


Quarterly Progress Report

DocuSigned by:

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Project: Skill Development and Enterprise Promotion for Inclusive Development - PROMoting Inclusive Growth through Enhanced Access to Local Livelihood Opportunities, Education to Work Transition and Social Protection Schemes (PROGRESS)

Quarter: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

Year: 2022

1. Project Progress

Expected Project Outcomes and Indicators including Annual Targets	Planned Activities (List all activities including M&E during the year)	Activity Progress/results achieved in Quarter 1	Quarter 1 (Highlight the completed quarter)				Targeted Expenditure for the year	Actual Expenditure in Quarter 1
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<p>Output 1: Youth (especially girls) equipped with information, career choices and 21st century skills through digitally enabled modules for local apprenticeships, internships, decent jobs (with a focus on green jobs) and entrepreneurship opportunities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Number of youths specifically from marginalized communities equipped with information and 21st century skills Target: 15000 (50% girls)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Number of youth getting internship/ apprenticeship/ jobs / setting up enterprises Target: 5000</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Number of faculty members trained Target 200</p>	<p>Code Unnati</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training of youth on career guidance and counselling, 21st century skills and entrepreneurial skills linking them to internship/ apprenticeship/ job opportunities/ Startup Cells / Innovation Centers - Training of faculty members of educational institutions to mentor youth and strengthen industry-institute collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4285 youth are being provided Career Guidance and Counselling sessions - 6357 students are undergoing training on 21st Century Skills - 531 youth were engaged in Guest Lectures by industry experts - 21 youth have been linked to apprenticeship/internship opportunities - 1252 youth trained on entrepreneurial skills - 1401 ideas received ideas as a part of the Youth Ideation Challenge out of which, 827 ideas were shortlisted for Bootcamp by an independent jury. 287 youth are currently being trained under the Bootcamp on user survey, competitor analysis, prototyping, business model canvas and pitching to investors - 35 faculty members from educational institutions were oriented on youth innovation and entrepreneurship 					120,000	88,619
	<p>Excel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up of Youth Employability Centre - Training (on employability skills) and placement of youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Employability Centre established in Mithoi Gram Panchayat, 3 centers in ITIs and 1 community center in Vadaliya Sinhan Gram Panchayat 						

		- 269 youth trained / undergoing training on employability skills					
	DEEWY (Marico) 21st Century Skills training and job connect assistance to youths with focus on Girls	- 2560 youth were trained on employability skills - 614 youth were linked to local employment opportunities					
	Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge and Dialogue	- 41 startups completed a 3-month long Springboard programme. National Innovation Dialogue series was concluded with 9 events on 4 themes (Sustainable Food Tech, Waste Management and Circular Economy, Sustainable Transportation, Sustainable Tourism) with 33 experts (private, social, govt., influencers, journalists, etc.) as speakers and a total viewership of more than 2600+ - 2 startups (PadCare Labs and Li-Circle) were selected (out of 27 startups) by a jury of sectoral experts to represent India in the regional Springboard Programme in Singapore - Top 10 startups are connected with different organisations for mentoring and handholding support, networking, fund raising, etc. - Startups are also being supported to avail credit worth 20,000 USD for different software including MS, Amazon, Zoho, etc. to grow their business - 192 people participated in 11 workshops (9 online and 2 offline)					

		conducted on SDG awareness and 21 st century skills awareness						
<p>Output 2: Nature based local livelihoods and eco enterprise opportunities-based business model including innovation by the Youth and Improved capacity (managerial, digital), access to finance and stronger market linkages for existing solopreneurs and collective enterprises</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Number of nature-based local livelihoods and eco-entrepreneurship business models identified and customized for the focus districts Target: 20</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Number of women, farmers and collective trained on entrepreneurial, digital, managerial, governance skills and provided with handholding and mentoring support Target: 5000 women and `farmers, 20 collectives trained and supported</p>	<p>EXCEL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on entrepreneurial skills to initiate and grow microenterprises with the support of community-based business mentors - Formation of FPO including onboarding and training of farmers and Sourcing Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 203 women trained through the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme - 303 farmers were trained on digital payments, e-markets, and the importance of collectivization as the first step towards mobilizing the farming community for FPO formation 				81,641	1,05,857	
	<p>Code Unnati</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of women on entrepreneurial skills to help them initiate/grow their micro-enterprises with the support of community-based women mentors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 443 women trained through the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme and 432 women underwent the Entrepreneurship Development Programme as a part of which, 257 business plans were developed -131 women provided mentorship and handholding support, market and financial linkages through the initiative - 39 Unnati Sakhis trained to mentor women to start/scale their enterprises 						
	<p>WASEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization and training of women on product development and functioning of producer company - Strengthening market linkages by leveraging e-commerce portals (along with digital assets and branding) and onboarding of institutional buyers - Establishment of Common Facility Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 artisans were mobilized and trained on the basics of Warli - 59 artisans were trained as Warli Business Mentors - An e-commerce portal (https://svedika.in/) was created for strengthening the market linkage of Warli products prepared by the artisans 						

<p>Output 3: Individuals specifically migrants, tribal have information and capacity to access social protection and other public support schemes.</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: Number of households accessing at least one social protection scheme Target: 4000</p>	<p>Excel Awareness generation, capacity building and support in application and sanction of benefits of social protection schemes and entitlements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Screening and Vulnerability mapping of 4500 citizens followed by awareness generation around schemes and entitlements for 1650 individuals - 1547 individuals were registered under various schemes - 753 citizens were connected with schemes – Eshram cards, Ayushman cards (152), I Khedut Portal (164), Covid exgratia (19 out of which 11 individuals received INR 50,000 each), GANGA SWARUPA YOJANA (INR 75,000 in 4 installments) 1 beneficiary received first installment - 12 Suchna Sathis/community cadre capacity building training completed 				26,667	7,977
<p>Output 4: Strengthened Institutional capacity of key public and private ecosystem actors, research, knowledge transfer and improved stakeholder coordination</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: Number of national/state level multistakeholder platform established Target: 1</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: Number of District Skills Committee supported to develop inclusive, and demand driven skilling plan Target: 5 Indicator 4.3:</p>	<p>Business and Human Rights in Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct trainings, awareness and learning events on United Nations Guiding Principles and technical assistance to government ministries for drafting and executing national plans - Prepare communication products, conduct research, and publish think pieces related to UNGPs and broader Business and Human Rights agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted a roundtable with 20+ stakeholders (private sector, academics, think tanks) on the use of AI by business sectors and potential human rights impact as well as their inputs on a report to validate the recommendations, determine the relevance of risks and risk mitigation strategies identified across 4 sectors (Finance, Healthcare, Retail, Gig Work) - Facilitated and finalized a report on Environment Legal Gap Analysis (using the UN Guiding Principles) - Communication collaterals (brochures, animation video, social media posts) 				49,691	11,482

<p>Number of policies research, national and international knowledge exchange consultation/workshop organized Target: 4</p>		<p>prepared, finalized, and uploaded on the UNDP India and BHR website (UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Responsible Business in India)</p> <p>- 129 private sector partners registered for the Human Rights Due Diligence Workshop for Private Sector planned in collaboration with Indo-German Chambers of Commerce and amfori</p>							
	<p>B+HR Asia Low Value grants to civil society and conduct research on impacts/risks faced by women in business operations, and potential remedies and prevention strategies</p>	<p>Planned for Quarter 2</p>							
	<p>Code Unnati Capacity building and support to District Skills Committees for demand-driven skills planning</p>	<p>- Meeting with DSDO of Bengaluru Rural, Yadgir, Dakshin Kannada and Raichur along with the MD of Karnataka Skill Development Corporation on UNDP's support in preparation of District Skill Development Plan 2022-23</p> <p>- Supported Districts Skills Committee in Raichur to conduct a 2-day capacity development workshop for 250 women on the importance of SHG and its registration along with critical business skills</p>							
	<p>Excel Capacity building and support to District Skills Committees for demand-driven skills planning</p>	<p>- Submitted a letter to DC Jamnagar on supporting DSC Jamnagar in the preparation of District Skill Development Plan 2022-23</p>							

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed mapping of 100+ stakeholders in skilling sector in the districts - Preparatory work ongoing for workshops at district level for the next quarter on National Apprenticeship Promotion Schemes (NAPS) 						
	SIDA Policy development	- Participation in the UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights in Dhaka, facilitating in-person participation of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (1 person) and National Human Rights Commission (3 people) as well as PRAXIS Participatory Approaches (1 person)						
	Youth Co:Lab Strengthening of multistakeholder alliance	With UNDP India and Atal Innovation Mission as co-chairs, the Climate Entrepreneurship Hub (multistakeholder alliance) was established with the plan to sign 10 LOUs with Enterprise Support Organisations/NGOs, Investment/Philanthropic Organisations and Private Sector to develop a platform that provides mentoring support to entrepreneurs for fundraising, networking, customer support, etc.						
Project Management Expenses								1,56,845

Delivery Status:

Delivery target for 2022: USD 1,971,232

Delivery target for Quarter 1: USD 488,901

Delivery for 2022 by end of Quarter 1: USD 370,780

2. PO's Overall Analytical Report

2.1. Narrative

To equip youth with information and skills to help them access livelihood opportunities, PROGRESS provided Career Guidance and Counselling as well as training on 21st century skills to youth across India. Youth were also trained on entrepreneurial skills to enable aspiring entrepreneurs to gather knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of business and enterprise management. Startup Challenges were identified at national and state level to support ideas and enterprises grow their business through mentoring and handholding support as well as linkages with relevant market and financial entities. With a dedicated focus on improving capacities of women to enter the workforce, PROGRESS provided training on entrepreneurial skills to women belonging to vulnerable communities. Along with providing information on govt. social protection and schemes, PROGRESS also screened citizens and helped citizens with access relevant social protection entitlements. The project also trained community members as Suchna Sathis to leverage support to connect with the local communities. To strengthen the local ecosystem for skilling, employment and entrepreneurship, the project has also initiated work with the District Skills Committees to support them prepare the District Skill Development Plan 2022-2023.

2.1.1. Comments on progress in project as per QPR, and on whether the project is on the right track:

The project is being implemented as planned.

2.1.2. List of project issues/ risks that the PO wants to ensure are included and addressed in the PSC:

- NA

2.1.3. List of issues that the PO wants to escalate to unit Heads/ senior management:

- NA

2.2. Section on Gender and Inclusion

2.2.1. What were risks related to:

a) mainstreaming gender

As a part of the Code Unnati initiative, few of the Unnati Sakhis identified as community mentors for existing and aspiring women entrepreneurs in Karnataka are also working as Master Bookkeepers (MBK) with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in Karnataka for their project Sanjeevani, which focuses on providing women training and financial linkages for starting their micro-businesses. Code Unnati collaborated with NRLM as these women had experience of working with the local communities and were trusted citizens in the local geographies. As the Code Unnati initiative is

actively being implemented in the ground, NRLM was concerned regarding the work of the MBKs on Sanjeevani related activities. The Code Unnati team spoke to the District Officials (Block Level and Cluster Level Supervisors) and assured that the project activities were being implemented in sync with Sanjeevani's priorities. It was decided that to streamline on-ground activities, the Code Unnati team will discuss all the programmatic activities with the District Officials to keep all relevant stakeholders apprised with the schedule of events and activities being undertaken.

b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalized groups e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, etc.?

- NA

2.2.2. What were challenges related to:

a) mainstreaming gender

- NA

b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalized groups, e.g., related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, socio-cultural/institutional obstacles, etc.? Any new upcoming opportunities/ ideas on facilitating gender & inclusion in the project?

- NA

2.3. Any innovations/ success stories (completed or ones to watch for) that PO wishes to bring on board or for Communications to follow up:

Case Study 1: Project Code Unnati Striving to Make Rural Women Financially Independent

"There is no substitute for hard work," says our rural entrepreneur Akshata Dinesh Shetty, also known as Agarbatti Akshata in her neighbourhood. This motivated entrepreneur lives by this motto and sets an example for others. Akshata (32) is from the Rayee Village, Bantwal Taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka. She desired to be productive in the free time left after taking care of her family and other household chores. She aspired to be an entrepreneur and be an inspiration to other women in her community. She joined the Thanmayee Sanjeevani SHG to work for her own socio-economic development and to work for the upliftment of other women in her village.



After some initial research, Akshata found out that India is the world's leading incense producing country and is amongst the top exporters of incense sticks in the world. She also had 10 years of experience in handcrafting incense sticks, which she learnt from her family's tradition. She always thought of starting her own incense manufacturing unit to streamline and scale up her existing handcraft business, however, she did not have the required entrepreneurial skills and awareness about forward and backward linkages. During the lockdown, Akshata got to know about the webinars conducted by UNDP India to promote entrepreneurship skills in rural women. She attended the webinar on "Business Opportunities in Incense Stick Manufacturing". Inspired by the discussions and the knowledge she gained in the webinar, Akshata decided to start her micro-enterprise. Though she had the motivation, Akshata did not possess the necessary financial acumen to buy the raw materials and machinery to roll the incense sticks. At this time, Code Unnati came to her aid.



Code Unnati has been the backbone of Akshata's business right from the inception of her journey to scale up. The project team provided her with handholding support in every aspect of establishing the business including financial, market and supply chain linkages. Code Unnati team assisted Akshata in applying for a loan for 1.5 lakhs INR from National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

She availed the loan and used the funds to buy the required machinery. She uses the NRLM shed in the village for manufacturing and storing incense sticks. Akshata initially procured raw materials from Bengaluru, which increased her costs as she had to incur transportation costs. The project team is now helping her scout for local suppliers of raw materials to reduce her costs further. The team connected her to women entrepreneurs in Ujire Gram Panchayat, Belthangady, Dakshina Kannada who are interested to buy non-scented raw incense sticks for their business needs.

With the help of Code Unnati, Akshata is taking small steps towards building her business at scale. She manages all the areas of her business single-handedly and is striving to take it further. Within 2 months of establishing the enterprise, she has started making a profit of 9000 INR per month. Apart from the supply chain and financial linkages, the project team is also providing guidance in branding and packaging of the products. Akshata will soon get her own brand name and will proceed to scenting, packaging, and selling her products in the local markets. She aspires to grow her business manyfold and be a role model for other rural women micro-entrepreneurs. Akshata achieved financial independence through her hard work and support from Code Unnati. She has transformed her dreams into reality and is ready to spread her wings and take the flight of success.



Case Study 2: The spirit to learn - Shradha Goswami, Mithoi, Lalpur Block, Jamnagar

Shradha Goswami, an 18-year-old girl from Mithoi village, is one of the eighteen students passed-out from Project Excel-YES Centre's first batch. Shradha recalls desire to be a teacher as a child and was thrilled to perform the role of a teacher on Teacher's Day at her school. She used to teach Social Sciences on Teacher's Day, as she is interested in both History and current affairs. She considers herself a natural teacher since she believes that educating others is the fulfilment of her life's purpose. Shradha enjoys music, dance, and cooking in addition to teaching.

She moved to Jamnagar after eighth grade as schools in her village were only up to 8th standard. However, things took different turn for the worst when her family could no longer afford to educate her after six months and asked her to return home. She was depressed, as she was unable to complete her studies and believed she will never be able to realise her dream of becoming a teacher. Her dreams were reignited when she learned about the National Institute of Open Schooling. She enrolled in NIOS and completed standard 10th and 12th.



Shradha was unsure about her career path. During an awareness session in her village, she learned about Project Excel's Skill Development Program and decided to enrol. She received soft-skills training, as well as counselling and career guidance, which offered her a new perspective on how to approach her career plans. She recounts how the prospect of speaking to a new group used to give her the shivers, but now that she has completed the skill development programme, she is confident in her ability to speak to any audience on any platform. Further the exercise of goal setting has helped her to plan the next steps in her career systematically and she reflects upon her strengths and weaknesses to evaluate herself with regards to the goal she has set for herself.

After completing 12th standard, she wants to do bachelor's and then do a B.Ed. to pursue her career in teaching. She believes the skill development program helps one to live life in a better way. She says, the communication skills, positive body language and confidence gained through the programme will help in one's personal life as well. Even if a girl decides not to work and instead begins a family, these skills will enable her to better manage her household and educate her children to succeed in life.