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# Monthly Updates- October 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**

- Study design and questionnaire has been prepared.

**Bihar**

- Attended VO meetings and SHG meetings across the two blocks to introduce and familiarise members with WE-GIVE.
- Completed Panchayat–VO–SHG mapping in 5 panchayats across both blocks.
- Met 2 Mukhiyas in Pusa and collected information on elected representatives to support GPDP planning.
- Conducted VPRP survey and data entry for 155 SHGs (6 in Pusa and 149 in Nagarnausa).
- Supported approximately 1,600 Lakhpati Didi entries and 44 e-KYC entries in Nagarnausa.
- Collected previous-year VPRP and GPDP data for the allotted panchayats in Nagarnausa.
- Visited the Didi Adhikar Kendra to understand the processes through which entitlement cases are received and resolved.

**Telangana**

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and CRISP was formally signed, establishing the framework for collaboration towards strengthening Social Action Committees (SACs) and developing model Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) in Telangana.
- The needs assessment tools were reviewed and finalised. These included tools for safety and vulnerability mapping, institutional mapping, and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs).
- A four-day field exercise was conducted in Sarlapally and Kudichintala Bhaila villages of Amrabad Mandal, Nagarkurnool district, to field-test the needs assessment tools and assess their applicability in the local context
- Conducted meetings with DRDO, MLA, DPM and APM of Amrabad mandal to acquaint them on the establishment of GRC's.
- Meetings and orientation/training sessions were conducted at the village and mandal levels in Amrabad to familiarise Village Organisation (VO) and Mandal Samakhya (MS) members with the proposed establishment, objectives and functioning of Gender Resource Centres (GRCs).

## Way Forward

**Karnataka**

- Scoping visits will be conducted to pilot test the questionnaire.
- On finalisation of study tools, field visits for the study will be conducted.

**Bihar**

- Support VO leaders in completing the VPRP and presenting the plans during Gram Sabha meetings.
- Facilitate linkages between VPRP priorities and Panchayat-level planning processes, particularly GPDP.
- Follow up on the proposals presented during Gram Sabha meetings.
- Prepare the calendar for the next year's VPRP process.
- Continue engagement with SHGs, VOs and CLFs to strengthen awareness and participation in WE-GIVE activities.
- Build on the initial exposure to the Didi Adhikar Kendra to understand how community-level institutions can facilitate access to entitlements and grievance redressal.

**Telangana**

- Incorporate learnings from the field-testing exercise, refine the assessment tools wherever necessary, and initiate the needs assessment across the identified mandals.
- Analyse the findings from safety and vulnerability mapping, institutional mapping and KIIs to understand the patterns of risks and violence against women, community perceptions, existing support mechanisms and gaps in service delivery.
- Develop a detailed operational framework for the establishment and functioning of model GRCs, including their institutional structure, roles and responsibilities, service delivery mechanisms and referral pathways.
- Identify and prepare suitable community-level functionaries, including coaches and SHG representatives, to support the functioning of SACs and GRCs through structured capacity-building programmes.
- Develop training modules, SOPs and other resource materials to strengthen the capacities of SAC members, Gender Point Persons and other relevant functionaries.
- In consultation with SERP, finalise the phased implementation plan, including timelines, responsibilities, capacity-building requirements and monitoring mechanisms for operationalising the model GRCs.

## Photo Gallery



Image 1, Telangana : Vulnerability and Safety Mapping exercises being conducted in Sarlapally village in Amrabad



Image 2, Telangana : Institutional Mapping exercises being conducted in Kudichintala Bai village of Amrabad mandal.



Image 3, Telangana : DRDO and DPM officers reviewing institutional mapping and safety mapping prepared by SHG women.




Image 4, Bihar : Field Functionaries in a VO meeting.