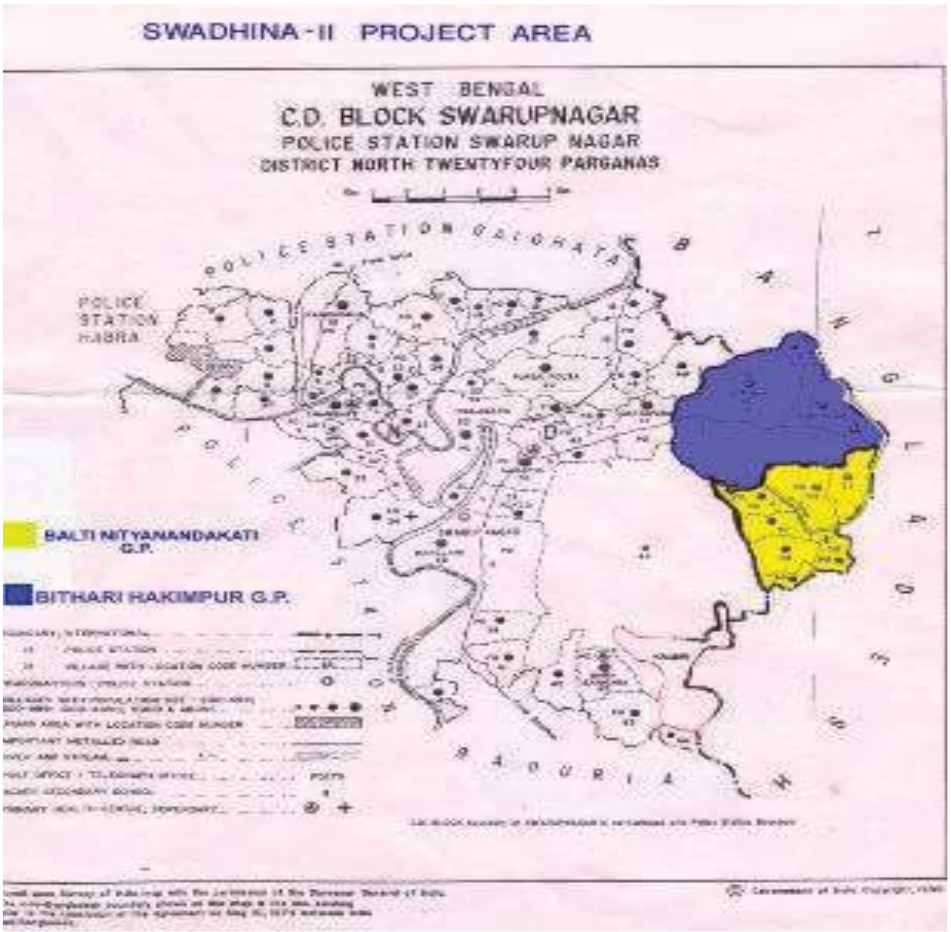
SWADHINA – II

Name of the Project: SWADHINA – II (SW-II)

Funded by: MANOS UNIDAS - Project No: IND 75743

Project Period: 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Area of Operation:

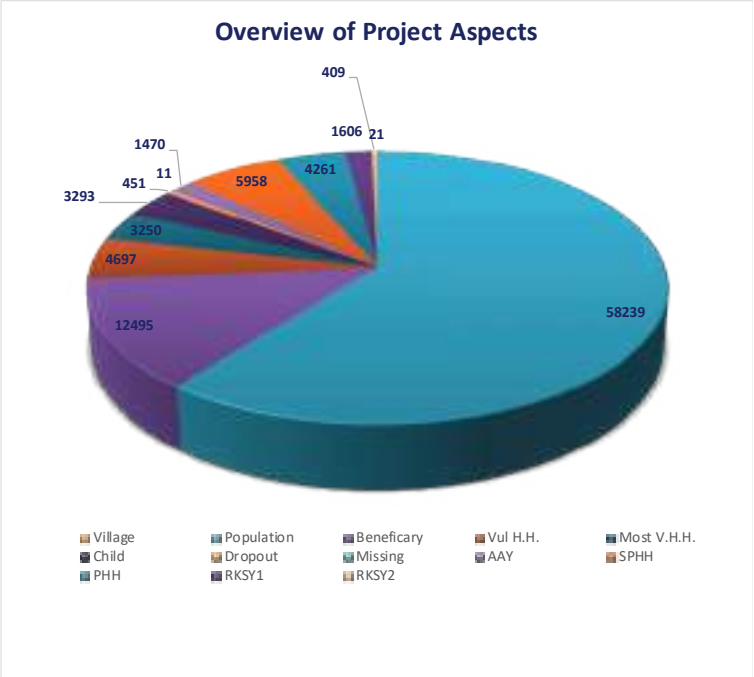


District North 24 Parganas	Block Swarupnagar	Total Population	Beneficiaries
Gram Panchayat	No. of Village		
Bithari Hakimpur	13	34445	9923
Balti Nityananda Kati	8	23794	4575
Total	**21**	**58239**	**14498**

Beneficiaries: 5,000 Households

Budget Allocation: 21,72,000

Overview of Project Aspects	
Village	21
Population	58239
Beneficary	12495
Vul H.H.	4697
Most V.H.H.	3250
Child	3293
Dropout	451
Missing	11
AAY	1470
SPHH	5958
PHH	4261
RKSY1	1606
RKSY2	409



Project Goal:

Empower the community through awareness and engagement to prevent human trafficking & domestic violence; and promote safe migration & gender equity while ensuring livelihood security for poor & vulnerable families in 21 villages of 2 Panchayats at Swarupnagar Block 24 Parganas (N).

Project Objectives:

1) Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP) – Community organisation & awareness building to prevent human trafficking and domestic violence while promoting safe migration & gender equity.

2) Income Generation Program (IGP) – Facilitate income generation programs (IGP) through community organisation, capacity & skills enhancement, and convergence with government and finance institutions.

Swadhina-II Overall Activities (April 2022-March 2023)

Sl. No.	Activities	Target	Achieved	M	Total
1	Director Field Visited	2	2	35	79
2	Staff Capacity Building Training	17	17		
3	Continual linkages with BDO, Savapati, GP Offices, Police Stations, Influential leaders, BSF	Continual linkage			
4	Continual Linkages with SHG Larders	476	254		1062
5	Continual Linkages with ASHA	37	37		37
6	Continual Linkages with ICDS	62	62		62
7	Continual Linkages with ADO	5	5	15	68
8	Village Meeting on Trafficking	52	55	901	1345
9	Home visit for Insuring Participants in Swadhina-II Program	15748 HH			15748 HH
10	Kishor Group Formation (Male Adolescent 12 to 18 Years)	21	26		296
11	Kishori Group Formation (Male Adolescent 12 to 18 Years)	21	27	403	403
12	Mahila Nazardari Group Formation	21	29	366	366
13	Farmers Group Formation	12	5		73
14	Drama Troupes Formation	8	8	60	105
15	Village Development Group Formation	12	6	32	77
16	Livelihood Group Formation (SHG)	12	2	27	27
17	Awareness on Peer Counselling	12	12	117	207
18	Awareness on Gender Justice	7	7	98	151
19	Interface Meeting	28	28	159	320
20	Knowledge Information	8	6	114	187
21	Net Work	1	1	48	77
22	Internal Review Meeting	12	12	39	120
23	Village Development Plan	1	1	33	53
24	Cultural Action	5	5	57	97

Project Activities:

- **Project Understanding**

  The entire project proposal was translated into Bengali to ensure that every team member understood project purpose and strategies as well as their own roles & responsibilities.

- **Baseline Survey**

  During the door-to-door survey it was found that number of people in any family varied from day-to-day as people were moving about in search of work. In spite of this flux situation, after the Survey of 15,748 households 3,805 (24.15 %) of the 'Most Vulnerable Families/Households' (MVH) were identified with whom the project will engage directly in anti-trafficking and livelihood security objectives of the project.

- **Regular Team Meetings**

  Weekly Team Meetings are held twice a week at Field Office during the first three weeks of each month. The SPI meets with Director, DO and SKC Finance department at Kolkata once a month to submit monthly project expense statements, bills and vouchers for approval.

- **Half-Yearly Review & Planning**

  During these periodic organizational Projects Review Meetings the project leaders learn about good practices through sharing about each other's work, achievements and challenges.

- **Stakeholders' Appraisal Meetings**

a) **Governance & Admin Official:** The various stakeholders and government officials including Battalion & Company Commanders of the Border Security Force (BSF) were met by the full project team led by SPI.

b) **Govt. Self-Help Groups:** Meetings were held with 29 SHGs from 29 villages during this period.

c) **Child & Health Officials:** Meetings with 25 ICDS workers, 15 ASHA & 5 ANM workers were held in this period so that the project can collaborate with the National Health Rural Mission (NHRM) and ICDS.

d) **Local Community Organizations:** There are 12 Government Registered Community Clubs in the project area. The project has built good rapport with them through frequent meetings with the leaders and members of these clubs.

- **Village Meetings**

  1186 participants capacitated themselves with the knowledge of “Push and Pull” factors. Push Factors: early marriage, broken families, child labour and gender decimation. Pull Factors: fake promise of marriage, better life and better job. People learnt that the target of traffickers is mostly widows and families headed by single women.

- **Strengthen Old & Formation of New CBUs:** Informing people of their rights and responsibilities; the Rights that the system gives to the people and how to use that Rights. Helping spread awareness among communities.

- **Mahila Nazardari Dal formation:** 366 participants attended “Nazardari Groups’’ are formed and capacitated to protect their own brothers and sisters. This action will lead them to make a movement to prevent trafficking issues in their area.

- **KISHOR-KISHORE DAL:** Over 50 Child Clubs had been formed in villages in this area as a part of a children focused disaster risk reduction program implemented by Seva Kendra from April 2018 to March 2021.

- **Farmers Group Formation**

  Home Garden: The Participants acknowledge, the economic benefits of home gardens go beyond food and nutritional security and subsistence, especially for poor families. Vegetables provides rich health benefits – people who eat more vegetables and fruits are likely to have a reduced risk of chronic diseases.

- **Interface Meetings with Govt. officer:** 53 Participants attended The SDMO, ASHA and ICDS Workers Informed that lot of child Marriage accrued during Covid. In this regard they have agreed to make Income generation program through Panchayat schemes.

- **Cultural Action & Public Performances**

  5 Drama Groups have been formed during this period with 43 youngsters prepared their own dramas, skits and songs and put-up beautiful performances delivering very important awareness messages on child marriage and trafficking to the community during the Women's Day Celebrations on 8th March this year. This program was attended by over 430 people with Vice President of Balti GP was Chief Guest and was also attended by ASHA workers.

- **Knowledge – Information Sessions (Anti-Trafficking)**

  Input sessions were conducted during village meetings and also at the time of formation of adolescent groups and meetings with SHG groups. They are now also aware of ChildLine No: 1098 to be called for any difficulties and for reporting any child in distress, inform of any proposed child marriage and/or child abuse.

- **Knowledge – Information Sessions (Livelihood Security)**

  Input sessions were conducted as a part of the Farmers' Group formation process where 44 cultivators' agriculture labour were present and the following inputs provided through discussion prose.

- **Awareness on Peer Counselling**

  Peer Counselling is a process of sharing with each other their problem, their difficulties, condition, disability, 94 participants learned that, Peer group could be both positive and negative. Right things to do or something good, helpful, that is positive peer, wrong things to do or something bad harmful that is negative peer

- **Awareness on Domestic Violence**

  234 participants committed to ending violence against girls and young women. As experts in education, community action and advocacy, we are reaching out to 3250 Most Vulnerable people in 2 GP, to break the culture of silence on violence and take action to end it. Know them Understood what is Good touch and What Bad Touch.

- **Livelihood Security Training**

  Create awareness and knowledge of livelihood, Creation of resource persons, promotion of value chain. Meetings were also held with many Self Help Group leaders and members and all have shown willingness to work with Seva Kendra's Swadhina-II project to stop human trafficking and securing Livelihood for the most vulnerable.

- **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):**

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
2. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
3. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
4. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
5. Annapurna Scheme, 170 participants attended this meeting.

Government Entitlements Facilitated by SWADHINA-II

Name of Govt. Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries
Kaynashree (School Girls)	235
Old Age Pension	274
Widow Pension	2576
Disable Pension	2075
Family Benefits scheme (BMSSY)	235

Awareness on Gender Justice

The participants acknowledged that people can do all types of tasks and they have every right to do so. They understood that for their development equal participation is required. They also learnt that respect should be given to both genders. Engaging girls and young in their own protection and safeguard, empowering girls to prevent child marriage and, creating awareness on “no discrimination” based on sex, caste, disability, religion, colour or creed.

Network

The groups often conduct awareness drives Network holds an important role in providing independent inputs into government implementation of Child Rights has helped many to understand the different facets of this social issue.

Sporting Activities

Physical activity and reduced stress contribute to more and better sleep, thus, improving overall health conditions. On the other hand, engaging youth in sport related activities serve as a positive distraction to prevent them from doing drugs and commit crimes of any sort. Additionally, sport activities result in building and strengthening of muscles, increase in stamina, speed, and fat burn among inactive individuals.

Community Plan

The team consists of Elected Representatives (ERs) and employees of the GP, level ANM, ASHA,ICDS, SHGs, and community volunteersThe major works undertaken plan programs are related to education, health, water, social welfare, agriculture, skill development animal husbandry, tree plantation etc found in Community plan (O Budget) total 263 Participant attended.

Additional Activities:

Sl. No.	Activity Type	Activity No.		Participants		
		Plan	Done	M	F	Total
1	23rd January Celebration Netaji Birthday	1	1	12	11	23
2	26th January Republic Day Celebration	1	1	26	20	46
3	Covid19 Prevention Awareness	-	8	125	195	320
4	8th March Women's Day Celebration	1	1	50	380	430
5	Dengue awareness	21	17	125	227	352
6	Health awareness	21	18	149	347	496
7	Independence day celebration	2	2	50	57	107
8	Environment day celebration	2	2	170	220	390
9	Hazard preparation Day	2	2	-	-	180
10	Home Garden	105	105	-	-	105
11	Lighting the flame campaign	6	6	120	230	350
12	Donor field visit	1	1	-	285	285
13	Message Display at School Sports	1	1	-	-	2000

Achievements:

- Kishori Bahini groups are formed with 26 and 7 members in each group to prevent Child Marriage.
- 12 Mahalia Nazardari group Formed Panchayat level to prevent domestic violence.
- 5 Farmers' group formed.
- 24 Kishore Group formed.
- 8 Drama Group Formed for role-play.
- The Participants understood domestic violence.
- 92 SHG members decided to discuss the matter during their monthly meetings.
- 49 SHG members took an oath to save their mothers and daughters from domestic violence.
- The participants understood the bad effect of early marriage.
- 55 Women took oath for not giving marriage to their daughters before reaching 18 years.
- 15 Mother-in-laws shared that they will treat their daughter in laws as their own daughter and they will not torture them at all.
- 10 members of ABSK club decided to work as vigilant group to prevent early marriage.
- Allow daughters and daughter in laws to take decision in the family.
- Give proper respect and dignity for the daughter in laws.
- 17 Village level Child Protection Committee formed with 340 members.
- 10 Kishori Bahini formed to prevent Child Marriage.

Impact:

1. For the formation of VLCPC, PLCPC and BLCPC the Govt. has requested SKC to identify members and form these groups on their behalf. SKC SW-II staff are also appointed members of these groups as help from Seva Kendra Calcutta.
2. 92 SHG members decided to discuss the Swadhina II matter during their monthly meetings.
3. 49 SHG members took an oath to save their mothers and daughters from domestic violence. The participants understood the bad effect of early marriage.
4. 135 Women took oath for not giving marriage to their daughters before reaching 18 years.
5. 10 members of ABSK club Balti GP decided to work as vigilant group to prevent early marriage.
6. Allow daughters and daughter-in-laws to take decision in the family. Treat daughter in laws as their own daughters. Give proper respect and dignity for the daughter in laws.
7. 45 Village level Child Protection Committee formed with 540 members.
8. 27 Kishori Bahini formed to prevent Child Marriage.
9. Balti Dakshin Boniadi club organizes awareness programme on Anti Trafficking.
10. People are aware of 1098- Child Line and they use it whenever is needed.
11. People learnt that the target of traffickers are mostly widows, single women headed families, women of economically vulnerable families.

Stories of Change:

1. The GP Pradhan, Upopradhan, and members of Balti Nityanandakati became aware of the trafficking issues. They have also accepted that lack of job facility in the area is one of the severe problem of migration and trafficking. In this regard, they have agreed to make Income generation program through Panchayat scheme. They have also agreed to introduce register for those people who wants to migrate for job. One of the biggest changes is in the attitudes of men. Earlier, men did not like it when we met with women exclusively and they were not involved. They were wary and suspicious. Now, they actually welcome us, because they have seen how our helping women helps their children in turn, and improves the families' quality of life.

2. 25 Mother-in-laws shared that they will treat their daughter-in-laws as their own daughter and they will not torture them at all. Initiative was taken by SHG members to bring back Ms. Jharna Bibi to reunite the family through reduction of domestic violence activity. "I'm a boy, but I do the dishes and cleaning at home, and I'm proud that my mother has taught me these things."

3. **Village: Goalpotha, GP:** Bithari Hakimpur, Block: Swarupnagar,

   District: North 24 Parganas, State: West Bengal.

   Archana Sarkar, a 29 year old housewife from Goalpotha village, was one of the regular participants of "Awareness Building Camps" conducted on livelihood, from where she obtained valuable inputs on nutrition garden, food security, organic farming etc. She developed an acute interest to educate herself on the processes involved in "Vegetable Garden". After a period of struggle, her hard work gave her a fruitful outcome. Currently, she is collecting 15 to 17 kgs of vegetables per month from the nutrition garden owned by her. The produce grown on her nutrition garden are both consumed by the family and sold in the local market as well. Therefore, what we can learn from this particular case study is that organic nutrition garden not only ensures food and nutrition but it also promises a livelihood option for the most vulnerable households.

Outcome:

Vegetable	Period/Season	Cost of Cultivate	Production		Home use	Sale	Income
Chilies	Jan - Mar	10.00	15 kg	1,500/-	2 Kg	13 Kg	1,300/-
Gourd	Jan - Mar	150.00	70 pc	1,750/-	5 pc	65 pc	1,625/-
-	**Jan - Apr**	**160.00**	-	**3,250/-**	-	-	**2,925/-**

Case Study:

Pabankati village is located on the banks of River Sonai and every year during monsoon the area gets flooded. Crops get destroyed and people are out of work due to water stagnation caused by flood water. Consequently, people are compelled to migrate to other states and districts for employment. Besides this, there are other cross border issues that lead to early girl child marriage, particularly in this area. With the intervention of Seva Kendra Calcutta via the project – Swadhina II, 9 SHG leaders namely, AlO Mahalia, Antara Sarkar, Supria Mondal , Kakali Biswas, Kanika Sen, Arati Sarkar, Banolata Das, Sumana Das, Sadhana together organized themselves into a group called Mahali Nazardari Dal. The members pledged to not to get their children married off before the legal age of 18. According to them "We are going to organize Mahali Nazardhari Group in each of the Gram Samsad of Bithari Hakimpur Gram Panchayat.