9      | Thresiamma Joseph Neendukunnel | Member                       | Asha Kiran Home for Girls, Patna Dt., Bihar                           |

### Conclusion:

The Annual Report 2024–25 captures a year of meaningful strides in advancing inclusion, empowerment, and equity for marginalized communities, especially children with disabilities, adolescent girls, and underserved rural families. Through our integrated efforts in health, education, digital literacy, skill development, and community sensitization, we have worked to reduce structural inequalities and foster dignity and opportunity for all. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our interventions reflect not just service delivery but systemic change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and dedicated field teams whose support and collaboration continue to fuel our mission. Together, we remain committed to building a just, compassionate, and inclusive society for generations to come.

## TESTIMONIES OF IMPACT:

### From Daily Struggles to a Better Life: Mulkhi Devi's Journey Through Goat Rearing

Name of Beneficiary- Mulkhi Devi

Spouse Name – Faggu Hansda

Village – Kushmaha, Haveli Kharagpur.

Dist- Munger.

Project: Integrated Tribal Development Program.

Before receiving support from NABARD, Mulkhi Devi spent most of her days wandering in the forest or around the village, doing daily wage labor to somehow manage her family's needs. With six family members, including her granddaughter Puja Kumari, life was full of uncertainty and hardship. She had no future plans or hopes for Puja's education.

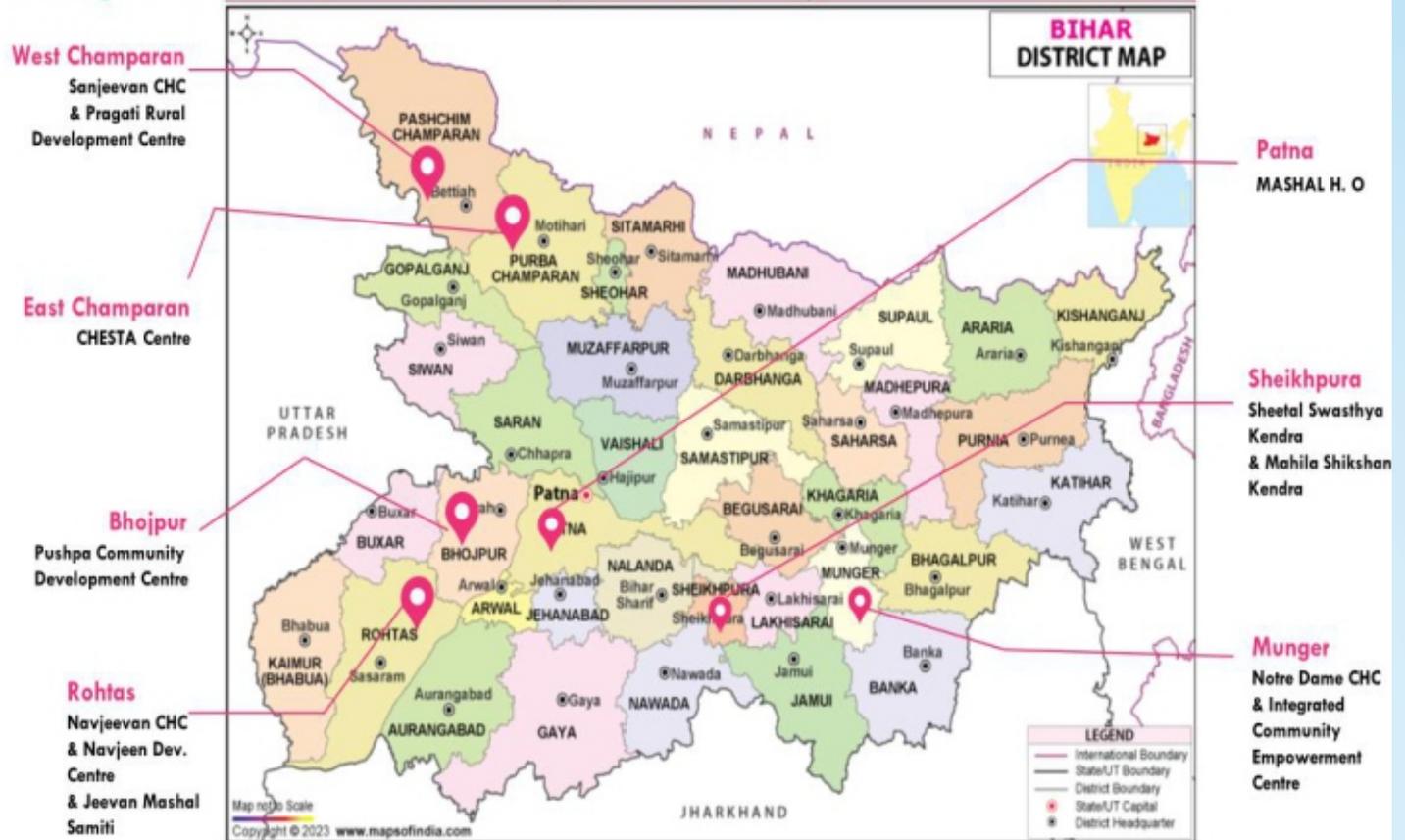


One day, the Village Project Committee (VPC) of Kushmaha village recommended Mulkhi Devi's name for livelihood support. With help from NABARD and implementing partner MASHAL, she received 4 female goats and 1 male goat. Coming from a farming background, Mulkhi Devi already had experience in goat rearing and was eager to make the most of this opportunity.

She took great care of the goats—feeding them well, keeping them healthy, and protecting them from disease. Soon, the goats gave birth to 4 kids, doubling her livestock to 8. Encouraged by this, she used her own savings to buy more goats and slowly built a small goat farm. Today, Mulkhi Devi owns 21 goats' worth around **Rs. 1,05,000**. This new source of income has brought stability and hope to her family. Most importantly, she has now enrolled her granddaughter Puja in Class 5 at the local government school.

Mulkhi Devi proudly says, "I no longer have to go to the forest. Thanks to NABARD and MASHAL, my life has changed. We are now earning, and my granddaughter is studying."

# Our presence in Bihar: (7 Districts)



# Our presence in West Bengal & Assam:

