

Ultra-Poor Responsive Gram Panchayat

Midline Evaluation and Insights

December 2025



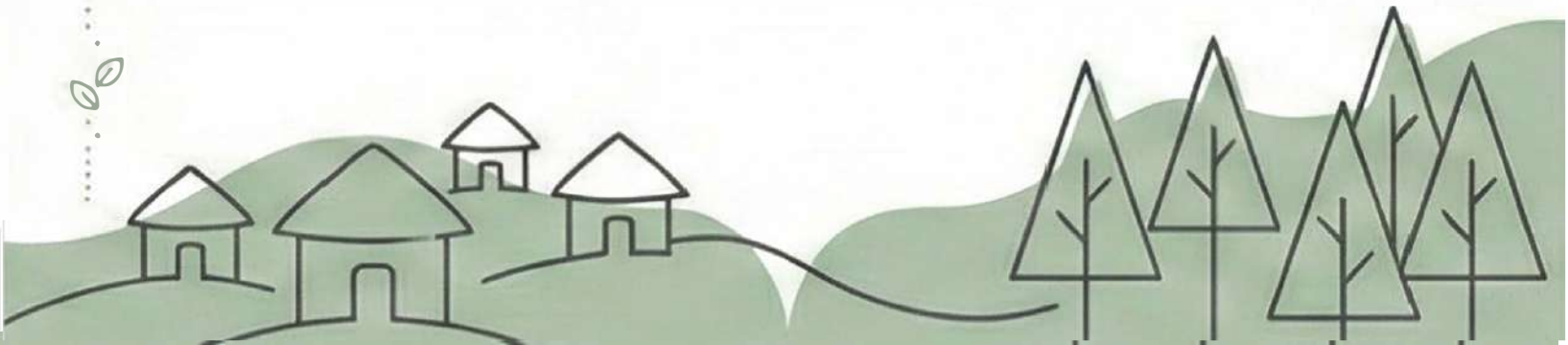


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Foreword

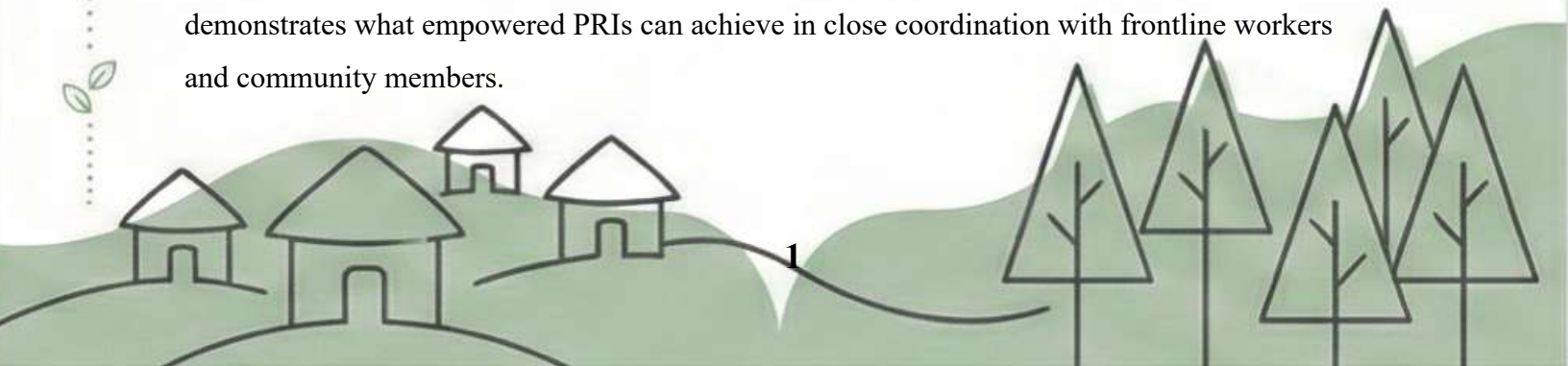
It gives me great pleasure to present the Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Ultra-Poor Responsive Gram Panchayat Initiative. Implemented across four Gram Panchayats, this initiative is a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to respond more effectively to households living in extreme poverty. Done halfway through the project, this evaluation is important to take stock of our progress and to reflect on areas that require sustained and strategic effort.



The most encouraging finding from the midline study is the high level of transparency and community ownership in the identification of ultra-poor households. The use of participatory tools - social mapping, wealth ranking, and the Poverty Assessment Tool (PAT) - ensured that the selection process was both inclusive and well understood. In rural settings where identifying the most vulnerable is often challenging and contested, the clarity and credibility of these tools helped build trust and minimise exclusion.

Our Samudaay Saathis merit a special acknowledgement. They served as a crucial bridge between the Panchayats and the ultra-poor households. Their steady engagement, support with documentation, and persistent follow-up for welfare linkages made the programme far more responsive and accessible to people at the grassroots level.

The evaluation also highlights one of the strongest pillars of this initiative: access to entitlements. Across all Panchayats, ultra-poor households have been successfully connected to essential social security benefits like pension, ration card, housing schemes, livestock support, bank account and a range of other welfare services. These entitlements are more than just government benefit programmes; they bring dignity, stability and a foundational sense of security for families who have long lived with uncertainty. The improvement in entitlement access clearly demonstrates what empowered PRIs can achieve in close coordination with frontline workers and community members.



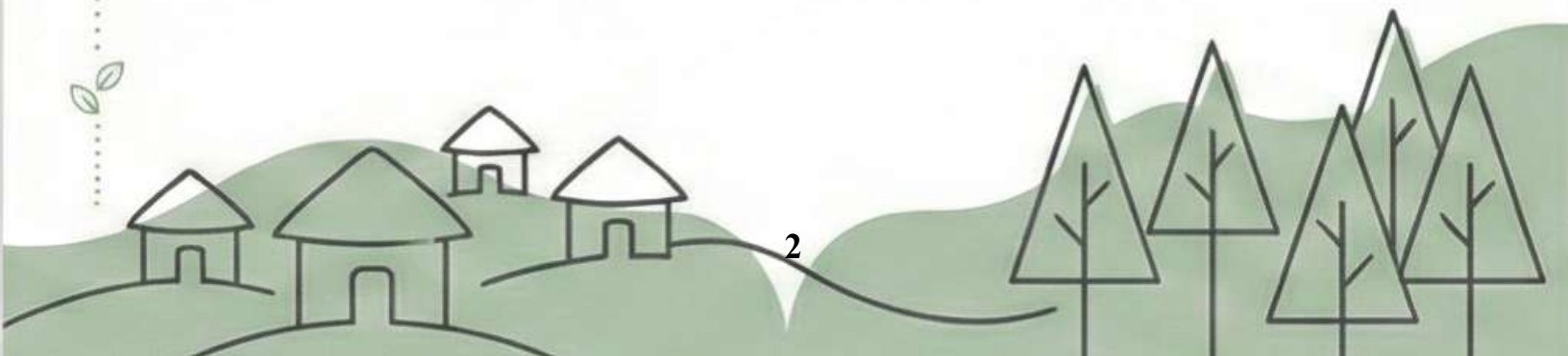
At the same time, the midline findings remind us that the livelihood component requires more work. Although households expressed interest in activities such as poultry, goat rearing, petty shops and small-scale cultivation, many of these plans could only be partially implemented or did not yield substantial income gains. This calls for more robust livelihood planning and deeper convergence with technical and financial support systems.

Despite these challenges, the programme has sparked meaningful shifts - greater confidence among ultra-poor women, their increased participation in Gram Sabhas and more responsive Panchayats. These subtle but significant changes in agency and voice are the bedrock of long-term transformation.

As we move into the next phase, this report will guide us in sharpening our strategy and strengthening the livelihood segment. I extend my sincere appreciation to all community members, Panchayat representatives, Samudaay Saathis and project teams, including Kaushik from Trickle Up, whose commitment has shaped this journey.

Also thankful to our research team for coming up with this insightful midline assessment report.

Saurav Dutta,
Team Coordinator



Executive Summary

The Ultra-Poor Responsive Panchayat Project (UPRP) is the first of its kind programme in which PRADAN is deeply involved. Implemented in the Jaridih block of Bokaro, it seeks to support extremely poor households. Learnings from the UPRP will help PRADAN strengthen its engagement with ultra-poor households across all its operational areas, where a section of people remain excluded from mainstream development interventions because of extreme economic poverty coupled with social exclusion.

The initiative was designed for three years and has completed 2.5 years till now. The Midline evaluation was planned a year ago. However, the findings and insights from the project can still be incorporated in further work with Gram Panchayats and ultra-poor households across India.

The objective of the Midline study was to assess the efficacy of the interventions and understand the potential factors behind their success or failure. The study also aimed to find out the changes experienced by stakeholders due to these interventions and give recommendations for improvement.

A qualitative approach methodology was used, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Personal Interviews (PI) were conducted as part of that. Findings indicate that the selection criteria and processes for identifying project participants (the ultra-poor households) were well defined during the project's conceptualisation phase, and most of them followed consistently across all Gram Panchayats. Participatory methods such as social mapping and wealth ranking ensured transparency, acceptance and trust in the selection process. All stakeholders demonstrated thorough understanding and knowledge of the criteria and process.

After identification, the Samudaay Saathis (community partners) worked closely with each household, verifying essential documentation like Aadhaar cards and ration cards and also assisted in obtaining any missing documents. The Saathis also collaborated with households and the Panchayat to link eligible individuals and families to various government schemes.

Improving documentation and linkage to government schemes have been key successful interventions of the project and have had a great impact on the lives of the ultra-poor households. The Samudaay Sathis' commitment to engage with each household was commendable as it helped members of these households to obtain or correct their documents besides facilitating access to entitlements due to them. The Gram Panchayats and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Jaridih Block are now better aware about ultra-poor households in their villages, their location and living conditions. Both institutions have demonstrated more initiative in extending support to these households through various government programmes.

However, the process of livelihood planning was not clearly discussed in the FGDs or PIs. In two Panchayats specifically - Tandbalidih and Chilgadda - it was reported that households with a specific score (category 8) were given hens for rearing regardless of their choice. This raises questions about the selection of livelihood activities— should it depend on poverty score, household skills, aspirations or available resources. The impact of livelihood interventions has thus been limited. Apart from households growing vegetables for their own consumption, or a few families earning ₹1,000 - ₹5,000 through livestock rearing, no significant improvement was reported.

In some FGDs, discussions were dominated by Samudaay Saathis, limiting participation from other members. Training in group facilitation, active listening and participatory communication would make such discussions more inclusive and democratic. Some community members also questioned the rationale behind focusing on some specific households. Therefore, transparent communication and community sensitisation are important for collective ownership of the programme.

Livelihood interventions also require a coherent framework based on local resource assessment, market linkages and skill-building. Increasing the number of Samudaay Saathis could strengthen household-level follow-up, particularly for livelihood planning and progress monitoring.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the efforts of everybody who contributed in different capacity right from conceptualisation to finalisation of the report.

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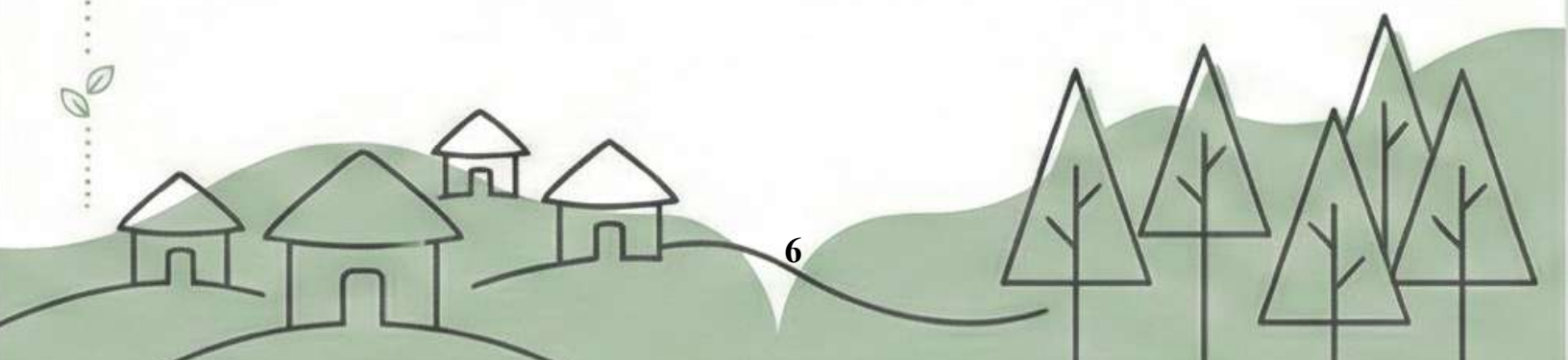
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We are immensely thankful to the elected representatives, frontline functionaries and all the SHG representatives of the four Gram Panchayats (Belidih, Bhaski, Chilgadda and Tandbalidih) for their support in completing this process in a seamless manner. We also express gratitude to each and every person who directly or indirectly supported in the preparation of this report.

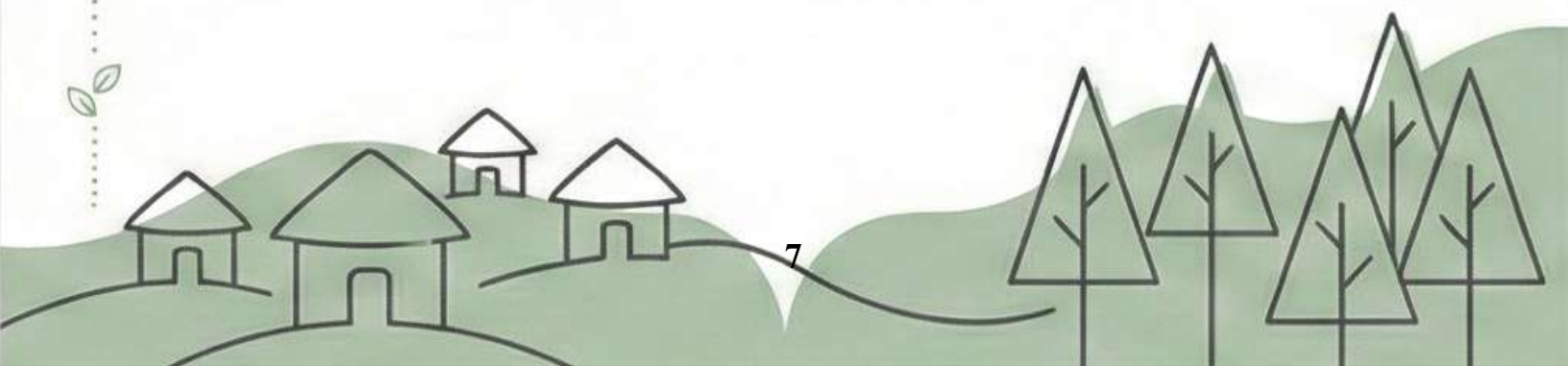
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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
BYP	Backyard Poultry
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSC	Community Service Centre
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GP	Gram Panchayat
GPCC	Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee
GPHD	Gram Panchayat Help Desk
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
PAN	Permanent Account Number
PAT	Poverty Assessment Tool
PI	Personal Interview
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PVTG	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
SHG	Self Help Group
ST	Scheduled Tribes
UPGA	Ultra Poor Graduation Approach
VO	Village Organisation
VOCC	Village Organisation Coordination Committee
VPRP	Village Poverty Reduction Plan



Chapter 1: Introduction

The learnings from the UPRP project may help PRADAN strengthen its engagement with ultra-poor households across all its operational areas.

The Ultra-Poor Responsive Panchayat project is run by PRADAN in collaboration with Trickle Up. The project aims to establish sustainable frameworks to help extremely vulnerable households come out of the poverty cycle. This is being done by leveraging PRADAN's expertise in creating sustainable and dignified rural livelihood solutions for the ultra-poor population and Trickle Up's extensive experience in the ultra-poor graduation methodology.

The project's target is to assist 15% of the most vulnerable population who have remained outside the ambit of development schemes in Jaridih block of Bokaro district in Jharkhand. The main objective of this initiative is to "graduate 400 Ultra-Poor households by creating a local ecosystem of PRI-CBO-local administration collaboration." The project is being implemented in four Gram Panchayats of the block.

In the FGDs and PIs, the main tools used for this study, people employed different terminologies, such as ultra-poor, poorest of the poor or *Ati Garib*, to refer to the programme participants. To maintain consistency with the name of this programme, we have used the word "Ultra Poor" for the participants.

The Study Objective

The study has been planned and structured as a concurrent evaluation, enabling ongoing

assessment and incorporation of findings during the program's execution.

The study had the following objectives:

- A. To evaluate to what extent the project has achieved:
 - Household changes in assets, income, government scheme linkage, skills and confidence as a result of the interventions made during the programme.
 - Changes in the capacity of institutions as a result of interventions, assessed in terms of their understanding, processes, human resources, budget, monitoring, reviews and outlook.
 - Shift in 'Policy in Practice,' which refers to practical, ground-level changes that promote inclusion of the ultra-poor.
- B. To assess the efficacy of strategy, engagement methodology, processes and tools:
 - Is the current strategy effective or a new one needed?
 - Are the institutions/ organisations, used as agents of change, enhancing their capacity to support social and individual processes?
 - Are social relationships between existing institutions/ organisations and the ultra-poor shifting in the later's favour?

- Are ultra-poor households responding adequately to interventions? Which strategy is performing better or worse?

C. To fine-tune the engagement methodology and strengthen collaboration between PRIs and women's collectives for inclusive grassroots governance:

- Is there any missing element in the current approach that must be incorporated?
- To assess whether the project has created the support system required to address: life-cycle emergency needs, behavioural change, livelihood needs and sustained income for ultra-poor households.
- To evaluate the replication potential of the model across the state and beyond.

Is the 'policy-in-practice' landscape adapting to support the ultra-poor? Measures needed to ensure this.

Within these overall objectives, the specific objectives for this Midline study are:

- To assess the interventions that are working well and those that are not. To explore the possible reasons behind that.
- To examine the nature and extent of changes experienced by different stakeholders as a result of the project intervention to date.

- To gather and assimilate suggestions of various stakeholders for potential improvement.

Methodology

As part of the in-progress evaluation, a baseline study was conducted to assess the context prior to project initiation. The baseline study incorporated both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, a survey of the 400 identified households, focus group discussions and interviews with Village Organisations (VOs), Gram Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and other stakeholders.

The midline survey used qualitative methods.

Sample Size for Midline Study

Focus Group Discussions and Personal Interviews were conducted with members of women collectives, Gram/Tola Sabha and GPCC in Chilgada, Bhaski, Belidih and Tanbalidih Gram Panchayats.

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Personal Interview with GP members	4

Chapter 2: Findings on Ultra-poor Selection Process and Criteria

Participatory methods like social mapping and wealth ranking, followed by scientific validation, ensured transparency, acceptance, and trust in selecting the ultra-poor households.

The ultra-poor selection process in the UPRP was designed to include the participation of deserving households, and a scientific validation was done using a Poverty Assessment Tool (PAT) developed by the project team.

Below is the stepwise selection protocol:

Step 1: Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC) Meeting: To share details of the Ultra-poor selection process among members in a Panchayat-level meeting and finalise the date of Tola Sabha.

Step 2: Informing stakeholders: Ensuring participation of all stakeholders in the GPCC meeting.

Step 3: Trial demonstration of the Tola Sabha: To help the *Samudaay Saathi* understand the Tola Sabha process.

Step 4: Tola Sabha for Selection of Ultra Poor Households: Select very poor households from the Tola Sabha.

Step 4A: Social Mapping: Understand the geographical and social layout of the village through hamlet-level social mapping.

Step 4B: Preparation of *Chirkut* (a piece of small paper where the name of the household is written): To prepare *Chirkuts* (small pieces of paper representing each household) for wealth ranking.

Step 4C: Wealth Ranking: To classify all households through wealth ranking where all the participants in the tola sabha, through discussion and debate, build a consensus on economic status of each households in the hamlet and divide them into four categories of poverty using the *Chirkut* and four baskets representing each category of poverty – well off, not so poor, poor and very poor. They pick up one *Chirkut* and discuss about that household and put it into one of the four baskets after discussion

Step 5: Final survey of ultra-poor families using a Poverty Assessment Tool (PAT): To understand the real situation of ultra-poor households.

Step 6: Submission of the list of selected participants: Panchayat endorsement of the final list of Ultra-poor households.

In all four Gram Panchyats (GPs), the selection process more or less aligned with the above-mentioned protocol, with small variations. Also, as observed in FGDs and PIs, all respondents and participants of the FGDs are aware of the process followed.

The following steps were reported by respondents in the four Panchayats:

- An exposure visit to Odisha and Titlagarh to understand the initiatives being taken for ultra poor.

- The GPCC meeting was held in the Panchayat to orient members about poverty alleviation initiatives and what they can do to assist the poorest households in the Panchayat.
- Tola Sabha meetings were held in each village to identify the most vulnerable households in their Tola through a participatory process. A social map was prepared in the Tola Sabha to mark households and their living conditions, which helped in wealth ranking.
- A door-to-door survey was conducted to verify the exact situation of the poorest category (Category 4) households, based on which a final score was given. Households with a score of more than 6 were selected as project participants.

Tandbalidih Panchayat

In Tandbalidih Panchayat, there was one Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the Tola Sabha and a Personal Interview (PI) with the *Mukhiya* (village head).

Conversation with the *Mukhiya* revealed that she was well aware of the ultra-poor households' situation in her Tola.

Ward members and community workers facilitated the Tola Sabha in which identification of ultra-poor households was done in a participatory manner.

The Panchayat *Mukhiya* shared:

“The ultra-poor households in this Panchayat are mainly in Ward Number 1, including Malhan Tand, Gil Tand and Rohan Tand. We have 16 wards, and the poorest households are mostly in Malhan Tand. The Scheduled Tribe people living in the Malhar Tand Gate area are the poorest.”

- (*Mukhiya of Tandbalidih*)

The *Mukhiya* highlighted the reasons that prevented them from engaging with these households before this programme came in. According to her, the programme participants were from remote areas and lived in dilapidated houses. Since they were not connected to the Gram Sabha, they were not updated about various government schemes. At the same time, Gram Sabhas and Panchayats were also unaware about their situation. Middlemen often charge a commission to prepare identity documents required for rights, entitlements and schemes. As programme participants were unable to pay them, their application never reached the Panchayat. Most of these households were not connected to SHGs either.

Data shows that the Tola Sabha members were clear on the selection criteria for the ultra-poor families and expressed satisfaction with the process. However, some villagers did express their concern about only specific families receiving the benefits of the schemes. This indicates the requirement for more discussion and engagement with non-project participants in the village to clearly amplify project objectives.

Bhaski Panchayat

In Bhaski Panchayat, there were three FGDs, with the Village Organisation (VO) in Bhaski, with Tola Sabha members and a third with the Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC) besides a PI with the Deputy *Mukhiya*. The data in Bhaski shows a high degree of alignment between the prescribed programme protocol and on-ground implementation, with participants demonstrating familiarity with the process.

In the FGD with GPCC, participants shared that the selection process was carried out

through the VOCC and Tola Sabha meetings. Households were categorized into four groups based on assets and income, with the fourth group identified as the ultra-poor households. Both GPCC and VOCC verified the lists to ensure inclusion of genuinely deserving households. To begin with, VO members compiled a preliminary list of potential participant households, which was then presented at the GPCC meeting.

“We worked as a cadre. We would go to the self-help group and identify the Didis (women) who were a little too poor. Sometimes, Panchayat representatives expressed concerns if a thorough list could be generated in this manner. So, we told them if something has been missed, we will get help from the ward members and select the left out ultra-poor households with their inputs”

- Input during the FGD with the VO, Bhaski).

VO members organised Tola Sabhas, which started with a *Manchitra Sabha* (participatory social mapping exercise). In this, participants mapped all households in the hamlet and list their assets (e.g., roofing materials, employment status, housing type).

“We asked villagers about who was rich and poor in their village, and also who was richer than them. We mapped these details during the Manchitra Sabha. In the Manchitra (map), a serial number was given for each household. Against that serial number, we checked houses that had a roof, a job or a mud/concrete house. This is how we mapped the area for the project.

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Bhaski

Wealth ranking followed the social mapping exercise in the Tola Sabha of Bhaski Panchayat. Out of the four categories of households specified, PAT survey was conducted on the fourth category of

participants, those identified as the poorest ones.

“We created four categories for participants during the Tola Sabha. The ones that fell in the lowest category in terms of assets and economic condition were deemed as ‘ultra-poor households. For final selection, a PAT score exceeding 6 was required.”

- Inputs during FGD with VO, Bhaski

“Those people have been selected who have less than five decimal of land or depend on wage earning only—so such people have been selected in this process”

- PI, Deputy Mukhiya, Bhaski

An exposure visit for select Panchayat functionaries and VO members to a model UPGA site was organised.

“During the exposure visit, we saw that the selection of Samudaay Saathi Didis happened in the same way as ours and the Didis surveyed the ultra-poor households just as we did here.”

- PI, Deputy Mukhiya, Bhaski

Approximately five ultra-poor households were identified per hamlet, a total of around 100 in the entire Bhaski Panchayat. The selection process in Bhaski largely followed the protocol. The fact that the villagers were so clear on the criteria reveals transparency in the process. It also indicates their trust in the process that only deserving households have been selected as programme participants.

Chilgadda Panchayat

In Chilgadda Panchayat, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted- with members of the Village Organisation (VO), Tola Sabha and the Gram Panchayat

Coordination Committee, apart from a Personal Interview (PI) with the Mukhiya. Data shows that Chilgadda Panchayat members were aware of the selection process for UPRP and the interventions under this project.

The Mukhiya of the Panchayat was aware of the criteria followed to select ultra poor households and also that they would be encouraged to take up livelihood activities based on that.

“I am aware that the poorest of the poor households were selected according to some points they get in the Tola Sabha and accordingly supported with livelihood schemes like piggery, backyard poultry and goat rearing.”

- Mukhiya, Chilgadda

He shared that he is aware of PRADAN's work and had also gone to Maheshpur as part of an exposure trip to understand the process. He stated that he has tried to ensure the process is followed in his Panchayat too.

During the FGD, Tola Sabha and VO members talked about the processes adopted for ultra-poor selection in detail. Apart from the exposure visit conducted in Odisha and Titlagarh, they highlighted how Panchayat members were given a clear orientation about the UPRP in the GPCC meeting. In the FGDs at the hamlet and the VO level, it was found that most residents of the hamlet participated in the selection process along with ward members and other community workers. There were no major complaints about the selection methodology because households who could not participate in the Tola Sabha had already been documented in the social mapping process and thus, their living conditions had already been assessed.

“This map was created so that no Didi is missed. We numbered the houses on the map, checked for those that were left out, and marked where the Kachcha and Pukka (concrete) houses were. We also marked schools, wells, and Anganwadi centres.”

- Input during FGD, Tola Sabha, Chilgadda

“Approximately 189 households were identified in the selection process. Following this, we conducted the PAT survey, where those scoring six or more points were finalised. The number here boiled down to 114. Currently, we are working with 100 ultra-poor households, as 14 of the ultra-poor Didis live outside the village.”

- Input during FGD, GPCC, Chilgadda

Overall, it is clear that the stakeholders of Chilgadda Panchayat were well informed about the project and its selection process. While they seemed satisfied with the selection criteria, they also expressed that households from other categories, such as B and C, should also be supported through the project.

Belidih Panchayat

In Belidih Panchayat, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with the members of Village Organisation (VO), Tola Sabha and Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee, along with a Personal Interview (PI) with the Mukhiya. Study reveals that the selection process was participatory.

VO, Tola Sabha members and the Mukhiya, all shared that the entire community participated in the identification process of very poor households in the Tola Sabhas. Families were categorised from A to D using chits based on income, assets and living conditions.

One member shared,

“We called a Tola Sabha where everybody discussed income, assets and housing condition of the households in the Tola. Those with the lowest income and weakest household conditions were put in category D.”

A mapping exercise was conducted after this to avoid any exclusion. On the day of the Tola Sabha, apart from the Tola members, ward members were also present for the selection process. which ensured accountability in the process. Further, home visits were conducted to verify the ground situation of households identified under category D.

Findings reveal a transparent and participatory process helped build trust and ownership. “The community agreed because it happened as per their wishes,” – Input during FGD of VO, Bhaski. VO members, during the FGD, also shared that initially, Tola Sabhas faced resistance from some local leaders, which would be addressed in the future through coordination with Panchayats.

While the Mukhiya was not part of the initial selection process directly, she acknowledged that the process was transparent and guided by the criteria shared by the organisation implementing the programme.

The FGD interaction shows that members were aware of the selection process, even though they were not able to describe the steps chronologically.

Conclusion

Across all four Panchayats- Tandbalidih, Bhaski, Chilgadda, and Belidih, broadly the selection of programme participants was participatory, transparent and aligned with the prescribed programme guidelines, even as institutional coordination, procedural clarity and stakeholder involvement varied from Panchayat to Panchayat. Across all sites, however, participatory methods such as social mapping and wealth ranking ensured transparency, acceptance and trust in the selection process.



Chapter 3: Aspiration Mapping and Planning

The process of aspiration mapping and livelihood planning was not clearly articulated in the FGDs or PIs.

The PI and FGD participants hardly talked about aspiration mapping and planning process in meetings with them. Households had found various livelihood options during this phase but many of them had not been implemented by the time the midline study data was collected.

Tandbalidih Panchayat

The community workers spoke to selected households and documented details of living conditions and identity documents like Aadhar and ration card that are needed to link them to government schemes like widow/old age/ disability pension.

Based on the score of the selected ultra-poor households, the community workers suggested livelihood activities like goat-rearing and backyard poultry during the Tola Sabhas. The workers also initiated these activities with the ultra-poor households. But eventually, some households expressed their interest in other activities like pig and duck rearing.

Bhaski Panchayat

During the FGD with the GPCC participants shared that out of the 109 selected ultra-poor households, 97 have selected their livelihood activities, and the remaining 12 are yet to decide. The planning process involved collective discussions among the GPCC and Tola Sabha, where ward members, SHG

leaders and the village head jointly identified livelihood options for the ultra-poor households based on their needs.

During the livelihood planning process, the ultra-poor households selected diverse income-generation activities, including backyard poultry (BYP) rearing, goat rearing, establishing grocery shops, and tailoring training. However, not all the planned activities have started yet.

“The people from ultra-poor households decided their own livelihoods. Some chose goat rearing, others poultry farming, while others set up tailoring or a grocery store”.

– PI with Deputy Mukhiya, Bhaski Panchayat

Chilgadda Panchayat

VO members shared that a training programme for participants was conducted to help build their confidence to take up new livelihood activities.

“The participants with 8 score were given hens, and the rest of the households was given vegetables, plants, seeds, etc.”

– Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Chilgadda

Belidih Panchayat

FGD participants in Belidih mentioned that the villages’ Poverty Reduction Plan and the Gram Panchayat Development Plan

integrated SHG as well as non-SHG households from the ultra-poor category. Housing, toilets, ration cards, job cards, livestock and horticulture were identified as the ultra-poor households' priority needs in Belidih.

Conclusion

Samudaay Saathis, working with each household, examined their identity documents and helped them obtain the ones they lacked. The Samudaay Saathis also

helped to link the eligible individuals and households to different government schemes.

However, for livelihood planning, they could not clearly articulate the process in FGDs or PIs. Furthermore, in Tandbalidih and Chilgadda Panchayat, it was reported in the FGDs and PIs that households with an 8 score were given hens for rearing, irrespective of the participants' choice. This questions the basis of livelihood selection for ultra-poor households.



Chapter 4: Entitlements

Documentation and linkage to government schemes emerged as the project's most impactful interventions, driven by the Samuday Sathis' committed engagement with each ultra-poor household.

Identifying the absent documents, supporting the ultra-poor households and individuals to acquire them and linking them to various welfare schemes of the Government emerged as the most significant intervention in the programme across all Panchayats. The Samuday Saathis worked quite well with individual households to help them obtain the documents and access Government schemes that they were eligible for.

Tandbalidih Panchayat

In Tandbalidih, two *Samuday Saathis* collected data from each ultra-poor household to understand the documentation they needed to access government schemes that they could be eligible for: widow pension, old age pension, disability card, ration card, etc.

"We also helped them amend their documents if required. For example, if they had a white ration card but were eligible for a red/ green card, we helped them apply for a revised card. If a Didi wanted to pursue animal husbandry, we would connect her to the relevant scheme. If she wanted to do farming, we connected her to the Agriculture Department in Peterbar and helped her write an application and procure the seeds that she needed."

- PI with Mukhiya, Tandbalidih

"In Lohabati Tola, social security linkages were provided first. Some households were also linked to housing schemes. Two women are now receiving benefits under Maiya Yojana."

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Tandbalidih

"When a scheme like Maiyya Samman (Mother's Honour) was introduced, two participants were asked to show the relevant documents in the Panchayat to claim the Maiyya Samman award money. Similarly, for the PM housing scheme, they were told to submit documents in the Panchayat, following which geo-tagging of the physical location for the house will be carried out. Whether it is for pension or any other government scheme, volunteers are instructed to give first priority to the people on the ultra-poor list, which is why their papers are processed first."

- PI with Mukhiya, Tandbalidih

Bhaski Panchayat

The Bhaski Gram Panchayat helped the ultra-poor households access essential documents like Aadhaar card, ration card, caste certificate and helped them open a bank account. The Panchayat organised camps to issue missing documents. Following that, eligible households were linked to various

social security schemes, with ultra-poor households given priority.

"We prioritise extremely poor households for housing and for other schemes as well."

– PI with Deputy Mukhiya, Bhaski Panchayat.

In the FGD with GPCC members, participants shared that the Panchayat actively facilitated linkages with multiple government schemes- PM Awas/ Abua Awas Yojana, Old age and widow pension schemes and livestock rearing (goats and pigs) schemes for livelihood. The Panchayat followed up with the participants and coordinated with Government Departments to ensure timely implementation.

"We helped people with housing. We surveyed each and every household, be it Dalit or Adivasi, no one was left out."

- Input during FGD with GPCC, Bhaski

Ultra-poor households in Bhaski benefited from housing as well as many other schemes.

"29 ultra-poor households were enrolled in the Abua Awas Programme, while one was linked to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Besides this, many households were connected to the Maiyya Samman Programme."

- Input during FGD with VO, Bhaski

Despite these efforts, some ultra-poor households did encounter problems in getting the requisite documents or accessing social security schemes for various reasons. In such instances, the *Samudaay Saathis* provided personalized assistance. They engaged with Government officials at multiple administrative levels to resolve issues and secure scheme entitlements for the ultra-poor. In one such case, a woman possessed a

bank account number that no longer corresponded with her account. The *Samudaay Saathi* identified the discrepancy, coordinated with the bank and the Panchayat and rectified the error, making sure that the beneficiary received her pension.

"We had organised a camp at the Panchayat building when this Didi came to submit her application for pension. She had an old bank account, which she thought was still active. So, we submitted the application using that account. Even while submitting the application, I was doubtful if this very old account was still operational. So, I thought of verifying it. There is Common Service Centre (CSC) nearby where we filled out the forms and then submitted them through the Panchayat. I noted down her account number and checked on it at the CSC. We found that the account was now operating under someone else's name. I immediately called up the Panchayat Sevak and asked him to withhold the application. Then, I called the bank and asked about opening a new account for her. The bank informed that it would take a while because the lady did not have a PAN card. We requested them to treat it as an urgent case and open an account fast. As soon as we got the new account number, we submitted the application details again to the Panchayat. Ultimately, she started getting her pension."

However, her husband was still not getting his pension. Being an elderly couple with no children staying with them, they really needed this pension. Considerable effort went into getting the husband's pension as well. We submitted the application at least five times, but the pension was not disbursed. Whenever we applied, officials claimed that the pension was being disbursed, but upon checking the account, no money was credited in the account. Finally, we asked Gayatri Didi at our NSK (Nari Sahayata Kendra) in the block to conduct an inquiry. The bank

then confirmed that no amount was credited to this account. Thereafter, the husband's pension also started arriving. It feels very rewarding that we could do something for a helpless family; this is a significant achievement for us."

- Input during FGD at Tola Sabha, Bhaski.

In a similar case, a deceased individual had two wives. Upon his death, the elder wife received the pension while the younger one did not. The *Samuday Saathi* advocated with the Panchayat on her behalf, successfully enabling her access to the pension.

"This Didi is a widow and has two young children. She was the younger wife of a person who had married twice. After her husband's death, the elder wife was receiving her pension, but she was not. Both their applications had been submitted together. We had assumed that if one was approved, the other would follow. But we only got to know later that pensions for both could not be processed under a single ID. We then submitted a separate application for her which remained pending until we raised the matter through a Panchayat member. For the past six months now, she has been receiving her pension."

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Bhaski.

Chilgadda Panchayat

In Chilgadda Panchayat, GPCC and Panchayat representatives played a major role in connecting ultra-poor households to Government welfare schemes such as housing (*Abua Awas Yojana*), goat and poultry rearing support (*Bakra Vikas Yojana* and *Maiyya Samman Yojana*), pension approvals, toilet construction and opening of bank accounts for households that didn't

have one. They also established *Pragya Kendra* (Service centres) at the Panchayat level to support online applications, coordinated with *Anganwadi Sevika Didi* for the children of ultra-poor households and worked with *Jal Saiya* (Water volunteers) to repair tubewells.

Tola Sabha members shared that in a recent camp they organised, the Panchayat told them to prioritise the concerns of ultra-poor households about documentation and welfare schemes. The goal is to ensure that all 114 ultra-poor households under this project have complete documentation.

"The Panchayat agreed to provide information about various departments and told us to (the VO/SHG members) prepare the documents and bring these households out of poverty. They said that they can't do much as they don't go to the field everyday, but trusted us to do it, even as they will provide the requisite information."

- Input during FGD with VO, Chilgadda).

The Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) is typically created at the SHG level, but for non-SHG members, the VPRP is also made at the VO level. These plans are then submitted to the Panchayat, allowing them to prioritise extremely poor households who are currently outside the SHG.

Specific plans for the ultra-poor and for those not members of the SHG were included in the VPRP and later in the GPDP. Basic plan included households that live in Kachcha houses, don't have a ration card, job card, Ujwala gas connection or toilets. Livelihood schemes such as livestock rearing and horticulture are also included in the plan. Some parts of these plans, like housing schemes, have already been implemented. Two ultra-poor households also received a green ration card.

The Panchayat team is in touch with many government departments, like education and health. Its main role is to ensure smooth coordination between villagers and the departments so that various Government schemes reach the right beneficiaries. According to the Chilgadda Mukhiya, the Panchayat makes sure that ultra-poor households are part of social security schemes such as ration card, pension, Aayushman card, Aadhar card, e-Shram card. Divyang Pramaan Patra and Janam Pramaan Patra. The Panchayat also helps ultra-poor households to maintain proper documents to access these schemes. The Mukhiya informed that they have conducted 10 camps since the project started. Besides acquiring missing documents, the Panchayat also helped many households in getting errors in their documents rectified. The Panchayat helped many households apply for the Maiyya Samman Yojana, birth certificates for children, old-age and disability pensions.

“2-4 Didis got their disability certificate at a camp. One Didi from Barwadi got her certificate, but her pension is yet to be sanctioned.”

- Mukhiya, Chilgadda

The VO members shared that currently, the Panchayat is working to reach insurance schemes like Suraksha and Jeevan Jyoti to the beneficiaries, besides accepting applications for Abua Awas Yojana.

“Nine Didis' houses are either ready or nearing completion. We also registered another woman candidate for PM Awas Yojana and spoke with the Panchayat representative, who confirmed she would be given priority.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Chilgadda

GPHD members shared that they have submitted 37 applications for the Livestock Development Scheme (Pashudhan Vikas Yojana), and two applications for poultry rearing for Jaleshwari and Birsha, two women from the ultra-poor households.

With regards to problems in the village, the Panchayat members shared that they face trouble with water supply and supplying regular take-home rations in their Panchayat. They do visit Anganwadi and schools, but only if there is an issue that needs attention, not regularly.

Balidih Panchayat

Here also households were successfully linked to multiple schemes - Abua/PM Awas, pension, insurance, goat and poultry schemes.

“We helped with caste certificates, housing and animal husbandry schemes.”

- FGD with VO, Balidih

The Mukhiya of Balidih said that the Panchayat and SHG sometimes work together to prepare documents such as ration cards, Aadhaar and pension applications for the people but admitted that this collaboration is not very structured.

“Some people get it done through the SHG, some through the Panchayat.”

- PI with Mukhiya, Balidih

Strong coordination between the VO and the Panchayat improved scheme coverage in the village. However, some households are still waiting for their application to be sanctioned.

Conclusion

Till now, helping the ultra-poor households obtain documents and linking them to government schemes that they qualify for were the key successful interventions of UPRP across all Panchayats. This also

created the highest impact on the lives of the ultra-poor household members. Overall, the Samudaay Saathis put in a commendable effort to engage with each household to get them the documents, correct any mistakes in it and eventually link them with government schemes.



Chapter 5: Livelihood

Livelihood activities were often assigned based on poverty scores rather than household skills or aspirations, resulting in limited impact.

Livelihood was the only component of the UPRP project where significant gaps were observed during the midline assessment. More work needs to be done to identify suitable livelihood options in consonance with the project beneficiaries so that the interventions made yield viable results for the ultra-poor.

Tandbalidih Panchayat

In Tandbalidih, apart from animal husbandry, PRADAN introduced a flour processing mill project by the Dharampal Satyapal Group, an FMCG company. About 20-25 *Ati Garib Parivar Didis* are employed here to make pulses, *sattu* (roasted Bengal Gram flour), and *besan* (Bengal Gram flour). The processing unit was set up in a vacant, dilapidated government building that served as a community hall. Before the flour mill was set up, most of the ST *Didis* who lived nearby would go to far-off areas for work, leaving young children behind. The small scale set up has many units that make *sattu*, *besan* spices, roasted gram, and laundry detergent powder.

Apart from this, the Tandbalidih Panchayat facilitated seed distribution through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, supported 35 beneficiaries under Pashudhan Yojana and helped resolve documentation issues by coordinating with the block office. Seeds and saplings were distributed through the “*Didi Baari*” (kitchen gardening) initiative with KVK’s support. Farming/kitchen gardening

is being seen as the most successful intervention in the village. Earlier, only maize was grown in the Kharif season, and a small quantity of potato/radish was grown in the Rabi season, but now vegetables like bitter gourd, bottle gourd, ridge gourd and okra are grown round the year, even during summers, when the water supply is limited. The yield from kitchen gardening, the vegetables, are mostly consumed at home, and the excess is sold for an income.

Livestock rearing- mainly goats and backyard poultry- was introduced as livelihood support for some ultra poor families in Tandbalidih. Goat rearing is profitable if a person rears at least 4-5 goats at a time. Poultry also yields good money as chickens mature within a month and can be sold. Nine households engaged in goat rearing while 25-30 households engaged in farming.

During FGD with the Tola Sabha at Lohabati Tola, participants reported that people’s interest in goat and poultry rearing had reduced after some livestock died. Some ultra poor households even started pig and duck rearing on their own without any financial support. They only wanted guidance on care and upkeep of the animals, reported members in the Tola Sabha.

Bhaski Panchayat

Of the 100 ultra-poor households in the Panchayat, 26 households were provided

BYP units for rearing, 10 got goats, while seven received cows under the Pashu Dhan Yojana through Gram Panchayat's support.

In the FGD with GPCC members, participants shared that their primary focus is to encourage small livestock rearing, which is goat and pig.

“Some received goats while others got pigs. We are in the process of giving pigs to 10-12 people, and gave goats to 17-18 people for their livelihood.”

- FGD with GPCC, Bhaski

30 households received training on crop cultivation and were also given seeds.

“We have worked on agriculture with 30 ultra-poor Didis since last year. They received support for cultivating tomato, cabbage, cucumber, and ginger.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Bhaski.

Unlike livestock, agriculture for livelihood, however, yielded little success. The tomato and cabbage crop did not fare well. Also, due to the very small landholdings that the ultra-poor households have, the produce was not enough to be sold in the market.

“If we harvest 10–12 tomatoes per day, there is no point in walking 8 km to the market just to sell that for a meagre Rs 2–3. During the cabbage season, our fruit size was very small, not worth plucking. Such challenges abound in kitchen gardening.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Bhaski.

On a positive note, however, the ultra-poor households began consuming the vegetables they produced.

“The ultra-poor Didis have very little land. Consequently, they can only produce enough

for household consumption, not for the market. But sometimes, they are able to sell 4-5 kg and sometimes even 20 kg in the market.”

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Bhaski.

Such gaps in the livelihood aspect of the project reveal the need for greater effort and planning.

“We should have linked all ultra-poor Didis to livelihood opportunities of their choice and then work on how to effectively support their progress.”

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Bhaski

Chilgadda Panchayat

In Chilgadda, livelihood activities mostly included goat and poultry rearing and vegetable cultivation. The GPCC played an important role in planning the livelihood activities of the ultra-poor households and linking them with PRADAN-facilitated and government-sponsored schemes.

Households that had the highest scores (10, 9, 6, or 7), indicating a very serious situation, were connected to poultry farming. In this Panchayat, 24 ultra-poor families were given seven Sonali (cross-bred variety) chickens and three Desi chickens initially. The total input cost, ₹5,400 per person, helped them to kickstart with a good income.

For goat rearing, GPCC coordinated the distribution of goats to the ultra-poor households through the *Bakra Vikas Yojana* and ensured that sheds were built and vaccination support was provided.

“Small sheds were constructed with bamboo. The APS (Animal-Para Vet) Didi provided training to people in goat rearing and

administers vaccination in the Tolas as per demand from the ultra-poor households. The logistics of vaccination are handled by the GPCC.”

- Input from FGD with GPCC, Chilgadda

Households with a small piece of land (5-10 decimal), were encouraged to take up vegetable cultivation with technical inputs from PRADAN. Besides training, they were given free seeds and organic fertiliser to initiate the process.

“Farming was most successful in instances where people received seeds last year. They managed to have a very good outcome there.”

- Input from FGD with GPCC, Chilgadda

Other livelihood options initiated in Chilgadda were tailoring, vegetable vending, piggery and grocery shop. For financial inclusion and training, the GPCC facilitated financial literacy sessions and linkage with SHGs and VOs for saving and credit access.

“Some members of the ultra-poor households did not even have bank accounts. We helped them open accounts. Such support contributed to their financial empowerment and independence.”

- Input during FGD with GPCC, Chilgadda

During this FGD, participants also gave feedback that they need to expand the scope of support so that all identified ultra-poor households (not just some) receive benefits. They also stressed upon the need to plan seasonal activities in advance and coordinate with line departments as early as possible to prevent any input delays (like seeds, goat or poultry distribution).

“Whatever work we did for income generation of ultra poor households, be it vegetable cultivation or any other thing, we

got a little late. The effort going forward should be to adjust the timings a little so that they get seeds and fertilisers on time for them to avail maximum profit.”

- Input during FGD with Chilgaada GPCC

Belidih Panchayat

Livelihood activities in Balidih were implemented through convergence between the VO and the GPCC. Poultry rearing, goat rearing, kitchen gardening and crop-based support were the primary livelihood activities undertaken in Balidih. Around 20-25 households were supported with inputs worth Rs. 5,400 for poultry, while others received seeds and organic fertilisers.

The Samudaay Saathis pointed out that poultry and goat rearing have helped some women earn small but steady income ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 and consume home-grown vegetables from their kitchen gardens.

“Green vegetables had not been a part of diet for many since long. But after training in farming, they now grow them at home.”

- Samudaay Saathi during FGD at Belidih

“Those who had space were given poultry, while those with land were given seeds. This way, everyone got something that was suitable for them.”

- Input during FGD with GPCC, Belidih)

Training on poultry care and vaccination, organised with the Animal Husbandry Department's support, has been yielding results too.

“Earlier, chicken would often die of disease and cold. Now people know how to keep them safe.”

- Input during FGD with GPCC, Belidih

“Only easy-to-pursue livelihood options that did not require high skill training were selected so that participants could manage them easily, which helped them earn better and also eat what they grow. The ultra-poor households now have food security and thus enhanced self-confidence.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Belidih

Besides livelihood measures, VO members also linked households to “Phulo Jhano Ashirwad Yojana” the Jharkhand Government scheme to dissuade women from selling locally brewed alcohol for an income and encourage them to take up alternative livelihoods.

The Mukhiya of Belidih, during PI, said that although departments such as Agriculture and Animal Husbandry distribute inputs like seeds and fertilisers, coordination between them and the GP is minimal.

Conclusion

The livelihood strategy under the project was ambiguous. From the FGDs and PIs, it appeared that the project team helped households to come up with their livelihood plan. Those planning must have been done considering the skill, resources and other related attributes of households. However, the productive assets that were given from the project did not always follow the livelihood plans. In at least two Panchayats, FGD participants reported that households with the highest poverty scores were given BYP or goats, which does not seem to hold any logic.

as it did not consider the skills or aspirations of the household. In a few cases, people also expressed frustration in the Tola FGD about their hens and goats dying. Apart from a few households that are producing vegetables for their own consumption, there has been no other significant impact of livelihood intervention in this project.

Chapter 6: Change in Ultra-poor Households and Different Institutions

There is an increased awareness and proactive support from the Gram Panchayat and SHGs toward ultra-poor households.

Thanks to UPRP, a few things have changed for good in all Panchayats in the Jaridih block. The Panchayat members are now more conscious about the existence of ultra-poor households and are prioritising them to avail the benefits of Government schemes. The members have started visiting the remote villages where the ultra-poor stay, something that was not common earlier. More Tola Sabha meetings are happening as villagers from remote villages/ hamlets tend to miss the Gram Sabha meetings due to a lack of information, time or transportation facilities. Samudaay Saathis are also reaching out to the ultra-poor households.

Tandbalidih Panchayat

In Tandbalidih Panchayat, SHG/ VO members reached out to the ultra-poor households to make them SHG members. The Panchayat started working in coordination with SHGs to reduce the involvement of middlemen for processing document applications of the ultra-poor households.

The Panchayat Mukhiya took personal responsibility for ultra-poor households, ensured follow-ups and attended Tola Sabha meetings when required to guide discussions and decisions. Ward Members were regularly present at Tola Sabhas, which helped address local issues promptly.

According to the Mukhiya, this also had an impact on reducing school dropouts. Frequent interactions with ultra-poor households created space to talk about issues other than livelihood. The importance of education was discussed, and families are now encouraged enough to send their children to school.

Bhaski Panchayat

In Bhaski Panchayat, FGD participants shared that people from ultra poor households have now begun to participate in Panchayat meetings and are also actively raising their concerns.

“We invite them for Panchayat meetings and encourage them to sit and listen and observe other Didis talking. Gradually, we hope Didis from the ultra-poor families will also begin to voice their opinions.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Bhaski

Thanks to linkage with Government schemes, the economic condition of ultra poor households also improved. Cash transfers and food rations, which were essential for survival but elusive earlier, are now reaching them, thanks to proper documentation. To top that, vegetable cultivation under the project provided them vegetables for household consumption.

“Social security schemes, something previously not available to all PVTG Didis, has had the biggest advantage in bringing them out of misery. The support they have received is highly beneficial as it has offered immediate financial assistance. Along with this, livelihood opportunities, particularly agriculture, helped a lot. Besides growing vegetables for their own consumption, they were also able to sell some and generate immediate income. However modest, it was prompt.”

- Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Bhaski

Chilgadda Panchayat

In Chilgadda Panchayat, FGD participants reported increased confidence among the women in ultra-poor households. They now attend Panchayat meetings and also speak up for their needs.

“Earlier, they wouldn’t talk to anyone. But now, they have learned to talk about pension, housing or anything at all in front of everybody.”

- Input during FGD with GPCC, Chilgadda

SHG issues and agenda, and even Bal Sabha agenda, are now included in the Gram Sabha’s agenda.

Since most of the VO and Tola sabha members belonged to the ST community, they initially hesitated about talking in the Gram Sabha. Now they comfortable talking about themselves, their issues, demands and status of various projects and amenities.

The Gram Sabha's participation has improved since the project started. As their confidence went up, women from ultra poor households in Chilgadda are now showing

their keenness in attending Gram Sabha meetings.

“When we went to the Panchayat, we didn’t feel comfortable there. It felt that if we spoke, our concerns would not be addressed. That’s why we were afraid to talk to the Mukhiya or the Panchayat Secretary.”

- Input during –FGD with Tola Sabha, Chilgadda

“Earlier, the Pradhan did not even let us sit in the Panchayat meeting. We would sit on a chair, and he would tell us to get up. He would even throw the chair away. Even when we protested, we would not get a chair. We were not valued at all. That has changed now. They respect us more,”

- Input during FGD with VO, Chilgadda

Earlier, women’s concerns in the panchayat were not taken seriously.

“They are listening now. There was an instance when we wanted to submit a document, and they asked us to wait. We asked, “Why should we wait? You are letting others submit; we can submit too.”

- Input during FGD with VO, Chilgadda

“Now, people don’t refer to us as somebody’s wife. They will say Tara Didi’s husband or Sangeeta Didi’s husband. We are known by our own names now.”

- Input during (FGD with VO, Chilgadda

Belidih Panchayat

In Belidih too, the most visible changes observed were women’s empowerment and access to welfare entitlements. Even though material changes in income and housing are slower, behavioural change among women,

households, and local institutions stood out as an achievement. Women who once hesitated to speak now actively participate and hold positions of respect in meetings.

“Earlier, they would hide when visitors came; now they speak about their problems.”

- *Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Belidih).*

Panchayat leaders who earlier dismissed women now seek their inputs.

“Earlier, their language was berating. Who called you here? Now they are more respectful- Didi, please sit, they say.”

- *Input during FGD with Tola Sabha, Belidih.*

Even husbands’ attitudes have changed - from preventing participation to encouraging. Women now independently travel for training and camps and even illiterate members feel confident handling bank work. As women’s participation goes up, Panchayat leaders routinely consult VO members for local matters.

“I am not literate, but I know what I should say and what I shouldn’t. I went to Chatra and came back alone. My husband didn’t object.”

- *Input during (FGD with VO, Belidih*

The Mukhiya appreciated the Programme’s focus and expressed a commitment to continue supporting it: “Good work has happened. We will continue to help them connect to the right departments in the future as well.”

(PI with Mukhiya of Belidih)

Even the Samudaay Saathis felt that the most significant shift has been in the confidence and self-expression of women participants.

“Earlier, the Didis would hesitate to talk or even step out of their home. Now, they go to the Panchayat, speak in meetings and ask questions about schemes on their own. This new visibility has improved their social standing.”

- *Input from a Samudaay Saathi*

The Samudaay Saathis also mentioned that financial savings are one crucial change seen among the women. Women who once said, “We can’t save,” are now depositing small amounts in their bank accounts instead of keeping cash at home. Regular mentoring visits and financial literacy sessions helped them differentiate between needs and desires, reducing their dependence on high-interest loans. Awareness about education and health has also gone up.

Conclusion

It was observed during the FGDs and PIs that there is an enhanced awareness in the Gram Panchayat and SHG about the ultra-poor households, their location and condition. The increase in confidence and knowledge of women is a critical success factor in all villages. GPs and SHGs have shown enhanced proaction in supporting households through different government schemes.

Chapter 7: Recommendations

Livelihood interventions need a coherent framework grounded in local resources, market linkages, and skills, supported by more Samuday Saathis for stronger household level follow-up.

What worked well and should be continued:

Tola Sabha meetings and participatory approach worked well in all four Panchayats, especially for the selection of ultra-poor households and helping isolated households to participate in meetings and be informed. This should continue as a platform for discussion and decision-making.

Involvement of SHGs and Samuday Saathis has also worked well in reducing bribery and the middleman system. These processes should be continued and strengthened.

Linkage between ultra-poor households and Government programmes and schemes has been reported as one of the major outcomes so far. Additionally, the project team may work towards directly connecting the participants with the GPHD and NSK members.

What need improvement:

Even though ultra-poor households were linked with many Government programmes and even got livelihood support through them, livelihood interventions through the UPRP project do not seem to have yielded as much results as intended. A comprehensive and rigorous strategy and implementation plan need to be in place for this.

In most of the FGDs, only a few voices, mostly of Samuday Saathis were heard. It does not mean that people were not enthusiastic about the project or don't have information on it, but it might mean that a few vocal and overenthusiastic participants are restricting others from talking in the forum. Group process-related and facilitation training may be imparted to Samuday Saathis to help them understand the value of allowing others to speak.

Some villagers are still not clear about the selection criteria and are asking reasons for focusing on specific households. If this is not addressed, it may jeopardise the Programme.

During the FGDs and PIs, nobody mentioned the GP help desk. A help desk would be beneficial in creating awareness about schemes and sustaining the changes made in this project. However, it is unclear if such help desks are established and functioning in Jaridih block.

Additional Suggestions:

Increasing the number of Samuday Saathis for sustained community handholding would be important to intensify livelihood interventions.

During the FGDs in Tandbalidih and Belidih Panchayats, specific suggestions were made to regularise weekly follow-up visits to each

household. This way, the Samudaay Saathis can track their progress, share information about relevant schemes and exchange ideas, plans & experiences for mutual learning and improvement.

In the Chilgadda Panchayat, there was a suggestion to regularise GPCC meetings,

which will make follow-up easy. Some document-related challenges remain, such as incomplete Aadhaar records and missing documents for the elderly. Panchayats should continue with the GPCC-led planning even after PRADAN exists “...even if PRADAN is not present in the future, the Panchayat can take the initiative to advance this.



