

Indien Programm 2019 – 2024

Brief programme description

The India Country Programme seeks to engage with some of the most marginalised communities and groups to secure their livelihoods and end domestic violence. The Programme focuses on two Strategic areas: Small-scale farming and Gender equality. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with local NGO partners. The country programme outcomes are:

Outcome 1: Vulnerability of small farmers communities to climatic and social shocks/stresses is reduced and their livelihoods is strengthened in select project geographies.

The understanding is that climate change adds another layer of vulnerability to existing causes of poverty and food insecurity. The strategy for strengthening small farmers' livelihoods will be to develop or expand the contribution of climate resilient livelihood strategies towards the livelihood portfolio of small farmers. This includes promotion of ecological farming using local seeds, facilitating households and communities to gain legal rights over natural resources and manage them sustainably, providing assistance for establishing income generation activities in less climate sensitive sectors (for example, non-timber forest products). Gender will be mainstreamed in all the activities such that women benefit equally from increased availability of diverse food and incomes, gain rights over natural resources and actively participate in decision making at the community level.

Outcome 2: Effective evidence-based policy engagement by Civil Society Organisations to strengthen livelihood of small farmers.

Capacities of partner NGOs will be built to engage with policy makers at the State and District level for effective implementation of government laws and programmes which seek to strengthen livelihoods of small farmers and tribal communities. The focus will be on the Rural Employment Guarantee Law for employment and asset creation, Forest Rights Act for recognition of rights over land and forest resources and National and State level Schemes for Promotion of Climate Resilient Crops and Practices.

Outcome 3: Village communities in Maharashtra challenge gender discrimination underpinning domestic violence against women, civil society and the government stakeholders provide coordinated support to women survivors of domestic violence.

The thrust of the programme is to prevent domestic violence and provide support services to enable survivors of domestic violence to come out of the violent situation. The primary prevention component will focus on changing the attitudes and behaviour of young boys, men, young girls and women such that they challenge social norms that lead to violent behaviours. The response component will include promoting village level support structures for survivors of domestic violence and establishing counselling cum support centres at the partner level to provide crises, counselling and referral services to women survivors. The programme will engage with block and district level government stakeholders entrusted with specific responsibilities under the Domestic Violence Law such that they provide coordinated support and referral to survivors. CSO partners will engage with policy makers for effective implementation of Domestic Violence law in state of Maharashtra.