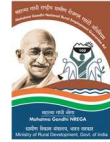




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In cooperation with:



Adaptive Social Protection of Vulnerable Communities for Enhanced Rural Resilience (AVCERR)

The Challenge

India ranked seventh among the most affected countries due to extreme weather events according to the 2019 Climate Risk Index, published by Germanwatch. Extreme weather events such as erratic rainfall patterns, floods and severe heatwaves causes further strain on India's water resources, rural infrastructure and public health systems. As a result, women and vulnerable households in rural regions are particularly affected.

The diversity in the severity of climate events in India's 15 agro-climatic zones makes disaster response a complex task. Moreover, with a population of nearly 1.4 billion people, of which around 65% live in rural areas, the capacity and scope of social protection systems is limited. Only 24.4% of Indians have access to some form of social protection (World Social Protection Report 2022). At the same time, land, water and soil resources are polluted or exploited, which limits the opportunities to create alternative livelihoods.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is the world's largest public employment programme with approximately 140 million registered households (FY 2023-24). The programme offers wages for work to affected households. This wage work contributes towards building essential rural infrastructure and creates livelihood assets. In the process, it restores ecosystems through water, land and soil management measures.

It is the largest safety net available in India against climate shocks, including extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, etc. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is one of

the most effective social protection measures available to cushion loss of income in rural areas.

Objective

The effectiveness of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS can be further enhanced through the integration of climate adaptation and resilience building into the policy framework and social protection mechanisms. The Indo-German development cooperation Project AVCERR aims to **strengthen the institutional capacities for the implementation of adaptive social protection through the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in rural India**. The focus is on improving the resilience of rural communities, mainly women and vulnerable households. This project builds upon the predecessor measure "Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions (ERADA)", which focussed on expanding the livelihood aspects of vulnerable households through Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Project name	Adaptive Social Protection of Vulnerable Communities for Enhanced Rural Resilience (AVCERR)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Bihar and Rajasthan
Partner Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (implementation agreement yet to be signed)
Duration	September 2024 – August 2027

The project is being implemented at the national level and in the states of Bihar and Rajasthan with higher incidences of extreme weather events and various vulnerabilities. The project supports six districts across the five agro-climatic zones in the two states, each with an average of around 350,000 households registered under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Our Approach

Project AVCERR will focus on strengthening climate resilience and disaster risk management aspects of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) through the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. It aims to do so through the following action areas:

(1) Accelerating Implementation

- District administrations in the project area have introduced a digital tool to support decision-making for the implementation of ASP measures.
- 2,000 MGNREGS staff/resource persons (including at least 800 women and 50 people with disabilities) have been skilled to support implementation processes for ASP measures.

(2) Strengthening Planning Processes

- A knowledge product on the extension of permissible works under MGNREGS to include resilient infrastructure and aspects of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Six innovative measures on ASP demonstrated in the six districts.

(3) Dialogues and Knowledge Exchange

- Six national multi-stakeholder dialogues between MoRD and relevant actors in the fields of social protection, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation have been organised.
- Three international exchange formats have been facilitated for MoRD and other key project stakeholders on topics of adaptive social protection.

Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



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