

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



**AKP**

ActionAid  
Karnataka Projects



**ActionAid Karnataka Projects (AKP)** is a society registered on 19 November 1988 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, with its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AKP has been established with the charitable objective of promoting integrated development. AKP seeks to help children, families, and communities eradicate poverty and secure lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

AKP does this by promoting and supporting programmes on health, education, employment and other development-related activities. This includes spreading awareness on issues that help promote socio-economic development of vulnerable communities. In particular, focus is on supporting and promoting schemes for child welfare and their education; schemes that are aimed at empowerment of women and girls and livelihood promotion and skill building programmes for people from low incomes groups. AKP strives to strengthen and stimulates people's involvement in all these initiatives.

AKP also undertakes action studies and supports people-led research on significant issues faced by the vulnerable communities. This is done with the aim of identifying and promoting community led- alternatives. AKP develops awareness material on all these aspects of its work.

# Message from the President

It gives me great pleasure to present the ActionAid Karnataka Projects (AKP) Annual Report 2024–25. This year's report reflects the spirit of resilience, solidarity, and community leadership that continues to define our journey.

AKP has worked alongside some of India's most marginalised communities – women, informal workers, small farmers, and children – helping them access their rights, strengthen livelihoods, and build collective power to shape a just and equitable future. From ensuring children's education and preventing child marriage to empowering women farmers, advancing climate justice, and responding to disasters, every initiative has been rooted in the belief that real change begins within communities themselves.

Our work this year reaffirms AKP's commitment to dignity, justice, and inclusion – values that guide us in every endeavour. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our community partners, volunteers, staff, government departments, and well-wishers whose dedication and trust make this mission possible.

Together, we move forward with renewed purpose – to build a future where every person can live with equality, security, and hope.

**Sandeep Chachra**

*President*

ActionAid Karnataka Projects

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## Introduction

ActionAid Karnataka Projects (AKP) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to promoting integrated development and enabling lasting improvements in the lives of children, families, and communities. Rooted in the vision of a just and equitable society, the organisation works towards eradicating poverty and addressing the systemic barriers that marginalised communities face, with interventions spanning health, education, employment, and social welfare.

ActionAid Karnataka Projects (AKP) work across 134 districts, 19 States and 2 Union Territories, reaching many lakh people from socially excluded, historically marginalised, and economically vulnerable communities. Our engagement prioritises women, adolescents, single women, persons with disabilities, informal workers, agricultural labourers, urban poor, slum dwellers, tribals, forest dwellers, nomadic, semi-nomadic and de-notified tribes, as well as those affected by floods and other natural disasters. The programme's key focus areas include promoting children's education, health, nutrition, and protection; empowering women and girls through leadership and rights-based trainings; facilitating access to government schemes and programmes; advancing decent and dignified work for informal workers; strengthening small and marginal farmers through sustainable farming practices and market linkages; and enabling recovery and resilience in disaster-affected communities.

With operations spanning across multiple states, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, AKP continues to build capacities, create opportunities, and strengthen community-centred interventions to ensure equity, dignity, and social justice for the most excluded.

# Community Development Initiatives

Community Development Initiatives were launched across 14 states during October and November 2024. These are

designed as sustained, area-based interventions covering 15–20 villages within a contiguous region of a district, focusing on reaching the most vulnerable communities.

Training and capacity-building form a core part of these initiatives, mobilising families and communities to collectively prioritise children's education and protection. Special emphasis is placed on empowering women and girls through leadership and capacity-building sessions that address issues of safety, security, gender-based violence, and discrimination.

Awareness sessions are also organised to inform people about relevant government schemes and programmes, helping eligible individuals and families access their entitlements. Under community leadership, localized projects are initiated to promote dignified livelihoods, sustainable farming practices, and the strengthening of producer collectives for better market access.

Community-based leaders emerging from these initiatives are also encouraged to act as first responders during emergencies and to lead local disaster relief efforts.

The outcomes and learnings from the Community Development Initiatives and related engagements are presented in the following reports in an integrated manner.



# Children's Education & Development

Our interventions reached over 20 thousand children through awareness drives, bridge courses, learning support centres, and community sensitization programmes. Engagement with parents and community leaders through regular meetings and awareness drives helped build an enabling environment for children's learning and protection.

## Strengthening Children's Education

Through regular interventions, the programme supported the retention and continued education of around 13,000 children across various states. Special focus was placed on promoting girls' education, with campaigns aimed at preventing dropouts during the transition from primary to secondary school.

AKP also worked in collaboration with local administrations, schools, and key stakeholders to help improve school facilities and create a more supportive learning environment.

## Capacity Building of School Management Committees and Protection Committees

Capacity-building programmes were organised to strengthen community-based Child Protection Committee and School Management Committees (SMCs) so they could effectively monitor school retention and attendance, and play an active role in preventing child marriage and child labour.





Meetings were also held with parents to raise awareness about the harms of child marriage and child labour. Through these collective efforts, 72 child marriages were prevented, safeguarding girls' right to education, and 126 children were stopped from entering child labour, ensuring their reintegration into school.

## Scholarship and Anti-Child-Labour Campaign

AKP conducted scholarship campaigns across 15 districts in various states. These campaigns not only raised awareness among parents but also helped them obtain the necessary documents to apply for scholarships for their children.

In parallel, campaigns against child marriage and child labour created a more supportive environment for children's education – promoting both access and retention, while linking families to relevant social protection schemes.

## Creating Children's Groups

AKP implemented a range of interventions across urban slums and rural districts, focusing on education, adolescent empowerment, and child protection.

A total of 20 children's clubs were formed, engaging around 400 children in activities related to education, health, hygiene, and environmental awareness. Special sessions with adolescent girls focused on promoting discussions around menstrual health and hygiene.



# Working With Women and Girls

## Capacity Building of Women and Girls on Safety, Security and Discrimination

Leadership training sessions and meetings were organised for women and girls across multiple districts. These focused on raising awareness about women's safety and security, and on building linkages with government schemes and programmes that promote safety and economic empowerment.

The trainings helped increase the mobility and confidence of women and girls, enabling them to access the benefits of various state schemes designed for women from poor and marginalised communities.

## Campaign Against Gender-based Violence

From November 25 to December 10, 2024, a series of meetings, awareness drives, and community activities were held as part of the campaign against gender-based violence. Similarly, to mark International Women's Day, discussions, dialogues, and awareness programmes were organised across several districts to highlight women's issues and promote women's leadership.

Officials from departments such as Women and Child Development (WCD), Health, Education, Panchayats, Municipal Corporations, Police, and the Divisional Magistrate's Office actively participated in these programmes. Discussions focused on critical issues including gender-based violence, workplace harassment and abuse, early marriage and its impact on young girls, access to health services, legal protections, and barriers to availing government schemes.

In Navsari, Vadodara, and Tapi districts of Gujarat, around 500 members of the state-level platform of single women participated in an interface with government officials. The officials appreciated the work of the collective and pledged continued support at both local and state levels to address key concerns such as gender-based violence, street harassment, and improved access to services like the 181 Women's Helpline.

## Linkages With Government Schemes and Programmes

AKP worked to ensure that poor, vulnerable groups – particularly women and informal workers – could access their entitlements under various government schemes and programmes. Through sustained grassroots interventions, hundreds of workers were supported in applying for and securing benefits related to social security, livelihoods, housing, health, and welfare.

During the year, over 2,000 informal workers and vulnerable individuals were assisted in applying for entitlements such as pensions, ration cards, labour cards, and other forms of social protection. Awareness camps were organised to inform workers about MGNREGA, social security enrolment, BOCW schemes, e-Shram registration, housing, and other state-specific welfare measures. Worker collectives were also formed to create platforms for mutual support and to strengthen engagement with local administrations.

These interventions significantly enhanced social protection for informal and marginalised workers by addressing key needs in housing, identity, healthcare, education, and pensions. Support for housing and identity documentation was extended to rag pickers, homeless families, and de-notified tribal (DNT) communities – helping 20 families access housing schemes and enabling 500 individuals to obtain essential ID proofs.

On the health and education front, 200 individuals received Ayushman Bharat health cards, while 125 children were awarded BOCW scholarships, ensuring their continued education. To promote income security among the elderly and most vulnerable, 802 workers were linked to pension schemes.

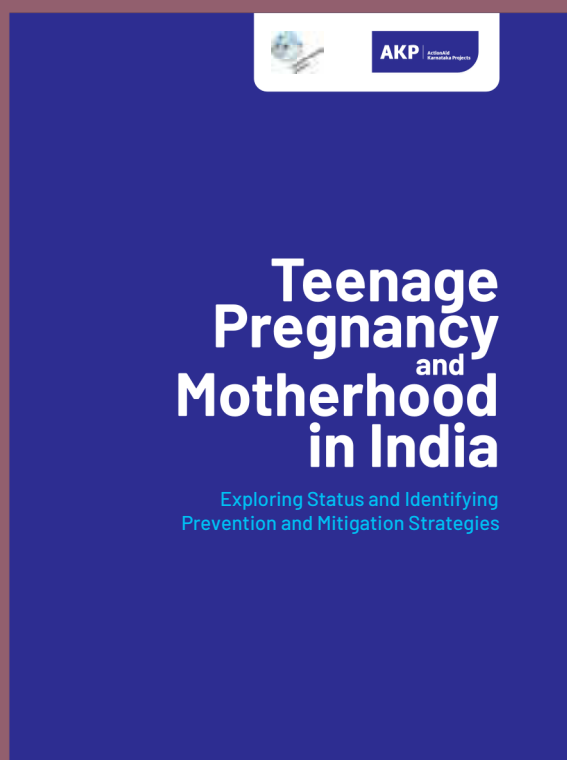
Together, these efforts demonstrate AKP's ongoing commitment to advancing social protection and strengthening resilience among the most marginalised communities.

## Research: Teenage Pregnancy and Motherhood in India

AKP conducted a qualitative study across Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, and West Bengal to explore the drivers, experiences, and consequences of adolescent pregnancy and motherhood. The research involved adolescent mothers, their families, community members, and government officials through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and case studies, using the Socio- Ecological Model as a guiding framework.

The findings highlight child marriage as the primary driver of adolescent pregnancy, further exacerbated by limited sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education, social stigma surrounding contraception, and punitive community attitudes that restrict access to essential services.

The study also identified significant gaps in healthcare, psychosocial support, and access to continuing education for adolescent mothers, with regional differences underscoring the need for context-specific strategies.



Key recommendations include:

- Ensuring girls' retention in school and preventing early marriage.
- Expanding life-skills and SRH education at the community level.
- Strengthening village-level child protection systems.
- Ensuring timely legal redress under POCSO and PCMA.
- Providing targeted welfare and education support for adolescent mothers.

## Research: Women's Property Rights in India

AKP conducted a study to examine gender disparities in property ownership and inheritance across India. The research aimed to analyse how legal frameworks, personal laws, and customary practices shape women's access to and control over property.

The study assessed the impact of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, along with other relevant laws, and found persistent gaps in their enforcement. It explored how patriarchal norms, legal illiteracy, and procedural hurdles continue to prevent women from exercising their inheritance rights.

Special attention was given to rural women, particularly regarding inheritance of agricultural land, as well as to variations across religious and tribal legal systems. Despite progressive legislative reforms, the findings reveal that deep-rooted socio-cultural norms and lack of awareness remain major barriers to gender-equitable property rights.

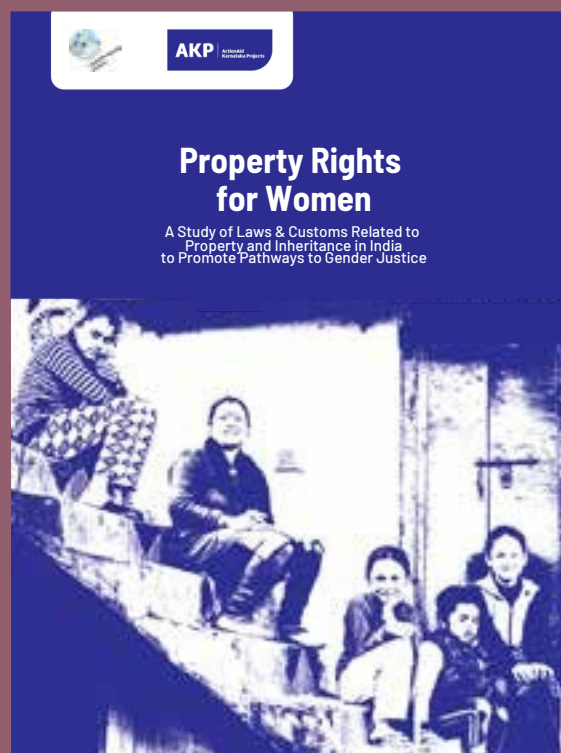
The study underscores the urgent need to harmonise existing laws, ensure their effective implementation, and strengthen women's legal awareness and capacity to claim their rightful ownership.

## National Consultation on Women's Property Rights

Building on the research findings, a national consultation titled "Property Rights for Women: Addressing Gender Disparities in Property and Inheritance Laws and Customs in India" was organised on 8 November 2024 at the India International Centre, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP), the Council for Social Development (CSD), and the Global Partnership Network (GPN).

The consultation brought together legal experts, activists, academics, and community representatives to discuss systemic barriers and propose legal and policy reforms. The sessions explored legal complexities, socio-cultural challenges, and strategies for effective policy engagement.

The recommendations emerging from the discussion have been integrated into AKP's ongoing work to advance women's economic security through equitable property rights.





## Decent and Dignified Work for Informal Workers

Multiple interventions were implemented across states to strengthen the rights of informal workers, with a strong focus on fair working conditions, minimum and equal wages, and improved workplace standards, especially for women workers.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, capacity-building and awareness programmes were organised for women and informal workers. These included workshops, skill development trainings, and legal awareness camps, alongside facilitation support to help workers access government schemes and entitlements.

Through these initiatives, over 2,000 informal workers were reached with campaigns on minimum wages, occupational safety, and social protection. As a direct outcome, more than 1,500 workers – including 800 women – successfully obtained entitlements such as e-Shram registration, maternity benefits, pensions, and health insurance.

## Promoting local Livelihoods

Supporting local livelihoods and enhancing income generation remained central to the interventions. Informal workers received training in tailoring, food processing, and eco-friendly product making, along with guidance on adopting climate-resilient livelihood practices.

Through workers' collectives and self-help groups, communities strengthened their ability to negotiate fair terms, access entitlements, and build resilience against both economic and environmental vulnerabilities.





## Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-based Livelihoods

AKP worked to strengthen sustainable agriculture and ecological practices among smallholder farmers, women cultivators, and marginalised communities. Across numerous locations, farmers were supported to adopt organic farming techniques, mixed cropping, and the use of bio-fertilisers and natural pesticides, reducing input costs while enhancing soil fertility. Community seed banks and traditional seed preservation practices were revived to promote local seed sovereignty and build resilience to climate change.

In several states, women farmers' collectives played a leading role in advancing agroecological practices, establishing kitchen gardens, and accessing government schemes such as the Mission Organic Value Chain Development Programme. Training and exposure visits enabled farmers to diversify crops, improve yields, and reduce dependence on chemical inputs. Through these interventions, thousands of farmers transitioned to climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture, improving household nutrition, strengthening local food systems, and contributing to broader goals of climate justice.

In Sambalpur district, Odisha, farmers have steadily shifted to organic cultivation of sesame, paddy, and vegetables, with increasing participation from women farmers. Several villages have now fully embraced organic farming, reducing market dependency and enhancing food security.

In Bargarh district, Odisha, ecological farming practices have taken deep root. Farmers have adopted indigenous seeds and climate-resilient methods, reintroducing millets alongside rice into regular diets. This shift has improved dietary diversity and elevated the role and recognition of women farmers.

Community-led seed preservation has flourished through village-level seed banks, safeguarding diverse varieties of paddy, millets, pulses, and vegetables. These achievements are celebrated through Desi Seed and Food Festivals, which promote poison-free food, debt-free farming, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Collectively, these initiatives represent a growing movement towards ecological sustainability, food sovereignty, and gender-inclusive farming systems.

## **Strengthening Agri-based Livelihoods Through Farmers Producers Organisations**

AKP is working to strengthen women-led Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) across several states, building their capacity for sustainable production, collective marketing, and income enhancement.

In the drought-prone Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, the Basant Farmers Producer Organisation (Basant FPO) has emerged as the state's first all-women-led FPO, representing over 2,700 small and marginal farmers across the districts of Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Mahoba. Supported through capacity-building, technical training, and market linkage facilitation, Basant FPO has evolved into a registered, GST-compliant rural enterprise operating under the BASANT brand. It runs 58 sales outlets and 38 community farmer resource centres – the Basant Community Farmer Resource Centre (BCFRCs), generating 157 direct jobs, most of them for women.



Through bulk input procurement and sustainable livelihood models such as multilayer farming units, seed production, goat and poultry rearing, women farmers have achieved significant income improvements. Training from institutions like the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) based in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and Krishi Vigyan Kendras has enhanced their knowledge of climate-resilient agriculture, water conservation, organic inputs, and soil health.

To promote local value addition, Basant FPO has established small agro-processing units for dal milling, oil extraction, flour milling, and automatic pouch packing, generating employment and increasing incomes. These facilities process and package pulses, grains, and spices such as green gram, black gram, pigeon pea, chickpea, lentil, wheat, turmeric, coriander, and chilli. The products are marketed through BCFRCs, retail stalls, and direct wholesale linkages. By collaborating with agriculture, horticulture, veterinary, and banking institutions, Basant FPO has become a sustainable, community-owned enterprise, transforming rural women's economic agency and social status in Bundelkhand.

In Sambalpur, Odisha, two Women Farmers Producer Groups were formed, and two Bio-Resource Centres established to promote sustainability. A total of 310 farmers were linked to government agricultural schemes, 290 to the Odisha Millet Mission, and 209 to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Additionally, 120 women farmers adopted organic farming, and 150 obtained Farmer IDs.

In Canning II block, South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, 330 farmers from 10 villages were organised into 11 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and integrated into Krishani Agro Farmers Producer Company Limited. Training was provided on leadership, business development, and organic farming, and five directors undertook an exposure visit to Khejuri, East Medinipur. Government support was facilitated for 200 farmers, mainly through the distribution of paddy seeds.

In Khejuri block, East Medinipur district, West Bengal, AKP's support to the Farmers Producer Organisation strengthened farmers' groups across 24 villages. Skills of 725 farmers were enhanced through awareness on government schemes; 159 were trained in organic farming, and 245 farmers increased their annual income by approximately ₹24,000 through various income-generating activities. The FPO now has 325 active shareholders and is progressing towards financial self-sufficiency through initiatives such as turmeric dusting, fodder selling, vermicomposting, and catfish cultivation, with a paddy processing unit under development.

Poultry and duck rearing in 14 units benefit 140 families, while goat rearing supports seven units. A total of 216 families have achieved year-round food security, gaining an additional 120 working days annually. Indigenous seed preservation has also expanded, with 250 farmers maintaining three to four local seed varieties, strengthening community control over traditional agricultural resources.



# Climate Justice Campaign

A Climate Justice Campaign was conducted across multiple states to raise awareness among vulnerable communities about climate change, environmental degradation, and their impacts on lives and livelihoods. The campaign promoted community-led actions for sustainable resource management and resilience-building, reaching over 20,000 people across India.

Young urban women and adolescent groups played a leading role through leadership trainings, school campaigns, and youth-led awareness drives that promoted climate literacy and resilience. In Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Kashmir, school-based initiatives transformed students into “environment ambassadors”, while in Telangana, youth leaders developed climate action plans tailored to address urban challenges.

At the local level, the campaign supported diverse community initiatives – including plantation drives, seed ball campaigns, mangrove restoration, revival of ponds and rivers, and the promotion of ecological and climate-smart farming. Traditional practices such as seed preservation were revived, and MNREGA-linked activities were leveraged to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and water conservation.

Communities also advanced forest protection and waste management practices, while Gram Sabhas in several states passed resolutions to safeguard local forests and address climate-induced loss and damage.

By restoring ecosystems, reviving traditional knowledge, and empowering women and youth as climate leaders, the campaign deepened climate literacy, strengthened local resilience, and built community-driven models of ecological justice – placing marginalised communities at the heart of climate action.





## Emergency Response

In 2024, Bihar experienced one of its most severe floods, caused by heavy monsoon rains and the release of water from the Koshi River barrage, devastating districts such as Supaul and Purnea. AKP, together with local volunteers, provided relief to 2,000 families (1,000 in each district) through the distribution of dry rations, hygiene kits, and shelter kits, with priority given to women, single women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Relief camps were organised to uphold dignity, safety, and transparency, ensuring access to safe drinking water, separate toilets, first aid, and seating areas. Information and awareness materials were displayed prominently, and transparency boards were used to make aid distribution accountable. Random kit checks and public announcements further strengthened community trust, making the entire response inclusive and equitable.

In Odisha, as part of the Cyclone Dana response, AKP conducted awareness campaigns on cyclone preparedness, focusing on vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women-headed households, persons with disabilities, and children. A total of 632 affected families received dry rations and hygiene kits — including 200 in Balasore, 300 in Bhadrak, and 132 in Kendrapara districts.

These interventions provided critical support to communities displaced by disasters, complementing government relief efforts and helping families recover with dignity amid worsening climate risks and resource strain.

## Reviewing Lessons from Super Cyclone 1999

On 20 March 2025, AKP organised a state-level discussion in Bhubaneswar to reflect on the lessons learnt from the 1999 Super Cyclone. The dialogue focused on strengthening community resilience in the face of recurring disasters and offered key recommendations to improve disaster preparedness and response.

Participants emphasised the need to expand and maintain cyclone shelters, increase green cover—especially mangroves, and enhance the quality of relief, livelihood support, and psychosocial care for affected communities.

The event received wide media coverage and saw messages of support from Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister Srimati Pravati Parida, and Ministers Suresh Pujari and Prithviraj Harichandan, reaffirming the state's commitment to building a more resilient and disaster-ready Odisha.







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