

# Promoting Access to Entitlements

Recover Better Support Fund



## The Challenge

**Lack of Social Security for Socially Excluded Vulnerable Communities:** Due to historical and structural reasons, many social security schemes of the government do not reach socially excluded vulnerable communities (SEVC). Many of those communities have, for example, a high share of nomads and migrants. The basic problem is that people from SEVCs do not have proof of eligibility, or do not meet standards of eligibility (like no bank account or no titled land), hence the government system does not fulfil their entitlements.

**Missing Access to Protection Measures:** The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these gaps. Lockdowns and protection measures severely hit life and livelihoods of SEVCs. Village presidents with close links to the community are out of the loop in disaster management protocols and cannot advocate for their community's rights and demands. Civil society organizations are of increasing importance in trying to fill in the gap, by providing ad hoc last mile linkages for relief and community feedback.

Project Name	Social Mobilisation for Resilient Livelihoods during and beyond Disasters
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	India
Implementing Organisation	Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF)
Duration	November 2021 – February 2023

## The Objective

The project aims to promote access to emergency relief, all entitlements, and social security benefits for SEVCs in remote areas. In doing so, the communities can recover better with sustainable livelihoods and full government supported schemes and facilities.

## The Target Group

The beneficiaries are from the most deprived households; women, girls, and people with disabilities are prioritised. The project reaches out to 150 villages in 30 districts, covering up to 60,000 beneficiaries from 15,000 households, in coordination with the 150 village presidents. The presidents and the beneficiaries are from the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or from the most backward classes – the most underserved and deprived sections of Indian society.

## The Approach

**Building Capacities of Elected Representatives:** The focus of the project is building capacity of village presidents and Civil Society at the village level. Also, their awareness about entitlements of their community members in terms of social security coverage, pensions, insurance, subsidies, etc. is strengthened.

**Support in Accessing Entitlements:** Each district will have an animateur who works together with the village presidents. They bring the communities together for the village assemblies, inform them of the schemes, eligibility, procedures, and documentation. The animateurs provide support with filling out application forms and submit them to the respective authority at the village or sub-divisional level and follow up on the application status.



## Contact Person

Edwin  
pd@hrf.net.in



In doing so, beneficiaries get critical documentation to claim welfare schemes and pandemic relief like certificates of birth, death, marriage, community, disability, school, income/ poverty, or title deeds.

**Establishing Platforms for Networking:** In quarterly district meetings of the presidents with the district administration, the needs of the community members are addressed and the application processes for entitlements are followed up. Simultaneously, forums for networking village presidents with similar interests are established to strengthen their ability to access entitlements and social security for the community.

## About HRF

The Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF) is a non-profit, civil society institution working for the promotion and protection of human rights in India since 1993. The Foundation enables socially excluded communities and vulnerable sections of society to exercise their constitutional rights, amplifies their voice, and enhances their participation in decision-making.

## Achieved Results



43,166 people received critical documentation such as certificates of birth, marriage, community, disability, poverty, or title deeds



28,085 people obtained at least one social security benefit



1,510 people received health services like vaccinations



600 quarterly meetings of village assemblies were held to inform and support beneficiaries in application and documentation

The Recover Better Support Fund supports efforts designed and implemented in partner countries to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies while advancing the 2030 Agenda. For that purpose, it deploys two funding lines: (1) Sustainable development advisory bodies and (2) leaving no one behind and strengthening socio-economic resilience. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), it supports 23 projects in 16 countries worldwide with up to 180.000 EUR.

GIZ implements the Recover Better Support Fund. For further information, please visit [www.recoverbettersupportfund.com](http://www.recoverbettersupportfund.com) or contact the funds team at [recoverbetterfund@giz.de](mailto:recoverbetterfund@giz.de)

## Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Sector Project 2030 Agenda, Reducing Poverty and  
Inequality  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36  
53113 Bonn

T +49 288 44600

[recoverbetterfund@giz.de](mailto:recoverbetterfund@giz.de)  
[www.recoverbettersupportfund.com](http://www.recoverbettersupportfund.com)

## As at

July 2023

## Design

GIZ

## Text

Marie-Theres Wohlfahrt

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

## On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## Division

Sector and Global Programmes (GloBe)