

34th Annual Report 2023-24



UNNATI

Organisation for Development Education

This is the 34th Annual Report of **UNNATI**.

It is strived to make all development interventions with a clear focus on people's participation, more precisely following the principles of participatory approach, empowerment of collectives, capacity building of community level human resources (Citizen Leaders, Jal Sahelis, Kheti Sathans, Swasthy Sakhis) and interfacing with decentralised local governing institutions (Gram Panchayats). Along with the field level practice, the organisation has a distinctive capability of articulation of emerging issues and developing rights based and participatory tools and methods for wider use and impact. These twin approaches make UNNATI a strategic development organisation.

We thank all our stakeholders and partners for their continued support and trust on us.

Our vision and mission guide us in executing our project objectives and activities. Some changes have been made in the earlier vision and mission statements to bring readability and clarity.

VISION

Citizen uphold the principles of democracy, social inclusion, equality before law and sharing of common resources.

MISSION

The vulnerable sections of our society, particularly the dalits, tribals, women and persons with disabilities are empowered to participate in the mainstream governance, development and the decision-making process effectively and decisively.

STRATEGY

- i. The participatory principles guide our strategy. Social inclusion, gender justice, equity, decentralisation, community resilience and climate justice are some of the guiding concepts for our action.
- ii. It is understood that in India the public programs (government schemes, projects and missions) are fairly well endowed, targeted and have potential to bring changes. These public programs can be made further effective and ensure the reach to the last mile, when people's organisations (CBOs) and Gram Panchayats are mobilised to leverage the resources of the public programs with local plans, implementation with people's participation, transparency and accountability.
- iii. Along with empowerment of citizen for demanding their entitlements, the service providers, including the government agencies are enabled to deliver in effective, transparent and accountable manner.
- iv. We work in partnership - partnership with Community Based Organisations, Civil Society Organizations, local decentralized governing institutions like Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Nagar Palikas (Municipalities), government organizations, academic institutions and developmental initiatives of Corporate Houses.
- v. The experience and learning gained from the grass-root initiatives are systematically translated into articulation of issues, refinement of participatory methods and tools, training modules and materials to maintain as a learning organisation.



Marudhar mein Jal Swavalamban

(Promotion of Water Security and Combating Desertification)

Project Support: European Union

Marudhar mein Jal Swavlamban (Addressing Water Security and Combating Desertification) project aimed at strengthening community level governance for attaining water security and combating desertification in the low rainfall and ecologically fragile Thar desert districts of western Rajasthan. Thar is the most populated desert in the world; it has centuries old wisdom on rain water harvesting and conservation and large areas of preserved pasturelands that is the basis of flourishing life with livestock based rural economy in the region. This has deteriorated in the last three decades owing to privately owned water resources, intensive mechanised agriculture and poor community based governance. The breakdown of the community governance of the Commons contributed in making the traditional water structures and pasturelands defunct. However, the poor and the Dalit communities, historically facing discrimination and exclusion continue to depend on common water bodies. They do not have access to the alternate water resources. The traditional water resources becoming non-functional impacting the water security and breaking the coping mechanism forcing people towards distress migration and sale of cattle.

Marudhar mein Jal Swavlamban project was visualised as a facilitator to enable local governance institutions to access public sources of funding

for revival of defunct traditional community rain water harvesting bodies based on the demands of communities. The program is led by women collectives known as Jal Saheli Groups who work closely with local governing institutions to strengthen community-based water governance. In this process creating an alternate decentralised governance process led by the women addressing the needs and aspirations of disadvantaged communities. The project started in April 2018 and got completed in March 2024 as one year extension was granted. It was revised in 2021 because of the FCRA Amendment in September 2020. The Small Grant Program that was proposed to involve CSOs in the program was terminated (because of prohibition of sub-granting) without disturbing the capacity building interventions. UNNATI increased the direct intervention from 150 villages in Barmer district to cover 350 villages in five districts – Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jalore and Nagaur including Badmer. Jal Saheli Groups primarily composed of women from marginalised communities of all the 350 villages. They visited the water resource that needed revival to list the requirement for works and submitted proposals to the respective Gram Panchayats who were enabled to act on these priorities. This strengthened the local planning process.

Revival of Traditional Water Resources and Community-Based Governance

During the project period of six years, 402 *nadis* and *talabs* were successfully revived leveraging Rs.68.18 crores from MGNREGA by the Gram Panchayats. The works were based on 795 proposals submitted by Jal Saheli Groups which includes treatment and de-silting of *agor* (catchment), *pal* (bunding) strengthening, strengthening of the water bed, repair of *aad* (inflow), *nesta* (outflow) and water channels etc. The revived *talabs* benefited the poor households and their small ruminants. Four *nadis* (Ponds) and two *beris* (deep well with a narrow opening) have been revived by UNNATI to demonstrate people's participation, quality work execution and accountability. All these *nadis* had lost their functionality as their water holding clay base had been broken because of indiscriminate lifting of soil or excessive de-silting.



Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) by external agency conducted in February 2023 and external evaluation done shortly after reported that the project addressed the vulnerable communities' right to dignified access to water by reviving the poorly managed water bodies. It has helped to reduce household level expenditure on water by creating a functional resources in the vicinity of the village. The evaluation report mentions that the intervention enabled women in developing a platform to exercise their leadership role and participation in local decision-making. The project has not only revived the water bodies but also the culture, rules and norms for their maintenance and management that kept these resources functional for centuries. The new community-based governance on the revived talabs, unlike the traditional system, is inclusive, transparent and accountable.

Local Action by Jal Sahelis

Jal Saheli Groups (JSG) created in 350 project villages have identified the works to be undertaken for revival by visiting the water bodies and submitted proposals to the gram panchayats. They have started participating in gram sabhas and visiting the gram panchayats. Many of them have mobilised people to demand work to revive the water resources under MGNREGA and challenged lifting of water, soil, *murram* (laterite rocky soil) from the water bodies for commercial purposes, illegal mining over the catchments or encroachments. During the project, JSG meetings have been facilitated at least once in two months for orientation, helping with resource mapping, planning, revival and

Action type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1. Community Shramdan to revive the tradition of community participation in maintenance of waterbodies	58		264	469	612
2. Demand for Simagyan (demarcation of boundary)			266	72	55
3. Mapping of the water bodies along with catchment				88	2
4. Challenging illegal mining, lifting of water and soil from the waterbodies	1	9	13	72	20
5. Grievance for inaction on demands			102	16	17
6. MGNREGS oversight actions		62	10	95	93
7. Challenging encroachment on CPR		3	1	14	50
Total - 2464	59	74	656	826	849

decision-making. Cluster level meetings (for a group of 25 villages) have been facilitated every month for peer learning, review of local actions and planning. Local level actions led by JSG started from the second year of the project and they are listed in the table below. JSG has taken 2464 local level actions for the protection, development and maintenance of their water bodies.

Jal Saheli Leaders have supported 5234 households from the SC and ST communities to access rain water harvesting tanks from public program resources. They identified the left-out families, helped them with the application process prior to GPDP and actively advocated for their approval. Rain water harvesting tanks at the household level are a lifeline for poor families. It enables them to use the time saved in collection of water for livelihood generation. When rain water is collected, a family has to spend less money on buying water. At the time of water scarcity, the household can buy water in bulk as there is a water tank at home.

The Jal Saheli Groups are integrated with the Water and Sanitation Committees and the *Charagah Vikas Samitis* (Committee for Protection of Grazing Land) in around one-third of the villages. During the project evaluation, Jodhpur District Collector suggested that this could be facilitated in all villages. It will help to activate these non-functioning committees in the gram panchayats. Project evaluation report says that 'Jal Saheli Groups have become a strong social capital for their respective communities. Jal Sahelis are a group of active and strong women in every village who are empowered to understand and challenge mal-practices and injustices. Their participation and engagement are seen beyond the issue of water. They are supporting people's access to social security, health, nutrition, food related entitlements.' Jal Sahelis work on revival of water bodies and governance was acknowledged and awarded at block level on August 15, 2023 in all blocks.

Workshops in Sodh Yatra Districts

During the year 2021 - 22, Shodh Yatras or participatory research and documentation in the form of a march was conducted. In six such marches, 240 villages are covered in six





districts. 7,929 people participated in the discussions on protection and management of water bodies. The water governance norms and rules were documented from the best managed water bodies in the region. One of the major issues affecting the traditional water bodies was related to protection of catchment. Many of the water bodies and catchments are listed in revenue records as government wastelands. This has practical implications as gram panchayats do not have any control over the catchment of the water bodies and there is risk of diversion of the land use to other purposes. If the catchments are made defunct, the waterbodies will slowly die down.

Communities have been mobilised to take up the issue with the administration at village, block and district levels. There is a general understanding on the importance of catchments for the functionality of water bodies and there is a budding grassroots movement at the community level to register waterbodies, catchments, *Orans* in the Revenue Records as water bodies, not as wasteland. There have been some successful cases. However, this remains a matter for further research and advocacy. The yatra report was compiled and disseminated in the water leader convention and project closure event held in March 2024.

Shodh Yatra follow up meetings have been organised in 6 districts – Nagaur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Pali and Sikar during 2023-24. 651 people participated including Jal Sahelis, PRI representatives, CSOs working in the region and block and district level government functionaries. Findings from the Shodh Yatras were shared leading to a commitment and plan to take them forward. Informal district level networks were created with the local CSOs to take up the responsibility of convenors. It was decided that their meetings would be hosted every two months and guidance and support will continue.

Teacher's Workshops for Promoting School Education on Desert Ecology

The students in the Std.VI – VIII are targeted to develop their knowledge on desert ecology which is unfortunately covered in the schools. Activity based participatory learning on local environment and bio-diversity was introduced in 261 schools during the project duration. The demonstration is based on six modules (i) Tour around the watershed in the desert land scape – *Sarhad Bhraman* (ii) Flora and fauna collection activity for understanding on bio-diversity (iii) Herbarium preparation (iv) snakes and ladders game for understanding on climate change impacts, conservation of bio-diversity and rain water harvesting (v) Web game for understanding the inter-connectedness and importance of bio-diversity (vi) Charts and models of traditional rain water harvesting resources. Average participation in each event is of 90 people including students, teachers, PRI representatives, Jal Saheli representatives and community elders.



Workshops were organised with teachers and relevant government functionaries in the 6 intervention blocks during 2023-24 to share the activity-based learning modules and plan for carrying forward the intervention after the project period. 284 teachers from 123 schools participated apart from the relevant block level functionaries. Teachers who had participated in the demonstrations shared their feedback and how they had adapted the modules. All the different activities were again demonstrated with the participants and the teachers enjoyed playing the games. Finally, there was sharing on how these modules would be adapted in the school for education on environment, bio-diversity and climate change. The school teachers made a commitment to similar activities with the students on Saturdays which is designated as a 'no-bag days'.

Cluster Level Climate Resilient Schools

14 Cluster Level Climate Resilient Schools (popularly known as Prakruti Pathshala) have been set up in the project area each covering a cluster of 25 villages. Most of the Prakruti Pathshalas are located in premises provided by the respective gram panchayats and the



reference materials and models have been made by school children or Jal Saheli Groups. Based on a suggestion provided during ROM, all climate schools were provided books related to climate change, environment protection, water management, management of water bodies etc. in 2024 so that they could also serve as the local library on these themes and encourage reading. The local JSG has the responsibility for running the Prakruti Pathshalas and the library.

Civil Society Collaboration, Learning and Action

A workshop was organised with 42 CSOs in collaboration with Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI) in Jodhpur on September 14-15, 2023. Discussions involved compliances, organisation development, contemporary issues, and how to build a positive image of CSOs by projecting the contributions. There has sharing on 'India's Million missions - Non-Profit Sector Report' brought out by VANI to highlight Contributions of CSOs in Nation Building and Social Stock Exchange (SSE). Two trainings were organised on leveraging public schemes to strategically improve the community infrastructure benefitting the most vulnerable. This requires partnership with the local CBOs and Gram Panchayats. Another workshop was organised on natural farming in collaboration with the Rajasthan chapter of National Coalition for Natural Farming.

A joint program was organised on the issues of desert ecology; Urmul Seemant, FES and Desert Resource Centre and UNNATI organised a dialogue on desert commons in Jaisalmer on February 9 and 10, 2024. This program was called 'Maru Manthan'. The event also launched a series of 'Desert Dialogues' for policy advocacy and initiation of Global Desert Alliance process. The Desert alliance will work on commons for raising the issues and take it to policy makers and the administration for appropriate action. There were 108 participants including community water leaders, PRI members, representatives from CSOs and resource persons.

Water Leaders' Convention for Sharing and Learning



The first water leader's convention was organised November 24-25, 2022 in Jodhpur with the participation of 309 water leaders and practitioners (F-162, M-147). While the majority of the representation came from Rajasthan, there was representation from five other states. The convention served as a platform for sharing and learning about various initiatives in water governance, fostering discussions on concurrent issues and challenges. Notably, the event was graced by the presence of Jal Shakti Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Padmashri Hemtharam Bhambhu, also known as 'Tree man.'

The second water leaders' convention was organised in Jodhpur on March 11-12, 2024. It served as a project conclusion event celebrating the efforts of Jal Sahelis who were key to the strategy of women led CBO and Gram Panchayat engagement for revival and



development of traditional community water bodies using public programs and a strengthened water governance in turn addressing eco-system fragility and concerns like water scarcity, desertification, repeated droughts etc. There were 124 (female – 74 and male – 50) participants, mostly Jal Saheli leaders from all project locations, gram panchayat representatives, few representatives from CSOs

and resource persons including two members of UNNATI Executive Committee (Board). Shri Shouvik Datta, Senior Program Manager, European Union Delegation to India and Bhutan also participated in the event. Learnings from the project as well as issues, challenges and way forward were discussed.

Documentation and Knowledge Products Developed

From the experience of six years of project activity, knowledge products have been developed. Some of the important ones are: i. documentation of 30 better community governed talabs in a form of Coffee Table Book 'Raag Maruj', ii. stories of actions by 30 Jal Sahelis who led the efforts for the revival, protection, management and development of their traditional water bodies in the desert compiled in a book form 'Our Water, Our Management', iii. documentation of Shodh Yatras, primarily, traditional knowledge around rain water harvesting, community governance practices and contemporary issues from Nagaur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Pali and Sikar districts of western Rajasthan have been published as a report, iv. a resource book for teachers on school education on local ecology, bio-diversity and water wisdom is also developed. Short audio-visuals have been compiled on the shodh yatras, school education program on local ecology and bio-diversity and the concept of jal sahelis. These publications are available in the website of UNNATI.



Strengthening Resilience to Droughts and Climate Change and Improving Food Security in Balotra District, Rajasthan

Project Support: Malteser International and German Development Cooperation – BMZ

The five-year project was initiated in October 2020 and this is the report of the fourth year. The project targets 2000 remote and socially marginalized dalit households (approximately 10,000 people) in 50 villages of Patodi and Sindhri blocks of Balotra (earlier Barmer) district. These historically excluded groups own small pieces of land (on an average 5 bighas) and engaged in rain-fed kharif agriculture, primarily for household consumption. Mostly, for various different economic reasons they are only able to cultivate part of their small piece of land. They also keep 5-10 goats. When the male members migrate for labour, women assume the responsibility for farming and goat rearing. The diet diversity among the women, particularly the pregnant and lactating ones, has been found to be very low as per FAO standards. Most of them have single digit hemoglobin and most of the pregnant women had only one ante-natal check-up. This leads to high-risk pregnancies, infant mortality, low birth weight babies and under-nourished children.

The project has three components – (i) Improving income and access to food diversity through improved agriculture and livestock breeding for marginal land holders, (ii) Improving access to public programs for food, health and social security, (iii) Improve practices/ behavior concerning nutrition and hygiene especially among pregnant and lactating mothers. The change makers in the project are women farmers trained to function

as barefoot advisors '*Kheti Sathans*' on climate adapted agriculture and goat breeding. The adolescent girls are also involved in the project action as Nutrition and WASH volunteers, popularly known as '*Kurja*'. A dalit women Farmer Producer Company was registered in September 2023 and being involved in procurement and sale of produce and bringing value-chain related advantages. The activities undertaken during the year are described below:

Horti-pasture with vegetable cultivation

Horti-pasture plots have successfully been promoted by UNNATI since 2008 and have provided assured annual income of at least Rs. 20,000 to families from sale of fruit apart from the fodder for goats irrespective of drought years. Promotion of horticulture on one bigha of land has been continuing in this project and proved as a tested strategy for resilience against droughts and climate impacts. Protection and bio-mass from plants makes the soil fertile. It is helping to protect local trees like *Khejdi*, *Rohida*, *Phog*, *Kair* and varieties of grass in the desert. 200 farmers were supported for developing horticulture plots adding vegetable cultivation for supplementing household food plate and income. Most farmers have added fruit trees to their plots on their own.



Moringa has been introduced to the tree coverage and people's diets. Initial support for fencing the area and supply of fruit bearing plants are provided from the project. Families were also supported to acquire rain water harvesting tanks through accessing government scheme. All plots are visited on a monthly basis for monitoring and guidance as needed. 615 other families have supported to develop small kitchen gardens. Our assessment indicates that the average diet diversity has increased from 3.5 (2018) to 6.7 (2023) which is considered medium as per the FAO standards. Contribution from agriculture and livestock to the household income has increased from 20% (2021) to 35% (2023).

Strengthening goat-based livelihood



Livestock farming is a mainstay of small land holders which reduces the dependence of farmers on agricultural activities. Goat's milk serves as an additional source of high-quality food, especially for children and women.

Additional income can be generated if breeding is successful. 500 farmers have been provided improved Sirohi breed goats and supported for vaccination and de-worming

every quarter in collaboration with the government animal husbandry department. The first-born kid is gifted to continue the cycle. 43 kids have been gifted. Currently, efforts are being made to develop a community-based mechanism to carry forward the goat rearing process.

There were several challenges to promote goat rearing as part of a livelihood project in the area. Experts from The Goat Trust (TGT) were engaged to make a rapid assessment and guide on improving our interventions. Their assessment report reiterated the challenges of high morbidity, mortality, low productivity, high cost of feeding, low nutrition and various other practices that needed to be improved. The rapid assessment by experts was done on June 2023 followed by an orientation of the team on improvement in the operations. As per the recommendation one Small Livestock Barefoot Advisor is trained and skilled in each village and supported to develop as a micro-entrepreneur. She will be supported by a cluster livelihood manager at the block level who will also facilitate linkages with the animal husbandry department as needed. Two youth from the project villages received 15 days training at TGT campus in July 21 – August 5, 2023 as cluster livelihood managers. Fifty Barefoot Livestock Advisors known as Kheti Sathans have received three rounds of intensive residential trainings to improve their skills on livestock management and first aid for which trainings were organised in 21-

25 August 2023, 18-19 December 2023 and 4 -7 March 2024 with knowledge support from TGT.

Promoting Climate Adapted Natural Farming Practices

100 dalit women have been trained as barefoot agricultural and small livestock advisors through a series of trainings. During 26 – 27 June 2023 experts from Natural Farming Rejuvenating Rain Fed Agriculture Coalition were invited to orient the field level agriculture and livestock advisors on some improved practices. They motivated the farmers to take up improved farming practices, demonstrate production of bio-farm inputs and monitor the interventions.



They are supported by the field teams to hold village level demonstrations and through monthly peer learning, review and planning meetings at the block level. With the support of the barefoot advisors, 685 farmers took up some of the 6 improved practices being promoted – (i) soil preparation, (ii) line sowing instead of broadcasting, (iii) seed treatment before sowing, (iv) timely weeding, (v) use of bio-fertilizer 'jeevamrit', (vi) use of bio-insecticide. Average cultivated land has increased from 3 bighas (2021) to 4.5 bighas (2023).

Jay Bhim Mahila Kisan Producer Company Ltd

A dalit women farmers' organisation was registered as Jay Bhim Mahila Kisan Producer Company Limited on September 14, 2023 with the objective of aggregating produce for market interventions, reducing input cost through economies of scale, improving access to public programs, markets and finance. The company runs two agricultural equipment libraries to make equipment available to farmers especially tractor-tillers that were never available to them on time and which caused them to lose the critical sowing period for



their rain-fed kharif crops of millets and pulses thus affecting their produce and incomes. First meeting of the Board of Directors was held in October 2023. The first Annual General Meeting was conducted on December 12, 2023 in Balotra. More than 900 dalit women farmers from Patodi and Sindhri participated. As required by the Companies Act, the Board of Directors, CEO and Auditor were appointed and the major activities and financial status was shared. The participants made their own travel arrangements and, in several cases, the community or the panchayat supported by bearing the cost of vehicle hire. The company has acquired FSSAI and seed certification and pelleted seeds for member farmers this kharif season.

Improving Access to Public Programs for Food, Health and Social Security

Two Information Resource Centers are now being operated by the women farmers' company in Patodi and Sindhri. Nominal charges are taken from customers to meet the operating expenses. 3404 cases of difficulty in access of schemes and 386 grievances were supported for redressal. Details of entitlements supported are in table below.

Scheme	2021	2022	2023	Jan – March 2024
Maternity entitlements (JSY, PMMVY)	95	123	103	25
Social security entitlements	300	513	430	46
Food support (PDS)	60	84	19	3
Farmer support (PMKSY)	37	4	15	8
Other schemes	274	1098	145	22
Total	766	1822	712	104

In May 2023, 200 women and girls were oriented on accessing information from government websites and portals, process of making applications for entitlements and use of online grievance redressal portal and helpline. These women and girls lead the community-based monitoring of public programs using a tool that helps them to provide information, record cases and testimonies of non-access. The monitoring is done bi-annually and then compiled and presented to block level functionaries for action.

The food/ nutrition and social security programs access shows improvement in the midline survey conducted with sample of 200 households in March 2023. Pregnant and lactating women's access at Anganwadi in the Mamta Divas has increased from 51% in 2021 to 84% in 2023. Full entitlement under National Food Security Act (free ration) has increased from 56 % households in 2021 to 88.5% in 2023. Institutional delivery

increased from 73 percent in 2021 to 92 percent in 2023. All of them have received the cash benefit under Janani Surakshya Yojana (incentive for institutional delivery). There is 100% access of Palanhar Yojana (Foster care for vulnerable children including orphan children) and Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (nutrition support to pregnant mothers) about which people initially did not even know earlier.



Improving Nutrition and Hygiene Behavior

100 adolescent girls from 50 villages have been given a series of trainings to function as Nutrition and WASH volunteers locally known as 'Kurja'. They give messages for behavior change towards diet diversity, hand washing, toilet use, safe drinking water and menstrual hygiene. From an insecure and vulnerable group restricted in mobility and opportunities, this group of girls has morphed into confident Change Makers. They are not only negotiating within their families for being allowed to study but also triggering change in their communities. Their families trust them and they are allowed to participate in block level meetings and overnight events. Block level peer learning meetings cum orientation are facilitated on a monthly basis. In this forum they share their experiences regarding local action, challenges and how to overcome.





23 selected *Kurjas* were taken on an exposure visit to the campus and field area of Urmul Trust in Bajju, Bikaner on May 5 – 7, 2023. Apart from the learning on health and nutrition related interventions, they also got exposed to interventions regarding life skills development and livelihood opportunities. On December 27-28, 2023, 16 selected nutrition and WASH volunteers from Patodi and Sindhri were oriented on using street play for behavior change communication. In a participatory

manner, the volunteers discussed experiences and challenges related to gender-based discrimination in opportunities, food consumption, domestic violence, burden of work, menstrual hygiene, use of supplementary nutrition packets from anganwadis and ANC services. They were then facilitated to create stories and plays from the same for use in future communication and campaign.

Health and nutrition services are provided on a designated day once a month called the *Mamta Diwas* at the anganwadis. On these days the *Kurjas* hold demonstrations on WASH and nutrition. They are helping to facilitate meetings of the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) wherein status of services is discussed. There have been 603 demonstrations at anganwadis (145 during the year). Nutrition and WASH volunteers are tracking the ante-natal care services through household visits. They also disseminate information on appropriate care, nutrition and entitlements. They ensure that services are accessible to the women. During the visit, they check the '*Mamta Card*' and provide information to the pregnant woman. A hemoglobin test kit has been provided to them so that they could check where necessary. 616 pregnant women have been supported for three ANCs and regular IFA intake. 600 pregnant and lactating mothers with single-digit hemoglobin were provided supplementary food package and safe drinking water. The *Kurjas* were able to create community level health, nutrition and hygiene education interesting with fun and games.





Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security among Tribal Communities in Poshina (Gujarat)

Project Support: The Hans Foundation

The direct presence of UNNATI in Poshina region goes back to early 1990s when it was supporting the local CSOs and then piloting the capacity development of PRIs and social accountability of public programs. Through this program a large number of women elected representatives developed their leadership and prepared village development micro- plans and promoted people's participation in Gram Sabhas. Under various projects, a local cadre of Citizen Leaders have been developed who facilitate people's access to public entitlements. Many public programs like MGNREGA, food security under National Food Security Act (NFSA), health care services have started improving their outreach and effectiveness. While leveraging the public programs have been the priority, looking at the economic vulnerability of the tribal communities, it was decided to make interventions to improve the agricultural assets – land, water, agricultural practice, agriculture implements and animal health care.

A systematic agriculture-based asset building is perhaps the best method for vulnerability reduction and bring tribal communities of Poshina out of poverty. As it a distressed migration area, the emphasis is on building women's collectives who will lead the program. Improved access to reproductive health services is another objective of the program. The project, **“Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security”** mainly working in three areas. First, develop lift irrigation (LI) for group of farmers in selected locations to improve group-based irrigation facilities; second, improvement in agricultural practices around the principles of natural farming to increase the productivity; and third, engagement with adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women behavior change on improved nutrition and reproductive health care.



Lift Irrigation Scheme (LI) As per the data obtained through a small sample survey, 72% households use open well for irrigation covering a small part of their land. Most of the farmers do not own any well. They use the well irrigation on rental basis. As the wells have low water carrying capacity, the farmers irrigate only small patches of land. There has been no past

experience of having irrigation system based on joint ownership or cooperation. To understand the irrigation practices in Poshina, multiple field visits were conducted to understand the irrigation system, sub-surface water flow and geo-morphology of the area. Finally, in one village (Chattrang) a LI system was created for a command area of land owned by 50 farmers. A well owned by the Gram Panchayat was revived and deepened for the LI. Finally, a solar water lifting system is been installed to help irrigate the land. The pumping system is entirely solar-based submersible pump of 10 Hp covering the command area of 14.56 hectares. Exposure visit of Chhatrang village Farmer's group was organised in Sembaliya village of Poshina block. This visit was organised in collaboration with the NGO “VIKSAT” based at Kheroj. The purpose of this visit was to give an exposure to the LI run by the farmers so that they will able to independently look after the record keeping, collection of user fees, operations and maintenance of the LI. There is plan to set up five LIs. Rajendra Jaishwal of Prakruti Foundation is providing the technical support.



Rejuvenation of community water bodies using public programs

Two water bodies (pond) were identified in two different villages which needed deepening to increase the water carrying capacity. These water bodies were identified in Pipliya (Pond at Dhara devi faliyu) and Kathiya (Pond at Devra Bavsi) village respectively. These water bodies identified have the potential to improve moisture content in adjoining agricultural land. For revival of these water bodies community members seeking daily-wage employment were encouraged to demand work under public scheme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). With the support from local Gram Panchayats 64 members in Pipliya village and 73 members in Kathiya village received work under MGNREGA for eight weeks and two weeks respectively.

Promotion for growth of Horticulture plants and kitchen garden



It was observed that besides rainfed agriculture, the tribal farmers have not been growing horticulture and vegetables around their homestead plots. The selection of horticulture plants and vegetable seeds was done in a participatory manner based on availability, adaptability, acceptability and nutrition content. During this year, a total number of 1443 of farmers were provided with horticulture plants (lemon, guava, amla/Indian gooseberry,

moringa/ drumstick, chikoo, papaya). The farmers were trained on pit digging, use of bio resources available for plants growth and care of the plants post plantation.

Similarly, 2000 farmers were provided with vegetable seeds kit comprising of Bottle gourd, Coriander, Chilli, Spinach, Tomato, Bitter gourd/Karela, Ridge gourd, Okra, Auberjine/Ringan, Cluster beans/Guvarfali, and Cucumber/melon.



Animal health camps

Animal health camps were conducted particularly for small ruminants with an objective to provide primary animal care, promote animal health and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure of the local communities. A total of 26 village level camps were conducted with an outreach of **1287 farmers**. A total number of **14,580** animals (1625- Buffalo(es),

2075- Bull, 1899- Cow and their calf, 8981- Goats) were examined, treated and were given vaccinations against bacterial and viral infections. Through these camps a huge cost to farmers for animal care (cost on transportation to veterinary clinic, fees of doctor, and medicines and vaccination) was saved. At times in the camp primary and secondary care including a minor incisional procedures/minor operative procedure was given under the guidance of experts team from Poshina block veterinary hospital.



Identification and Capacity Development of Kheti Sathans

One woman from each of the 30 villages was identified as 'Kheti Sathan' as a barefoot agricultural resource person. These thirty women are trained to promote package of agricultural practices. These women leaders were trained through a series of trainings. The trainings were on: improved showing practices, effects of use of chemical fertilizer and its effects on food systems, significance of kitchen garden practices. Furthermore, three days exposure-cum-training visit was organised with an objective of providing understanding of agriculture package of practices (PoP), interactions with women's collectives, and role played by local grassroot women leaders in improving farming practices and increasing productivity. This exposure-cum-training was organised at UNNATI's Rajasthan field implementation areas in Balotra, Patodi, and Sindhri block.

Improving access to public programs on Reproductive Health and Nutrition

In Poshina the reproductive healthcare is continued to be tradition bound and unsafe. There is a prevalence of anaemia (moderate to severe) among adolescent girls and women. Early pregnancies, distance to public healthcare facilities and unavailability of healthcare experts often resulting in unsafe home-based pregnancy care. Lack of



knowledge and practice of family planning methods put huge burden on women's physical and emotional health.

While working with these women farmers, it was felt that there is a need to make interventions addressing the issues faced by women, specifically health and nutrition.

Ten **information campaigns** were conducted on primary health care facilities including registration of pregnancies, mandatory four ANC services, institutional delivery and nutrition and counselling support in *Mamta Diwas*. Meetings were conducted in groups with adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers on reproductive health and nutrition. Initially, meetings were conducted to understand the traditional practices and access to modern medical care and issues faced by women to avail and access the healthcare services. Gradually, based on the issues identified, meetings were conducted with women on the topics of anaemia, health system, structure and services available, access to RUTF (ready-to-use-therapeutic food) through local Anganwadi centers (AWC). These meetings were conducted by 'Swasthya Sakhis' – barefoot health and nutrition peer educators.



From each of the 30 villages two women are identified as health and nutrition peer educators called as 'Swasthya Sakhis'. They were first given an orientation the need to work on health and nutrition, interventions designed to address the health and nutrition related issues and their role as peer educators. The major topics covered through capacity- building sessions during the year are: Health and its determinants, Body Mapping, Organs and Functions, Hygiene and Sanitation, Nutrition and Anemia, Maternal and Child Health (ANC, High- risk pregnancy, Breast feeding techniques, Government scheme- PMMVY, Adolescence, Menstrual Hygiene and Management, services in *Mamta Diwas*. A monthly review cum refresher training was organised for continuous learning, data management and reporting and addressing the issues faced while working with communities.



Health camps

The objective of these camps is to provide healthcare services to the women, their young children and adolescent girls in an appropriate and affordable manner with an easy access as the camps are organised within the village. It is also aimed to improve the health seeking behavior of women. Activities at the camps include

education/training, assessment and screening, referral to nearby PHC (Primary Health Centre) and CHC (Community Health Centre at block level). Those attending the camps

are provided information on the camps by local Swasthya Sakhis/peer educators on health and nutrition and mobilized for the camps.

The community members avail free medicines through the camps. Generic medicines are purchased from a local charitable organisation at a minimal cost and given to needy patients under Medical Expert's recommendation at zero cost. Throughout the year, a total 30 camps were organized reaching out to 2387 members. About 100 women in reproductive age-group were referred to higher facilities for various conditions (such as severe anaemia, hypertension, malnutrition, birth defect complications, chronic infection, etc.).

Additional nutritional support to the pregnant and lactating mothers

Protecting women's nutrition is especially important during pregnancy and breastfeeding, when nutrient requirements increase and vulnerability. Generally, women's diets are often poor in quality and lack nutrients; deficiency in essential vitamins and minerals (eg. Folate, iodine, iron, and zinc) are rampant. During pregnancy, women suffering from anaemia are twice as likely to die during or shortly after pregnancy than non-anemic women (studies published in Lancet Global Health). To address the nutritional deficiencies among pregnant and lactating women, apart from the RUTF given under Poshan Sudha Yojna by the government, additional nutrition kits were provided to the beneficiaries. Approximately 300 women were identified from 22 villages of Poshina block whose hemoglobin level was below 9 mg/dl. The initial data was obtained through the *Mamta Card* and once the identification was done, women were encouraged to undergo Hb test at public and private healthcare facilities with the support from UNNATI. The nutrition kit provided consist of items (Jaggery, Fada/Barley wheat, Ghee, Lentil (Moong and Urad), Date) that are rich in protein, iron and other essential nutrients. The selection of items was ensured in a participatory manner including the women beneficiaries and elderly, and Anganwadi workers. Item selected in a kit were locally and culturally acceptable and adaptable. Nutrition kit(s) were given to the beneficiaries on a bi- monthly phase- manner, three times in six months. So far the impact of the intervention has not been assessed.

Development of IEC material

In the implementation area, the adult literacy is very low, particularly among women. First generation literate girls are now emerging who are in the adolescent or early reproductive age- group. The women have very little information about the causes of their socio-economic situation, health and hygiene, relevance of public programs and entitlements. Information and awareness campaigns and group meetings with women are needed to improve the critical understanding of the women which is the first step towards mobilization and organising. IEC materials were developed based on the themes (agriculture package of practices, anaemia, ante-natal check-up, balanced diet, health and hygiene, etc.) The IEC materials are used by the 'Swasthy Sakhis' and 'Kheti Sathans' during their educational interaction with the community members.



Ensuring Full Entitlements to reach the Last Mile - Gujarat (Roji, Roti aur Samajik Suraksha)

Support: Azim Premji Foundation

The initiative aims to achieve improved delivery of public programs ensuring full access to the entitlements around Roji, Roti aur Samajik Suraksha (Employment, Food and Social security) for the vulnerable communities. These public schemes have a direct bearing on reduction of poverty and vulnerability. The project covers all the 59 villages of Poshina block in Sabarkantha District and 21 villages of Bhachau block of Kutch District in Gujarat. Poshina is a fully tribal (Bhil) inhabited area and in Bhachau, the Koli, Dalit, Rabari and Muslim households are covered who are mostly daily wage labourers. To ensure full entitlement a twin strategy of social accountability and enabling the delivery of programs through decentralize governance is followed. Towards making an organized and empowered voice of the most excluded groups, in all the 80 villages, village level Mahila Sangathans are formed. In Poshina, community members are actively engaged in demanding work under MGNREGA through continuous interaction with the block administration.

Functioning of Nagrik Sahayata Kendra: One of the major components of the project is the establishment of Nagrik Sahayata Kendra (NSK) at the block level acting as a window to address grievances and issues related to access to public programs. The NSK collects the grievances, forward to



the village specific Citizen Leaders for discussion in the village/falias meetings and collection of all the documents relevant for the application, support in filling application forms, liaison with government officials till the entitlement is sanctioned and received. There is risk of turning the NSK into a service delivery instrument. The NSK staff is regularly oriented and exposed so that the rights perspective is maintained in the process of accessing the entitlements. During the last one year, 9502 cases have been registered in NSK out of which 6697 cases have been resolved. The program wise details are mentioned in the table.

Cases on Entitlements Identified and Resolved

S.No.	Types of Schemes/ Entitlements	Year 2023 - 24			
		Identified		Resolved	
		HH	Individual	HH	Individual
1.	National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)				
1.1	Widow pension	166	166	76	76
1.2	Old age pension	43	43	2	2
1.3	Disability Pension	3	3	3	3
1.4	Destitute Pension	31	31	9	9
1.5	Palak Maata Pita	7	7	3	3
	SUB TOTAL (A)	250	250	93	93
2.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)				
2.1	Work demanded	2936	2936	860	860
	SUB TOTAL (B)	2936	2936	860	860

S.No.	Types of Schemes/ Entitlements	Year 2023 - 24			
		Identified		Resolved	
		HH	Individual	HH	Individual
3.	Nationa Food Security Act (NFSA)				
3.1	New Ration card issued	43	215	39	195
3.2	Card separation	249	747	193	579
3.3	Names added	285	285	255	255
3.4	Ration card category changed	56	280	17	85
3.5	Facilitating bio metric verification	14	70	12	60
3.6	Duplicate ration card	12	60	8	40
3.7	Freeze ration cards activated	11	55	6	30
3.8	Correction in ration cards	52	52	45	45
	SUB TOTAL [C]	722	1764	575	1289
4	Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY)				
4.1	Cards issued	3602	3602	3576	3576
4.2	Hospitalisation benefits	89	89	89	89
	SUB TOTAL (D)	3691	3691	3665	3665
5	Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile linkage	861	861	790	790
	SUB TOTAL [E]	861	861	790	790
	TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	8460	9502	5983	6697

Public Information

Campaign: Two rounds of information campaign on provisions in the government schemes and how to access are organized in all the 80 villages. During the campaign, the eligible families who are not able access the benefits are identified by the villagers. The issues regarding digital payments, bio-metric authentication, bank account linkages, e-KYC of Ration Card under NSAP,





sanctioning of application, and mobile linkages are discussed. All the cases are registered with the Nagrik Sahayata Kendra to initiate process for redressal. The issues pertaining to each scheme are discussed with the mahila sangathan members for support in the collection of documents and develop a collective understanding on barriers to access the entitlements and develop local capacity for redressal.



This case illustrates how a woman was denied her entitlements due to a lack of information and proper support. Indiraben Parmar, a resident of Demti village in the Poshina block, has been the sole breadwinner for her family of eight children since her husband's death in 2018. She currently supports her family through farming but struggles to meet their basic needs. During a village meeting, Indiraben shared that she had been trying to obtain a ration card for the past eight years. Despite numerous attempt of visiting panchayat and block officials, and even approaching middlemen, she was unable to get enrolled in the scheme. This led her to spend a significant amount of money without success, despite being fully eligible.

Over the last eight years, Indiraben lost her entitled ration of (8 years x 12 months x 9 members x 5Kg) 4,320 kg. After knowing her case, the documents were created to prove her entitlement and submitted a fresh application.. She has now got her Ration Card and is getting of 45 kg. food grains per month.

Jan Sunvai: To develop a critical awareness on the process of accessing entitlements at a larger collective level, in every six-months Jan Sunvai are conducted. In these events, the community members share their difficulties in the collection of the documents to prove entitlements. This year three Jan Sunvais are held in two of the field locations.



Representatives from different panchayats, government officials, CSO representatives are invited to the event for solidarity and follow-up support. In the three Jan Sunvais, 43 testimonies were presented by the community members. People from different villages share their issues and problems to get their entitlements. The eminent jury members comprising of civil society activists, senior government official and elected representatives gave their views on possible ways to redress them.

Capacity building of Citizen Leaders: The Citizen Leaders (CLs) are fulcrum of the program. Their understanding and perspective on ensuring full entitlements reaching the last mile make the program demand driven, hold the government system accountable. Unfortunately, many of the earlier CLs have migrated out and many new CLs have been inducted. During the year, 80 active CLs have been trained and oriented on different aspects of leadership, constitutional values, government structure for grievance redressal mechanisms, use of IT enabled portals for verification, local self-governance, processes,



and guidelines for effective access to entitlements and social inclusion. The participatory trainings were based on the experiences and reflection amongst the citizen leaders.

To further provide practical exposure to the works being carried out by different organizations.

1. The visit to MKSS helped to understand the importance and impact of organized collective voice to demand work under MGNREGA. To demand for work under MGNREGA, an organized collective voice is very important. In Rajasthan, MKSS took concrete steps in making village level organization with active engagement of women members. The participants learnt about importance of songs, slogans, street theatre to bring dynamism in the collective and how to make the communication effective.
2. The MKSS and NREGA Sahayata Kendra focusses on proper documentation of cases for influencing at the policy level. Through the learnings, the NSK in Poshina and Bhachau are documenting the cases for redressal and discussions.
3. In the SEWA Shakti Kendra, Citizen Leaders interacts with government officials along with the family members who are finding difficulties in accessing entitlements. It builds confidence of the family members who lost hope to get their due entitlements. SSK actively engages with Gram Panchayats and make it a responsible stakeholder. Regular household visit by the SSK members promotes community participation and trust.

Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC) Meeting: GPCC is not a mandatory platform where by Gram Panchayats (GP) can coordinate with frontline officials of government department for effective delivery of services. However, in this program, the GPs are regularly briefed the performance of different schemes in the presence of program committee members and wherever possible the frontline officials. During the year, a total of 22 GPCC meetings were organized to discuss on field level issues and garner support of the GP for it redressal of issues. A lot of support has been generated on issuance of documents in support for proofing eligibility for the schemes.



Strengthening School Governance for Quality Education in Gujarat

Supported by Tata Chemicals society for Rural Development (TCSRSD) through American India Foundation Trust

The project covers 27 schools of 24 villages in Bhachau block of Kutch district, Gujarat. A total of 5261 children in the age group of 6-14 years (2320 boys and 2941 girls) in Std. I to VIII have been enrolled in 27 primary schools in the educational year 2023-24 and have been enabled to improve their learning outcomes. In every village an adolescent girls groups have been formed (640 girls in 24 villages). These girls help in enrolment, regular attendance and learning of their siblings. The list of irregular children is collected from school teachers and shared with individual families and also discussed during the meetings with the community at faliya (small settlements) level. From the information gathered, it was observed that there is more than 85% of school attendance even during the high migration period of October to February in all the schools. In the 27 schools covered under the project, there are 36 students (11 girls and 25 boys) with disabilities. (Locomotor disabilities - 8, Mental Illness - 11, Multiple disability - 3, Intellectual disability - 3, Cerebral Palsy - 1, Blind - 3, Low vision - 4, Speech and language disability - 2, Hearing impairment - 1). Schools have all information about the children with disability and they ensure inclusive education. The family members of these students are counselled regularly for



continuity of education and build an inclusive environment at the family level so that the students are empowered to participate without being felt deprived. The details of these students are shared with school teachers as well as with taluka level officials and special attention is made on these students.

The students of all the 27 schools are supported to improve their learning outcomes through four Learning Resource Centres (LRC) and Spoke Schools. In addition to it, four Learning Enhancement Centres (LEP) have been running targeting students in the Std. of VI, VII and VIII. The four LEP centres have been functional at Bhavanipur, Manfara, Kabrau and Jangi. A total of 188 (girls-55 and boys-133) students have received the educational input. A 32 week intervention is made based on detailed day wise session plans on the language and maths. The classes are further bifurcated in to two levels based on student competency and subject complexity. The major topics covered under the maths and language are: Namavali, phonetic drill, storytelling, LEA, guided reading, share reading, chain talking, sentence formation, loud reading, letter writing, synonyms and antonyms. A specially designed workbook on mathematics and Gujarati language is developed to cover class appropriate maths and language. In the baseline assessment it is found that more than 87% of children were under 'Grade D' or scored less than or equal to 10 out of 100. The performance of children has improved after attending the LEP and through attending regular classes in the school. In the end-line there is no 'Grade D' students in Std. III and IV, however there are four students in Std. V. 47% students reached at 'Grade A' level, 25% at 'Grade B' level and 26% at 'Grade C' level. The processes followed in the LEP are: meeting with teachers/CLs for Identification of the villages, baseline

assessment/ selection of student mentors and village volunteers, selection of students in consultation with Individual parents/teachers, regular orientation meeting with village volunteers/student mentors who make weekly assessment of children and plan interventions accordingly.



In the four LRCs, against the target of 120 students, 166 students (boys 85 and girls 81) are covered. The students are mostly drawn from Schedule Caste, minority and Other Backward Classes (Koli and Rabaris). The classes are held for 2 hours a day before and after school time. It covers 32 week of lesson activities covering science and mathematics and environmental science subjects. Baseline assessment was conducted for all the 166 students in consultation with the school teachers interactive learning activities were taken up on the subjects along with use of TLM, multimedia (audio visual video clip). Weekly and monthly lessons plans are drawn for the teachers. The major topics covered under the science subjects are: 1. Speed and time 2. Metal and alloys 3. Flow of electricity 4. Our environment 5. Magnet and its characteristics 6. Force and pressure 7. Food and nutrition etc. Similarly in maths topics covered are: addition, subtraction, multiplication, fraction, measurement, shapes and identification, Introduction to numbers etc. The training of LRC facilitators have been conducted at the organisation level to provide a clear understanding on the concept of LRC and its implementation.

Out of 24 intervention villages in Bhachau block, in 10 villages the migration has affected education of children. The parents work in saltpan, charcoal making, agricultural labour work sites leading to 7-8 months of migration. There is high chance of dropout from school as there is poor household supervision. To ensure the attendance of the children, the list has been shared with the school teachers, SMCs and Panchayats of each village for tracking of families and their migration status. Regular home visits have been conducted to track and motivate the children for regular attendance in school and Anganwadi. In total 186 children (91 Boys and 95 girls) of school and Anganwadi going children were identified whose parents have been migrating. Efforts have been made at the village level to make the students stay back in the village and continue their education. 162 children – 77 Boys and 85 girls stayed back with grandparents and 9 children (7 boys and 2 girls) were put in the government seasonal hostel. The seasonal hostel at Janggi village was regularly monitored particularly the living condition, student safety including medical care, food and nutrition and learning environment. It was done from post Diwali (November) to February. In the month of June, when cyclone Biparjoy hit the area, the hostel was used as a shelter home. The project team supported in the evacuation and looked after the food and shelter facilities. At the end of the project period, all the identified 186 children are enrolled and continuing in the schools and anganwadi centres.

20 'Spoke Schools' have been selected for the current project period in consultation with school teachers. It covered 769 students (boys – 434 and girls - 335). The objective of the spoke school is to introduce interactive and child friendly pedagogy to the government school teachers in the intervening villages through demonstration. Every spoke school is visited once in a week by the LEP facilitators based on the prepared session plan activities for Std. III to V students on the subject of language. For spoke class also, 32 week plan is prepared and followed which majorly focus on the language activities. The activities demonstrated in spoke class are similar to LEP class. Baseline assessment of all 769 students has been conducted on Language with the objective to assess the level of writing

and reading as per their grade. In the base-line the 'Grade D' level students were 60 %. In the end-line, it improved to 40 % in 'Grade A' , 41 % in 'Grade B', 13 % in 'Grade C', and 6% in 'Grade D' level.



Balmelas are organised to bring students out of the class room to express their creativity before other students and parents. It builds their confidence, removes stage fear and strengthens expressive capacity. This year the Bal Melas were organised in two themes – i. Kahani Mela - story making and telling (telling stories from gesture, photographs, puppets, drawings; ii. Anubhav Mela - drama, speech, drama, essay writing on recent disaster – cyclone Biparjoy that hit the area. 19 Baal Melas are organised with activities like drawings, clay craft, song, essay writing, drama etc. It provided a positive environment in the village about importance of education. 2477 students (boys 1149 and girls 1328) participated in these Bal Melas. Eleven events could not be organised because of staff turnover and support from the schools. Besides this, festivals are celebrated at LEP/ LRC and schools. Some of the celebrations are on Gandhi Jayanti, Ambedkar Jayanti, Uttrayan, Ramzan Eid, Holi, Teachers Day, Women's day, Children's Day, etc.

Support was provided to SMC members to effectively participate in the meetings held in the 27 school. In total 54 meetings are tracked and recorded that 507 SMC members participated in the meeting with average attendance of 9.3. It is about 85% of attendance. The SMC members have raised many important issues like dropout, irregularity, hygienic cooking and



feeding of Mid-Day Meal, payment of scholarships, continuation of education of girl students after completion of Std. VIII.

During the reporting period, on regular basis meeting and coordination have been done with the officials of education department at the Taluka level, like TPEO, BRC, CRC coordinator to update the

project interventions. Monthly meetings are held with BRC, CRC and CDPO on the process for improving learning outcomes at primary school and pre-school level. Two meetings are held with District Primary Education Officer (DPEO). During the District level SMC convention TPEO, BRC Coordinator and 36 Cluster Resource coordinators visited and observed the use of TLM and pedagogy being used. The BRC Coordinator at Lakadia School has suggested to visit their school and see the TLM and understand how to display the materials.



It may be noted that in the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) pre-school education is not given much priority. The 36 AWCs surveyed using a checklist, it was observed that most of the AWCs have play materials but do not have enough TLMs, particularly work books for filling colours, drawing, crayons, clay, shapes, sizes, objects, story books covering children. This is the reason all 36 AWCs were provided TLMs. All 36 Anganwadi Centres were provided teaching kit which includes teaching aid for recognition of alphabets, numbers, colours, shapes, sizes, and picture story book, drawing books, crayons, clay craft and puzzles. The Anganwadi workers and helpers are oriented to effectively use these learning aid. These are well appreciated by the Anganwadi workers, supervisors, ICDS officials and parents. It looked into physical growth, fine motor coordination, basic social and emotional learning, language skill, cognitive development, creative and aesthetic appreciation of the child. Two trainings were organised for the aanganwadi workers in coordination with CDPO. The major agendas of the training was to introduce and activity based methods, bal-geets, storytelling and use of different teaching learning materials through demonstration. CDPO and Supervisors were present during both the trainings. In total 899 children (447 boys and 425 girls) are covered through the anganwadis.

In every village the adolescent girls have formed group for their functional education and support the educational improvement in the aanganwadis and primary schools. 24 active girls group are with 640 girls. Four rounds of trainings are organised for them. They are trained to discuss about reproductive health, nutrition, pre-school education, digital security and participation in village level activities like Baal Mela, Community-led Learning Audit in schools, monitoring of Anganwadi functions, particularly pre-school

education. The girls have developed confidence to fearlessly participate in the local development process including promotion of quality education in the primary schools. In the coming year, the members of the 'Kishori Group' will be engaged as 'Bal Sakhis' to support the pre-school education.





Building a Social Capital among the Vulnerable Communities

of the Coastal Villages of Bhachau, Kutch, Gujarat

(Improve access to maternal health, primary education and other public programs)

Project Support: Empowerment Foundation and Dasra

This is the 2nd year of the project interventions. The project covers 10 villages in the coastal area Bhachau taluka in Kutch district. The most vulnerable households (Kolis, Dalits, Rabaris and Muslim community) are covered under the project. Salt-pan workers - *agarias*, mostly Kolis and Dalits and the fisherfolks (mostly Muslims) reside near the coast over generations. The Rabaris are pastoral communities and migrate on grazing routes. The children of these communities are deprived from child care services including pre-school and primary education. The pregnant and lactating women have very little access to ANC services, institutional delivery, and health schemes entitlements. Most of the public programs are not accessible because of geographical distance, poor awareness, lack of supporting documents to demand entitlements.

UNNATI has reached out to 10 villages covering 1600 vulnerable households in 21 *falias* (settlements) of the coastal area. This coastal area is not only physically isolated but also has adverse living and ecological conditions. The focus of the intervention is to build community level women's leadership to improve access to public programs particularly children's access to education and women's access to reproductive health care services.

Four community schools have been running in remote *vands* – isolated settlements from the main village (Jangi kantha vistar, Ambaliyara Kantha Vistar, Tapalwandh and Amrapar) enrolling 134 children of 4 years to 14 years who have never been to school. The nearest schools are about 8 to 10 Km away from the *vands*. The children covered under the community school are the first-generation learners and have never been to formal schools. The 134 children enrolled in the community schools are been provided with hot cooked meal.

During the last two years 674 pregnancies are tracked and enabled ANC services (568 - 84% 1st ANC, 418 - 62% 2nd ANC, 211 - 31% 3rd ANC, and 222 - 32% received 4th ANC). In total 408 deliveries have been tracked out of which 352 (86%) are institutional and 56 (14%) are home deliveries. It is a matter of great concern that there are 24 pregnancies lead to miscarriages during 12 weeks to 20 weeks. The cause of this large number of miscarriages are being studied along with the local PHC doctors.

Empowered village-level women's institutions

In the 10 villages, women from the vulnerable communities have been organised and formed their own informal collectives. At the initial phase of the formation, there were challenges to regularise the monthly meetings for discussion as the staff were not orientated. This challenge has been addressed by capacity development of staff and continuous field level support for rapport building with the community and continuous field level support. There were 72 Meetings held with the women institutions on different aspects of health and education. There are 168 members in the 10 village institutions who conduct regular monthly meeting marking and average participation of 80%.

Mahila sameelan

Due to cyclone Biparjoy in June 2023, the Mahila Sammelan was deferred. Later, two Sammelans were organised at Jangi and Lakhapar in which a total of 437 women from 10 village participated. In both the Sammelans the government officials (PHC doctors, Taluka Anganwadi Supervisors, officials from Livelihood Mission) Sarpanchess, and NGO representatives addressed the women on different issues. The main purpose of Mahila Sammelan is to provide the women a sense of the strength and solidarity to the newly formed collectives which they have never seen earlier. These events built confidence among the women from the vulnerable communities to fearlessly interact with officials in accessing benefits of various services. In the concluding session. Vandhiya GP Sarpanch, Krishnadev Singh Jadeja” told "until now, I used ask men only for any work to be done, but today, after seeing the women who are so empowered and



speaking freely about their issues, I realized that from now, I will work with their participation and I am confident works can be done faster and more efficiently”.

Education of the children of the fishing community living in remote coastal areas

In coastal areas of Bhachau, particularly in Jangi Kantha, Ambaliyara Kantha, and Tapal vandh the children have never gone to school. Despite Right of Children for free and compulsory education Act, 2009, (Popularly called as RTE Act), the children of vulnerable communities in the remote locations are deprived of basic education. The above three



coastal settlements located 8 to 10 Km away from the main village; the children could not be sent to the government schools. Visualising the situation, it was aimed to set up community schools and teach the children basic foundational course on literacy and numeracy up to Std. V level and make the children to appear for exams in the government primary school. In Amrapar village there is high dropout of girl children even at the primary school level. The Amrapar school provided supplementary learning support so that girl children do not drop out because of low learning levels. In addition, the out of school girls are provided education to improve their numeracy and literacy ability.

The structure of 4 community schools are erected using bamboo walls and sloping roof. In this area as part of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) regulation, permanent structures can not be erected. During last cyclone in June 2023 (Biparjoy) these schools have faced damages and TLMs got submerged. During the year the structures are repaired and cemented floors are made. New TLMs are also procured. The community schools have been provided with class appropriate Teaching Learning Methods (TLMs) and Workbooks. Hot cooked meal is also provided for 134 Students (54girls and 80 boys) of different age groups attending the classes. After the basic learning and orientation, the students are divided in 3 age groups: 4- to 6-year-old, 7 and 9 and 10 year and above. Each of these age groups of children have different levels of cognitive knowledge to process leaning complexities.

The community school teachers, Zakir and Dinesh visited the schools of Godpar and Jangi Primary School and met the Principal for the admission of the community school childr. The Principal asked to submit the Aadhar card and birth certificate of those children which was not easy to furnish. Zakir visited the Sarpanch of Vadhiya GP regarding the admission of children to the school and discussed in detail what the Panchayat can do if the children do not have documents. After that the Sarpanch contacted the Community and Block Resource Centres (BRC and BRC) officials and talked about enrolment of the children.

After that, the Sarpanch contacted the District Primary Education Office (DPEO). It was told by the DPEO that if the children do not have documents for admission as per the RTE Act 2009, Panchayat can issue Certificate and Guardianship form (*Wali Patra*) and children can be admitted. After that, Zakir took the letter of the Sarpanch and Guardianship Form of the children to the Principal. For the process of filling the Guardian Form for children's school admission, the parents have to meet face to face and put the signature. But the Vandh area is located 8 to 10 km away from the Vandhiya village and there is no road connectivity. Because of monsoon, the area can not be easily accessed by any vehicle, except by foot. To complete the process of Guardianship Form both Zakir and Dinesh walked the entire length and with much difficulty took the signature of the parents in the *Wali Patra*. Subsequently 19 children got admitted in Std.III in Jangi Primary School and 13 in Godpar Primary School.

21 children from the community schools are admitted in the government primary school in Std. III. It is a historical mile stone as from the community first time children are admitted in the school. However, because of the distance, these students will continue to study at the community schools while they are enrolled in the government school. The community teachers will be providing pedagogical intervention in the schools, primarily for improvement of the teaching methods of the teachers.

All 4 community schools are managed by Matru Mandal. Matru Mandal is a collective of mothers who work like that of School Management Committee (SMC) in government schools. The Matru Mandal serves as a vital bridge between the school and the local community, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and active engagement. During last 1 year, 56 Matru Mandal meetings are organised. One of the key roles of the Matru Mandal is to ensure that every child receives a hot, nutritious meal.

The pedagogy used in the school is carefully designed keeping into the multi grade and multi-level learning.





As mentioned in the table (above) three age groups are formed based on age group and age appropriate teaching is designed. The pedagogy involves use of local teaching-learning methods (TLMs) using pictures, songs, stories, and practical activities. The teachers are supported on weekly basis to plan out the lessons.

The learning outcome at the three levels are broadly as follows:

Grade 1 (Age 3 to 6 Years): In the first grade, children are provided foundational numeracy and literacy skills with games, drawings and clay work to improve motor learning skills. They can write numbers 1 to 20, identify and count numbers up to 30 with the help of objects and manka mala, and write Gujarati alphabets and simple words. Additionally, they exhibit creativity through activities like making clay art, constructing shapes using Jodo Straw, craft paper and identifying Gujarati alphabets and Gujarati words with 2-3 alphabets.

Grade 2 (Age 7 to 9): Children in the second grade, show advancement in their learning journey. They can count from 1 to 100, identify and write numbers up to 50, perform simple additions and subtractions involving 1 and 2-digit numbers, and distinguish between small and large numbers, shapes of objects. Language skills progress as they engage in simple word reading and writing, and they start recognizing kano matra words. Furthermore, they learn to tell time on a watch and actively participate in group activities, developing social and cognitive abilities.

Grade 3 (Age 10 and above): In the third grade, encompassing children aged 10 and above, a more advanced set of academic and practical skills is demonstrated. Students exhibit proficiency in reading and writing numbers up to 100, as well as engaging in simple addition and subtraction involving both 1 and 2-digit numbers. They showcase an understanding of number patterns, with the ability to increase and decrease numbers from 1 to 50, and tackle 3-digit addition and subtraction. Additionally, they are adept at identifying length and height, understanding weight, and using these measurements effectively. Language skills progress to reading and writing simple and simple matras paragraphs, answering questions, and creating coherent sentences. Their creative expression expands through the recitation of poems individually and in groups, as well as crafting different words from simple alphabets. Furthermore, their artistic and physical development is evident as they identify shapes and sizes, draw them accurately, create patterns, and actively participate in outdoor games with their peers. These students showcase a comprehensive skill set that reflects both academic and practical competencies.

2 Two round of teacher training has been organised on pedagogy which includes interactive learning and preparation of lesson plans according to the understanding and grasping level of children. Also, teachers were guided on use of different TLM for developing better understanding and make learning experience more interactive and enriching for children in community school.



The BRC officer expressed support to assist in the admission and examination processes. The BRC officer highlighted the potential for continued education beyond the 5th-grade examination, as the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) recently introduced a Distance Learning Program for students in 8th standard and above.

Delivery of public services around healthcare, primary education and childcare

One of the objectives of the program is to ensure access to maternal health services, including nutrition, Antenatal Care (ANC), and Institutional Delivery, as well as child care services for children aged 0-1 years, through public programs. The implementation strategy involves the active engagement of 12 Swasthya Sakhis. The Swasthya Sakhis identify and mobilize pregnant and lactating mothers in their assigned area in the village for ensuring ANC, PNC and growth monitoring services at Mamta Divas. Each Swasthya Sakhi is responsible for 1 or 2 faliya in their respective villages. Swasthya Sakhis actively facilitate the participation of pregnant and lactating mothers in 216 Mamta Divas events during the year. Mamta Divas is an event where the government health and child care functionaries provide ANC and PNC services for pregnant women and lactating women, counsel the women about nutrition, conduct growth monitoring of children from 0 to 3 years and provide pre-cooked nutrition packets. The Swasthya Sakhis were provided a structured training which covers the issues related to health and nutrition of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as general health concerns experienced by

women in the reproductive age group. The sessions covered reasons such as early marriage, repeated pregnancy, low levels of haemoglobin (HB), anaemia, malnutrition, etc., and their consequences on health and life-cycle. Effective communication strategies on women's reproductive health, addressing health issues, and providing solutions were emphasized. Moreover, the training focused on the effective utilization of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, ensuring that Swasthya Sakhi can leverage these resources to communicate health-related information within their local communities. Swasthya Sakhi also help in organizing and facilitating village-level activities, such as Faliya Baithak, information camps on public programs and awareness campaigns on various public schemes and government services relevant to the community.

In the current reporting period a total of 187 pregnant women, 312 lactating mothers, and 315 children aged 0-1 year have been identified and actively supported to access essential health services. By facilitating participation of pregnant and lactating mothers in 216 Mamta Divas across 22 Anganwadi the Swasthya Sakhi's ensure vaccination and ANC services.



Out of a total of 312 deliveries recorded during this reporting period, 277 were institutional deliveries, and 35 were non-institutional. Notably, most of the non-institutional deliveries were reported among the Koli and Muslim community. Additionally, there were 27 reported cases of miscarriages which is a major concern. It is encouraging to note that, in comparison to previous trends, there has been a decrease in

the percentage of non-institutional deliveries, indicating positive progress. Nevertheless, there remains a need for heightened awareness and improved accessibility to health services, as the rate of miscarriages has not shown a significant decline so far. Addressing these challenges will be crucial for ensuring the overall well-being and reproductive health of the community

During the meeting with Anganwadi Workers and ANM, it was observed that they are not showing Severe Acute Malnutrition - SAM children in the data nor providing any dietary counselling and nutritional support. There is a need to develop our internal capacity to provide referral interventions as most of the mothers are not in a situation to go avail the services nutrition referral centre set up at block level.

Capacity Development of Gram Panchayats

There are six Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the intervention area. Regular meetings are held with the GPs on various development issues, particularly in seeking their support to facilitate in providing basic documents (Certificate for birth, death, income, caste, organising camps for issuance and correction of Aadhar and Ayushman card for health insurance, etc.) Two exposure visits are organised for the members of these six GPs to Kunteria GP in Bhuj Taluka and Lohariya Gram panchayat in Anjar Taluka. In these two visits the GPs were exposed to the process of preparation of GP Development Plan (GPDP), convergence of GP plans with different government schemes, promotion of women participation in the Gram Sabhas, works covered under MGNRGA and promotion of Balika Panchayat. These two exposure visits widen the developmental perspectives of the GP representatives and in the coming year, these GPs will take up more people centred work.



Strengthening Emergency Response in Gujarat through promotion of Inter Agency Group



Project Support: Unicef Gujarat Office

UNNATI is the State level secretariat for promotion of Inter Agency Group (IAG) in Gujarat to enhance coordinated emergency response. In June 2023, the Cyclone Biparjoy was a case in hand to demonstrate the coordinated response. Besides this, workshops on Disaster Preparedness, Post Disaster Rapid Needs Assessment and facilitating the management plan of multi-purpose cyclone shelters (MPCS) by the Gram Panchayats have been some of the activities under IAG.

Coordinated Response during Cyclone Biparjoy

During Cyclone Biparjoy, 20 IAG members collaborated in early warning dissemination, evacuation, shelter management, and relief support across five districts, benefiting 25,000 households. The districts include Porbandar, Kutch, Morbi, Devbhoomi Dwarka, and Gir Somnath. Continuous coordination with the government authorities, CSOs, and religious groups throughout the cyclonic event has led to an effective response towards Cyclone Biparjoy. Three districts, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Kutch, and Morbi, were the most impacted regions during Cyclone Biparjoy. The CSOs such as Anandi in Morbi, Gram Vikas Trust in Devbhoomi Dwarka, Gram Swaraj Sangh, Sahjeevan, Setu Abhiyan, Vivekananda Research and Training Institute (VRTI), Yusuf Meherally Centre (YMC) and UNNATI in Kutch, along with other organisations have contributed towards effective disaster response.

Subsequently two cluster-level consultations were held at Gir Somnath in August 2023 and at Surendranagar in December 2023 to discuss preparedness for cyclones and floods with stakeholders from governmental departments, NGOs, and local communities. Different government stakeholders, along with nine IAG members, participated to foster the relationship between CSOs and government organizations and enhance coordinated response during emergencies.

Nutrition during Disasters and Climate Change Context

After the cyclone, a workshop on nutrition during emergencies and climate change context was organized by the UNICEF Gujarat Field Office in partnership with IAG in Gandhinagar in 2023. Forty-two IAG member organizations were oriented on the issue of nutrition during disasters with an emphasis on public programs to enhance nutrition across different age groups. The Secretary, Women and Child Development Department (WCD) graced the event and provided inputs on the subject.

Training of Suraksha Sathi (local volunteers of disaster response)

In the year 2022, 128 community-based volunteers (Suraksha Sathis) were trained in three modules covering three coastal districts: Gir Somnath, Porbandar, and Anand. These Suraksha Sathis were identified by three different IAG members from their respective program areas - HDRC from Gir Somnath and Porbandar, Shikshan ane Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SSKK) from Gir Somnath, and Pochabhai Foundation from Anand. Out of 128 Suraksha Sathis, 58 were females. During the current year follow-up consultation with these CSOs were held to review the previous learning and share experiences of using the skills and knowledge imparted during the last training in real-life emergency events. It has come to light that 36 Suraksha Sathis have applied their learnt skills in different experiences related to first-aid, rescue and emergency coordination. For instance, in four cases, Suraksha Sathis were able to support in rescue efforts, provide first aid, and save three lives. A round of refresher training was held with the Suraksha Sathis.

IAG Working Group Meeting and Annual Convention

There are 155 institutional members of IAG. For coordinated function a Working Group has been formed in which there are 12 members representing different regions of Gujarat. Two meetings with the working group member were conducted during 2023-24 to formalize engagement with government authorities, plan the activities including capacity-building trainings for members. Towards the end of the year an annual convention was organised bringing the IAG partners in one platform. 75 participants from 55 organisations participated in the convention. The major activities undertaken during the year was shared with the members. There was a resolution to form and strengthen District Level IAG in some selected multi-disaster districts for improved coordinated response. A formal IAG website has been launched with enhanced accessibility to relevant materials. The website enables information sharing on various interventions by the IAG members while it also has the details of the IAG members work in different areas and sectors. <https://www.iaggujarat.org>



Community-Based Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

After a disaster, one of the most crucial tasks is to identify the needs of the affected population for immediate response, which can be a very difficult task. To address this challenge and gather data on the damage and needs of the affected population, a 3-day residential workshop was conducted.

Thirty individuals from 19 organizations were trained on disaster management, multi-sectoral needs assessment and Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) tools and techniques. This training contributed to building a resource pool for future interventions.

Vulnerability Assessment of the Coastal Districts of Gujarat

In the coastal areas there are certain settlements whose vulnerability has not been recorded. A study was conducted with the support of IAG members, including the Yusuf Meherally Centre (YMC), SETU Abhiyan, Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT), Anandi, Sahjeevan, Vivekananda Research and Training Institute (VRTI), and UNNATI. 31 settlements have been studied with regard to access to basic services including their reliability, community level infrastructure, early warning reach and evacuation. The report was shared in district level workshops to Identify actions for short, medium- and long-term interventions

Model building on preparation of RI-GPDPs with focus on WASH, Social Protection and localising SDGs

In the previous year, the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) addressing disaster and climate risks was prepared in eight Gram Panchayats (GPs). Some of the important activities emerged from the RI-GPDP are as follows:

Shelter and safe evacuation spaces:

- Assessment and listing of unsafe houses in the villages that requires retrofitting to withstand the disasters.
- Formation of village-level task forces for rescue, first aid, and immediate relief.





- Identification of safer locations for the evacuation of communities during emergencies.

Water and sanitation:

- Provision of water supply and sanitation at the rescue shelters and at village level.
- Replacement of old pipelines damaged at various points causing frequently contamination during flooding in the area.
- Repairing of overhead tanks.
- Maintain at least one local water sources which can be used when the piped water fail.
- Laying out of sewerage line along with final treatment covering all households.
- Solid waste and greywater disposal and management.
- Road Connectivity:
 - Cleaning of both sides of the road that are covered with invasive plants making the road unsafe.
 - The road leading to the highway entry point of the villages had a history of accidents. To mitigate this risk, the community took proactive measures to make repair work so that there is no invisible barriers.
 - Vands / isolated settlements inhabited by vulnerable communities shall have pucca internal roads.

Basic services:

- All pregnant and lactating women attend Mamta Divas and the ANM and ASHA report in the gram sabha.
- No eligible member shall be left behind in having names registered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), Pension Schemes and Ayushman Bharat Card.
- Primary schools and Anganwadi services are fully functional with full attendance.

Agriculture:

- Promotion of natural farming.
- Promote use of compost as fertiliser.
- Promoting micro-irrigation and drip irrigation to reduce water usage in agriculture.
- Plant horticulture on farmlands as these are drought resistant and return is remunerative.
- Utilizing soil health cards to guide farmers in land selection for agriculture, reducing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
- Develop at least two large ponds which will improve the moisture content and add to bio-diversity.

Animal care and protection:

- Construction of animal sheds to protect the cattle during cyclones and earthquakes.
- Organized veterinary camps twice a year.

These actions can be used as pointers in the preparation of RI-GPDPs.

Management Model for Maintenance of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelter (MPCS)

Gujarat has 76 Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) as part of effective response to cyclone disasters. One MPCS at Naliya Mandvi Gram Panchayat in Gir Somnath district was taken up to develop community management practices. Recognizing the importance of a comprehensive utilization plan for the MPCS, three rounds of meetings were organized with the Cyclone Shelter Maintenance and Management Committee (CSMMC) in Naliya Mandvi Gram Panchayat. These meetings focused on developing strategies for maintenance, management, utilization, and revenue generation of the cyclone shelters, ensuring that they serve their intended purpose efficiently and sustainably. This is a work under progress and in the coming year more work will be initiated.

There are about 150,000 rural sanitation workers employed across Gram Panchayats, schools, hospitals and other institutions in Gujarat. Unlike urban areas, they face pronounced challenges such as caste-based discrimination, low wages and unsafe working conditions. Key sanitation tasks include street cleaning, cleaning of sewerage line and septic tanks. There are now more toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission and there is increased demand for cleaning septic tanks. Without any training and safety equipment the workers face multiple health hazards.

To begin with four districts - Ahmedabad, Anand, Banaskantha, and Sabarkantha more than 700 sanitation workers were identified, mobilised and trained on safe sanitation cleaning practices and their entitlements. Prior to the training a 40 person Master Trainer Team was developed who subsequently conducted the field level mobilisation and training. The sessions include socio-political analysis of discrimination and deprivation, use of safe working gears for personal safety and increased access to public programs and social security schemes. In total 14 trainings were organized across four districts reaching out to 713 workers trained, including 316 women. The initiative highlighted the urgent need to improve the socio-economic conditions and workplace safety of rural sanitation workers through targeted interventions and policy implementation.

Capacity Development of Rural Sanitation Workers on safety, Security and Dignity



Project Support: Unicef Gujarat Office

Realisation of Human Right to Water and Sanitation through Systems Strengthening - Rajasthan



Support: Malteser International and German Development Cooperation – BMZ

The project started in June 2022 endeavoring to enable urban local governance institutions of Jodhpur division in Rajasthan to develop capacity for improved delivery of water and sanitation services reaching the last mile. Most slum settlements lack water facility and sanitation systems and people live in highly dense areas with unhygienic conditions. Community toilets are poorly managed which compels residents in informal settlements to go for open defecation. Despite the Supreme Court Judgement of 2020, the solid waste and sewerage management in informal settlements are poorly implemented. The areas are not linked with common sewerage. Individual safety tanks for the toilets are built which often overflow because of poor maintenance.

The project aims to enable the duty bearers towards improving the safety and social protection of the sanitation workers and the rag pickers who are discriminated and neglected whilst providing sanitation services. Different State level High Courts have given judgement to mechanise the sewerage cleaning so that no worker shall enter the 'manhole' to clean compromising the health and life. It is not implemented with letter and spirit which is a human rights violation. Many of the rag-pickers and

cleaning workers face difficulty in accessing public schemes related to social welfare and protection as they do not have documents to prove their eligibility.

German Toilet Organization (GTO), WASH United and Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) are knowledge partners in piloting the Systems Strengthening and Making Rights Real (MRR) approaches being followed in the project. The MRR approach is about identifying 'would be heroes' within the system (duty bearers) and enable them to overcome challenges.

Informing ULBs on Policy Framework

The legal and regulatory provisions on urban waste management are compiled into a handbook that can be referred by the ULB functionaries. It includes the following:

- i. Solid Waste Management Rules 2016
- ii. Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 and Amendment Rules 2022
- iii. Bio-medical Waste Management Rules 2016
- iv. E-waste Management Rules 2022
- v. Battery Waste Management Rules 2022
- vi. Hazardous waste Management Rules 2016
- vii. Rajasthan Municipalities SWM By-Laws 2019
- viii. Action Plans on Waste Management

Capacity Developing of ULBs for Participatory Situation Assessment and Planning



The ULBs often depend on consultants to develop Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). As part of the project, collaborative actions have been initiated for making DPRs for solid waste and sewerage management plans. ULBs articulated a clear need for capacity development with respect to estimation and planning for WASH infrastructure and facilities. In

an interaction with Department of Local Bodies at the State, UNNATI was asked to help develop a method and process guide on planning. With this aim, UNNATI is demonstrating a virtual tool for participatory mapping of WASH services delivery in one ward of Jodhpur city that has the most informal settlements. A training on participatory mapping of WASH services was organised on June 1-3, 2024. The mapping will be used to develop ward improvement plans and converted to projects for the ULB to take further action. This is also a demonstration of using data and evidences and integrating in the planning process. Collaboration has been developed with a consulting agency, Urban Management Centre (UMC) for this purpose. This entire process will help to develop

internal capacities for planning environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and quality services.

A one-day orientation for key functionaries of ULBs was held on April 12, 2023 focusing on indicators of National Sanitation Survey and SWM. 32 ULBs participated in the orientation. The workshop aimed to understand the processes, indicators, and assessment of the Swachh Survekshan 2023 toolkit and to emphasize the importance of involving the community in waste management efforts. There was discussion on challenges in the field and practical ways to address.

A systems assessment workshop was organised in Jodhpur on February 14-15, 2024. The workshop was in collaboration with the DLB and City Managers Association Rajasthan (CMAR). 45 functionaries from 26 ULBs participated. Before the actual assessment, there were sessions to facilitate understanding on human rights in WASH and the systems strengthening approach.

Training on the process of preparation of Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) was organised on April 22-25, 2024 for 20 participants that included 'Would be Heroes' from five ULBs that had showed interest in the program. The training was done with support from Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). It included a field exercise on the third day wherein participants surveyed SFD in Balotra Municipality in three groups and learnt how to organise the data. Participants engaged in ground level survey, estimation and projection. After training on preparation of SFD, 5 ULBs of Balotra, Siwana, Phalodi, Pokhran and Jaisalmer were supported to conduct the survey for their respective Municipalities.

Strengthening Grievance Redressal and Social Accountability

The WASH services in the informal settlements in Jodhpur Municipal Corporation was put into Report Card to seek the ranking of the services from the point of view of the local people and their feedback. The result of the Report was shared by people with the



authorities. Subsequent to this Jodhpur Municipal Corporation taken efforts for repair of community toilets, other WASH infrastructure and waste collection and street cleaning services. In the Badi Bhil Basti which lacked access to toilets, a mobile toilet was deployed. The families finalised the norms for usage and maintenance.

'Rajasthan Sampark' and 'Swacchata app' are IT enabled platforms for grievance redressal. It has been found that people were not aware about them or conversant with their use. Literacy on this aspect was taken up in a campaign mode during December 2023. Education on the grievance redressal mechanisms is part of all community interactions. 60 community WASH leaders (49 women and 11 men) were taught the effective use of these mechanisms during a training on February 9-10, 2024. Status of redressal is tracked and shared with the Municipal Commissioner along with recommendations to strengthen redressal. Also, pro-active disclosure is being studied for providing recommendations to the UDD.

Promoting the Safety and Inclusion of Sanitation Workers and Rag Pickers

To understand the process and the hindrances to accesses social protection services, 45 sanitation workers were helped to register under National Safai Karmchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). The process for registration for the social protection services is outlined and will be converted to IEC for popularisation. After several discussions with Jodhpur ULB on integrating the ragpickers in the formal sanitation chain, UNNATI was asked to support for their enumeration and listing after which the ULB issued them I-cards and e-shram cards. This is the first step on being recognised; it will prevent harassment and pave the way for getting social protection. To facilitate access to public programs and health services for the sanitation workers and rag pickers, the 'Would-be-Heroes' from the ULBs are holding camps at different habitations.



Four staff of UNNATI participated as Master Trainers in multi-stakeholder workshops on the safety, dignity and social protection of sanitation workers organised jointly by the Government of Rajasthan and UNICEF (July 30 – August 1 and August 23-25, 2023). On November 6, 2023, at the request of Jodhpur ULB, workshop on the same issue was organised for 60 sanitation workers and relevant functionaries. Training of 80 sanitation workers from Jodhpur was organised on March 18 and 28, 2024 covering issues of safety and social protection. The participants shared several work and workplace related challenges specifically for contract workers - undefined hours of work, no leaves etc.

Way Forward

UNNATI is now entering 35 years. When we all met at Jodhpur in February 2020 as part of *Sajhedari*, a clear future directions was articulated. However, soon the both external and internal situations changed dramatically. During last four years we have faced many challenges and tried to deal in a more reactive manner, rather than being strategic. Some of the issues are mentioned here that have been bothering us and simultaneously making us think and act to improve internal drive to remain relevant.

During the last two years, we have been making statements that from a facilitating organization, we are moving towards more of an implementing organisation with lesser and lesser opportunities for bringing innovative tools, methods and process facilitation to make meaningful impact on development interventions. Often we mention about our past facilitation engagements. Some of them are: i. CSO capacity development on mainstreaming participation and accountable governance, ii. facilitation of social audit from 2011 to 15 in partnership with Govt of Gujarat for social audit of MGNREGA across the state covering more than 14,000 gram panchayats, iii. technical support in the preparation of National Disaster Management Plan in 2016 and further revision in 2019, iv. developed many capacity development instrumentalities for strengthening decentralised governance, particularly Gram Panchayats, v. facilitated the preparation of Gender Policy of Govt.

of Gujarat and recent revision in 2023, vi. in post-disaster recovery, demonstrated the participatory safe housing construction with full control of the owners which was later named as 'owner driver reconstruction' (ODR), just to mention a few. It is true that training opportunities have reduced. However, a little reflection make us clear that the field practices provide opportunity to bring innovations in methods, tools and processes. It is now clear that cribbing about UNNATI is increasingly becoming an implementing organisation is grossly misplaced. More time and attention must be given for analysis and articulation of the process and methods that are being followed in the field will certainly create new knowledge products. The project resources and the donor partner may not drive the knowledge building process in the field project, it shall be our internal goal to remain as a cutting edge institution in the development sector.

All our grass root interventions have a strong empowering process whereby the community finally owns and command over project resources and technical inputs. The community level facilitating and technical persons are: Citizen Leaders, Kheti Sathans, Pashu Sakhis, Swasthy Sakhis, Citizen Educators, Jal Sahelis, etc. These technical persons provide services to the community and shall finally must get paid by the community. Finally they are accountable to the village level institutions. Whatever the sector a particular program

is addressing, the program is built around the village institution and improvement of governance of that sector. In the grassroot program implementation, we call ourselves as 'sector agnostic', facilitating improved access to public programs, building people's empowered voice for accountability, etc. It part of a long-term design which needs to further strengthened.

The resource packets have changed from assured long-term large support to short term and projectized grants. Long term funding have stopped completely. We continue to make bid to European Union call for proposal. So far we have not able to seek resources from CSR; even we are unclear about it. Government support which used to constitute 1/3rd of our annual income has completely dried up. This is the overall reality of resource availability to the Civil Society Organisations. As mentioned earlier, UNNATI shall strive to maintain its core perspective and approach, irrespective of the nature of available resources. Care shall be taken so that the institution shall not fall into resources that can dilute the character of the organisation.

UNNATI continue to enjoy very high credibility and acceptance among CSOs, government and academia. Our current field engagements shall enable us to prepare issue notes which can be a powerful basis to regularly share and interact with stakeholders. There may be lesser opportunities or invitations from academic institutions to give guest lectures, but it shall not stop us from holding or convening consultations with stakeholders including educational institutions. Our stakeholders, even today value our strength in issue articulation, developing

new program framework, participatory tools, techniques, training modules and materials, etc. Recently, the Capacity Building Commission of Government of India involved UNNATI to develop new capacity development mechanisms for Gram Panchayats in the overall direction of 'Vikshit Bharat'.

UNNATI will strive for a successful field implementing organisation along with a cutting edge knowledge institution. For this we need to build our internal capacity with openness to leaning, reflection and analysis. There is a need to build leadership at the field and program level. Immediately, we need to immediately articulate many processes and instrumentalities that is being practiced. (Nagaik Sahyata Kendra – NSK, turned into a service giving institution in front of us, while it was designed as rights based platform, formulation of GPDP became an unfinished task, designing Citizen Leaders training - formation to maturity are some examples)

To summarise, both external and internal environment has changed drastically. At times we may have lost clarity of the direction and focus, but shall not muddle through for long time. The need for meaningful field practice with people's participation, empowering collectives and community based resource and technical persons, strengthening governance, building accountability with an added focus on articulation of new and emerging issues and developing rights based tools and methods can not be neglected. UNNATI shall strive to do both field practice and knowledge building. It shall continue to remain as a strategic development organisation rather than a passive response based agency.

Finance

Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2024

(Rs. In thousand) (CONSOLIDATED)

Source of Funds	31.3.24	%	31.3.23	%	Application of Funds	31.3.24	%	31.3.23	%
Capital Fund					Fixed Assets	13735	13	12839	12
Corpus	5000	5	5000	5					
Capital Account	87555	84	83627	79	Balance in hand and in bank				
	92555	89	88627	83	Saving Bank Account	8279	8	2582	2
Current Liabilities					Fixed Deposits	74823	72	83578	79
Project Liabilities					SBI Medium Duration Fund	2000	2	2000	2
Unutilised Fund	11432	11	16694	16		85102	82	88160	83
Duties and Taxes	260	0	27	0					
					Advances				
					Tax deducted at source	2513	2	2273	2
	11692	11	16721	16	Deposits	43	0	38	0
					Others	2854	3	2888	2
Funds									
Inst. Development Fund	0	0	0	0		5410	5	5199	5
Staff Welfare Fund	0	0	432	1					
	0	0	432	1					
Others (Provision Exp)	0	0	418	0					
Total	104247	100	106198	100	Total	104247	100	106198	100

Capital Fund

In the current year the capital account is Rs. 9,25,55,439 with increase of Rs. 39,28,030 to the previous year.

Current Liabilities

Unutilised Fund

Unutilised fund is 1,14,32,487. This is because of grant received in the last quarter of the financial year.

Fixed Assets

There is an addition of fixed assets amounting to Rs. 29,10,783. The Net fixed assets before depreciation is Rs. 1,54,20,204.

Bank balances

The current year fixed deposits and saving bank account balance is Rs.8,51,01,923/- which is a decrease of Rs. 30,58,284. to the last year.

Advances

Total advances are Rs.54,10,564/- which is mainly consist of TDS (Income Tax) of Rs.25,13,404 and Rs.17,28,962 from CFT Project of Govt.of India and Govt.of Rajasthan under MGNREGA and Jal Jeevan Mission Training of Rs.4,10,276/-

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2024

(Rs. In thousand) (CONSOLIDATED)

Expenditure	31.3.24	%	31.3.23	%	Income	31.3.24	%	31.3.23	%
Direct Project Expenses					Grant Income(Net)	59042	92	36463	88
Rural Development	47395	74	28218	68					
Research & Training		0			Contribution				
Education Material	0	0	40	0	Use of Infrastructure and assets	0	0	0	0
Training and Workshop	639	1	144	0	Honorarium	455	1	472	1
Disaster Preparedness	6032	9	3731	9	Other Income	50	0%	14	0
	54066	84	32133	78		59547	93	36949	90
Salary and Honorarium	3740	6	4171	6	Interest				
Administrative Expenses	1082	2	2239	3	On saving bank account	254	0	217	1
					On fixed deposit account	4564	7	4165	9
	4822	7	6410	15	On I.T refund	0	0	48	0
						4818	7%	4430	10
Expenditure	58888	91	38543	93					
Depreciation	1684	3	1646	4%					
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3793	6	1190	3					
Total	64365	100	41379	100	Total	64365	100	41379	100

Grant

During the year, the main donors have been:

American India Foundation Trust - Learning & Migration Programme Rs.16,39,158 for Gujarat.

UNICEF - Building resilient communities program - Rs. 63,48,853.

Maltesar International - Food and Nutrition security in Bardmer,

Maltesar International - Improvement in Urban WASH System

European Union - Community Water Governance in western Rajasthan -Rs. 79,12,810.

Dasra - Building a Social Capital among the Vulnerable Communities for improved Children's Access to Education and Other Public Programs by DASRA - Rs.20,92,195.

The Hans Foundation - Strengthening food and nutrition security-Rs.1,00,81,860.

Azim Premji Foundation - Ensuring improved delivery of public programs - Rs.86,81,700.

Total grant received in the current year is Rs 5,48,37,415.76 compared to the last year's grant of Rs.2,74,90,794.24 because of new project grants received from The Hans Foundation and Maltesar International.

Contribution

Contribution consist mainly of honorarium for services offered,

For the current year, the total income is Rs.5,06,512 as against Rs.4,72,163 for the previous year.

Interest

During the year, interest earned is Rs.48,17,762 against Rs.43,81,740 for the previous year.

Expenses

The total expenses for the year is about Rupees Six Crore compared to Rupees Four Crore compared to of the previous year.

Other Transparency Compliances 2023-2024

Governance

Members of Governing Council

Name	Gender	Position in the Board	Meetings Held and Attended
1. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra	M	President	2-1
2. Mr. Binoy Acharya	M	Member Secretary	2-2
3. Mr.Ashok Kumar Singh	M	Treasurer	2-2
4. Ms. Sophia Khan	F	Member	2-2
5. Ms. Lata Kachwaha	F	Member	2-1
6. Ms.Mona C Anand	F	Member	2-1
7. Mr.Prabhat Failbus	M	Member	2-2

Accountability and Transparency

Distribution of staff according to salary (C to C)

Salary plus benefits paid to staff	Male	Female	Total
13000-25000	12	6	18
25001-50000	10	3	13
50001->	6	2	8
Total	28	11	39

Remuneration of three highest paid staff members per month-Rs. 1,40,000, Rs. 1,06,000, and Rs.98,000.

Remuneration of lowest paid staff members per month - Rs.13,000.

This does not include personnel under stipend/fellowship.

Gender Disaggregate data of staff members including Fellow

Gender	Paid Full Time	On Fellowship	Paid Consultant
Male	28	27	0
Female	11	23	1
Total	39	50	1

International Travel by staff during the year

No international travel by staff during 2023-2024.

Legal Identity

Registered under the Societies
Registration Act 1860, Delhi
(Registered on 31.05.1990 vide
No.S/21030).
FCRA Registration-renewed on
01.04.2022, Reg.No.041910161.

FCRA Registered Office

G1/200, Azad Society, Ambawadi
Ahmedabad-380015

Bank of Baroda, Ambawadi branch
Ahmedabad-380006
SB A/c.No.03200100004141
IFSC Code:BARB0AMBABA

State Bank of India
Ellisbridge Branch
SB.A/C.NO.40938447207
IFSC:SBIN0001041

Auditors

Charnalia Bhatia & Gandhi
G-22 Basement, Lajpatnagar -3
New Delhi -110024
Email: cbgcpa@gmail.com
Phone:011-45502632

Bankers

State Bank of India
New Delhi Main Branch
CA A/cNo.40027757676
IFSC Code:SBIN0000691

Bank of India
Paldi Branch, Paldi
Ahmedabad-380007
SB A/c.No.201110100022417
IFSC Code:BKID0002011

FCRA ACCOUNTS

Rule 13 of FCRA Act provides that if the contributions received during the year exceed Rs.1 crore, than the organisation has to keep in the public domain all data of receipts and utilisation during the year.

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31.3.2024

Receipts	Amount (Rs.)
Opening Balance as on 1-4-2023	32,775,739
Grant Received	37,228,039
Interest Received	161,858
Sale of Fixed Assets	330,000
Total	70,495,637
Payments	Amount (Rs.)
Purchase of Assets	1,377,954
Project Expenses:	
Rural Development	35,292,630
Training and Workshop	10,485
Salary and honorarium	1,364,266
Administrative Expenses	1,742,320
Closing Balance as on 31.03.2024	30,707,982
Total	70,495,637

Resource Providers for the year ended 31.3.2024

Resource Providers	Purpose	Foreign contri. A/c (Rs.)	Total as on 31.03.2024 (Rs.)
European Union	Social	7,912,810.00	7,912,810.00
Maltesar International	Social	17,141,174.26	17,141,174.26
The Hans Foundation	Social	10,081,860.00	10,081,860.00
DASRA	Social	2,092,195.00	2,092,195.00
Total		37,228,039.26	37,228,039

Forming part of FC-4
As per our report of even date

For, Charnalia Bhatia & Gandhi
Chartered Accountants

(Arun Bhatia)
Partner

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 25.11.2024

For, Unnati Organisation for Development Education

(Binoy Acharya)
Director



Organisation for Development Education

www.unnati.org

Gujarat Programme Office

G 1/200, Azad Society,
Ahmedabad 380 015. India
Tel: +91-79-26746145, 26733296
Email: psu_unnati@unnati.org

Rajasthan Programme Office

650, Radhakrishnan Puram,
Chopasni Pal Bypass Link Road
Jodhpur 342 014. Rajasthan
Tel: +91-7425858111
Email: jodhpur_unnati@unnati.org

Rural Training Centre

Nava Gam, Bhachau,
Kutch 370 140. Gujarat
Tel: +91-2837-223294

Coordinating Office

216, Azad Society,
Ahmedabad 380 015. Gujarat
Tel: +91-79-26746145, 26733296
Email: psu_unnati@unnati.org



Coordinating Office,
Ahmedabad



Gujarat Programme Office,
Ahmedabad



Rajasthan Programme Office,
Jodhpur



Rural Training Centre,
Bhachau, Kutch