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Monthly Updates- August 2026

Women's Empowerment and Gender Inclusive Village Ecosystem (WE-GIVE)

Overview

WE-GIVE builds on Bihar's formidable JEEVIKA network, one of the strongest SHG movements in the country, to bridge the persistent gap between women's economic organisation and meaningful social development. Despite over a crore rural households being part of SHGs, Bihar remains at the bottom of national SDG rankings on poverty, hunger, health and gender equality. The project is being implemented with the Gates Foundation and works through pilot Gram Panchayats to convert existing social capital into tangible gains for women and their communities, with the pilots serving as Schools of Practice that JEEVIKA can then scale statewide.

Project Goal

The objective is to bridge the gap between women's economic participation and social development outcomes at the grassroots level. While SHG networks in these states have built significant social capital, gains in savings and credit have not consistently translated into improvements in nutrition, health, or gender equity. WE-GIVE broadens the mandate of SHGs; embedding them into livelihood planning, local governance, and community accountability, and aims to demonstrate a scalable, replicable model across Gram Panchayats for the respective SRLMs to adopt and roll out statewide.

Key Pillars

To strengthen the SHGs under NRLM with a focus on:

- Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship
- Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Convergence with Gram Panchayats, including their strengthening and participation in Gram Panchayat Development Plans
- Strengthening social accountability including community based monitoring systems by women SHGs
- Strengthening of Social Action Committees

Progress this Month

Karnataka

- The Action Plan was submitted and discussed with the Additional Mission Director, Sanjeevini-Karnataka State Rural Livelihoods Mission. Based on the discussion, a detailed action plan for implementation of the Social Action Committee (SAC) has been submitted.
- Initiated a district wise analysis of Gender Based Violence in Karnataka as part of the Social Action Committee component of the project.

Bihar

- The CRISP Team met with SHG, VO, BPMs, and cadres to introduce WE GIVE and its key verticals, and understand their perspectives and experiences.
- Engaged with field-level stakeholders to better understand their views, expectations, and current practices relevant to WE GIVE.
- HR Deployment for the project is under process.
- Met with officials and the SPM office and collected relevant materials, Government Orders, and other documents to understand the current status and institutional positioning of Jeevika.

Telangana

- Conducted field visits to Gowdicherla, Kalabgoor, Islampur, and Regintal villages in Sangareddy Mandal to understand the current functioning of SACs; assess the training needs of SHG and GPP members on SAC roles and processes, case documentation and resolution formats; familiarise members with the roles of different functionaries; and document existing cases and practices.
- Submitted a proposal to SERP outlining the objectives and scope of CRISP's technical support for strengthening SACs under the WE-GIVE project.
- Initiated the development of a needs assessment framework covering case mapping, training needs assessment, institutional processes, and field visits, in line with the proposed engagement.
- Developed case reporting formats and field visit reports, and prepared case studies based on cases documented during the village visits.

Way Forward

Karnataka

- On approval of the SAC action plan, steps will be taken to support the state in Gender Institutional Mechanism guidelines of the state in selected 30 Gram Panchayats.
- Submit a district level analysis of women's health parameters, social issues and gender based violence faced in the state.

Bihar

- Complete the recruitment process for the WE-GIVE Cluster Coordinators.

Telangana

- Seek approval of the proposal from SERP and initiate the next phase of the engagement.
- Conduct scoping visits to the six identified model villages to understand the local context, existing SAC functioning, and implementation needs.
- Finalise the needs assessment framework based on the findings from the initial field visits and scoping exercises.
- Initiate the development of SOPs for key issues and processes identified through the needs assessment, prioritising areas where standardised guidance is required.

Photo Gallery





Image 1 & 2 : Orientation of SHG leaders and GPP members on SAC's in Sangareddy Mandal

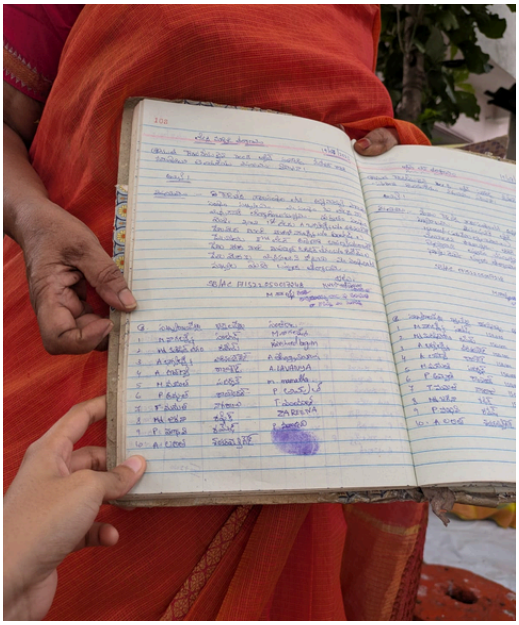


Image 3. Notes maintained by SAC members.



Image 4. Cluster Coordinator Recruitment in process in Bihar