

Monthly Report

Reporting Period / Month: February 2025

Strengthening Entrepreneurship models led by women and youth from the most vulnerable families of Kendrapara District, Odisha

Objective 1 - To foster entrepreneur development to increase-income generation of individual and collective livelihoods (on farm and off farm) models led by marginalized women and youth in Kendrapara district.

Activities carried out during the reporting period:

- **Stakeholders' Meeting:**

Two stakeholder meetings were conducted to discuss input support for vulnerable families. These meetings brought together key representatives, including ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and members of women's collectives. The discussions focused on identifying the specific needs of vulnerable households, ensuring effective resource allocation, and enhancing community participation in livelihood support initiatives. Each stakeholder shared valuable insights and perspectives, contributing to a more inclusive and strategic approach to supporting these families.



- **Home Visits for Needs Assessment:**

A total of 21 home visits were conducted to facilitate the preparation of livelihood input supports, gather essential documents required for input support, and document the case stories of beneficiaries. Also, visits were made to the families of existing beneficiaries to assess their evolving needs and explore opportunities for further assistance. These visits provided valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions of the households, ensuring that support is tailored to their specific requirements and sustainable livelihood opportunities are effectively implemented.



- **Empowering Women Collectives: Financial Planning and Business Development Support**

Three meetings were conducted with women collective group members to discuss financial support for their initiatives. ActionAid team visited the designated land or workspace where the collective group plans to establish their business. Livelihood activity of 4 collectives have been finalised after thorough discussion, analysis and field visit. With all collective group members, the team facilitated detailed planning and budget preparation to ensure a structured and sustainable approach to their collectives. These discussions aimed to strengthen financial strategies, enhance group coordination, and support the successful implementation of their business plans.



Ms. Stiti Pragyan Barik of Aainipada village joined the World Skill Center, Bhubaneswar with our effort



Our women collective group meeting with ActionAid team in Srirampur Village



Our women collective groups from Aainipada and Srirampur village joined on Natural Farming 4 days Training at KVK, Jajang, Kendrapara



Interaction of ActionAid team with existing beneficiaries of Narsinghpur village, Kendrapara



Field visit of ActionAid team to the designated land for collective farming at Srirampur – Hari Gosain Women Collective Group



Women collectives group meeting with ActionAid team at Narsinghpur Village, Kendrapara

Outcomes achieved in February 2025:

- **Ms. Stiti Pragyan Barik** from Aainipada village has enrolled in a one-year Beauty and Wellness course at the **World Skill Training Centre**, Bhubaneswar. This opportunity was made possible through **ActionAid's** engagement with youth groups and its convergence with the **World Skill Centre**, aimed at enhancing skill development and employment prospects for young people. As part of the training program, she will receive free food and accommodation, ensuring a supportive learning environment that enables her to develop essential skills for future employment opportunities in the beauty and wellness industry.
- Women collective members from **Srirampur and Aainipada** villages successfully completed a four-day training program on natural farming at **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)**, Jajang, Kendrapara, Odisha. The training focused on eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices, including organic soil management, natural pest control, composting techniques, and the use of bio-fertilizers.



This initiative was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the ActionAid team and its strategic convergence with KVK. Their collaboration has enabled women collective members to gain essential agricultural knowledge, adopt

climate-resilient farming methods, and reduce dependency on chemical inputs. By implementing these sustainable techniques, the participants can improve soil health, increase crop yields, and enhance their income-generating opportunities, ultimately strengthening their economic independence and community resilience.

Objective 2 - To ensure favorable ecosystem of entrepreneurship led by marginalised women and youth through accessing entitlements and support services.

- A meeting was held at the Block Office in Kendrapara, Odisha, with Mr. Prakash Sethy, Block Project Manager (BPM), and Mr. Debabrata Ojha, in the presence of ActionAid project staff.



The discussion centred on the implementation of wall paintings in our project villages as an awareness initiative to disseminate information about various government schemes and entitlements.

This initiative aims to enhance public access to critical information, ensuring that communities, especially marginalized groups, are well-informed about their rights and the benefits available to them. The meeting facilitated coordination among key stakeholders to finalize the content, identify strategic locations, and develop an effective execution plan for the wall paintings. By visually representing essential government provisions in public spaces, this initiative seeks to bridge the information gap, promote awareness, and empower communities to claim their rightful entitlements.

Plan for Next Month (March- 2025)

- **Providing input support to two identified women's collectives** to strengthen their entrepreneurial initiatives and enhance their income-generating activities. This aims to promote self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods among collective members.
- **Facilitating skill development by linking two youth to specialized training programs** that enhance their employability and career prospects. These will equip them with industry-relevant skills, increasing their opportunities for stable employment.

- **Providing input support to five identified vulnerable families** to improve their economic stability and enhance their ability to engage in sustainable livelihood activities. This assistance is to meet their specific needs, ensuring long-term benefits.
- **Organizing a leadership development program** aimed at empowering individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to take on leadership roles within their communities. This initiative will help proactive engagement in decision-making and community development.
- **Assessing the impact of existing livelihood models through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and real-time need assessments** of beneficiaries and recipients previously supported. This evaluation will provide insights into the effectiveness of past interventions and guide future improvements.
- **Conducting a stakeholder meeting to strengthen coordination and support for livelihood initiatives.** This meeting will bring together key representatives from government departments, civil society organizations, and community groups to discuss strategies for enhancing sustainable livelihoods and resource mobilization.