WORD: Women's Organisation for Rural Development

Koraput District, Odisha, India



ANNUALREPORT - 2020-2021



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ABOUT US:

WORD (Women's Organisation for Rural Development) is women initiated and managed organisation working in Koraput District of Odisha since 1991. WORD visualizes itself as a People's Initiative striving towards Justice, Peace, Equality and Fraternity.

The guiding principle of WORD is community empowerment by the people for their own development with gender as the transversal through all its process and projects.

WORD is a registered organization under Societies Registration Act in Koraput, FCRA and Income Tax 12 A and satisfies all the legal provisions of running a society.

WORD has good rapport with the community, other civil societies and government institutions and converge and synergize for the overall development of the communities in Koraput District.

VISION OF WORD:

TO STRIVE FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY

WORD visualizes a Just and self-reliant society where all the members enjoy equal opportunities, rights, justice and participate for democratic decision making to resolve the issues of the society. A society in which the people can live with dignity challenging discrimination and exploitation and exercise their rights for the development of self and the society at large.

MISSION STATEMENT:

OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER TRIBAL AND DALIT PEOPLE TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AND FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES by

enabling all vulnerable sections of the society, service providers, stakeholders and policy makers to recognize and respond to the needs of the women, children, farmers, adolescent and youth to ensure better standard of living

Target Area:

AREA OF OPERATION: ORISSA – KORAPUT DISTRICT- LAXMIPUR, NARAYANPATNA, SEMILIGUDA AND KORAPUT BLOCKS



Target group:



The target groups are the rural and marginalized tribal and dalits of which the most vulnerable being the women, children and marginal farmers. At present WORD is covering about 250 villages consisting of around 40,000 families.

Strategic Objectives: 2016-2021

- 1. To promote and empower Community Based Organisations
- 2. To initiate measures for Food and Water Security
- 3. To create sustainable social enterprise model for women / farmers and youth
- 4. To ensure quality education to children
- 5. To advocate and lobby for recognition of women, children, farmers and tribal rights

Approach:

WORD believes in Multi Disciplinary Approach by being a catalyst in the process

Thrust Areas:



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Introduction:

WORD has been striving itself to address the vulnerability of the communities it is working with and inspite of the COVID pandemic WORD team has been able to reach out to the vulnerable communities and create some impacts.

MAJOR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2020-21:

- "Child Rights and Child Protection" CHILDLINE 1098 for addressing issues of vulnerable children in the areas of child survival, child education, child protection and child growth and development. Supported by CHILDLINE INDIA FOUNDATION, Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi
- ➤ Victim to a Survivor Bijayini Supporting 300 women subjected to domestic violence Supported by OXFAM, India.
- ➤ A Voice for the Disabled and their Carers" supporting 500 People with chronic disabilities and their Carers supported by Rangoonwala Foundation and Carers World Wide, UK
- ➤ Breaking the Silence Addressing issues of 250 Mental ill and Epilepsy patients along with their 400 primary and secondary carers supported by TLLLF through Carers World Wide, UK
- > "Mainstreaming Children into Education" ADARSH VIDHYALAYA catering to 200 children in residential school. Supported by European Third World Association (ETWA)-Germany and NALCO FOUNDATION.
- > "Initiation of Urban Primary Health Care through UPHC" in Jeypore Municipality Supported by National Urban Health Mission(NUHM), GOI
- "Increasing of Institutional Delivery impacting to reduction of IMR and MMR Maa Gruha" in Laxmipur Block of Koraput district. Supported by NHM, Koraput.
- ➤ Women in Agriculture for Livelihood Security" Supported by OXFAM, India
- Skills training for PWDs and their carers Supported by GiftAbled Foundation, India,
- > Nursery Raising for Livelihood development of 42 vulnerable women through Utkal Alumina, Rayagada
- Community Process initiatives in two villages of Rayagada District through Utkal Alumina
- > Sustainable Climate Resilience Agriculture for improved livelihood and nutrition security by SBI Cares
- COVID support relief through Rangoonwala Foundation and Carers Worldwide to most vulnerable families

Major interventions undertaken in this year as follows:

1. CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION:

WORD has always strived for the Rights of the Women and Children in her interventions and this year through the Childline 1098 could address the issues of the children.

The pandemic situation has made the children more vulnerable and schools were closed and children had to spent their time idle in the families. This resulted in child labour and also children supporting families in their agriculture fields and household chores. The children from the villages do not have access to mobile connectivity and hence deprived of their education. due to COVID, Few children lost their parents and became more vulnerable.

Some of the outputs of the Childline interventions under child Rights and child Protection are:

Totally 181 cases of child vulnerability were addressed in relation to the following:

Abuse of children: 42 cases including child marriage and sexual abuse

Children in need of shelter: 53 Children in need of sponsorship: 64 Children in need of medical help: 14

and other issues: 08 cases.

The issues were sorted out amicably with the support of DCPO, CWC and the District, block and police support.

Apart from this out reach programmes and open house programmes for children and adults were conducted and around 1200 people/children have been contacted and oriented on Childline services.

Various events like Childline se Dosti, organizing of extra curricular events etc., led to good rapport building of the team members with the children and the adult in the community.

The stakeholders like the DCPO, CWC, CDPO, block administration, teachers, AWW and ASHA also supported WORD in addressing the issues of the children at the village and block level.

Case study:

Miss. Padmabati Jani(name changed) aged about 16 years residing in maliguda village(name changed) of Laxmipur block hails from a poor family of daily labourers with an younger sibling. She does not go to school due to COVID. One another boy from her own village started abusing the girl when her parents went to the agriculture field and threatened to kill her if she informed the parents. The girl was too scared to inform her ordeal and in the meantime she became pregnant and her parents came to know the cause. They called for community meeting to find a solution but the boy absconded. The community members informed the ASHA worker and she called the Childline 1098. The CDPO, police, Childline team members verified the details and the girl was produced before the CWC. The girl was too scared for her life and requested for police support and hence she was kept in the Ujjala home until delivery of her child as per the order of the CWC. Now the girl and child are healthy and the community vouches to catch hold of the boy and produce him before the police. The Childline team members played an active role in supporting the family to file the case and give protection to the girl and her to be born child...



CHILDLINE SE DOSTI Competition at Gram Panchayat level in Laxmipur Block

2. WOMEN'S RIGHTS: "BIJAYINI"- From Victim to a Survivor:

The Women Support Centres(WSC) functioning in the premises of SP office in Koraput and Rayagada address violence against women and children. Through this centres, women and children subjected to harassment get counselling support and are guided to get free legal support, police protection, shelter, medical and livelihood support. The office is manned by two counsellors in each district who were trained on counselling skills and various Acts and Laws regarding Domestic violence.

Major highlights during this year through this project include:

Total of 107 cases were addressed of which Domestic violence - 45, Child marriage -05, Kidnapping -01, Elopment -08, Rape -03, False promise for marriage -16, senior citizen harrassment -04 and one time intervention is 25 in the two districts.

One POSCO victim could get Rs.200,000/- as compensation through active involvement of the DLSA.

4 women got medicial support from district health aministration for physical abuse cases and two survivors were sent to Shelter homes. 16 survivors got support from the District Legal Support Authority for addressing their cases and 12 women were able to file DIR through Protection officer. Compensation and maintanance worth Rs.14,00,000/- could be got to the victims with active counselling with the survivors and inteference of the polcie and legal authorities.

During the COVID period there was large reports of domestic violence during lock down period and WORD along with OXFAM also conducted Rapid assessment of the domestic voilence issues related to COVID. Due to lack of communication facilities, online counselling was also done to support the women in need.



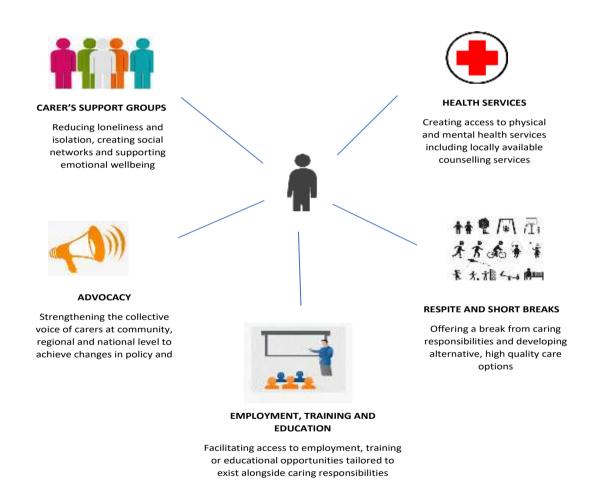
Case study:

This is the story of one Ms. Jeyanti Bisoi(name changed) of Jeypore(place changed) town who approached the Mahila police station of physical, mental and emotional abuse by her husband and in-laws. The police felt that the need for counselling and understand the truth behind her story and sent her to Women Support Centre, Koraput. During the first session she kept telling controversial statements and the counsellor counselled the girl to tell the truth. She then told that her father-in law was abusing her sexually and her mother-in-law although knows this, she keeps quite. Later in the second session with the entire family everyone abused the girl including her husband that she was lying and finally she confessed to speak to the elder sisterin-law who also faced similar situation while she was in the family and now she has gone to Bhubaneswar with her husband. In the third session, the lady was called and she informed the truth of her father-in-law misbehaving with her several times. A case was filed as the girl did not want to go back to the family but with much pressure from all quarters she finally agreed to stay back. After few days, the entire family blamed her and abused her obsence language for dragging them to police station and she finally left the home and came back to her aunt's house. He aunt also refused to keep her at home and she was left alone. The counsellors of WSC managed to get her a job in Centurion University for a monthly salary of Rs.6500/- A case was filed in with support of DLSA and she got a one time compensation of Rs.100,000/- . She is now leading a peaceful life..

3. VOICE OF THE DISABLED AND THEIR CARERS:

WORD emphasis on working for the people with Disability especially people affected by Mental Illness, epilepsy and chronic disabled persons. For the first of its kind in Koraput district, WORD emphasis on bringing attention to the Carers of the Chronic disabled people who are the invisible one-man army that keep the family and community going by sacrificing their own lives.

A Carer Model approach was followed in which the five core components as given below were followed:



Major highlights of this project in this year include:

- 86 Nos. of certificates of PWD were mobilized and by the end of this year around 394 people got their certificates in total out of 400 eligible people in the target villages.
- 394 people got pension and bus pass as well.
- 22 Nos. of CWDs study in different Government and private school after rejoining them in their respective schools
- 46 children are getting Banishree scholarship (education stipend for CWDs)

- 256 Nos. of MI and epilepsy patients getting free treatment and continuing their medicines. This year the medicines were made available at the Block instead of going to district hospital for treatment thereby saving their time and money.
- Around 142 people are becoming more stable from MI and epilepsy due to continuous intake of medicines
- 08 Nos. of children got special therapy services at Duruguda EKTA campus and their conditions has greatly improved.
- 15 Nos. of Groups for PWD and 40 groups of Carers including 20 cluster groups and one Block level federation of carers and one District federation were constituted and strengthened.
- 396 people were covered under health insurance
- 175 carers were given training on various livelihood skills like mushroom, poultry, hill brooms, vegetable cultivation, leaf plate making, tailoring etc., and 60 carers were supported with revolving fund to pursue their livelihood.
- Linkages with different departments like Millet mission, Agriculture and horticulture department, OLM, ORMASS etc., and carers could get input support as well as loan support to improve their livelihood.
- Carers were able to represent their issues, their achievements etc., in District and State level forums in Bangalore and Bhubaneswar.



A carer for Children with Disability managing a petty shop for livelihood of the family

Case study:

Ms. Sakuntala Jani(name changed) of Laxmipur Block was suffering from mental depression and epilepsy for past 18 years and she was taken care of her aged parents. They had undergone various procedures like witch craft for curing her with no results. The parents were very worried about her situation and she remained confined in closed room. Mass awareness was done by WORD on mental illness and counselling done at different villages and one day the team member happened to meet the lady's mother who narrated how her child would not leave the room and been mentally depressed. The team and parents tried to bring her to the health camp but she forcefully jumped off the vehicle. WORD discussed with District Mental Health Programme(DMHP) team of Koraput and arranged to go to the house of the lady and the Psychiatrist along with the team counselled the lady at her home and finally we took the medicines regularly. Now she has become stable and come out of her room and support the mother in her household activities and also taken up kitchen garden in her home backyard. The aged parents are relieved that she has come to near normal condition after so many years...

4. EDUCATION TO EMPOWERMENT – PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION:

Quality education is the need of the hour especially among the remote schools and anganwadis in the District. In order to address the issue, WORD is implementing a pilot project targeting 50 schools and 50 anganwadis in Semiliguda Block of Koraput district.

The major objective of the project is to improve learning outcomes in children by focusing on Early childhood education and care and on primary education.

Major interventions include:

- Providing On site and off site support to children in schools and AWCs
- Developing physical and education environment in schools and AWCs
- Strengthening of different committees like Matru committee, Janch Committee, School Management Committee, Parent-Teachers committee, School cabinet, etc., to increase ownership of community/children over school and AWCs.
- Improving the adopting innovative and interactive class room sessions
- Initiation of Pedagogical forum at District level and convergence at State level
- Distribution of TLM, sport materials, story books and child friendly utilities in schools and anganwadis

Major achievements include:

- With the support of Academic coordinators of WORD, 12 school drop out/irregular children could be mainstreamed back to school in the target villages. Around 118 children were smoothly migrated from AWCs to school for new joining.
- 32 Nos. of School Management Committee prepared the School Development Plan and submitted in the Gramsabha and the SMCs strengthened to monitor the school functioning
- Infrastructure for four schools, 3 Anganwadis and beautification work in ten schools and seven anganwadis could be made possible to give a learning environment for the children. similarly school campus and school environment were also cleaned and made children friendly with the support of the women in the communities
- ECCE day was regularized in Anganwadis and the Matru committee and janch committee took responsibility in monitoring the anganwadis
- Block level Teachers forum was initiated and incorporated into the State level pedagogical forum
- Creativity of children appreciated, identified and awarded at different forums/days
- 900 Reading buddies were strengthened and peer learning was encouraged
- School library was furnished with books, TLM etc., and children were encouraged to read.

In short, the whole process geared towards quality education for the children in the selected schools and Anganwadis in Semiliguda Block.



Beautification of Anganwadi centre for quality education

Adarsh Vidhyalaya:

The model school of WORD, Adarsh Vidyalaya caters to 200 children; 95 boys and 105 girls studying from Pre Primary to Std VIII. This is a residential school and children are given wholistic education apart from academics they are involved in sports, life skills and yoga.

This year due to the pandemic situation the children could not come to school and hence the teachers went to the villages and taught the children at the door step.

The teachers were trained on making low cost teaching/learning materials and to use them in the field. Online classes were also conducted to far flung village children due to inaccessibility due to COVID.





Preparation of TLM and conducting of Door step schooling during COVID

5. HEALTH & WELLNESS:

a. Health Care through Urban Primary Health Centre – Jeypore – LR:

With the support of National Health Mission, WORD is implementing the Health and Wellness Centre, at UPHC, Jeypore-LR., Koraput District for the past four years.

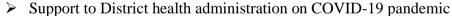
The HWC is catering to the health needs of around 50000 population in the slums and semi urban areas of Jeypore. It is manned by a Medical Officer(i/c), Pharmacist, Lab technician, two Staff nurse, one office personnel and two Support staff. The centre also provides specialist services like O& G, ENT, dental and physiotherapy. Yoga classes are also conducted in the HWC to promote wellness.

Apart from this, other interventions like community awareness, UHND, immunization, PMSMA, RKS, MAS, WKS, sector meetings etc., are also conducted for smooth implementation of the project.

During COVID the centre played a very important role in identification of COVID patients and registering them and also providing awareness on COVID to the community. While all the activities were hampered during COVID only health care facilities of WORD worked 24 x 7 for the people.

Some of the achievements during this year are:

- Around 36000 out patients were treated during the year for various ailments
- Around 3200 patients received specialist services on O&G, dental, ENT, physiotherapy etc.,
- Around 11000 pathology tests were conducted for the outpatients
- ➤ 4500 women and children covered under UHND, immunization, specialist services etc.,
- ➤ 10 Mahila Arokiya Samitis(MAS) strengthened and facilitated to take up different interventions like breast feeding week, Swacchta pakhwada, slum cleanliness, observation of important health days etc.,
- ➤ Conducting of regular RKS meeting; both the General body and the Executive committee to monitor the health centre
- Awareness creation on health to around 32000 community members during various awareness generation activities.
- Referral of complicated cases to district health administration.









Health Check up by Doctor and Lab testing at UPHC Jeypore -LR

b. Addressing MMR & IMR through increased institutional delivery – Maa Gruha

With the support from the District health administration, Maa Gruha is functioning in Laxmipur Block of Koraput district for the past four years. This is manned by one Lady Health worker and three Lady Health assistants with two support staff who are catering to the reproductive health needs of the women nearing the EDD.

Accordingly this year Maa Gruha-Laxmipur was able to support the pregnant women as follows:

- ➤ During this year 290 pregnant women availed the facilities of the Maa Gruha, Laxmipur
- ➤ Out of 290, 278 women underwent institutional delivery during this year and the rest were referred to higher health institutions.
- Around 270 women come from geographically high risk areas which have no proper communication facilities
- ➤ 60 women were clinically high risk who could be saved from complications during pregnancy.
- All the inmates were given thorough orientation on PNC, breast feeding, health and hygiene of self and child and nutritional food practices.
- ➤ All the inmates are given nutrition food, counselling, health check up, and rest during the period and taken to the hospital for institutional delivery. Cases with complications are referred by the Doctor of the CHC for further support to the District hospital.
- Apart from this, 3100 persons in the community who were eligible couples were given orientation on early registration of pregnancy, use of folic acid, vaccinations, self care during pregnancy, family planning, issues of child marriage, awareness on facility of Maa gruha etc.,





Counselling of High Risk pregnanat women to Maa Gruha and celebration of Nutrition week

Case study:

Ms. Pratima Vadeka(name changed) of Laxmipur block hails from a very remote village with no communication facilities. She was in anaemic condtion due to early marriage and she had still birth in her previous home deliveries..

The Lady Health Worker of Maa Gruha along with the ASHA motivated the women to stay at the Maa Gruha but their family members would not agree for the same. The geographical and clinical high risk of the pregnant women was a huge challenge for the team and they constantly counselled the women and her family members and finally they agreed to allow her to stay at the Maa Gruha. She stayed for seven days and was given nutritional food, rest and was taken to the CHC for daily health check up due to her critical situation. She was referred for complications to the DHH and she gave birth to a girl baby. Every one in the family is now happy that the mother and child are safe. They thanked the team for persuading them to admit the women in the Maa Gruha.

6. WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY:

a. Food and Nutrition Security:

WORD focus on food and nutritional security through climate resilience agriculture practices by capacitating on improvised method of cultivation like SRI,SMI, mixed cropping, crop rotation, zero tilling, land development, soil conservation measures etc., Steps are taken to promote farmers to take up organic farming for sustaining their land and water.

Focus was also given on adapting the indigenous knowledge of the tribals by conservation and regeneration of the indigenous seeds adaptable to drought and flood to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

Apart from this farmers were mobilized to approach the Government for the various agriculture/horticulture programmes, social security programmes, MGNREGA, flag ship programmes etc., to support them economically.

Reduction of climate related risk was done through insurance of crops, livestock and people as part of disaster mitigation measures.

With the support of OXFAM and SBI CARES started this recent projects in March 2021 to bring about food and income security in the community through vegetable farming and climate resilience agriculture.



Turmeric cultivation for Food and Livelihood Security

b. Livelihood Security:

With support from GiftAbled 60 PWDs and their carers were covered under imparting training on mushroom cultivation, nursery raising and vermi compost making. The project started from March 2021 and is just in the beginning stage.



Inauguration of the project on skill training by Hon. MLA, Laxmipur, Shri. Prabhu Jani

c. Nursery raising in Paikakupakal:

Under the Utkal Alumina CSR, a new venture has been taken up to train 42 displaced women on nursery raising and formation of Producer group for sustainable livelihood of these women in the near future.



Women involved in poly packing for nursery raising

7. COMMUNITY SPACES:

The Community spaces project was implemented by WORD in partnership with Utkal Alumina, with the project objective of impacting the lives of the 400 Households in Duimundi and Suryagarh villages in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts.

The Objectives of the Community Centre Model is as follows:

- ➤ Create and sustain a culture of cooperative living for inclusive and sustainable development
- ➤ Prevent unemployment and ensure opportunities that guarantee a decent standard of living
- Improve the education and health situation of the women and children
- > Explore scope for mobilising resources for the development of the village from Government and Panchayats
- > Create space for recreation, harmonizing and entertainment.

Need assessment area mapping and prioritization of issues and action plans were done for the villages through PRA exercises and the same was solved through active participation and dialogue with the respective stakeholders.

Some of the achievments worth mentioning are:

- 26 widow/old age pension forms submitted to Sarpanch out of which 2 widow pension and three old age pension received
- 21 families got sanction of houses under Biju Pucca Ghar scheme and houses construction completed

- 16 projects submitted under MGNREGA and two village roads in Surjayagarh completed costing Rs.4,00,000/- and one Land development work for RS.50,000/-
- CC Road construction through ITDA from Surjayagada village to river at cost of Rs.2,00,000 and CC Road from main road to Adivasi sahi for amount of Rs.70,000/completed
- One Community Centre house completed in Surjyagada village
- Staggered trenching under MGNREGA for cost of Rs.9,69,000/-. Employment for 50HH for three weeks earning a wage of Rs.2,18,400/- in Surjayagada
- School construction and anganwadi construction in Duimundi village(Memorandum given to Sarpanch by WORD)
- 84 Nos of beneficiaries were linked with OLM for Mo Upakari Bohicha and received the benefits
- 3 SHGs in Duimundi got loan of Rs.4,10,000/- for taking up various enterprises
- 50 mango saplings from horticulture department and 200 forest species from forest department were mobilised and planted in the villages.
- Vegetable seeds packets distributed in the villages of Duimundi and Surjayagarh and people cultivated them in their back yards and consumed the same. They also made some profit of Rs.12,000/- out of this activity.
- 29 mothers supported for Mamata scheme and 32 in JSY scheme in the three villages
- 26 Zero accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana
- All passbooks updated for women who are eligible for PMBSY in Duimundi and Surjayagarh villages
- Follow up on distribution of SNP in anganwadi resulted in children getting entitled quality and quality of SNP
- 4 defunct SHGs in Surjayagarh and two in Paikakupakhal were made functional through regular meeting and follow up
- One new SHG was opened in Surjayagarh village
- Five widows received Unconditional cash transfer from Give India/OXFAM for an amount of Rs.5000/- each



PRA Exercise in progress



Provision of Teaching Learing and play materials in the Non formal education centre

8. COVID Response:

The year 2020 took everyone by surprise with COVID pandemic and this has affected the organization and community as well. However with the request from the District administration and community, WORD has taken up many interventions for addressing the issue. Some of the works worth mentioning are:

Highlights of COVID response by WORD are as follows:

- Production and distribution of masks in the remote villages more than 5000 masks distributed
- Ration kits and hygiene kits distributed to People with Disabilities and their carers 500 families during pandemic
- Support with cooked food to most vulnerable people during pandemic
- Support to 500 children in Laxmipur Block with hygiene kits
- Awareness on hand washing, COVID precautions and enrolment for vaccination etc., in Laxmipur block
- Support in maintaining social distance near banks, markets, PDS and other gatherings in Laxmipur and Koraput blocks
- Support on livelihood through nutri gardens for 500 families in Laxmipur Block
- Home based Distribution of medicines from the District Mental Health Unit/CHC to 300 Mental ill and epilepsy patients in Laxmipur Block through WORD staffcontinuous process
- Urban Primary Health Centre, Jeypore LR is implemented by WORD and is catering to vaccination of the eligible people and also for COVID testing

- Maa Gruha implemented by WORD is supporting pregnant women for reaching to the CHC/PHC for COVID testing
- Around 120 women affected by Domestic violence in COVID period (April20 to March 21) are being counselled by the Women Support Centre, functioning at SP office, Koraput
- 12 Child marriage cases during COVID period(April 20 to March 21)stopped by Childline team implemented by WORD



Awarness through Miking and hand washing orientation at village level





Distribution of hygiene kits in Child care Institutions - Distribution of Cooked food to needy

9. CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE TEAM:

Updating staff and improving their efficiency is an important aspect of WORD. However due to COVID this year many of the training could not take placeTraining in phases were organized for the school teachers to make low cost teaching/learning aids.

Training was also given to staff on producer group formation. Reflection meeting for staff was organized to understand the needs and aspirations of the staff.

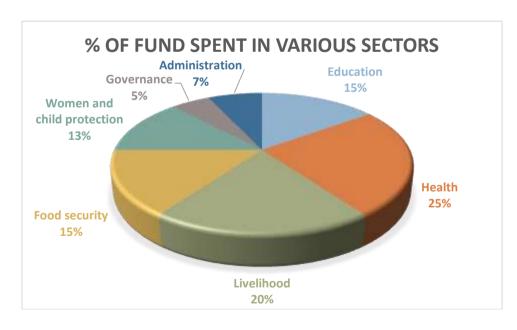




Teachers training on TLM preparation

Building Resilience during Pandemic

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Enclosed



CONCLUSION:

In the midst of COVID vulnerabilities, with the earnest effort of the team, the stakeholders and the communities we are working with, we could bring about remarkable impacts in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our target villages. At this juncture we owe our heart felt thanks and gratitude to all of them who have stood by our side physically, morally and financially to make this possible.

We look forward with renewed spirit to reach many more unreached vulnerable communities in the coming year to assert their rights. We are hopeful to steer through the challenging times of COVID by supporting and encouraging one another!!!

Dr. Racheal Raykumari Executive Secretary

