

PRI-CBO CONVERGENCE PROJECT

SERCHHIP MIZORAM



Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission
Government of Mizoram



Kudumbashree - National Resource Organization
Government of Kerala

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
CBO	Community-based organisation
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSS	Centrally sponsored scheme
GPPFT	Gram panchayat planning facilitation team
LSG	Local self-governance
MzSRLM	Mizoram state rural livelihood mission
NGO	Non-government organization
NRO	National resource organisation
PRI-CBO	Panchayati Raj Institution and Community Based Organisation
SHG	Self-help group
VC	Village Council
VO	Village Organisation
VCP	Village council president
VCCC	Village council coordination committee

TESTIMONIES FROM THE FIELD

It is good to see that the people involved are all working tirelessly for the development of the village. I feel that the Project has achieved better results after all the SHG members are made aware of it. I wholeheartedly welcome the initiatives and I will extend my full support.

VC PRESIDENT (PU MS DAWNGA,
SAILULAK VILLAGE, EAST LUNG DAR)

The Local Resource Groups (LRGs) take an active role in activities and they work very hard in carrying out their duties. Through the project, they have tried to bring VC-VO-NGOs and government departments together for the welfare of the village. The project has fetched us good results.

VO PRESIDENT (PI VL REMRUATI,
CHHINGCHHIP NORTH, SERCHHIP)

After I became a member of SHG, I took a loan and opened a shop for my living. Working as an LRG has empowered, enhanced and enriched my skills for community development and my hard work, efforts and dedication gave me the chance to be a part of the village council. Today I am the village council secretary.

LRG (MATHANI, BAKTWANG)

I feel that we got so many things through convergence initiatives and its outcomes are very positive. Not only me but as a society, we found it very useful and now VO, VC and NGOs combinedly work together for the betterment of people.

LRG (MADIKI, SIALHAU)

VPRP prepared by SHG was very good.

MHIP (B.BIAKMUANKIMA, ZOTE)

The Convergence Project is very supportive of YMA, MHIP and MUP. Whenever there is an assistant required, SHG members always provide handholding support. They conduct meetings and information about the activities to be undertaken in the village. We are able to coordinate and stay connected for better convergence.

YMA PRESIDENT
(B.BIAKMUANKIMA, ZOTE)

ABOUT US

KUDUMBASHREE - NATIONAL RESOURCE ORGANIZATION

Kudumbashree, the Kerala government's poverty eradication mission, evolved from traditional community practices, government development programs and decentralization campaign experiences from across the state. Formed in 1998, the fundamental premise of Kudumbashree was that the poor need to be active agents in their own development.

Having proven its success in Kerala, Kudumbashree was, in the year 2013, recognized as a National Resource Organization (NRO) by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). Kudumbashree NRO has been mandated to provide technical and implementation support to State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) based on mutual interest in two major domains:

- PRI (Panchayat Raj Institutions)-CBO (Community Based Organisations Convergence)
- Enterprise Development

The work done by Kudumbashree-NRO is based on the principle of creating local and state-level capabilities for large-scale implementation of the interventions. At present KS NRO has been extending its support to twenty-four states and one union territory.

MIZORAM STATE RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION

Mizoram State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MzSRLM) was launched on 22nd April 2013 to initiate the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which is a flagship programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to eradicate poverty in the rural areas of Mizoram. The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

MzSRLM is currently covering 73618 rural poor households, across 11 districts, 26 blocks, and 602 villages across the state through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and supports them for livelihoods collectives over a period of 9 years.

PRI-CBO CONVERGENCE



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The PRI-CBO Convergence Project is an attempt to enhance coordination and collaboration between Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Community Based organisations (CBO). The project uses centrally sponsored schemes as entry points for strengthening the PRI-CBO interface

PROJECT GOAL

The purpose of the PRI-CBO Convergence Project is to enable the poor in understanding their entitlements, accessing them, and in enhancing their participation in the local governance



PROJECT RATIONALE

- Increasing the efficiency and reach of poor-centric programmes
- Better participatory planning by panchayats together with the community organisation network
- Increased capability of CBOs to demand entitlements
- Democratically conscious community to help strengthen and sustain local government institutions

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Initiate processes which would ensure that the benefits under various entitlements and schemes accrue to members of SHGs under NRLM
- Strengthen women's participation in local self-government processes such as the Village Assembly
- Contribute towards making the PRIs Village council, departmental committee and CSOs more responsive towards the needs of the society; particularly women
- Help develop a pool of community cadres to work with community institutions and local governments to strengthen capabilities of convergence



PROJECT OUTREACH	Progress till March 2020	Progress till March 2021	Progress till March 2022
Districts	01	01	02
Blocks	02	02	05
Villages	37	39	81
VCs	37	39	79
VOs	40	46	88
SHGs	554	590	1239

RESOURCE POOL	Progress till March 2020	Progress till March 2021	Progress till March 2022
Local Resource Groups (LRG)	97	88	79
Internal Mentors	00	14	14
Mentor Resource Person	05	05	07
Professionals	02	02	04

OUR SCOPE OF WORK



Field level Assessment



Partnership Workshop



Stakeholder Orientation

Learning through Exposure Visits



Capacity building of CBO network and Cadres



Creation of resource pool



Sensitization campaigns and camps



Roll out of Project activities



Convergence with Thematic and Departments

Strengthening Village Assembly



PROJECT TIMELINE

PILOT PHASE

(OCTOBER 2018 - DECEMBER 2020)

Stakeholder orientation for officials of the Line Department, members of the Village Council, and CBO network

Creation of cadres known as Local resource groups (LRG)

Capacity Building and sensitization program for SHG federation, frontline workers, representatives of the civil society organizations, committees and associations

Learning service through exposure visit to Kerala

Roll out of Project activities using tools such as Participatory Assessment of Entitlements (PAE), Entitlement Access Plan (EAP) and preparation of Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP)

Strengthening of Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) and utilization of the democratic platform, such as Gram Sabha, by the women collectives



VPRP follow up and conduct activities with regard to the demand raised such as the Issuance of UID through Customer Service Centre (CSC), Job card, Health card, Ration card, and Training cum certification course for women farmers and entrepreneurs.

EXTENSION PHASE

(JANUARY 2021 - JANUARY 2022)

Refresher training cum orientation for the cadres and CBO federation

Innovative Initiatives such as awareness programs on issues identified by the Village Organization (VO), Health-related camps, Free clinic services, and COVID vaccination drive.



SATURATION PHASE

(FEBRUARY 2022 - MARCH 2023)

Developing of cadres, known as Internal Mentor, for the scale-up blocks
Capacity building and Training for Internal Mentors

Facilitation and preparation of the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) and integration of plans into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPD) in both the pilot and scale-up blocks

Thematic integration of VPRP demands with MzSRLM and Convergence with concerned Departments

Health and livelihood-related activities

Innovative activities such as legal awareness among the community, insurance camps and financial literacy programmes etc.

CONVERGENCE TOOLS

PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT OF ENTITLEMENTS (PAE) & ENTITLEMENT ACCESS PLAN (EAP)



Participatory Assessment of Entitlements (PAE) is an SHG-level interaction-based exercise that helps generate awareness of various entitlements and local self-governance systems.

Using PAE, the community generates a database on its access to schemes and participation in governance processes. This database is used for making demand plans by the Community Based Organization (CBO) and is also treated as a baseline for measuring success in achieving entitlements by the community. PAE exercise is facilitated by the designated community cadre called the Local Resource Group (LRG) in each village council.

Entitlement Access Plan (EAP) is a targeted plan prepared by each Village Organization (VO) to address the gaps in access to entitlements which are identified during PAE. Using PAE data as the baseline, each VO sets quarterly targets for various schemes. These targets are regularly monitored and evaluated by the VO

THE PROCESS ADOPTED FOR PAE-EAP-VPRP

Step 1. Capacitation of Local Resource Groups (LRG)

In order to roll out the PAE-EAP exercise, Local Resource Groups (LRG) members are trained on PAE and EAP with the support of BMMU staff. In the training, detailed information about local self-governance, and centrally sponsored schemes covered in the PAE booklet were imparted to the cadres. After the capacity building of the cadres, LRG members were guided and given handholding support by Mentor Resource Person in executing the process with SHGs.

Step 2. SHG Meetings for PAE

In order to ensure the presence of each SHG member in the entire process, a pre-planning meeting is conducted by the VO members prior to rolling out of the planning activity

The Ribbon Exercise: A participatory exercise

Ribbon Exercise is a tool used by LRG members to facilitate PAE exercise in each SHG.

Ribbons of different colors are distributed to the participants who are informed that each ribbon represents a government scheme (eg. Yellow representing the MGNREGS job card). The LRG, under the guidance of the Mentor Resource Person, would inform the participants about each government scheme and the participants who have access to the particular scheme are asked to tie the corresponding ribbon on their wrist. These participants who have access to the scheme are then asked to talk about how they availed the scheme.

The ribbon exercise is done to avoid the monotonous question-and-answer format and to make the process interactive and participatory in nature. The outcome of the exercise is to acknowledge a ribbon on one's wrist as a symbol of accomplishment, knowledge and enhanced confidence.

Step 3. Consolidation of PAE at VO level

Once PAE is completed in all the SHGs, a one-day orientation on PAE consolidation is given to LRG. Then the data collected from the SHG are consolidated at the VO level. This consolidation of data helps the VO in (1) Understanding the status of access to entitlements by the SHG and their household and also (2) Creating a demand plan in order to ensure that the schemes are accessed by every household in the village.





Step 4. Preparation of EAP at VO level and consolidation

After consolidating the data at VO level, an Entitlement Access Plan (EAP) is prepared in each VO in order to set up targets. The priority of these targets are decided by the VO using a participatory method and a plan is then prepared for achieving those targets. Once the targets are set and a plan is prepared, the VO takes the responsibility of regularly monitoring the progress and updating the CBO members about the status of the plan. The VO also liaisons with the Village Council and the concerned Line Departments for follow-up.

Step 5. Preparation of Village Poverty Reduction Plan at VC level

For this, the Entitlement Access Plan (EAP) of each village organization (VO) are consolidated at the village level. Since most of the village comprised one VO, each VO plan was considered as the VC plan. A comprehensive demand plan for village development was prepared by the CBO federations in partnership with the Village Council.

Step 6. Integration of VPRP in GPDP

The Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRP), prepared by the CBO network, are then shared with the Village Council president, in a special Gram Sabha, for incorporation into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). In the pilot blocks, the plans were added to the village development plan after discussing the detailed report with the VO leaders and scrutinizing the beneficiary applications obtained. At the same time, the cadres and VO ensured to provide a comprehensive beneficiary list to avoid duplicates.

Discussion in the
VC and VO level
(VC/VO)

Discussion with the
Sub-Committees
of VO

Discussion in the
convergence
committee GPPFT

Discussion and
consultation with
SRLM officials and
Departments

Step 7. Finalisation of GPDP through VCCC / GPPFT

A platform was proposed at the village level known as the Village Council Coordination Committee(VCCC). This committee is formed for the purpose of (1) Discussing developmental plans, and social issues (2) Addressing the day-to-day affairs of the village and (3) Building mutual relationships between community-based organizations and members of the Village Council,

A one-day orientation programme was scheduled for the Village Council members and self-help groups on the concept of Village Council Coordination Committee (VCCC). The session was chaired by the Block Development Officer (BDO). The BDO explained the importance of the committee in the local context by citing examples of the Panchayati raj system in other parts of the country. Based on the Kerala experience, The BDO encouraged the Village Council Presidents (VCP) to form the committee and to discuss the concerns brought by CBOs, NGOs, village-level line department officials and frontline workers.

Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) is the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) mandated team which is to be constituted and/or renewed every year for facilitating the plans prepared at each panchayat. The team members are from the Village Council (VC), the SHG network and representatives of the line department who are given the responsibility to review, discuss and finalize the VPRP received for integration in the GPDP. In both intervention blocks, the GPPFT meeting was held before the final Gram Sabha under the leadership of the Village Council President of a village.

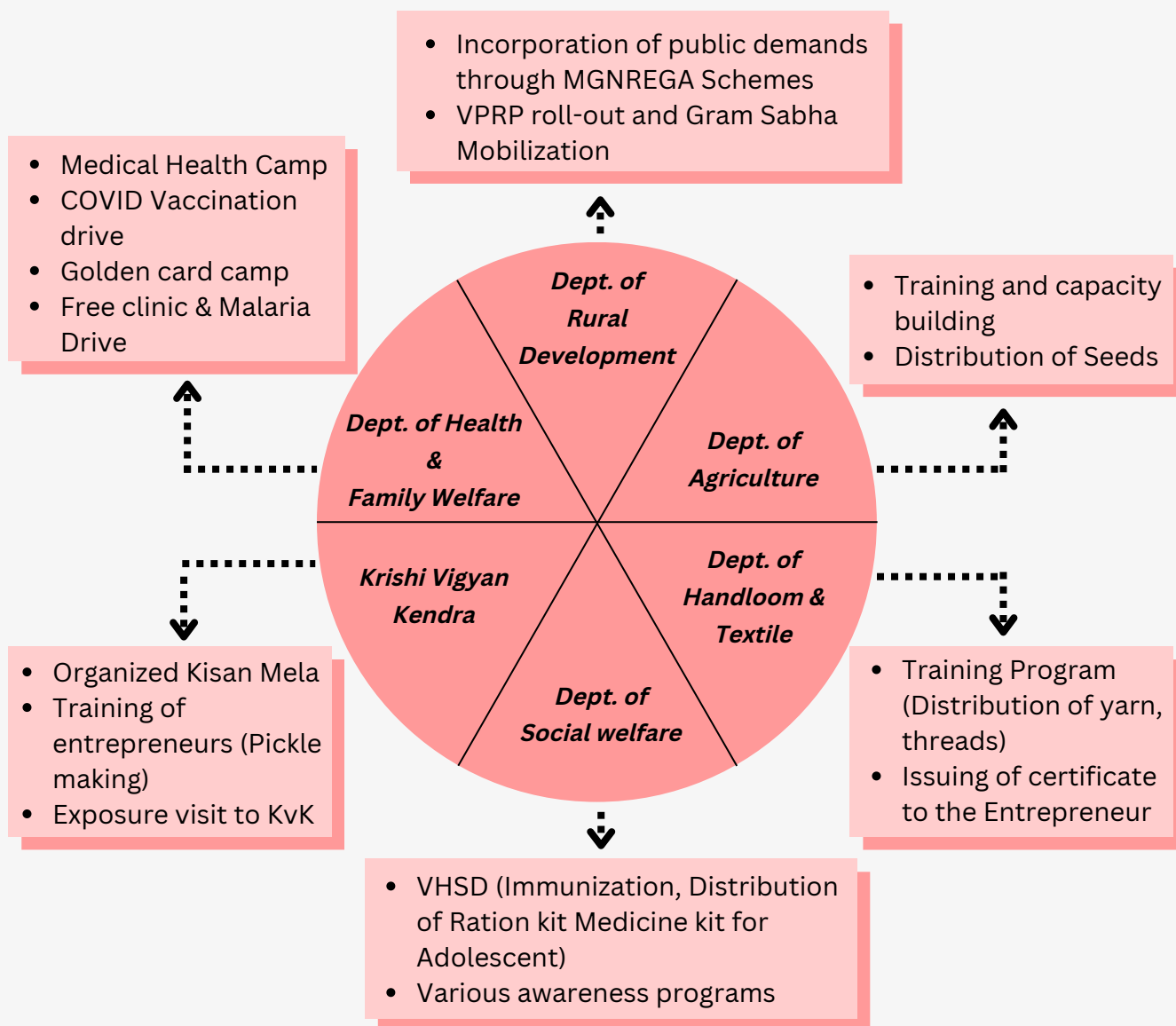
In the intervention blocks, The Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) emphasized reviewing the previous year's plans and preparation of the plans for the current financial year, during the discussion the meeting minutes were recorded in the village council register for future reference. Plans such as the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP), Ease of living (EOL) and Mission Antyodaya(MA) survey reports were discussed in the planning meeting. After a rigorous discussion, the plans were incorporated into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), which is the final plan document prepared by the village council members.

Step 8. Convergence with programmes of the Department and SRLM

The major objective of the PRI-CBO Convergence project is to utilize the various schemes, projects and programmes to eliminate poverty through social justice and economic opportunities. For this, it aims to deliver services through centrally sponsored schemes. Hence, the demands raised through the VPRP are incorporated with the department plans and thematic of SRLM after comprehensive reports or plans are prepared by the village council president.

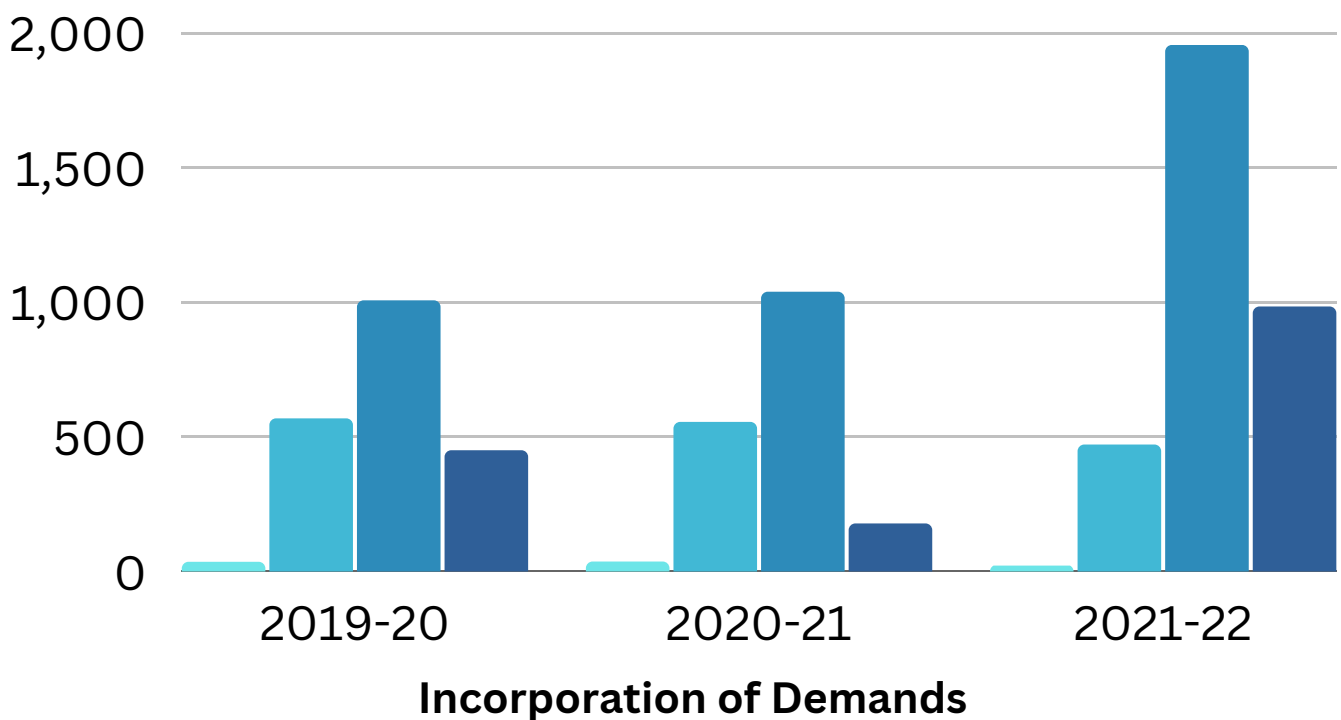
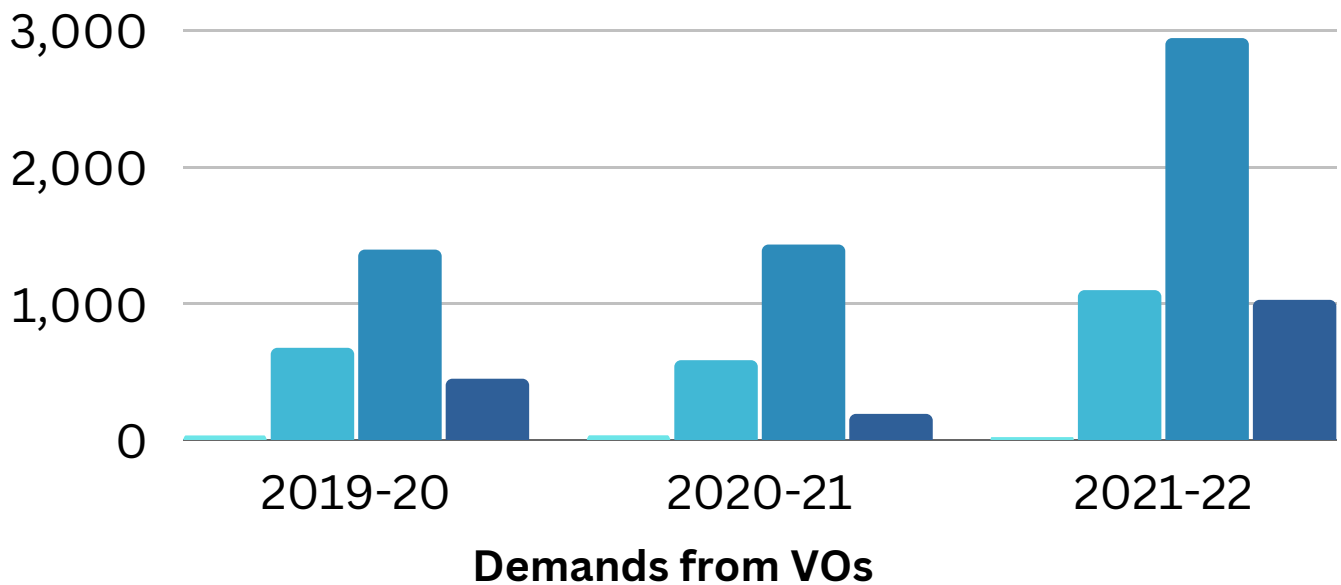
The efforts put by the community cadre, members of CBO, members of civil society organizations (CSOs) and support of village/cluster/Block level frontline workers, The Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) and GDP reports were prepared and collected by the Village Council president for submission of reports to the Block Development Officer for further integration into the Department through the Block coordination committee and Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU) of MzSRLM.

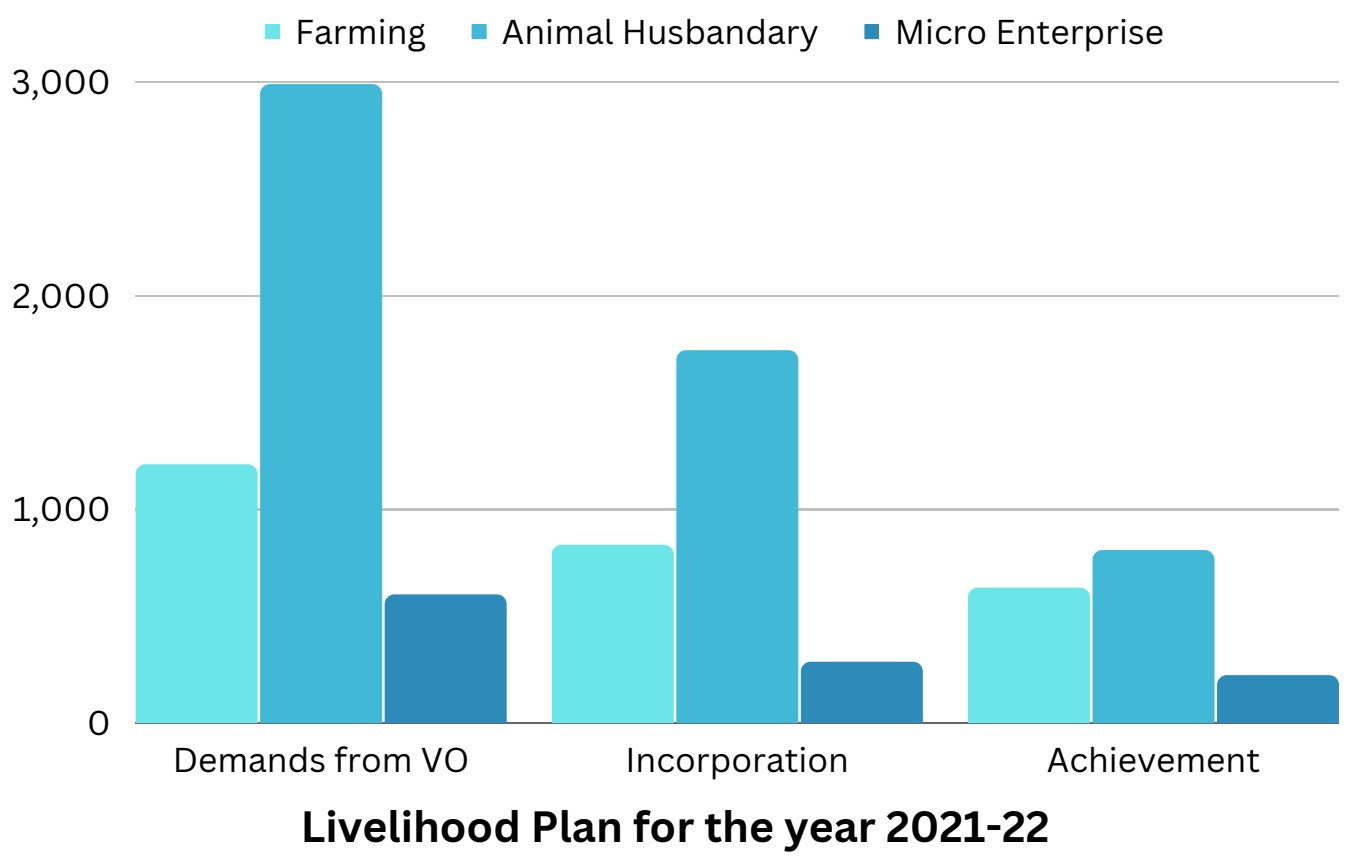
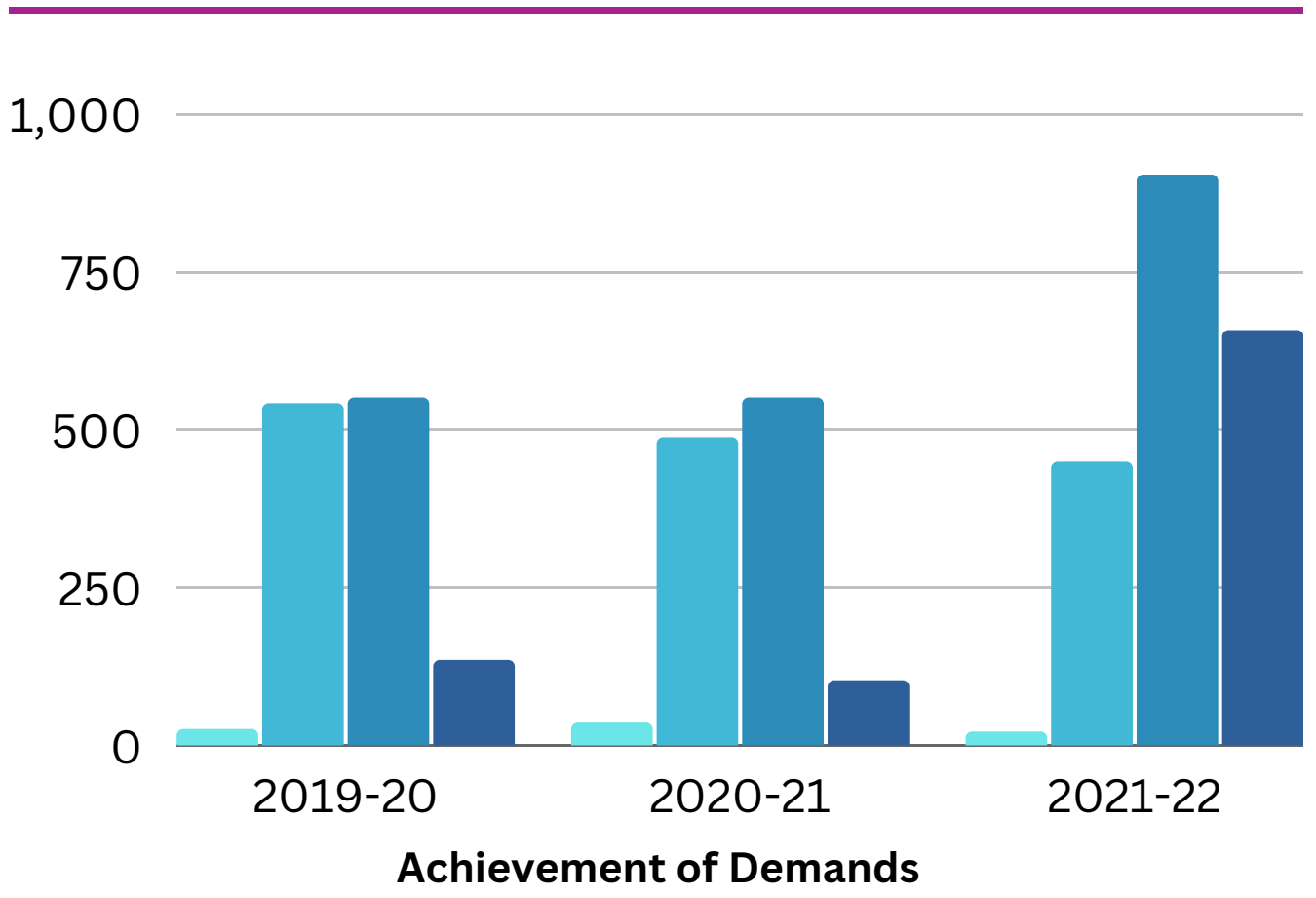
Convergence being one of the multidisciplinary concepts, the project in pilot blocks successfully accomplished finding the varied sources to converge with MGNREG schemes, Livestock programs, Skill development initiatives, Health camps, Individual rights and entitlement, and sensitization programs against social issues etc. In this regard, thematic integration of the SLRM attempted to converge with domains in the field of strengthening institutions through capacity building, integrating the livelihood demands raised, enhancing skills and linking with financial opportunities created for women collectives.



PROGRESSION OF VPRP DEMANDS, INCORPORATION & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Number of Job cards
- Work identified under MGNREGA
- Entitlement Plan
- Public Good, Services & Resource Dev.





SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS



**Free Medical
Camp**



**Financial
Literacy Camps**



**COVID
Vaccination
Drive**



**Insurance
Camps**



UID Camps



**Legal
Awareness
Programmes**

VILLAGE ASSEMBLY



Under The Lushai Hills Act 1953, the Village Assembly (Gram Sabha) is a platform which serves as a part of democratic institutions for each and every person registered in the electoral roll.

However, the village assembly meetings are majorly attended by the head of the family. The practice is a part of the customary traditions of the Mizo Society.

With the advent of the Self-help group concept under the guidance of MzSRLM, progressive changes were witnessed. Among the steps of behavioural change were the participation of women collectives in the public forum, utilizing the platform for creating self-identity, voicing out for family and contributing efforts and energy for the village development by playing multiple roles.

In PRI-CBO Convergence project locations, successive changes were experienced in both the RD Blocks namely Serchhip and East Lungdar. In the year 2019, with an objective to increase participation of SHG members in the Village Assembly, continuous awareness on rights, entitlements through CSS and local self-governance (LSG) was imparted. In this entire sensitization program, the President of the Village Councils (VC) were supportive of the SHG members. Constant support to VCPs in developmental activities and building networks with various interest groups or committees, frontline workers and departments for better convergence were the key to success in developing a perspective towards inclusive governance. As a result of the Village Council election held in 2021, SHG members were elected as PRI members.

WAY FORWARD

PRI-CBO Convergence project has been implemented in Serchhip District since the year 2019. In the year 2021, the project was scaled up in Mamit District. During this time, the project has been working closely with the Local Self Government (LSG) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) through the Village Organization (VO) of the SHG federation.

It has been found that CSO plays an integral part in the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The CSO also take up many community-led initiatives for the development of the villages. Therefore, setting up a platform where the LSG, the CSO and the CBO can have an interface for discussing the various issues of the village will be an important aspect of ensuring sustainable convergence between the stakeholders.

Line Departments can provide the CBO cadres with technical knowledge and skill-based training in order to capacitate the community members. A system where the VO/CLF acts as the interface between the community and the Line Department will help in achieving a bottom-up approach to development.

Strengthening of democratic platforms such as Village Assembly, and GPPFT will ensure that the CBO is given the space to participate in local self-governance. Additionally, democratic processes such as community-led planning and dissemination of information regarding various Government schemes and projects can be enhanced by involving the CBO network and utilizing the human resource available with the CBO network.

Established resource pool, such as Local Resource Groups (LRG) and Internal Mentors (IM), can be utilized for developing convergence strategies for those villages which were not under the current project.

Most importantly, regular monitoring of the resource pool in order to identify gaps in their skills and knowledge and designing technical skill enhancement programmes will ensure that the resource pool is utilized to its fullest potential.



TEAM MEMBERS

THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROJECT



Program Manager (SISD), MzSRLM

(i) Raymond Lalsangzuala

Kudumbashree NRO Professionals

(i) Priyanka Topno

(ii) Anirban Dutta

(iii) Qheboka Sumi

(iv) Md. Kafil Khan

Kudumbashree NRO Mentor Resource Persons

(i) Santhamma T.J.

(ii) Mini Varghese

(iii) Ambili Babu

(iv) Beena P Kuriakose

(v) Suma S Dharan

(vi) Minimol

(vii) Radha Anil

(viii) Latha G



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