



Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods Towards Building General Well-Being of Tribal Communities in Vadodara District, Gujarat

Project Start Date: 1 October 2022

Project End Date: 30 September 2023 (Extension till 31 December 2023)

Key Achievements at a glance (October – December 2023)

- Under the project we have reached out to over **1113 tribal families** in 10 villages of **Dabhoi, Sinor and Waghodiya blocks** of Vadodra District, Gujarat, through awareness, skill-based livelihood training and linkages to government schemes and entitlements, allowing us to bridge the developmental deficit faced by women and youth from the tribal communities and create an empowered community.
- Other **key successes** during the reporting period include:



500

Families reached directly



96

Tribal Women members facilitated to form 8 SHGs



315

Women and Youth trained in Skill-based livelihoods



11

Individuals provided with livelihood support



5

livelihood collectives formed.

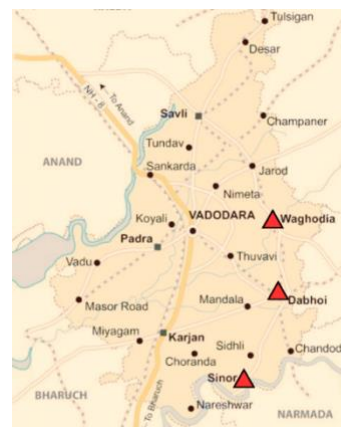


684

Individuals linked with socio-economic entitlements & services

Project Background & Summary

With the generous support received from Mukul Madhav Foundation and Finolex, the Gujarat project aims to **Enabling sustainable livelihoods towards building general well-being of tribal communities in Vadodara district, Gujarat**. The support enabled us to work with tribal families who are from socially and economically vulnerable families in the district, facilitating collectivization, skill-based livelihood trainings and linkage to government schemes and entitlements to increase incomes. Additionally, the project cultivated entrepreneurship and leadership skills among women and youth as well as raised awareness on gender rights within the community.



Progress against objectives

We are pleased to report that the project has had a significant impact and below are some key activities that have been achieved so far:

Objective 1. Supporting Individual and Collective Livelihoods

- Baseline survey covering **1,137 households** was reached to create village profiles and **identify beneficiaries and options for livelihood support**. The process ensured community participation via **community meetings** and use of **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools**.
- **5 Livelihood Collectives** established with 20 members, providing livelihood to **20 vulnerable families**:

	Type of Livelihood	Name of enterprise	Group members	Village
Collective 1	Flour Mill	Ekta Flour Mill	5 Women	Tarsana
Collective 2	Spice Mill	Pragati Masala House	5 Women	Timbarwa
Collective 3	Vegetable Stall	Shakbhaji	2 Youth	Vasai
Collective 4	Snack & Eatery Stall	Sakhi Nasta House	5 Women	Timbarwa
Collective 5	Mobile Petty Shop	Plastic items	3 Youth	Tarsana

- **8 SHGs** formed that include **96 tribal women members**
- **8 Single Women** from the most vulnerable groups were provided support to establish Small Scale Business Units:

	Jewellery Business	Snacks Shop	Provision Store	Papad Papdi
No. of units	2	2	3	1
Total	8			

- **5 Training and Capacity building programs for youth and women** covering various issues:

	Theme/Topic	No. of trained individuals		
		Male	Female	Total
Training 1	SHG Management	-	28	28
Training 2	Livelihood schemes	10	50	60
Training 3	Formation of cooperatives and financial management	-	47	47
Training 4	Financial Literacy	-	70	70
Training 5	Collective Formation & benefits	-	45	45



Picture 1: Training on Women Collective Building

Objective 2. Skill building and support for Youth

- **4 skill development trainings** were conducted around the business ideas and vocational skills:

	Theme/Topic	No. of trained individuals		
		Male	Female	Total
Skill Training 1	Pickle Making	-	32	32
Skill Training 2	Sewing	-	13	13

Skill Training 3	Soap & Detergent Making	-	30	30
Skill Training 4	Alternative Livelihood Models	30	60	90
	Total	165		

- **3 Trained youth** were provided **input support** to set up their own units for snack shops and hair cutting businesses.



Picture 2: Skill based livelihood training for youth – Sewing/ Tailoring

Objective 3. Linkage with Schemes and Entitlements

- **Regular community and night meetings** were conducted to create **awareness** on minimum wage and various social security schemes.
- **684 individuals** have been **linked to various socio-economic entitlements and services**.
- Multiple applications were submitted at Block offices with the support of the community on various scheme related issues such as access to PDS and MGNREGA Scheme.
- **2 Gender trainings** were conducted to create awareness regarding women's rights during the reporting period in which **110 individuals** participated.
- **2 Exposure visits** were organized for women and youth to SEWA and the flour mill to facilitate learning.
- **Interface meetings** with concerned govt departments and institutions were conducted to network, build alliances and develop IEC material including:

S.No.	Institution/Organization
1	Gujarat Rural Livelihood Mission
2	District and Taluka Livelihood Managers
3	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
4	Jila Udyog Kendra
5	District Industries Centre
6	District Rural Development Agency
7	Baroda Swarojgar Vikas Sansthan
8	Swachh Bharat Mission Representative
9	SEWA
10	Sahiyar Stree Sangthan
11	KVK
12	Executive Magistrate
13	Ms. Pushpa Patel, Agricultural Expert



Picture 3: Application registration for government schemes Dabhoi

- **IEC Material** was developed in the form of a **booklet** containing information regarding various schemes such as IPDP poultry support, Manav Kalyan Yojana, Manav Garima Yojana and Vajpayee Bankable Yojana etc.



Picture 4: Cover Page of the Booklet published

Progress against key indicators

Indicator 1 1500 ST population indirectly reached across the covered geography
Achieved: **5500 community members** indirectly reached



Indicator 2 300 families directly benefited through livelihood support, skill building and linkage to schemes and entitlements.
Achieved: **500 families** directly reached



Indicator 3 60 families supported through Individual and Collective Livelihoods
Achieved: **31 families** supported



Indicator 4 20 youth supported through vocational skilling programme will be gainfully employed.
Pending: In the process

Indicator 5 At least 50% of the families supported through livelihood support and skilling programme will report increase in their family income by 30%.
Pending: Final impact assessment to be undertaken

Indicator 6 At least 300 families will be linked to various social security and other schemes and entitlements for the poor and the marginalized

Achieved: **684 individuals** linked to services

100%

Challenges

- The project encountered setbacks six months into the project period due to alterations in the initial plan for support and beneficiary identification. Originally, the proposal included livelihood support for poultry and goat farming, based on community consultation chosen based on the community's needs. However, after six months, the donor suggested a shift to supporting buffalo rearing, leading to further consultations and delays, as the community was hesitant to embrace this new change due to various factors like extreme poverty, lack of awareness, and lack of ownership to land. The project team continuously engaged with the community. For a shift in initiative new livelihood options among this community requires further consultation/engagement for a sustained period of time.
- Moreover, our outreach and identification efforts faced constraints during the daytime, as a significant number of community members, particularly the youth, are engaged in agricultural labour work. They are only accessible during the evening and night hours. In response to this challenge, the team proactively organised evening and night consultations and training sessions to better align with the community's availability.
- Education, qualification, and exposure of the target groups makes them averse to risk taking, thus leaving little scope for experimentation.
- The target community also lacks proper documents required to link people with government schemes, hence, hindering the facilitation process.



Picture 5: Meeting with youth, Kukad

Case Study – A Journey to a better Future – Mangiben Vasava



Mangiben Haribhai Vasava, 41 years, single woman resident of Khervadi village of Waghodia block in Vadodara district, has faced many struggles since losing her husband to a heart attack three years ago. Despite her difficult circumstances, she had been working as a casual labourer to make ends meet before undergoing surgery that prevented her from continuing. Forced to stay home, Mangiben yearned for the independence she had once enjoyed with her husband when he used to sell vegetables in nearby villages. Mangiben was identified as one of the beneficiaries for input support for single

women, through the community processes. Mangiben expressed her desire to start a small kiran (provision) store and we immediately recognized her determination and potential for success. Through the project support, Mangiben was able to start her own business from her own home, Mangiben, decided to break down a small portion of the wall at the front of her home and transform the space into a shop. She has also invested a small portion of her savings to start this business venture. Mangiben's determination to succeed knows no bounds, and she's thrilled about being independent again. She vows to do whatever it takes to keep the shop running and never go back to casual labour work.

Next Steps

We believe **additional time till March 2024** will allow us to accomplish our objectives more effectively and ensure the successful implementation of our initiatives.

If the extension is granted, our team is committed to pursuing the following activities over the coming months:

- Follow up on the applications submitted to various government departments, aiming to secure the rightful entitlements for our community, under the community's leadership.
- Providing comprehensive hand-holding support to beneficiaries who have received input assistance, ensuring success of the ventures supported.
- Systematically identifying both individual and collective beneficiaries who require input support.



- Capacity building of the beneficiaries as well as community members
- Strengthening existing Self-Help Groups (SHGs), fortifying their structure and operations, while also establishing new SHGs to expand community support networks.

We look forward to your continued support.

Thank you so much for your generous support to this project. We are very grateful.