

## Annual Project Report

<b>Country / Area:</b>	India/North India	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Raipur District Social Inclusion	
<b>Project Number:</b>	62112	
<b>Current Project Proposal / PFA period:</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>
	Nov 2012	Oct 2015
<b>Period covered by this report</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>
	Jan. 2013	Dec 2013
<b>Did the project receive restricted funding over the period of this report? (please tick one)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is a case study available for the period of this report, for donor reporting? (please tick one)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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### 1. Executive summary

**Please summarise the key points of this report in no more than 300–400 words. Ensure you make reference to all points of interest, including financials and output statistics.**

Raipur District Social Inclusion programme was initiated in November 2012 and is being implemented by Grihini [Sightsavers partner since year 2008] in Simga Block of Baloda Bazar district, Chhattisgarh. Baloda Bazar is a newly carved district from district Raipur and the project area Simga block is now part of the Baloda Bazar district.

This project is designed on rights based approach to empower PWDs and facilitate the realisation of rights and entitlements along with increased participation in development processes.

The population of Simga block is around 0.2 million. Through baseline survey, Grihini has identified 1857 Persons With Disabilities [PWDs] out of which 40% are women. 23% of PWDs belong to scheduled castes and 11% PWDs belong to various tribes. Only 40% of the identified PWDs are having disability certificates and 26% are getting pension. Less than 7% have received assistive devices. Around 7% PWDs have got rail travel concession certificate and only 0.2% have bus travel concession certificate.

Project imparted training on rights and entitlements at village and cluster level. Through these training programs PWDs were mobilised and Grihini succeeded in developing 64 village level self-advocacy groups [SAGs]. Grihini organized several awareness generation programmes on various days of significance like International Day for Persons with Disabilities, World Sight Day, and International Women's Day etc.

## 1. Executive summary

Awareness building activities reaching out to the general population included wall writing and specifically prepared Street Play to spread messages about mainstreaming of PWDs. For sensitising key stakeholders and garner their support partner organized many training programmes for members of village development council, village secretaries, AWWs, Teachers etc.

Advocacy was simultaneously initiated for effective inclusion of PWDs. The SAG members successfully advocated for the establishment of the system of providing disability certificates in this newly formed district and facilitated 527 PWDs with certificates of disability. The detailed baseline survey being conducted will be further evidence base for future advocacy.

It is too early to analyse the impact however government was involved at various levels, enabling self-advocacy for rights and entitlements of PWDs. SAGs emerged resulting from training of PWDs will be developed in the district level Disabled Person's Organization [DPO]. Involvement of state and national DPO leaders has given impetus in the form of experience sharing and developing better understanding among PWDs in the project area.

Partner could not conduct some activities due to stringent code of conduct enforced by state election commission during assembly elections held in Nov. 2013 in Chhattisgarh that resulted in underspent.

## 2. Project Background and Purpose – any changes

***Is the background information quoted in the Project Description still accurate? i.e.***  
 - ***Part I, Section 2 (Project Summary) of the new Project Proposal template, or***  
 - ***Section A (Context) and Section B (Core Details) of the old format Project Description.***

*(Please tick one)*

Yes – the background information in the Project Description is still fully accurate	No – there have been some changes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***If you answered 'No', please give details of anything that has changed, together with any necessary explanations.***

Chhattisgarh government has taken a decision in January 2012 to split Raipur district as it was very large district geographically. Raipur district is now divided in to 3 districts viz. Baloda Bazar, Raipur and Gariaband. As a result of this, now Simga block comes under Baloda Bazar district. The implications are that the district for the project area is now Baloda Bazar, instead of Raipur though the project area remains the same.

## 3. Factors that have affected/may affect the project

***Have any unforeseen events occurred which have affected the project this year, or are likely to impact on the project next year? (For example: change in funding situation, staff turnover, natural disaster, civil unrest, project approach not achieving expected results.)***

***Please give details of all that apply and the manner in which they have impacted, or are likely to impact on the project.***

### 3. Factors that have affected/may affect the project

Baloda Bazar is the new district carved out of the original district of Raipur. The impact of this is that most of the district level departments and services are not yet fully developed. It will take some time for all the district level services to be started in Baloda Bazar. This may affect the progress of the project.

#### 4a. Progress against outcomes and related indicators

*Give details of progress against each outcome and the related indicator(s) exactly as laid out in the log frame in Part II of the Project Proposal (or Section 8 of last year's APR, whichever is more up-to-date). Ensure that you report back on the full set, and provide explanations if the plans or targets for the year weren't fully achieved.*

##### **Outcome 1. Mobilised DPO for self-advocacy**

(Indicated by: Disability related and other developmental issues raised by DPO at various platforms; and Advocacy initiatives undertaken by DPO members successfully at village and block level)

Village level SAGs raised issues like certification, pension, getting work under employment guarantee scheme, availing benefits under various government schemes meant for PWDs etc. at various platforms.

SAG members raised above issues during village council meetings, meetings organized under Gram Suraj [Good Governance] Abhiyan, meetings held with block and district level government officials etc. These initiatives resulted in 527 PWDs getting disability medical certificates, 51 started receiving pension, 447 developed ration cards, 4 PWDs received benefit of government supported housing scheme etc.

##### **Outcome 2. Sensitized key stakeholders and garnered support from various agencies / networks for inclusion of PWDs**

(Indicated by: Actions initiated by key stakeholders supporting social inclusion of PWDs; Meetings / programs organised jointly / participated by DPO members with other networks; and Key stakeholders supporting advocacy initiatives)

Grihini conducted a series of training / sensitization programs [involving leaders of PWDs] for key stakeholders like teachers, village council secretaries, village council assistants, AWWs, representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions etc. It also had interactions with block and district level government officials from various departments regarding plight of PWDs from Simga block. It also sensitized corporate organizations and other NGOs working in the project area on the issue of social inclusion of PWDs.

Awareness building activities were undertaken to reach out to the general population. Grihini organized several programmes on various days of significance like International Day for Persons with Disabilities, World Sight Day, and International Women's Day etc. for raising awareness. Apart from this a street play was also prepared and shown at various places in the project area that disseminated messages on social inclusion of PWDs. Wall writing for spreading messages about mainstreaming of PWDs was another method used to generate awareness. These initiatives have resulted in PWDs getting better cooperation and support from the key stakeholders in availing benefits. For example at many places village secretaries, Sarpanch [Head, Village Council], teachers and AWWs have facilitated processes for getting certificates, pension, benefit under housing scheme, rail pass, assistive devices, enrolment into government school, anganwadi etc.

#### 4a. Progress against outcomes and related indicators

##### **Outcome 3. Facts based advocacy initiated for effective inclusion of PWDs**

(Indicated by Facts based advocacy initiatives undertaken; and Advocacy initiatives undertaken successfully based on small studies at project level with other like-minded civil society organizations.)

Grihini conducted a baseline survey in line with the various parameters that indicated the situation of the PWDs in light of UNCRPD. This study was used as a tool for advocacy. The results of this study were shared with block and district level government officials, CSR units of corporates, like minded NGOs, village councils etc. It is expected that this evidence base would support advocacy in future.

#### 4b. Progress against project outputs and related activities

*Give details of progress against the project outputs and the related activities, exactly as laid out in your implementation plan (or Section 8 of last year's APR, whichever is more up-to-date). Ensure that you report back on the full set, and provide explanations if the plans or targets for the year weren't fully achieved.*

*(If you have a monitoring framework that collates this data then please just cut and paste it, or append, as appropriate).*

Activities	Targets	Achievements
Staff training	2	11 project staff trained twice with the help of disability forums
Baseline survey	1 study	Completed baseline survey
International Women's Day	1	1
World Sight Day	1	1
World Disability Day	1	1
Training programs at village/cluster level for PWDs	12	24
Leadership training for women with disabilities	1	2
Exposure visit for DPO members	1	1
Livelihood training programs in collaboration with government agencies like ITI	1	3
Training programs for key stakeholders	5	14 [1 each for teachers, village council secretaries and assistants, members of village council, and 10 for AWWs]
Formation of village level SAGs	50	64

#### 5. Strategic progress (from Sightsavers' perspective)

*What progress has been made towards any of Sightsavers' overarching strategic goals over the past year? Please detail actions you have taken and any progress made towards, for example:*

- *embedding the project within existing systems and structures*
- *strengthening existing systems and organisations*
- *securing replication/scale-up of the project by government/others*
- *empowering & involving communities*

For the past one year, Grihini is working towards raising awareness on social inclusion

### 5. Strategic progress (from Sightsavers' perspective)

in the context of disability and sensitizing the PWDs, community as well as village, block and district level government officials from various departments. There has been a marked increase in PWDs participating in village level developmental processes. One of the most visible achievements is in terms of issues raised by PWDs and support received by them from representatives of village councils for availing benefits under government schemes.

Strategically, Raipur District Social Inclusion Programme is focusing on self-advocacy by PWDs for ensuring rights and entitlements. In the short duration the project was able to take support of government in various levels of project. The project was able to reach the government and the officials are now aware of the programme. There have small but significant success and changing the government systems for the betterment of the PWDs. Establishing the system of certification for the PWDs in the new district of Baloda Bazar District is an example of this. The advocacy from the SAGs played a crucial role in achieving this.

The project is designed on the basis of twin track approach. It is not only empowering PWDs but also sensitising key stakeholders. Accordingly, it trained PWDs as well as local level government officials through at village and cluster level training programs.

Project has made progress as per Sightsavers' SIM card objective of enabling DPO to advocate effectively for their members' rights. The training programmes for training PWDs on their rights and entitlements have resulted in their empowerment. The empowerment has resulted in PWDs coming together in the form of SAGs and gradually developing in the self-advocacy forum at block level.

Village level self-advocacy groups and block level Disabled Persons Organization were formed and their leaders were trained for empowering PWDs. These groups have initiated self-advocacy efforts in order to ensure entitlements such as assessment and certification, pension, job cards under rural employment guarantee scheme etc.

As per the mandate, the project has worked to include the PWDs in the existing government schemes. Inclusion of PWDs in the government schemes are not just confined to welfare programmes but PWDs are asking for and successfully getting the benefits of development programmes.

### 6. Reflections and key learning points

**Looking back over the last year:**

- *What has worked well/not so well?*
- *What improvements do you think should be made?*
- *What would you have done differently, given the chance?*

***Should any of the above be incorporated into next year's planning? If so, please explain.***

#### **What worked well**

Formation and training of SAGs worked well to establish the momentum of project activities.

Stakeholder training and sensitization helped in building supportive environment for PWDs.

Baseline data collection and presentation within small groups brought forth the field

## 6. Reflections and key learning points

reality about the entitlement gaps which have been recognized for corrective actions at certain levels.

Involvement of other leaders of the DPOs of the state and national has resulted in not only training but the valuable experience sharing of the advocacy methods and processes being followed by other DPOs. This has resulted in better understanding by the PWDs in the project areas that is expected to give PWDs confidence in taking lead in advocacy through DPO and SAGs.

### Not worked well

Financial inclusion of DPOs that is developing linkages of PWDs with existing financial institutions is a very slow and tedious process

### What Improvements needed

Need to focus on livelihood promotion for PWDs in a structured way

Documentation of results needs to be improved

### Would have done differently

Conduct feasibility study in the context of livelihood promotion with the help of professional agencies like BASIX

Advocacy to be done at district and state level for financial inclusion

The feasibility study is included in the plan developed for next year.

## 7. Impact

**Has the project been reviewed or evaluated over the last year?**  
(please tick one)

YES

NO



**a) If Yes, please cut and paste the Executive Summary of the evaluation below.**

**b) Whether Yes or No, please give details of any general indications of longer-term outcomes or impact that have been observed (if not already covered in (a) above), for example, government policy change. If there are none, please leave blank.**

Before initiation of this project, there was negative attitude of community towards PWDs. People were indifferent towards PWDs and rather considered them as burden on the family and society. However, efforts undertaken to sensitize the community have changed the mentality of looking towards the PWDs.

Since this project has been implemented, the community has become more sensitised towards the issue of social inclusion of PWDs. This fact is evident from the increased support PWDs are getting from community members for availing benefits.

As a result of a series of training programs held for PWDs, now they are aware about their rights and entitlements to be received under various government schemes. They have formed village level self-advocacy groups and have started actively participating in village council meetings.

Sensitization of key stakeholders has also started showing results. Village, block and district level government officials have started giving cooperation for PWDs in facilitating benefits as per norms.

## 8. Planned activities for next year

**Please list the planned activities for next year (i.e. the things you need to undertake to achieve the objectives/outcomes above). NB: If you are working to a new format Project Proposal, please just append the latest version of your implementation plan.**

Activity	2014
Refresher Training for Staff	1
Baseline survey results sharing workshop	2
Awareness Programmes including World Sight Day, World Disability Day, International Women Day, Sports meet, rallies, adolescent girls health camp etc.	5
Sensitization workshops for key stakeholders	5
Training programs for key stakeholders	5
Sensitization programmes for key stakeholders	4
Block level public hearing	1
Cluster and block level training for SAGs	10
Feasibility study-Livelihood	1
Panchayat level self-advocacy groups [SAGs] formation	20
Exposure visit for DPO members	1
Formation of district level DPO	1
To organize livelihood training programs	2
Meetings of SAGs	768 [64 SAGs, 1 meeting per month]
Advocacy initiatives with like-minded agencies	2
PWDs involved in village / block level development processes	1000
Established linkages of SAGs and DPO & other networks	2
Street plays	5

### Case Study

#### From dependent to entrepreneur:

Mohan is 26 year old orthopedically challenged young man born in a poor family in Chandi village of Simga block of Baloda Bazar district. His parents work as agricultural labourers to make both ends meet. He has completed education up to secondary level, however could not continue it due to financial constraints. As he has not learnt any income earning skills, he used to stay at home.

He was identified during baseline survey conducted by field workers in year 2013. However, when contacted initially, he was not ready to cooperate due to lack of confidence. Project staff motivated him to join self-help group to be formed in his village. He was also encouraged to participate in a training programme organized for potential leaders amongst PWDs.



When Grihini decided to organize a vocational training programme in collaboration with Polytechnic College, Raipur, Mohan was first to get enrolled. He was among other 14 PWDs who successfully completed the three month training in electronic trade. He received tool kit at the end of

the training. He utilized the training for his economic upliftment. He returned to his village Chandi, but he had made a decision to end his financial vulnerability and to give life a new start. Using skills he learned in the training Mohan started a small shop at his house to repair radio, fans, mobiles and other electronic items. As there is no one in Chandi village providing these services, he started getting good response. Now he is earning INR 100 every day [Around 1 GBP per day]. Now Mohan has started helping other PWDs change the way they think about disability.