**Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods Support (GOALS)**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Area:** Poverty Reduction  
**Budget:** US$ 21 million  
**Duration:** 2013-2017  
**Implementation Partner:** Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India  
**Location(s):** National (with particular focus in 12 districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha)

**Background**

Unbalanced regional development, persistent inequalities, limited governance and livelihood opportunities plague many parts of rural India. Further, lack of access to resources and justice systems, and poor service delivery have compounded the exclusion of vulnerable communities, particularly tribal communities.

The Government of India has initiated several far-reaching rights-based legislations and programmes to address the exclusion but challenges in the execution of these flagship programmes have magnified inequalities. Further, a study by the Ministry of Rural Development and UNDP has highlighted the immense potential for improving the environmental sustainability of flagship rural development programmes which seek to create durable assets, sustainable employment and a strong livelihood resources base for rural communities. These schemes include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Livelihoods Mission and the India Awas Yojana.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Rural Development and UNDP have partnered to address these challenges through a project titled ‘Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods Support’ (GOALS) project.
About the project

The project aims to strengthen the effectiveness of key programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development with a particular focus on livelihoods and employment in twelve districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Developments so far

• Provided technical expertise in support of amendments to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to focus on agriculture, natural resources and workers’ rights and supported mandatory inclusion of green technologies in buildings constructed under MGNREGS

• Developed appropriate, locally relevant and cost effective housing options for 13 states that can be considered by the Indira Awas Yojana scheme collaborating with the states for promoting them

• Provided technical support to design and roll out of special projects to move families from unskilled labour to skilled employment or entrepreneurship; and to have productive assets and infrastructure created under MGNREGA through convergent and participatory planning

• Collaborated across stakeholders, including marginalized communities themselves, to support NRLM develop community-specific strategies and plans for enhancing livelihoods through the NRLM

• Provided technical support for 22 bottom-up solutions for development of four marginalized communities under NRLM through special strategies and plans; 14 states initiating Start-up Entrepreneurship programme for persons from vulnerable households.

Looking to the future

• Improved livelihoods in twelve focus districts across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha

• Improved efficiency, accountability and inclusiveness of MGNREGP and NRLM at national and state levels through policy advice and technical assistance

• Incremental green results for Ministry programmes such as MGNREGP, NRLM and IAY

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