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# *Annual Progress Report*

*April, 2024 to March, 2025*



## **Unified Action Council**

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**Area Office:**

**At/PO: Telkoi, Dist. Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN- 758019**

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*Year: 2024 - 25*

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The organization incorporates a core value: “Development is not seen as a mere economic benefit, rather it is more of holistic socio-cultural approach that enables poor, backward and deprived numbers to live as dignified human beings”.

Recognizing education as key element of human development and social mainstreaming, the organization took the initiative in promoting education in vulnerable 13 interior forest villages of Telkoi block in keonjhar district of odisha. Now the initiative has expanded to 2 blocks of Telkoi and Banspal blocks of the district with coverage of 110 Anganwadis, 84 Primary schools and 66 High Schools including 7 Higher Secondary schools.

The organization started its intervention in the year in 2009 at a time when more than 80% of children never accessed school children. Also, the tribal area being remote and naxal infested people could not perceive real development. Thus, the organization started running Bridge Centres in 13 vulnerable tribal hamlets/ villages where no child had gone to school or never enrolled. So, the initiative took a remarkable with learning programme of 745 tribal children in bridge centres and integrating centres with new primary schools opened in hamlets/villages as per RTE Act.

### **1. An Approach to Children’s Education in Tribal belt:**

Unified Action Council has been engaged in an integrated way in promoting child education at various levels with its intervention at pre-school level in associating with Anganwadis and also, intervening at primary schools and high schools level for bringing in a qualitative change in educational scenario in tribal belt of Telkoi block in Keonjhar district of Odisha. In the year 24-25, the coverage has been 110 Anganwadis covering children of 221 under THR and 2114 under HCM. UAC works intensively with MCs and JCs for effective functionality of Anganwadis.

**a. Promoting pre-school education through Anganwadis:**

Pre-school education is seen as continuum of New Education Policy for psycho-social and physical development of children between 3 -6 years So parents as well as MC members were motivated to do some home based communication including games and learning so that children keep tracks with pre-schooling need. 127 planned meetings were organized with mothers, MC and JC members. MCs and JC members were mobilized for their due claim of provisions and participation. Also, they were made aware and motivated to focus on nutritional security of children as catered through Anganwadis so as to reduce malnutrition, stunting, wasting among young children.

- Nutritional security of poor children
- Regularity of food ensuring improved attendance of children at AWC
- Provisions made for severely malnourished children.

UAC in the year had capacitated all 84 Anganwadi Workers of 10 GPs in dealing with pre-school education and psycho social development of children. This made a positive change. Intensive focus has been in 30 Anganwadi centres in furnishing Anganwadi with requisite TLMs starting from Circle Activities to Language and Pre-math focus. This has made positive impact which was totally missing

**b. Inter Anganwadi level adolescent girls' network to prevent child marriage and child labour**

The process is on for Inter Kishori Balika Mandal development involving 2913 Kishori-Balika members led by Sakhi and Saheli of 116 groups involving 102 Anganwadis so as to effectively check rising incidences of child marriage and child labour issues that have largely impacted due to poor level of awareness, poverty factor and middle level drop out of children.

Including previous 3 years, it is 11 cases that the organization has dealt on child marriage issues. Two marriages have been stopped on marriage day itself and 1 child belonging to Dandumunda has been put at short stay home.

Also, 1 child labour has been rescued and parents have been counseled to the need of child's education and development.

UAC has a persistent effort with demand for opening new AWCs in uncovered hamlet locations. With new 8 centres opened in operational area last year 23-24 and 2 more added to phased out area. With new openings, status of Anganwadis has increased from 102 to 110 in current working area of 10 GPs.

- With legitimate demand made through communities, total 20 new Anganwadis have been opened in UAC working area in project cycle
- 30 Anganwadis have got all weather pucca structures
- Peripheral drinking water facilities have developed at 54 AW Centres
- Out of 26 mini Anganwadis, 2 Anganwadis were upgraded to full centre during last year 23-24 and this year rest of 24 mini Anganwadis have been upgraded to full centre since July 2024.

With a view to emphasize upon active learning environment in Anganwadis, 66 AWCs have been reasonably equipped with Charts, beads, flash cards, shapes and colours for keeping children's interest in learning and emphasizing upon development of PS TLM using local materials.

Materials provided:

Crayon wax colour, Water Colour, Permanent markers, sketch pen, Card board, I card, Drawing Sheet, Story Chart, Gum, Pencil, Pencil Cutter, Pictorial Charts, Hangers, TLM bags, beads and 5 model centres with small racks. Local materials have been developed and prepared in association with AWW and MC members.

Total Intervening Centres: 66	Boys: 748	Girls: 730	Total: 1478
Total Activity Centres: 30	Boys: 407	Girls: 381	Total: 788

Cluster-I (Jagmohanpur, Chhamunda, Dobalapa, Telkoi and SN PurGoda) GP  
Cluster-II (Karadangi, Deuladiha, Khuntapada, Podang and Talapada) GP

### **Growth**

Total Children – 4258

Boys – 2145

Girls – 2113

MAM (Yellow Grade) – 211 (boys - 106, Girls - 105)

SAM ( Red Grade) – 29 (boys -14, Girls – 15)

Green Grade – 4018 (boys – 2025, Girls - 1993)

**Immunization – 4258**

**Overall Attendance – 82%**

#### **c. Promoting School Education and child mainstreaming**

5665 children (2911 Boys, 2754 Girls) have been enrolled in neighbourhood primary schools. They are continuing in all 84 primary schools including 8 High schools based primary classes.

There is new enrolment and reenrolment of 823 and 46 children respectively in the year.

Baseline LLA has been conducted 31 schools involving 10 primary schools and 21 UP schools with participation of 803 children

#### **d. Initiating Community Based/ School based Learning Programme to build-back child education**

With experience drawn from stop gap situation during COVID and post COVID following failure of institutional system in materializing Siksha Sanjog programme or community based teaching by teachers; the organization having closeness to community had

initiated community based learning of children since 2020 with facilitation by locally available Vidya Saathis. This year the organization has initiated TaRL process in 40 centres run in schools' campuses. This is specifically to ensure availability of 30+ children in a single place as in normal circumstances required number is not available in normal hamlets between class III to class VIII. The details of centres and coverage of children is presented below.

# Village Learning Centres run between 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM during pre-launch and 1:45 PM to 4:00 PM during post lunch. There is fair coverage of 1466 children in 40 centres with ratio of 36.6 children per centre.

All centres have been equipped with TLM of Green board, Chalk, Duster, marker, colour, pictorial charts, chart papers along with attendance register.

As part of TaRL process in VLCs a select list of 6 senior staffs have to undergo training by Pratham Odisha and ILP during early October that has to be followed up with practice by Facilitators with refinement of skill and that has to be again followed up with Vidya Saathi level training and implementation of the process at field level. There is much enthusiasm in the process for ensuring better learning level of children

Organization has played a role in reconstitution of SMCs in 84 primary schools and 8 High Schools having primary sections: There is representation of 1767 members including 558 male parents, 558 female parents, 93 PRI members, 93 AWWs, 93 ASHA workers, 186 teachers and 186 students.

#### **Strengthening CRCs and Community level child protection committees**

Child Right Clubs have been promoted at VLCs involving children of villages and hamlets. So, 40 groups are functioning with participation of 1466 members. There is process to rebuild in schools as there was stop gap due to pandemic situation.

Sittings with CRC members are held at hamlets/ villages with communication on their rights and basic knowledge on civic responsibilities and constitutional obligation. School level protection committees are in the process of formalization

#### **Coordination with child line, DCPO and CWC for violation of child right**

17 awareness meetings have been organized in vulnerable villages on ill-effects of child marriage.

During pandemic period and after math 11 child marriage cases had been stopped with active linkage with departments and community. In preceding year too, the organization has stopped 1 child marriage case at Birigodasahi of Sibanarayanpuroda having active coordination with CDPO, Childline and CWC. Total successful cases reach out to 11. Additionally one child labour case has been successfully dealt. Besides, UAC has been constantly backing up with 2913 Kishori Balika Mandal covering 120 groups of 110 Anganwadis.

With a purpose of re-equipped schools with reasonable science kits after reopening following COVID-19 and students getting optimal practical sessions using science kits.

Total coverage of schools is:

	High Schools	UGUP	+2 (Higher Secondary)
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>

This year re-support has been made to 4 High schools and 1 UP school because of damage of existing ones.

1. Sirigida High School(New School)
- 2.R.K High School, Deuladiha
3. PTGS High School, Talapada
4. Telkoi High School, Telkoi
5. Chhamunda UP School, Chhamunda

Science Experiments conducted at different schools.

Science Experiments in High School & Upper Primary Schools (1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2025)	Clas s	No of Classes	No of Events/ sessions	Students' Participation
	VI	27	71	1012
	VII	27	168	1059
	VIII	26	117	794
	IX	20	44	912
	X	20	102	840
<b>Total</b>		120	442	4617

Science kit Support to Schools – 40

No of Upper Primary Schools – 20

No of Students Covered – 1617

No of High Schools – 19

No of Students Covered - 1394

No of Higher Secondary Schools - 1

No of Targeted Students - 256

Along with UAC science Facilitators, concerned School Teachers of school got involved in extending experiemnts based on Science kit at the time of teaching. Regular visit of Science Facilitators to schools has developed children's interest in getting hands on experience of science kit use and thus, has made to develop positive environment for science education. One positive sign, students insist for teachers to do experiment and use kit.

Impact:–

Regular intervening with students has enhanced capacity building of teacher & curiosity of learning among the students. Nearby schools request to provide science kit to their school.

Coverage of students: 3011

- Reorienting students for reasonable experiments in schools equipped with science kits

Students used to practical science sessions

Orientation of Science Teachers on Science Kit use and demonstration

Block Level High School & Upper Primary Teachers Orientation on Science Experiments and Kits use was organized during 11 December 2024 with participation of 39 science teachers from High Schools and Upper primary schools. BDO and ABDO attended the programme with perspective shared by the Secretary.

**Increasing space for career options:**

Career counselling programme has been deeply embedded in our school education approach so as to enable students opt their careers based on interest, capability and opportunities. UAC has been aptly using it for 2nd year covering all High Schools of 2 blocks.

This year printed version of Inspiration and self discovery in booklet form has been provided to students for proper process and follow-up

Extensive use of visual Holland Code as presented by ILP has been of greater interest among children as all participants could be primarily assessed as per dominant occupational interest in RIASEC.

High School Covered -	Higher Secondary Schools covered	No of Events in Stage 1 & 2	No of events in stage 3	No of events in Stage 4	Total events – 133
49	5	Student covered - 2605	Student covered - 2402	Student covered in stage 4 – 343	Student covered - 5350

During 24-25 in order to have children’s learning ability in Languages (Odia, English) and Math. and supplementary teaching in schools have fulfilled the needs to a god extent.

During the current year TaRL process has been initiated in 40 tribal majority places with focus on language and Math covering 1466 children.

# 856 children completed class-VIII during 2023-24; **5733 since project intervention**

**# 2598 children out of 2714 completed HSC class-X during 24-25 with record number of result of 95.6% in two blocks ;**  
**5816 children completed High School Education since project intervention in Telkoi block.**

**Status of career counselling by year end:**

High School Covered -	Higher Secondary Schools covered	No of Events in Stage 1 & 2	No of events in stage 3	No of events in Stage 4	Total events – 133
49	5	Student covered - 2605	Student covered - 2402	Student covered in stage 4 – 343	Student covered - 5350

Learning Level Assessment:

The year ending Learning Level Assessment at VLCs has been done with 1356 children out of 1643 children covering 61 VLCs. Assessment standardized:

- Odia: (Letter, Word, Paragraph & Story)
- Math: (Single digit, Double digit, Subtraction & Division)
- English: (Letter, Word, Paragraph & Story)

Learning Assessment with sample number of school going children has been done with.

#Total Schools covered are 22 out of 98 comprising 22.4% of total

# Total children covered are 506

#Data has been entered in spread sheet

**e. Career Guidance and Counselling for Upper class children for choosing career options on the basis of interest and merit**

This year Career Counselling has been done in a limited scale due to strict regulation of COVID norm. During the year, the coverage has been done at 17 High School premises in later part of the year due to late reopening of schools. Written Holland code use and Group counselling have been clubbed in facilitation process. 1170 children have been covered under individual counselling.

Upper primary could not be done because of closure of schools.

- Guided opportunity for career options
- Group counselling followed 1:1 counselling for choosing appropriate career options
- Extensive use of Holland Code

**f. Ensuring improved enrolment and retention of High School going children**

Enrolment of children in High Schools including schools with class- VIII was facilitated for retention of children. Facilitation has been done in 14 high Schools including 9 High Schools having class-VIII of primary level including IX & XI

Retention of 1437 children in IX & X of 14 High Schools with marginal increase from previous year position.

New entry of 325 children to class VIII of 10 High Schools

# 679 children completed class-VIII during 2021; 3358 since project intervention

# 594 children completed class-X during 2021 with record number of result of 98%; 3063 completed since project intervention. 5 children of 3 High Schools have done in A2.

**Nutrition and Education for Malnourished children:**

This programme with support of JDF, USA has been initiated in 5 Primitive tribal villages with habitation of Juang and Paudi Bhuyan. Because of multiple factors coupled with poor nutritional food availability, there is high rate of SAM and MAM cases turning to high incidences of stunting and waste. Even, children's access to nutritional facilities at Anganwadis is very poor.

On this aspect 165 select children (6 months – 6 years) of 5 villages coming under 3 different GPs are being regularly provided with 150 ML of Amul powder based milk and biscuits. Children are also being provided with uniforms, shoes along with book kits for 3 – 6 yrs of children studying in Anganwadis.

Households of children's families are also being provided with Annual Rahat support of Rice and Dal annually. As no electricity area, 125 families have been provided with LED solar lamps for doing household chores and children's home based study

**OD process at Organization level:**

This is being implemented with support of Dhvani Foundation, Bengaluru since January, 2025. This is related to build the organization as a credible and impactful organization through improved Compliances, Accountability, Capacity Building and Governance System. Organization makes a partial contribution. A top up salary is being provided to Compliance and Finance Manager.

**Past Interventions:**

**a. Adolescent Girls and Young women's education Programme and Livelihood:**

18 centres operated covering 517 girls and women. Apart from literacy social issues are also dealt with. NTFP trading is being dealt with 27 KMSJP groups involving 547 women. A specific demand has been made highlighting about MSP for NTFPs, distress sale, procurement of 10 MFPs through local agency and check middleman exploitation. 60% of the groups have moved into SHG mode for sustainability.

**Implication of Forest Rights:**

Forest occupies a central place in tribal livelihood system. With implementation of FRA, 2006 since 2008, a scope has arisen about individual and community rights of tribals who have been depending upon forest for generations. UAC along with other 9 members of FAN (Forest Area Network) have made successful micro studies in select villages on sustainable use, bio-diversity conservation and traditional livelihood system in 7 blocks of Keonjhar. The study supported by SPWD, New Delhi has been shared in a national level event. It ensured sustainable use and management of forest resources and a step towards community forest rights for livelihood sustenance.

**Livelihood Approach:**

Emphasizing on natural resources management and techno intervention in livelihood coping, the programme has been implemented with cooperation of DST, Govt of India, New Delhi in 3 villages covering 113 SC HHs. Bamboo craft development, Leaf processing, crop diversification are some of the key elements. Communities have been sustaining their livelihood system.

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