

LOK PRERNA

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



Lok Prerna

Bela Bagan, Main Road, Deoghar, Jharkhand, 814132

+91-9431132730
lp.jharkhand@gmail.com
info@lokprerna.org
www.lokprerna.org



FOREWORD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we gather to reflect on another year of unwavering commitment to our mission, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we present to you the Annual Report of Lok Prerna. In the pages that follow, you will find an intricate tapestry of our vision, mission, values, objectives, and the remarkable work we have undertaken in the pursuit of sustainable development and social justice.

At Lok Prerna, our guiding star has always been a brighter future for those often left in the shadows of society. Our vision has eternally been rooted in building a world where every individual, regardless of their caste, creed, sex, or language, can claim their right to dignified means of livelihood and enjoy a life free from hunger and exploitation. This year's report reiterates our unwavering commitment to this vision.

Our mission, to uplift the underprivileged, particularly focusing on the tribal communities in the state of Jharkhand, stands as a testament to our dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our resolve to address key challenges in health, environment, education, and sustainable livelihood is palpable throughout these pages. Through strategic partnerships, sustainable programs, and targeted interventions, we strive to improve the well-being and socio-economic conditions of these marginalized communities while contributing to the global quest for sustainable development.

Our values of transparency, selfless service, accountability, team spirit, punctuality, sensitivity towards women, and secular spirit have been our guiding lights in every endeavour. These values have paved the way for meaningful change and growth within our organization.

As we delve into the heart of our report, you will witness the concrete steps we have taken to fulfill our mission. From enhancing healthcare services and promoting health education, to addressing education disparities and supporting maternal and child care, our initiatives align with the SDGs as climate resilient action, restore environment and resonate with our core beliefs.

In this year's report, you will find narratives that paint a vivid picture of our vision brought to life - the challenges we've faced, the lives we've touched, and the hope we've kindled. Our holistic philanthropic approach is not just a promise but a commitment to empower and uplift these communities, fostering sustainable progress and social inclusion.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, and the dedicated Lok Prerna team for their unwavering support and contributions. Together, we move closer to the world we envision, where no one is left behind.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We invite you to explore this Annual Report and join us in our mission to create a more just and sustainable world.

Warm regards,

Satish Kumar Karna
Founder-Director
Lok Prerna

Executive Summary

In the state of Jharkhand, India, a visionary philanthropic initiative is taking shape, aligning closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative is dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges faced by underprivileged communities, with a particular focus on the tribal populations in the region. Its overarching mission is to uplift these marginalized communities, enhancing their overall well-being and socio-economic conditions through strategic partnerships, sustainable programs, and targeted interventions that contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Jharkhand, with its significant tribal population, grapples with multifaceted challenges that intersect with the SDGs. From inadequate healthcare facilities and environmental degradation to limited access to quality education and poverty, these communities face obstacles that perpetuate a cycle of underdevelopment and vulnerability.

The need for a comprehensive philanthropic approach is evident, and it is deeply rooted in the principles of the SDGs. It is not just about providing aid but empowering and uplifting these communities for lasting change and social inclusion. The proposed initiative places a significant emphasis on enhancing healthcare services in tribal areas of Jharkhand, directly addressing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by collaborating with local healthcare providers, NGOs, and government bodies. The aim is to establish mobile medical units and telemedicine facilities, breaking down barriers and ensuring equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare services. Furthermore, the initiative will include programs that directly contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting health education and improving access to education, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Programs targeting maternal and child care and nutrition will align with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3, reducing the prevalence of preventable diseases and improving overall health outcomes for these underserved communities.

Through this holistic approach, the initiative is not only addressing immediate challenges but is also working towards a more sustainable and inclusive future, which is at the core of the SDGs. It seeks to create a path towards sustainable progress and social inclusion for the tribal communities of Jharkhand, contributing significantly to the global pursuit of the SDGs.

Jharkhand, with its significant tribal population, grapples with multifaceted challenges that intersect with several SDGs. From inadequate healthcare facilities and environmental degradation (SDG 3, 6, 13) to limited access to quality education (SDG 4) and pervasive poverty (SDG 1), these communities face formidable obstacles that perpetuate a cycle of underdevelopment and vulnerability. Recognizing that lasting change is achieved through a comprehensive approach, this philanthropic initiative embraces the principles of the SDGs. It is not merely about providing short-term aid but empowering and uplifting these communities for sustainable progress and social inclusion. The heart of the initiative lies in SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). It places a significant emphasis on enhancing healthcare services in tribal areas of Jharkhand. In collaboration with local healthcare providers, NGOs, and government bodies, breaking down barriers to healthcare access, ensuring affordability, and improving the quality of healthcare services, thus addressing SDG 3 directly. Maternal and child care and nutrition initiatives underpin SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3, aiming to reduce the prevalence of preventable diseases, improves overall health outcomes, and ensures that every child has the opportunity for a healthy start in life.

Education is a powerful instrument for change, and the initiative recognizes that, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education). Programs will be implemented to promote health education and improve access to education, especially for the most vulnerable segments of the population. This not only opens doors to opportunities but also aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting educational equality for women and girls.

Through this comprehensive approach deeply rooted in the SDGs with Lok Prerna team's approach and research-n-action, the initiative is not only addressing immediate challenges but also advancing a more sustainable and inclusive future. It actively contributes to the global pursuit of the SDGs, serving as a beacon of hope for the tribal communities of Jharkhand and part of eastern India as a like model for sustainable development efforts worldwide.

Madhav Kumar Das
Founder-Secretary
Lok Prerna

ABOUT US:

It was in the year 1991 when few likeminded young and qualified people came together to serve the society with purest commitment. All these people had some prior exposures in social and development sector but they felt that there is an urgent need to form an organization which is socially responsible at its core and at the same time is professionally managed. Hence year 1992 saw the genesis of Lok Prerna as a registered body. Lok Prerna is registered as a non-profit organization in 1992 under Societies Registration Act and renewed the FCRA, registered under 12A, 80G, CSR-1, MSME, Niti Aayog, PAN, TAN, etc.

The organization has been working with the vision of equity with equality, based on values of peace, co-existence and self-reliance, devoid of inequalities and discriminations based on caste, creed, religion and sex; where individuals including the most vulnerable population have opportunities of life with dignity. It has been working for the empowerment of the lowest sections of the society (with special focus on women and children) and introduces participatory action research for their access to services and ability to influence policies. It has supported activities like natural resource management, land and agriculture promotion, income generation activities, vocational training, water and sanitation activities, education and strengthening people's organization. The child and women rights are the cross cutting issues of the organization. Over the years, consistent and prudent efforts of the organization has enabled it to have a deep insight into the problem of the disadvantaged and deprived section of the community ensuring closer link with people and their benefactors including the government. Its concerted and integrated efforts has brought following commendable outcomes in its operational areas bringing eye catching changes in the attitude and action. In the past, Lok Prerna has been actively involved in implementing livelihood projects in the Santhal Pargana region, with a particular focus on Dumka and Deoghar Districts. The primary livelihood activities in this region are centred around agriculture, goat and pig rearing, as well as wage labour. Lok Prerna's efforts are concentrated on improving these livelihoods by promoting sustainable farming practices and increasing agricultural production to ensure food security and raise farmers' incomes.

OUR VISION, Mission, Values & Objective:

Lok Prerna's Vision is a noble one - they envision a self-reliant society, where no one suffers from hunger or exploitation. Their vision extends to all individuals, regardless of their caste, creed, sex, or language, having the right to a dignified means of livelihood. This vision strives for collective action to ensure socio-economic justice and maintain ecological balance.

In pursuit of this vision, Lok Prerna's mission is to uplift the most marginalized sections of society. They aim to empower the lowest rungs of society by facilitating and strengthening vibrant people's organizations at various levels. These organizations will help protect, utilize, control, and manage local resources, fostering dynamic socio-economic change and sustainable development. Their advocacy for pro-poor governance seeks to bring women, children, Tribal, and the downtrodden into the mainstream of society.

The values cherished by Lok Prerna are fundamental to their work. They uphold transparency in all aspects of their operations, exhibit unwavering commitment to selfless service for the poor, and maintain accountability to society. They work collaboratively with a strong sense of team spirit and

prioritize punctuality. Lok Prerna is also deeply sensitive to women's and children's issues and remains secular in spirit.

Their objectives revolve around bringing people to the forefront of development and empowering them to take responsibility for their own progress. Lok Prerna aims to create an environment that supports and strengthens the potential skills of individuals, turning them into agents of change in the society.

Funding Partner/ Agencies

International Level	National Level	Government Level
Water Aid – UK	SPWD	UNDP- GoI. - CCF – I
TDH–BMZ -Germany	TERI	UNDP – GoI- CCF - II
Australian High Commission – Aus	SRTT	Department of Rural Development, GoJ
British High Commission-UK	SDTT	Department of Social Welfare, GoJ
DFID-PACS-UK	PRADAN	Department of Tribal Affairs, GoJ
ICCO- Netherland	CWS	Department of Environment and Forest, GoJ
ICCO- Canada	Conexus Foundation	Department of Health & Family Welfare, GoJ
IGSSS-Germany	OFAJ	Department of Textiles and Handicraft, GoJ
Jiv Daya Foundation		Department of Horticulture, GoJ
Vitamin Angles		Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation,GoJ

Governing Board Member of the Lok Prerna

Sr.No.	Name of the Member	Designation	Gender
1	Teresa Hansda	President	Female
2	Satish Kumar Karna	Vice-President cum Founder Director	Male
3	Madhav Kumar Das	Founder Secretary	Male
4	Raju Murmu	Member	Male
5	Pradeep Kumar Singh	Founder Member	Male
6	Bitiya Murmu	Founder Member	Female
7	Renu Mukti Kullu	Member	Female
8	Rozina Bibi	Member	Female
9	Dinesh Prasad Mandal	Founder Member	Male

Major Interventions carried out by Lok Prerna in the last year 2022-23:

1. NB-RIDF Watershed Development Program: (NABARD-RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND+ Jharkhand State Watershed Mission)

In the various dimensions of sustainable development, the management of water, forests, and land is crucial. The conservation of ecological biodiversity is as essential for the environment as human life itself. In reality, to ensure education, health, and livelihood security in different aspects of sustainable development, we need to adopt a holistic development approach. In the rocky terrains of Jharkhand, the water conservation program is an ambitious initiative of the government. The Jharkhand government is dedicated to this cause from its inception. Currently, in all 24 districts of Jharkhand, water conservation projects are in progress. One of these projects is the NABARD-RIDF water conservation project, which started in the 2015-16 fiscal year. At the ground level, this project commenced in the Jamtara district in January 2017 and was completed on December 31, 2022.

Jamtara is categorized as one of India's 250 extremely backward districts out of a total of 640. Designated as such in 2006 by the Indian government, the district predominantly relies on rain-fed agriculture due to its rocky, stony, and infertile soil. The region falls under undulating and erratic rainfall, making farming viable for only about 6-7 months annually. During the remaining months, many residents must engage in labour or small businesses for sustenance, leading to labour migration.

The NABARD-RIDF water conservation project was implemented in 52 villages of the Fatehpur and Nala Panchayats within the Jamtara district of Jharkhand. These villages have nine micro-watershed areas where the organization's skilled team worked on the Ridge to Valley Approach.

Jamtara district is one of the 24 districts in Jharkhand. The people of this district primarily rely on rain-fed agriculture. Therefore, most of the population here is economically weak and impoverished. The land here is rocky, stony, and undulating. Due to the geographical conditions, only 17-18% of the land is suitable for cultivation, as there are no technical structures available to impede rainwater. As a result, the local population can only practice agriculture for six to seven months a year, and for the rest of the year, they have to resort to manual labour, small businesses, or, in some cases, migration. The number of migrant labourers is also significant among those seeking employment.

Although agriculture in this region is primarily rain-dependent, there is a significant lack of appropriate technology for rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and land preservation. The scarcity of related structures is also quite common. In these precarious circumstances, agricultural productivity is very low. To increase the income of the people in environmentally friendly areas, it is imperative to develop the proper management of natural resources as an option. In this regard, the water conservation program is the only solution, especially in hilly areas, which offers a precise way for the management of rainwater and other natural resources based on the Ridge to Valley Approach. Various studies reveal that focusing on agriculture productivity, nutrition, and the proper management of soil, water, and plant nutrients is crucial. Water conservation projects can be a game-changer in these tribal regions like Jharkhand. Hence, more water conservation projects should be initiated in states like Jharkhand.

The project area comes under the Shila Nadi river basin. There are a total of 4910 households residing here, with a population of 25970. Out of 52 villages, 31 are inhabited by tribal communities. The total agricultural land area is 5115 hectares, of which only 523 hectares were irrigated before the project. The main kharif crop was paddy, and the rabi crop included wheat, mustard, corn, and, to a lesser extent, cauliflower, eggplant, tomatoes, chilli, potatoes, etc. Insufficient water sources and other resources affected agriculture in this region. Many problems were affecting the local farmers. Additionally, this region has a low annual rainfall, and by January-February, almost all water sources would typically dry up. Adequate irrigation facilities were also rarely seen. The excessive soil erosion was negatively impacting yields. Barren land was on the rise. In this context, many people had to resort to migration for their livelihoods.



To prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), gram sabhas were conducted in the villages, and community-based organizations such as the Agricultural Permanent Committee, Water Conservation Development Committee, Self-Help Groups, Agricultural Producer Organizations, and others were formed. Collaborating with these rural organizations, planning was done through Participatory Rural Appraisal.

In this project, various technical structures were constructed based on the slope, and different techniques were implemented for upland treatment, including Trench Cum Bund, Water Absorption Tank, Farm Bunding, Deep Contour Trench, and others. For middle land treatment, structures like Farm Pond and Dova were extensively created. Drainage Line Treatment involved the construction of Loose Boulder Structures, Earthen Check Dams, Drum Check Dams, and Masonry Check Dams, significantly contributing to the management of surface water, sub-surface water, and groundwater. The results of these efforts are now becoming evident.



Previously, as soon as the monsoon ended, by December-January, the ground would start to dry up, and grass would wither by February. Now, the fields retain moisture until February-March, providing green fodder for livestock. Earlier, households would raise

only 1-2 milch animals, but today, they rear 3-4 milch animals. In houses where there were once only 3-4 liters of milk, now there's an availability of 7-8 litres of milk, which is sold at a rate of ₹50 per litre. There is also better utilization of milk, curd, ghee, etc. in households.

Some farmers have also started cultivating pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables, whereas earlier the land in the region used to remain barren. Many have started pisciculture in ponds and Dovas. Some households are even raising ducks. People have learned from each other and diversified their economic activities. Tea stalls, snack shops, vegetable stalls, and grocery stores have opened in several villages, providing employment to the locals and putting a halt to migration.



Previously, there was a significant decline in biodiversity, and species like Ghongha, Kechua, small fish, etc., which were on the brink of extinction, have started to flourish again. The surrounding vegetation has also become greener. During February-March, children from the village can now be seen catching a considerable quantity of fish in the ponds.



Convergence with various programs has also been fruitful. Cashew orchards have been planted on the hilly terrain of Bandardiha by the Forest Department. Grazing land has been developed. Management of cattle feed has started. Some ponds now have Sabai grass growing, which people can use to make ropes and earn extra income. This innovation was attempted for the first time in Jharkhand through Lok Prerna. On a large scale, the successful effort was made to control soil erosion and reduce the runoff intensity of rainwater, and local people now wash clothes in the ponds created by the project. Check dams are being utilized, and more land next to the river or Joria (streams) is now being used for cultivation.



❖ Status of Completed NRM Works under Target Area:-

Table 1:

Total No. of TargetVillage	TCB (Ha.)	WAT (Ha.)	Farm Bund- (Ha.)	DCT (Ha.)	Farm Pond (No.)	Dova (No.)	ECD (No.)	MCD (No.)	DCD (No.)	LBS (Cum.)
52	134.04	20.72	11	1.99	102	86	10	15	18	479

❖ Status of Agricultural Achievement :-

Table 2:

SI No.	Crop	Production before Programm Implementation		Production after Programm Implementation	
		Area(Ha.)	ProductionKg / Ha.	Area (Ha)	ProductionKg/ Ha.
1	Paddy	4900	2600	5213	2800
2	Wheat	375	1400	408	1600
3	Pulses	175	900	206	1020
4	Vegetable	100	250	160	320
5	Mustard	50	300	252	362
6	Potato	75	275	110	340
7	Others	10	125	18	150

The construction of various water conservation structures like TCB (Trench Cum Bund), WAT (Water Absorption Trench), and Farm Bunds has extended the availability of moisture in the land until late February or March. This has resulted in the growth of green grass for livestock even after the monsoon season. The constructed structures have contributed significantly to improving groundwater levels. The water levels in wells and bore wells have seen remarkable improvement, with more manageable depths of 8-10 meters and 50-60 meters respectively.

The project has facilitated the growth of additional income sources. Fish farming and duck rearing in the constructed ponds have become lucrative ventures, generating substantial income for beneficiaries. The prolonged availability of green grass has led to an increase in the number of milch-animals per household. Farmers are now able to keep more milch animals, averaging 8-10 compared to the previous 3-4, which has subsequently boosted income from milk sales.



Unnamed Road, Jajuri, Jharkhand 815354, India
Murgabani



Sunderpur Government Primary School Rd, Chandrasa, Jharkhand 815351, India
Babudih
Jharkhand
India
32°C
90°F
2020-08-28(Fri) 01:09(PM)

The project's comprehensive approach, involving soil conservation and moisture retention, has resulted in increased agricultural productivity. The yields of various crops have shown significant improvement, benefiting the farmers. The project has enabled farmers to diversify their crops. After paddy cultivation, they are now growing crops like wheat, gram, and various vegetables in rotation. This diversification has

not only increased income but also enhance food security for the communities.



It has brought about socio-economic changes. Farmers experience reduced effort in farming due to improved soil fertility and water management practices, leading to enhanced livelihoods and savings. Community engagement was central to the success of the watershed development projects. Community-based organizations such as Gram Sabhas, Krishi Sthayi Samitis, Jal Chhajjan Vikas Samitis, Kisan Clubs, Self-Help Groups, and Agriculture Product Organizations played vital roles. This collaborative effort led to advancements in water and soil conservation, positively impacting agricultural practices and overall development.

Women's involvement in mobilization, awareness programs, and decision-making processes has been a notable outcome of the project. This has contributed to empowering women in the region.

The project's positive impact extends to the environment. Biodiversity has thrived, attracting various flora and fauna including birds and insects. Efforts by the Forest Department to plant cashews and other plants have further contributed to environmental improvement.



The project addressed several key challenges, including insufficient rainfall, water source drying, scarcity of irrigation resources, soil erosion, barren lands, labour migration, traditional farming methods, and underutilization of natural resources. By adopting a holistic approach, these challenges were mitigated, resulting in sustainable progress.

Jamtara's journey is intertwined with historical events and contemporary challenges. Through initiatives like watershed development, involving community-based organizations, the district is making strides in overcoming economic and environmental hurdles. The commitment to sustainable practices and resource management reflects a collective effort to forge a prosperous future for Jamtara and its residents.

2. Awareness and Capacity Building on RH- Incompatibility:

We are carried out the training on RH-Incompatibility to the government Health frontline workers (HFW) of five districts namely Deoghar, Jamtara, Dumka, Sahibgunj, and Pakur in Jharkhand. In the project we rendered the capacity building program on RH-Incompatibility to 15065 out-off 18133 HFW. In the process of the activities we have got the permission from the District Administration and Health Department.



The Training-Cum-Awareness Programme on Rh Incompatibility in the Santhal Pargana Region of Jharkhand has been highly successful in increasing knowledge and awareness among Health Frontline Workers. This program aimed to address the issue of Rh incompatibility, which can lead to severe complications during pregnancy and childbirth if not properly managed. A total of 15,065 Health Frontline Workers participated in the training sessions, which were conducted for ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives), ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), and AWWs (Anganwadi Workers) across five districts in the Santhal Pargana Region. The training sessions provided in-depth information about Rh incompatibility, its consequences, and the importance of early detection and management. The impact of this program has been significant, with approximately 1.5 million people becoming aware of Rh incompatibility. This increased awareness has led to improved maternal and child health outcomes in the region.

Table 3: Imparting training of HFW in the 5 districts of Jharkhand is as follows:

Sr. No.	Districts	No. Of Blocks	AWWs Workers		ASHAs Workers		ANMs Workers	
			Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements
1	Deoghar	10	1457	1416	2624	2126	300	211
2	Dumka	10	2047	1736	2341	2023	435	316
3	Sahibgunj	11	1688	1342	1584	1513	270	197
4	Pakur	6	1167	782	1152	962	192	166
5	Jamtara	6	1168	1064	1475	1170	233	7
	Total	43	7527	6340	9176	7794	1430	897

Lok Prerna Successfully achieved the milestone of 85% in awareness and capacity building of HFW. In the heart of Jharkhand, Lok Prerna has reached a significant milestone in its ongoing mission to enhance maternal and child health. With a focus on addressing the critical issue of Rh incompatibility, we embarked on an ambitious journey to build awareness and capacity among government Health Frontline Workers (HFW) in five districts: Deoghar, Jamtara, Dumka, Sahibgunj, and Pakur.

Our Capacity Building Program on Rh-Incompatibility, a crucial component of Lok Prerna's holistic approach, aimed to equip HFW with the knowledge and tools to combat this often-overlooked health challenge. In total, a commendable 15,065 HFWs actively participated in our training sessions. These sessions, carefully designed for Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), offered comprehensive insights into Rh incompatibility, its potential consequences, and the paramount significance of early detection and effective management.



Crucially, the success of this program was not merely measured by the number of participants but by its impact on the broader community. With approximately 1.5 million individuals now aware of Rh incompatibility, we have taken a substantial step forward in improving maternal and child health outcomes across the region.

By identifying and managing Rh incompatibility in its early stages, we are mitigating the risk of severe complications during pregnancy and childbirth. These proactive efforts ensure the well-being of both mothers and their newborns. The risk of complications such as haemolytic disease of the

newborn can be minimized, resulting in healthier, happier beginnings for the newest members of our society.

Our success has been further underlined by the endorsement and support of the District Administration and Health Department, reflecting the collaborative spirit that underpins our work.

As we move forward, it's imperative to remember that sustaining this positive impact is vital. The journey we've begun is ongoing, and a well-structured follow-up plan is integral to our continued success. Building on the knowledge and awareness we've cultivated, we look to the future with a shared commitment to healthier lives for mothers and children. This journey, made possible through your support, is one that transforms not just statistics but the very fabric of our community. It's a journey of hope, health, and empowerment, and we are immensely grateful to have Conexus Foundation alongside us. Together, we look forward to the brighter and healthier days that lie ahead.

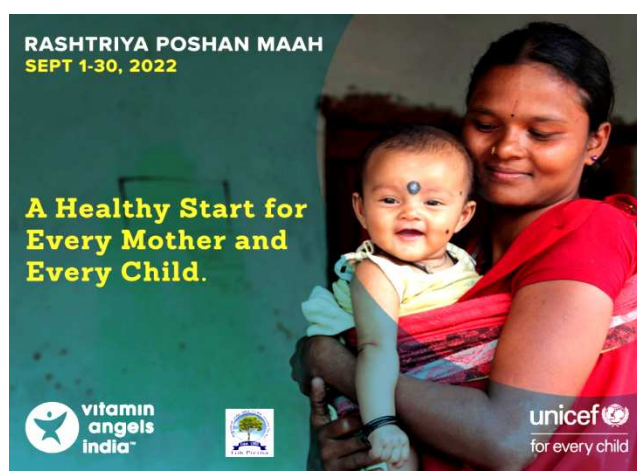
By identifying and managing Rh incompatibility early on, the risk of complications such as haemolytic disease of the newborn can be minimized, ensuring the well-being of both the mother and the baby. To sustain the program's positive impact, a well-structured follow-up plan is crucial. This follow-up program should include several key elements:

To ensure the success of a follow-up program, several crucial strategies have been recommended. Firstly, establishing monitoring and evaluation systems is important key to tracking the program's progress and identifying areas that may need improvement. This would involve conducting regular assessments to gauge the knowledge and awareness levels of Health Frontline Workers and the community they serve.

Additionally, maintaining the competence of Health Frontline Workers is vital. Refresher training sessions should be conducted to reinforce their knowledge and keep them abreast of the latest information and guidelines related to Rh incompatibility. These refresher sessions can be held annually or bi-annually, ensuring that these healthcare professionals are well-informed and engaged. Peer learning and support play a significant role in sustaining the impact of the program. Encouraging Health Frontline Workers to share their experiences and learn from one another creates a supportive environment, fostering continuous learning and improvement. Lastly, strengthening collaboration with healthcare facilities is crucial for the program's success. Establishing a robust network with these facilities is vital for seamless information flow and to ensure the program's objectives are met. Together, these strategies form a comprehensive approach to ensure the success of the follow-up program.

3. Nutrition improvement and

Vitamin Angels is a program that focuses on improving the health of vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on women and children. They provide essential vitamins and minerals to at-risk pregnant women, new mothers, and children under five in underserved communities. These populations often face nutritional deficiencies that can hinder their



growth and development and increase the risk of mortality.

The key nutrients provided by Vitamin Angels include vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, iron, zinc, and folic acid. These nutrients are crucial for various bodily functions, including immune system support, bone health, and cognitive development. By addressing nutritional deficiencies, Vitamin Angels aims to reduce child mortality and improve overall health outcomes. To extend its reach and ensure transparency and accountability, Vitamin Angels collaborates with corporations, governments, and foundations. These partnerships help secure sustainable funding and enable the program to expand its coverage to reach more communities in need.

One specific area where Vitamin Angels provides intervention is in the Devipur CD block area. In



this region, they provide Vitamin-A capsules and Albendazole twice a year to 700 children. Vitamin A supplementation helps prevent blindness and supports the immune system, while Albendazole treats parasitic infections. This intervention aims to improve the overall health and well-being of these children. However, to ensure the continued success of such interventions, follow-up measures are essential.

Monitoring and evaluation play a crucial role in assessing the impact of the program and identifying areas for improvement. It is important to track the health outcomes of the beneficiaries and make necessary adjustments to the intervention if needed.

Expanding coverage to reach more communities is another crucial step. By identifying underserved areas and targeting them with the necessary resources, Vitamin Angels can ensure that more women and children receive the essential vitamins and minerals they need for optimal health.

Providing health education and behaviour change programs can also be beneficial. These programs can educate communities about the importance of proper nutrition and health practices, empowering them to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.



Strengthening partnerships with local organizations, governments, and healthcare providers is essential for the long-term sustainability of the program. By working together, these stakeholders can leverage their resources and expertise to maximize the impact of the intervention.

Securing sustainable funding is another important aspect. By diversifying funding sources and exploring innovative financing models, Vitamin Angels can ensure the continuity of their programs and reach more vulnerable populations.

Involving local communities in the planning and implementation processes can also enhance the effectiveness of the program. By engaging community members, their needs and perspectives can be better incorporated into the intervention.

The Lok Prerna NGO is working diligently to improve the lives of vulnerable communities in Northern India through two vital projects: the Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative and the Project Grant Program for Hunger & Rural Poverty Elimination.

4. Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative:

This initiative strives to combat malnutrition and promote early childhood education for children aged 6 months to 5 years in Northern Indian villages. Utilizing spaces like Anganwadis, NGO centres, or community buildings, the project caters to 40-60 children, creating an optimal learning and nourishment environment.



A key element of this project is the daily distribution of nutrient-enriched milk, containing essential vitamins and iron to support healthy growth. Hygiene is of utmost importance, and children are taught daily cleanliness practices, ensuring they arrive clean and tidy. The initiative provides uniforms and clothes to foster a sense of pride and belonging.

In addition to nutrition, the project emphasizes early literacy and numeracy skills. After milk distribution, volunteers engage children in learning local and Hindi alphabets, numbers, colours, and shapes. Learning materials like slates and chalk are provided to aid exploration. The use of regional language materials enhances cultural relevance and language retention.

5. Project Grant Program for Hunger & Rural Poverty Elimination:

In partnership with the JivDaya Foundation (JDF), Lok Prerna has launched the Project Grant Program to provide relief to 105 families whose children are enrolled in the Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative in Ghaghee and Dharpur villages, District Deoghar, Jharkhand. The INR 84,000 grant aims to lift these families out of hunger and rural poverty, ensuring their children's well-being and access to education.



Lok Prerna and JDF maintain a rigorous monitoring system for both projects. Daily reports, featuring milk distribution, attendance, and educational activities documented through photos and texts, are submitted by 2 p.m. Quarterly measurements of height and weight further assess the children's health progress, indicating project effectiveness.

The Lok Prerna NGO's commitment to holistic community development is exemplified through the Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative and the Project Grant Program for Hunger & Rural Poverty Elimination. By nurturing young minds and bodies while empowering families to overcome poverty, Lok Prerna is paving the way for a brighter future for Northern Indian children and communities. With their steadfast dedication and collaborative approach alongside JDF, Lok Prerna stands as a beacon of hope, fostering positive change one child and family at a time.

6. Installation of Standalone Solar Powered Agricultural Pumps (KUSUM YOJANA)

The KUSUM Yojana, a significant government initiative in India, seeks to deploy 2 million standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps across the nation. Its primary objective is to assist individual farmers in adopting solar-powered irrigation systems for their agricultural requirements. This intervention is being executed in the state of Jharkhand, where farmers can procure solar agriculture pumps with a capacity of up to 7.5 HP from the Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA). The program permits a Solar PV capacity of twice the pump capacity in KW. Under this scheme, farmers are only required to pay 10% of the pump cost via a bank draft, rendering it an affordable and sustainable alternative.



Lok Prerna, in collaboration with the Switch On Foundation, has taken on the task of facilitating and advocating the KUSUM Yojana in the Deoghar and Jamtara districts of Jharkhand. Their efforts have concentrated on motivating women farmers to apply for and avail the benefits offered by the program. So far, 1500 women farmers have been effectively guided through the application process. A total of 287 applications for the installation of solar pumps have been generated in the two districts. In the Deoghar district, applications were received from multiple blocks, with the highest number in Devipur (61 applications), followed by Madhupur (46 applications). In Jamtara district, Fatehpur & Nala block alone accounted for 55 applications. Out of these applications, 146 have been approved and forwarded to JREDA for further processing. This approval process marks the initiation of the installation of solar agriculture pumps. As of February 2023, 32 solar-powered pumps have already been successfully set up in the region.



The implementation of the KUSUM Yojana has garnered positive feedback from the benefiting farmers. They express their contentment with the system's efficiency and management, as it provides irrigation without operational costs and environmental pollution. Each pump can irrigate

approximately 20 hectares of cultivated land, benefiting 10 to 12 farmers in the process. Farmers are diversifying their crops, cultivating a range of produce such as wheat, mustard, maize, and vegetables. Lands that were previously barren or used for single-crop cultivation during the rainy season are now flourishing with multiple crops due to continuous irrigation availability. This has not only increased their income sources but also enhanced the local environment.

The KUSUM Yojana intervention, backed by the Switch On Foundation and facilitated by Lok Prerna, stands as a successful and ambitious initiative. By supplying farmers with standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps, the program has transformed the irrigation landscape in the region. It promotes sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices while empowering women farmers to take control of their land and augment their income. With the ongoing installation of more solar pumps, the positive impact on farmers and agriculture in the area is expected to expand, further reinforcing the rural economy and conserving resources for future generations.

Efforts to raise awareness and promote the adoption of non-conventional energy sources in Jharkhand have yielded impressive outcomes and substantial impacts. Through initiatives like the KUSUM Yojana and the collaborative work of Lok Prerna and the Switch On Foundation, understanding and appreciation for non-conventional energy options have increased significantly among farmers and communities in the state.

The successful facilitation of 1,500 women farmers in applying for solar pump installation demonstrates increased participation and interest in non-conventional energy sources. Awareness programs and prioritizing women farmers have effectively engaged local communities in conversations about renewable energy. Positive feedback from initial beneficiaries has led to favourable word-of-mouth publicity, further spreading awareness. The successful installation and operation of solar-powered pumps serve as living examples of the benefits of non-conventional energy, motivating others to adopt similar solutions. Improved crop yields and income due to enhanced irrigation facilities have improved livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions. Reduction in fossil fuel consumption and pollution from traditional motor pumps contributes to environmental conservation. Government support and institutional capacity building have also played a role in the success of the initiative.