

Monthly Updates- July 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

Karnataka

- An action plan for implementation of WE GIVE has been prepared and submitted to the Commissioner, Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissionerate (KPRC) and Assistant Mission Director, Sanjeevini, Karnataka State Rural Livelihoods Mission (KSRLM).
- The Gram Panchayats for implementation of the project have received approval.

Bihar

- A field visit was undertaken to Nalanda and Samastipur districts to understand JEEViKA's ground-level operations, meet its district teams and community institutions, and identify suitable blocks for the two projects.
- The team met the JEEViKA District Project Manager and the district-level team – including managers for livelihood, agriculture, livestock, and health & nutrition – to understand JEEViKA's current initiatives, core strengths, and priority areas for improvement.
- Based on JEEViKA's recommendations (Nagarnausa and Rajgir in Nalanda; Morwa, Warisnagar, and Pusa in Samastipur) and the subsequent field assessment, Nagarnausa block in Nalanda and Pusa block in Samastipur were selected for the pilot phase.
- A visit to Nagarnausa and Pusa was made where the team met the Block Project Manager (BPM) and the block-level team, and subsequently the CLF team, to brief them comprehensively on the project and understand their priorities.
- The MIS Officers at both blocks were contacted, with support from the BPMs, to request data on the CLFs and VOs, their relative performance, and their key areas of concern. Some data has been shared with the CRISP team.
- The team engaged with JEEViKA's community institutions, meeting the Didis who serve as office-bearers of a Cluster Level Federation (CLF), visiting the Didi Adhikar Kendra to learn about its work in social action and monitoring, and stopping by a Didi Ki Rasoi (one of JEEViKA's flagship livelihood initiatives) to understand its revenue model and daily challenges.
- The Panchayat Advancement Indices covering the entire Nagarnausa block and all its Gram Panchayats were studied; a primer was prepared and shared with JEEViKA officials at the block and district levels so that they can readily see the comparative position of the Gram Panchayats and their standing within the block.
- Recruitment notifications for the positions of Block Leads and WE-GIVE Coordinators were prepared in consultation with JEEViKA and distributed at all levels.
- A detailed discussion was held on the process for hiring Cluster Coordinators.

Telangana

- The Society of Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) issued an official letter to strengthen Social Action Committees (SACs) and Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) in Mulugu and Nagarkurnool districts.
- To strengthen the implementation of SACs, Ms. Parchuri Jamuna, Advisor, SERP, was engaged as Advisor (SAC), WE-GIVE. Drawing on her extensive experience in establishing and strengthening SACs across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, she will provide technical guidance and strategic support to the project.
- A field visit was conducted to Devarakonda to understand the existing structure, functioning, roles, and responsibilities of Social Action Committees, and to document community engagement practices to design CRISP's intervention.

Way Forward

Karnataka

- To finalise prioritisation and timeline for the project with KPRC and KSRLM.
- To undertake field visits to the selected districts and Gram Panchayats to orient about WE GIVE and seek support for the implementation.
- To finalise the eligibility criteria for hiring of cluster coordinators.

Bihar

- Finalise the hiring of Block Leads and WE-GIVE Coordinators.
- Conduct baseline studies across the project areas to identify priority intervention areas for WE-GIVE in Bihar, in consultation with the SRLM, for the formal initiation of the project.
- Initiate translation of existing modules and training manuals prepared by CRISP, into Hindi for ease of access.

Telangana

- Conduct field visits to assess the training needs of SAC members and review the counselling and support services currently being undertaken by SACs.
- Develop an SOP and standardized case study reporting formats for documenting and reporting SAC activities.

Photo Gallery



6 July 2026, Telangana : Training sessions in progress for SAC members and Gender Point Persons.



6 July 2026, Telangana : SAC members undertaking the Gender Pledge before SAC Meeting.



Meeting with DPM, Jeevika, Managers and District Agriculture Officer - Samastipur, Bihar



Meeting with Pusa BPM, his team and Cluster Coordinators in Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar