



Grameen Development Services



# 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

**Grameen Development Services**

B-1/59, Sector K, Aliganj, Lucknow

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# The Year 2022-23

**In the year 2022-23**, GDS embarked on a transformative journey, driven by a commitment to empower communities and foster sustainable development.

Our efforts in agricultural livelihood enhancement saw the emergence of empowered farmers' collectives. The promotion of a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in Eastern Uttar Pradesh resonated deeply, uniting 2239 shareholders across 159 villages in Shrawasti and Mahrajanj districts. This strategic aggregation not only enabled fair pricing of produce but also brought down input costs through bulk procurement, amplifying returns and minimizing expenditures. Notably, the expansion of the FPO platform Shrawasti District marked a significant milestone. This endeavor involved 38 dedicated agricultural entrepreneurs and laid the foundation for a transformative partnership with 350 farmers, who joined the company as shareholders. GDS's also feels proud to share those 12,500 farmers in Shrawasti district (78% of the target 16000 farmers) doubled their agriculture income, compared to the base-line, by June 2022, under the CSAL & SS-II project.

In the pursuit of climate resilience, GDS has embarked on a comprehensive approach, that is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on the communities we serve. A key tenet of this approach is to have collaborative ventures in order to harness the power of convergence, synergizing programmes for optimal results. In our Rajasthan programme location, the strategies applied during the year included land and water resources management for bolstering local ecosystems, through MGNREGS, promoting climate resilient agricultural technologies and practices, and facilitating establishment of automated weather stations for customized agro-meteorological advisories. These efforts have resulted in not only optimizing returns from agriculture, but have also empowered farmers to harness the full potential of their lands. The ripple effect of our interventions extended to strategic partnerships with programmes across sectors, magnifying impact. Our focused capacity-building initiatives have resulted in equipping farmers and groups with essential skills to navigate climate uncertainties.

GDS's commitment to disaster risk reduction has remained strong, empowering communities to face climate borne disasters with confidence. Our Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction approach focuses on preparedness and response systems, enabling communities to mitigate the impacts of disasters, and providing need-based relief support to affected communities, should a disaster

happen in our programme areas. During the year, when extensive floods occurred in GDS's programme villages in the Gilaula area (Shrawasti district), we provided relief support worth INR 73 lakh to 2650 Households through DBT.

The winds of change swept through GDS's internal infrastructure as we embarked on a transformative path of organizational development. The GROW Fund project supported by EdelGive Foundation provided the opportunity to revitalize our capacities. Through extensive review processes, we have refined our HR and Finance policies, streamlined operations and fostered accountability. A technological transformation has brought in a new era of data-driven decision-making through the development of an Organizational MIS, in order to streamline data integration and management for improving operational efficiency. A series of organizational review exercises and retreats, and strategic planning exercises organized this year, have accorded us the opportunity to, collectively, relook at our vision and mission; and devise organizational goals and strategies over the next decade.

As we reflect on our journey in the year 2022-23, we see a holistic impact that bounces across chapters, sectors, and lives. We measure our success not only in numbers but in the resilience of communities, in the convergence of programs, in the readiness to respond to disasters, and in the evolution of an organization committed to its own growth and the growth of the communities it serves.

We celebrate the transformation of lives, the elevation of livelihoods, and the forging of a sustainable path ahead.

# Introduction

**Grameen Development Services (GDS)** is a professional development organization, based at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, India). Established in 1993, with the mission of promoting socio-economic advancement of the marginalized communities, GDS has completed three decades of impactful endeavors in the most backward and poverty-stricken regions of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan.

In the ever-changing socio-economic landscape of our country, GDS has distinguished itself as a premier, field-based implementing development organization, constantly navigating the currents of change while championing the empowerment of rural underprivileged populations. GDS's significant contributions in spearheading comprehensive development initiatives have facilitated strategic collaborations with both national and international development players.

## Vision

GDS will contribute to building a just, humane and economically prosperous society

## Mission

To create and strengthen sustainable livelihood systems through community-based participatory approaches with techno-managerial inputs to achieve social and economic empowerment for the poor and disadvantaged sections living in areas of structural poverty within India

## Core Organizational Values

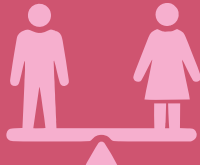
1

**Integrity**



2

**Gender Equality**



3

**Professionalism**



4

**Reflection and Learning**



5

**Collaboration**



# Leadership: Board of Directors

Sl No.	Name	Brief Background
1	<b>Ms. Padmaja Nair</b> President	Masters in Economics with a Diploma in planning and management from the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, she has over 35 years' experience in the social development sector in water & sanitation, program and project planning, institutional development, capacity building and gender.
2	<b>Mr. Probir Bose</b> Lucknow Vice President	Graduate in Commerce from St. Xaviers College, Kolkata, has served for 22 years in the corporate business sector and more than 23 years' experience in the development sector, in the field of livelihoods and organizational development. He has been a consultant to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Udaipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Udaipur. He also served as board member of Nalanda.
3	<b>Mr. S. K. Dwivedi</b> Lucknow Secretary	He is a Masters in Economics and Rural Development and has previously has served with different institutions including GDs for more than 37 years. Mr. Dwivedi has vast experience of a variety of income generation and livelihood programs as a strategist, implementer and a trainer. He is Executive Director of GDS. He is also on the Board of INAFI-India and Nalanda.
4	<b>Mr. Amitabh Mishra</b> Lucknow Treasurer	MA in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has seven years teaching and research experience before joining GDS in 1996. He had been closely coordinating the Institution building in Eastern UP and has vast experience in monitoring & evaluation, field-based research & documentation and capacity building. Presently, he is the program Director in GDS, closely monitoring the strategic directions of field programmes.
5	<b>Ms. Nishi Mehrotra</b> Lucknow Member	Senior Development Consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the field of women's rights and child education issues. She is engaged



**Sl No. Name****Brief Background**

with several national and international development agencies. She has held key positions as State Project Director in 'Mahila Samakhya', with Beti Foundation and SHPHP GTZ, New Delhi. She has also served as Chairperson of GDS for quite some time.

**6**

**Dr. Biswajit Sen**  
Bangalore,  
Member

Dr. Biswajit Sen is well known development professional on livelihoods of poor. He was among the promoters of renowned organizations like Pradan, GDS, Nalanda and several other voluntary initiatives and has been source of inspiration for many grassroots initiatives. He also worked in World Bank on Livelihoods of poor. Currently, he is also Chairperson of Pradan.

**7**

**Dr. C.S. Verma**  
Bangalore,  
Member

A senior researcher, Dr. Verma is a retired Professor from Giri Institute of Development Studies Lucknow. He has greater commitment for the issues of economic empowerment of poor and climate change issues. He is a visiting faculty of several international institutions.

**8**

**Dr. B.K. Joshi**  
Member

Former Director of Giri Institute for Economic Studies Lucknow and Vice Chancellor of Kumaon University and well-known academician. He has been an evaluator and consultant to UNICEF and other education programs in India and overseas. Dr, Joshi made immense contribution to GDS as founder Chairperson of the organization.

**9**

**Mr. Madhwesh Saran Singh**  
Member

Masters in Economics and Rural Development & Management, Mr. Singh is an experienced Rural Development professional with expertise in rural marketing and agriculture development. He has commitment to agriculture development and climate change.

# Themes and Sectors

The broad action framework of GDS's developmental approach centers around enhancing the livelihoods and ensuring food security for rural populations. This approach empowers the communities it engages with, encouraging them to actively contribute to and participate in the developmental initiatives spearheaded by GDS until their successful fruition. This overarching concept is translated into specific interventions and programs based on sectors, sub-sectors, and themes that hold the greatest potential for positively transforming the lives of the underprivileged.

The key sectoral and thematic focus areas of GDS's endeavors can be described as below.

## Agriculture and NRM based livelihood



## Women's Empowerment



## Climate change mitigation



## Livestocks based livelihood



## Disaster Risk Reduction



## Community Institutions



## WASH



# GDS's Operating Model

Grameen Development Services (GDS) adheres to a direct community engagement approach to enhance livelihoods. By fostering interventions that boost household income, productivity, and risk mitigation, GDS establishes a collaborative relationship with the communities it serves. Before embarking on any new project or intervention, GDS undertakes an extensive, context-specific, and participatory 'problem analysis' exercise. This analysis delves into the root causes of the targeted issues, enabling a comprehensive understanding.

The subsequent phase involves sourcing potential 'solutions' for the identified problems. These solutions may encompass technical or technological advancements, often obtained from research institutions or subject matter experts. Building upon the identified solutions, GDS strategically designs projects or interventions, often in the form of carefully crafted packages of practices (PoPs). This process follows a 'participatory technology selection' approach, ensuring the active involvement of both the community and experts throughout.

The field implementation of projects/interventions follows a cyclical, three-stage process:

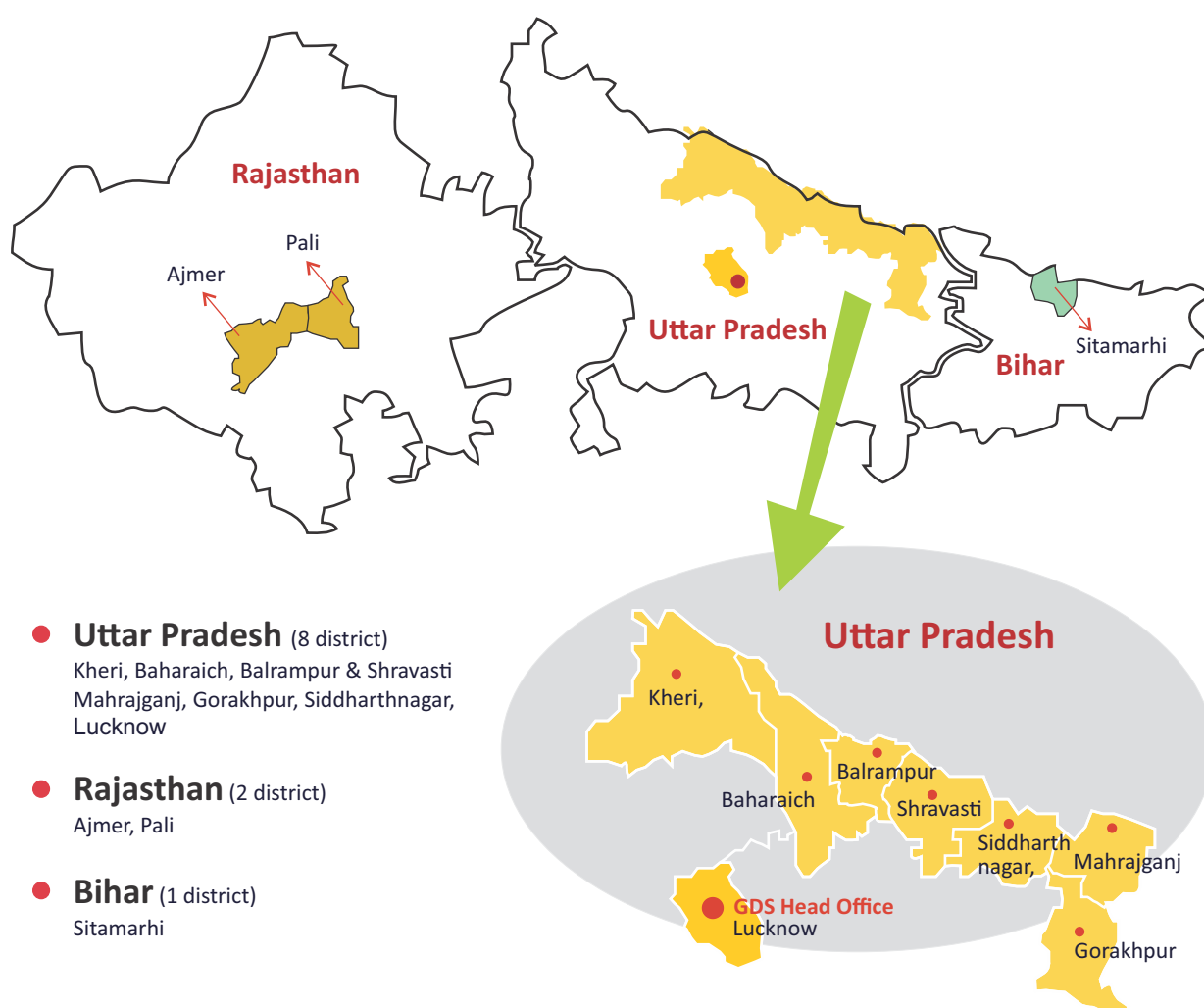
1. **Field Testing:** Selected technologies or solutions undergo limited-scale testing under close supervision to assess suitability, and any necessary adjustments are made before further testing.
2. **Demonstration:** Successful technologies are showcased at strategically chosen locations, promoting their broader application and impact.
3. **Up-scaling:** Technologies proven effective move towards larger-scale propagation. Collaboration with various stakeholders, including governmental bodies, becomes pivotal. Proper documentation is also undertaken for knowledge sharing.

Integral to GDS's operational model is the promotion of community-based institutions that support intervention-specific livelihoods. These institutions operate at various levels, from primary institutes such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Producer Groups, and Village Disaster Management Groups, to secondary level entities like federations of SHGs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Recognizing their significance in ensuring the longevity of interventions, GDS allocates resources for their capacity building.

Gender equity is a cross-cutting theme in GDS's operating model.

GDS may also work in a 'network' mode for widening the coverage of projects and interventions. Under this, GDS performs a leadership role in a network of grassroots level NGOs and stakeholders, for the implementation of a project.

## GDS Geographical Coverage



## Coverage

With its concentration on north region of the country, GDS prefers to work in such geographies that are characterized by structural poverty mainly in rural habitations. More specifically, outreach of GDS could be made so far within the eastern, central and southern Uttar Pradesh; north-western Bihar; and central Rajasthan characterized with diverse climatic contexts; flood plains in eastern UP & northern Bihar semi-arid in Bundelkhand region and Ajmer & Pali in central Rajasthan. By the end of year 2022-23, GDS outreach has been to 2,19,684 households living in 1533 villages in 20 districts and 68 blocks. **(This year GDS has worked with 34666 Households directly and 108805 HH indirectly through extension.)**



# Agriculture Development Approach

GDS sees agricultural development as a catalyst for multidimensional change. Strengthening small and marginal farmers ripples into rural economic growth, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. This holistic approach mirrors our commitment to lasting transformation for both individuals and their communities. Our strategy in agricultural development is centered on empowering the farming households to optimize income from agriculture while embracing sustainable agricultural practices.

Our approach hinges on empowerment through knowledge. Equipping farmers with informed decision-making tools not only enhance yields and efficiency but secures livelihoods for the long term. Collective strength is a force multiplier. GDS unites farmers, creating a shared space for knowledge exchange, innovation, and experience-sharing. This collective synergy not only enriches understanding but also fuels adaptive practices. Our empowerment canvas extends beyond the fields. Collective marketing initiatives empower farmers to collectively negotiate better prices for their produce. This economic upswing echoes the power of unity.

Components of GDS's Agriculture Development Model.

<b>Sustainable Farming</b>	Improved Crop Management Practices Natural, Organic and Regenerative Farming Practices Crop Diversification Optimizing Agricultural Inputs Nutrient Rich Crops
<b>Farmer Collectives &amp; Agribusiness Development</b>	Farmer Groups / Collectives at Village Level Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) Promotion of Agri Entrepreneurs Capacity Building for Institutional Governance and Management Business Development & Market Linkages
<b>Environmentally Friendly Approaches</b>	Solar Pumps for Irrigation Responsible Use of Chemical Pesticides/Fertilizers Enhancing Soil Health & Productivity Water & Soil Conservation Technologies and Practices
<b>Technological advancement</b>	Farm Mechanisation Hi – tech nursery DSR, Zero tillage

## Strategies for Agriculture Development

GDS believes that all the agro-climatic/socio-economic contexts have unique characteristics, in terms of issues, problems and limitations, and also so far as their resource base, capacities and opportunity profiles are concerned. Hence, they require contextualized and tailor-made intervention strategies. Based on this assumption, the strategic approach that GDS has evolved for this purpose is as follows:

- ➔ Building a context/micro-context level understanding of the specific issues, problems and risks that agriculture/livestock rearing based livelihoods is faced, along with the existing capacities, knowledge base and coping practices of the targeted farmers/households. This process is carried out by using participatory methods
- ➔ Finding innovative technical/technological solutions to the critical issues and problems and developing around them 'improved' context-specific packages of agricultural technologies, techniques and package of practices (PoPs) that are environmentally and economically sustainable, feasible and practical/convenient to use by the farmers. These technologies may be sourced from agriculture universities, research institutions and subject matter experts. The 'packages' thus devised are tested in the field with progressive farmers
- ➔ The successful packages or the technologies/practices are then propagated for wider application in the project area, and even beyond
- ➔ A related strategy that GDS applies is to promote livelihoods-based community institutions of the targeted households, both at primary level (SHG, Farmers' Club) and at secondary level (Federation & Producer Organizations of farmers), for pooling of resources, mutual help and towards ensuring the stability and sustainability of the impact.



# Key Interventions in Agriculture Development

## Promotion of High Value Crops and Crop Diversification

In the focal regions of Shrawasti, Bahraich, and Balarampur, where agriculture serves as the backbone of livelihoods, GDS has undertaken extensive initiatives with significant impact. Notably recognized as aspirational districts by *Niti Aayog*, these areas feature an overwhelming majority of small and marginal farmers, (approximately 98%, with land holdings less than 2 hectares). Among GDS's agriculture program beneficiaries, almost half cultivate less than 1 acre of land.

Crops	Farmers	Area in Acre
Potato	5346	555
Onion	5110	730
Ground Nut	2456	380
Cauli Flower	1146	89
Other Vegetables	1872	136
Machan	463	49
Lentil	4653	2198
Pigeon Pea	1988	387
Maize	2331	478
Inter cropping	268	141



In these contexts, traditional monocropping practices prevail, with paddy during kharif and wheat in rabi, while substantial tracts of land remain fallow during Zaid. GDS efficiently dealt with this issue through the promotion of high-value crops (HVCs), This was a strategic change in their efforts to farming. The promotion of high-value crops covered a wide range of crops- Potato, Onion, Groundnut, Cauliflower, and Other Vegetables. Complementary crops such as Cucurbits, Lentil, Pigeon Pea, Maize, and Intercropping added further dimensions. Technical guidance wasn't limited to crop PoPs but also included practices for soil health enhancement- use of green and brown manure, soil and seed treatment, and encouraged balanced fertilizer application.

The endeavors extended towards nutritional enrichment as well, with GDS introducing zinc-fortified wheat varieties, this initiative adopted sustainable practices while focusing on holistic community well-being.

## Game changer High Value Crop of Onion

<b>Farmer -</b>	Parvati Devi W/O Shankar Address—Akara
<b>Block -</b>	Gilaula, District - Shravasti, U.P.
<b>Date of nursery sowing -</b>	24 November 2021
<b>Date of Transplanting -</b>	15 January 2022
<b>Date of Harvesting -</b>	16 May 2022

### Before Intervention:

Mrs. Parvati is a farmer in Akara village at Gilaula block, Shravasti. She owned a 1.4-acre land where she grew traditional crops such as rice, wheat and lentils. However, the income from the crops was not sufficient to support her family of five members, including her husband and three children who lived in a small house. Mrs. Parvati struggled to make her farming a beneficial venture for her family.

### After Intervention:

Mrs. Parvati attended a training which was organized in her village by the field coordinator of GDS. She learned the methods of onion farming and knew benefits of HVCs. She heard the fellow farmers who had success with this crop. She decided to cultivate onion crop and got onion seeds facilitated by GDS. She worked hard to prepare the onion nursery. She made soil treatment and seed treatment before sowing the nursery and proper looking after the crop during the growing. The total investment of the onion crop in 1.4-acre land was Rs.14,000/-.

Her hard work turned into a success when Mrs. Parvati harvested 44 quintals of good yield in 0.4-acre land. She sold the onions at Rs.15 per kg in the local market and made a net profit of Rs.52,000/-. After harvesting onion, she grew ground nut in that field. She reinvested the profit in the next season's crop and was able to increase her yield further.



## Capacity Building of Farmers & FFS

Agriculture extension is the primary gap in various grassroots initiatives and schemes. Despite various agricultural universities and institutions such as; ATMA, KVK and NGOs; there are still difficulties in reaching out to the vast majority of farmers in order to make agricultural interventions successful, it is necessary that the farmers themselves take charge of knowledge sharing and dissemination. A Farmer Field School (FFS) is one such platform, where farmers come together to learn from visiting experts. Apart from FFS, GDS also organize various field level capacity building initiatives, based on the 'improved' PoPs for various high-value and staple crops. GDS also uses the Producer Groups and SHGs as platforms for dissemination of knowledge to farmers. During the year around two different projects were focused on farmer's capacity building in Shrawasti, Bahraich and Balarampur districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Under FFS in three districts, total 905 FFS seasons were conducted with overall participants 13457. The overall participants number is overlapping with unique farmers, those received training more than one time during the year. Apart from that, in the Shrawasti district under CSAL (Climate Smart Agriculture Livestock) and Sujalam Sufalam Project 1574 farmer training program was conducted.

Under the ITC supported Mission Sunera Kal (MSK) initiative in the districts Bahraich, Balarampur and Shrawasti, for wider dissemination of improved technologies and practices GDS extended capacity building support to the government agriculture extension system functionaries through the cascade model. This resulted in propagation of improved technologies such as 'direct seeding of rice' (DSR), Zero-tillage method of wheat sowing, Machan method of vegetable cultivation, and application of toilet slurry as manure to over **30,000 farmers** in the three districts.



## Vegetables cultivation enhanced family income

### **Before Intervention:** - MIS no.7663, Baseline income Rs.4, 000

Ms. Radhika w/o Mr. Chetram Maurya lives in Parsa Devtaha village in Sirsiya Block, Shrawasti. They have a family of 6 members and their main source of income is agriculture. They own a piece of land which is 0.25 acres in size and has 0.8 acres of rental land. The village is situated nearby the forest therefore; they get worried about wild animal attacks. They also lack basic necessities like clean drinking water, electricity, proper roads and toilets due to their remote location. Even though they face challenges such as not having good resources, lack of proper irrigation and not having access to updated information, Radhika still uses traditional method to grow crops like rice, wheat and maize.

**Sujalam Sufalam Interventions-** A member of the GDS field team arranged a meeting in the Parsa Devtaha village to talk about growing valuable crops.

They discussed a method called multi layered cultivation. Radhika's family was at the meeting. They were interested in the growing onions using the technique called Machan cultivation. They took part in the training sessions about growing onions and learned how to set up a Machan structure. They decided to grown onion in their 0.25-acre land. GDS provided Radhika's family with Lalima variety onion seeds. Radhika prepared a raised bed for Onion plants and moved them after 38 days. They also built a Machan structure in their onion field. She purchased bottle gourd seed from market as variety guided by GDS. Onion crop taken approximately 110 days to be mature. She started harvesting and selling the onion produce in the weekly local market.

They got 23 quintals of Onion and 22.6 quintal bottle gourd. They got an average Rs. 18-20 per kg for onion and earned Rs. 41,400/-. Thus, they sold bottle gourd by Rs. 12-15 per Kg and got approximate Rs. 29,300/-. The total cost of cultivation was Rs. 22,200. Net profit was Rs. 48,500. Seeing the production of onion & bottle gourd, family members and neighboring farmers appreciated Radhika's decision.



**After intervention** - Now Radhika has also got second hand pumping set for irrigation from earning of vegetables. She has decided to grow vegetables in every season by which they can earn **Rs.1200-1300** per week. During the last Kharif season, she has cultivated groundnut in 0.5 acres.

## Exposure Visits – Farmers & Team

The year witnessed the organization of fifteen farmer exposures, each presenting invaluable insights and knowledge exchange. These tours played an important role in enhancing both farmers' and team members' knowledge and understanding, for adoption and promotion of innovative practices and methodologies.

The farmers' exposure visits covered a various theme, ranging from DSR plots in the Kharif season to the Machan method of vegetable cultivation, Zero Tillage (ZT) method of wheat cultivation, as well as exposure to solar technology and visits to technology institutions like KVK Bahraich and Narendra Dev Agricultural University in Kumar Ganj.

Parallely, the development of the core team remained a foundation. Equipped with comprehensive training programs, the team members were nurtured to their full potential. The subjects involved a diverse range including governance of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs), climate-smart agriculture, communication skills, and gender mainstreaming. Expanding horizons, members from the GDS agriculture teams participated in training on Maize Cultivation at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, IIVR Varanasi on advancements in agricultural research, and the Net shade of the Kheyti Model in Balarampur, highlighted innovations in protected cultivation methods.

## Water Availability and it's usage

Within the program area, the challenges of inadequate irrigation facilities and flood irrigation practices have been notably prevalent. GDS has taken proactive steps to address these issues, effecting positive change throughout the landscape.





A significant progress was made on this issue through the promotion of 68 solar pumps. This initiative, executed in collaboration with a technology promoting agency, not only marked a cost-effective approach to irrigation but also aligned with the overarching objective of reducing carbon emissions. This strategic move, on the one hand, enhanced agricultural productivity and also highlighted GDS's commitment to sustainable practices. Aligned with our efforts to promote solar pumps, GDS took a step further by overseeing the installation of 241 Micro Irrigation systems. This accomplishment stands as a testament to our holistic approach towards enhancing water use efficiency. Leveraging the opportunities presented by various schemes offered by mainstream departments.

Further, a community-driven approach was adopted to enhance water availability and ground water recharge through pond renovation. SHGs (Self-Help Groups) played an instrumental role by submitting applications to Gram Panchayats for the renovation of 46 ponds. During the year, 26 out of these ponds were successfully revitalized through channeling MNREGA resources. Through our concerted efforts to tackle irrigation obstacles, knowledge building on sustainable agriculture, we are steadfastly working towards crafting a future where water assumes the role of a catalyst for prosperity.

## Creation of Support system for Agribusiness Development

Grameen Development Services (GDS) has embraced a multifaceted approach to catalyze agribusiness to promote rural economic growth. To strengthen the agribusiness landscape, GDS employs two-pronged strategy-. the first revolves around nurturing community institutions such as Producer Groups (PGs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Simultaneously, GDS places significant emphasis on nurturing Agri-entrepreneurs, linking both mechanisms with the overarching presence of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs). Functioning as a second-tier institution, FPOs comprehensively address the farmers' requirements across the input and output chains through business approach. This strategic approach not only creates a robust support system but also provides a holistic ecosystem for agribusiness. The second strategy comprised promotion of a cadre- Agri-entrepreneurs (AEs). During the year, under the aegis of Sujalam Sufalam Project-II, 50 AEs were meticulously trained and certified by the Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Growth Foundation (AEGF). These AEs are providing critical support in farm mechanization, input-output trading, nursery management and provision of banking facilities to farmers.

A series of targeted training programs further fortified this landscape. Business planning, promotion, and the attributes of a successful entrepreneur participated in workshops conducted for 54 active AEs against a total enrolment of 76. Among these, 20 AEs received the branding support to promote their business ventures. This year's initiatives extended beyond individuals to cover community institutions, with training provided to Project community resource persons (CRPs). Their exposure covered a spectrum from Climate Smart Agriculture and water and soil conservation techniques to improved High-Value Crops (HVCs) practices, notably focusing on potato, onion, cauliflower, and intercropping.

GDS's commitment was intense not just in training but also in facilitating infrastructural setups. High-tech nurseries and shade-net units, totaling 10 and 9 respectively, handling entire





management by the AEs selected from Community Institutions. These units are working in collaboration with CI members and other farmers. Also, GDS's efforts extended to farm mechanization through the establishment of five Farm Resource Centers and the nurturing of 7 Individual Agriculture Entrepreneurs. These envoys of mechanized services added yet another layer to the enriched agribusiness landscape, directly serving the farmers and igniting agricultural progress.

## Case Study:

### Tilak Ram, High-Tech Nursery Entrepreneur

Tilak Ram is a 35-year-old man who lives in Vishambhar village, Sirsiya. He lives with his wife, parents and has two young children. In the past he used to work as a labor outside of his village but the money he earned along with his wife's income was not sufficient to meet all their needs. Tilak Ram has always

been passionate about gardening and farming and always wanted to start his own business selling vegetable seedlings. After: Tilak Ram decided to pursue his dream of starting a vegetable nursery business. With a few savings and help of GDS who provided subsidy for entrepreneur to set up High-Tech nursery, Tilak Ram started his vegetable nursery polyhouse business in Nov. 2022 with a small Nursery house covering an area of 100 square meters. He started by growing tomato, cucumber, and brinjal, Cauliflower seedlings and sold them to local farmers. Tilak Ram had noticed that farmers in his area were struggling with low quality seedling; he decided to provide them with high-quality vegetable seedlings. Initially, he faced some challenges with managing the plant in the nursery house, but with the help of a GDS field team and TATA Trusts officials & visitors, he was able to overcome these challenges.



Within three-four months, his business picked up the pace. He started selling the seedlings to nearby farmers and vegetable growers. To take a hike in his business, he also arranged a small stand at roadside where he used to sell his seedlings to the farmers travelling by the road. He sold 8500 plants to more than 150 farmers and earned Rs. 33,500 within Feb-March 2023. The net profit got Rs. 20,750. It is the starting up with the nursery business which motivated entrepreneurs for more efforts and preparing more seedlings according demands of local farmers. He decided to spend 50% of profit to enhance his business and rest 50% for meeting the household needs and wellbeing of family. His wife devoted her time from domestic work to help in nursery business.

Overall, Tilak Ram's decision to start a nursery business has had a positive impact on his family's financial and emotional well-being. It has provided them livelihood security where there is no need to migrate for other villages to work as a labor.



### Conclusion

Tilak Ram's success story demonstrates the potential for rural entrepreneurship in agricultural in Shravasti. With the support of TATA Trusts and GDS in terms of financial and modern farming techniques, entrepreneurs like Tilak Ram can start small businesses and provide high-quality nurseries to local farmers, thereby improving their livelihoods and the overall economic conditions in rural areas.



# Promotion of Community Institutions

GDS believes in enabling approach of development. That is, it strives to empower the communities it works with by building such structures, systems, capacities, awareness and knowledge among them so that they become proactive participants in their own social and economic development processes. One of the key characteristics of the poor and socially marginalized communities in our country is that they lack in social capital, defined here as opportunities available to people for participation in informal or formal networks and associations of assistance and mutual support. These networks could be in the form of cooperatives, self-help groups, clubs, political associations, caste-based associations or other forms of village associations. In fact, a lack of such networks and systems of mutual support can be attributed to be one of the most critical causes of poverty and deprivation among these communities, and of their inability to come out of vicious circle of poverty.

Hence, as GDS primarily works with the poor and the socially marginalized communities in all its programmers and interventions, promoting 'social capital' amongst them has emerged as one of the most important elements of GDS's strategic approach. Through hands-on fieldwork, experimentation, and a willingness to learn from trial and error, GDS has gained valuable insights into the significance and methodology of community institutions development.

The true value of working with CIs extends beyond convenience and efficiency in implementing projects. These institutions play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of interventions in several ways. They strengthen the agency of the community members, fostering decision-making abilities, shared responsibilities, and leadership and management capacities. Moreover, CIs cultivate a sense of community ownership, reducing dependency on external



actors through facilitation of meaningful linkages with relevant stakeholders. These CIs provides a platform for collective actions, layering of various interventions and enables the aggregations. Subsequently, they contribute to the sustainability of impact and ease the process of disengagement and withdrawal.

GDS has promoted multiple types of community organizations and institutions based on the nature and needs of interventions. These include Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Federations of SHGs, Business Groups focusing on women's enterprises and microfinance. Additionally, there are Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMC)/Task Forces and Village Water Management Committees (VWMC) for community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and water governance interventions. In the agriculture and livestock development domain, GDS has promoted Water User Groups (WUG), Goat Rearing Groups (GRG), Farmer Groups (FG), Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPO)/Primary Producer Companies (PPC), and Paravets' collectives.

Locations	Maharajganj		Balarampur		Shravasti		Balarampur		Palia Kalan		Lalitpur		Muzaferpur/ Sitamarhi		Jawaja		Total	
	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members	No	Members
Women SHG		3174			748	9891					176	1325	165	1980	272	3042	1661	19412
GRG / PG					125	1818							4	95	63	2787	192	4700
VLI / Clusters	12	600			25	213									24	3042	61	3855
Federation / Apex	2	3095							1	6000	2	1250			2	2815	7	13160
PPC	1	2034			1	350									0	0	2	2384
FFS			50	1950	50	1309	200	5236									300	8495
WUG / VWMC	21	968							21	210							42	1178
WASH Committee	15	256	15	216													30	472
DMG / VDMC / SDMC / TF	30	453	30	453									45	478			105	1384
Citizen Forum									1	33							1	33
Total																	2401	55073

## Empowering SHG Federations: Transformative Community Networks

GDS's approach to community empowerment extends beyond individual primary level institutions, acknowledging their inherent limitations due to size. In response, GDS employs a strategic solution – the establishment of federations that harness collective strength. These federations are cultivated through the systematic networking of primary level entities like Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers' Clubs (FCs), Disaster Mitigation Groups (DMGs), and Goat Rearers Groups (GRGs).

The impact of these federations manifested through a variety of services and support to



members. Crucially, they offer sustenance to primary institutions, providing services like bookkeeping and conflict resolution to SHGs, often through revenue-based models. These services foster cohesion within SHGs. Federations also facilitate access to expanded credit resources, drawn from the federation corpus, while establishing links with mainstream financial institutions. Secondly, the federations enhance livelihoods through the provision of improved agricultural inputs, vaccination and veterinary services, and collaborative business initiatives such as collective procurement, sales, and distribution of quality seeds. By embedding rights-related sensitization, these federations empower members to advocate for their rights and entitlements at both community and PRI levels.

The impact of federations is visible across GDS's program locations. Be it Khalilabad, Lalitpur, or Jawaja and others, these federations have demonstrated their capacity to address intricate social issues and sustain a robust foundation of community institutions. While Jawaja and Maharajganj federations prioritize enhancing agriculture and livelihoods, each federation embodies a transformative force, epitomizing GDS's dedication to community empowerment and enduring change.

## Federations in Jawaja, Rajasthan

Within GDS's network, the essence of empowerment resonates through the establishment of 279 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), 18 Village Organizations (VOs), and 2 impactful federations – Suraj Mahila Mahasangh & Ujala Mahila Mahasangh in Ajmer and Pali districts. A reflection of dynamism, this federation-driven approach channels energies towards creating holistic impact. during 2022-23, seven new SHGs formed, the emergence of new SHGs within existing villages fuelled growth, even in the face of government programmes and expanding MFI operations. Currently, the 279 SHGs have 2815 members, generating saving mobilization of Rs. 33,74,950 this year and Rs. 4,45,62,850 since inception. Interest earnings of Rs. 1,41,59,940 this year and Rs. 6,72,39,270 in total underline their financial strength. Facilitating day-to-day functions,



the Federation oversees SHG operations, aligning their role with sustainability. Community institutions cost management has become their internal responsibility, while 18 Village Level Institutions (VLIs) support operations.

The crux of this approach surfaces through credit linkage, a driving force for growth. During the year, 82 SHGs secured credit from banks, totaling Rs. 3,60,76,100, from ICICI, Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank, and Bank of Baroda. The dedicated efforts saw an infusion of 2.76 Crore from ICICI alone this year. Moreover, GDS's interventions extend beyond microfinance. SHG Federations orchestrated an array of transformative actions, navigating diverse terrains. Capacity-building efforts included concept seeding, leadership strengthening, financial discipline, and credit planning trainings. This equips SHGs with independence, as service charges instill self-sufficiency and sustain institutions. also, training on self-management invigorated federations, ushering in leadership rotations, and enhancing governance. The momentum translated into action, propelling sanitary pad initiatives and fostering a network of 20 distribution centers.

Amidst the multifaceted endeavors, the food grain initiative emerged as a beacon. since over the last decade, the federations have ensured food security for members through this initiative. Bulk procurement and distribution are a symbol of member-centric support, facilitated by efficient managerial ability. Through consistent engagement with government departments, federations have galvanized members to access social security schemes, such as widow pensions, old age pensions, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ration cards, Palnhar, and Chiranjeevi Yojana.

## **Grameen Vikas Trusts – Federation in Maharajganj**

Federated with 218 SHGs, GVT is engaged mainly in promoting thrift & credit practices among them. 77 SHGs were facilitated for linkage with UPSRLM. Trust provides cadre services to maintain SHG accounts and other relevant documentation on regular basis and accepts service charges from concerned SHGs. Total expenditure of Rs. 1, 60,732/- against income of Rs. 2,48,382/- was made during the reporting year and the cumulative total net income was Rs. 11,78,390/- by the end of March, 2021.

In pursuit of maximizing returns and minimizing input costs, the concept of collectivization within the agricultural sector has gained momentum. This realization led to the establishment of Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs), a powerful mechanism for aggregating farmers' efforts. Such entities empower farmers to secure fair prices for their produce while simultaneously benefiting from bulk purchase advantages that reduce input costs. A remarkable embodiment of this concept is "Lehra Agro Producer Company Limited" (LAPCL), founded under the Companies Act 1856 in June 2010. With 2239 shareholders and a 6-member governing board, LAPCL is positioned to provide overarching governance and strategic managerial support. This board consists entirely of farmers, reflecting the FPO's farmer-centric essence.

## **Empowering Farmers through Aggregation: The LAPCL - FPO**

LAPCL's influence extends across 159 villages, spanning 10 blocks in Mahrajganj, Gorakhpur,



Sidharth Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Shravasti districts. Notably, its business footprint expanded to encompass Shravasti District from May 2022, amplifying its impact. This expansion is coupled with the infusion of agricultural facilities for the farmers of Shravasti, facilitated through the role of Agri-entrepreneurs (AEs). In the context of Shravasti's Sirsiya and Gilaula blocks, 68 villages stand to gain from the provision of facilities. Guided by the efforts of 38 agriculture entrepreneurs, LAPCL ensures accessibility of these services to the farming community.

The bedrock of LAPCL's governance is its governing body comprising six farmers, with balanced gender representation of 4 male and 2 female members. As its corporate branch in Shravasti burgeoned, a new executive committee comprising 12 members, including 5 women and 7 men, was established. Further expansion is envisioned, with the formation of a new BoD council that mirrors the broader membership landscape across different locations.

LAPCL's services extend to a spectrum of agricultural needs, encompassing a variety of crops such as paddy, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, fodder, potato, onion, and vegetables. Access to agrochemicals including fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, and micronutrients, along with animal feed (Gyandhara), empowers farmers holistically. The most recent stride involves the procurement of farmers' produce, marking a significant step in LAPCL's journey. Through its tireless efforts, LAPCL is fostering a sense of unity among farmers, enabling them to leverage collective strength and stand stronger together in their pursuit of prosperity. Business of LAPCL is as below.

#### As on March 2023-

1.	Shareholders –	2388 (1337 Female & 1051 Male)
2.	Input Seed Business –	100,29,249.00
3.	Output Business –	37,60,202.00
4.	Seed Production / Multiplication -	14,52,348.00
5.	Nursery – Samplings -	2,69,030.00
6.	Farm Machinery -	1,32,725.00
7.	Total turnover –	1,56,43,554.00
8.	Net profit –	3,47,000



# Climate Resilience

Within its multifaceted initiatives, GDS has embraced Climate Resilience as both a core and cross-cutting theme. This strategic approach manifests in two dimensions: dedicated projects aimed at building climate resilience and the infusion of climate resilience activities into existing projects. The approach GDS adopts is comprehensive, encompassing various strategies that synergize to create an integrated response to climate resilience challenges:

1. **Integrated Land and Water Management:** A cornerstone of GDS's approach is channelling efforts through MGNREGA to manage land and water resources effectively. This includes the implementation of infrastructural projects that mitigate climate-related vulnerabilities.
2. **Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices:** GDS promotes the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, empowering farmers to navigate the changing climate landscape. This encompasses techniques like soil conservation, crop diversification, and efficient water management.
3. **Tailored Agro-Meteorological Advisories:** Leveraging technology, GDS provides farmers with customized agro-meteorological advisories. These advisories optimize input usage and enhance agricultural productivity, aligning with climate-resilient practices.
4. **Program Convergence:** GDS facilitates convergence with complementary programs such as State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), agriculture, horticulture, and forestry initiatives. This coordinated effort maximizes the impact of climate resilience interventions.
5. **Skill Enhancement for Income Generation:** GDS recognizes skill development as a catalyst for income generation. The organization offers training to upgrade skills, enabling individuals to enhance their livelihoods and adapt to changing environmental conditions.
6. **Empowering Community Groups:** Collaboration with farmer groups and Women Self-Help





Groups (SHGs) serves as a potent mechanism to propagate climate resilience practices at the grassroots level.

The central tenet of GDS's strategy lies in convergence, a focused alignment of efforts that enhances infrastructure productivity, fortifies livelihoods, improves resilience, and fosters rural economic growth. By synergizing interventions, GDS ensures that climate resilience permeates the fabric of its projects, safeguarding communities and empowering them to thrive amidst evolving climatic challenges. This holistic approach, illustrated below, embodies GDS's commitment to a sustainable and resilient future.



A testament to this commitment is the project "Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth", undertaken at the Ajmer (Rajasthan) location in 2022-23, in collaboration with UNDP. The project's overarching aim was to bolster the resilience of rural communities by fostering convergence and scalability of livelihood options intertwined with rural infrastructure development schemes, particularly the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The project had three objectives: first, to augment the livelihood security of vulnerable rural populations, especially those with constrained adaptive capacities; second, to enhance the productivity of infrastructural assets established through MGNREGS; and, third, to fortify the resilience of impoverished communities while concurrently supporting the growth of the rural economy. The key interventions under the project were as below:

- **Capacity Building for Climate Resilience:**

Empowering Communities for Action GDS's commitment to building climate resilience is epitomized by its comprehensive capacity-building initiatives,



spanning a spectrum of stakeholders from community members to local governance bodies. These programs are strategically designed to enhance awareness, instill skills, and drive proactive responses to climate challenges. Through a series of focused activities, GDS aims to strengthen the adaptive capacities of communities and institutions alike. For community level capacity building, the modules were on water and soil conservation, climate-smart farming, and rooftop rainwater harvesting system and covered 2847 participants through 85 training events. A training programme designed for MNREGS mates, was delivered through 11 batches (439 participants) for enhancing their understanding of tasks and technical aspects of constructing climate resilient infrastructure.

Also, two trainings were organized for 63 'Community Climate Managers', for disseminating climate advisories generated from Automated Weather Stations. Agro-advisory services were extended to over 2000 farmers via platforms like Secufarm. Similarly, for climate-smart GPDP preparation, GDS supported the gram panchayats, in developing detailed project reports for 31 NRM projects.

### ● **Converging for Impact**

GDS facilitated convergence with MNREGA and various line departments to channel benefits to communities. Through collaborative efforts, 31 detailed project reports (DPRs) were prepared, addressing crucial needs. 68 applications for goat sheds were submitted, with 09 sanctioned. Promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices saw 198 farmers receiving seeds, and 16 adopting super composting methods. Convergence with PHED led to the treatment of 8 lakh liters of water, benefiting 178 members.

### ● **Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture**

the strategy for promotion of climate-smart agriculture focused at crop diversification, irrigation management, and organic cultivation. Transformative changes include replacing maize with Bajra and wheat with Barley, alongside promoting efficient fodder cultivation practices. Through community mobilization, 65 farmers adopted fodder chopping, minimizing wastage.

### ● **Promoting Nutrition Gardens**

GDS introduces kitchen gardens to enhance nutrition levels among women and adolescent girls while managing grey water sustainably. Orientations and training sessions resulted in establishment of 223 backyard kitchen gardens. Women SHG federations provided seeds, and ICRG team extended technical support, translating into tangible improvements in household nutrition.

## **Enhancing Social Security Access**

GDS facilitates community meetings, orientations, and application camps to expedite access to social protection schemes. Over 328 applications were submitted across various schemes, aiding labor and education departments. GDS's proactive approach also ensures access to left-out beneficiaries, amplifying the reach of health guarantee schemes.

### ● **Weather Stations for Informed Farming**

The installation of 02 Automated Weather Stations (AWS) in Taragarh and Badakheda Gram Panchayats supports over 2000 farmers with real-time weather updates through the Secufarm mobile app. Tailoring agro-advisories for maize in Kharif and wheat in Rabi seasons maximizes agricultural efficiency.

### ● **Sharing Experiences and Learnings**

GDS organized knowledge sharing through a district-level roundtable workshop. This gathering, which drew participation from practitioners, government officials, and CSO partners facilitated an exchange of insights. Diverse perspectives, ranging from GDS's interventions to successful climate smart practices, enriched the dialogue.

# Disaster Risk Reduction

Since 2001, GDS has been at the forefront of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts, specifically focusing on flood-prone areas. The initiation of community-based flood preparedness and response systems aimed to safeguard livelihoods in regions highly vulnerable to flood disasters. Evolving over time, these interventions have transformed into a comprehensive program model, empowering communities to counter the adverse impacts of floods.

GDS's approach to Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) is based on the tenet that the sufferer is the first responder. The strategy hinges on enabling communities to objectively comprehend the nature of their challenges and then actively collaborate in crafting solutions, effectively putting these solutions into practice.

The CBDRR Model embodies the following core objectives:

- ➔ Minimizing the loss of livelihoods due to floods
- ➔ Establishing community-driven and managed preparedness and response systems
- ➔ Advocating for policy and practice changes concerning flood disaster-related issues

By fostering a sense of ownership, empowerment, and proactive engagement among communities, GDS's CBDRR approach builds resilience at the grassroots level, enabling communities to stand strong against the challenges posed by floods.

During the year the two major interventions under this theme were as follows-





## Humanitarian Assistance to Flood-Affected Communities

In the aftermath of the devastating floods that struck Gilaula block in Shravasti district in October 2022, GDS swiftly responded to the crisis. The floods wreaked havoc on standing Kharif crops, livestock, houses, and disrupted the normalcy of life in 9 villages. Recognizing the urgency, GDS proposed and secured approval for emergency relief support from CRS, amounting to Rs. 72.45 lakhs for a 4-month period, from December 2022 to April 2023. The primary goal was to aid flood-affected communities in their recovery and livelihood restoration efforts.

The strategic objective of the intervention revolved around providing flood-affected households with the resources to rebuild their livelihoods. A total of 2650 small and marginal farmers, including 18 differently-abled beneficiaries, were covered under the initiative. Approximately 58% of the beneficiaries were women. Through direct cash transfers (Approximately, Rs. 72 lakh) to designated bank accounts, farmers received support for purchasing seeds, land preparation, and sowing, promoting the revival of their agricultural activities. Beneficiary orientations on responsible cash use, social issues, and impact were held, fostering informed utilization of the assistance. GDS undertook a series of meticulous activities to ensure the efficient distribution and utilization of funds. Registration, verification of beneficiaries, and data management were handled systematically using the ODK app. post-disbursal monitoring was facilitated through the 'CommCare app' to gather feedback on the disbursement process and assess the impact on beneficiaries.

## Disaster Relief Materials Warehouse

In response to recurring monsoon-related disasters like floods and waterlogging in the northern region, GDS partnered with Oxfam India to establish a disaster relief materials warehouse in Khalilabad (S K Nagar district, UP) in 2009-10. This collaborative venture aimed at providing swift aid to affected populations and restore normalcy. The partnership continued under a pre-teaming agreement, later relocating the warehouse to Pharenda (Mahrajganj) in 2020-21 following GDS's transition.

The warehouse maintained a ready stock of essential relief materials to assist up to 5000 families during disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes. Although no such incidents occurred during the reporting year, the warehouse stands ready for immediate response.

Regular stock verification was conducted jointly by Oxfam India and GDS representatives to ensure the availability and safe storage of relief materials. This collaborative effort underscores their commitment to disaster preparedness and rapid response, reinforcing their dedication to assisting affected communities during crises.

# Organisation Development Initiatives

The GROW Fund project, a flagship initiative of EdelGive Foundation, stands as a pivotal milestone in the trajectory of grassroots organizations' evolution. This two-year initiative aims at building organizational capacities of 100 grassroots organizations from across the country to strengthen their, future-readiness. The GROW Fund initiative has three essential components - Organization Development (OD), Capacity Building (CB), and Core Cost support. For an organization like GDS, which relies on external funding, the GROW Fund has provided a unique and transformative opportunity. It has given spur to organization development initiatives, that were languishing for over a decade, owing to the scarcity of resource support dedicated to this domain.

Major Activities this year performed are given below

## Review and redesigning of HR and Finance Policy

In a dynamic organizational landscape, policy frameworks lay the foundation for efficient operations. GDS undertook the meticulous task of revisiting and revamping its accounting manual upgrading the accounting procedures, and accommodating the complexities of GST. Additionally, the HR Policy, a cornerstone of any progressive organization, underwent a



thorough revision process. With inputs from core team members, this comprehensive review aligned the policies with the evolving needs of GDS and the regulatory environment. The outcome was a robust policy framework that streamlined financial operations and enhanced human resource management.

## Risk Management Initiatives

Risk mitigation is an essential for sustained growth. GDS initiated a structured risk assessment exercise in the form of a workshop, that brought together the senior organizational functionaries. By employing scoring tools across five crucial areas - Vision Mission and Strategy, Strategic Relationship Assessment, Program Delivery, Internal Operational Management, and Resource Development - the organization identified potential roadblocks. These workshops culminated in the identification of key risks and the formulation of targeted mitigation strategies. The outcome was a more resilient GDS, poised to navigate challenges proactively.

## Technology Upgradation

In a digitally transforming world, leveraging technology is not just an option but a necessity. GDS embarked on a technology-driven journey by crafting an Organizational Management Information System (MIS). This ambitious initiative aimed to integrate data from diverse projects into a coherent framework. The road was fraught with challenges, from designing a comprehensive MIS that encompassed HR management, performance tracking, and project management to fostering cross-functional alignment. However, determination paid off, resulting in an MIS that is poised to enhance data-driven decision-making and streamline operations.

## Organizational Retreat

Reflection and rejuvenation are the lifeblood of any organization's growth. The three-day organizational retreat, held at Nainital, witnessed robust discussions that spanned location-level



strategic visions, thematic prioritization, and the strengthening of communication strategies. The retreat paved the way for GDS to broaden its approach, encompassing geographical and demographic expansion while staying true to its core mission.

## Strategic Planning Exercises

Strategic planning is the compass guiding an organization's trajectory through a process of intensive internal deliberations and three workshops, there were thorough discussions on the organizational Vision and Mission, Programs and Planning, Structures and Systems, and Networking and Fundraising. These sessions fostered a dynamic environment for in-depth analysis, encouraging team members to identify challenges and chart solutions. The culmination of these efforts materialized into a robust strategic plan that aims at steering GDS towards a more impactful future, primed to serve its target groups with a renewed vigour and effectiveness.

### GDS Partnership

- Tata Trusts, Mumbai
- EdelGive Foundation
- Azim Premji Foundation
- Tata Cornell University, USA
- Oxfam India
- Jal Sewa Charitable Foundation (WaterAid India), New Delhi
- ASK India
- ITC, Kolkata
- CInI
- SCYRA
- Syngenta Foundation
- Usha International



# Financial Disclosure

## Voluntary Disclosures by the Organization

### A. GDS Registration Details:

Sl.No.	Registration	Details	Valid Upto
1.	Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860	2026/1992-93 dated 26.02.1993 renewed on 26/02/2023	25.02.2028
2.	Registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976/2010	136550091 dated 22.04.1997	30.09.2023
3.	Registered under section 12A of The Income Tax Act, 1961	AAATG2067ME20214 Dated 28-05-2021	31-03-2026, AY 2026-27
4.	section 80G -Registered under 11- Clause (i) of first proviso to sub-section (5)	AAATG2067ME20214 Dated 25-5-2021	31-03-2026, AY 2026-27
5.	Permanent Account Number (PAN)	AAATG2067M	Lifetime
6.	Tax deduction Account Number (TAN)	LKNG03807G	Lifetime
7.	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registration No.	CSR00000639 Dated 06-4-2021	

### B. Remuneration paid to Executive Council members' during the Year 2022-23

Sr.No.	Name	Position held	Type of payment	Amount
1.	Mr. S.K. Dwivedi	Secretary & Executive Director	Salary	11,22,150.00
2.	Mr. Amitabh Mishra	Treasurer & Program Director	Remuneration	6,06,000.00

### C. Distribution of staff according to salary level and gender break-up

FULL TIME STAFF			
Remuneration Levels	No. of Team Members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs.5000			
Between 5001-15000	02	02	04
Between 15001-25000	14		14
Between 25001-50000	14		14
Between 50001-75000	05		05
Between 75001-100000		01	01
Between 10001-150000	01		01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>39</b>
PART TIME			
Remuneration Levels	No. of team members		
	Male	Female	Total
Up to Rs. 5000	153	60	213
Between 5001-15000			
Between 15000-25000			
Between 25001-50000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>213</b>

### D. Details of international travel by GDS personnel during the year

Name of the Member with Designation	Travelled to	Purpose of visit	Expenses Borne by
No international Travel by GDS personnel			

## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2023

As on 31.03.2022 Rupees	Annexures	As on 31.03.2023 Rupees
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>CORPUS</b>		
5,03,576.14	As per last account	5,03,576.14
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>		
45,48,868.82	Balance as on 01.04.2022	46,99,140.44
1,50,271.82	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	9,47,407.21
<b>CAPITAL RESERVE</b>		
36,70,040.00	Balance as on 01.04.2022	29,27,903.00
34,800.00	Add: Cost of assets purchased and CWIP out of grant funds	14,08,966.00
(1,83,451.00)	Less: Depreciated value of assets sold/ discarded	4,05,088.00
(5,93,486.00)	Less: Depreciation on assets purchased out of grants	5,33,427.00
<b>RESERVE FOR SECURITY DEPOSIT</b>		
-	Security Deposit paid under programmes	2,31,915.00
<b>UN-UTILISED GRANTS</b>		
32,53,144.33	Balance as on 01.04.2022	55,75,138.17
3,06,32,702.00	Add: Grants received	4,40,32,725.84
2,03,067.00	Add: Interest earned	2,93,505.00
(2,81,20,662.64)	Less: Grants utilized	3,80,75,754.19
(3,93,112.32)	Less: Grant Returned	14,40,549.00
4,93,287.19	Add: Grants receivable as on 31.03.2023	1,64,169.32
60,000.00	<b>REVOLVING FUNDS</b>	60,000.00
<b>1,42,59,044.94</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,23,89,627.93</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
1,28,64,431.37	Gross Block	1,18,58,989.37
(79,86,481.37)	Less: Depreciation	73,16,401.37
	Add: Capital Work-in-progress	8,08,241.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>		
4,93,287.19	Grants receivable	1,64,169.32
3,13,524.50	Loans and Advances	14,30,107.50
87,80,183.25	Cash and Bank Balances	1,51,34,568.11
(2,05,900.00)	Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,90,046.00
<b>1,42,59,044.94</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,23,89,627.93</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING POLICIES &amp; NOTES TO ACCOUNTS</b>		

Annexures 'I' to 'VIII' form integral part of the Balance Sheet

*[Signature]*

Treasurer

*[Signature]*

Secretary

*[Signature]*

President

Lucknow : July 31, 2023



per our report of even date

A.K. Goel  
BICAR Mem. No.: 0712571

Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : July 31, 2023

UDIN: 23071257 B6WVKS 6049

## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

2021-22 Rupees	Annexure	2022-23 Rupees
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
(Grants received are accounted as income to the extent utilized during the year)		
<b>Grants from Foreign Donors</b>		
16,12,709.54	Balance as on 01.04.2022	1,472.18
4,90,882.00	Add: Receipts during the year	72,42,360.97
1,84,169.32	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2023	1,64,169.32
(1,65,641.50)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2023	2,30,484.83
		71,77,517.84
<b>Grants from Indian Donors</b>		
16,40,434.79	Balance as on 01.04.2022	55,73,665.99
3,01,41,820.00	Add: Receipts during the year	3,67,90,364.87
(3,93,112.32)	Less: Grant returned	14,40,549.00
3,29,117.87	Add: Amount receivable as on 31.03.2023	-
(59,02,783.88)	Less: Un-utilised balance as on 31.03.2023	1,23,18,750.31
		2,86,04,731.55
60,351.00	Receipts for Covid-19 relief	-
3,30,531.60	Interest from banks and others	4,29,611.55
56,170.00	Surplus from Services for Monitoring and Hand Holding Support to Community	4,97,002.84
4,15,583.00	Receipts against linkage of community with banks	3,93,649.00
1,53,800.00	Sale Proceeds of grant assets	30,000.00
20,367.00	Miscellaneous receipts	43,199.00
900.00	Membership fees	900.00
<b>2,89,55,098.44</b>		<b>3,71,76,611.58</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Programme Expenses</b>		
21,02,119.38	- out of grants from foreign donors	71,77,517.84
2,60,18,543.48	- out of grants from Indian donors	2,88,98,236.55
45,000.00	Covid -19 Relief assistance	-
8,28,915.98	Other organisational expenses	1,43,862.18
10,248.00	Depreciation	9,588.00
<b>2,88,04,826.82</b>		<b>3,62,29,204.37</b>
<b>1,50,271.62</b>	<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9,47,407.21</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING POLICIES &amp; NOTES TO ACCOUNTS</b>		
Annexures 'I' to 'VIII' form integral part of Income and Expenditure Account		

*[Signature]*

Treasurer

*[Signature]*

Secretary

*[Signature]*

President

Lucknow : July 31, 2023



per our report of even date  
*[Signature]*  
 A.K. Goel  
 (ICAI Mem. No. 071257)  
 Partner  
 for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 (FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : July 31, 2023

UDIN: 23071257BSWYKS 5049



## GRAMEEN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

Previous Year Rupees		This Year Rupees
	<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	
82,73,525.79	Balance with Scheduled Banks	87,80,183.25
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
3,06,32,702.00	Grants (including Exchange gain)	4,40,32,725.84
3,30,531.80	Interest earned	4,29,611.55
900.00	Membership fee	900.00
1,97,426.60	Services for Monitoring and Hand Holding Support to Community	42,61,480.00
4,15,583.00	Receipts against linkage of community with banks	3,67,035.00
60,351.00	Contribution received for Covid-19 relief	-
17,407.00	Miscellaneous receipts	43,199.00
1,53,600.00	Sale of assets	50,000.00
-	EPF Payable (Net)	2,004.00
-	Refund of TDS from IT Department	1,61,980.00
<b>3,18,08,501.20</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,93,28,915.39</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
	<b>Expenses on development projects</b>	
4,07,618.86	Support vaccination programme in 9 vulnerable Gram panchayats of Chauksar PHC and Padvaliya PHC of Shivpur and Sirsiya block in Bahraich and Shravasti districts	6,12,165.14
-	GROW Project for Grameen Development Services	35,23,380.14
-	Strengthening Livelihoods through Agriculture Development in Jamunaha block of Shravasti district (U.P.)	1,04,485.00
5,13,852.00	Oxfam India's Prepositioned Contingency Stock Management	4,45,009.00
62,30,483.78	Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in Bahraich, Shravasti and Bahrampur district of (Uttar Pradesh) 2022-23	80,62,931.28
1,86,69,500.34	Sujalam Sujalam Phase II - Eastern U. P. meeting aspirational district outcomes in Shravasti	87,17,477.72
-	Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) program in Shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh (0010)	63,66,017.83
-	Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) program in Shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh (0053)	8,56,982.44
-	Cash Based Emergency Flood Response in Shravasti	71,66,177.64
10,776.20	Portable Solar Pump under the Sustain Plus Energy Platform	-
61,176.78	Trans Boundary Rivers of South Asia (Sharda Basin) Project (Oxfam India)	-
5,55,051.32	Trans Boundary Rivers of South Asia (Sharda Basin) Project (Oxfam Novib)	-
14,28,065.06	GDS-TARINA	-
1,80,119.50	Migrant Support Programme in Uttar Pradesh with GDS	3,58,54,626.19
45,000.00	Covid -19 Relief assistance	-
5,66,754.98	Other Organisational expenses	1,08,976.18
65,200.00	Expenses for Monitoring and Hand Holding Support to Community	44,15,514.16
-	Capital item purchased out of own funds	14,500.00
3,93,112.32	Unspent Grant Returned	14,40,549.00
43,465.60	Income Tax deducted at source ( Net)	1,26,269.00
-	Payment of GST	12,096.00
31,667.00	Payment of EPF & ESI	-
<b>2,93,01,843.74</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,19,74,530.53</b>
	<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	
87,80,183.25	Balance with Scheduled Bank	1,61,34,568.11

Annexures 'I' to 'VIII' form integral part of Receipts and Payments Account

*[Signature]*  
Treasurer

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

*[Signature]*  
President



Lucknow : July 31, 2023

per our report of even date



A.K. Goel  
(ICAI Mem. No.: 071257)

Partner  
for and on behalf of  
**AJAY GOEL & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
(FRN: 002107C)

Lucknow : July 31, 2023

UDIN: 23071257B&WYKS5049

Consolidated Financial Statements: 2022-23







Reach Us-

### **Head Office**

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Phone- 0522 – 4075891, +919415110759

Email - ho@gds.org.in

### **Field Office**

#### **Lalitpur Field Office**

Grameen Development Services,

C/o Mr. Harishanker Kushwaha

Gram -Jakhlon, Post - Jakhlon,

Block Birdha, District Lalitpur - 284403, Uttar Pradesh

#### **Shrawasti Field Office**

Grameen Development Services

C/o Mr. Mangal Prasad Tiwari

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#### **Balrampur Field Office**

Grameen Development Services,

C/o Mr. Ashok Kumar Shukla

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Ram Nursery Vidyalaya

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#### **Bahraich Field Office**

Grameen Development Services

C/o Mrs. Laxmi Singh

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Bahraich - 271801

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#### **Ajmer Field Office**

Grameen Development Services

C/o Anna Singh, Near Power House, NH-8,

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