



VAAGDHARA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016





## About US

*"We are the **Strong believer** in the **appropriateness** and **sustainability of the technology.**"*

### VISION

The poor in tribal region of India have sustainable livelihoods even in changing climate situation and their children are at par with others on all development parameters like education, health, rights and participation.

### MISSION

Creating and nurturing vibrant institutions of poor communities in tribal region of western India; inculcating appropriate scientific and indigenous technology and knowledge for sustainable livelihood and realization of true childhood for their children by 2020.

## VAAGDHARA works in more than 400 villages, among 5 districts, covering more than 75,000 tribal families through 15 Projects.

VAAGDHARA, NGO has implemented a number of development initiatives in Southern Rajasthan. It has been adequately flexible in its approach and depending on the need of the situation, VAAGDHARA has played key role as activist to advocate for child rights, as facilitator in collaboration with mainstream (government) for betterment of sustainable development and has also implemented sustainable livelihood Programmes It has learned from its experiences and used the learning in designing new and improved interventions.

VAAGDHARA has been working in Southern Part of Rajasthan, India for more than 20 years, focusing on sustainable livelihoods with better human development indicators. We are doing this through well-planned and comprehensive programmes in health, education, Agriculture, livelihoods and others. The Programmatic focus is on creation & nurturing of peoples' institutions and empowering the communities so that they (community) can manage the interventions and processes in sustainable manner.

The core value of the organization is **Swaraj 'self-reliance'** which is drawn from Gandhian philosophy, and committed to :

- Working with poorest and vulnerable Tribal communities involving tribal women and Children
- Long term commitment with an integrated approach to address different social, political and economic causes for sustainable development.



We place special focus on empowering women and development of future generations whether be in Human , Climate, soil and nature because they are disproportionately affected by inequality and comes under the most vulnerable group and because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and communities for holistic development. We deliver our duties on natural resources as they only help to grow our next generations' and rebuild their lives. We work alongside Tribal communities, vulnerable section of society on long-term development programmes to deliver sustainable change. We support them through sharing their voices and concerns on different policies that affect their lives, supporting them with information and sharing at larger platform of national and international level.



## The main objectives on which Vaagdhara is delivering long lasting change are:

- Develop tribal junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as a place where children get opportunities for better emotional, physical and educational growth.
- Address issues pertaining to sustainable natural resources management and livelihood in the target area, with a focus on hunger, food sovereignty and access to safe water leading to better quality of life.
- To build knowledge and resources of poor tribal community such that they are in harmony with bio-diversity, ecological and environmental conditions of area suitable for building their resilience against climate change
- To promote networking, policy advocacy and facilitate participation of deprived tribal community to voice their issues at local, regional, national and international platforms

## OUR GOAL

By 2020, VAAGDHARA plans to reach out to about one lakh poor families in tribal region of Rajasthan and Central West India under its various development interventions.

### How We Work

To achieve our mission and goal, we have developed a distinctive approach to our work which primarily focuses on strengthening and nurturing Community based organizations.

VAAGDHARA has learnt that strong institutions of communities are must for sustaining the development intervention. As VAAGDHARA has its vast area of intervention, we are continuously nurturing vibrant institutions of community like Self Help Groups of women, Federations of the SHGs, School Management Committees, and Farmer's Producers Organizations etc. They are in role of a catalyst to manage the interventions/ initiatives for everlasting change in their lives.

Vaagdhara is also investing in building capacities of individuals, community and its leaders which follow multichannel approach. We are building their capacities as a







community resource persons at local level as they act as social entrepreneurs or role model for others. It will also develop community leaders as youth volunteerism that will be trained on managing CBOs.

And, lastly, Vaagdhara has its constructive Collaboration with Government and Other Mainstream Institutions without losing the focus and intensity of the peoples' concern: and organize people to leverage the government programs and also put pressure to get their rights.

## Key Highlights of YEAR 2015

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### Some of the Highlights of this Year include:

- **42417** children were positively impacted across 450 villages.
- **3337** malnourished children were identified and registered
- **2546** children between the age of 6 and 18 years went to government schools
- **7895** children were aware on quality aspects of education through Rallies, Training and capacity Building workshops
- Close to **374** children's groups now have more than **8247** members which being aware on 4 child rights and also on life skill education.
- With a view to collaborate on the shaping of child rights friendly policies, **VAAGDHARA** was part of relevant government discussions and shared recommendations on Child Protection and development issues , share Community child Tracking mechanism with government officials.
- VAAGDHARA worked with over **607** volunteers and organized camps, meetings, Rallies for supporting quality service delivery, quality education, **CHILDLINE 1098** and reached out to more than **6785** children.
- Vaagdhara completed **2 Research papers** on effects of Tribal sub plan under child interests and Nata Pratha Analysis on Child development.
- More than **8000 Families** are equipped with knowledge and resource of Sustainable Integrated Farming system which improved sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity.
- **1243** Community Health Advocated strengthens and spreading knowledge on use of indigenous practices and crops to improve their food and nutrition diversity in more than 300 villages.
- Village level Micro planning has been done with **1928 households** in 16 villages.
- Over **20,000 community** visited and get knowledge on Traditional agriculture Practices, indigenous foods through Fair.
- Food and Agriculture Fair had great success covering 5 blocks of Banswara districts, spreading awareness on nutri-sensitive Agriculture to more than **15000 Community members**.
- More than **2576 Families** are getting linkages/convergence with government schemes.

## Our Thematic Priorities

### Strengthening the Livelihoods of Poor

VAAGDHARA focuses on improving access to and control of the marginalized communities over natural resources, enhancing productive returns on resources and financial inclusion. It works towards creating an enabling environment, which supports the nutritional need and security as well as sustainable development. We emphasize on building capability, developing multiple skills and to promote secure and resilient livelihood opportunities in form of sustainable integrated Farming system to the marginalized Tribal population.



### Addressing Child Rights

VAAGDHARA is committed to ensure child rights including survival, Development, Protection and Participation for their everlasting development. We developed programmes related to their needs and effectively participating from the community and their excluded generations. Key interventions include protection of children and their healthy development through strengthening of government machinery and ensuring effective implementation of various child related schemes/acts. The organization works intensively on issues related to Nutrition, Health, Education and Child Rights. At a wider level, VAAGDHARA also strives for consent building among key stakeholders to influence policy decisions and creating an enabling environment for children's growth and development.

### Facilitating the Poor to voice their Issues and Concerns

VAAGDHARA acts as a catalyst and facilitator by providing platform and network to help the community to voice their concern and to positively engage with policy makers for enabling policy environment. It also engages with traditional institutions in its intervention geographies, so that in the near future these institutions will have its leaders who will in-turn have greater say in the community and thus these leaders will address the issues, concerns and ambitions of the marginalized community.





## Strengthening the livelihoods of Poor

The **WADI-Project (Wasteland Agriculture Development Initiative)** is an agricultural project supporting tribal farm families in the Southern Rajasthan. The WADI project is funded by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The main activity of the WADI project is to implement so called "wadis", small orchards with mango, guava or lemon trees, on the land of tribal farmers. In that context, the project also trains the farmers on organic farming, soil and water conservation, animal husbandry and health.

During the year, the connection between farmers in the project area has been strengthened by forming more than 350 Wadi Tukadis, Village Committees of Wadi Farmers, 125 Women Self Help Groups (SHG) and two Wadi Vikas Ayojan Samiti, Committees of Wadi Farmers on Block level.



*"Due to continuous poor yield and often erratic rainfall, farmers and especially youths started losing faith in agriculture to sustain their livelihood. Frustrated with this situation, VAAGDHARA provided support and technical assistance to restore our agriculture. And now we are happy to see dramatic change in terms of land development, good yield, diverse cropping and orchard plantation in the village, which not only strengthens our livelihood but also provides nutritious foods for our children. Thanks to the Wadi project which turned our life from hell to heaven!"*

Broadening the knowledge of farmers is essential to address livelihood issues. To achieve this in the project area, 1500 farmers have been informed by organised awareness and capacity building meeting, 25 farm families received training on animal husbandry and poultry, 65 farm families were trained on vegetable cultivation and 25 farm families on Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS).

Mal is nutritious local minor millet which is not being cultivated in the Banswara District anymore. To revive its relevance, WADI has Mal Farming Demonstrations with five families in the Anandpuri Block with which further 25 farmers have been trained on Mal cultivation. Minor millets —with different varieties like ..... —as well as the major millets sorghum (great millet), bajra (pearl millet) and ragi (finger millet) are increasingly being included in the food basket of Tribal households after demonstrating activities. Tribal Farm Families are happy to use because they cost less than rice or wheat, and keep you healthier; and also need less water to grow and can tolerate higher temperatures, crucial for Tribal Farmers in this era of climate change.

Droughts, heat waves, flash floods are all on the rise, especially in Southern Rajasthan, India. It is already affecting food production adversely, and this will get worse. Climate change is also bringing about indirect losses. Increase in average atmospheric temperature increases the growth period of a crop in cooler climates. Varying rainfall patterns change soil moisture, which in turn affects yield. Therefore, Farmers are using wadi techniques with indigenous farming Practices to preserve the climatic culture of the era.

We also build the resources of families 25 land fewer families have been supported with Poultry and 1500 regular Wadi families were benefitted with soil and water conservation work, cookers, vegetable seeds and fruit and forestry plants etc. Additionally, 570 families have received solar light lamps. Another important part of the WADI project is linking families with various government schemes. During the last year, linkage with the horticulture department has led to 256 families receiving vegetable seeds, 190 families with horticulture plants and 160 families with bamboo plantations in the project area.

Aside from the activities in the project area, eight WADI team members also participated in the Delhi Forest Food Festival.



## Stories of Inspiration

### The Climate where Mahua grows, New Innovations helps them to make Cashew Grow!!!

The Anandpuri Block is a very hilly area with an arid climate. With sloped hills and uncultivable, desolate farming land, agriculture becomes a tough challenge, especially for smallholder farmers. The lack of irrigation facilities makes most of the farmers dependent on rain and their agricultural activities are limited to one season. Additionally, the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and mono-cropping has become normality in Banswara. Many farmers have to resort to indebteding themselves to be able to afford the chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Shankar, Resident of Village Bodia Talai, Anandpuri is only bread earner in his 5 member of Family and With the three Bigha land of his farm and 4-5 livestock (2 cows, 1 goat ), he used to cultivate crops such as maize and wheat only and sometimes tomatoes. But despite all that, He was still struggling to earn enough money for a fulfilling way of life for his family. The main reason was that his costs for agriculture were too high. For his crops, he had to buy the seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and insecticides from the market .He came to know about Integrated Farming is a system approach to the farming where not only crops but livestock, poultry, tree, insects - all the farm components become part of the farm-ecosystem and are integrated through recycling of biomass.



Through different training and exposures, he got to know about SIFS, horticulture development and implemented at their fields according to its land. With the help of VAAGDHARA, he also started a kitchen garden which now provides him with a wide variety of vegetables which differ depending on the season. Through the kitchen garden, he now has various vegetables which he uses in the daily meals of his family. This provides a huge benefit in nutrition since the meals now regularly have vegetables (and especially different ones) in them, opposed to the earlier regular meals of only chapatti and pulses.

At home, Shankar does not waste dung from livestock by dumping it in open as he used to do earlier. But now he has started making compost in a pit and is using as an important source of nutrition.

His overall income is now 15000 INR from horticulture of mangoes, 3000 INR from vegetables. Shankar likes to experiment with his farm and introduce intercropping of Maize, Pigeon Pea. **He also developed a nursery of cashew saplings and harvested 3 kgs cashews, which provided additional income of 15000INR to his family. The climatic conditions where Mahua grows, the Sustainable farming system makes happen of cashew harvesting in different climate zone.**

The Programme is showing the result of self sufficiency which decreases migration rates, improved harvest and income which provides sustainable livelihoods in their own land and better nutrition outcomes to improve food and nutrition Sovereignty.

## Sustainable Integrated Farming System: A way of Life

Vaagdhara is focusing on system approach which focuses on increasing farm productivity by increasing diversification, resource integration and creating sustainable development. We are supporting more than 2800 small and marginal farm families in resource poor regions of Southern Rajasthan, in adopting this sustainable farming system.

Based on the impressive results that emerged from the pilot programme of SIFS, we initiated extension of these learnings to 1000 small and marginal farm families as Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS). The focus of the programme was on developing Trainers in tribal communities to aware other Tribal farm Families and giving attention to technology development on individual farms. Farmers who will be Trainers of SIFS are taken through a process of capacity building based on FFS principles. This is done through sessions on crop/tree management, soil/water management, soil nutrient management, pest and disease management, livestock management and multilayer designing. The sessions are organized in one of the farmer's field from the group on a rotational basis.



"Since the practice of IFS is very close to the existing Traditional knowledge base of smallholders in Southern Rajasthan acceptance levels are very high. Dissemination is currently being up-scaled by farmer-to-farmer peer learning through developed modules."

**Jayesh Joshi , Secretary**

The project turns up into an Approach for sustainable livelihoods produced encouraging results. Evidences from the field indicate that there has been increase in crop diversity, decrease in migration rate and also gave indirect benefits. In comparison to the previous of their daily lives, 42% of the farms recorded 50 – 100% increase in crop diversity. The diversity of the farm land is increased as much as possible by introducing at least 5-6 types of cereals and pulses/oilseeds, 10-12 varieties of vegetables, 5-6 varieties of trees of fruit, fuel wood and fodder, 5-6 types of spices or medicinal plants. Significant increase in usage of uncultivated food and indigenous practices was observed in some of the areas of Southern Rajasthan especially in Anandpuri Block and adjacent blocks.

Analysis of 100 farms showed an increase in net returns compared to baseline - more than 100% on 44% farms, 75-100% on 4% farms and 50-75% on 5% farms.

It was heartening to note that the number of government linkages improved significantly for most of the areas through adopting the approach. Also, the number of work days increased significantly from 4-6 months in the baseline to 9-12 months in the third year, reducing the period of stress. While results of Adopting SIFS are awaited, however, there are some positive indications with regard to increased production and income, reduced migration rate and reduced cost of cultivation. Also better resource management has become possible by integrating various techniques like soil water conservation, rainwater harvesting, cropping sequence management and multitier arrangement.



# RASAN

## Stories of Inspiration

*However, women are facing severe gender inequalities in their daily lives and also agriculture. Although they carry most of the workload in the household as well as on the field, they are not included in decisions concerning their agriculture, homes, family or even themselves and do not have any land-rights. It is undeniable, that women play a very important role in the fight against hunger and sustainable development. Their empowerment and increased participation in development processes and decisions is key in tackling global challenges and more importantly the difficulties in rural areas.*

**Resan Devi** is 62 years old and the caretaker of her family of 16 people living together with her and her husband Makhsi. She is responsible the agriculture that is being done on the 19 Bigha (30.000 m<sup>2</sup>) of her family's land which lately has been showing a big success: during this agricultural year, Resan was able to sell 12 quintal (1200kg) of soya bean, two quintal of maize, six quintal of green gram and eight quintal of onions in the market. The rest of the farms produce was used as food for her whole family and fodder for their animals.



***Resan told proudly, through the SIFS intervention, there is rise in our social status; we put DJ in son's wedding and cars for transportation purposes."***

This success is coming from the efforts that Resan has put in developing her knowledge, skills and her farm. Around six years ago, their lands in Mundri were mostly uncultivated, only small amount of maize and pigeon pea were grown. There was a shortage of food and water, irrigation water as well as drinking water, resulting in malnutrition for the children. Agriculture was only done during one season of the year. The remaining seasons, the whole family was permanently migrating to Ahmedabad for labour work.

Vaagdhara has started working together with Resan in 2009 when they established a **Women Self Help Group (SHG)** in Mundri. It became clear that Resan was very engaged in the development of the SHG and she quickly emerges as the spokesperson in her SHG. After some time, Resan took a loan of 30.000 INR from the SHG with which she connected her house with the electrical grid and bought an electric water pump set. The new pump enabled her to irrigate most of her field and therefore also grow more crops throughout the season.

In 2012, Vaagdhara started to implement a Wadi on her farm and training Resan in organic farming. In the context of the Wadi project, Resan was also linked to government schemes which provided her with pipes for the irrigation of her fields and also led to a deepening of her well. In 2013, Resan further developed her knowledge when she and her husband were chosen to be intensively trained in SIFS. They adopted organic fertilisers and pesticides, compost pits, vermin composts, a kitchen garden and extensive vegetable cultivation. All of the 19 Bigha are being cultivated with organic methods throughout the year. Their agriculture supports Resan's family with food for the whole year, their animals with fodder for the whole year and leaves a lot to sell at the market. Compared to earlier, their overall income has nearly tripled. This shows in the three houses which they have on their land. All of them are connected to the electrical grid and even basic facilities such as toilets, something seldom to be seen in this region. With all the surplus of vegetables and crops they Resan is growing, she is currently in the process of establishing a small vegetable shop at her home for the local villagers. Resan is still active in her SHG and has given on her agricultural knowledge to all of the other members, who have also started to adopt SIFS practices.



# Fight Hunger First Initiative

The four Pillars of Programme – Nutrition and Food security, MNREGA, Education and CBOs beautifully complement each other. It shows that the rights-based approach is not sufficient to achieve food and nutrition security, but must be complemented by the other elements mentioned above.

We are working with more than 11000 Tribal Families to aware them about above indicators and develop security to their development. The major prerequisites for sustained food & nutrition security through this Programme are institution building, empowerment especially of women, improved agriculture, health & nutrition education together with behavior change at HH level, better access to food & income through government schemes and improved service delivery by government service providers. These processes are extremely intensive and time consuming as they evolve and change the perception of the community about their collective strength and ability to access rights & entitlements and question the government.

The FHFI program has reached out to large number of women through CBOs, awareness camps and the ICDS. Introducing women in active decision making regarding agriculture has been one of the major activities while promoting sustainable farming systems. Currently 2084 women are involved in farming by planning and implementing new techniques of farming. Women have also proactively taken up kitchen gardening utilizing the available resources through seed preservation, rain water harvesting, use of HH waste like water, organic material and others. There are now more than 1000 HH practicing kitchen gardening even in the water scarce areas of Anandpuri Block, Banswara.

Through the support of the Programme, two successful Behavior Change Communication Processes has been initiated for Nutritional and food security through available resources. The process of nutrition education known as Participatory Action for Learning, that empowering individuals and communities to adopt an indigenous practice that respects local food habits and the natural environment, resulting in improved nutrition and better health. In **LANN-PLA cycles** the community gets basic knowledge about a balanced nutrition and sustainable agriculture practices which helps the farmers especially in the difficult geographic conditions of the Anandpuri Block. Through PLA, it also focusing on addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition, namely, access to food through improved availability and utilization; care of mother and children; improving uptake of health and nutrition services and entitlements; and changes in practices related to hygiene and sanitation. 640 community members participated regularly in the monthly PLA meetings and also the women of 576 women were taking trainings of the LANN-PLA cycle.

Organizing 15 nutrition camps registering more than 835 children with their mothers of children who are severely or moderately malnourished has also shown weight gain among children. The camps are generally held for 15 days at a stretch and then repeated again after 3-4 months. In the mean time the families are followed up by local community workers. Weight of 91% children increased significantly during the 15 days nutrition camp. 5% children improve moderately and in 4% children improvement was not so good.



The programme also focusing on denial of basic rights, poor access to government schemes, flawed governance system which are some of the major cause of wide spread food & nutrition insecurity despite of India's impressive economic growth In other words the key to development is peoples active participation in governance. This program has focused on building capacity of the community to plan & monitor the implementation of community development programs which is an outcome and impact oriented monitoring framework. 2000 Nutrition sensitive Micro Plans has been prepared through participatory approach in 17 villages and 46.6% of Plans get approval from district Administration which in turn mobilizes 13.92 crores for utilization for their development.



Community Score Card has also been initiated across the 3 blocks. This year nearly more than 45 CSC sessions have been conducted, mostly on the service delivery of the ICDS and Health. In different locations of Projects, the CSCs are mostly organized and executed by the SHG members. Some initiatives have been taken to monitor services available at ICDS and school at the level of community through notice boards in the community meeting place (Atal Seva Kendra) and the services available at the village level are marked. The services are supposed to be rated first by availability and then on satisfaction level. But successful rating on the basis of aforesaid indices is not at all easy and requires prolonged and sustained work in the target areas.

***The most awaited Pratham Paschim Bharat Jan Jatiya Khadya, Krishi Avam Beej Mela was a grand success!!!*** Several farmers, seed savers, grassroots organizations and activists from two states i.e., Rajasthan and Karnataka, of India showcased, for public awareness, over 280 varieties of different species of grains, pulses, tubers, vegetables, medicinal plants and uncultivated/ forest food and builded the capacities of more than 5600 community members across the Southern Rajasthan.

The sustainability of increased income through MGNREGA requires continuous efforts in the future. Conditions to reduce child malnutrition further have been established and are likely to be maintained. Not all elements for better food and nutrition security are sustainable. Although awareness about nutrition, health and child care has changed behavioral practices, some further support on nutrition and food practices is required. The awareness on women's rights and the change of gender roles have been initiated and will continue to develop.



# HARRIS PATEL

## Stories of Inspiration

**Harris Patel was born as the third child of Rangi and Sambu Patel, who are running a small farm in the village Mundri in Anandpuri Block of Banswara District, Rajasthan. On their farmland of 5.5 bigha, the family cultivates seasonal grains like rice, maize or gram and wheat for home consumption. When the harvest is good they can even sell some grains on the market. The oldest son of the family is currently studying in 5th grade, his three year old sister is going to the nearby Anganwadi centre for pre-school education and Harris, the family's youngest child, is only 13 to 14 months old.**

His mother Rangi can't remember the exact date of birth, but she tells, that the small boy frequently became ill, suffering from diarrhoea and fever and that he was not taking his mother's milk properly. The parents brought Harris two times to a private doctor in the village and bought medicines for him, but after a few days he was as ill as before. So the family brought the child to a private clinic in Anandpuri, where they also had to pay for the medicines and the treatment and again, the child was falling ill after a few days.



As Mundri is located in the project area of **VAAGDHARA's "Fight Hunger First Initiative" (FHFI)**, a screening of all infantile children was held in the village, where their weight, height and mid-upper arm circumference were recorded. Thanks to this intervention Harris was identified to be critically severely acute malnourished (critically SAM category) and the FHFI team brought him directly to the Malnourishment Treatment Centre (MTC) in the District Hospital of Banswara.

Besides Harris, three other critically SAM children, 27 SAM children and 25 moderate acute malnourished (MAM) children were identified in the screening in Mundri village. His parents accompanied Harris to the District Hospital, where he should receive therapeutic feeding for approximately 15 days. The treatment in this government hospital is free of costs for the family, but already after five days the family returned back to their village due to the death of the mother's sister.

Harris and his mother Rangi participated in the Nutrition Camp, which was organized in Mundari by the FHFI team. Here, Harris received a special diet for 15 days to treat the malnourishment and his mother learned to prepare supplementary diet for the small child. Rangi explains that she usually doesn't prepare separate food for the small children; they are breastfeed until they are able to eat the normal meals of the family. Also Harris with his age of 13 to 14 months is still breastfeed, but since the Nutrition Camp he is taking supplementary food as well.

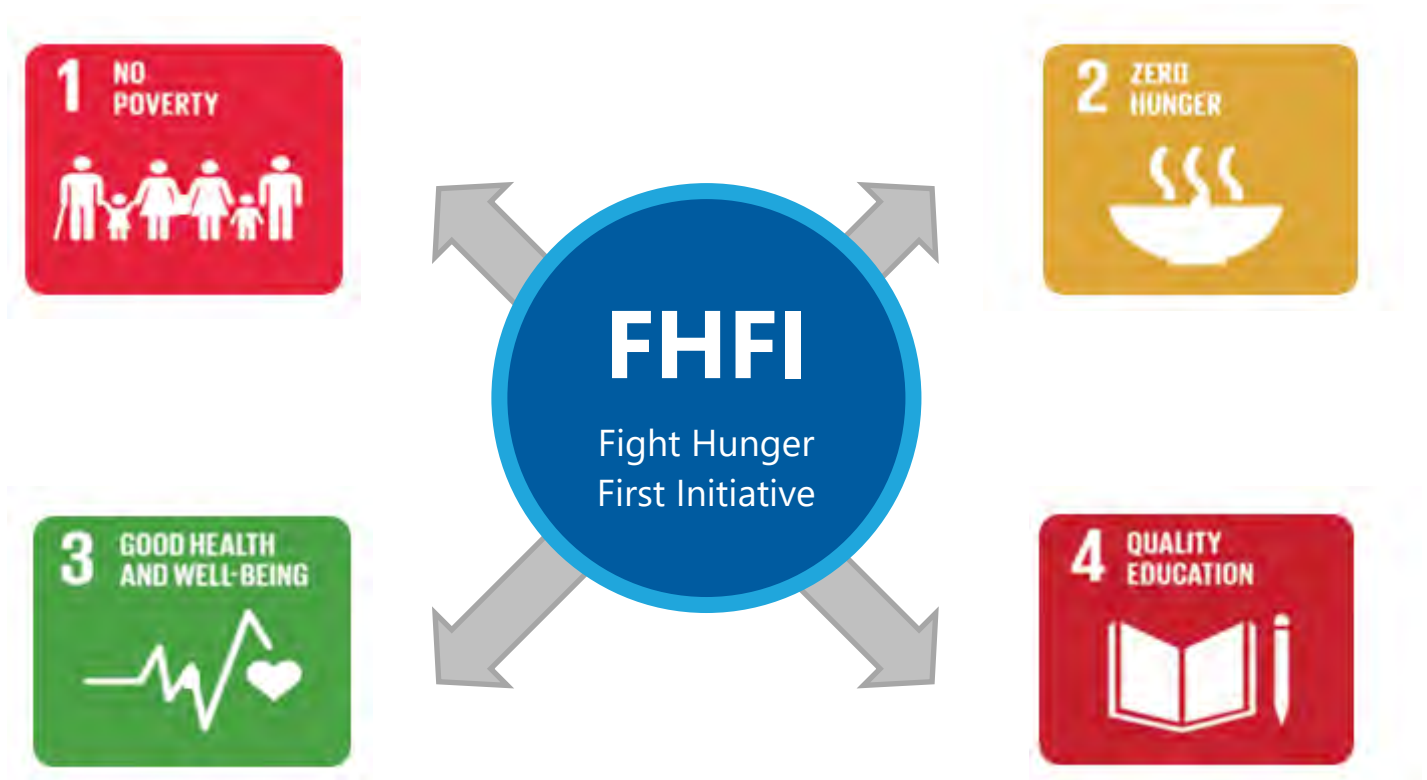
His diet diversity score has increased to 4 since he is now regularly eating grains, pulses, vegetables and sweets. After the treatment in the MTC in Banswara and the following Nutrition Camp, Harris health condition is good and he is gaining weight, as regular follow-up visits at the ANM in the nearby Aanganwadi Centre have shown. The family expressed their satisfaction with the MTC because the child started eating properly and did not fall ill again after the treatment. The small boy is now out of malnourished category and is getting stronger day by day.

VAAGDHARA has also provided seed kits to the family and linked them with the horticulture department for further support.

**The Fight Hunger First Initiative Programme aimed at improving the access to these rights and entitlements, with focus of the following:**

- 1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**
- 2. Public Distribution System**
- 3. Forest Rights Act for Tribal communities and other Traditional Food dwellers.**
- 4. Integrated Child Development Services**
- 5. National Rural Health Mission**
- 6. Right to Education**
- 7. 7.Right to Food Act**

“We are reaching on **4 SDGs** though putting our efforts in **Fight Hunger First Initiative**”

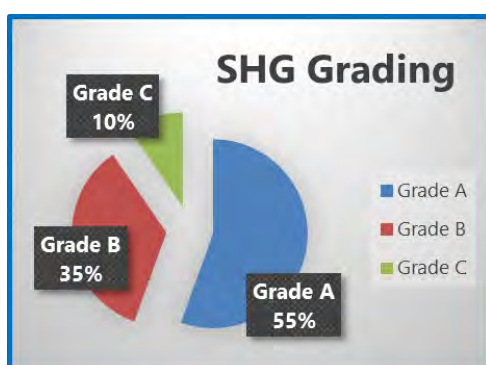


## Sakh Se Vikas – A BETTER TOMORROW



***Sakh Se Vikas- with support of Tata Trusts is showing shades of women employment in different colors and wrought social change by increasing the involvement of women in decision making processes.***

The programme is reaching more than 500 SHGs comprising of more than 7000 women across the different blocks of Banswara, Southern Rajasthan. Through this, we are also targeting new areas such as Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, Health and nutrition, Education, household budgeting and others.



The project is focusing on rural livelihoods to impact on lives and income of Tribal households. We have a reach of 470 Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women, their 11 Clusters and 5272 households covered through clusters and two Federations. The period witnessed SHGs spread over 330 villages in 4 blocks. The program formed strengthening rural livelihoods through agriculture SHGs and covered additional 167 villages during the intervention and livestock based livelihoods. The figure depicts about the grading of SHGs in our area.

The workshop mobilized as savings among these SHGs. The field facilitated in dealing the problem of data consistency in level staff has been trained on writing books of the respective partners' account. Regular technical and account, using the self-grading tools, cluster handholding support was provided to the partners for formation. Different exposure visits were organized entering master data and transaction data of SHGs in during the year. Here shows the Financial Status of our SHGs :

Total Number of Saving	10,852,412
Total Number of Internal Loaning	9933758
Bank Loan Disbursed	6176000
Bank Loan Outstanding	2247538



# DARIA BAI

## Stories of Inspiration

***Daria Bai is very soft, sociable and knowledgeable in her own field. She is attached with Sheetla Mata Group (Self Help Groups) in Village. She has been part of this group since last two years. Then she had joined the group she thought to get something in free. After a number of trainings she suddenly woke up from a deep sleep. Her talent took a shape in the SHG. She got a chance to get skill training of "stitching".***

Before she took over the reins, she is struggling from her life to meet basic amenities. Her husband was a Handicapped but then also do stitching nearby village but only get INR100 on daily basis. She was struggling with 3 bigha of unirrigated agricultural land as the only source of income generation.

Unlike many other CIGs in the area, Daria Devi's group continued to run. The members of her group had realized the importance of being united. The women had now found their voice & footing. Even

the simple act of learning to sign their names had boosted their confidence immensely. Daria Devi herself acknowledges that after joining the SHG, people's perception about her changed. She is now honoured & valued as a member of her community & is an active participant in the decision-making process in her family & in the society.

Through Microfinance loan she availed, Daria Devi was able to purchase two stitching machines for starting their new venture. Initially it's been a struggle period as her in-laws were not supported to work as stitching but as labor in agricultural land. But determined nature of Daria Devi and support from her husband helped her to establish themselves in front of them.

Her income source got benefitted with this and now both earned 400INR per day through stitching clothes. Her husband is more cooperative now, has given freedom to work and go other locations to give training to others. Her motivation and success brought a new respect to a lady in the face of strong gender inequality of Tribal culture.

One would think that these accomplishments already made the lady, one of the successful entrepreneurs in her village and many of ladies get inspired from her. Earlier as her family dependent on rainfed agriculture, & was able to take only a single crop in a year. She is now able to realize maximum output from her land because of an assured source of irrigation through digging bore pump from her savings. Her income through agriculture has nearly doubled. She now owns 2 buffaloes & 1 cow as livestock.

It was a challenge for her to start her work in the village as Indian culture is gender biased but her result gave her the prestige and simplified her path to go ahead. She has a special status and recognition in her own village. She enjoys stitching and parallel engaged with agriculture. She is also planning to expand her venture by opening a small shop of readymade garments for kids. Now she is not only socially empowered but she is economically, emotionally empowered. She is the head of the family. She has all power reserved to take decision of her own life. She enjoys real freedom.



***She shared that after training she felt drastic change in her thought, action, motivation and vision.***

## VAAGDHARA Tribal Food and Grain Initiatives Ltd



Vaagdhara has been developed one of the producer company for the benefits of Tribal farmers and will develop long term engagement with the community and brings the sustainable livelihood through the company.

Till now, 1000 Farmers have been registered under the company as shareholders. The initial part of the company was about to complete and will do start business from next early month of year. The initiative we are planning to mean the addresses productivity related issues through innovative package of Practices, among other activities.

**The Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology provided their technical support and guidance to the farmers.** This will help framers to realize optimal value from their produce, and through producer organization they can utilize to scale to procure inputs at lower price and get better price on selling their product.



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



## EDUCATION

While enrolling children in school and keeping them there is crucial to our education initiatives, providing children with quality education which also contributes to their overall development is our overarching vision for education. When a child is educated well, it not only transforms their life but also brings about positive changes for their family, their community and future generations. Last year, our work in facilitating quality education and enabling child-friendly learning environments as mandated in the Right to Education Act 2009 covering more than 520 schools in two Tribal district of Southern Rajasthan and 100 ICDS centers for early learning skills.

- **Creating learner-friendly environments in schools – making classes fun and more engaging,**
- **Increasing child participation so children have a say in their education**
- **Encouraging institutions like school Management Committees and Parents Teachers Association to be more involved in making quality education a reality for all children.**

The importance of the first five to six years of life of children have major role in the formation of intelligence, personality, and social behavior. What and how much children learn later in school largely depends on the social, emotional and cognitive skills they develop in their first few years. Early childhood programmes that focus on developing skills in these young children can affect their later well-being, especially those children at risk of poor health, inadequate nutrition and school failure.

Vaagdhara is developing the capacities to improve children's developmental readiness to start primary school on time, especially for marginalized children, and to complete a quality basic education in ICDS centers. To that end, we are promoting awareness raising and education for parents, learning elements in ICDS centers, providing materials for engaging children, BLES to make ICDS more colourful and appealing to children eyes.

Vaagdhara also org anized 20 Awareness Camps in 145 to reduce the number of children who are out of school, and also have taken pioneering steps for assessing basic education to them. The camp was basically for providing awareness on importance of education in children lives and shares the Right to education for their development. Many of the children were identified and through proper counseling session with their parents/Guardians, they get enrolled into the school. Our efforts were designed to lessen the inequities in access to education and learning, as we redoubled our efforts to map the scope and scale of children out of school.

School Management Committee can play a crucial role in implementation of RTE provisions and norms at school level. There is need to invest time and energy in capacity building of SMCs and make parents aware and sensitized to form a good SMC so that it can support school functions well as per RTE standards and norms and all the children receive good quality education. Also, there is a need to activate PTAs (parent teachers associations) in



school in order to develop their interest in academic of their children and remove barrier in school education and give conducive environment at home.

Therefore, we continuously engaged with institutions like School Management Committees, Parents Teacher association for improving the community participation in improving their learning and better performance of schools.

Now, being continued efforts nonexistent SMC would be set up, increase in footfalls of parents to know the education status of their children. Teachers have been trained and no longer use obsolete teaching methods – instead, they're inspiring students by making learning fun and interactive through games, songs, and group activities. More children are aware of their right to gain education and more parents are keen to send them to school.



**The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme** was launched by the Government of India in August 2004 for setting up residential schools for girls at the Upper Primary level.

The scheme focuses at providing education to girls predominantly belonging to the Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and minority communities. Vaagdhara has intervention in 7 KGBVs of Banswara districts in Rajasthan for improving girl's education. Main Objective of this intervention is to increase access to quality education for disadvantaged and excluded girl children.

We worked with KGBV teachers, children, parents and community institutions (SMCs) to strengthen school education processes for disadvantaged girl children. We are currently targeting more than 750 girls from most marginalized communities studying in 7 KGBVs in 7 most backward blocks of Banswara district.

We have noticed a positive shift in the overall KGBV environment through our interventions. There is a visible improvement in the academic competencies of girls as well as in the manifestation of their self-image. In these KGBVs, we're setting right the libraries and improving infrastructure, initiating activity based and interactive learning, conducting spoken English and computer training classes and instilling confidence among girls coming from humble backgrounds to march ahead in life. The idea is to ensure that the girls have a fair chance at using education as a tool for their empowerment.

The girls have undertaken projects which are multidisciplinary in nature which has escalated their pace of learning. Through all based learning, they develop education materials such as: booklets, charts, posters, scientific models, newsletters, etc. They experiment, investigate and find their own answers under the supervision of their teachers through setting up functional libraries. Both teaching and learning have become a joyful experience.



# Stories of Inspiration

The ICDS centre of Baptiya village is crowded with 50 children which were not ever seen before. Hemalta Fargi , AWW shared that, “ It is like a miracle where children are automatically come into the centers , even Parents are cooperating to send them in ICDS not only for supplement food but their Preschool Learning”.

The cheerful children who reciting Rhymes at louder voice with her ICDS teachers depicts that they are getting their great start to learning at their ICDS centers, supported by VAAGDHARA in their area. The programme focuses on strategies and methods to



improve children's learning outcomes and, among many other things, recognizes that children must actively participate in their learning. It includes working with teachers to design, develop, and make available context appropriate learning and teaching materials, and provides supplies, including books, globes, maps, colorful wall charts and flashcards to help teachers to increase their retention in ICDS centers and make learning s fun elements for children.

Initially, the condition was not up to the mark and it remained closed or opens with 2-3 children who do not stayed full time in centers. Now with our Intervention, the centre has better facilities; walls with colorful painting of different articles related to children and so help to amuse them. Availability of different Teaching learning aid and Hemalata Fargi, AWW also received the Training how to use aids with children for better learning skills.

Now, it been declared as Model ICDS centre and different officials also visited and want to replicate in other centres.

## 125

School Management  
Committees Trained

## 1632

Children enrolled  
in school

## 328

Children in regularized  
in ICDS centers for  
Pre-School Learning

## 245

Teachers trained for  
effective Classroom  
Teaching

## 10

Master Trainer for Child  
Friendly Education for  
Pre-School Learning

## 3768

Community  
Participation in  
Camps

## 3215

Children Trained on  
life skill education

## 10

Child friendly ICDS  
centers

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



### PROTECTION

Lack of access to education, and low perceived value of education among communities due to poor educational facilities, discrimination and corporal punishment are other crucial factors. It has been found that majority of children working in the cotton industry have either dropped out of school or have never been to school. A study commissioned by the IKEA Foundation reports that absenteeism during the cotton picking season (October-November) led to school drop-outs, which was particularly prevalent among migrant children. Attitudes towards child labor also contribute towards its prevalence. Child labor also has gender dimensions as traditional views prevail that girls will be better prepared for adult life by sending them to work rather than to school. Children employed in cotton farms work long hours. Their employers often have no qualms about them working in the scorching sun or squatting on the ground for hours. Many children suffer permanent injuries to their hands while weeding and picking cotton for days on end. The majority of children employed to spray fertilizers and insecticides end up with chronic illnesses due to harmful chemicals.

**To tackle the issues of Child labor in cotton fields, migration in neighborhood states and for their protection issues, Vaagdhara unveiled two different programmes “Child Right for Change” in 100 Villages of Banswara District and “Ensuring Protection rights of Tribal Children” in 174 villages of Dungarpur District. These two projects would be combined from of Child Rights Programme which aims to keep children out of migration, labor and in classrooms where they can plan and enjoy their childhood.**

Village child protection committees (VCPCs) were established in the year 2014 through combined efforts of community. “Bhajan mandlis” (Psalm congregation) were used for awareness on Child Protection issues. These mandlis (congregations) spread awareness on child rights and harmful effects of child labor at night after work hours, to reach the most vulnerable families of Tribal communities. The awareness activities undertaken within the community created an enabling environment for establishment and functioning of the VCPCs. The community attitude was addressed by the extensive sensitization through organizing awareness and motivation Campaigns and developed IEC Materials, Information brochures. The formation of 100 VCPC and 62 PLCPC and technically oriented upon their roles and responsibilities towards child protection issues.

VAAGDHARA had facilitated PLCPCs in preparation of database of all OOSC/working children, children engaged in migration in 84 gram-panchayats, which has been maintained in a child tracking register. The tracking register is updated quarterly basis with help of PLCPC/VCPC members. Child track system, which was demonstrated in the two intervention districts, is being rolled out. This will ensure appropriate tracking of all children in need of care and protection and children in abuse.

Through updated list, Counseling sessions have been prepared in structure manner and organized with their parents/guardians. It includes the awareness on education, child rights, protection laws, environment where their child is working, in-human condition with them. The above activities facilitated the creation of an enabling environment for protection of childhood in terms of awareness within the communities on harmful effects of child labour, child migration. All the listed children have been mainstreamed in the schools and their attendance is being regularly tracked by the CPC members.

Convergence between various departments (WCD, DSJE, Police, DCPU, District Administration and Health) on issues related to Protection of children has proved very fruitful and the functionaries are using it to deal with matter which could be dealt in consensus with several departments. The convergence between departments at block and district level helped us to sustain different components which link indirectly to their Protection.



# 1098 –CHILDLINE

## I am CHILDLINE Dost. Are you?



Past year was grabbing the child Protection cases from the Tribal communities through providing awareness and knowledge building on different cases. It was promptly an increase in reporting across the range of child protection issues to police, other authorities, by the media, by individuals and any other calling 1098. This First year being an opportunity on enhancing effectiveness on different entitlements this linked through children. Childline during First year in Tribal communities gathers more than 1000 cases, orientation workshop with different stakeholders, open houses and developing child friendly volunteers to prompt more cases from the communities.

***CHILDLINE is proving as safety nets for rescuing child laborers, protecting children and more importantly listening to them. The Childline experience as engaging with other organization , government stakeholders, different departments enlighten us that Child Protection issues are not accorded with adequate priority , therefore there is a need to strengthen the child rights in society by creating awareness, understanding and commitment among decision makers, different stakeholders and everyone who has day to day contact with children.***

### SUCCESS IN NUMBERS

**82** Child labor rescued

**20** Cases identified and stopped  
Child Marriage

**171** Out Reach held covers more  
than 774 Villages

Medical Assistance to **84 Children**

**274** Village Child Protection  
Committee strengthened

**15674** Community members get  
awareness on Child Rights and  
Protection issues.

Development of **464** Child  
Friendly Volunteers.

Open houses in different villages help to aware the communities on child protection issues and also tried to increase the phone call on issues to protect them. We also organized workshop where child labour and child migration was the main theme to aware different government stakeholders and different departments including ICDS, labor department and others. Vaagdhara also organized awareness camps which motivate PRIs and other village stakeholders to build awareness on the issue. As a result, this seeing as an improved support as well as there has been increase in the cases reported by them.



We have also initiated the formation of **"Child Friendly Volunteers"** to promote volunteerism at local level in child Protection issues and develop awareness building in different schools, colleges and Other corporate houses. One of the events also organized by **ChildLine**, where street children met with district administration and discuss their needs and requirement with them.

As we are working at local level, we also formed **Childline Advisory Board Committee under the chairmanship of Dist. Collector** where we share and discuss on different issues prevailing on child protection and identified different measures for them, It acts an great platform where government can actually listen the issues which was face by the vulnerable children of Tribal communities.



## Stories of Inspiration

When the father of a family dies, it often leaves his eldest son in responsibility for the rest of the family. Magan, a 15 year old boy from Bhungda Village, has been living this experience the last few years. His father died from Tuberculosis and since Magan elder brother has moved away, Magan has been left alone with his elder sister Seema and his Mother Kamla. Before his father died, Magan visited school until the fourth class.



During a recent visit to the school, the VCPC members of Bhungda Village came to know that Magan was missing in school. Acting on this knowledge, they went to Magan's house and talked with his mother. She told them, that Magan has been engaged in child labour in the Tea Hotel in Pratapur to provide an income for his family. The VCPC members including the VCPC president Babulal then went to the Tea stall to talk with Magan. Meeting him there, they discussed with him the importance of education and different government schemes. Magan was ready to return to home and told them:

In following visits to Magan's home, the VCPC president Nathu Lal helped him to enrol in school and linked his family with social protection schemes such as the Palanhaar scheme.

Magan is happy to be able to return to school and continue his studies. His teachers deem him as an "very intelligent and active child". But most of all, Magan and his family do not feel left alone anymore and are happy that the government schemes enable Magan to further follow his studies.

*"We always wanted to go to school and study but our parents did not allow us and sent us with cattle or sometimes asked us to stay at home for other work. Now we are happy, if we are absent for more than 3-4 days, someone from our village comes to see us, also we need to give a reason for being absent."*

*-A group of Children , Mahuala Village, Badoda Panchayat*

## Determined Tribal girl refuse to marry in order to complete Education

Girls are generally married off early in the Indian state of Bihar. Most of them are still children, unprepared to bear either the burden of marital responsibility or childbearing. Early marriages, early childbearing, prematurely born underweight infants and complications during pregnancy and childbirth are not uncommon. Most of the girls who are married off early seldom get an education.

'Mari suri hai, mu enne pannavi ryo hu ne biju kene bolwa ni jarurat nathi' (She is my daughter and no one should intervene if I am carrying out her marriage) said father of a 16 year old girl Angoori when members of child protection committee (CPC) of Hilej village, Ghatol, Banswara approached her father after they came to know about it from a CPC member. Angoori, 16 year old girl was a school dropout who helped her mother in household chores and agriculture work. She had no complaints from life until she was coerced by her family to get married. She refused to get married on the grounds of wanting to complete her education. She opposed, her parents, but they refused to listen to her.

One of her Friend shared this with her father, who is the member of Child Protection Committee , they immediately called CHILDLINE1098 after convincing lot to Angoori's parents. With support from her friends and the CHILDLINE team and effective dialogue of Child Protection Committee, we managed to convince her parents about the ill effects of child marriage. With great efforts of the CHILDLINE team, Angoori now goes to school and lives her dream.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



Banswara is a focused district in terms of health and nutrition as according to HUNGAMA Report. The district has high incidences of child malnutrition as more than 47% of children come under this and 97% of Mothers even does not know about the word "Malnutrition". Vaagdhara has reached hardest of the vulnerable areas to identify the causes of malnutrition and 1000 days of children lives. We are engaging SHGs to identify the causes of malnutrition among children aged 3-6 years and raises awareness among mothers, families and communities through providing and organizing Training on different modules. We observe and monitor the growth of children in the following ways:

- ***Regular malnutrition screening of children with a focus on children aged 3-6 years***
- ***Nutrition Camps for SAM/MAM children and follow up***
- ***Nutrition education focusing on Young Child Feeding Practices***
- ***Empowering communities through Nutrition sensitive Micro Planning***
- ***Participatory Learning and Action- Improve Nutritional outcomes through Community Participation.***

The Programme has been designed to go beyond interventions that focus solely on agriculture and/or livelihoods by adding wraparound knowledge and linkages to other services to ensure that poor, rural women can effectively achieve improved nutrition for their families. It uses SHGs as conduits for a comprehensive array of nutrition-related services and information, and is deliberate in highlighting the role of empowered women as agents of change. This innovative model holds the promise of yielding significant results for policymakers seeking to cost-effectively reach large numbers of poor, rural women using SHGs as focal points for coordination and integration across traditional sectoral programming. Through This Programme, we raise community awareness on nutrition education and services, identify severely and moderately malnourished children, and improve community access to nutritious food through locally available food items and empowering them for indigenous Practices.



SHGs who also called as Annapurnas (Goddess of Food) meet regularly to save for the future and for health and nutrition, making it possible for 14000 families to plan for and respond to household and health and nutrition needs on an ongoing basis. Beyond savings, the new health and nutrition knowledge through different modules they have from their group meetings mean they are empowered to protect their community. Then they mobilized themselves to educate their communities about the importance of Health and nutrition need through available natural resources and indigenous practices. Using their knowledge from different designed Modules, they implement the good practices for better health and nutritional outcomes.





This is the chronicle of how just one small circle of women leveraged the simple solutions we provided for the greater good of their own communities. It will show the impact of hundred of similar circles across the Southern Rajasthan, ending malnutrition and improving the lives of families, communities, and villages.

Another one of the key initiatives was taken by Vaagdhara for sustainable nutrition security towards children was Nutrition sensitive micro planning where we help community to identify problems and their solutions through their active participation and sharing of micro plans nutrition specific at district administration level.

The nutritional camps of 15 days helps to improve the condition of children and well appropriate time to counsel with their mothers for better nourishment diet and visit to MTC at district level.

### ***INNOVATIVE APPROACHES for Improving the Indicators of Health and Nutrition:***

- Capacity Building of Front line worker and their involvement towards the Project sustainability
- Module Development and Training on different Health and Nutrition issues
- Participatory Learning and Action through discussion in woman's group and also the communities
- Village level Nutrition sensitive Micro Planning
- Monitoring MCHN services by SHGs, PRIs and other Community stakeholders
- Community score Card on Health and Nutrition services
- Demand driven mechanism in Communities.
- Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition

**The Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach enables community volunteers to identify and initiate treatment for children with acute malnutrition before they become seriously ill. Caregivers provide treatment for the majority of children with severe acute malnutrition in the home using Ready-to**

CMAM is a highly effective approach to rehabilitating malnourished children and reducing the number of children who die from acute malnutrition. There are a few key secrets to this success:

**Community based** – children are cared for and treated in their own communities, without having to travel away from home for treatment. The whole family is involved and can also continue their daily activities, rather than one caregiver needing to leave home for an extended time to accompany a malnourished child to a treatment centre. This increases access and participation in the programme, leading to higher coverage and better results.

**Active case finding** – community volunteers regularly screen and monitor all young children so that cases of malnutrition can be identified early and treated immediately. This leads to high coverage, faster rehabilitation and lower mortality.

**Triage approach** – most children with severe acute malnutrition can be treated at home which protects them from exposure to infections at the inpatient care centers. Only those with existing serious medical conditions are referred to Malnutrition Treatment Centers, and they are discharged back to the community for follow up by the OTP as soon as possible. This reduces mortality and is cost-effective, as inpatient care is highly resource-intensive.

**Building community capacity** – CMAM programmes work with communities to identify, manage and prevent acute malnutrition. This increases community ownership of malnutrition, which in turn increases participation in treatment and prevention activities.

# NIRU

## Stories of Inspiration

Niru was only 15 days old when her parents Pamila and Valji Patel from the village Mundri in the Anandpuri block of Banswara district, Rajasthan, noticed a swelling on the girl's neck. Due to the swelling the small girl was not able to drink properly and started to cry in pain every time she was being breastfed. The parents brought her to a private hospital in Partapur and paid all the costs for the treatment themselves, because they did not trust in government institutions. The swelling, which turned out to be an abscess, decreased during the treatment, but after a few days it was as big as before. This happened two times and still the small girl had problems with drinking, was losing weight and often had fever.

In a training (LANN-PLA meeting) of VAAGDHARA's project "Fight Hunger First Initiative" (FHFI) in a nearby village, relatives of the girl told about the case and the FHFI team got to know about the critical situation of the girl. They immediately visited the family and

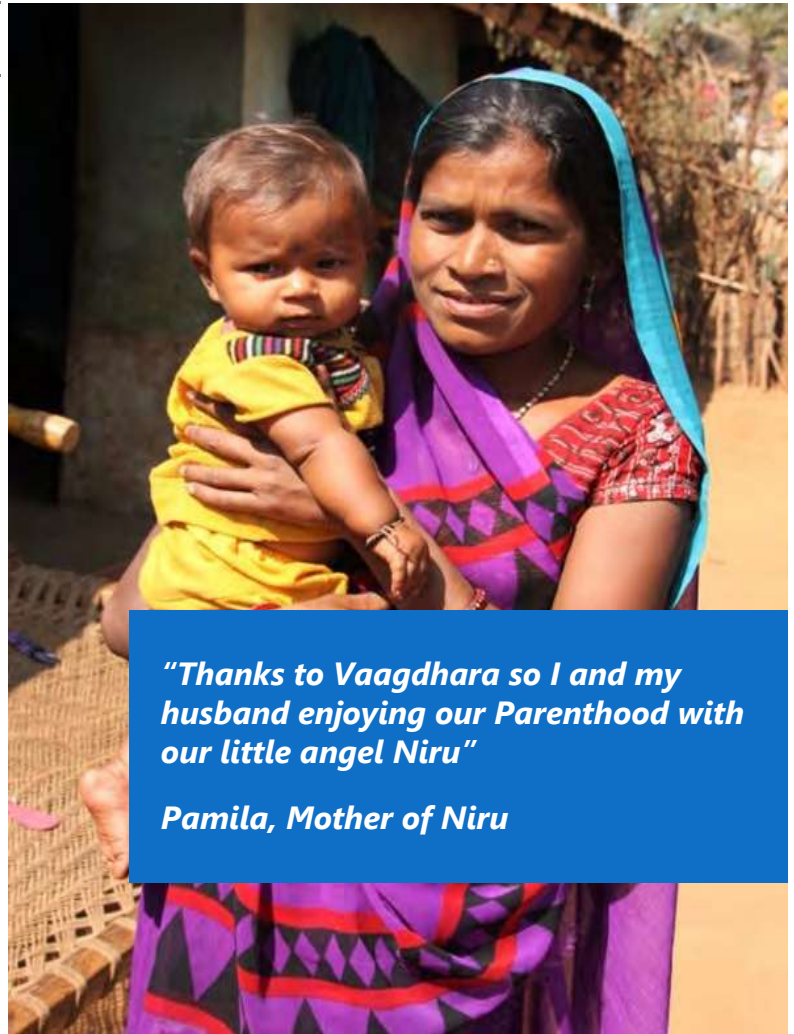
identified the girl, who was now at the age of 3 months, to be in the critically SAM category (severely acute malnourished). So Niru was brought to the Malnourishment Treatment Centre (MTC) in the District Hospital of Banswara.

After examining the girl, the doctors decided that an operation of the abscess is necessary and told the parents to bring her to a hospital in Udaipur. They refused to operate a child of only 3 months in their hospital since they deemed the operation to be too risky. But as a treatment in Udaipur is very time consuming and expensive, it was not possible for the family to bring the child to Udaipur. The FHFI team members called the Child Line 1098 and with the help of the Child Line team, the doctors were convinced to treat the girl in the MTC in Banswara.

After the operation the parents took care of the wound and FHFI team members visited the family for the follow-up of the nutritious status of the girl. After one month the girl completely recovered from the operation and after two months she was out of the SAM category, because she is now able to drinks her mother's milk without pain.

Before the treatment in the District Hospital in Banswara the parents did not trust in government institutions, because they had heard of too many confusing formalities and rules. They spend a lot of money on private health services, but for the treatment in the government hospital the family had not to bear any costs. Through the successful operation in the government hospital, the family regained their trust in government facilities and is sure to use them in future cases.

Furthermore, Niru's family developed a kitchen garden with the help of the FHFI project and seed kits from the horticulture department, her mother also attended Nutrition Camp regular for 15 days to know how to feed her after she turned into 6 months. Through this, the long term nutrition diversity of the family is ensured.



*"Thanks to Vaagdhara so I and my husband enjoying our Parenthood with our little angel Niru"*

**Pamila, Mother of Niru**





**6590 Children screened in five blocks of Banswara for Malnutrition and 2024 children identified as malnourished. Of these, 47% of children show Progress.**

**45**

Nutrition Camps  
Organized

**1224**

Community  
Health  
Advocates

**464**

Nutrition  
sensitive Micro

**315**

Women's Group were strengthened  
to support health and nutrition  
indicators of child development.

**3053**

Children linked  
with 288 ICDS  
Centres

**1245**

Children get sensitized on  
Health Hygiene and  
sanitation

**610**

Community involved  
in Participatory  
Learning and Action



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



## PARTICIPATION

Children's participation is about children having the opportunity to express a view, influence decision making and achieve change. It is the informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages and abilities, in any matter concerning them. Children's participation is an essential principle on which Vaagdhara is working in each and every intervention. Promoting the participation of children, adolescents in community decision making processes is central to the approach of any child development initiatives. In different programmes, there is emphasis on mobilizing, organizing and engaging children and so that their capacities and social analysis is enhanced to lead and support their own development and child rights.

More than 5346 children were mobilized into 281 children's clubs and supported to improve their skills thus contributing to various community level activities. Many of the Children groups are now sharing their issues at Panchayat level, organizing child-led events and strategizing their respective community development plans to amplify their voices and strengthen their communities. Some of the children groups have published 2 editions of their magazines, write poems, stories of their own.

1900 Children are also linked with life skills training to improve their self confidence. The Life Skills Intervention sessions were structured in a way so that much could be achieved and gained. Various activities and sessions were developed for children keeping in mind the goal to help children not to fall into temptations.

## Stories of Inspiration

Children's group of Kherwari village of Bhungra gram Panchayat, Ghatol has shown tremendous interest in all the child rights activities. This is the story of the this village and group children are trying to develop an enabling environment for the children of the village. Here the term child friendly environment stands for the building of environment where children could breathe in a free environment, where elders would not only listen to their children carefully but children would also get an environment to have their own say in each and every discussion whether it is at family, fala or village level discussion.

As the children of Kherwari started accessing their rights they also started thinking about all other children of the village. During the course such explorations out of the village they found that the village Anganwadi centre is not functioning well since February 2016 and its month of April it means the centre remained closed for two months, in these two months the centre only opened regularly but no any services were rendered nor children came to the centre for these two months. When the children of Kherwari tried to understand the reason it is found that the Anganwari Worker has become Sarpach and the post is vacant therefore without AWW the centre is not functioning properly.

The children of Children's group had a meeting to discuss the issue and two of the children shared the matter with the VCPC and then met with the Sarpanch and said that the Anganwari must function properly so that no children would suffer anymore. After this meeting Anganwari opened properly and CG children kept on visiting the centre regularly and helped to begin the supplementary food service at earliest.

At this moment it is about four months since then the AWC has started working properly and the children has some broader vision for the village, this is found after continuous discussion with children. The children are keen to work continuously for the village with the a vision that every child shall get educated, enabling environment for the children could be development in the village.

## Facilitating the Poor to raise their voices and Concerns

The need for a greater focus on advocacy arose from the realization that addressing underlying causes of poverty and social injustice, and facilitating gender transformative changes require us to partner with a range of actors including civil society, national coalitions, and forums of likeminded groups, and influencing the government at various levels. Further fillip to advocacy was provided by CARE India transitioning to a national entity.



The advocacy initiatives are geared towards influencing relevant government policies, linkages with their entitlements and collaborating with like-minded national level networks and coalitions. As advocacy has been envisaged as one of the core strategies to achieve the desired impact under our Perspective Plan 2020 the advocacy team works to guide all long term interventions aimed at empowering and bringing positive changes in the lives of marginalized communities. Linkages with different government departments, like minded organizations, networking which support in multiplying the impact, sustaining the impact, and reaching out to the unreached and share their issues at larger level.

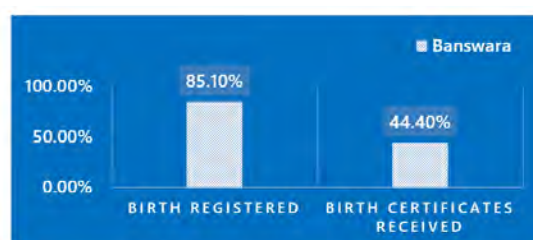
### Our advocacy efforts revolved around the following initiatives:

#### Support of universal Birth Registration

The impact of being unregistered is most strongly felt by those who are already on the fringes of society, such as Tribal communities and they don't even aware of the importance of this neither the government officials. Birth registration is the first step towards a legal identity and being able to go to school, get medical treatment, and get a job and more. Vaagdhara took advocacy steps for formation of birth registration which helps in fostering democratic processes, as it is a vital link in establishing nationality, and thus conferring on the individual the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Figure is showing that there is huge gap in between the birth registration and formation of Birth Certificate. The challenges faced in getting the Birth Certificates for those children whose Birth are already registered are enlisted below -

- **High cost and Lengthy process of birth registration after 21 days**
- **Lack of public awareness about the importance of registering children or the appropriate channels to do so.**
- **Geographical inaccessibility, as in rural Tribal areas most of the population resides at least 10 km away from the nearest registry office.**
- **Lack of an alternative system for the authorities to "capture" the children who are not registered through the official system.**
- **Unavailability of Electricity/ data team in centers which also hamper the progress of online BRC.**





Children benefitted with  
Birth Registration Certificate  
**464**

Widow Pension  
**562**

Palanhar Scheme  
**822**

Old Age Pension  
**5243**

Disability Scheme  
**180**

Scholarships  
**1941**

Job Cards  
**79**

Convergence with  
Horticulture Programme  
**610 Tribal Farm Families**

Linkages and distribution of green gram  
**1000 Tribal Farm Families**

## WAY FORWARD/STRATEGIES

1. Adequate Budget Allocation should be done by the state government for Civil Registration Activities.
2. Process related training programmes need to be organized for different level functionaries most importantly for the ANM, AWW, Gram Sevaks etc.
3. Need to for cooperation between the administration and NGOs to get the children registered who are not captured through the official system.

We worked to take the voice of Tribal communities to public forums and ensured that they were heard. These are communities who hail from the socially excluded and economically weakest communities of India. Issues taken up included key areas like basic rights, their development, sustainable livelihoods and others who could not seen by others eye. We continued support to them, advocate at district and state Administration and help them to provide their entitlements.

### Sachhi Kheti Movie Screening

Advocacy and sharing with different universities of Agriculture and other states of Central India where majority of Tribal's are residing on impact of Sustainable integrated Farming System.

The movie "Sachhi Kheti" shows the learning, experiences and achieved benefits of Tribal Farmers who have adopted the SIFS Practices. Mr. Parmendra Dashora, Vice Chancellor MPUAT, Mr. Sukant Sahu, CGM NABARD and Ms. Nivedita, Country Director WHH, as well as other NGOs and Stakeholders and of course the real heroes, the motivated farmers who implemented "Sacchi Kethi" ("True Agriculture") in the Anandpuri Block of Banswara District were present during the screening of Movie. There was detailed conversation in between the Tribal framers and professors of MPUAT University to understand the system and how it is benefitted for them.

During Discussion it came out that Agriculture has never been considered as the base for livelihood in India, rather, it has remained an integral part of the culture for a very long time. But plowing, sowing and harvesting of land in order to festivals all over now is continued. The need to re-establish agricultural culture, only farmers who nurture all mankind also will get recognition and reputation as a provider.





## SIDE EVENT AT UN

VAAGDHARA has organized a Side Event under the United Nations High Level Political forum on Sustainable Development. The title of the event was **"Building Effective Bottom - Up Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals"**. The event was held at the U.N. Conference Building at New York on 2nd July, 2015. The side event aimed to achieve two objectives:

- Bringing critical perspectives and experiences from the grassroots to the high level forum
- Creating ground for effective partnerships across continents which will facilitate learning from each other
- A third implicit objective was to commit VAAGDHARA to a long term process of tracking and reviewing progress made in SDGs at the micro and macro level.

The side event was moderated by Mr. Narender Kumar, Executive Director IPAC India, and the speakers included Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Chief Functionary of VAAGDHARA, Mr. Jeffery Huffines, UN Representative of CIVICUS, Ms. Debra Jones, UN Representative Save the Children, Ms. Marta Benavides, Co-chair GCAP, and Sai Jyothir Mai Program Manager ARROW. More than 25 participants, including civil society representatives and country delegates participated in the event.

## SEED fair: Advocacy for Indigenous Practices

The most awaited **Pratham Paschim Bharat Jan Jatiya Khadya, Krishi Avam Beej Mela** was organized at the bank of Anas river in Ratanpur village, Anandpuri block of Banswara district from 3rd to 5th April 2015 by VAAGDHARA - was a grand success!

Several farmers, seed savers, grassroots organizations and activists from two states i.e., Rajasthan and Karnataka, of India showcased, for public awareness, over 280 varieties of different species of grains, pulses, tubers, vegetables, medicinal plants and uncultivated/ forest food.

The advocacy was done with different government functionaries, different stakeholders to understand the indigenous seed and practices for food and nutritional security. A wide variety of indigenous seeds of paddy and millets are collected. Over 280 varieties of seeds were collected from the community itself.





## TRIBAL FORUM

To place tribal issues in limelight and bringing all agencies and stakeholders together for holistic tribal development, VAAGDHARA create a place for constructive tribal platform through Formation of Tribal Forum. The tribal community come together and prepares a '**road map**' for including tribal in mainstream while respecting the customs and traditions and local context of tribal intact. It is a platform to poor tribal community to raise their issues and concerns and an opportunity take up these issues up to National and International levels.

This Year, 1000 Tribal framers join the Forum and become member to discuss the concern issues.

Next Year, we are planning to organize colloquium which will also bring in development practitioners, academicians, policy makers etc under one roof to share their experience and knowledge for the upliftment of tribal community.

## RESEARCH Studies

Recognizing the Importance of Impact Evaluation, Vaagdhara is now into the new field i.e. Conducting Research on different topics which been linked with the sustainable development of Tribal Communities. Our Capacity to make use of Research in drive of developing Programmes and Policy and Advocacy issues.

## Desk Review and Research on Tribal Sub Plan

**The desk review and research was done through Vaagdhara with the help of Researcher Ms Varsha Joshi, IDS where we identified number of Tribal Plans with Performance analysis in South Rajasthan.**

The Research helps to provides a brief overview of various schemes that the department of tribal area development has undertaken to promote the overall development of the ST population. The third section besides providing a brief discussion on the financing pattern of various schemes provides a macro-level analysis of financial and physical performance. The fourth section provides a detailed scheme-wise performance analysis.

**The analytical exercises focuses on providing a detailed item-wise analysis of various micro-level schemes initiated under the schemes of 1) Scheduled Area Development, 2) MADA, 3) MADA Cluster, 4) SCATTERED and 5) SAHARIYA Development Scheme. The fifth section sums-up specific observations and recommendations for strengthening Tribal Sub-Plan.**

## NATA PRATHA Research and impact on Children

An assessment and mapping exercise was undertaken to understand the Nata Pratha system highly prevalent in the tribal culture and how it influences children in families .Children affected by Nata Pratha were mapped and identified 1584 Nata affected women and their children. We also organized district level workshop to share the vulnerable situation and multiple affects on children who are affected with Nata Pratha.

This year, we are planning to organize State level Consultation to share the Research Report and its findings. We also do advocacy with government for critical conditions of these children , and how they can avail benefits.

## LANSA Research

Vaagdhara has partnership with **LANSA (Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia)** which is led by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and conducting Research on "Design suitable approach for Promoting Nutrition Sensitive Farming System".

The collection of basic Information had done through performing Focus Groups Discussion, Key Interviews with different groups including Youth Group, Old age Group to identify and building knowledge on Traditional crops and their indigenous Practices which been getting away from their crops.

The study will address the problem of reduction in traditional food diversity by bringing out challenges anticipated in promotion of nutrition sensitive agriculture practices. Information generated will be consolidated in the form of possible PLA modules and implementation processes which will help to develop Framework of Nutrition sensitive Farming System.

Vaagdhara has been partnership with Wetwaerts Program to promote volunteerism and explore international volunteers' for sustainable development in Tribal Communities. Two volunteer came for ten months involving in education, health, environment, agriculture, culture or human rights issues, and also support the employees in their work and gradually assume their own responsibilities. The volunteers gained experience abroad and acquire



"I get more knowledge on Agriculture and climate change and how it impact on social lives. I will surely contribute in this sector through different means."  
**Simon, Welwaerts Volunteer**

knowledge of the language and personal competencies. After their service, the returning volunteers continue to dedicate themselves to development work in their homelands. As a result, they bring their experiences back to society and make a personal contribution to a fairer world through their assignment abroad.

The places of assignment benefit from the fact that young people who are interested in development subjects and cultural exchange support their projects with their own experiences and points of view. In addition to these, they also promoted many of Tribal youth for volunteerism and promote their efforts for better development.

As a volunteer with VAAGDHARA, I'm teaching English in eighth class, which is absolutely needed as the girls don't even know the most basic sentences. As the teachers are not able to speak English as well, the girls try to learn the language solely from their school books. Therefore, the students are very motivated to learn English from me and to teach me some Hindi in return.

Basic skills in reading, writing, maths, Hindi and English open up new opportunities to the girls and strengthen their self-confidence.

VAAGDHARA is supporting the schools with learning materials, workshops and life skill trainings for the girls, trainings for teachers, regular meetings with girls groups and many other activities to build a qualitative and pleasant learning environment in KGBVs."



**Helen Karnatz, Weltwaerts Volunteer**





## Information, Education and Communication



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE (VAAGDHARA)			
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001			
BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2016	Sch.	2015-16	2014-15
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>			
General Reserve	1.	5497935.50	4363132.51
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	2.	3169757.00	2691077.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>8667692.50</b>	<b>7254209.31</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Fixed Assets		12785320.00	12476640.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances			
1) Deposits		16375.00	14995.00
2) Bank Balances		5799128.55	5014939.90
3) Other Current Assets		106738.00	285384.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects		1841973.80	7754215.35
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions			
1) Sundry Creditors		3132641.00	4232420.00
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions		1525881.77	1205758.77
3) Unspent amount payable on Projects	6.	7223320.08	11881842.85
<b>Total</b>		<b>8667692.50</b>	<b>7254209.31</b>
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	10		
For VAAGDHARA		As per our report of even date For B.L. Pagaria & Co., Chartered Accountants	
Place : Banswara			
Date : 26th Jun-16	(Pres)		

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE (VAAGDHARA)			
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2016	Sch.	2015-16	2014-15
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants and Donations			
A. Grants		23632515.46	27180220.96
B. Donations		2920500.00	26553015.46
Interest Income			180904.00
Miscellaneous Income			40771.00
Creditors Written-back			48991.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>26822681.46</b>	<b>31619288.96</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
A. Development Programme Expenditure		23468945.00	28237913.00
B. Administrative Expenditure		1659477.81	1646197.81
C. Loss on Sale of Assets		0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>25128422.81</b>	<b>29884110.81</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		1695258.65	1735178.15
Net excess of unspent/overspent balances carried to Balance Sheet		(281775.46)	942328.04
- Difference over last year's balances			
Allocable Surplus		1413483.19	2677506.19
Less: Net purchase of fixed assets transferred to capital reserves		278680.00	175587.00
Net surplus transferred to General Reserves		1134803.19	2501919.19
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	10		
For VAAGDHARA		As per our report of even date For B.L. Pagaria & Co.,	
Place : Banswara			FRN: 001821C
Date : 26th Jun-16	(Presid)		



## OUR TEAM



VAAGDHARA believes that its human resource is its biggest asset. The organization significantly invests in providing them opportunities to grow and provide them with exposure to understand better, the operating environment. The overall commitment among professionals towards the organization is high, and they are able to contribute to organizational goals and strategies at all levels. The Team dedicate themselves in striving to achieve the organization's vision.

## OUR BOARD

### **Mr. B.M. Dixit President**

Rt. Additional Director  
Agriculture, Govt of Rajasthan

### **Mr. Jayesh Joshi**

Secretary Development  
Analyst

### **Ms. Varsha Joshi**

Member Professional IDS,  
Jaipur

### **Mr. Viju James**

### **Dr. Meeta Singh**

Member Director of IFES

### **Mr. Kanji Charpota**

Member Community  
Representative

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### **Mr. P.L. Patel**

Theme Leader,  
Strengthening Livelihoods

### **Ms Surbhi Saraswat**

Theme Leader,  
Addressing Child Rights

### **Ms Richa Sharma**

Theme Leader,  
Facilitating Poor to

### **Mr. Saurabh Sabikhi**

Theme Leader,  
Finance and Human Resource



## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Ms Pooja Dave**  
HR Manager

**Mr. Pravin Sad**  
Accountant

**Ms Nisha Chauhan**  
Admin Coordinator

**Mr. Naresh Patidar**  
Logistic Facilitator

**Ms Neha Bhatt**  
Media Coordinator

## CORE PROGRAMME TEAM

**Mr. Abhinav Sharma**  
Project Manager

**Mr. Sohan Lal**  
Project Manager

**Mr Kuldeep Tailor**  
Project Manager

**Mr. Rohit Samariya**  
Project Manager

**Mr. Parmesh Patidar**  
MIS ccordinator

**Ms. Saroj Soni**  
SHG Facilitator

**Ms Archana Gupta**  
Project Manager

**Mr. Pragati Shukla**  
Project Manager

**Mr. Prahalad Kumar**  
Project Coordinator

**Mr. Pramod Pandya**  
Project Coordinator

## OUR PARTNERS

Vaagdhara is always grateful to have esteemed donors from government and international agencies who not only provide financial support; but also provide technical support and work together as partners to shape our efforts for tribal communities.



**UNICEF**



**Plan India**



**Save The Children**



**IGSSS**



**Welthungerhilfe**



**Cotton Connect**



**NABARD**



**Government of Rajasthan**



**Freedom From  
Hunger India Trust**



**Department of Science  
and Technology, Delhi**





# VAAGDHARA

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## FIELD OFFICE

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Anandpuri Block, Banswara

Sajjangarh Block, Banswara

Gogunda Block, Udaipur