

## Monthly Updates- May 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

- State Lead Mr Baidhyanadh Yadav IAS (rtd) for WE-GIVE has been selected and positioned.
- A comprehensive 6-month Gantt Chart has been developed, mapping activities across all five components of the project.
- The MoU and Action Plan have been submitted to JEEViKA to formally initiate project collaboration.
- Samastipur and Nalanda districts in Bihar have been finalised as the pilot districts for the project's initial rollout.

### Karnataka

- A letter had been sent to the Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka requesting for a meeting to propose WE GIVE. Accordingly, a meeting will be held on June 3rd, 2026.

## Way Forward

- **Bihar:** Finalise MoU and Action Plan with JEEViKA; initiate baseline activities in Samastipur and Nalanda districts as per the Gantt Chart timelines.
  - Identify villages within identified districts for pilot initiation.
- **Karnataka:** Initiate expansion to Karnataka based on interest from Development Commissioner.