

SAHBHAGI VIKAS



Annual Report 2025-2026



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Director's Message...

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of Sahbhagi Vikas, highlighting our collective efforts towards empowering rural and tribal communities through participatory governance, social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and early childhood development.

The past year has been a period of learning, collaboration, and steady progress. Guided by our commitment to community-led development, we have continued to strengthen Gram Sabhas as vibrant institutions of local self-governance. The notification of the Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025 has opened new opportunities for empowering Gram Sabhas with enhanced administrative and financial responsibilities. We have embraced this important development by building the capacities of community leaders, Panchayati Raj Institution representatives, women's groups, and our project team to facilitate effective implementation of these provisions at the grassroots level. Our efforts have focused on establishing and strengthening Gram Sabha Sachivalayas, promoting participatory village planning, organizing interface meetings with government departments, facilitating Social Security Camps, and creating awareness on rights, entitlements, and government welfare programmes. These initiatives are helping communities become more informed, organized, and confident in engaging with local governance institutions and accessing public services.

The organization has also continued to invest in the future of our children through the Pre-School Education and Nutrition Programme. By integrating early learning, nutrition, health, and parental engagement, we are contributing to the holistic development of young children and laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.

Livelihood promotion remains one of our key priorities. Through continuous handholding support to beneficiaries of the Livelihood Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP), Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP), and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), we are helping rural families strengthen their enterprises, improve productivity, enhance market access, and build resilient livelihoods. Our close engagement with beneficiaries has reinforced the importance of sustained technical support and community-based mentoring.

The exposure visits, capacity-building programmes, and continuous engagement with community institutions have demonstrated that lasting development is achieved when communities are empowered to lead their own development processes. We are encouraged by the increasing participation of women, youth, and marginalized households in Gram Sabha processes and local decision-making.

These achievements would not have been possible without the trust and active participation of the communities we serve, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the guidance of our Board of Trustees, and the valuable support of our partners, government departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and well-wishers. I express my sincere gratitude to each one of them for their continued cooperation and commitment.

As we move forward, Sahbhagi Vikas remains committed to promoting accountable and inclusive local governance, strengthening community institutions, expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities, ensuring social protection for vulnerable families, and providing every child with the opportunity to grow in a healthy and nurturing environment. Together, we will continue our journey towards building empowered, self-reliant, and resilient communities.

Awdhesh Kumar Prasad
Director, Sahbhagi Vikas

Strengthening Local Self-Governance in Two Panchayats of Thethaitangar Block

Mass Awareness Campaign and Community Mobilization

Mass awareness and community mobilization activities were conducted across the 13 target villages to strengthen community participation and improve awareness of rights, entitlements, and local governance. Community meetings, village-level awareness sessions, and wall-writing campaigns were organized to disseminate key information on the Gram Sabha, the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, and various government welfare schemes.



To reinforce awareness, pamphlets, copies of PESA bye-laws, and information materials on government schemes and citizen entitlements were distributed among community members and made available at Gram Sabha Secretariats. These initiatives are enhancing public understanding of the role of the Gram Sabha, encouraging active participation in local decision-making, and improving access to government services and benefits.

During the campaign, community members were encouraged to: Gram Panchayat Development Plan, Van Patta, Access Health, Education, and Livelihood schemes.

Organizing Interface Meeting with Government Officials

On 17 October 2025, an interface meeting is being organized at the District Headquarters, Simdega, where community leaders are being facilitated to participate in a consultative dialogue with officials from various departments, including the Departments of Labour, Cooperative Societies, Industries, and Panchayati Raj.

Recognizing that effective coordination with government departments and officials is essential for the successful implementation of development policies and programmes at the grassroots level, the organization is continuously promoting constructive engagement between communities and government institutions.



The primary objective of these interactions is to strengthen coordination, reduce communication barriers and hesitation, and build mutual trust and understanding between community-based institutions and government functionaries. These engagements are enhancing awareness of

departmental schemes, procedures, and service delivery mechanisms while encouraging greater collaboration for improved access to government services and entitlements.

Support for Establishment of Village-Level Gram Sabha Sachivalayas

Support was extended to strengthen village-level institutional mechanisms through the establishment of Gram Sabha Sachivalayas. As part of this initiative, eight Gram Sabhas—Asanbera, Gamharjhariya, Siyadohar, Charmunda, Pandripani, Ranikudar, Kasdega, and Tukupani—initiated the process of establishing Gram Sabha Secretariats.

To facilitate this process, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, including flex banners and pamphlets, were developed and disseminated to enhance community awareness of Gram Sabha functions, the provisions of the PESA Act, government schemes, and citizens' entitlements. Wall-writing campaigns were also carried out across the villages to reinforce key messages and promote participatory governance.

These efforts are encouraging greater community participation in local decision-making, strengthening the functioning of Gram Sabhas, and laying a strong foundation for village self-governance. By the end of the reporting period, all eight (08) Gram Sabha Sachivalayas have been established and are in the initial stage of operation.



Organizing Social Security Camps at the Panchayat and Village Levels

A total of five Social Security Camps were organized at Konmenjra, Kurpani, Tukupani, Jambahar, and Pandripani to facilitate the enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under various government welfare schemes and to simplify application and online processing procedures.

The camps provided comprehensive support to community members in accessing essential services and entitlements, including assistance with social security pensions, ration cards, and other welfare schemes. Facilitation services included Aadhaar enrolment

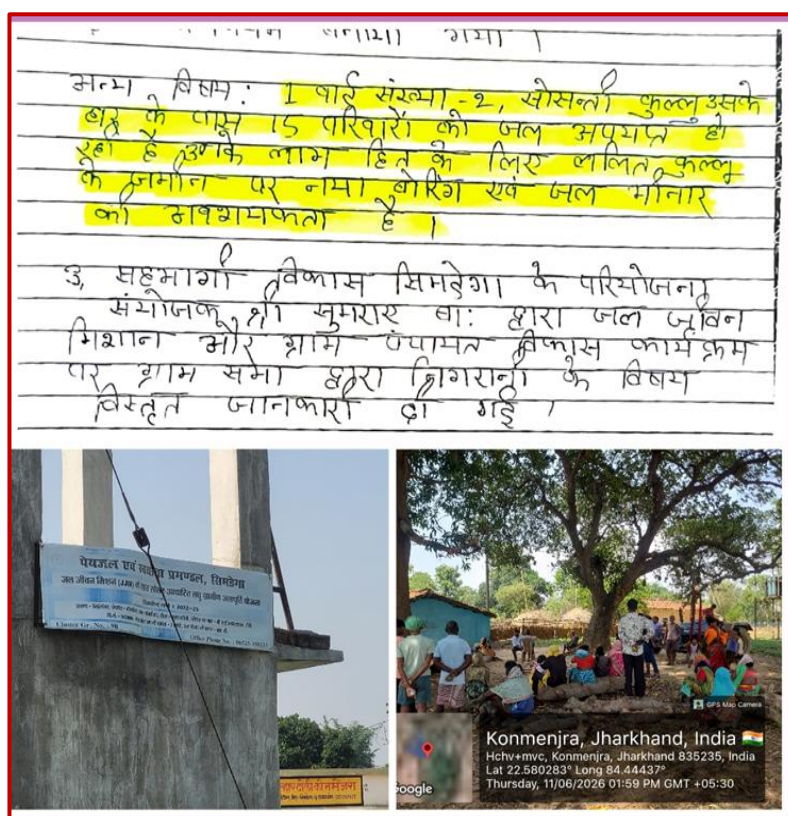


and updates, ration cards, PAN cards, voter ID cards, Ayushman Bharat cards, birth certificates, and other essential documents. More than 2,000 applicants received guidance, documentation support, and assistance with the submission and processing of their applications.

The initiative is significantly improving access to government services, reducing procedural barriers, and strengthening the convergence between communities and government departments. It is also ensuring that eligible individuals are becoming better connected to social security programmes and welfare entitlements, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized households.

Village Planning Support to Gram Sabhas

Capacity-building support is being provided to selected community leaders and Abua Sathis from the revenue villages within the project area to strengthen village-level planning processes. Through structured training programmes, participants are developing knowledge and skills on participatory planning, Gram Sabha processes, the provisions of the PESA Act, the Jharkhand PESA Rules, and the preparation of village development plans. Continuous handholding and follow-up support are also being provided to reinforce learning and facilitate the effective application of these learnings at the village level.



With this support, Gram Sabhas are preparing village development plans based on community priorities, with particular emphasis on safe drinking water, basic infrastructure, natural resource management, livelihoods, and other essential development needs. These plans are being developed through participatory discussions, ensuring that the voices of women, vulnerable households, and marginalized communities are adequately represented.

While the preparation of village plans is progressing well, integrating these plans into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) continues to remain a key challenge. Another significant challenge has emerged following the notification of the Jharkhand PESA Rules (PESA Niyamawali). Gram Sabhas are now required to undertake the reorganization and reconstitution of their functionaries in accordance with the new provisions before fully operationalizing several governance processes. This transition requires extensive orientation, consensus-building, and coordination among community members and local institutions, which is taking time.

To address these challenges, regular orientation programmes, interface meetings with Panchayati Raj Institutions and government officials, and awareness-building activities are being conducted to strengthen convergence between Gram Sabha plans and GPDP processes. These efforts are enhancing the capacity of community institutions, promoting participatory planning, and supporting the effective implementation of village development priorities through empowered Gram Sabhas and effective grassroots governance.

Capacity Building and Training Initiatives :

Staff Capacity Building on Gram Sabha Governance and Social Security Schemes

A total of four two-day training programmes were conducted for project staff in accordance with the approved work plan to strengthen their knowledge and facilitation skills. The trainings covered key provisions of the Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat Acts, relevant rules and guidelines, the Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025, and major social security schemes, including MGNREGA, the Public Distribution System (PDS),



social security pensions, and other government entitlements. Practical sessions were also conducted on application procedures, online portals, prescribed forms, and record-keeping registers.

With the notification of the Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025, Gram Sabhas have been entrusted with enhanced administrative and financial responsibilities. Recognizing this significant policy development, the project has adopted a simplified approach by referring to the new provisions as the "Gram Sabha Rules" during community-level training and awareness programmes, making them easier for community members and grassroots volunteers to understand and apply.

In addition, project staff actively participated in capacity-building programmes facilitated by the regional AGUA SATHI Programme team, which provided a broader perspective on decentralized governance, participatory planning, community institutions, and rights-based entitlements.

These continuous capacity-building initiatives are strengthening staff competencies, enhancing their understanding of governance frameworks and welfare programmes, and enabling them to provide effective guidance and handholding support to Gram Sabhas and community members for accessing government schemes and implementing the provisions of the Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025.

Training of Gram Sabha Leaders, PRI Members, and Women's Groups on Gram Sabha, Social Security Schemes, and Entitlements

A total of four two-day capacity-building programmes were organized for Gram Sabha leaders, Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, and representatives of women's groups to strengthen their knowledge of local governance, social security schemes, and citizens' entitlements. The trainings aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Gram Sabha, the provisions of the



Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025, and the importance of participatory and inclusive village governance.

Two training programmes were specifically organized for PRI members to strengthen their understanding of Gram Sabha functions, convergence mechanisms, social security schemes, and welfare entitlements. The sessions focused on improving coordination between Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and equipping PRI representatives to facilitate community access to government programmes more effectively.

Two training programmes were conducted for Gram Sabha leaders, PRI members, and women's group representatives to enhance awareness of key social security schemes, including pensions, MGNREGA, the Public Distribution System (PDS), and health insurance and other government entitlements. The trainings also focused on strengthening leadership skills, identifying eligible beneficiaries, promoting social inclusion, and encouraging the active participation of women and marginalized communities in village governance and development planning.

Through these capacity-building and awareness initiatives, a more enabling environment is being created for participatory governance at the village level. Community leaders are strengthening their leadership and facilitation skills, improving coordination with local institutions, and playing a more proactive role in ensuring that eligible households are able to access government schemes and welfare benefits.

Exposure Visit for Community Leaders and Staff to Gram Sabhas for Learning and Knowledge Sharing

An exposure visit was organized for selected community leaders, Gram Sabha representatives, and project staff with the participation of 30 members to promote cross-learning and strengthen community-led governance. The primary objective of the visit was to enhance participants'



understanding of effective Gram Sabha functioning, rights-based governance, community institutions, and sustainable livelihood initiatives implemented through the Gram Sabha.

The exposure visit was conducted to Ara Keram Village in Ormanjhi Block, Ranchi District, located approximately 200 kilometres from Simdega. During the visit, participants interacted with Gram Sabha leaders, community institutions, and local stakeholders to understand their experiences in participatory governance, implementation of community development initiatives, natural resource management, and livelihood promotion.

The visit provided an opportunity to observe successful practices in planning, decision-making, community mobilization, and convergence with government programmes. It also facilitated peer learning and the exchange of practical experiences among participants. The knowledge and insights gained through the exposure visit are strengthening the confidence and capacities of community leaders and staff, encouraging them to replicate relevant best practices and further promote effective, participatory, and self-reliant Gram Sabha governance in their own villages.

Key Focus Areas and Thematic Highlights

During the reporting period, the programme continued to strengthen grassroots governance by promoting vibrant and accountable Gram Sabhas in accordance with the provisions of the Jharkhand PESA Rules, 2025. The major thematic focus areas included:

Strengthening Gram Sabha Institutions:

Supporting the establishment and operationalization of Gram Sabha Sachivalayas, strengthening institutional systems, and promoting participatory village governance.

Capacity Building and Leadership Development: Enhancing the knowledge and leadership skills of Gram Sabha leaders, Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, women's groups, Abua Sathis, and project staff on PESA, Gram Sabha governance, village planning, and community facilitation.



Participatory Village Planning: Facilitating community-led village development planning based on local priorities and promoting convergence of Gram Sabha plans with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Social Security and Entitlement Facilitation: Improving community access to government welfare schemes through Social Security Camps, awareness campaigns, documentation support, and assistance with application and online processing.

Community Awareness and Mobilization: Organizing village-level meetings, wall-writing campaigns, and dissemination of IEC materials to increase awareness of Gram Sabha functions, PESA provisions, citizens' rights, and government schemes.

Government–Community Convergence: Strengthening collaboration between Gram Sabhas, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and line departments through interface meetings, dialogue platforms, and coordinated planning processes.

Learning and Knowledge Exchange: Promoting peer learning through exposure visits, enabling community leaders and project staff to learn from successful Gram Sabha practices and replicate effective governance and livelihood models.

Inclusive and Rights-Based Governance: Encouraging the participation of women, Scheduled Tribe communities, vulnerable households, and other marginalized groups in decision-making processes to ensure equitable access to development opportunities and social protection.

Through these thematic interventions, the project is strengthening community institutions, enhancing local leadership, improving access to government services and entitlements, and fostering transparent, participatory, and self-reliant village governance.

Pre-School Education and Nutrition Programme :

The organization is continuing its efforts to strengthen Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) through the Pre-School Education and Nutrition Programme, focusing on the holistic development of children aged 6 months to 5 years 6 months by integrating early learning, nutrition, health, and parental engagement.

During the reporting period, five Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres are being operated in Asanbera, Farsapani, Khamhantoli, Ranikudar (Tukupani Panchayat), and Gamharjhariya (Konmenjra Panchayat). A total of 131 children are enrolled across these centres: Gamharjhariya – 23 children, Asanbera – 25 children, Ranikudar – 25 children, Farsapani – 32 children, Khamhantoli – 26 children

The programme is providing an integrated package of services to promote the healthy growth and school readiness of young children. Key services include:



- Daily provision of 300 ml of milk and 60 grams of biscuits to every enrolled child (6 months–5 years 6 months) to improve nutritional intake.

- Pre-school education for children aged 3 years to 5 years 6 months through play-based and activity-oriented learning.

- Regular growth monitoring to track children's physical development and identify nutritional concerns at an early stage.

- Distribution of 26 kg of rice and 4 kg of pulses, twice a year, to the families of all enrolled children to strengthen household food security.

- Quarterly community meetings in all five project villages to promote awareness on child health, nutrition, early stimulation, hygiene, and positive parenting practices.



The programme is ensuring that every enrolled child receives nutritious supplementary food on a regular basis while also creating an engaging learning environment that nurtures cognitive, language, motor, social, and emotional development. Parents and caregivers are actively participating in awareness sessions, resulting in improved understanding of balanced nutrition, early childhood care, and the importance of pre-school education.

Regular monitoring and follow-up are indicating encouraging outcomes, including:

Improved nutritional status and reduction in the risk of malnutrition among enrolled children.

Increased regular attendance and active participation in pre-school learning activities.

Enhanced school readiness through age-appropriate cognitive, language, and socio-emotional development. Increased awareness and involvement of parents in supporting children's nutrition, health, and early learning at home.

Stronger community ownership and participation in promoting early childhood development.



Through this integrated approach, the programme is laying a strong foundation for children's lifelong learning, health, and well-being while advancing the organization's vision of "Healthy Childhood and Quality Education for Every Child."



Handholding Support to LEDP, MEDP and FPO Beneficiaries :

Continuous handholding and follow-up support are being provided to beneficiaries of the Livelihood Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP), Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP), and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) based on their emerging needs. The support aims to strengthen enterprise sustainability, improve productivity, and enhance the livelihoods of participating households.

Regular field visits, technical guidance, and individual consultations are being conducted with beneficiaries from Thethaitangar, Jaldega, and Pakartanr Blocks to address challenges encountered during enterprise operations. Assistance is being provided on poultry and goat rearing practices, disease prevention and medication, input management, application of fertilizers and plant protection measures, production planning, marketing and market linkages, record keeping and documentation, loan repayment, and financial management.



Several of these beneficiaries continue to remain closely associated with the organization and are actively participating in ongoing development initiatives, including the Pre-School Education and Nutrition Programme and the Local Democracy Programme. Their continued engagement has strengthened community ownership, promoted peer learning, and enabled them to contribute as community volunteers, leaders, and resource persons in implementing village-level development activities.



Continuous engagement with beneficiaries is helping them adopt improved production practices, resolve operational issues in a timely manner, strengthen market access, and maintain better financial discipline. The strong rapport established with beneficiary groups across the three blocks is contributing to increased confidence, sustained enterprise development, improved livelihood outcomes, and stronger community participation in the organization's development initiatives.

Community-Led Shramdaan Tukupani, a revenue village under the Tukupani Gram Panchayat in Thethaitangar Block of Simdega district, has been facing a gradual decline in groundwater levels. As a result, the villagers depend heavily on canal water from the Kelaghagh Dam for maintain to water level and irrigating their Rabi crops. They were waiting since January, the water supply remained irregular due to heavy silt, sediment accumulation and unrepaired canal.



Recognizing the urgency, the Gram Sabha took a proactive decision to address the issue through collective action. A plan for Shramdaan (voluntary labor) was developed, and plan was fixed for the activity. The villagers came together with a strong sense of ownership and responsibility.

To ensure efficiency, the community divided themselves into three groups. Each group was assigned a specific stretch of the canal to clean and repair. Through coordinated efforts, they removed the accumulated silt, debris, and obstructions from the canal.

The collective effort yielded immediate results. The canal was restored, allowing uninterrupted water flow from the Kelaghagh Dam.

The Tukupani case stands as a strong example of how community participation and collective action can effectively address local challenges. The initiative not only resolved the immediate water crisis but also strengthened the spirit of self-reliance and cooperation among villagers.



Community Action Revives Drinking Water Access in Tukupani



Tukupani village, located near Simdega and along National Highway 143, appears well-connected with basic amenities. However, residents of Banstoli hamlet were facing a serious drinking water crisis, as three out of four installed Jal Meenars had remained non-functional for over two years.

Through regular meetings and dialogue facilitated at the community level, villagers—especially women groups and local leaders—collectively identified the issue and decided to take action. In January 2026, they submitted an application to the District Administration during the weekly Janta Darbar.

Their collective effort brought quick results. Within three days, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation responded. By 23 January 2026, officials visited the site and repaired the defunct systems.

Some Success Cases :

- Village Pandripani has declared in the gram sabha meeting that they have no issues with the Ration Card.
- Community Van Patta received the villages Kurpani and Asanbera, other villages, Konmenjra, Gamharjhariya, Charmunda, are in the pipeline.
- Gram sabha wrote a letter to the District Election Officer, Simdega, for basic amenities during the Assembly Election 2024. Within just two days, a solar-powered water supply system and other amenities were installed/made available at the booth.
- Village Konmenjra put a demand before the panchayat for a drinking water facility through the panchayat according to JJM; other villages are also on the way.
- 4 teachers were posted in Kurpani School according to the Gram Sabha application.
- In a complaint of alcoholism for a school teacher, the district official handed over this case to the gram sabha.
- As per theory, no cost, low cost, farmers wash canal dust to ensure sufficient flow of water for irrigation at Tukupani village
- On a complaint of non-functional jalminar to the DC at Janta Darbar by the Tukupani Gram Sabha, it was solved within 2 days.

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