

Monthly Updates- June 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

Bihar

- On 17 June 2026, CRISP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JEEViKA, Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar, for the implementation of the WE-GIVE project.
- Conducted a state visit to Nalanda with the JEEViKA team to initiate project planning and stakeholder consultations.
- Held meetings with the District Project Manager, Block Project Managers, and other district and block-level officials to discuss project implementation and coordination.
- Visited the Cluster Level Federation (CLF) office in Rajgir, Nalanda to understand JEEViKA's institutional structure and day-to-day operations.
- Undertook field visits to two villages in Nalanda and interacted with SHG members, community cadres (Didis), and farmers to understand local contexts, community priorities, and implementation realities.
- Visited Didi Ki Rasoi to understand the livelihood model and explore opportunities for strengthening women-led enterprises.
- Visited the Didi Adhikar Kendra (DAK) to understand JEEViKA's social action mechanisms, grievance redressal processes, and community support systems.

Karnataka

- CRISP team presented the WE-GIVE project in a meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka on June 3rd, 2026.
- The team was provided concurrence to implement the project in the state by taking 3 districts and 10 Gram Panchayat's in each district.

Way Forward

Bihar

- Finalise the pilot districts, blocks, and villages for implementation.
- Undertake a field visit to Samastipur district to understand the local implementation context.
- Conduct introductory meetings between the CRISP team, SRLM officials, Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), and Village Organisations (VOs) to familiarise stakeholders with the project objectives and implementation approach.
- Identify potential Cluster Coordinators through the SRLM system and assess their existing capacities. Also develop a capacity-building plan for Cluster Coordinators to commence field activities.
- Prepare a detailed implementation timeline outlining key activities, roles, responsibilities, and milestones for the pilot phase.

Karnataka

- A meeting has been sought with Assistant Mission Director, Sanjeevini- Karnataka State Rural Livelihoods Mission and Director, Karnataka Panachayat Raj Commissionerate to present the action plan and develop a mutually agreed plan.

Photo Gallery



Signing of MoU between JEEViKA & CRISP for implementation of the WE-GIVE Project



Visit to JEEViKA centre in Nalanda district



CRISP team presenting WE-GIVE project to Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka