State-Level Support to Livelihood Promotion Strategies in Rajasthan

**Millennium Development Goal:**
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**Target:**
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger

**Relevant India Development Goal:**
Reduction of poverty ratio by five percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012; providing gainful and high quality employment at least to the addition to the labour force over the 11th Five-Year Plan period

**Background**
Rajasthan is India’s largest state. Its people engage in a range of livelihood activities that vary across the state’s diverse terrain. The state’s labour force is estimated to be 28 million, which is growing at over two percent each year. The annual growth rate of employment at just over one percent has been unable to keep pace with the rate of increase of the labour force. A significant challenge for the state, therefore, is to ensure faster growth that is pro-poor and that generates sustainable livelihoods.

Unemployment in the state is rising. Further, Rajasthan has about two million “working poor” - those who are employed for very low wages, or are unable to earn enough from self-employment. Generating livelihoods on such a large scale requires innovative strategies. There is also a need to build the capacity of existing livelihood intervention agencies to expand services and encourage greater convergence of stakeholders. The need for an umbrella mechanism that could innovate and coordinate all these efforts resulted in the creation of the Rajasthan Mission on Skill and Livelihoods (RMoL) in 2004.

RMoL addresses the challenges of creating a large number of livelihood opportunities for the poor, increasing labour force participation and raising incomes of the “working poor”. Technical support to the Mission since 2005 has focused on designing and implementing livelihood strategies.

**Objectives**
The project aims to design innovative livelihood promotion strategies in the state by identifying demand-supply gaps across sectors, social groups and agro-ecological zones and key growth areas. By piloting innovative strategies, the aim is to demonstrate successful community-NGO-public-private-partnerships; analyze ongoing livelihoods programmes; and generate and disseminate knowledge on livelihoods. The project also supports coordination and convergence among various government departments, and identifies key areas for policy reform and networking among livelihood organizations.

**Project Information**

**Area:** Poverty Reduction

**Budget:** US$ 2.5 million

**Duration:** 2008-2012

**Implementing Partner(s):** Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Rajasthan

**Location(s):** Rajasthan
Results so far

- Draft state policy for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) has been formulated and submitted to the state government
- Close to 450,000 livelihoods have been supported through a range of activities including:
  - Pilots in dairy, fishery, sheep rearing in five districts
  - Convergence of government programmes in Jhalawar district to ensure sustainable alternative livelihoods for hard-to-reach disadvantaged communities such as the Kanjars
  - Employment fairs benefiting livelihoods of around 3,00,000 young people, market-driven skill training benefiting around 1,00,000 youth, convergence initiatives, pre-departure training to overseas bound workforce, establishment of overseas placement bureau services and development of e-learning modules
- Livelihood promotion institutions like the Construction Academy and Rajasthan Institute of Security Education set up with active involvement of the private sector
- Close to 200 course modules on skill training developed for 32 sectors are being delivered through 350 training institutions, which include Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVks)
- The use of mobile vans that provide training to rural youth in remote locations in Rajasthan have enabled over 400 youth to be better equipped to meet market demand for electrical and mechanical skills
- Capacity of institutions such as the Indian School of Microfinance enhanced to train 10,000 women in Tonk district
- 1,500 tribal families in four districts in southern Rajasthan have benefited from improved productivity of cash crops, new practices in rearing livestock and poultry, and enhancement of skill sets in partnership with the Tribal Area Development Department of the state

Looking to the Future

- Collaborate with stakeholders including private players on securing livelihoods through joint partnerships between public, private, community stakeholders
- Special focus on enhancing employment through capacity building of specialized institutions
- Identify and pilot key alternative and innovative livelihood solutions to develop policy recommendations
- Develop systems to systematically track contribution of the Mission to promoting livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities
- Support efforts to further refine state strategy to promote livelihoods of the vulnerable groups, particularly of disadvantaged communities such as Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, migrants, small and marginal farmers and people with disabilities
- Involve private sector in upscaling skill training programmes to reach 100,000 young people each year

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