Monthly Updates- September 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 for the LSDG component of the project was presented to the Commissioner, Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissionerate and received approval.

Bihar

- Completed the recruitment of WE GIVE Cluster Coordinators. The selected candidates are Self-Help Group (SHG) women with prior experience in the social sector, chosen through a written examination followed by an interview. They join on 1 October 2026 and will work alongside the Project SHAAN Block Leads and the External Community Resource Persons (ECRPs) in the project blocks.
- Conducted the interviews jointly with the JEEViKA Block Project Manager's office and office-bearer Didis of JEEViKA, to build community ownership of the programme and of the selection process.
- Held a 30–40 minute awareness session for all candidates who took the written examination, introducing WE GIVE, its key verticals and its approach in both blocks. As every candidate is an SHG member, the session aimed to equip each of them, whether selected or not, to champion the programme in her village.
- Met Shri Niraj Kumar Singh at the State Project Management Unit (SPMU), JEEViKA, to discuss operationalising WE GIVE on the ground from October 2026, once the field functionaries are in place.
- Collected Government Orders, papers and presentations from JEEViKA officials on convergence between Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) and its integration with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), and gender. These will guide the design of programme activities and keep them aligned with ongoing state initiatives.

Telangana

- An MoU has been submitted to the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) outlining CRISP's scope of engagement in reviving and supporting Social Action Committees (SACs) in Telangana.
- In consultation with the Assistant Project Managers (APMs) across districts, six mandals have been finalised for developing model Gender Resource Centres (GRCs): Jharasangam and Sangareddy in Sangareddy district; Vardhannapet and Chennaraopeta in Warangal district; Tadvai in Mulugu district; and Padara in Nagarkurnool district.
- As part of Phase 1, a Needs Assessment will be conducted in the selected mandals, covering safety and vulnerability mapping and Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with SERP officials, SHG members and field-level office bearers. The assessment tools are currently being developed.
- Field visits were conducted in villages in Amrabad to familiarise SHG women and office bearers with the proposed Needs Assessment, which is scheduled to commence in the first week of October.

Way Forward

Karnataka

- Review meeting scheduled with Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner.
- Begin the process of hiring cluster coordinators.
- Develop the study framework for Needs Assessment study for Social Action Committee and implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan in Karnataka.

Bihar

- Onboard the WE GIVE Cluster Coordinators and Block Leads.
- Hold a joint in-person orientation in Patna in the second week of October for the new WE GIVE and Project SHAAN field teams, with sessions by JEEViKA experts.
- Begin operationalising WE GIVE on the ground in coordination with the JEEViKA SPMU and block teams.
- Review the materials collected on PRI–CBO convergence, VPRP–GPDP and gender to inform village-level activity plans.

Telangana

- Obtain SERP's approval of the MoU.
- Commence the Needs Assessment exercise in the selected mandals.
  - The exercise will be conducted on 6–8 October in Kudichintala Bai and Sarlapally villages of Amrabad.
- Finalise preparations for the 6–8 October Needs Assessment in Amrabad, including tools, logistics, materials and participant coordination.

Photo Gallery





Image 1 and 2 : Trainings on SAC being given to SHG women and Office bearers



Image 3 : Exam being conducted for WE GIVE Coordinator's recruitment.

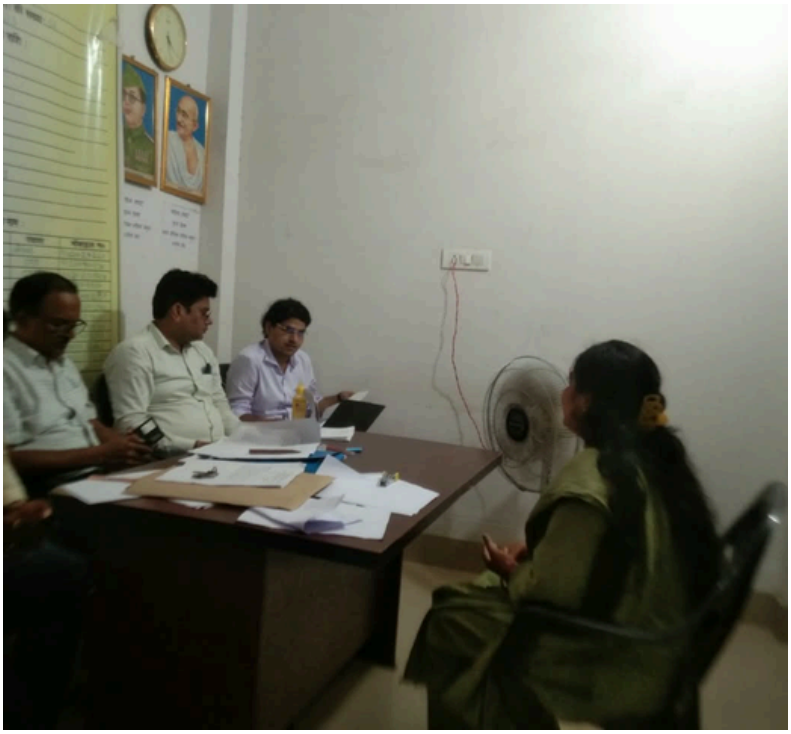


Image 4 : WE GIVE Coordinator's interview in Pusa, Samastipur.