

Annual Report

2020-21

Vikas Samvad Samiti, Bhopal, M.P.

1. The tdh Project

Brief Description

Duration and Coverage

The project is titled “ **building a community-based, resilient and sustainable food security model through community participation and advocacy in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar**”. The project spans across the duration of 5 years from 1st January 2020 until 31st December 2024.

This project is being implemented in 100 villages in Madhya Pradesh (around 25 villages each from Panna, Satna, Rewa and Umariya districts) and 40 villages in Bihar (20 villages each from Jehanabad and Sitamarhi districts), thus, covering a total of 140 villages. It covers as many as 23659 households across these 140 villages.

Beneficiaries: Target Segments

The beneficiaries include families from the vulnerable groups including Mahadalits, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Following constitute the specific target segments:

- ❖ 13741 children,
- ❖ 7270 adolescent girls; and
- ❖ 4111 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

Project Goal

It seeks to render contribution in achieving food security and ending malnutrition and hunger in India (SDG 2).

Project Objective

The project aims to establish an evidence-based framework for monitoring the SDG 2 at local, state, and national levels and ensure that sustainable community-based malnutrition management is promoted.

Envisaged Outcomes

The project objective is sought to be manifested in the realisation of following outcomes:

- Strengthening of the enhanced capacity of community-based institutions across the select 140 villages in monitoring and evaluating national food security programmes,
- An improved access to state health, nutrition and care services for the target segments comprising as many as 13741 children, 7270 adolescent girls and 2914 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers,
- Enabling of as many as 6339 household across the 140 villages in producing various and sufficient foods so that their dependence on external food supplies is overcome; and
- Evolving a monitoring mechanism for food security and conduct of consultations on it at the state and central government levels towards positioning a lobbying strategy for community-based monitoring mechanism vis-à-vis the governance of public health and nutrition programming.

A Special Mention

It may be especially mentioned here that in the wake of pandemic situation of Covid-19; the project areas too have witnessed instant and serious challenges of food insecurity. Thus, seeking to establish a model of sustainable food security through community participation and engagement via the strategic courses of evidence-based advocacy, formation and strengthening of community institutions and operationalising the community monitoring and social audit system becomes all the more crucial necessitating an informed and urgent call to action. Accordingly, the relevance of the project assumes huge significance.

Key Outcomes Realised (Major Achievements) During the Reporting Year

- 1) **Community Institutions Have Come into Being:** As many as 560 community institutions (Women's, Youth, Children and Adolescent Groups) with a total membership of 6988 have been formed. Out of these total members, as many as 6988 persons have been imparted training in their roles.
- 2) **The Community Institutions Are Coming of Age:** Supplementary nutrition needs of hitherto unserved 1421 malnourished children and 1866 pregnant women and lactating mothers have been secured by way of connecting them with and through the government's health and nutrition programme.
- 3) **Kitchen Gardens Have Come into Being:** The process of ensuring access to food security through promotion and establishment of Kitchen Gardens has been instituted. As many as 6339 households (MP- 5542, Bihar-797) are now on way to be reliant on Kitchen Gardens to meet their diverse food needs over a period of as many as 8 months in a year and that they do not need to look for outside sources for the same.

- 4) **Seeking Out and Securing Entitlements to the Welfare Measures of the State Government Sets Off to a Notable Start:** As many as 1524 applications (MP-960, Bihar-564) were successfully generated by youth and women on PDS inclusion, Anganwadi Services, MNREGA work demand, safe drinking water facilities, linking the BPL Cards, registration in Janani Swasthya Yojana (JSY), Forest Rights Act (FRA), etc. Out of these applications, 542 (MP - 299, Bihar-243) applications have been resolved whilst the process for the rest continues.
- 5) **Community Institutions Now Have the Access to Knowledge Pertaining to the Conduct of Social Audit as is Enshrined under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Vikas Samvad Samiti (VSS) has developed, designed and published reference and reading material on conducting Social Audit. VSS has conducted 4 days' training of social audit process for the TDH field staffs and selected youths. Relevant reading material and handbooks for social audit and community monitoring have been shared with women and youth groups.
- 6) **Policy Change in Nutrition Governance is Now in Sight:** Following continued dialogues by VSS with the Department of Women and Child Development, the government of Madhya Pradesh has evolved a perspective Nutrition Governance Policy. Notably, VSS has been one of the lead agencies in supporting the government in the process of policy consultation and its formulation.

The Nutrition Policy Final Draft was prepared and has since been submitted by Commissioner, WCD to the Principal Secretary, WCD and thereupon to the State Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh so that it can be taken up and considered by the State Cabinet. It is now awaiting the Cabinet nod for being reckoned as the cherished policy instrument in rendering policy mandates and prescriptions for instituting nutrition governance in the state of Madhya Pradesh during the decade 2020-2030. It may be stated here that the policy draws upon commitments enshrined in the SDG and WHA Goals whilst focusing on the Nutrition Governance (Poshan Sarkar) and community-centric and community-embedded approach towards health and nutrition programmes. Notably, the draft policy instrument duly builds on the conceptual premise as has been advocated by the Vikas Samvad Samiti.

Formation of Vigilance Committees (under NFSA 2013) : VSS has also engaged in advocacy for setting up a policy for formation, capacity building, and functioning of Vigilance Committees in a result-oriented manner. During this course of intense processes, VSS has argued and convinced the State Government for the need and mandate of operationalising the Vigilance Committees, as are envisaged in the NFSA. Towards this end, VSS has drafted the framework for the formation and functioning of Sahyogini Matru Samiti (Mother's Committee) as a quasi-judicial committee under NFSA responsible for Community Monitoring. This framework has been formally released by the Department of Women and Child Development on 2nd

December 2020. Vikas Samvad has been working in close coordination with DWCD in developing the guidelines and streamlining the process while it has also contributed to the training of trainers conducted for roll out for 12000+ participants including supervisors, active Anganwadi Workers, CDPOs and the DPOs.

- 7) **Adoption of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) as a Tool in Instituting the Process of Heightening Awareness for Social Audit Gets Going:** Two modules on conducting the 12 Meetings Cycles of PLA have been designed and published. The module was used during the PLA meeting with the community. One PLA meeting was held in 43 villages, two meetings took place in 13 villages, three meetings were held in 4 villages whilst as many as five meetings were conducted in 1 village. On an average, 15 women participated in each PLA session. The meetings witnessed discussion on larger issues like child marriages, malnutrition, anaemia, outreach of anganwadi services to pregnant and lactating mothers and children, immunization, Home Visits, Diet During Pregnancy, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) Consumption by pregnant women, proper Anti Natal Care (ANC) and timely registration of pregnancies. As the result of PLA meetings, 6 village women decided to grow kitchen garden and see this as a solution to anemia. The participants expressed their confidence in adopting better practices in nutritional care and timely health checkups during pregnancy and post-delivery. The learning has been found to be evident as has been witnessed in the deliberations during participation in Social Audit Assembly.
- 8) **Community-based programming and inter-departmental coordination at the district level get synced.** Whilst maintaining continued engagement with the district administration (District Rewa), VSS has developed an Action Plan for smoother inter-departmental coordination and community-based programming. This has been realised through regular communication and sharing with both the community and women's groups from respective villages as well as the district administration. A Food Fair was held with the district administration's active support. It sought to address the issue of bringing down prevalence of anaemia. During the Fair, 219 pregnant women and lactating mothers and adolescent girls were distributed kits (comprising an iron pan, lemon, tomato and drumstick plant sapling). At the same time, the local administration has also taken steps in linking the vulnerable households with various government livelihood and food security schemes.

Highlights during the Year

- 2049 families were supported with Covid Relief Kits in MP and Bihar.
- In Bihar, 40 groups of children with a total membership of 550, 40 groups of youth with a total membership 538 and 40 groups of women with a total membership of 604 were formed and are functionally active. In Madhya Pradesh, 100 groups of children with a total membership of 1220, 100 groups of youth with a total membership of 1302 and 100 groups of women with a total membership of 1292

have been active since the previous project cycle. Their functionality processes were continually strengthened during the reporting year on community monitoring, social audit, kitchen garden, constitution, environment and health. In addition, new 140 groups of adolescent girls have been formed in Madhya Pradesh and have been operationally functional, as they support in Anthropometric data collection of children and sharing issues in the monthly meetings.

- Total 1421 malnourished children (MP-1377 and Bihar-44) were tracked and ensured that they received supplementary nutrition and health check-up. As many as 100 severely malnourished children were referred to and admitted in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC). Out of 1421 malnourished children, 100 children were sent to NRC and their follow-up was ensured and that the family members of the rest of the children were counselled on nutritional and behavioral practices during home visits.
- 1866 pregnant women and lactating mothers were linked with the government health and nutrition programmes like supplementary nutrition, immunization and special nutrition days were celebrated at the respective Anganwadi Centres.
- During the year, a total of 1665 deliveries took place across the project area out of which 1263 deliveries (76%) were conducted in the health institutions. Due to the lockdown and covid-19 infections, institutional deliveries had a lag. As many as 1013 lactating women out of 1263 women, received the incentive amount as is stipulated in the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) Scheme. As many as 958 out of 1469 eligible beneficiaries under PMMVY scheme received the entitlements and benefits whereas 560 out of 817 eligible women have received benefits under Mukhya Mantri Shramik Sewa Prasuti Sahayta Yojana (MMSSPSY) – the maternity entitlement scheme of the state (Madhya Pradesh).
- In 110 of 140 project villages (76%) a total of 1146 women and youths are actively involved in monitoring 115 Anganwadi Centers, 38 PDS Ration Shops and 47 schools on monthly basis.
- One state level leadership development training programmes was conducted with participation of 40 women, 40 youth and 40 children.
- As many as 6 district level leadership development training programmes were conducted for youth 237 (MP-200, Bihar-37), 240 women (MP-200, Bihar-40), children 448 (MP-377, Bihar-77), while 7 districts level leadership development training programmes were conducted with 338 adolescent girls (MP-200, Bihar-138); both in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.
- 14 (MP-7, Bihar-4) field visits were conducted by the VSS team to appraise the project progress, systems, baseline survey process and render handholding support.
- 3 Quarterly Review and 2 Annual Review meetings were organized by the VSS with the project districts' staffs of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

- As many as 5542 households across 100 villages in Madhya Pradesh are rotating 10 varieties of vegetable seeds in their groups while in Bihar, 797 household from 19 villages have supported 14 varieties of the kitchen garden seeds.
- 10 marginalized farmers who have livestock and land space have been selected and were supported with the material required for NADEP construction. One NADEP was supported completely by Panchayat and Rural Development Department in Panna (MP). As many as 107 families are getting benefited from newly constructed NADEP structures.
- As many as 102 water structure rejuvenation and repairing work has done under the TDH project. In Madhya Pradesh 38 water structure from 38 village work as completed and 290 farmers of 36 villages in Madhya Pradesh will get benefit in terms of water for drinking and irrigation facilities for 290 hectares of farmland. 950 days labor and material and equipment worth INR 247680 were contributed by the community.

In Bihar 64 water structures from 38 project villages were repaired and cleaned. Water structure work includes ponds, wells, step wells, check dam, handpumps and handpump platforms as recommended by youth, and women group member during monthly meetings. 1731 (MP-1064, Bihar-667) families of 76 villages.
- 4880 total chicks (40 chicks for each family) to 122 (Rewa- 92, Umaria-30) families from two districts and 17 project villages of Madhya Pradesh were linked with Animal Husbandry Department's backyard poultry farming scheme in subsidized rate.
- A scientific study on the status of the NFSA has been carried out in Madhya Pradesh to measure the 'Impact of the lockdown due to the Covid19 Outbreak on Health and Nutritional Status of Women and Children' in the project area. A mini-survey conducted across 122 villages of 6 districts, 2 districts were adjoining project districts, where in total 63 beneficiaries [6 pregnant women, 12 lactating mothers 21 children (below 3 years of age), 24 children (3 – 6 years of age)]. The qualitative and quantitative data further analysed, and findings were shared with media and the government. The major findings of the study are as below:
 - a. **Take Home Ration:** THR Distribution services are partially affected in 61 (50 percent) of the villages due to delay in receiving allotment, unavailability of THR stocks, closure of AWCs to prevent corona spread etc. THR is well distributed in 32 villages (26 percent) by the AWWs at the beneficiaries' homes with the support of the Anganwadi Helpers.
 - b. **Hot Cooked Meals:** As per the government orders, 85 percent AWCs have completely stopped providing HCMs whereas in the remaining 15 percent villages from Panna, Satna, Shivpuri, the HCM was stopped by centres themselves in view of the Covid-19. About 26 percent Centres did not receive any formal orders but were directed via WhatsApp message, verbal communication, or text messages.
 - c. **Home Visits:** 53 percent of the Anganwadi Centres in the surveyed villages have

remained unaffected by the lockdown and Anganwadi workers are found to have been doing regular nutrition counselling visits started from second week of April. Anganwadi workers from 40 percent of the villages have completely stopped doing home visits in the wake of Corona Covid-19 lockdown. They were directed either verbally over phone or through WhatsApp messages.

- d. **Community Events and Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Day (VHSND):** No community events have been taking place in 77 percent villages and that the VHSND has been stopped completely in 58 percent villages due to Covid 19 protocols. In 26 percent villages, frontline workers have not been given any instructions. In 21 percent villages, these events were not perceived as important.
- 27 project staff were trained on “Social Audit Training of Trainer (TOT)” organized and facilitated by VSS state team with focused on communication skills, provision under NFSA and its schemes, steps of social audit and community monitoring.
 - In 10 villages (MP-8, Bihar-2), Social Audit of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY-Maternity Benefit Scheme) under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 was conducted with support of Social Audit Team (including youth, women, project team). The rigorous process entailed regular home visits, interviews, wall writing, focused group discussion etc. Analytical findings were shared in the special Gram Sabha named as “ Samajik Sampariksha Sabha”(Social Audit Assembly). By the last week of December from 29th to 30th December, all social audit assemblies were conducted in 5 districts including 1 district of Bihar. The WCD department officer shared the technical issue such as form goes in correction queue, Aadhar Card availability etc. Also, they ensured that all women who are deprived from maternity benefit get the entitled benefits.

Key Outputs Generated

- For as many as 2049 families, food security was ensured during the lockdown. As many as 2019 families were linked with the PDS and 6339 families food security had been ensured.
- On exchanging the finding of the NFSA study with the state government, the Ready to Eat Nutrition services in the villages was resumed. Also, growth monitoring of children in Anganwadi Centres and referral services for Severely Acute Malnourished Children were resumed.
- 2734 families were distributed 54.8 quintals vegetable to 2527 deprived families. The vegetables included Bottle gourd, tomato, potato and others that were grown in either their backyard or land provided to them.
- Siya bai Gond d/o Lallu Gond and Gauri Bai Gond, from Sunehara village of Panna was forced to marry the boy of her parents’ choice. She had condemned this, stood for herself and raised the voice against the child marriage. Due to pressure created by the Women’s group, the parents were counselled and willingly changed their decision to put off the marriage until their daughter turned 18. Siya later on shared

the details in the Women's Group meetings and has set up an example to be followed.

- In Umariya district, 85 children across 5 villages participated in the seed ball activity and 150 seed balls were prepared. Accordingly, 621 sapling plantation activities have been conducted in 52 villages by the Children's Group.



- 6339 households (MP- 5542, Bihar-797) have developed kitchen garden and are now growing 14 types of green and leafy vegetables such as Pumpkin, Bottle gourd, Sponge gourd, Bitter gourd, Ridge gourd, Broad beans, brinjal, Okra, Tomato, Onion, Spinach, Red leafy vegetable (Laal Bhaji). Thus, household consumption of these vegetables has been secured for the rainy and winter seasons. It has led to food security for the families for a good period of 8 months.

Speaking Case Studies with Speaking Images

Case Study 1: Livelihood and Pandemic

Pandemic has affected millions of lives across the world but the most vulnerable were those who earn on daily basis. For them, it is the most difficult time wherein they are struggling hard to get meal for two times a day. Katak Baiga lives in village Karondi of Umariya district MP. He is 56 years old. He has a piece of land which is insufficient for the family. There are 7 members in family including his son, daughter-in-law and 4 grandchildren. He does not own any ration card nor has any other source of livelihood. As per NFSA 2013, his family is eligible, but his name is not enrolled. He has been requesting for a long, raised issue in Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat but could not succeed till date. During Corona, he got 35 Kg ration twice from PDS but that also has been stopped. Katak gets labour work in village from the bigger landlords. His son also works on daily wages on a tractor and earns for 12 days in a month, but during the pandemic, both son and father are jobless.

Under MNREGA, work was started in the village. His daughter-in-law got work for a week. However, she had to stop the work as her youngest daughter fell ill. In pandemic, Vikas Samvad distributed relief packets for poorest families. Katak's family too was given the same. But they are more worried about the upcoming time as lockdown has got extended and that there are no chances of getting labour work in the vicinity. The family did not get any benefit of govt schemes in spite of writing to Panchayat and concerned departments.

Namkesh says “ real victims of pandemic are not given any benefits, no land, no ration and



our children are affected badly. We even do not have clothes for our kids. Even Anganwadis and schools are closed unfortunately, else kids would get one meal at these centers”. Nobody is sure about the situation and how things will unfold, clarity is missing at all the levels, but poor families are suffering badly.

Case Study 2: Enthusiastic Krishna and her Kitchen Garden

Krishna Mavasi is very vocal about the issues of malnutrition and problems of her own village Jhiriya Ghat. Jhiriya Ghat is under Kailhora Panchayat of Majhgavan block, district Satna. She has completed her 10th and came in this village after marriage. It is a typical village comprising mostly Yadav and Mavasi tribes. Her husband, Lalu Mavasi - 28, is a marginal farmer with a small land holding and lives in a joint family. Now her both the children are studying in school. There are 7



members in her family. Her daughter Gayatri is studying in a boarding school at Chitrakoot. Mostly, the family is dependent on labour work as the land is not adequate. They have an AAY Card and have been getting 35 Kg ration from PDS under the scheme. Though they have 6 acre land, but 3 acre is almost barren as there is no water to irrigate.

Lalu and his brothers work in a farm, but the production is not good. Hence, they migrate on seasonal basis to earn. In last Kharif crop, they produced 50 kg Sesame seeds, after saving 10 kg, they sold the rest 40 Kg and earned Rs 4000/-. Due to heavy rains, the crop was affected badly. They used the money for education of children, grocery and medicines. Krishna Mavasi had saved Rs 2500/- for the Rabi crop.

Krishna is also the Secretary of Dastak Group under the Project. The group works for health, education, nutrition and livelihood. Every month, the group meets, and the women discuss about the problems and seek to learn from each other. In one of the meetings, the group was told about Kitchen garden as to how small initiative can be a boon in eradicating malnutrition from village whilst also helping in earning. She was motivated and thought to experiment. Her child, Chandani was admitted in NRC, but her improvement was not up to the mark. Krishna got various vegetable seeds from the Project and sowed in her backyard. Surprisingly, the result was very good. There was more than enough production of 7 – 8 types of vegetables for a family. This resulted in change in their food intake. After all, now there were more vegetables in the platter and the family was enjoying free vegetables. She fed her children and also used vegetables for the malnourished children. Results were overwhelming, the children were getting healthier.

Krishna also owns a small house wherein they dug a small well for water. Due to availability of water, they decided to sow more vegetables and along with her sister-in-law, Dulari bai, they have sown vegetables now for commercial purpose in 2 Beegha. They bought seeds from KVK and market. “We would irrigate the land with water from the same well. However,

we had to hire the water pump. “We did hard work and grew lots of vegetables in the land. “Most difficult task was to fence the land, but we did it”, says Dulari. ‘We would also distribute vegetables to some poor families and rest we would sell. We would earn Rs 300 to 400 a day and also start selling in vicinity. Time was good and we were quite optimistic for future. But suddenly, the Covid 19 spread brought a black page in our life. Lockdown has broken our spinal cord – all were jobless and there was no hope’, she says.

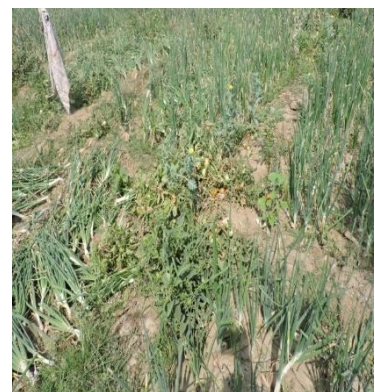
There was no hard cash and no ration in houses, poor community was most vulnerable among all as there were no outlets to earn. Mobility was jammed and hence all were stuck in homes. Children were victims of this lockdown the most. Things were very expensive and out of reach, this enhanced nutritional issues in families.

After observing this pandemic and severe conditions, Krishna talked to her family and decided to support the families in some ways. She distributed free vegetables to such families – especially where small children and pregnant women were residing. She supported all the 60 families in her village and 150



families in the vicinity. “ I supported them because they all are from my village and due to this pandemic things had deteriorated badly; severe hunger was seen in families. Thus, at least by providing vegetables, I could contribute to a cause” Says Krishna. She served honestly and diligently and gave away as much as 700 Kg of vegetables for free. In addition, she earned Rs 8000/- by sales as well.

In showcasing her work and enthusiasm, the Project Team displayed her work on social media. A tweet became so famous that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh retweeted it. After this tweet, people came to know about her work and services and the Member of Parliament, Mr. Ganesh Singh visited her home and appreciated her work. She narrated about the problems of village to him. Immediately, an extra bore well was sanctioned for her village. Though she and her family lost a lot during the pandemic, she continues to be hopeful for a better future. The Project Team is supporting her and in order to construct her pucca well, work is in progress.



Krishna is happy and looking forward for better opportunities and future. She is determined to eradicate Malnutrition from her village. She says, “If I can help people by giving vegetables and eradicate the curse of malnutrition, then I am convinced fully that I don’t need money. However, the people must grow vegetables, and this is the easiest thing which they can do”. Undoubtedly, Krishna is a role model for other women in the area.

Challenges Ahead

Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown was the major challenge to conduct the regular and community gathering activity. The widespread spread of the Covid 19 epidemic created conditions for food insecurity of the community, which also impacted women and children. The implementation of nutrition programmes was also affected due to the Covid 19 pandemic which affected the right to nutrition of pregnant / lactating women, young children, the growth monitoring activity in coordination with the department.

The implementation of the revised FCRA Law has also disrupted the financial flow in the project, which affected the planning and implementation of activities in Bihar.

Key Points for Next Year's Plan

- Mapping of those families who are food insecure on identifying main causes of food insecurity and work on the same to help the families become food secure.
- Strengthen PLA and Community monitoring process.
- To facilitate improvement in nutrition governance so that deficit in the implementation of schemes and plans is bridged vis-à-vis policy expectations.

2. Community-Based Management of Malnutrition (CBMM)

Brief Description

Supported by Child Relief and You (CRY), the Community-Based Management of Malnutrition programme is being implemented in the Sahariya tribal community in 15 villages across 7 Gram Panchayats in block Pohri, district Shivpuri.

Major Interventions

Capacity Building of Community Institutions

- Training of PRI members for capacity building on their roles and remit with reference to health and nutrition schemes for the community.
- Training of members of the Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) under the Gram Sabha on their roles and responsibility for better implementation of health and nutritional schemes.
- Training of Core Group on community monitoring of health and nutrition schemes.
- One Anganwadi Centre has been selected for ECCD Centre to make the children mentally and physically engaged. As many as 800 registrations have been done from across 23 Villages in Dost Education Program.

Kitchen Garden

Benefited total number of 103 families.

Poultry Farming

Co-ordination for poultry farming has been done for distribution of chicks have been given resulting in benefits accruing to 1028 families. The activities included:

- Training in Dangvarve and Rampura Villages for 200 beneficiaries of poultry farming under Pashu Dhan Hamara Sridhan Yojana for running the poultry farm, with specific roles for women.

Seed Bank

- In collaboration with Agriculture Department, 80 kg of soybean seed was given to 10 families in Machakhurd Villages in Seed Bank.
- Seeds of Guard, Bitter guard, Lady Finger, Pumpkin and Beans were distributed to 220 families in 4 villages this year from their own Seed Bank.

- An attempt has been made to create a Seed Bank in 15 villages of the field area. As much as 260 Kg of seeds has been distributed to 160 families. Notably, 200 seed were sown by members of the Children’s Group. Interestingly, a story on Seed Bank has been published in news magazine, ‘Tehalka’.

Extended Support to the Community

- Beneficiaries have been secured with assistance across different schemes (including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Scheme). This initiative too has been captured by news magazine, ‘Tehalka’.
- Due to the lockdown during Corona crisis, Sahariya could not get to their work or migrated back to their villages. The project has supported the community in getting access to benefits from a host of schemes including Ujjawala Yojana, Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana Kisan Samman Nidhi and Sahariya Budget. The details of the support in connecting the community with the benefits are as follows –

S. No.	Name of the Village	Total Beneficiary	Jandhan	Ujjawala	Pradhan Kisan Mantri Samman Nidhi	Sahariya Budget
1	Jakhnaud	37	26	13	1	10
2	Madhopura	14	9	8	1	4
3	Madkheda	22	12	2	2	7
4	Taparpura	28	13	16	8	7
5	Rampura	24	13	10	1	3
6	Dangvarve	32	11	8	6	5
7	Nonhetakhurd	25	12	13	6	3
8	Machakhurd	13	12	18	7	6
9	Sonipura	11	12	6	0	12
10	Patpari	9	7	4	1	3
11	Mehra	8	8	7	2	1
12	Jatwara	-	-	-	-	-
13	Gwalipura	12	10	6	11	10
14	Batkakhedi	5	3	1	1	0
15	Aamai	15	15	4	0	14
	Total	225	163	116	47	85

- Provided support to get the entitled benefit of PDS to 300 families from 3 villages of Nonhetakhurd Panchayat namely, Nonhetakhurd Village, Taparpura and Batkakhedi and 39 families from Rampura and Mehra Village.

- Due to the lock-down, the exams of children did not take place in the State. The Government had announced that instead of hot cooked meal, the dry ration or food would be given in the Mid-Day Meal scheme.
- Coordinated with Panchayats for distribution of safety gears in prevention of spread of Covid-19 virus.
- In this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, keeping child rights ensured is a major challenge, protection, health and environmental rights are at stake during this crisis time. The campaign was organized since 14th to 20th November 2020 in 7 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

3. Building Ownership and Momentum for Effective Implementation of SDG 2, Target 2.2 And WHA Nutrition Targets

Brief Description

The project supported by National Foundation of India (NFI) is being implemented in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh by the Vikas Samvad Samiti (VSS). These districts are Panna, Satna, Rewa, Umariya and Niwari.

The project seeks to develop an operational framework of social audit and community monitoring by facilitating a process of community leadership so as to secure proper implementation of the National Food Security Act 2013 towards eliminating malnutrition.

The project in Madhya Pradesh brings to bear its envisaged effect on 13857 rural households. These include 3354 households from the Scheduled Caste (24 percent) and 5321 from the Scheduled Tribe (38 percent). It specifically touches the lives of 1277 pregnant women and lactating mothers and as many as 6699 children under 6 years age.

An additional feature of the engagement of VSS with the NFI project pertains to its role as a navigational Resource Group (RG) support to the NFI across the states in the country where the project is being implemented. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka along with Madhya Pradesh comprise project's overall jurisdiction. Towards this end, major roles of VSS include conduct of policy reviews in implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA 2013), supporting State Partners and Teams through reviews, mentoring field visits, networking visits to lateral agencies, and development of knowledge products, amongst others.

However, due to change in regulations in the FCRA, the project has had to be terminated from April 2020 onwards.

4. Publications: Manuals, InfoPacks, Factsheets, Fliers and Alerts Released

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
1.	Covid -19 & CSOs – Role of CSOs and Social Workers in Managing Health Disaster -A Manual	<p>This 52-page Manual in English has been developed for the functionaries of civil society organisations. It seeks to articulate the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in managing health disaster and emergencies. With regard to Covid-19, it seeks to put together authentic information on Covid-19 infection and disease and presents concise action points for safeguarding against it.</p> <p>It outlines the role of the CSOs and presents a digest of lessons for the society in the wake of Covid-19 and charts out the emerging challenges. Notably, the manual also endeavours to keep a focus on gender divide. Piggybacking on scientific insight into the pandemic, the manual is a hands-on resource for the grassroots workers in instituting community-based response, programming and action in dealing with the health disaster.</p>
2.	<p>नागरिक शाला: COVID-19: नागरिक समाज संस्थाओं और कार्यकर्ताओं की भूमिका में स्वास्थ्य आपदा को प्रबंधित करने के लिए - भाग I - A प्रारंभिक पाठ्यपुस्तक</p> <p>['Nagrik Shala' (Citizen School) InfoPack: Covid – 19: Role of Civil Society Organisations and Workers in Managing Health Disaster – Part I - A Primer]</p>	<p>This 41-page Manual in Hindi has been developed for the functionaries of civil society organisations. It seeks to articulate the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in managing health disaster and emergencies. With regard to Covid-19, it seeks to put together authentic information on Covid-19 infection and disease and presents concise action points for safeguarding against it. Piggybacking on scientific insight into the pandemic, the manual is a hands-on resource for the grassroots workers in instituting community-based response, programming and action in dealing with the health disaster.</p>
3.	<p>नागरिक शाला: COVID-19: नागरिक समाज संस्थाओं और कार्यकर्ताओं की भूमिका में स्वास्थ्य आपदा को प्रबंधित करने के लिए - भाग I - A प्रारंभिक पाठ्यपुस्तक</p>	<p>This 27-page Infopack seeks to address an array of questions as are emerging in the era of Covid-19 and its aftermath. These include whether the concerns</p>

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
		<p>months of the onset of the pandemic! This 9-page document in Hindi is an awakening call to action in ensuring that the continuity of Public Health Nutrition related essential services and that the entitlements under the National Food Security Act 2013 are duly secured for the vulnerable populations.</p>
7.	<p>राजस्थान - भारत राजस्थान - भारत राजस्थान - भारत राजस्थान - भारत: राजस्थान - भारत राजस्थान - भारत 2013 राजस्थान - भारत राजस्थान - भारत ['Nagrik Shala' (Citizen School) InfoPack - Food Security in the Wake of Covid: National Food Security Act 2013 and Its Inherent Inconsistencies – Part VI]</p>	<p>This document in Hindi running into 16 pages informs about certain inherent inconsistencies in the NFSA 2013 provisions vis-à-vis its interpretation in implementation. This places a large chunk of unserved population (as many as 10 Crores across the country) outside the purview of the Act. The InfoPack points out that Section 9 of the NFSA 2013 provides that the proportion of eligible population shall be computed based upon the population estimates rendered by the Government of India and that the Registrar General, Census India has duly published the year-wise population estimates up to year 2026; following the Census 2011. However, this has not been followed by the state governments. The InfoPack's analytics bring out that this inconsistency has reduced the coverage of population under the NFSA 2013 from 6.26 Crores to 5.46 Crores in Madhya Pradesh thereby depriving as many as 76.46 lakh persons from the entitlements enshrined under the Act.</p> <p>Needless to state that a truncated coverage has a telling effect upon the vulnerable population as their entitlement to access to food is severely compromised, particularly in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The document calls for three key steps. These are universalisation of Public Distribution System, inclusion of cereals and edible oil and ensuring that the farmers are truly paid for their produce at the rate of 1.5 times of their cost of production.</p>
8.	<p>राजस्थान - भारत</p>	<p>With a view to arm the service providers and</p>

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
	<p>विकास समवाद - 19 [Vikas Samvad InfoPack - Management of Corona Covid -19: Important Terms and their Meaning]</p>	<p>programme functionaries with informed knowledge on public health issues, Vikas Samvad has been bringing out a series of Infopacks on key topics of contemporary significance.</p> <p>Recognising the unfolding seriousness of Covid pandemic, this Infopack presents the articulated meaning of a host of terms associated with Covid – 19. It covers a host of key terms beginning with ‘virus’, ‘viral infection’, ‘pandemic’, ‘progression of symptoms and management of infected persons’ and a host of terms with regard to public health measures including ‘local transmission’, ‘community transmission, ‘geographic quarantine’, ‘social distancing’, ‘contact’, ‘quarantine’, ‘isolation’ and ‘containment zone’.</p> <p>Notably, this 15 page-Hindi document drawing upon authoritative quoted sources also explains home quarantine, institutional quarantine and home isolation as critical measures in breaking the chain of contact with a view to mitigate and control the spread of vaccination whilst providing for appropriate care for those infected.</p> <p>The Infopack closes with a matrix addressing each significant intervention across the dimensions of definition, purpose, setting, challenges and essential comments and observations.</p> <p>The Infopack is a handy tool for community workers.</p>
9.	<p>-19 [Manual for Communication Workers in the Context of Covid-19]</p>	<p>Developed with technical support of UNICEF, this Hindi manual in 52 pages presents a lucid insight into what Covid-19 and the ways to protect from the infection. The manual underlines the need to focus the humane aspect in addressing the pandemic and calls for informed restraint against rumors.</p> <p>Whilst delineating the roles for the communication workers, the document also consolidates the Hindi version of orders and guidelines of the Government</p>

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
		of India so that one is also protected against any pre-conceived notions.
10.	<p>दो पृष्ठों का हिंदी फ्लियर: कोरोना से डरना नहीं, जीतें। [A Flier: Do not Be Panicked with Corona, Defeat it]</p>	This twin-page Hindi flier presents a concise set of key information for the general people so that they may quickly acquaint themselves with the authoritative information on Covid-19. The flier also deals with myths against the facts and identifies key actions that every society member can effectively take in preventing the spread of infection and in securing the treatment and mitigating the effect, should one contract it.
11.	<p>दो पृष्ठों का हिंदी सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट: 7 जिलों के बच्चों की आवाज [Voice of Children in Covid-19: From 7 Districts of Madhya Pradesh]</p>	This survey report in Hindi runs in to 31 pages. It looks into information across a host of points collected from interviews with the children, as perceived by them. These include source of information about Covid-19, knowledge on means of prevention, extent to which the means of prevention were available, effect on family household income and livelihood, access to essential items, access to health care, agony of migration/displacement, sense of fear amongst the children, impact as the children perceived on themselves, way the time is spent, effect on studies, reasons for inability to continue education, thoughts about online studies and Mid-Day Meal etc.
12.	<p>दो पृष्ठों का हिंदी रिपोर्ट: 19 कोरोना से बच्चों की आवाज [Voice of Children in Covid -19: Case Study from Madhya Pradesh – A Report]</p>	This Report compiles as many as 35 Case Studies from across 7 districts in Madhya Pradesh bringing out voices of children in the situation marked by Covid-19. The read-up of case studies is aimed at sensitizing the public and the public governance system with regard to acute agony that the children are going through. The pandemic has had and continues to impact children's life very severely and that it is expected that an awareness on the aspect of sensitivity from the humane perspective shall help in restructuring public and governance response in addressing the ill effects of Covid -19.
13.	<p>दो पृष्ठों का हिंदी बुकलेट: (सोशल वर्कर, सक्रिय महिलाएं, युवा, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारियों और चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों के लिए)</p>	This booklet in Hindi (68 pages) is dedicated to those social workers, active women, youth, field functionaries and the elected representatives of the

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
	<p>पंचायति राज संस्थानों को सामूहिक रूप से खाद्य सुरक्षा और सामाजिक और आर्थिक न्याय के लिए गांवों में। इस मॉड्यूल को 1 [Joint Initiative for Participatory Learning Action (PLA): Nutrition and Maternity Rights – A Guidebook Part I]</p>	<p>Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) who are keen to collectively secure food security and social and economic justice for all in the villages. The module complements their leadership skills in resolving problems focusing nutrition and maternal rights . The module is a hands-on resource for the social workers in gaining an insight in to the technique of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) and in applying the same in addressing the health and nutrition issues. The guidebook covers a total of 6 theme-centric PLA Meetings. It envisages that the workers, equipped with the know-why and knowhow of the technique, will be in a position to secure heightened community engagement in ensuring that the maternity rights and maternal nutrition are duly addressed.</p>
14.	<p>76 पृष्ठों का हिंदी में 76 पृष्ठों का हिंदी में हिंदी (संस्कृत में) : सामाजिक और सामुदायिक कार्यकर्ताओं और PRI प्रतिनिधियों को - सामुदायिक बैठकों को 2 [Joint Initiative for Participatory Learning Action (PLA): Women’s Health and Nutrition – A Guidebook Part II]</p>	<p>This Hindi guidebook running into 76 pages is Part II of the PLA Guidebook on Nutrition and Maternity Rights. In this document, the audience-segments of social and community workers and the PRI representatives are taken through the process of the conduct of community meetings.</p>
15.	<p>116 पृष्ठों का हिंदी में 116 पृष्ठों का हिंदी में 2013 : सामाजिक सुरक्षा अधिनियम 2013 का विस्तृत प्रारंभिक पाठ्यक्रम (सामाजिक सुरक्षा अधिनियम 2013 का विस्तृत प्रारंभिक पाठ्यक्रम) [National Food Security Act 2013: An Elaborate Primer for Rights and Accountability – A Reference Booklet for</p>	<p>This reference booklet (in Hindi – 116 pages) for Social Audit, as is enshrined in the NFSA 2013, takes the learners through the five key aspects, namely, people’s rights, people’s empowerment, community monitoring and participation, grievance redressal system – transparency – accountability and reform in the system. The focus is realising the aim of understanding and instituting the NFSA 2013 from the perspective of human rights, accountability, transparency and empowered society towards addressing the problem of food insecurity.</p>

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
	Social Audit]	
16.	InfoPack: Suicides in India - Factsheet from NCRB Reports (period 2001 to 2017)	<p>Deriving from the analytics of data on suicides from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the Fact Sheet presents a speaking analysis of suicides in India over the period 2001-2017. This 16-page Fact Sheet renders the analysis for India as well as by states across the factors of causes, illnesses, agriculture (farming sector), poverty and unemployment, failure in examinations and suicides by students. The states included in the analytics are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha, Delhi, Karnataka and Gujarat.</p> <p>Notably, over the 15 years, India has witnessed more than 21 lakh suicide cases.</p> <p>The analytics are pointers for addressing the underlying factors so that deaths by suicides are prevented.</p>
17.	NFHS 5: First Phase Findings: A Paper on Emergent Actions	<p>The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is an extensive, multi-round review and survey of a representative and illustrative household samples across the country. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the fact sheets from the fifth round of India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-20) on December 12, 2020. The latest data refers to 17 states and five UTs and, significantly, captures the detailed information on population, health, and nutrition status in these states before the Covid-19 pandemic, in phase-I. However, phase 2 of the survey, which will cover other states including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab etc, has been delayed due to the pandemic and its results are expected to be made available sometime in 2021.</p> <p>In the backdrop of the SDG to which India is a signatory, the analytics into the NFHS-5 results bring out that India and its states (22 States and Union</p>

S. No.	Title	Brief Description
		<p>Territories) have a long way to go in realising the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets enshrined thereunder. In fact, it is apprehended that India is likely to miss the target of “Zero Hunger & Malnutrition Elimination”.</p> <p>The analytics, a regular feature of Vikas Samvad’s services shall go a long way in reflecting over the findings and helping the programme managers and policy-makers in tweaking the public health nutrition measures and programmes.</p>
18.	<p>Infopack: Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU) Analysis - 2017-18 to 2019-20 in Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>According to global reviews, roughly 15% of newborns require facility based care. Thus, under the FBNC program, Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) were established in India at any health facility where the delivery load is more than 3000 per year. This covers most district hospitals and some of the sub-district hospitals. SNCU is a dedicated unit in the environs of the Labor Room that is proposed to offer special care for the sick newborns. It means providing all essential neo-natal care except for assisted ventilation and major surgeries at the health facility.</p> <p>This Infopack draws upon the desk analysis of performance data in the backdrop of surveyed results. The analytics help in optimising programmatic performance in an end-to-end manner, with a view to effectively improving survival and growth of the newborns.</p>
19.	<p>□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□ \□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□□□□ - □□□□□□□□□□ Status of Sick Newborn Care Units in Madhya Pradesh – A Fact Sheet]</p>	<p>The analytic Fact Sheet informs that during the period of 2017-18 to 2019-20, 267287 children (160755 boys and 106532 girls, i.e. 60:40 ratio) were admitted in the SNCUs in Madhya Pradesh. The Fact Sheet also provides district-wise analysis of SNCUs’ functionality. As many as 88.5% children recovered, thanks to the medical attention rendered to them. However, the remaining 11.5% children succumbed to death. Notably, the neonatal mortality needs to</p>

5. Other Notable Initiatives

Apart from the ongoing projects, Vikas Samvad Samiti has undertaken a series of other initiatives during the year 2020-2021. These include the following:

Risen to the occasion in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic

- ❖ Mobilisation and rendering relief measures for the migrant workers.
- ❖ Development of communication material pertaining to Covid-19 and its management for general dissemination and for ease of reference for community and social workers.
- ❖ Research on children's perceptions on impact of Covid-19.
- ❖ Documentation of stories on impact of Covid-19 on migrant population.
- ❖ Review of NFSA 2013 from the standpoint of identifying inherent inconsistencies in securing the universal coverage to the entitled population.
- ❖ Research on impact of Covid-19 on nutritional status of pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.

Research and Other Initiatives

- ❖ Budget analysis of Government of Madhya Pradesh from the perspective allocation of resources to the social sector.
- ❖ Analysis of the functionality of Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs).
- ❖ Suicides in India vis-à-vis the causative factors.
- ❖ Review of phase I findings of NFHS-5.
- ❖ VSS has embarked upon programming on constitutional values for the youth.
- ❖ VSS has also initiated development of programmatic outlook in centre-staging its focus on communication across the social strata whilst dwelling on social development areas including agriculture and livelihood from the standpoint of entitlement, transparency and accountability in delivery of public service delivery.

Engagement with the State Government and Development Partners

- ❖ During the year, the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh determined to formulate state's Nutrition Governance Policy 2020-30. Vikas Samvad has been actively engaging with the department and other development partners in facilitating the development of policy imperatives and consequently the policy instrument. The Policy has since been finalised by the department for the approval of the State Cabinet. The policy addresses the three domains – nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-governance related interventions from the perspective of communication, gender-lens and community ownership. Notably, Vikas Samvad has been tirelessly advocating for adopting a comprehensive approach to focus the nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-

governance so that underlying aspects of malnutrition can be juxtaposed with the endeavour to optimise the programming of nutrition-specific agenda.