'Improving access to information'
EU Partners Annual Review Workshop

The annual review workshop with all the 14 partners of EU was organized in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 19 and 20th April, 2018. The host organiser of the workshop was The Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation (NJKF), Delhi. EU partners such as **Unnati, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, GLRA, Welthungerhilife, Pradan, DEF, CESVI, ACTED, SAATHI, FYF, AGRAGAMEE, Action Aid and Spread** attended and participated in the conference.

Since all the projects are running in the last year of their actions, therefore the main objective of the workshop was to review and identify the best practices and their scalability, deliberate on the impacts reached so far and plan the collaborative action points for sustainability beyond the stipulated timeline. EU representatives Mr. Pattabiraman Subramanian and Ms. Ansuya Gupta led the workshop and the workshop was also attended by Mr. Shoumik Datta. The conference was broadly divided into two days. Day 1 was assigned **for sharing of the best practices and successful initiatives** by the project partners and discussions on replication and scaling up. Day 2 was assigned for discussions among partners on **sustainability and follow up action points.**

Tracking of various public schemes & direct transfer of benefits via the e-labharthi app

Name of the Block	No. of camps organised	Total number of people benefitted
Jagdishpur	7	365
Shahkund	6	269
Sanhaula	7	242
Kahalgaon	7	187
Pirpainti	12	408
TOTAL	**39**	**1471**

In the SPOT light

(This column features positive & impactful initiatives contributing to the success of the AIPAD Program)
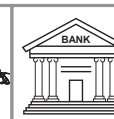

'Members of advocacy group during the E-Labharthi' camp '

Advocacy group, Dhanura Panchayat, Kahalgaon

Members of the advocacy group of Dhanura panchayat have taken onus of their work and are aggressively working towards helping the beneficiaries in availing their rights and entitlements. On the same path, these forefront leaders organised a social security camp. In this camp, our leaders used the Bihar government issued application 'E–Labharthi' to check the status of the beneficiaries. By using this application on their mobiles, these members were able to check the status of the beneficiaries from the list of beneficiaries and beneficiaries did not have to rush to the RTPS counters for any information. Around 30 people benefitted and got their documents and status checked through this camp.

Sharing of best practices, innovation, successful initiatives by partners

First day of the workshop started with Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Shubhra Singh and EU representative, Mr. Pattabiraman welcoming the partners and sharing the broader objective and session plan of this workshop. Partners were given 10 minutes each to share their best practices and successful initiatives. Many rich ideas and concepts emerged during the presentations which led to healthy discussions among the partners.

Concept of community score cards by ACTED, working in the backward districts of North East was quite an interesting development as it is serving as a tool for both community engagement and advocacy tool. Concept of mobile radio by AKRSP is another form of initiative to cater to a larger population. NJKF's structure of building people's led institutions such as village level advocacy groups, block level kshetriyay samitis and district level federation is an ensured way of sustainability and reaching out to people beyond the project timeline. NJKF also shared their experiences of using Swasthya Slate in the selected blocks and how it is successfully implemented to reduce MMR.

Session two started with discussions on the follow up actions and way forward for all the projects in their last year. Some of the major concerns identified by the group are: Sustaining of existing community based institutions and information centres, consolidation and sustaining of knowledge and resources created by the projects, ownership and more accountability from the state side which requires constant advocacy and working, strengthening and engaging with panchayats.

Collaborative Action:

The key thoughts and ideas were put forward by the partners for the collaborative action plan which are mentioned below:

- Papers on best practices by all the partners
- Structured format for documenting best practices to be shared by EU
- Position papers on panchayats / Round table conferences to be conducted by Pradan, AKRSP, Unnati
- State level consultation on advocacy to be organised by all the partners
- National level event (Jamboree) to be organised by EU possibly in October-November 2018

'Jan Jagriti Kalyan Samiti': District Level Federation

AIPAD has formulated, structured and strengthened community based institutions through the formation of village level advocacy groups and block level Kshetriyay Samitis. Advocacy groups have proved to be an effective way of strengthening the community and empowering them for their rights and entitlements. AIPAD team during the period of four years has been able to form 41 Advocacy Groups across all the five blocks. Similarly, Kshetriyay Samitis provide a platform at block level for resolving grievances. AIPAD has been

Members of District Federation

strengthening these community based institutions to identify their issues and work towards solving them independently and effectively. AIPAD has made sure to involve the members of these groups in awareness and facilitation work such as organising social security camps, sanitation and education rallies, identification of beneficiaries, community meetings etc.

Advocacy groups and Kshetriyay Samiti's operate at the panchayat and block level respectively. But there are many cases which remain unresolved or need higher expertise and require district level attention. Addressing the need and following the path of advocacy, a district federation was formed and oriented in a workshop in Bhagalpur under the AIPAD project. The orientation workshop took place on 14th April 2018 and in total 39 people participated in it which included members of the kshetriyay samitis, youth group, citizen leaders and PRI members. This federation will not only act as a platform for escalation of issues but also advocate for systemic reforms, accountability issues or matters of public interest at large.

The orientation programme started with our Programme Manager, Mr. Sanjay Yadav welcoming the participants and explaining the objective behind this orientation and formation of federation. Objectives of AIPAD and the role of advocacy were discussed with the group. Professor Dr. Debajyoti Murkherjee, who is an expert on communication and advocacy, was specially invited by team AIPAD to share his knowledge and wisdom on advocacy and community mobilisation. He interacted with the group about the process of community mobilisation which led to a very fruitful discussion among the participants.

After this engaging discussion, the roles and responsibilities of district federation and its significance for community were shared. Our programme manager used pictorial representation to explain the structure of advocacy through village level advocacy groups, block level kshetriyay samiti and district level federation. Each participant was further asked to nominate two members from their side, one male and one female, who can work passionately for their community. Dedicated and enthusiastic members were selected through consensus from Kshetriyay samitis, youth group leaders, citizen leaders and PRI members who can devote their time and work selflessly for their community. Total 10 members were selected from the group from all the blocks.

After the nomination of the members, "Jan Jagriti Kalyan Samiti" name was assigned to the federation and an oath was collectively taken by the members to continuously serve their people and work towards their upliftment. A vote of thanks was given by Mr. Vinay Kumar, member of the district federation.

News Feed

<u>Digital Ecosystem in social security schemes: E-LABHARTHI:</u> With an aim to reduce leakage, eliminate middlemen and target beneficiaries better, Bihar government has developed a digital ecosystem in social security in the form of an application 'e-labharthi'. The e-Labharthi System has been envisaged as a major transformation in electronic service delivery and financial inclusion which bypasses the pain points of the existing service delivery mechanisms. With this technology, beneficiaries would not have to rush to the RTPS counters and can easily track the status of their application forms, pension amount, Aadhar updation, mobile number etc by visiting the website or directly downloading the application on their phone.

To know more about this application, click on the link http://elabharthi.bih.nic.in/

Snapshot of E-Labharthi

AIPAD Through The Lens

Dr. Nitya Mohan Khemka visited the AIPAD Project implementation area in Bhagalpur, Bihar on 8 & 9th April'18 and interacted with community members, PRI members and government officials.

EU Partners Annual Review Meeting, 19 & 20th April 2018 at IHC New Delhi :

We apologize for any errors or omissions