UP SARPANCH (VICE PRESIDENT)
AND FEDERATION MEMBER

BESANIYA
SAKET

Atahara Gram Panchayat
Madhya Pradesh
“THIS IS A NEW PHASE FOR WOMEN.

When I look back at the time when I was young— I see women were in complete despair. We now have made a great leap forward. Today, with so many women leaders at the Panchayat level, I am hopeful for a new world which will have space for women and the underprivileged.”
Renuka Hans
Naib-Sarpanch
(Vice-President)
Odisha
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Our understanding of women’s roles in local governance and of the obstacles they face was further enriched with the extensive pre-election campaigning through our SWEEP (Strengthening Women’s Empowerment through Electoral Processes) Campaign in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. With an objective to encourage women to contest for every seat, even beyond reservation, we worked towards increasing the visibility of women in the entire electoral process - as citizens, voters, candidates, electoral officers and agents. Reservation for women in Karnataka increased from 33.33% to 50% for the first time and it was an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to help amplify the voices of the women at all levels of decision making.

On the advocacy front, the organisation strategically aligned with the ongoing program cycle of its five year cycle in all seven states. Some initiatives have yielded positive and immediate outcomes with other issues still being pursued to its logical conclusion.

With respect to Monitoring and Evaluation, the organisation is working towards developing methods, whereby data can be used to enhance the effectiveness of the programs that are being implemented and that do not restrict itself to output reporting only.

The year proved to be a year of international delegation visits to THP’s programme states with one global board visit, three investor visits and one interface visit from Norway to interact with the EWRs and to understand the work being undertaken in different project states.

In efforts to lessen the evident gaps in bringing effective governance, The Hunger Project is continuing to develop innovative tools and expertise, and constantly measures the impact of the interventions on women’s lives, families and communities. During the reporting period, through our effective strategies and partnerships with 53 Civil Society Organizations we have been able to contribute to the development of 4819 Panchayats in the country. Here, I would like to thank our supporters; CORDAID, Forum Syd, Ribbink Van Den Hoek Foundation, Royal Norwegian Embassy and UNDP without whom this work would not have been possible.

The year has been an eventful one and I thank all our partners, donors, investors, individual supporters and colleagues for making it successful by ensuring their participation and unflinching support. As you will be seeing from the report, we have taken our next step in empowering women representatives in their constituencies to work for the betterment of their communities. We are looking forward to our coming years of engaging with the EWRs so that as effective leaders they are able to practice good governance, and advocate for social and gender justice.
ABOUT
THE HUNGER PROJECT

Community Leader
Odisha
THE HUNGER PROJECT (THP) IS A GLOBAL, NON-PROFIT, STRATEGIC ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO THE SUSTAINABLE END OF WORLD HUNGER.

With its offices in twenty two countries worldwide, it implements the programs in twelve countries across Africa, South Asia and Latin America, with an innovative, holistic approach that empowers women and men living in rural villages to become the agents of their own development and make sustainable progress in overcoming hunger and poverty.

Since 2001, The Hunger Project in India, has been working towards empowering Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) as key change agents in the local institutions of governance (Gram Panchayats) by strengthening their political leadership and participation with a women's rights and gender perspective. It derives its mandate from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) which gave legal recognition to rural local self-governance units called Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and reserved thirty three percent of seats for women in the three-tier system of the PRIs. India has primarily relied upon the method of reservation to ensure women's presence in decision making bodies and most recently, several Indian states have increased the reservation to fifty percent in Panchayats.

The organization’s interventions strengthen the commitments made in various national laws, policies and action plans. Through its work, it also promotes, protects and upholds the rights of women under various International Conventions and Policies such as the CEDAW (UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women), the Mexico Plan of Action (1975); the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

With these directives, THP India believes that the active participation of women in political and decision-making processes of local governance will help bring economic and social development to the villages of India.
VISION
MISSION
AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Mamata Mukhi
Ward Member
Odisha
VISION

A world where every woman, man and child leads a healthy, fulfilling life of self-reliance and dignity.

MISSION

To strengthen women’s political leadership in local governance in India so that they are effective Elected Women Representatives in their constituencies, and are able to practice good governance, and advocate for social and gender justice.

THP INDIA’S OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Hunger Project India has its national office in Delhi and seven state offices in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. At present it works across these seven states in partnership with 53 local NGOs. In the last fourteen years, THP India has been able to engage with almost 1,00,000 elected women representatives in Gram Panchayats with an aim to strengthen women’s participation in rural local self-governance.
Rajani Hans
Naib Sarpanch (Vice-President)
Odisha
The core strategies of THP India are rooted in strengthening the leadership of women through capacity building programmes, as also in building an enabling environment for their leadership to be effective. The strategies have two broad thrusts – one focusing on the capacities and leadership of elected women, and the other on building and strengthening the support and engagement of stakeholders and creating support structures for the elected woman.

**Strategy A**: Strengthen and build women’s leadership towards understanding roles, responsibilities and engaging with political processes and systems to claim and access rights and demand accountability and good governance. This is done through designing and implementing a pre-election campaign for women to participate in a violence free and fair electoral process as voters, candidates, campaigners and polling agents, women’s leadership workshops, technical knowledge based workshops, in depth long term training programmes and facilitating the federation building processes of elected women representatives.
**Strategy B:** Build an enabling environment so that elected women are able to exercise their leadership effectively in their constituencies and engage with the State to promote their political rights and enhance gender equality. This is done by influencing public opinion by engaging with the media, government, local administration, state election commission, parliamentarians; making Panchayats effective through engaging with the institution of Gram Sabha (local village council), sensitizing citizens about good governance; building support structures by initiating Jagruk Manch (elected women & other women’s forums) at Panchayat level; and advocacy and alliance building by forging partnerships with civil society organizations and other advocacy forums for a policy friendly environment for women to be effective public office holders and for women to be equal participants in a democracy.

The strategic inputs as part of the two strategies are aligned to the five-year tenure of EWRs, which has been represented in the diagram.

*KEY TO ACRONYMS*

- WLW - Women’s Leadership Workshop
- FUW - Follow-up Workshop
- NBW - Need Based Workshop
- GSM - Gram Sabha Mobilisation
- FedMet - Federation Meeting
- SWEEP - Strengthening Women’s Empowerment in Electoral Process
AS PART OF THE TWO KEY STRATEGIES, THP INDIA THROUGH ITS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROJECT AREA IMPLEMENTED VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING YEAR TO ENABLE ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND GENDER JUSTICE RELATED WORK IN THEIR PANCHAYATS. THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PERIOD AS PER THE STRATEGIC INPUTS HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS.
STRENGTHENING AND BUILDING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP
WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP, FOLLOW-UP AND NEED BASED WORKSHOPS

Women’s Leadership Workshops (WLWs) are three-day residential workshops for newly elected or re-elected women representatives, and manifest as the first major capacity building initiative of the THP India’s five-year cycle. Participatory in approach, WLWs are conducted primarily to build confidence among newly elected women, and provide them with information and knowledge about their roles, responsibilities and gender issues in Gram Panchayats. It is the first step towards transformative leadership.

Follow-up Workshops (FUWs) are organised a few months (typically three to six months) after the conclusion of the WLWs, to address the issues EWRs face vis-à-vis their involvement in the Panchayats. The focus is on sharing experiences of achievements, challenges, and other practical concerns raised by the women as elected leaders.

In the reporting period the state of Uttarakhand conducted thirty two Women’s Leadership and Follow-up Workshops reaching out to 990 and 867 newly elected women’s representatives respectively. In Madhya Pradesh, three Pre-WLW meetings were held at block level with the participation of 564 elected women representatives.

Though EWRs gain a foothold in local government and decision making systems, EWRs continue to face challenges while attempting to fulfil their duties in office. Need for additional inputs are expressed by them during workshops, meetings, and sammelans (conventions). Accordingly, THP India designs thematic Need-Based Workshops (NBWs) that focus on equipping the EWRs with the necessary information and skills to enable them to address and resolve context specific issues. Besides providing information about various government schemes and policies, some of the other issues the NBWs have covered are malnutrition, health, women’s rights, right to education, food security, sanitation, land and forest rights, livelihood opportunities, rights of children amongst other issues.

During the reporting period, fifty four NBWs were organised with the participation of 1653 EWRs across the states of Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Building Programs</th>
<th>Number Of Workshops</th>
<th>Elected Women Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Women's Leadership Meetings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Leadership Workshops</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-Up Workshops</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need Based Workshops</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1653</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SARPANCH

MAYA PALIWAL

Kesuli Gram Panchayat
Rajasthan

“I GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD MY COMMUNITY BUT I WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY.

My thought process changed as I attended the training programmes conducted by The Hunger Project on women’s leadership in our block. These trainings have proved to be an excellent source of information on various government entitlements and processes.”
Federations are formed at the Block level with representation by the EWRs from multiple GPs in that block. It provides EWRs, a platform for sharing of experiences on common issues, collaborating on projects, advocating for women’s political rights, fighting social injustices and oppose any adverse policies that might affect the community and women in specific. Secular in nature and non-discriminatory in practice, these federations provide a platform for co-learning, co-sharing, and collective action which encourage the EWRs to work with each-other to increase the impact on their communities and governance of Gram Panchayats. The Hunger Project initially facilitated federation building processes during the third year of the five year tenure of a EWR. Through positive feedback, consistent success stories of federations, and repeated requests on the part of EWRs for more and earlier coalition-building has brought federation-building into the agenda of the first year of the five-year cycle.

During the year, across seven states, EWRs grouped together to form ninety nine block-level federations and one state federation with a total membership of 8235 EWRs. As part of the Federation Strengthening process, in this reporting period, THP India held six hundred thirty four meetings and workshops across different levels reaching out to 7833 EWRs.

**Federations are established as**

**ALIBHA (the one that cannot be erased) in Odisha**

**APARAJITA (the one who cannot be defeated) in Bihar**

**JAGRITI (awakened women) in Madhya Pradesh**

**MUZHAKKAM (to proclaim) in Tamil Nadu**

**PANCH- SAR-PANCH SANGATHAN (Ward member-President federation) in Rajasthan**

**SUGRAMA (good village) in Karnataka**

**VEERANGANA (brave woman) in Uttarakhand**
Some of the achievements of the federations include:

- Significantly improved Public Distribution System (PDS);
- Effective implementation of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme;
- Better enactment of the various social welfare schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), housing scheme for the marginalized section, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension etc.;
- Improved water and sanitation facilities;
- Enhanced awareness on violence and discrimination against women, malnutrition in the states of Bihar, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh;
- Upgraded educational infrastructure.
"WHEN I COMPARISON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN LEADERS AS INDIVIDUALS BEFORE THE FORMATION OF THE FEDERATION TO NOW, I UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION."

Through Federation, we are able to raise our voice in the hope of a better future for our people. The support that I get from the collective has added to my strength and enabled me further to fulfil my responsibilities as an elected leader in my Panchayat."
CONVENTION: AN APPROACH TO KEEPING THE NETWORK STRONG

Convention (Sammelans) emphasizes on giving the EWRs from various Panchayats a common platform to share the work they have done and to have an interface with each other, the media and government officials. Additionally it gives the EWRs an opportunity to build and strengthen their network within the state and also advocate on context-related issues as a collective.

The conventions not only help the EWRs to build alliances with other women leaders beyond the block and district levels, but also help them to interact with block, district and state-level government officials and media at a large scale. They also serve as platforms for identification of issues for advocacy at the state-level, and for developing a collective understanding on the future course of building federations.

During the year altogether, eleven federation conventions were held in which 1210 EWRs participated across the seven intervention states of THP India.
The federation members of VEERANGANA, in the hilly region bordering Nepal in Uttarakhand, meet on a regular basis to discuss and to act upon fulfilling the basic needs of the community. During one such meeting, it was realized that pregnant women in their area are facing a lot of difficulties as there was no gynecologist in the hospital at the block level in Dharchula in Pithoragarh district. The nearest hospital with a gynecologist was situated in the city of Pithoragarh, which is very far away and women had to travel about 91 km for any issues related to pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Physical access was an important barrier and women were being forced to deliver babies at home in an unhygienic condition. To worsen the situation, a sizable number of maternal deaths occurred on the way to the hospital if women opted for an institutional child birth.

To address this problem, the members of the federation conducted a block-level meeting and came up with a strategy. Together they went to the district headquarter and met the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to request him to appoint a gynecologist in their block hospital. When nothing happened even after six months, a follow up visit was made. Their consistent effort paid off when a gynecologist was appointed in their block. The group members worked together at every stage to ensure this.

The members of VEERANGANA federation are an empowered set of women in their villages today. Apart from creating awareness on health amongst the community members, efforts are being made by the group members to support other women in availing the benefits from the government welfare schemes.

Until recently, many of the EWRs had very little exposure to public life. The experience they gained through training programmes organized by The Hunger Project (THP) helped them make informed decisions towards betterment of the society with a special interest in ensuring healthcare accessible to all.

The story of the federation of EWRs in Uttrakhand is an example of how leadership skills polished by inputs and combined with collective action can work wonders.
STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ELECTORAL PROCESSES (SWEEP)

SWEEP is an extensive pre-election campaign that is undertaken in the fifth and final year of a state’s Gram Panchayat election cycle. The key objective of the campaign is to ensure a violence and corruption free election. The campaign aims to increase women’s participation in the entire Panchayat election process as informed voters, candidates, electoral officers, campaigners and polling agents. The campaign encourages women to contest from reserved as well as un-reserved seats to claim their political rights.

The campaign during the year was conducted by THP India across 1925 panchayats in 64 districts of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Women candidates were trained in the electoral processes and information was disseminated through rallies, slogans, film shows, village meetings, street plays, simulation camps, posters and radio programmes. EWR federations played a critical role in checking voters’ lists and assisting women to file nomination forms along with being support structures in addressing incidents of violence against potential candidates and women wanting to re-contest.

Further, to engage with different stakeholders on Panchayat elections and to share strategies of SWEEP campaign, interventions like Media Workshops, Interface Meeting and Conventions were also implemented in the project areas.

The table below gives an overview of the number of activities carried out as part of the Strengthening Women’s Empowerment through Electoral Processes Campaign in three states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/ SWEEP activities</th>
<th>PLW</th>
<th>Village Meetings</th>
<th>Rally</th>
<th>Street Play</th>
<th>Simulation Camp</th>
<th>Film Screening</th>
<th>Radio Programme</th>
<th>Wall Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>2632</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA (Not Applicable): This indicates that the activity was not conducted in the state.
PLW: Potential Leadership Workshops are one day workshops that are conducted with the aspiring women contenders for gram Panchayat elections that guides them through the various election procedures.
Simulation camps: These are one day camps that are held for members of the communities on the voting procedures that includes displaying EVMs, ballot papers and a tour of the voting space.
In the district of Guna in western Madhya Pradesh, a potential candidate from a marginalized community consumed poison when pressurized to withdraw her candidature from elections by another contestant. On knowing this, The Hunger Project state team informed the State Election Commission and also coordinated with the district SWEEP partner to immediately hold a fact finding mission. The SWEEP partner approached the affected woman and advocated for her rights with the district Election Commission. Subsequently, the woman was extended security by local law enforcement agency and was also counseled by the SWEEP partner team and local officials. However, she was not allowed to re-file her candidature due to significant lapse of time and it also came to light that one of her family members under duress had supposedly taken compensation in name of settling the case. The woman later on refused to pursue the case any further. Nevertheless, the safety concern of the woman was addressed and she did not face any problem after this. The case highlights the challenges of women candidates in situations like these, where in, absence of support structures can stop women from entering politics. This also tells the significance of support The Hunger Project attempts to provide during its interventions with elected women leaders.
“After attending Sweep-Potential Leadership Workshop, I realized that being part of the local governance is the only way of accomplishing my dream towards a developed Panchayat.

After much reluctance, my family agreed upon my decision to contest for the post of Sarpanch. With a dream for the betterment of my community, I stepped out into an unknown world of politics and won by a huge margin. Now, with the trainings I received from THP, I am able to influence people on several issues for the betterment of the panchayat and for their own betterment.”
[ E ]
TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) WORKSHOPS

Training of Trainer workshops are conducted by THP India prior to each set of capacity building initiatives for the EWRs. Trainers and team members of THP India's local partner organizations are trained by the Master Trainers in these workshops. It is an intensive process to equip the trainers to conduct the WLWs, FLWs, NBWs and orientation workshops on federation building at the community level. Each one of these trainings comprises of rendering information, knowledge, conceptual clarity and skills on various aspects to achieve THP India’s mandates.

During the reporting period, nine ToTs on SWEEP campaign were held in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Additionally, a ToT on Federation Building was conducted in the state of Uttarakhand.
BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EWRS

[ A ]
JAGRUK MANCH

The Jagruk Manch, an initiative of THP India are groups of present and former EWRS along with non-elected women to support the work of EWRS and increase the political participation of women in the Panchayats. The members meet at the GP, cluster or block level depending on each of the state’s strategy plan for the year. It also provides a platform for women citizens to engage on governance issues and a space to help build their understanding of politics, roles and responsibilities of elected representatives and local bureaucracy. Non-elected members are drawn from Self-Help Groups (SHG), village development committees, health workers, Anganwadi workers and women citizens etc.

These groups are established as Jagruk Manch in Rajasthan, Sajha Manch in Madhya Pradesh, Mahila Adhikar Samukhya in Odisha and Jagruthi Vedike in Karnataka. These have not only strengthened the role of EWRS as decision-makers in the community, but have engendered sustainable democratic governance processes as well. Through the Jagruk Manch meetings, EWRS have been able to address myriad of issues pertaining to violence against women, female sex selective abortion, child marriage, right to education, equal wages, implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGA), entitlements to beneficiaries under various social welfare schemes, and the right to property for women in some cases.

During the reporting period, 877 Jagruk Manch meetings have been held at Gram Panchayat and Cluster level with a participation of 4,816 EWRS in the four states.
Women members of Sajha Manch constantly strive to coordinate with Anganwadi workers of their Panchayat for regular and effective functioning of the Anganwadi. The members of Sajha Manch in Kachrakhadan Panchayat of Petlavad block in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh meet regularly and discuss, to list a few, neglected issues such as health, education, sanitation. One day the members noticed that a one-and-a-half-year-old girl named Dhapu was looking exceptionally weak. Since the girl seldom came out of her home and lived in a settlement colony outside the main village, they had not seen Dhapu earlier.

With Anganwadi workers disinterested, Sajha Manch members went to counsel Dhapu’s mother and brought her all the way to the Anganwadi to get the child weighed. The weight confirmed their worst fears. Dhapu was only 4.3 kg as against the average weight of 11.8 kg, making her fall into the category of ‘severely malnourished’ which required immediate nutritional treatment. However, the Anganwadi workers said that Dhapu had to wait for another nine days since the center had two fixed dates before she could be taken for a checkup and get admitted to avail 21-days nutritional treatment at a Nutritional Rehabilitation Center (NRC) located at block headquarters.

Sajha Manch members arranged a meeting with the most active members and decided to accompany the child with her parents to the nutritional rehabilitation center since she needed immediate medical attention. They talked with the doctor-in-charge and explained Dhapu’s health condition. The doctor listened to the women and instantly admitted Dhapu for treatment. After a critical few days, Dhapu recovered completely and returned to her home. She is no longer malnourished. With the help of the members of Sajha Manch, Dhapu’s mother is learning how to provide her daughter a cost-efficient diet.

This Sajha Manch in the GP is also playing the role of an information hub about entitlements for the community. Armed with enthusiasm and knowledge, the group now is a powerful example of the strength of the collective action.
**[B] GRAM SABHA MOBILIZATION (GSM) CAMPAIGN**

Gram Sabha meetings are village council meetings that are held as per the state specific act. A Gram Sabha constitutes all the adult citizens of a village having the right to vote. It is a constitutionally mandated mechanism through which grassroots constituencies hold Panchayats accountable.

Gram Sabha Mobilization campaigns are led by THP India and its partner organizations to encourage the participation of citizens of Panchayats, especially women to attend the Gram Sabha. The campaign reaches out to a large number of people and radio programs, theatre, puppet shows etc. all form part of the campaign.

Thus, in line with the objectives of the campaign, THP India in two states i.e. Odisha and Rajasthan carried out the interventions with the support of 169 EWRs and 8411 community members during the reporting year.

**[C] MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

Engaging with the local as well as national media has been an integral part of THP India’s programme strategy. It has proved to be a key to change the negative and cynical mindset of people regarding women’s leadership in Gram Panchayats. The objective of such of interaction is to sensitize the media on the achievements and challenges of elected women representatives.

During the reporting period, 42 media interface meetings were organized by THP India with the participation of 745 EWRs across the states of Uttarakhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Further, 9 media interface meetings have been initiated as an integral part of the VAW campaign across the state of Madhya Pradesh in which 209 EWRs participated.

In addition to this, THP in Karnataka and All India Radio (AIR) jointly developed a programme encouraging women to contest the Panchayat elections on all seats (reserved and unreserved). A total of 30 radio programmes were broadcasted across the state of Karnataka with an outreach of 175 blocks.

**[D] INTERFACE MEETING**

The Interface Meetings are core to THP India’s advocacy strategy. The organisation’s role in these meetings is to facilitate dialogues between the EWRs and representatives from the government and the local bureaucracy. The EWRs as a collective use this platform to advocate on key problems that they face while carrying out their responsibilities as duty bearers. These meetings also help in developing linkages with parliamentarians, legislators, local administration and line departments such as the Women and Child Development Department; Food and Supply department; Agriculture Department; Medical Department; Education Department; Health Department, Water & Sanitation Department to name a few.

45 Interface meetings at block level and 22 Interface meetings at district level were conducted during the year with the involvement of 1424 EWRs.
Shanti Saket
Ward Member
Madhya Pradesh
PRESIDENT

K. VASUKI

Arunmozhithevan Gram Panchayat
Tamil Nadu
“Gram Sabha meeting works as a bridge to narrow down the gap between EWRs and the community members of the Panchayat.”
THP India’s advocacy efforts in the reporting period ranged on issues pertaining to elected women leader’s role in ensuring food security, preventing violence against women, inclusive development using the local governance framework to advocating for pre-electoral reforms to promote women’s participation in electoral processes and to strengthen the international human rights framework by providing input to the country review process.

**Runubala Sahoo**  
Ward Member  
Odisha

**Lata Naik**  
Ward Member  
Odisha
INITIATIVES AND BREAKTHROUGHS AT THE STATE LEVEL

Odisha

In Odisha, ALIBHA state level convention (Sammelan) held in October 2014 witnessed the participation of multiple stakeholders including Shri. Arun Kumar Sahoo, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of Odisha. The federation members specific demands regarding toilet facilities for women at block offices, as well as inclusion of single women in the state pension scheme ‘Madhubabu Pension Yojana’ were met with. The state government, as a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by ALIBHA federation has taken some of these policy measures into account and this can be attributed to the determination of the EWRs in ensuring the so.

Bihar

An advocacy meet, with EWRs taking the lead in Bihar was organized in December 2014 to share outcomes of the intense one year programme interventions undertaken in the state to ensure food security of the people in the panchayats. This was followed by a media interaction at state level to share the achievements and challenges faced by EWRs in the past one year. The consultation was successful in bringing forward challenges faced by EWRs in Panchayats to ensure food security for their respective communities and getting them highlighted through media.

Tamil Nadu

Successful advocacy initiative was undertaken by MUZAKKHAM members in Tamil Nadu, where a delegation met the Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department and other political party leaders to put forth their demands to increase honorarium and ensure safety and security of women. Following the visit, the federation members had a press meet, where details about their meetings along with the memorandum submitted to political party representatives as well as to relevant government people was shared with members of the media.
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - VAW CAMPAIGN

From 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

THP India in 2014, undertook this campaign which was led by the EWRs and their federations in the state of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and with newly elected women leaders in Uttarakhand. The campaign in its third consecutive year reinforced the critical need for relentlessly addressing the issue. Since the four states differ in their social, political and economic context, the campaign activities too were designed differently. Through the campaign, an intensive effort was being made by EWR federations to make women and community at large become more aware on forms of violence being inflicted on women and girl children as well as legal recourse available to address those issues. In Tamil Nadu- the campaign saw the participation of 1100 EWRs, engaging approximately 40,000 community members through various activities undertaken in 17 blocks of the 10 districts.

In Odisha the campaign covered 271 villages of 119 GPs and was led by 471 EWRs in 13 blocks across seven THP India’s working districts. ALIBHA federation of EWRs successfully engaged with Odisha State Women’s Commission to get its attention on the violence and discrimination women and children face in the state. Through these activities and 16 days of Activism- the federation has gained visibility and impetus to their ongoing work on issues around VAW affecting their community women.

In Madhya Pradesh, EWRs led the campaign on VAW and held separate meetings prior to the commencement of the SWEEP campaign and planned to create awareness among citizens on the various forms of violence that women face when they try to or actually participate in Panchayat elections. The campaign saw the participation of 2415 EWRs, 30103 women citizens, and 380 men in activities like the village meetings, exhibitions, rallies and media meets undertaken in 8 districts of the state. In Uttarakhand, this year’s campaign reached out to 990 EWRs, 10813 Women and 8158 men in nine blocks of the four THP India’s working districts.

The various activities and the outreach as part of the campaign is give below in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence against women - activities</th>
<th>Number of activities</th>
<th>Number of EWRs</th>
<th>Number of other participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention in Odisha and Uttarakhand</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile van campaign in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1361</td>
<td>44864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rallies in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>61944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village meetings in Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>20662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural programmes in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>70526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RAJASTHAN: THP INDIA AND OTHER GROUPS OPPOSE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATION TO CONTEST PANCHAYAT POLLS

Closer to the elections in Rajasthan, potential candidates, especially women and those from marginalised communities and backward areas received a severe setback in their aspiration of contesting panchayat elections with the announcement of minimum education qualification as a criteria for contesting panchayat elections in 2015. An Ordinance to this effect was issued by the Governor of Rajasthan. This arbitrary, discriminatory move taken by the state government galvanized local alliances, civil society as well as ex-EWRs and federation members to demand immediate withdrawal of the said Ordinance. An immediate action was undertaken by THP India to mobilize support and solidarity to get this Ordinance retracted. Different strategies was initiated towards this end- one were an endorsement letter was circulated seeking support of other groups, civil society organizations (at national as well as Rajasthan state level) individuals, former state elections commissioners, media (local, regional and national) activists, along with other civil society organizations, both at the state and national level, activists and academicians. The letter of endorsement was also circulated to the media, with a copy each sent to relevant ministries at state as well at National level- to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

In addition to this, a delegation comprising of members from Mahila Panch Sarpanch Sangathan including EWRs affected by this disqualification measure submitted a memorandum to the State Governor’s office- raising their voice against the same and urging the Governor to retract it immediately.

Legal recourse has been initiated with a writ petition filed in the High Court of Rajasthan. THP has been closely involved in the preparation as well as final submission of the Writ petition in the High Court. The writ has been submitted on behalf of EWRs (few are from THP India Working areas) who have been effected by this clause. It has been a jointly drafted by Ms Indira Jaisingh, Centre for Dalit Rights, Right to Information Manch (MKSS) and PUCL, with inputs from THP India as well. In the latest update- the Ordinance is being fought in the court of law by Ms Indira Jaisingh who is fighting the case on behalf of the petitioners in the Rajasthan High Court.

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1As per the provision – for contesting the panchayat elections, for the post of sarpanch a candidate should be 8th class pass (general category) while in the scheduled area of panchayat, should have passed the 5th class to contest the same.

2Ms Jaisingh is the former Additional solicitor general and Supreme Court advocate.

3Hearings are still ongoing at the Rajasthan H.C, with the latest date being set for in April 2015.
KARNATAKA

During the month of March, as a follow up to the existing advocacy demands in the state, SUGRAMA members with THP Karnataka organized a meeting with Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister (RDPR) for getting updates on the recommendations made by the Ramesh Kumar Committee on amending Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993. The RDPR Minister acknowledged the work being undertaken THP in Karnataka and SUGRAMA and updated the delegation on the government’s position on five years tenure. THP team and SUGRAMA team also attended the Karnataka state Assembly session for the day, which turned out to be a great learning experience for EWR federation members.

Shashi Singh Bais
President
Madhya Pradesh
01
THP in August 2014 participated in India CSO National consultation on the Beijing Platform of Action organized by UN Women in Delhi. The two day consultation saw participation of various women and human rights activists, lawyers, CSOs representing different perspectives and issues as well as share the experiences of the Beijing +20 review process that is being undertaken at local, regional and International level.

02
THP was invited to participate in a stakeholder consultation on ‘Child Marriages in India: District level study on prevalence, trends and patterns.’ The roundtable consultation was organized by UNICEF and The International Center for Research on Women in October 2014. THP provided insights and feedback on the preliminary findings presented at the meeting.

03
Building alliances and sharing good practices: IbIn Cell* - India Backbone Implementation Cell (www.ibnmovement.in); IbIn in partnership with UNDP organized a one day ‘Rural Development Workshop on Simple Systems of Effective Participative Planning’ in November 2014. THPs expertise in strengthening elected women’s leadership in local governance was sought with sharing of the five year strategy and interventions undertaken to build EWRs leadership to bring good and accountable local governance.

04
With panchayat elections in Rajasthan conducted in February 2015, renewed attempt was undertaken by the National Coalition against Two Child Norm to advocate for the removal of the norm from Rajasthan State Panchayati Raj Act. A meeting was organized in the state capital to galvanize and include other stakeholder in the effort to get the state government to remove the norm used in government agencies in different guises (example: as an incentive to seek promotion in government jobs.)

05
Demand for the passage of Women’s Reservation Bill: THP as a long standing member of the Alliance for 33 percent campaign (an ongoing national level advocacy campaign to demand for the mandated reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Assembly legislatures), participated in a press conference organized by the national network. The conference was organized against the backdrop of the general elections that took place in May 2014. As an advocacy strategy and to further influence the public opinion in support of the ongoing activism, a final push to pass the bill prior the change in government due was what necessitated this action.

*IbIn cell is a network that seeks to facilitate a backbone capability within the system that supports collaborative approaches to solving multi layered issues. It is a platform at national level to promote good practices to make implementation mechanisms more effective. The cell is currently being led by Arun Maira (former member Planning commission).
The focus of THP India, during the reporting period, has been to evolve, and strengthen the existing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems, in the organization, that effectively measures the impact of its work. THP India’s effort has been to develop organizational capacity, to use data for programme implementation and enhancement.

Online data reporting:
THP India adapted the online reporting system developed by the global office, known as Appspot for quarterly recording of the key activities. The online system allows the programme team to track activities that are being undertaken. It also serves as a tool for systematic recording and managing the data.

Baseline Evaluation:
THP India rolled out a baseline analysis in the state of Uttarakhand to gauge the pre-intervention status of elected women on thematic areas such as like roles and relations within the household, women’s agency, community participation and knowledge about the local governance setup.

Outcome Assessment:
For the most period of THP India’s work, qualitative case studies of selected EWRs have been used as the only means to gauge the achievements. THP India felt the need to supplement this with quantitative analysis, which would deepen the understanding of the program, and help envisage a future course of action, both, in terms of program, as well as improvement on current capacity building initiatives undertaken.

Given this, THP India commissioned an outcome assessment, for the very first time in the state of Madhya Pradesh which, has been receiving sustained funding for five years and was in the final year of its election cycle. During this period, two other programme areas, namely the states of Karnataka and Rajasthan have also initiated the data collection for the purpose of conducting similar assessments. As part of its overarching evaluation framework, THP India has mandated the need to conduct similar outcome assessments in all the programme areas.
HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE YEAR 2014-15

THP GLOBAL BOARD VISIT TO INDIA IN JUNE 2014.

THP TAKES PART IN ‘THE SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE ON POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO IMPROVE NUTRITION SECURITY 2014’

ADVISORS TO THE CENTER PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FROM NORWAY VISIT THP TAMIL NADU IN SEPTEMBER 2014.

INVESTOR’S FROM SWEDEN VISIT THP MADHYA PRADESH

THP INDIA STAFF RETREAT IN KERALA

THP’S DOCUMENTARY AT THE JAIPUR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015

RITA SARIN, COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF THE HUNGER PROJECT INDIA AND VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL HUNGER PROJECT PRESENTED THE “WOMEN OF PURE STRENGTH” AWARD BY VODAFONE FOUNDATION INDIA.

INVESTOR’S VISIT: COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA IMMERSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME, 2015

INVESTOR’S VISIT: SOVEREIGN, NEW ZEALAND IMMERSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME, 2015
THP GLOBAL BOARD VISIT TO INDIA IN JUNE 2014

The Global Board of Directors along with THP leadership team undertook a visit to Delhi, India in June 2014 to further gain insights and understand the India programme strategies as well as to observe how it rolled out on the ground by undertaking a field visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan. The trip also included five investors (three from the US, one from Australia and one from India). On this occasion, a presentation was made on THP India programme strategies ‘Investing in Women’s Leadership for Good Governance in India’. The Jaipur leg of programme consisted of showcasing THP India’s work on the ground. Field visit was undertaken to two Gram Panchayats where an interaction was undertaken with the EWRs as well as Jagruk Manch members.

THP TAKES PART IN ‘THE SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE ON POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO IMPROVE NUTRITION SECURITY 2014’

THP’s initiative in Madhya Pradesh towards raising awareness on malnutrition was presented under the theme ‘Nutrition Policies and Programs Poster’ in ‘The South Asia Conference on Policies and Practices to Improve Nutrition Security 2014’. The two day conference held in Delhi, brought together academic scientists, researchers, representatives from government, national and international non-governmental agencies, civil societies, policy and program implementers, private sector and others, to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of nutrition policies, practices and programs primarily from South Asian countries that have been successful in lowering malnutrition rates. It also provided the participants a forum to present and discuss the most recent innovations, good practices, trends, challenges and the solutions adopted to improve nutrition security.

INVESTOR’S FROM SWEDEN VISIT THP MADHYA PRADESH

In September, THP hosted an investor visit of 17 investors from Sweden (including Country Directors from Switzerland, Germany and Sweden) to Satna district in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The visitors visited four Gram Panchayats in order to witness the socio-political journey of the EWRs towards their role as people’s representatives. Also, the visits were focused on observing impacts of federation of EWRs on the community. The visit involved investors meeting around 45 EWRs from four districts of the state.

THP INDIA STAFF RETREAT IN KERALA

THP India team travelled to Kerala, a state in the south-west region- known as the God’s Own Country, for the annual staff retreat in December 2014. The purpose of the five-day retreat was action planning, seeing new opportunities, reviewing the work and reflecting together. The Road Ahead, a resource group, conceptualized and conducted a two-day programme, named ‘Enormity of Squad’ for the team members of THP. Those two days were structured in a way that helped THP team to impel and reflect on innovative ideas and to accomplish the tasks together. In addition, an internal meeting was conducted. It was led by Ms. Rita Sarin, Country Director of THP India with the aim to develop staff cohesion.

THP’S DOCUMENTARY AT THE JAIPUR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015

THP’s twenty minute documentary film ‘Samajik Badlav ki Aur’ (Towards Social Change) was shown at the 2015 Jaipur International Film Festival held during the month of February. The film was one amongst the 159 films from over 100 countries that were being displayed. It captures the efforts of the EWR federation members in the state of Rajasthan addressing various social issues in their Gram Panchayats.

ADVISORS TO THE CENTER PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FROM NORWAY VISIT THP TAMIL NADU IN SEPTEMBER 2014

A three-member delegation from Norway – advisors to the Center Party Parliamentary group undertook a visit to THP Tamil Nadu to understand the work being undertaken in the state and also to have an interface with the EWRs and listen to their experiences of being an elected representative in the state.
RITA SARIN, COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF THE HUNGER PROJECT INDIA AND VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL HUNGER PROJECT PRESENTED THE “WOMEN OF PURE STRENGTH” AWARD BY VODAFONE FOUNDATION INDIA.

The Vodafone Foundation in India presented the “Women of Pure Strength” award to Rita Sarin for her contribution towards women’s empowerment and for serving as an influential voice to those who have been deprived of their basic human rights. She is listed as one among the fifty exceptional women, who with their conviction and determination have overcome all odds to contribute to the betterment of the society.

The award ceremony was held at New Delhi on 2nd February 2015. On this occasion, five time world champion, Indian boxer MC Mary Kom along with Vittorio Colao, CEO, Vodafone Group PLC, also launched a coffee table book “Women of Pure Strength” which is an attempt to capture the journeys of all fifty women towards women’s empowerment with each having an extraordinary story of her own.

INVESTOR’S VISIT: COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA IMMERSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME, 2015

Twenty four participants from Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) visited the state of Odisha in India as part of the initiative called the ‘Immersion Leadership Programme’. The six day visit from 21st February to 26th of February, 2015 was jointly organized by The Hunger Project, India and The Hunger Project, Australia. The field visit to rural India gave the CBA team the opportunity to understand how THP in India has been working with Elected Women Representatives in village councils (Panchayats) in order to build and strengthen the leadership capacities of women leaders in their constituencies, and more broadly the development efforts in practice by them.

The purpose of their visit were two-fold. First to witness how THP India has been working to ignite the capacities and collective leadership of Elected Women Representatives in the Panchayats (village councils) in the state of Odisha, and to provide the delegation an in-depth understanding of the development challenges in rural India and how women leaders as change agents are working towards the betterment of their hamlet.

INVESTOR’S VISIT: SOVEREIGN, NEW ZEALAND IMMERSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME, 2015

As part of their first Sovereign Immersion Leadership Programme to India, nineteen team members from the insurance company from New Zealand, participated in the five day field trip to the state of Odisha, India from 23rd to 27th of March, 2015. Co-organized with The Hunger Project, Australia, The Hunger Project, India facilitated the delegation to the villages of Odisha in order to provide an opportunity for Sovereign members to experience first-hand the role of Elected Women Leaders in the development of their villages as Panchayat leaders.

While the goal of this visit was to foster an understanding among participants of the challenges and efforts of women leaders in their constituencies, it also focused on how THP, India has been working to build the capacities of women leaders in Panchayats. The visit was more broadly an exchange of experience between women leaders and the visitors. The series of village visits provided the delegation with an excellent overview of the capacity building of Elected Women Representatives through trainings of THP India and their efforts towards a results-orientated, community-focused approach to the development.
SNAPSHOTS

FROM MEDIA COVERAGE

Of the voluminous articles covering THP’s work in the project states, presented below are few of articles which talk about the journey of the EWRs and THP’s work in the states.
Bihar - Advocacy consultation on Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mahatma Gandhi national Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) at state level covered by national Hindi daily Dainik Bhaskar - the report describes the EWRs views on both the schemes and the challenges in order to properly implement these in their constituencies. The consultation saw the participation of 60 EWRs from five districts in the state of Bihar. Ms. Neelam Gupta, Director of ICDS, Bihar was present there as the Chief Guest.

Bihar - Advocacy consultation covered by national Hindi daily Prabhat Khabar - the report talks about the challenges and opportunities of the EWRs in rural local governance, and loopholes in implementation of the social security schemes.

Tamil Nadu - National English daily Deccan Chronicle covered THP’s efforts in Tamil Nadu to enable the EWRs as effective leaders through various leadership training programmes.

Uttarakhand - News published by national Hindi daily Dainik Jagran on Women’s Leadership Workshop in Garud block.
Madhya Pradesh - SWEEP state convention in Madhya Pradesh covered by the national daily Hindustan Times - the article shared the EWRs achievements as enabled leaders to motivate other women.

Madhya Pradesh - Central India’s English daily The Hitavada in Madhya Pradesh covered the SWEEP convention. Around 500 women leaders from 40 districts participated in the convention held in Bhopal.

Madhya Pradesh - SWEEP convention news covered by English daily Free Press - the news covered the convention organized by The Hunger Project to raise awareness among the EWRs with regard to the election process.

Madhya Pradesh - Press release published by the English daily The Hitavada before the SWEEP convention mentioning the details about the convention.
Madhya Pradesh - SWEEP convention news covered by English daily Free Press

Odisha - English national daily The Pioneer covered the efforts of ALiBHA federation of EWRs in Nuapada district in Odisha to ensure food security. It talks about the campaign on food security scheme conducted by the federation members
Rajasthan - News covered by the national English daily The Times of India. It talks about the problems elected women representatives face in the patriarchal society and their efforts towards the development. It also shared the story of a 21 year old woman who, despite all the challenges decided to contest the Panchayat election and won for the post of Sarpanch.

Rajasthan - News covered by the national newspaper Daily News and Analysis talks about the feudal structure in which women leaders live and challenge the old-fashioned traditions. It also talks about the EWRs willingness to pursue higher education.
In this reporting period, THP India has partnered with the following institutional donors to implement the programmes of THP at the grassroots:
Nalini Biswas
Ward Member
Odisha
PARTNERSHIP WITH DONORS

CORDAID for Strengthening Women’s Leadership to eliminate hunger and poverty in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Forum Syd for facilitating federations in Uttrakhand and Odisha.

Ribbink Van Den Hoek Foundation to strengthening Federation of Elected Women Representatives towards advocacy in Madhya Pradesh.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) for women Panchayat leaders addressing violence against women in Rajasthan and Karnataka.

UNDP for strengthening women's political leadership in local Governance, building capacities and facilitating an enabling environment in Odisha and Rajasthan.
PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Bihar
Abhiyan
IZAD
Lok Madhyam
NIRDESH
Parivartan Vikas

Karnataka
Action for Social and Educational Development Association (ASEDA)
Samarasa
Organisation for the Development of People (ODP)
Jana Shikshana Trust (JST)
Spoorthy
Vikasana
Reach

Madhya Pradesh
Anupama Education Society (AES)
Samavesh
Gram Sudhar Samiti (GSS)
Mahila Samiti (MS)
Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti (MJVS)
Om Shiksha Samiti (OSS)
Sampark Samaj Sevi Sansthan (SSSS)
Adivasi Chetna Shikshan Seva Samiti (ACSSS)
Community Development Centre (CDC)

Odisha
Nari Surakshya Samiti (NSS)
The Ayauskam
Development Agency for the Poor & Tribal Awakening (DAPTA)
Institute for Women’s Development (IWD)
People’s Institute for Participatory Action Research (PIPAR)
People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC)
Rajasthan
Alwar Mewat Institute of Education and Development (AMIED)
Asth Sansthan
CECOEDECON
Jan Chetna Sansthan (JCS)
Jatan Sansthan
Jan Shiksha Evam Vikas Sangathan (JSEVS)
Society for all round Development (SARD)
Vikalp Sansthan
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GVVS)
Prayatn Sanstha
Vishakha Mahila Shiksha Evam Shodh Samiti
Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS)
Society for Public Education Cultural Training & Rural Action (SPECTRA)
Student’s Relief Society (SRS)
Dalit Manvadhikar Kendra Samiti
Mahila Mandal Barmer Agor (MMBA)
Alert Sansthan

Tamil Nadu
Development Education & Environment Protection Society (DEEPS)
Ekta- Resource Centre for Women
Centre for Education & Empowerment of the Marginalised (CEEMA)
Social Education Economic Development Society (SEEDS)
Velicham Trust

Uttarakhand
Association for Rural Planning and Action (ARPAN)
Self-Awareness Resource and Learning Trust (SARAL)
Gramin Uthan Samiti (GUS)
Kasturba Mahila Utthan Mandal(KMUM)-LAKSHMI ASHRAM
## Fund Receipts During the Financial Year 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rupees</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on FDR/Savings</td>
<td>89,39,334</td>
<td>7.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>11,74,48,840</td>
<td>92.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>53,777</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>34,338</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,64,76,289</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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</table>

## Cost Centre-Wise Expenses for the Financial Year 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rupees</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>1,39,48,118</td>
<td>11.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>8,94,57,102</td>
<td>74.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Support</td>
<td>1,61,90,266</td>
<td>13.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,95,95,486</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S NOTE

TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE HUNGER PROJECT - INDIA

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Hunger Project (the Trust), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March, 2015, and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period from 1 April, 2014 to 31 March, 2015, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management’s responsibility for the financial statements

Trust management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the trust in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including accounting standards. This responsibility also includes the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the Accounting Standards as prescribed by ICAI for safeguarding of the assets of the Trust and for preventing and detecting the frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; This responsibility further includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the company’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimation made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

a. In the case of the Balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2015, and

b. In the case of the Statement of Income and Expenditure, of the excess of income over expenditure for the period from 1 April, 2014 to 31 March, 2015.

We report that:

a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

b) In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the trust so far as appears from our examination of those books.

c) The balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.

d) The balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure dealt with by this report comply with the accounting standards issued by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, so far as applicable.

For SMS & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

Shukdev Sudhoo
Partner
FRN No: 018687N
M No: 084188

Place: New Delhi
Date: 25.06.2015
## The Hunger Project - India

### Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AS AT MARCH 31, 2014 RS.</th>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>RS.</th>
<th>AS AT MARCH 31, 2015 RS.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,12,48,213</td>
<td>Gross block</td>
<td>1,09,81,461</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>86,52,941</td>
<td>Less: Depreciation</td>
<td>79,00,115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,95,272</td>
<td>Net block</td>
<td>30,81,346</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets, Loans andAdvances</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,87,09,650</td>
<td>Cash and bank balances</td>
<td>9,74,29,524</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49,38,729</td>
<td>Loans and advances</td>
<td>42,05,192</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,62,43,651</td>
<td>10,47,16,062</td>
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</table>

### Liabilities

<table>
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<th>FUNDS</th>
<th>85,00,000</th>
<th>85,00,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Fund Balance</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,89,498</td>
<td>Opening balance</td>
<td>13,89,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,07,07,696</td>
<td>Add: Transferred from income and expenditure account</td>
<td>7,07,07,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,20,97,194</td>
<td>- Add/Less: Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>7,20,97,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,20,97,194</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,35,66,458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unutilised Earmarked Funds for: Others:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening balance</th>
<th>13,11,954</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add: Transferred from income and expenditure account</td>
<td>3,88,31,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transferred to income and expenditure account</td>
<td>(4,41,31,594)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,11,954</td>
<td>(39,88,446)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</th>
<th>1,66,38,050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10,47,16,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes to the accounts - Schedule 1
Per our report attached

For SMS & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
Shuklaa Sanjoeo
Partner
FRN No: 018687N
M No: 084188

Place: New Delhi
Date: 25.06.2015

For The Hunger Project

Rit Sarin
Trustees
THE HUNGER PROJECT - INDIA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014 RS.</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015 RS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,70,71,764</td>
<td>Grants and donations</td>
<td>1,17,502,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,69,847</td>
<td>Less: Unspent grant returned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,50,01,917</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,17,502,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74,72,199</td>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>89,39,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,59,467</td>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>34,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93,033,583</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,26,476,289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENDITURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015 RS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,14,60,947</td>
<td>Administrative and general expenses</td>
<td>1,39,48,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,72,83,637</td>
<td>Other expenditure on objects of the Trust</td>
<td>10,56,47,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,76,457</td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>7,11,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,94,21,041</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,03,07,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36,12,542</td>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>61,68,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,33,38,373</td>
<td>Balances brought forward from previous year</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1,36,63,358)</td>
<td>Specific grants transferred to earmarked funds</td>
<td>(3,88,31,194)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,74,20,139</td>
<td>Expenses transferred from earmarked funds</td>
<td>4,41,31,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,07,07,696</td>
<td>Balance carried to general fund</td>
<td>1,14,69,264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to the accounts - Schedule 1
Per our report attached to the Balance Sheet

For The Hunger Project

Signed

Trustees

Place: New Delhi
Date: 25.06.2015
NOTES ANNEXED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

[ 1 ] Significant Accounting Policies

a) The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 and rules made thereunder.

b) Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition less accumulated depreciation. Cost is inclusive of freight, duties, taxes and incidental expenses.

Depreciation is provided on the written down value method mainly at the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURE OF ASSETS</th>
<th>RATE OF DEPRECIATION PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>25.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Equipments</td>
<td>13.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[ 2 ] In view of the stay order granted by Hon High Court of Mumbai and on the basis of information gathered from various sources, in respect of payment to be made, to the Commissioner Charity, the trust has not made a provision @ 2% for the amount being an uncertain/unconfirmed liability.

[ 3 ] There are no commitments or contingencies outstanding except the stay order granted by Hon’ble High Court of Mumbai, in respect of payment to be made, to the Commissioner, Charity, Mumbai, as at 31st March, 2015.

[ 4 ] The figures of the previous year have been regrouped/recast to conform to the current year’s classification.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 25.06.2015

For The Hunger Project

Rita Sarin
Trustees
Pramila Behera
Ward Member
Odisha
GOVERNANCE

[A] GOVERNING COUNCIL

Ms Kanika Satyanand
Ms Rita Sarin
Ms Amarjeet K. Ahuja, IAS (Retd.)
Ms Brinda Dubey
Dr Sanaya Nariman
Ms Namita Gautam

[B] NATIONAL TEAM

Ms Rita Sarin
Ms Ruchi Yadav
Mr N. K. Malhotra
Mr Paritosh Sasmal
Ms Veda Bharadwaja
Ms Tanurina Datta
Ms Mridulika Jha
Ms Rachna Shanbog
Ms Bharani Sundararajan
Mr Shiv Shankar Mahato
Mr Amit Goyal
Ms Eunice Thong
Ms Nidhi Kumari
Mr Jesse Dhuka
Mr Subrata Sahoo
Mr Kamal Giri
Mr Bhushan Giri
Mr Upender Narayan Singh

[C] STATE TEAM

Ms Astha Rastogi
Mr Bimal Kant
Mr Bimal Kumar Sahu
Ms D. Irudaya Rani
Mr E. Kamalakannan
Ms Ganga Gupta
Ms Gayathri M. S.
Ms Kamla Bhatt
Ms Litali Das
Mr Mahendra Kumar Patodia
Mr Mithlesh Yadav
Ms Natasha Sharma
Ms Padmini Ananth
Mr Parigi Vedavyasa
Ms Sanju Devi
Ms Sasikala P
Ms Shahina Perween
Ms Shibani Sharma
Mr Somasekhar A.
Mr Syiram Kevat
Mr Sujeeet Kumar Verma
Mr Sukanta Mohapatra
Ms Swetarupa Kapuri
Mr Virendra Shrimali

[D] AUDITORS

SMS & Associates
Pushpa Mishra
President
Madhya Pradesh
DELHI OFFICE

Ms. Rita Sarin  
*Country Director*

The Hunger Project  
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New Delhi - 110067

Phone: 011- 41688847-51  
Fax: 011- 41688852  
Email: india.office@thp.org

BIHAR OFFICE

Mr. Sujeet Kumar Verma  
*State Coordinator*

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Krishna Kanan-A  
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Patna - 800 001

Phone: 0612- 2521705

KARNATAKA

Mr. Somashekhar Alkod  
*State Coordinator*

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Langford Town, Shantinagar  
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MADHYA PRADESH

Ms. Shibani Sharma  
*State Coordinator*

The Hunger Project  
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Shahpura  
Bhopal - 462016

Phone: 0755- 2424736  
Fax: 0755- 4246259
Odisa

Mr. Sukanta Mohapatra  
*State Coordinator*

The Hunger Project  
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Rajendra Vihar Apartments  
Forest Park  
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Mobile: 094371 19711

Rajasthan

Mr Virendra Shrimali  
*Programme Officer*

The Hunger Project  
A-5, Hawa Sarak  
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Near Yes Vidya Mandir School  
Civil Lines  
Jaipur - 302 006

Phone: 0141 2223123

Tamil Nadu

Ms. Gayathri  
*State Coordinator*

The Hunger Project  
No: 120/1, Saptagiri Colony  
15th Main Road (Near Thirumangalam Signal)  
Anna Nagar West  
Chennai - 600 040

Phone: 044 42695225

Uttarakhand

Ms. Kamla Bhatt  
*Programme Officer*

09, First Floor, Adarsh Nagar  
Gulab Chandra Marg, Street No.-7  
Talli Bamori  
Mukhani, Haldwani  
Distt- Nanital  
Uttarakhand- 263139

Mobile: 094563 66188
LIST OF

ABBREVIATIONS

ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC: Anganwadi Centre
AWW: Anganwadi Worker
BDO: Block Development Officer
BPL: Below Poverty Line
CBOs: Community Based Organizations
CEDAW: Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women
EWR: Elected Woman Representative
FBW: Federation Building Workshop
GP: Gram Panchayat
GSM: Gram Sabha Mobilization
ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services
MBC: Most Backward Community
MDM: Mid-Day Meal
MGNREGA: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NBW: Need based Workshop
NGO: Non-Government Organization
NRHM: National Rural Health Mission
PDS: Public Distribution System
PHC: Primary Health Centre
PLW: Potential Leadership Workshops
PR: Panchayati Raj
PRI: Panchayati Raj Institution
PWDVA: Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
RTE: Right to Education Act
RTI: Right to Information Act
SHG: Self-Help Group
SWEEP: Strengthening Women’s Empowerment through Electoral Processes
TCN: Two Child Norm
THP: The Hunger Project
TOTs: Training of Trainers
VAW: Violence against Women
WHO: World Health Organization
WLW: Women’s Leadership Workshop