

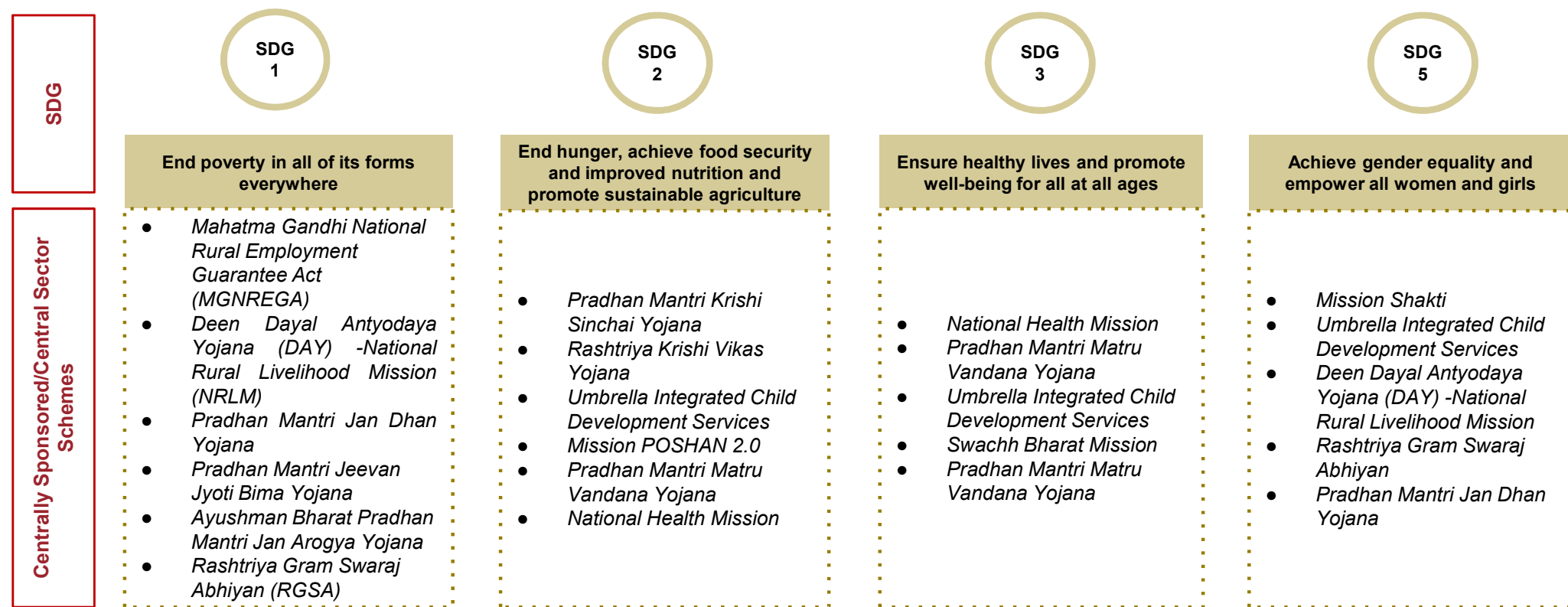
# The Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in supporting India achieve the SDGs

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April 2022

# The Government of India's commitment to India's national development

! There is strong convergence of India's national development goals and agenda of, '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**' or '**Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth**,' with the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the design and implementation of a number of social inclusion schemes and programmes mapped to the SDGs, the Government is focussed on bridging critical development gaps and advancing the SDG agenda.



# The rural context for India and the need for decentralization

Poverty concentration in India is much higher in rural areas especially in bottom 100 districts of the country. Addressing poverty in its multi-dimensional nature for rural areas is critical to the progress of the country.



According to the National Multidimensional Poverty Index developed by NITI Aayog, the **poverty ratio in rural areas is 32.75% against 8.81% in urban areas**



**73rd and 74th Amendment to the Indian Constitution**

The **73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts** gave Constitutional status to panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies (ULBs) in order to bring about greater decentralisation and increase the involvement of the community in planning and implementing schemes and increase accountability



**Women Representation in local governance**

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act also mandates 33.3% reservation for women and marginalised communities in PRIs across India. As of Sep 2020, **20 States have made provisions of 50% reservation for women** in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts

**Given the policy framework, PRIs can be strengthened to holistically address multidimensional poverty in rural areas and foster inclusion of women in local governance**

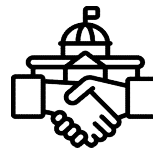
# Why Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

The PRIs are constitutionally mandated institutions, with a universal membership, that play a major role in the **socio and economic development of people at the grassroots level**

Importance of PRIs in localisation of SDGs



**Promotes democratic representation and participation**



**Ensures implementation of good governance practices and delivery of public programs to citizens**



**Increased devolution of powers and finances directly under specific programs (MGNREGA) and finance commissions**

## Role of PRIs in achieving themes of SDGs

1

Ensure convergence of the various programmes which are meant to benefit the target population groups

2

Facilitate identification, mobilisation and participation of local communities in programs run by government and NGOs

3

Support mechanisms of monitoring SDG progress and accountability initiatives on a periodic basis

**Scope to further support PRI capacities in improving delivery of public health and nutrition services at the last mile**

## How can PRIs be strengthened?

### Important areas of support for PRIs

**Thematic trainings:** Develop knowledge and understanding of themes such as gender, SDGs and role of local governance

**Leadership and communications:** Build leadership and communications capacities of PRI leaders with dedicated support for women elected representatives to lead decentralized development programs and enhance accountability

**Digitisation:** Train PRI leaders in relevant digital technologies and create a unified protocol and data capturing and tracking system for monitoring progress

### Systems needed at state / national level to support PRIs

**Convergence between Ministries:** Strong inter-ministerial coordination to oversee collaboration over SDGs and streamline processes for PRIs to work with different ministries

**Strengthening data processes between PRIs and state level bodies:** Regular two way exchange of data and knowledge to jointly track progress on outcomes and prioritize key interventions in a decentralised way

**Building stronger interface between PRI and state level stakeholders:** Enabling Elected Representatives to have formal linkages with other community based organisations and state administration for collaborative action

# BMGF supported interventions

1

## Champion Pariyojana



Bihar, Uttar Pradesh



2

## Livelihood through MGNREGA



Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar



3

## Financial inclusion with Bank Sakhis linked to GPs



Uttar Pradesh, Odisha



Partner

Geography

## Good Practices: Health & Nutrition

**Project Brief: C3 Model of Training-Mentoring PRI Members to prioritize health-nutrition in their wards/GP demonstrated success in Bihar and is being scaled in Uttar Pradesh (including with support to a new cadre of Panchayat Sahayaks and a dashboard to monitor access to public programs)**

### Role of PRIs:

- Facilitate participatory action at the ground through community ownership on quality delivery of healthcare
- Monitor and implement social welfare programs at the village level, including public health programs

1

Work with DoPR to roll out training for elected representatives on roles and responsibilities; roll out dedicated training on health and nutrition with DoHFW and DWCD

2

Adopt a strong gender lens throughout the training process of PRIs and ensure dedicated leadership and communication training for women representatives

3

Support PRI members with pictorial checklists for monitoring grassroots events (VHSND, Godbharai, Annaprashan Diwas)

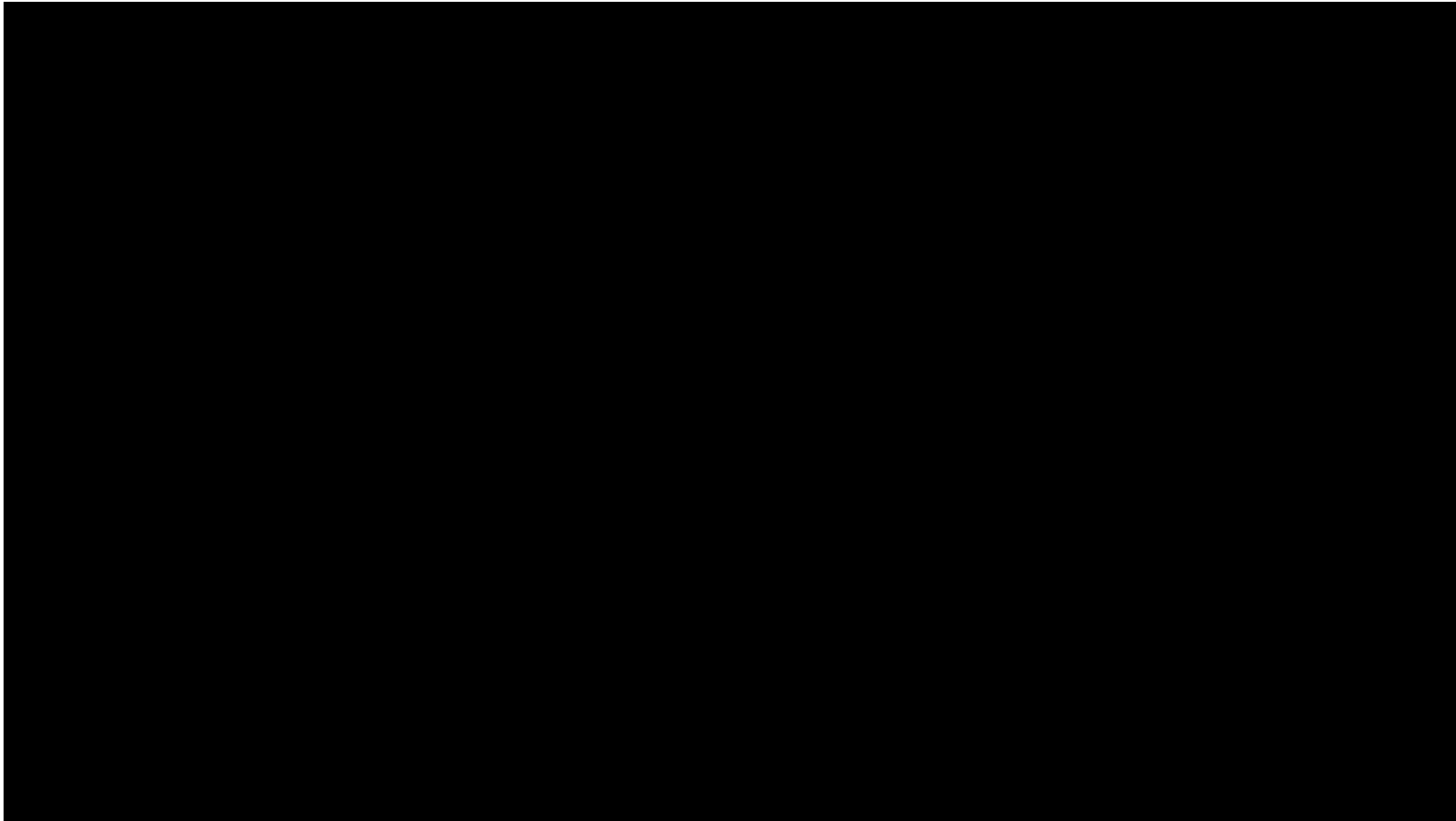
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Support PRI members to organize mahila sabhas to ensure participation of women

5

Support stronger engagement with block and district administration through events and elevating challenges faced in last mile delivery

## C3 has worked extensively with local women champions to lead village level plans





## Good Practices: Livelihood Generation

Project Brief: TRIF enabled integrated planning and realisation of funds through MGNREGA and it's convergence with water conservation and related efforts

### Role of PRIs:

- Facilitate identification, mobilisation and participation of local communities in livelihood activities
- Monitor the overall delivery of activities and progress on outcomes
- Address social norms that limit participation of women

1

Integrating digital application to support the community in registering and tracking of demands for job cards

2

Planning of water conservation and plantation projects through convergence between MGNREGA and WASH schemes

3

Converting all types of biomass into high quality manure through capacity building of women in constructing NADEP pits

4

District and block level coordination can be streamlined to ensure regular tracking of implementation of the plans – and create space for women leaders and PRI members to directly interact with Block and Dist officials

## Good Practices: Financial Inclusion

**Project Brief: District administration and banks appointed Bank Sakhis to facilitate banking for members of the self-help group and help disburse financial relief on an immediate need basis**

### Role of PRIs:

- Monitor the overall delivery of activities and progress on outcomes
- Address social norms that limit participation of women
- Support identification of the unbanked and mobilize them towards operating in formal banking channels

1

Women as bank sakhis can enable financial institutions to provide it's limited range of services at low cost in remote areas

2

Gram Panchayat support can help foster an enabling environment for women to work and build linkages with more government schemes aimed at financial inclusion

3

Government can efficiently work on disbursement of any social protection benefit or financial relief through bank sakhis and better mobilise banks to offer financial products aimed at poor

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## Way Forward

### Strengthen Capacities of PRIs

- Invest in building and leveraging leadership capacities of elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions to prioritize and consistently monitor to improve delivery of public programs at local levels
- Train PRIs esp EWRs in addressing regressive social and gender social norms
- Focus on increased knowledge and awareness at grassroots leading to better demand for quality basic services
- Increase digitization and digital literacy skills to support PRIs increasing and diverse responsibilities; magnitude of transactions, record keeping & reporting to strengthen efficiency, transparency and accountability
- Replicate best practices in the context specific to states, focusing on effective participation of women members

### Increase convergence and explicitly link SDGs with PRI activities

- Promote convergence of stakeholders for effective delivery of services and implementation of programmes
  - Integration of SDGs into Gram Panchayat Development Plans by identifying key activities for each goal and identifying funds which can be leveraged including 15<sup>th</sup> FC funds
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