

LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



Photo Credit: Indian Grameen Services

Activity: Donors and Locally Led Development: Transforming Relationships for Strong and Resilient Communities

Creating a Locally Led Development Index as a Framework To Support Development Program Design

Indian Grameen Services (IGS) is examining how donor characteristics, including rules, regulations, systems, and processes interact with locally led development (LLD) practices in India. This research will inform the creation of two major work products: a White Paper on the Typology of Donors in India, and an LLD Index, a tool that donors and implementers can use to design and implement their development programs in a more locally led way. The White Paper will explore donor characteristics that support LLD and influence the effectiveness of LLD activities. The LLD Index will help to assess the extent to which a project is aligned to the principles of LLD. The index will provide an opportunity to programme designers and donors to improve the LLD aspects of their project.

CO-CREATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Professors from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC) have partnered with IGS, bringing additional research expertise to the project. IGS will seek feedback to co-create the LLD Index from a range of public and private sector donors, as well as individuals and communities participating in LLD activities.

KEY RESEARCH & LEARNING QUESTIONS

This project will contribute to learning about:

- ✦ How donors' and implementers' organizational characteristics contribute to or inform their LLD approach
- ✦ How donors and implementers operating in India understand and carry out LLD

IGS will use the following methods to conduct this research:

- Literature review of past research on locally led development and related topics
- Pilot study of IGS' own projects to understand perspectives on LLD as it relates to livelihood promotion
- Interviews and surveys of donors (including Indian government actors, foundations, private firms' corporate social responsibility (CSR) agencies, and international agencies
- Interviews and surveys of implementers of development projects
- Data collection and analysis activities will explore gender dimensions and the pandemic context as they relate to the research topics

KEY AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:

- (a) Developing a typology of donors involved in India's regional, national, and international development space, cataloging characteristics such as organizational and leadership structures (among others)
- (b) Developing and testing an LLD index as a tool for both project design and project evaluation
- (c) Conducting field testing to explore relationships between donor characteristics and approaches and LLD processes (as defined in the LLD Index)
- (d) Disseminating the LLD Index for broader use, including outside India

ABOUT INDIAN GRAMEEN SERVICES (IGS)

IGS is a not-for-profit Company, registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, and established in February 26, 1987 as an action research organization.

The mission of IGS is "Incubating Innovations for Pro-Poor Sustainable Livelihoods". Harboring the vision of "Kaayam Rojgar, Khush-haal Pariwar" (Sustainable Livelihoods, Prosperous Households) for its impact communities, IGS explores opportunities for promoting and sustaining livelihoods through initiatives across sectors. Over the years, IGS has worked actively on community development and livelihood enhancement in different ecosystems and on diverse themes such as natural resource management, improved agricultural

practices, livestock management, forest-based livelihoods, non-farm micro-enterprises, and renewable energy. IGS works with poor and marginalized communities, living in rural and forested areas in the country. As part of its initiatives, IGS has worked with diverse community segments, adolescent girls and young women, small and marginal landholders, the landless, small, micro and nano-entrepreneurs, forest dwellers and various types of community-based institutions (co-operatives, farmer producer groups, farmer producer organizations, self-help groups, joint forest management committee, eco development committee), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Microfinance Institutions (CBMFIs).

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