

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Tariq Khan, GEAG Alumni and currently based in Manchester, UK for compiling the Annual Report on a voluntary basis.

We also thank Ms. Amita Bhaduri for editing the report.

Foreword

At the time of writing this report, our world has changed. The unprecedented coronavirus pandemic has literally brought the entire world to a standstill. With the country under lockdown, businesses shut, flights grounded and peoples' movement severely restricted, COVID-19 has severely hampered normal lives all over the world.

It took a little while for the gobsmacked world to adapt to a completely new lifestyle with businesses switching to 'work from home' mode and common man learning and frequently using COVID-19 response terminology like 'self-isolation', 'quarantine' 'lockdown', 'sanitizer' etc. The universal apartheid 'social-distancing' is the new norm and 'washing hands' is the key to stay safe from the virus.

The fact that the basic practice of 'washing hands' is considered as one of the effective preventive measures, signifies the huge importance of personal and community hygiene related projects that the civil society is implementing across the world.

Coronavirus has exposed the vulnerabilities in our systems and poses a new and serious challenge for the future. However tragic it may be, GEAG takes the COVID-19 era as a window of opportunity to face post-pandemic challenges, assert its viability & efficacy and strategize the future course of action to bring positive change to the lives of socially excluded and poor rural agrarian communities.

2019-20 has been a learning year for GEAG where we made great strides in our thematic operations. Besides climate resilience in urban sector, increasing disaster events - exacerbated by climate change impacts, are a major concern due to development deficit, poor governance, resource constraints and deteriorating ecosystem services. Nature-based solutions have been a key approach of GEAG in its research, advocacy and implementation of relevant activities in promoting disaster & climate change resilience and livelihoods of marginalised communities with our approach of people-led actions. We have tried to undertake locally appropriate solutions with innovative approaches to address these challenges.

The interventions related to trans-boundary river issues in Gandak and Kosi basins have been very helpful in mobilising communities across the India-Nepal border to deal with climate and livelihood challenges.

The initiative towards micronutrient and iron folic deficiencies has been another major area of our intervention in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to address deficiencies among children and adolescents. The sustainability of open defecation free (ODF) intervention and solid liquid waste management has been taken on a priority basis in pilot districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Each year we publish our annual report highlighting key areas of our work and how we improve the lives of small and marginal farmers and local communities we work with in different parts of the country. In this report, we describe the impact our projects had during the financial year 2019-20.

We take this opportunity to profusely thank our donors and support providers, networking and collaborating partners, Executive Board, GEAG Team, media and well-wishers for their continued support and encouragement.



Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih
President

Abbreviations

AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASC	Agro Service Centre
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BSDMA	Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
BSPM	Bal Swasthya Poshan Mah
CBDRR	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CHC	Community Health Centre
CMC	Community Mobilisation Coordinator
CMPA	Combined Medical Practitioner's Association
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DST	Department of Science and Technology
EWS	Early Warning System
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLW	Frontline Workers
GEAG	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
ICAR	Indian Council of Agriculture Research
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
IEC	Information Education Communication
IFA	Iron Folic Acid
IGSSS	Indo Global Social Service Society
IAPPD	Integrated Approaches for Prevention and Management of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea
LEISA	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MN	Micronutrient
NCC	National Cadet Corps
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHRDF	National Horticulture and Rural Development Foundation
NI	Nutrition International
NIMA	National Integrated Medical Association
NSS	National Service Scheme
NYK	Nehru Yuva Kendra
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
PAT	Panchayat Action Team
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
PMJJBY	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institution
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
RVP	Resilient Village Program
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
SBM	Swachh Bharat Mission
SC	Scheduled Caste
SHG	Self Help Group
SIA	Supplementary Immunization Activities
SLWM	Solid and Liquid Waste Management
ST	Scheduled Tribe
TBCF	Trans-Boundary Citizen Forum
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UP	Uttar Pradesh
VDMC	Village Disaster Management Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WIFS	Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation
WinS	WASH in Schools
WSSP	Water Safety and Security Processes

The Organisation



Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organisation working on issues mainly related to environment ranging from climate change adaptation to sustainable development since 1975. Started as a modest environmental conservation group, GEAG is now a specialised, robust organisation of very talented and motivated core team comprising people with a rich collective experience of over 40 years. GEAG has been successfully implementing several development projects and initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability and livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, especially women farmers, based on environmental and ecological principles and gender sensitive participatory approach.

Over the years, GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches along with conducting several successful capacity building trainings, workshops and programmes for various stakeholders including women farmers, civil society groups, government officials and professionals etc. GEAG has been successfully contributing to this field for 43 years now.

GEAG has established its identity in India as a leading resource institution on sustainable agriculture, vulnerability assessment and strategy formulation, participatory approach/method and gender issues. Acknowledging its achievements, GEAG was awarded with the Lighthouse Activity Award by UNFCCC in 2013. GEAG

VISION

A society free of inequalities and discrimination that ensures equal rights to all, especially the marginalised sections comprising women, children and poverty-stricken farming communities through equitable distribution of services, resources and opportunities.

MISSION

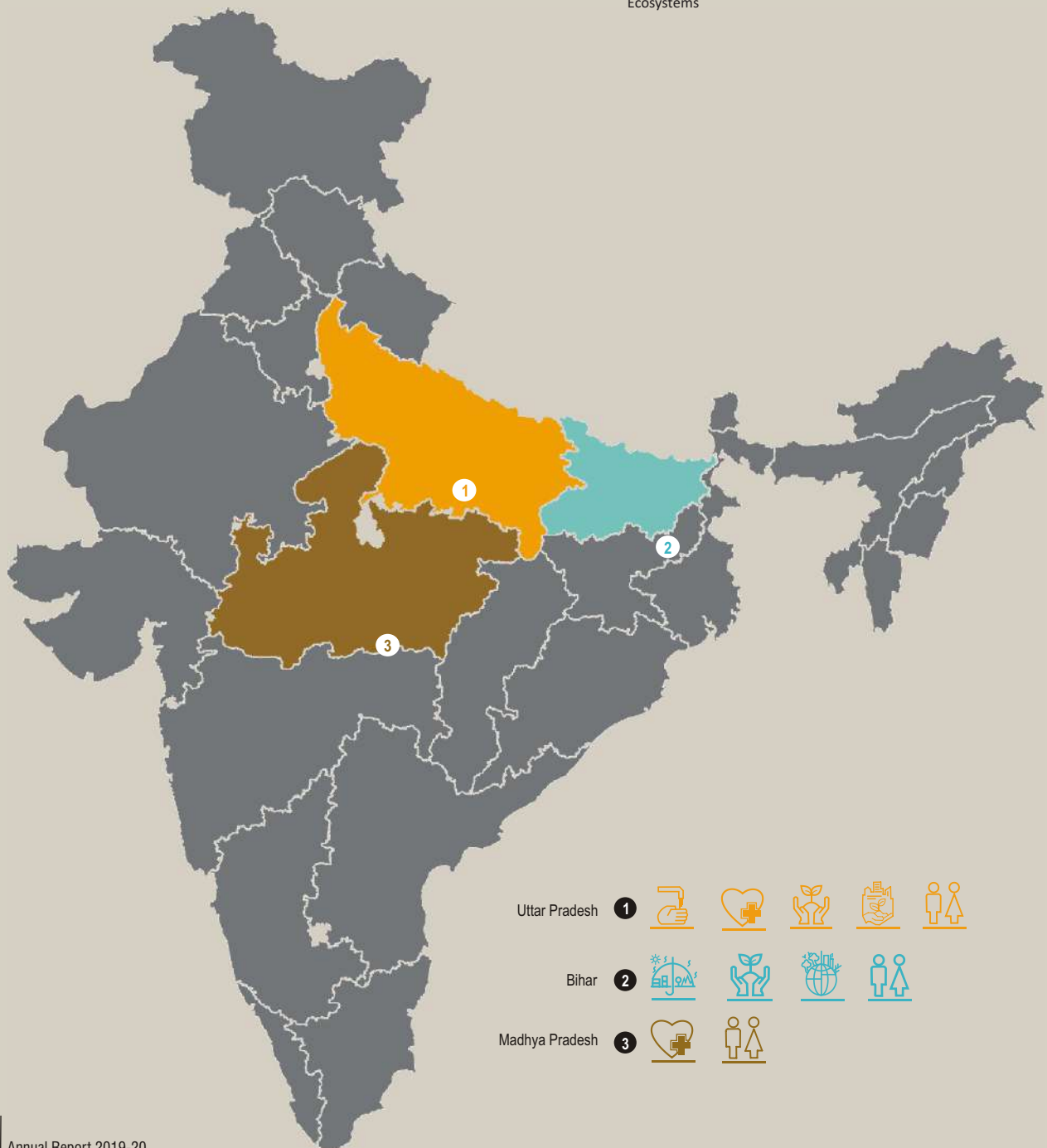
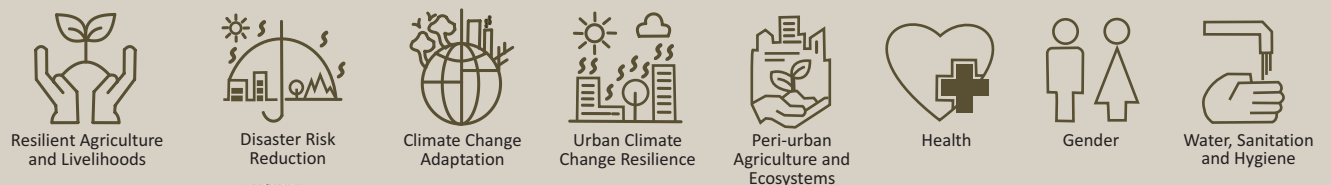
To create enabling environment for deprived communities in order to improve the quality of life with special attention to women and children for inclusive and equitable development.

also holds the Observer status to Green Climate Fund. GEAG regularly publishes study reports on a number of issues affecting the lives of local communities and general public.

GEAG operates across the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar with Head Office in Gorakhpur, project offices in Lucknow, Bhopal, Bagaha, Mau, Sitapur and a National Liaison Office in New Delhi.

GEAG's Footprint

Over the years, GEAG has put in efforts to provide the required leadership skills and knowledge to target communities, community based organizations, local governments and departments in enabling them to meet the challenges of increasing disaster risk due to climate change.





Our Cornerstones

- ◆ GEAG has been positively impacting the lives and livelihoods of several vulnerable communities, such as small-marginal and woman farmers and urban poor citizens and children, through intensive work on agriculture-based livelihoods, climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and health, water and sanitation in all these years. GEAG has emerged as a renowned resource organisation working in several states in India, especially in the northern region.
- ◆ GEAG undertakes development initiatives through people-centred approach focusing on their participation, awareness and empowerment for sustainable development. GEAG highlights equitable development and environmental sustainability at the core of sustainable development and looks at development from a perspective of social justice and conservation. GEAG's work spans from support to policy making and research for sustainable development, to building the capacities of partners, to direct interventions on the ground as well as to create platforms for knowledge sharing at various levels.
- ◆ GEAG's initiatives focus on livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, especially women farmers considering the persistent rural poverty, and incomplete agrarian transition in its project areas. Women, in particular face multiple constraints, from poor access to land and productive resources, to a disproportionately high care burden and lack of power in decision-making. Gender sensitive approaches are pursued and social equity is a cross cutting issue in all of GEAG's work. Its field level interventions have immensely strengthened the struggles of poor women and men against poverty as well a gender and caste based discrimination in its project areas. GEAG has tried to secure land rights for women farmers so they get due entitlements and can secure livelihoods through sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ GEAG has been working on conservation, management and efficient utilisation of land, water and bio-resources with a focus on enhancing livelihood security of rural populations. In particular, GEAG has been focusing on rejuvenation of water bodies for enhancing groundwater recharge under the Govt of India's Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Community led collective action is encouraged in the governance of shared natural resources such as forests and water bodies. Working with panchayats and local institutions as partners, GEAG helps decentralize natural resources management and demonstrates strength of local communities to deploy local knowledge to cost-effectively manage complex problems.
- ◆ GEAG collaborates with leading national and international research institutes to improve rigour in its engagement with village communities, while drawing scientists to the challenges and aspirations emerging from the ground. GEAG has expertise in research and documentation and has developed a repository of knowledge products based on grassroots evidence and



policy analysis from its and its partners' work. These include case studies, major programme reports, technical reports, policy briefs, discussion papers and multimedia.

- ◆ Given the realities of climate change and its adverse impacts on the poor, vulnerable and marginalised sections of society, GEAG geared up its efforts towards climate change adaptation helping communities to build resilience against its impacts, both in the rural and urban settings. GEAG has played a pioneering role in recent years in pushing the resilience agenda by furthering the concept of climate resilient cities, protecting peri-urban ecosystems for urban resilience, as well as on improved food security supported through sustainable climate resilient agriculture.
- ◆ GEAG has also acquired specialist knowledge, skills and management expertise on urban as well as rural disaster risk resilience to climate change, which has helped generate good work across various geographies. In particular, GEAG has contributed in conceptualization of Resilient Village Programme of the Bihar DRR Roadmap in Bihar.
- ◆ GEAG's climate cell has a rich repository of spatial and non-spatial information and expertise in climate-based modeling that is used for evidence based context-specific planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects as well as for undertaking studies. GEAG works beyond the traditional remit of NGOs and is one of few non-profits at the national level which has

expertise in the production, communities and uptake of climate information. The organisation has scientific understanding of the climate system and forecasting capacities and is able to facilitate interactions between scientists, meteorologists, government departments, decision-makers and local communities.

- ◆ GEAG is well-positioned in its work at the local to national level and undertakes comparative assessments and studies at a country-wide level. GEAG believes in the power of community engagement and has been building strong local-level institutional arrangements. It has been working through community institutions by developing capacities of the people. It has also been engaging with the government largely to advocate best practices and support the government in adopting science-based people-led models of development. GEAG works with state and national government departments and agencies to influence the policy environment and implement programmes to influence wider replication, especially in building flexible and dynamic systems and institutions that identify and respond to the challenges that climate change poses to both rural and urban people.
- ◆ GEAG has been engaged in various types of advocacy initiatives like policy advocacy, evidence-based advocacy and so on. One of the important components of advocacy has been the rights-based advocacy by organising campaigns.

Empowering Marginalised Communities through Innovations and Technologies in Flood Prone Areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

Strengthening sustainable livelihoods through innovations is at the heart of community-led programmes that GEAG works on in rural areas to help excluded groups such as the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and women groups. GEAG partnered with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India as their Core Support Partner to deliver key objectives of the programme in rural flood-affected areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh and western Bihar. The focus of the project is on the dissemination of scientific and technology-based solutions for rural sustainability and the key objectives of the programme aimed to advance participatory technologies, conserve soil and increase its productivity by helping small and marginal farming communities.

Activities

The key activities of the initiatives for applying innovations and techniques were:

Technological Innovations at Farm Level

- ◆ Promoted appropriate weather (short term) and agro advisories

- ◆ Developed technology of row cover low tunnel polyhouse technology for nursery/seeding
- ◆ Developed threshold-based *thermacole* farming technology and advanced alternate irrigation system of potato crops for more production with less water use in flood affected area
- ◆ Developed post-flood technology for maintaining soil moisture, weed control and soil erosion by polythene mulching
- ◆ Promoted scientific processes of space (multi-tier farming, *machan* (raised platforms) farming etc.), time management (pre and post ponement) on small landholdings
- ◆ Developed gradient-based farming and cropping system while promoting new agriculture practices in waterlogged and flooded areas
- ◆ Introduced appropriate Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) techniques
- ◆ Developed weeding & hoeing equipment and soil digger



Technology Development at Ecosystem Level

- ◆ Developed appropriate and cost effective drainage techniques through participatory geographical information systems (GIS)/ community approach to drainage improvement
- ◆ Promoted farm bunding to protect soil erosion and plant protection
- ◆ Evolved agroforestry in silted areas
- ◆ Developed bund plantation in legume crops

Development of Community Institutions and Business Models

- ◆ Developed 9 Agriculture Resource Centres
- ◆ Advanced individual microenterprises for input production on bio-pesticides, bio-manure, resilient seeds, nurseries and greenhouses
- ◆ Developed collective microenterprises through self-help groups (SHG) as turmeric and millet processing units

Development of Post-harvest technology

- ◆ Developed a cost-effective post-harvest technology model (energy efficient) for perishable vegetables at the household and community level
- ◆ Trained farmers on post-harvest technologies
- ◆ Identified markets for semi processed and processed commodities plus value addition and market linkages of turmeric powder
- ◆ Developed zero energy-based cooling chambers for perishable vegetables and low-cost bamboo-based house for potato, onion and garlic storage

Outcomes

- ◆ Resilient farming techniques helped reduce 38 percent cost of chemical inputs from the market while 14.8 acres of land was protected from soil erosion through improved bunding and use of locally produced biomass compost.
- ◆ Growing vegetable seedlings using 35 low tunnel polyhouses that helped increase the germination rate, protected crop from disease attack and also reduced the impact of waterlogging.
- ◆ Nursery within polyhouse helped increase plant survival by 95 percent.
- ◆ Gradient-based farm planning has improved soil quality, checked topsoil erosion and mitigated crop



losses of 30 progressive farmers. The carbon-nitrogen ratio (C:N) in the intervention farms were restored.

- ◆ Over 2000 farmers used weather and agro-advisory in agricultural practices to help mitigate their crop losses.
- ◆ The extension and dissemination services through 23 self-managing community institutions like Agro Services Centre (ASC), Farmer Field School (FFS) and Self Help Group (SHG) have played critical role in scaling up the technologies.
- ◆ All 9 ASCs were linked with a local agriculture business called Surbhi Beej Company Pvt. Ltd. and received subsidies worth Rs. 12 lakh for farm machinery.
- ◆ 'Space and time management' approach helped reduce crop losses by 30-33 percent, while also increasing the gross income of farmers by 66 percent.
- ◆ The multi-layered farming system with appropriate crop combinations reduced various input costs (hoeing, weeding, irrigation etc.,) by 30-35 percent.
- ◆ The alternate irrigation technology helped cut farmers' water demand by 50 percent.
- ◆ With the use of weeding and hoeing equipment, farmers experienced a reduction in their workload by ten times as compared to the traditional system.

All these farming innovation techniques have enormous scaling up potential to be applied realistically across the region as both the project areas have similar geographical features e.g. topography, local agro-climatic and socio-economic characteristics. Importantly, the techniques developed under this project is not thrust upon the farmers but was demand-driven and evolved gradually considering the growers' needs, local specific situation, access to extension services and association with relevant government programmes/schemes. Significantly, all the community-led institutions such as ASCs, SHGs, FFSs and local resource based business models are strategically synergised with indigenous knowledge, techniques and science. This strategy helped foster one-to-one learning among farmers, provided space for farmers' research and



innovations, as well as promoted direct linkages with markets, thus eliminating the brokers and keeping the middlemen off their business as well as build upon social capital.

Impacts

The successes of the farmers have been recognized at different platforms and they were awarded for their efforts in innovation and technology promotion. Some of the farmers who were awarded during 2019-20 are:



Koila Devi

One of the model farmers of DST supported project, Koila Devi from village Rakhukhor, Block Jungle kaudia District Gorakhpur was awarded *Utkirista Kishak Samman* by ICAR for high yielding of wheat crop (Karan Vandana (DBW 187). The award ceremony took place on 24 August, 2019 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



Ram Nivas Maurya

Ram Nivas Maurya is a small and marginal farmer from village *Rakhukhor*, Block Jungle Kaudya, District Gorakhpur. Ram Nivas was awarded for his accomplishment in 'diversified agriculture-related activities' by Mr Giriraj Singh, Minister for Agriculture, Government of India. The gala event was hosted by ICAR Eastern Region on 22 February, 2020 in Patna, Bihar.



Chohari Devi

Chohari Devi is a hard working woman farmer from village *Pachgawan*, Block Jungle Kaiudya, District Gorakhpur. Chohari Devi was honoured by the Earth Day Network, a prominent USA based organisation as 'Star Farmer of Gorakhpur' for her innovative work on 'biocomposting and technology development'. Chohari Devi was presented a certificate (Certificate of Recognition) by Mrs Anju Chaudhary, Vice Chairperson of UP State Women's Commission at an event hosted by GEAG on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March, 2020.

Strengthening Capacities of Government Counterparts to Demonstrate ODF + Strategies and Interventions in Uttar Pradesh

This UNICEF supported project is primarily aimed at strengthening government bodies' efforts in improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in various institutions. The key activities under the project include improvement of WASH facilities, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), Water Safety and Security Processes (WSSP). The initiative also provided hand-holding support in other campaigns such as *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*, *Plastic Mukh Bharat (Plastic Free India)*, *Swachhta Hi Sewa*, *Swachh Bharat Diwas*, Global Handwashing Day, World Toilet Day, etc., while taking part in relevant social media campaigns.

Currently, GEAG is assisting the four focus districts with an umbrella objective to support and strengthen the government system in Open Defecation Free - Sustainability (ODF-S)/ODF+ endeavours. This includes:

- ◆ Advocacy with the state/district level officials of the focus districts.
- ◆ Planning, implementation, and monitoring processes set up at the districts.
- ◆ Training and capacity building support to the district

w.r.t the Operation Kayakalp, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), Water Safety and Security Processes and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

- ◆ District support in Govt. of India/Govt. of Uttar Pradesh driven campaigns like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Swachhta Hi Sewa, Afforestation Drive, Plastic Mukh Bharat and important day celebrations like Swachh Bharat Diwas, Global Handwashing Day, World Toilet Day etc.
- ◆ District support in documentation/drafting of Annual Action Plans, letters, and orders.

GEAG is working in 51 administrative blocks of four districts namely, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Maharajganj and Varanasi, while the ODF endeavours are being implemented in three districts of Chandauli, Jaunpur, and Maharajganj since 2017.

The extended support and expertise helped strengthen the government systems right from the district to the *Gram Panchayat* level - the lowest level of local government. The team members helped government



bodies in a diverse way. This included extending support in district/block level capacity building of District Level Officials/Block Level Officials as well as the implementing stakeholders like *Gram-Sachiv, Pradhan, Swachhagrahis*, and Masons. The district and block-level planning and implementation of extensive behaviour change communication (BCC)/ social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities catalysed the *Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin* to the extent that a government-run programme transformed into a popular 'People's Movement (*Jan Andolan*)'.

To make the initiative a success, a number of strategies were developed and activities planned. The core strategies adopted for achieving the target on time were to get the district administration involved in:

- ◆ Reviewing the existing plan and taking appropriate corrective measures
- ◆ Implementation of SBCC calendar based activities
- ◆ Increased field level hand holding
- ◆ Recognizing *Swachhagrahis* involvement and activating them, and
- ◆ Speeding up institutional WASH program under *Kayakalp*

All these efforts resulted significantly in improvements in the form of quality construction, periodic reviews, increase in Information Education Communication (IEC)/BCC fund utilization, and model school development. On the other hand, block-level Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) teams were also engaged intensively in mentoring local institutions, follow the ODF & SBCC plans, review of the progress, and taking corrective measures. A range of activities was planned at block and district levels. These included:

- ◆ Need-based activities to capacitate village-level community institutions
- ◆ Supportive supervision to observe toilet construction/spot-checking,
- ◆ Quality checking, mobilizing local team to speed up the programs



Outcomes

WASH in Schools (WinS)

- ◆ All the four focus districts had successfully advocated for WinS Roadmap and got it approved with the consensus of district administration. This is working as a guiding document for effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of Operation *Vidyalaya Kayakalp*.
- ◆ More than 2800 major stakeholders have been provided training on Operation *Vidyalaya Kayakalp* in all the four focus districts.
- ◆ Total of 52 *Kayakalp* schools have been photo-documented.
- ◆ Total of 14 case studies have been documented.
- ◆ The schools are being assessed on the ranking of 1-5 based on the government-approved indicators in the focus district. The details are as follows as of 31.03.2020:

Table 1 : Star Ranking of Schools assessed on the basis of WASH facilities

No.	Districts	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Total
1	Varanasi	220	470	424	207	52	1373
2	Maharajganj	0	255	185	22	18	480
3	Chandauli	17	95	153	20	13	298
4	Jaunpur	3	111	283	31	17	445



Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)

- ◆ With the support of GEAG, four focus districts - Varanasi, Maharajganj, Chandauli, and Jaunpur have developed and approved their SLWM roadmap.
- ◆ GEAG has provided support in the selection of *Gram Panchayats*. Community led SLWM activities have been initiated in 86 *Gram Panchayats* in four focus districts.
- ◆ Low-cost models of NADEP, vermicompost, household/neighbourhood soak-pits have been demonstrated in 20 *Gram Panchayats* in consultation with district/block level officers and participation of community.
- ◆ 1529 major stakeholders have been trained in all the four focus districts.
- ◆ Community-led GIS-based SLWM microplanning is being done in 5 *Gram Panchayats* in each focus district.

Water Safety and Security Processes (WSSP)

- ◆ Under WSSP component, GEAG is focusing on Chandauli as per the project mandate.
- ◆ WSSP roadmap has been prepared and shared with the district officials.
- ◆ 3 certified master trainers of WSSP in the district.
- ◆ Training of Trainers in Varanasi.
- ◆ 75 resource persons (74 Male, 1 Female) have been trained on Water Safety and Security Process.
- ◆ 5 *Gram Panchayats* worked on Water Safety Planning with participation from the community.

Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC)

- ◆ CDO/DPRO/ADPRO/DPC were provided orientation on SBCC and its planning under the Training of Trainers that was organised.
- ◆ Support in preparing the SBCC plan of the district.
- ◆ One day SBCC workshop for training of District and Block level officers in Varanasi
- ◆ Organizing the special campaigns/events under the aegis of district/block administrations.
- ◆ *Ratri-chaupal*, *goshthi*, morning-evening follow-up etc., for ODF-S/ODF+.
- ◆ Enhancing the reach of Operation *Kayakalp*, *Swachh Bharat Diwas*, *Swachhta Hi Sewa*, *Plastic Mukh Bharat*, *Global Handwashing Day*, *World Toilet Day*, etc., through social media.

Impacts

The programme has contributed largely to develop strategies for ODF sustainability and on creating demand for support from districts on ODF plus plans in the intervention districts.

The success of our programme with UNICEF in four districts helped us get additional responsibility of Varanasi along with three other districts.

Technical Assistance in Rolling-out 'Resilient Village Programme', Capacity building of youth/adolescent on DRR and risk-informed district plan of aspirational Gaya district

Bihar is one of the poorest states of India- abject poverty, lack of development, growing unemployment and flood problems have made this most rural and populous state a textbook example of internal forced migration. In spite of abundant natural resources, Bihar severely lacks developmental infrastructure and opportunities. Being exposed to various disasters, especially the water-induced disasters, recurring floods have become a permanent feature of Bihar.

Considering floods as a serious threat to the local economy and lives of people, the state government has put in place a comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme. Under the project, GEAG has provided technical assistance to the Government of Bihar for initiating action on risk-informed planning for children and vulnerable communities in rural and urban areas through implementation of resilient village programme. In this process, a comprehensive document explaining step-by-step process and toolkits of implementation and training modules as envisaged in the DRR roadmap of Bihar was developed in close collaboration with the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) and UNICEF Bihar.

The project also focussed on providing technical support to the district administration in Gaya, one of the aspirational districts to mainstream DRR components in the district plan to maintain the functionality and availability of services even during the stress situations. Apart from this, GEAG also assisted in developing rainwater harvesting models to augment groundwater recharge facilities. To achieve this objective, GEAG helped the district administration to scale up the rainwater harvesting model to promote groundwater recharging in select areas.

As a part of the DRR project, youth were involved and the village-based local institutions strengthened. Pursuant to this objective, GEAG has developed guideline documents to involve youth and adolescent as 'agents of change'/'DRR and Climate Change Sentinels' and linked them up with the National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK). A long term training plan is currently being developed for the purposes of training to those involved.





Activities

The technical support essentially focused on three areas:

- ◆ Technical assistance to BSDMA in the implementation of Resilient Village Programme (RVP)
- ◆ With support from UNICEF, providing technical support to the district administration in developing comprehensive risk-informed district development plans in one of the aspirational districts (Gaya) of Bihar
- ◆ Create a guideline document on DRR and build capacities of youth and adolescents and nurture them as agents of change/ DRR Sentinels
- ◆ Develop knowledge management products on DRR
- ◆ Relevant knowledge management products and reports including training manual on youth and DRR prepared
- ◆ Rapid assessment study on the impact of the water crisis completed
- ◆ Departmental DRR report card developed
- ◆ Booklets on disaster preparedness and response for various disasters for Anganwadi workers (AWW) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) developed
- ◆ A series of comprehensive community response booklets on floods and fire disasters developed.

Outcomes

- ◆ BSDMA approved guidelines, programme toolkit and training packages for 'Resilient Village Programme' developed
- ◆ Urban risk resilience action plan for Agriculture, Health, Education, ICDS, PHED, Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj developed
- ◆ Rooftop rainwater conservation potential estimated
- ◆ Guideline for development of risk-informed *Gram Panchayat* Development Plan (GPDP) and listing of critical infrastructure affected by drought

Water Governance and River Basin Management

Trans-boundary water conflict and its governance is a chronic riparian problem in the Indo-Nepal region of South Asia. Kosi sub-basin of the Ganges has been pivotal for a variety of hydrological and geopolitical interventions. These cover a range of irrigation, flood control, up-stream hydropower development, livelihood programmes mainly designed to generate incomes for riverine communities, navigational use, ecological restoration, as well as forest & wildlife conservation.

This year, GEAG partnered with The Asia Foundation, an international development organisation to initiate a series of multi-layered trans-boundary dialogues to build support for sustainable water management within the river ecology and to explore the water-energy-food connection in the Kosi river basin.

Objectives

The dialogue process was aimed to build appreciation and alignment among the key stakeholders for sustainable water resource management in the Kosi river basin from local to sub-basin, basin, and trans-boundary levels.

To achieve the broader goal of sustainable river ecology and its resources, the consensus-building amongst various stakeholders including men and women with diverse political and economic interests, the recognition of the inherent water-energy-food nexus is important. The specific objectives of the proposed interventions were:

- ◆ Continuing the dialogue process in the region and sharing it with key players who can help in building a positive environment in line with the outcomes and values set by the Political Economy Analysis (PEA) study completed in the first phase of the project
- ◆ Building community leadership with 'culture of dialoguing' and related knowledge base
- ◆ Identifying relevant institutions at various levels for possible linkages and to explore the scope of advocacy
- ◆ Documenting community innovations and practices, helping them to 'live with the river ecology' and deal with adverse situations and sharing good practices
- ◆ Understanding and addressing gender concerns vis-à-vis specific challenges women are facing in earning their livelihoods. This approach has been applied as a template in all the above interventions





Activities

As a part of this initiative, project planning meetings were held to finalise the research methodology. A series of community and stakeholder dialogues took place in the Indian side of the Kosi basin. The dialogue process was primarily aimed at addressing two major issues that remain causes of rhetoric and disagreement among the people, groups and also the governments in the trans-boundary context. These issues were:

- ◆ Changing nature of flooding and inundation that threatens and undermines livelihoods of the people in India, and
- ◆ Construction of embankment in India, which continues to disregard multiple uses, users within the context of their needs on upstream and downstream.

The strategy developed included institutional mapping of relevant institutions that are capable of influencing governance, ecology, and community interests. The strategy had been shared and discussed in the PEA study and dialogues in the earlier phase of this project. Based on the PEA and dialogue outcomes of the previous phase, a core group of experts with a diverse background in river ecology, environment, law, media, gender, and Kosi basin has been identified at the national level. Besides, community members from Kosi basin were also selected for identifying the possible advocacy interventions needed for the development of Kosi, considering the inherent water-food-energy nexus and gender equity.

Further, to achieve the desired outcomes of this initiative, trans-boundary dialogues will be conducted with community representatives both from India and Nepal for sharing of their experiences related to problems vis-à-vis challenges arising due to disturbances in river ecology. Special attention will be given to gender and food-water-energy nexus as well as to identify common and collaborative actions which can help the communities on both sides of the border. Building community leadership and forming a Trans-Boundary Citizen's Forum are yet another set of activities currently being undertaken.

Outcomes

Further to strengthen the dialogue process in the Kosi basin area, a 'Transboundary Multi Stakeholders' Dialogue' with communities living in the Kosi basin on both sides of the border in India and Nepal was organised on the Indian side in Saraigath Bhaptiyahi, District Supaul, Bihar in February 2020. A small group from Nepal was also invited for this dialogue to discuss a range of issues i.e., suspicions, specific problems, and possible collaborations in areas of mutual interests. More than 50 percent of the participants in the dialogue were women from the Kosi basin who were specially invited to understand the gender-related dimensions and issues in the basin. The dialogue process helped in understanding the diverse perceptions of people on the issues of flooding/ inundation and embankment construction as well as in identifying certain points of common collaborative actions.

Strengthening Peri-urban Ecosystems for Urban Climate Change Resilience : Addressing Knowledge and Capacity Gaps

Decades of neglect of peri-urban spaces and its ecosystems are resulting in loss and degradation of associated ecosystem services. Water provision, storm- and waste-water regulation, along with protection from natural disasters, are the impacted services that severely affect the livelihood of poor and vulnerable populations who are dependent on such services. As the peri-urban area is considered as the rural-urban transition zone, vulnerability further extends to the urban populations that depend on the ecosystem services provided by the peri-urban areas.

The peri-urban ecosystems play crucial roles in:

- ◆ Providing livelihood security to the marginalized communities inhabited in the fringes of the cities; and
- ◆ Contributing to urban resilience in cities through its provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural services.

Notwithstanding its important role in urban resilience, the peri-urban areas are under constant threat due to unclear conceptualisations, lack of appropriate policies, weak governance mechanisms and a dearth of capacities to adequately plan for and manage growth.

Objectives

To highlight the crucial role of peri-urban ecosystems, GEAG partnered with the UK based organisation Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). The aim of this 'knowledge partnership' is to establish and build an understanding of the crucial role of peri-urban ecosystems by underlining the inter-complementarity between the livelihoods of the peri-urban inhabitants and the contribution of ecosystems in urban resilience and to further mainstream ecosystem-resilience integration in capacity development programmes of apex institutions.

Activities

The key activities entail assessing the knowledge needs and capacity gaps on linkages between peri-urban ecosystems and urban resilience and find the pathways to address the issue through existing research outcomes and practice-based experiences. This includes the development of relevant knowledge products, policy briefs, and undertaking advocacy initiatives for proper management and governance of peri-urban areas and its ecosystems.



Congregational Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in Kosi and Narayani/ Gandak River Basins

Communities in the Gandak / Narayani and Koshi river basins along the Nepal-India border are closely linked not only by cultural and socio-economic aspects but also share vulnerability to meteorological stressors. According to the World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Global Flood Analyzer, floods in the region are expected to affect 10.5 million people in India and 156,600 people in Nepal every year.

Since trans-boundary communities of both upstream and downstream are vulnerable to the impacts of flooding, it is crucial to plan common strategies, adopt coordinated responses, and more importantly, share lessons learned from both sides of the border.

The area chosen for the intervention spans across two states and includes five blocks in West Champaran, Bihar and one block each from Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts in Uttar Pradesh. The details of the project coverage area are given in table1.

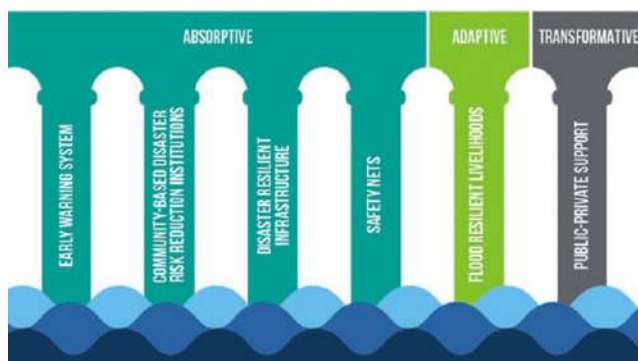
Objectives

This cross-border partnership project addresses the longstanding issue of floods, the riparian communities

living in Gandak / Narayani and Koshi river basins in India and across the border in Nepal.

The project caters to flood-affected households of transboundary communities to build up their resilience to mitigate their vulnerabilities to monsoonal flooding.

The over-arching project goal is that 100,000 flood-affected individuals of Koshi and Narayani river basins in India and Nepal are less vulnerable and more resilient to flood by the end of the year 2021.



Six pillars of a Transboundary Flood Resilience Community and the Resilience Capacities they support

Source : LWR



TBR Congregational project is basically designed on the basis of 'six pillars of flood resilient community approach'.

Table 2 : Project Area Details

NO.	State	Gandak Basin C-TBR Project Area		
		District	Block	No. of Village
1.	Bihar	West Champaran	Bagaha 1	1
			Bagaha 2	7
			Madhubani	3
			Piparasi	5
			Bhitaha	1
2.	U.P.	Kushinagar	Khadha	6
		Maharajganj	Nicholai	2
NO.	State	Koshi Basin C-TBR Project Area		
		District	Block	No. of Village
1.	Bihar	Supaul	Niramali	3



Activities

- ◆ Institutionalize community based Early Warning System (EWS)
- ◆ Form, strengthen and link the Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC)
- ◆ Insurance promotion activities and SHGs strengthening
- ◆ Resilient Community Infrastructure
- ◆ Flood Resilient Livelihoods (Community Adopted Climate Resilient Smart Agricultural Practices)
- ◆ Multi-stakeholder consultation, linkage and networking with government programmes

Outcomes

- ◆ The forecast and advisories have been very helpful in taking precautionary measures during monsoon as well as adopting appropriate agricultural practices to save money, time and resources. At present 319 households in the project area are getting benefitted through EWS.
- ◆ Communities have reduced vulnerabilities through strong community-based DRR institutions. 20 VDMCs in 5 blocks of Bihar were capacitated and integrated into the local government structures.
- ◆ Trans-boundary Citizen Forums (TBCF) has been revitalized for DRR and EWS policy advocacy with local

and national governments. Action plan for the same has been drafted and shared with TBCF members and Honourable Sri Baijnath Mahato, MP, Valmikinagar.

- ◆ A total of 388 community members of 3 flood resilient smart village and other 4 villages have been linked with Fasal Sahayta Yojna and have established disaster risk transfer capacity (safety net).
- ◆ Communities supported development of disaster-resilient community infrastructure namely in the restoration of the drainage system and construction of raised shelter house at Rajwatiya village, Bagaha 1. At present, communities at Rajwatiya village have reduced their vulnerabilities by protecting their agriculture lands and crops from waterlogging.
- ◆ At present 267 farmers covered under this project have improved their economic capital through climate-smart flood-resilient livelihoods and safety-net options by adopting:
 - Hanging vegetable farming
 - Raised bed nursery
 - Multilayer farming
 - Portable vermicomposting.
 - Community boards for information dissemination
 - Low cost onion storage

Strengthen National and Regional Immunization Systems to Achieve Polio Eradication

India managed to stop wild polio virus transmission in 2011 and subsequently the Southeast Asia Region was declared polio free in 2014. Since then, this country of over 1.3 billion residents have successfully maintained high population immunity to stave off any potential importation of the wild polio virus and an outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus. A well-planned strategy that included two high-quality national and four sub-national campaigns, a robust disease surveillance system together with a solid routine immunization program, all contributed to India's ability to keep polio outside of its borders.

Further to strengthen India's efforts in eradicating polio, Catholic Relief Services and GEAG worked together on strategies to make the routine immunization program more acceptable among people who had been resisting it. The program is operational in Mau and Sitapur districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Objectives

- ◆ Build effective partnership between private voluntary organisations (PVOs), NGOs and international, national and regional organisations involved in polio eradication

- ◆ Strengthen national and regional immunization system
- ◆ Support NGO involvement in national and regional planning as well as in the implementation of supplementary immunization activity (SIA)
- ◆ Support PVO/NGO efforts to strengthen acute flaccid paralysis case detection and reporting

Activities

- ◆ The project aimed to improve the coordination amongst frontline workers like ASHA, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Anganwadi Worker (AWW) and Community Mobilization Coordinator (CMC) for improving both the vaccination coverage during routine immunization and supplemental polio immunization in their respective areas. A planning meeting organised for this purpose was considered very effective for developing coordination between frontline functionaries and for their support in social mobilization for mother and child care. It was proved to be very helpful during immunization session, polio immunization rounds, mother's meetings and house-to-house visits of target families.
- ◆ Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee meetings are conducted every quarter to orient the





members on immunization. These meetings play an important role in ensuring the responsibilities for polio and motivate resistant families towards mobilization. As a result of this useful activity, which aimed at promoting sanitation behaviour in the community, increased toilet construction, and their usage were reported in the project area.

- ◆ Influencers' meeting was held to engage them in motivating the communities to improve the coverage of supplementary immunization activity and routine immunization vaccination. This platform also provided an opportunity to engage influencers in improving the reporting of acute flaccid paralysis cases from the CMC area.
- ◆ The interpersonal communication sessions were held with caretakers (0-5 year old children and pregnant mothers) for childhood immunization on a regular basis. They were motivated to adopt positive behaviour for polio, routine immunization vaccination, early & exclusive breastfeeding, diarrhoea prevention, management, and better hygiene. This activity helped to increase institutional delivery and immunization.
- ◆ Group meetings were organised with parents, community and adolescent children, once or twice a month, to enable participants to adopt positive behaviour on immunization, breastfeeding and diarrhoea prevention, management, and improved hygiene. This activity has been considered as an important step in creating a positive environment for mother and child care.

Outcomes

- ◆ Increase in both routine immunization coverage and booth coverage
- ◆ Quality of mothers' meetings improved over the period
- ◆ Routine immunization became the government's priority and additional routine immunization camps were organised in the project area
- ◆ Reduction in number of families who were openly resistant and non-cooperative and had been refusing the vaccine through health camps, engaging National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) and Combined Medical Practitioner's Association (CMPA) and mapping of such families
- ◆ Substantial decrease in the number of missed houses and missed children

Building Livelihood Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers to Combat Hunger in Mahoba

This Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) supported livelihood resilience program is an important partnership between GEAG and IGSSS aimed to address hunger and poverty in the project area. The project is based on the concept of food sovereignty, which is the right of people to healthy and culturally-appropriate food, produced using ecologically-sound & sustainable methods, as well as their right to define, access and control their own food and agriculture systems. The project aimed to achieve the twin objectives of (a) enhancement of the resilience capacity of the local community, and (b) adaptation of drought and hunger proofing measures by the community-based organisations.

The key strategies adopted to address the problem of food insecurity and exclusion is to promote resilient agriculture practices combining ecosystem services to ensure sufficient food availability round the year for households as well as enhancing household income and strengthening the community-based institutions. The intervention has been effective in ensuring that sufficient food is generated by households leading to improvement in income levels through following strategies:

- ◆ Improving current agriculture-based livelihood practices by promoting environmentally, technically and financially viable farming methods

- ◆ Building community institutions and nurturing for advocacy to ensure linkage with government schemes
- ◆ Developing and nurturing community-based models to attain food self-sufficiency and advocacy to access government schemes.

Activities

Training of 'Climate Volunteers'

A training programme was organised for capacity building of select farmer volunteers on climate change and agrometeorology. The training helped farmers develop a better understanding of climate change phenomenon such as the causes, impacts on the agricultural sector and expected trends for Bundelkhand region and prepare them to deal with extreme climate events as well as create awareness amongst the community.

Training of Panchayat Action Team (PAT) members

A series of training programmes were organised for capacity building of Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members, selected from each intervention village. The PRI members were trained as 'Panchayat Action Team'



members. They were sensitised to understand the community issues through an integrated approach which covered social audit process, social analysis, and community mobilization as well as develop their capacities on advocacy methods.

FFS meeting and sessions

Under this activity, a series of monthly 'farmers' sessions' were organised by the Farmers Field School (FFS) conveners in their respective villages. The sessions were particularly focussed on the importance and role of similar institutions at the community level. Farmers' problems vis-à-vis climate change and livelihood issues were discussed in the sessions.

Disseminating climate information

To help farmers deal with the climate exigencies and for better planning of their activities, a specifically tailored five-day forecast in the form of 'Climate Information Advisory' is regularly sent to farmers through the village resource centres.

The alerts are sent via SMS to farmer's mobile phones whose numbers are registered with the GEAG climatologist. This early warning system alerts the farmers to be prepared to deal with climate change patterns effectively. Farmers are using this information in their farm planning, other agricultural as well as household activities. As a result, the 'Climate Advisory' helped farmers reduce their input costs on irrigation, pesticides, etc.

Strengthening of CBOs at the village level

A series of orientation programmes to strengthen the community institutions were organised in all the 15 intervention villages. In the training sessions, members learned about the importance and role of CBOs at the community level and the importance of need-based microplan for villages. These orientation programs helped the participants develop leadership skills to be able to lead the community for the protection of their rights and entitlements. The participants are now able to express their views before local authorities more confidently. Better equipped with the knowledge gained in the training, the farmers have now developed a greater sense of self-respect, ownership, and skills to mitigate the corrupt practices by local elected representatives and government functionaries.



Outcomes

- ◆ A better understanding of climate-resilient agriculture among the farmers has now led them to come forward to break the vicious cycle of the mono-cropping and to adopt diversity in their agriculture system.
- ◆ New and more creative mind-set is developed on innovative agriculture practices.
- ◆ Healthy convergence system has evolved between the felt needs of the communities and line departments.
- ◆ The SMS-based weather advisory on climate-related information has capacitated the farmers who used the information to gain benefits in terms of reducing input costs in their fields and maximizing benefits.
- ◆ Increased awareness among the communities on government schemes and various welfare programmes.

Technical and Implementation Support to Vitamin-A, Zinc ORS and Adolescent Nutrition Programme in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is one of the most populous places of the world. If Uttar Pradesh, one of India's 28 states, was a country, it would be the fifth largest in the world in terms of population. Unfortunately, it contributes approximately 24 percent of all under-5 deaths of the country. Prevalence of diarrhoea in under-5 children is 10.82 percent in the state. There are programmes of Health and Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) that have put some significant efforts to address the malnourishment in children. On the other hand, adolescents aged 10-19 years are at high risk of iron deficiency and anaemia due to poor dietary intake, increased requirement of iron and high rate of infections.

To fulfil the requirement of iron in children and adolescents, Government of India has launched various programmes like biannual campaign called *Bal Swasthya Poshan Mah* that focuses on periodic supplementation of Vitamin A to under-5 children and 'National Iron plus Initiative', a flagship weekly programme, on IFA supplementation for school-going and out-of-school adolescent girls. Likewise, to counter diarrhoea, Government of India has also launched a programme 'Integrated Approaches for Prevention and Management of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (IAPPD)' in 2014. The campaign aimed to reduce the child mortality rate through

integrated approach. These programmes are target based approach through timely micronutrients supply, increase in coverage and quality service delivery to the beneficiaries.

Intervention Area

To provide technical support to the programme, GEAG is implementing it in 253 blocks of 20 districts spread across 8 divisions of Uttar Pradesh. Since UP-Technical Support Unit (UPTSU-IHAT) has no presence in these districts, Nutrition International has been assigned to work by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in these districts to provide technical and operational support to the concerned departments and other stakeholders.

Programme and their Key Outcomes

Vitamin A Supplementation (BSPM)

After non-availability of 'Vitamin A' syrup for nearly one year, BSPM round was organised both in June and December 2019. The key outcomes of the round were:

- ◆ *Improved coverage of BSPM in both rounds in 20 project districts:* In June 2017, the coverage was 88.3% which reached 88.7% in June 2019 and increased further to 91.4% in December 2019.



- ◆ *Improved monitoring and quick corrective measures:* This involved monitoring by district and block-level government officials from health and ICDS.
- ◆ *Improved data recording and reporting:* Timely submission of a report from the block and district.

Adolescent nutrition intervention (WIFS programme)

- ◆ Substantial increase in coverage from 2% in September 2016 to 52% in January 2020. Coverage in schools increased from 4% to 83% and in out-of-school girls from 1% to 31%.
- ◆ Improved procurement at the district level and distribution mechanism from district to block and further from block to service delivery points.
- ◆ Significant improvements in data recording and reporting have been observed both at blocks and district levels. There has been a big leap in terms of reports on health, ICDS and education department from 253 participating blocks. In September 2016, the number of blocks actively reporting was 21, 19 and 21 respectively. However, as of January 2020, out of the total 253 intervention blocks in 20 project districts, reports are coming from 249, 246 and 246 blocks respectively.

WIFS mentor activity in the schools

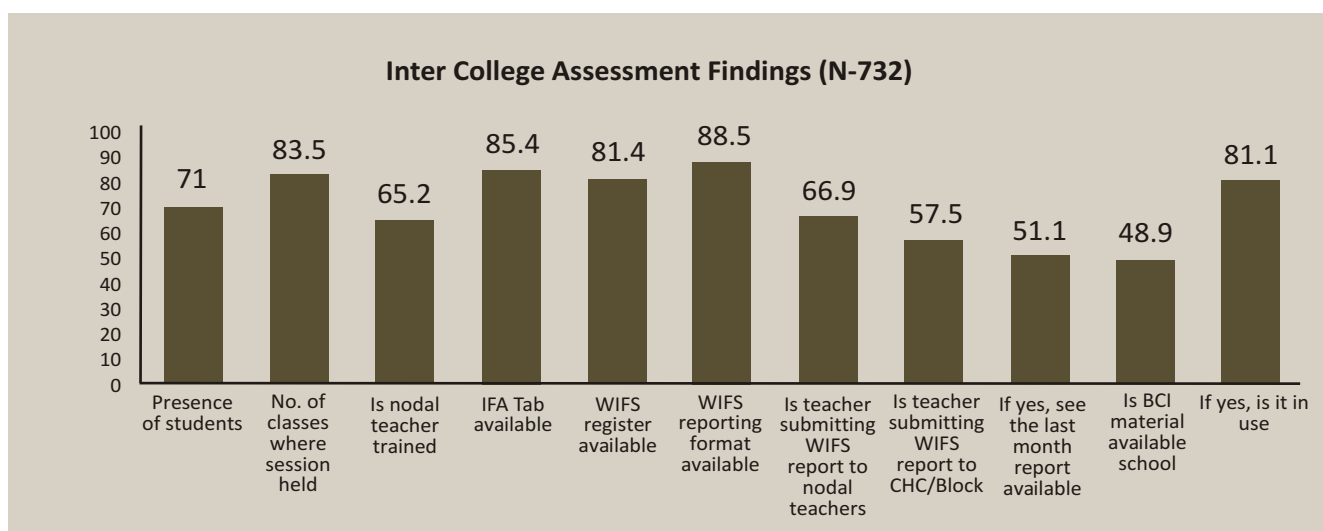
Mentor activity has been one of the most effective strategies in the WIFS programme. This year, mentors directly interacted with over half a million students. A total of 5,26,748 students (male-263,990, female-262,758)



from 732 inter-colleges took part in counselling and other interactive sessions. The sessions covered a number of important problems such as anaemia, the importance of WIFS and dietary sources of iron. After completion of the mentor's activities, the immediate observations were:

- ◆ IFA blue tablets were found in 85.4% of inter-colleges. 81.4% had WIFS registers and 88.5% had the WIFS reporting formats.
- ◆ However, data recording was found to be a critical issue, 57.5% of inter-colleges were found to be submitting WIFS report to the CHC/Block office.
- ◆ It was also observed that 65.2% of teachers were aware or trained on the WIFS programme.
- ◆ Around 71% of students were present in WIFS counselling session in the schools.
- ◆ 51.1% of schools were found to be submitting WIFS report to CHC on a regular basis

Graph 1 : **P48.9% of schools had BCI materials out of which, only 81% of schools were using those**



Training/ orientation of departments

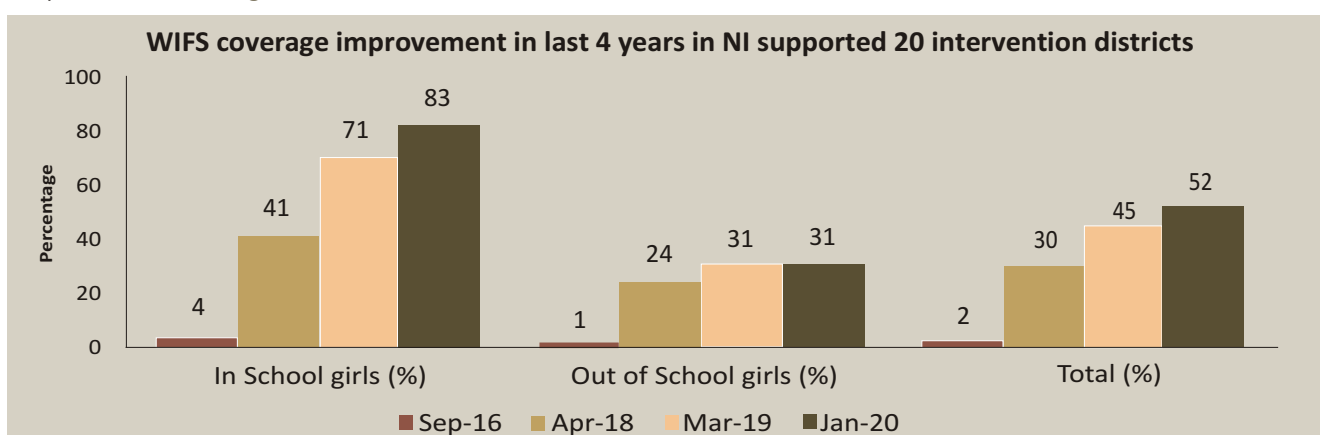
A series of training programmes on different topics were organised for effective implementation of the programme and creating awareness among various stakeholders

(officials from Health and ICDS department). The full details of the training programmes have been given below:

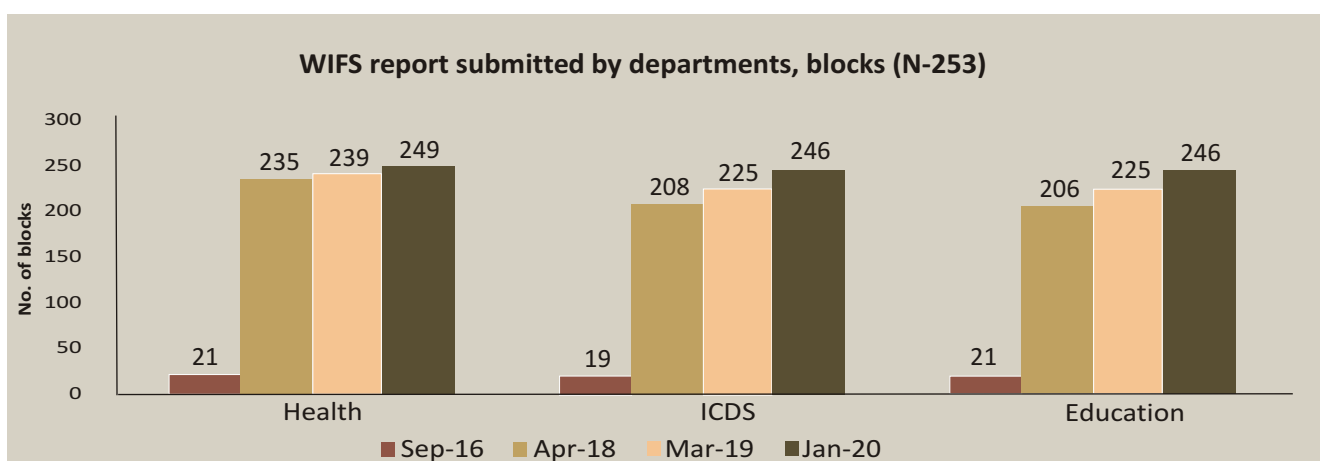
Table 3 : Details of Training

S. No.	Types of Training	Level (National/ District/ Sub district)	Dates/ Period	No. of Expected Participants	No. of Attended Participants	Designation of Training	Purpose of Participants
1.	State-level pharmacist training in 55 districts	State Level	6 Aug 2019	55	57	Chief Pharmacist of district level proper	To orient pharmacists on the estimation of MNs, and from Districts to Block HQs
2.	State-level WIFS mentors orientation	State Level	27 Aug 2019	50	44	WIFS Mentors	Orient mentors for taking counselling sessions in Inter College on WIFS programme

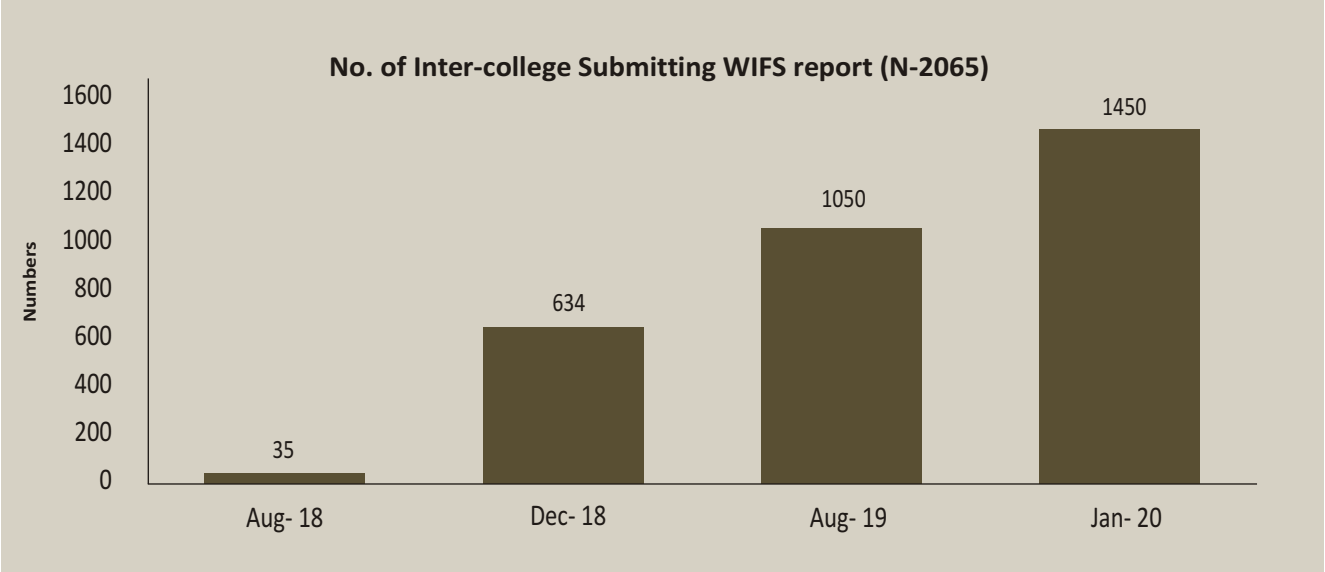
Graph 2 : WIFS coverage of 20 districts



Graph 3 : Block level WIFS report submitted by department of 20 districts



Graph No. 4 : Graph showing Inter collage report submitting status



Roll Out of Vitamin A, Adolescent & Maternal, Health Programme in Madhya Pradesh

GEAG in partnership with Nutrition International is implementing adolescent and maternal nutrition program in 122 blocks of 20 districts from 4 divisions, namely Bhopal, Ujjain, Narmadapuram and Jabalpur. The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Education, Department of Women and Child Development, and Tribal Welfare to ensure effective and timely implementation of the program.

The Aim of the Projects is

- ◆ Significant reduction in mortality among 9 to 59 months old children
- ◆ Increase the consumption of at least 52 IFA tablets by adolescents
- ◆ Increase in consumption of calcium tablets in pregnant and lactating mothers and
- ◆ Ensuring consumption of at least 90+ IFA Tablets by pregnant women

Activities

- ◆ Integration of budget of DASTAK in district budget and its proper utilization
- ◆ Improved planning and monitoring

- ◆ Capacity building of district and sub-district officials on monitoring and training on estimation and calculation of MN supply.
- ◆ On the job capacity building of FLWs on counselling of caregivers and use of IEC materials.
- ◆ Support in planning, coordination and review.
- ◆ Develop capacity for government officials to calculate, demand, procure and distribute supplies
- ◆ Develop capacity of school teachers, district and block level officials on counselling and behaviour change communication
- ◆ Develop capacity of officials on monitoring and reporting
- ◆ Develop capacity of officials and FLWs on monitoring and reporting and supplies
- ◆ Joint Visits and Divisional level review for better coverage of IFA under various beneficiary group

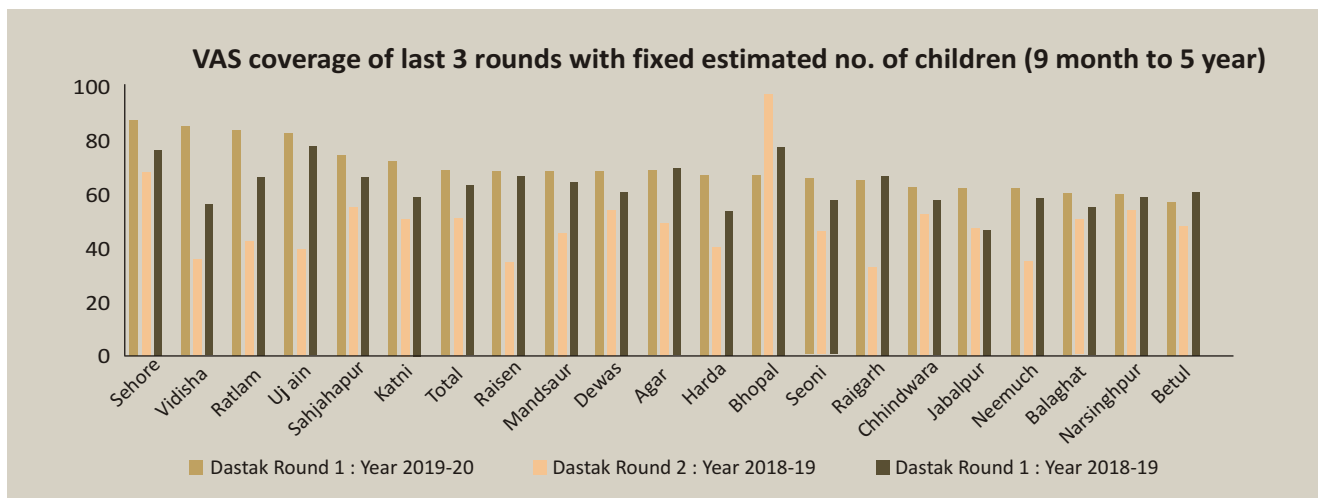
Key Achievements of the Program

Vitamin A Supplementation (Dastak)

- ◆ Stock analysis and need assessment of vitamin A in all 20 districts
- ◆ Dastak monitoring (569 sessions)
- ◆ Training & other support



Graph No. 5 : VAS coverage of last 3 rounds with fixed estimated no. of children (9 month of 5 year)



- ◆ Mid-term review in all 20 districts
- ◆ Focused DASTAK coverage and monitoring in 7 districts allotted by Govt. of MP
- ◆ Special focus on low coverage area and sharing of daily monitoring report with district officials for corrective action
- ◆ DASTAK DATA validation in 7 Districts assigned by Govt of Madhya Pradesh

Adolescent Nutrition Program (WIFS)

- ◆ Procurement, distribution, consumption and reporting of IFA blue was focused and improved in 20 GEAG district
- ◆ Reporting format for ASHA Sahyogini developed by GEAG and implemented in 51 district of MP by the Govt. Hand holding Support provided in 17 blocks and learnings shared with State Health Department
- ◆ Regular reporting by 20 districts to the state through the online HMIS
- ◆ Organized Lalima Day celebration in all 20 districts, and oriented 3431 adolescent girls on health, cause of anaemia and iron rich dietary sources
- ◆ Activation of District Coordination Committee in all 20 districts and facilitated 96 meetings attended
- ◆ Regular reviews by Divisional level officers for WCD, Health have improved better coordination among the line departments
- ◆ Provided training to 244 FLWs of Health department on Adolescent Nutrition under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karikaram (RKSK) in Rajgarh District
- ◆ Regional level review of Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB)

conducted in Jabalpur division (6 GEAG Dist) and in Ujjain Division (7 Districts)

Maternal Nutrition Program (Iron & Calcium)

- ◆ Regular monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrituv Abhiyan (68 Camps monitored)
- ◆ Increased availability of IFA-Red (97 percent session sites) and Calcium (64 percent VHND session sites)
- ◆ Provided regular on job orientation to 7831 frontline workers in 20 districts on IFA- blue, red and Calcium supplementation program
- ◆ 14 district level workshops on 'World Breast Feeding Week' and orientation of medical and paramedical staff of private hospitals on early initiation of breast feeding done
- ◆ Matching and Batching of High-risk Pregnant women initiated and trained Medical officers (89 Doctors) on Maternal Nutrition and Identification and calcification of Pregnant women on the basis of nutritional risk
- ◆ Successfully implemented Pilot Project on Maternal Nutrition implemented in 2 sites. Ujjain CHARAK District hospital and Civil hospital in Basoda Vidisha District. Ujjain district received best performing district under PMSMA
- ◆ Dissemination workshop on Maternal IFA Supply, distribution, consumption and reporting conducted for 51 districts
- ◆ Training of 300 district level officials (master trainers) from Health, Women and child development, and education department conducted

Rejuvenation and conservation of waterbodies to enhance groundwater recharge and support various ecosystem services in the urban environment

In district Gautam Budh Nagar, fast urbanization and industrial growth have resulted in over-extraction of groundwater and over-concretization has left very little room for groundwater recharge. The groundwater levels are constantly declining in the district. The recently launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan program of the Govt of India advocates to focus on replenishing water sources, conserving water bodies and increasing green cover for enhancing groundwater recharge.

In line with the above, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, with the support of HCL Foundation is working in the Dankaur block of district Gautam Budh Nagar to rejuvenate and conserve water bodies for groundwater recharge and ensuring the flow of related ecosystem services in the environment. The proposed activities will be implemented through active people's participation and involvement of district authorities.

Key Activities

- ◆ Identification and demarcation of traditional water bodies in the Dankaur block of Gautam Budh Nagar

district which have become redundant and ecologically non-functional and need to be rejuvenated and conserved.

- ◆ Rejuvenation of four water bodies and restoration of its water quality which will entail cleaning the pollutants such as solid waste, restoring aquatic life (flora and fauna) and if needed, initiate livelihood activities in the water bodies.
- ◆ Plantation of Trees and Shrubs on bunds to check erosion and encroachment.
- ◆ Design interventions for the larger catchment area to check in-flow of waste into the water bodies and removing obstructions in water re-charging.
- ◆ Involving local communities and building community institutions comprising of men, women, and children of the villages to support and monitor the conservation of water bodies and sustain it in the long run.
- ◆ Build awareness among other government stakeholders and local institutions and engage them in advocacy at various levels.



Developing Resilience Capacities in Communities affected by river Gandak Floods

GEAG is working with the support of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Foundation on developing resilience capacities in communities affected by river Gandak floods. The project area located at the border of Nepal and Bihar is quite vulnerable due to the recurring floods of river Gandak. The water flowing from the up-hills of river Gandak quickly reaches the Indian territory without adequate warning and the vulnerable communities living in the villages get affected with varying intensities year after year. The area is largely inhabited by poor communities with small and marginal land holding and solely dependent on agriculture.

Objectives

The purpose of the project is to adopt two villages of block *Thakrahan* of District Champaran in Bihar, which was severely affected by floods in 2019 and develop their resilience capacities enabling them to deal with flood situation in the years to come. The focus was to address the agriculture-dependent communities.

Activities

- ◆ Developing 40 resilient farmers
- ◆ Developing 20 resilient farmers trainer
- ◆ Selected 100 farmers for sending weather SMS and early warning system
- ◆ Promotion of fodder management
- ◆ Awareness for extension services on resilient farmer practices
- ◆ Linkage with the government programme and schemes



Publications, Outreach and Networks

GEAG publishes research studies/articles, reports and policy briefs to effectively disseminate its work, increase the impact of its work and advocate on the issues on which GEAG works. GEAG has been using social media to share its experiences.

GEAG on Social Media

In our journey to improve our reach to a wider audience and be visible across a larger spectrum, in the last year, we have added and built on this platform in this digital age of the internet to enhance, engage and communicate better and more effectively, our work, to the environment around us.

We have been able to connect to a larger audience, create a buzz on the events and workshops held, share information on our recent publications, as well as promote an awareness of the work we do.

Objectives

To leverage social media to promote our content, share our knowledge, and consistently engage and converse with practitioners, policy makers and interested forums.

Activities

We are active in the following spaces and feature content on small-marginal-women farmers, peri-urban areas, environment, urban climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and gender issues.

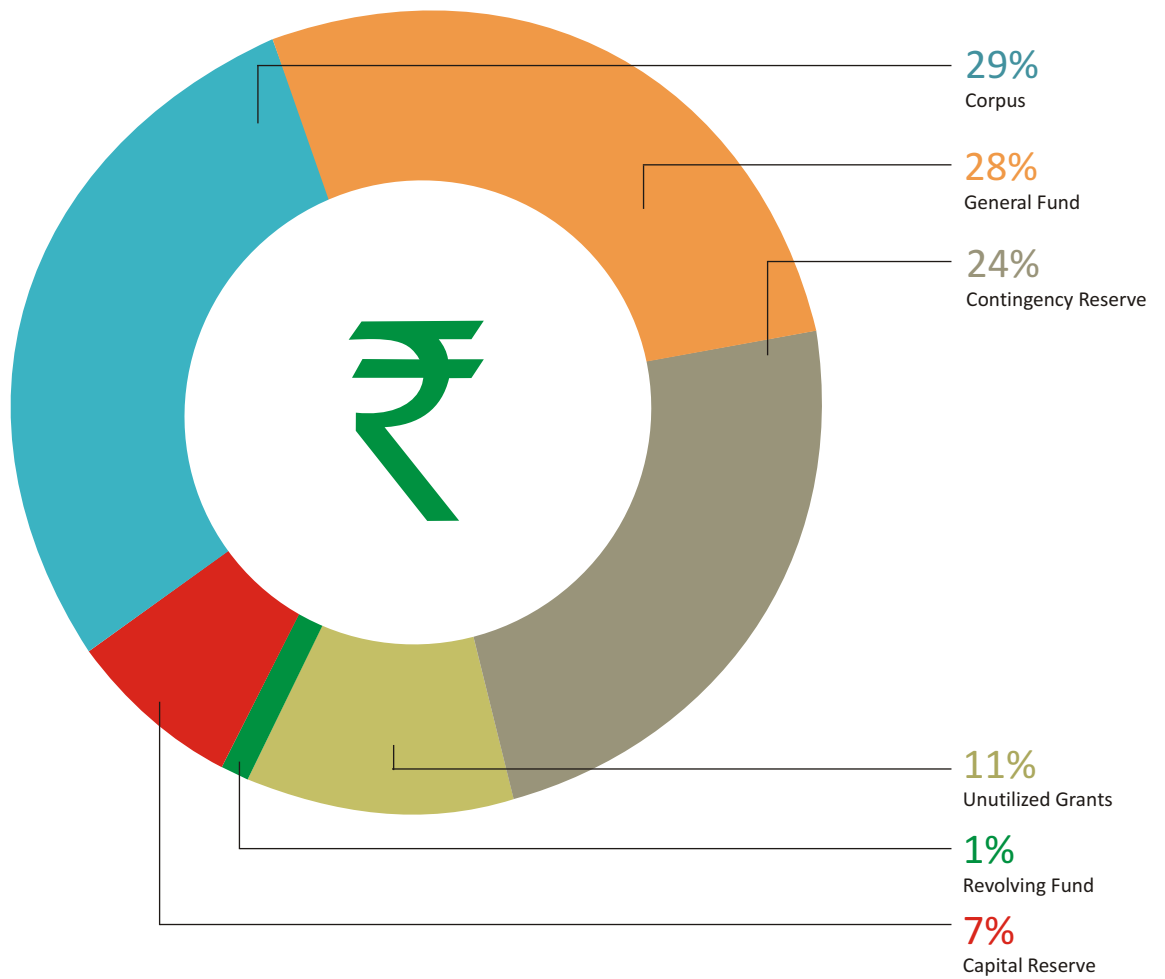
Outcome/ Impact

- ◆ Real time tweeting of events and workshops
- ◆ Visibility of workshops and events improved
- ◆ More interaction between participants and shareholders through re-tweets and comments
- ◆ Reaching new audience
- ◆ Promoted our happenings on social media
- ◆ New online communication opportunities
- ◆ Blogs on social media shared by partners, stakeholders and others



GEAG's Balance Sheet : 2019-20

A major part of the GEAG's income which flows into the organization is in the form of funds and grants from Multilateral Organizations, Government Agencies and Grant making bodies.



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Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working in the field of environment and sustainable development since 1975. Ever since its inception, GEAG has been actively engaged in implementing several development projects addressing livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, particularly women, based on ecological principles and gender sensitive participatory approach. Besides this, GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches at the micro and macro levels as well as successfully conducted a number of capacity building programmes for various stakeholders including women farmers, civil societies groups and government officials etc.

GEAG has established its identity in North India as a leading resource institution on sustainable agriculture, participatory approaches, methodologies and gender. Acknowledging its achievements, GEAG was awarded with the Lighthouse Activity Award by UNFCCC in 2013. GEAG also holds the Observer status to Green Climate Fund.



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