



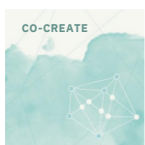
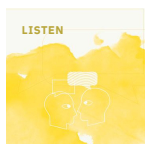
Work4Progress Annual Workshop

BACKGROUND NOTE

India is a country with 70 percent of its population living in rural areas, out of which 30 million are unemployed.¹ Additionally, 16.4% of India's population live in poverty, due to lack of livelihood security.² The growing job crisis has put in focus the inadequacy of traditional employment generation programmes to provide sustainable solutions at large scale.

There is a growing need for innovative approaches to realign the current ecosystem of economic development and job creation, and reset the growth trajectory to make it more inclusive, especially for those who have been left behind in the 'job race'. Micro-entrepreneurship has emerged as a response, employing 108 million of the nation's workforce.³ However, these enterprises are marred with a complex set of social and economic challenges, including lack of information and inaccessibility to critical resources such as finance. This requires a fundamental shift from "vertically" designed and managed enterprise development programmes to "horizontally" organised support systems.

The **Work4Progress (W4P) programme**, launched in India in 2016 and subsequently in Peru and Mozambique, by the "la Caixa" Foundation, seeks to create new employment opportunities that are inclusive in nature and systemic by design. Social innovation is at the core of the W4P approach and brings with it advanced tools and methodologies for key processes of listening, co-creating, prototyping, and accelerating. The program operates as an open platform for civil society organisations, financing institutions, research and technology agencies, and public stakeholder institutions. In India, the W4P program has two networks anchored by Development Alternatives (DA), which joined the W4P platform in November 2016, and ActionAid Association and its partner in Spain, Alianza por la Solidaridad, which joined in March 2020. The program is operational in 345 villages across Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand, and works with socially and economically disadvantaged communities, women, and young adults.



¹ CMIE (May-Aug 2022)

² UNDP (Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022)

³ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Annual report 2020-2021

Over six years, the network led by Development Alternatives has grounded the social innovation processes and developed tools for deep listening and co-creation that are driven by community-centeredness, innovation, and social change. A strong emphasis on developmental evaluation, learning, and knowledge building has helped to gather insights, refine program strategies and processes. In August 2021, the DA network entered the acceleration phase with implementing partners, including Manviya Drishtikon Sewa Sansthan and Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti, and new national-level partners, including Transforming Rural India Foundation and Rang De. The influence of the DA-led network has begun to extend beyond these program geographies as partnerships are getting forged with other stakeholders, including community networks, state governments, NGOs and donors.

Working in collaboration with Alianza por la Solidaridad, a member of the ActionAid International Federation, the work of ActionAid Association's (AAA) social innovation processes have laid a solid foundation for social and economic transformation among landless, small and marginalized farmers, by encouraging women's leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. The grounded action led in partnership with Gramonnati Sansthan and Sai Jyoti Sansthan, both grassroots-based civil society organisations, have paved the way for acceleration. Over the years, the AAA network has consolidated and scaled up its impact and forged collaborations with new partners that include community collectives, entrepreneur platforms, state government, universities and others.

We believe that a movement towards inclusive entrepreneurship will, simply put, bring more people into the ambit of entrepreneurship and create more jobs in such enterprises. In the last years, the program has been able to establish and support thousands of enterprises in just seven development blocks of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand, leading to creation of over 10,000 sustainable livelihoods.

THE W4P PLATFORM IN INDIA

The Work4Progress India Annual Workshop is envisioned as a platform for learning from 'collective intelligence' of change makers and experts in the field of entrepreneurship. The workshop will take the audience through the uniqueness of the social innovation and transformational approach for entrepreneurship-led job creation. Through deliberations at the Annual Workshop we seek to gain diverse perspectives on:

Unlocking critical flows for accelerating entrepreneurship

- *Enabling last mile access to credit through innovative finance mechanisms*
- *Leveraging institutional infrastructure and ecosystem resources for job-creation*

Empowering communities through dignified employment opportunities

- *Collectivisation as a means for social and economic transformation*
- *Building platforms for collective learning to unlock entrepreneurship*



Work4Progress India Annual Workshop

25 November 2022

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Agenda

9:30 - 9:45	Registration and Welcome Tea
9:45 - 9:55	Welcome to Work4Progress India Annual Workshop <i>HRH the Infanta Cristina of Spain, Director of International Programmes, "la Caixa" Foundation - Work4Progress Global Perspective</i>
9:55 - 10:25	Opening Session: Overview of Work4Progress <i>Work4Progress India Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Presentation by Development Alternatives-Presentation by ActionAid Association <i>Work4Progress India Platform - Opportunities and Challenges; by Prema Gera</i>
10:25 - 11:10	Thematic Session 1: Access to Credit for Inclusive Entrepreneurship <i>Introductory presentation, short expert inputs and discussion Hosted by Rang De</i>
11:10 - 11:30	Tea Break
11:30 - 12:15	Thematic Session 2: Mainstreaming Entrepreneurship through Institutional Engagement and Ecosystem of Growth <i>Introductory presentation, short expert inputs and discussion Hosted by TRIF</i>
12:15 - 13:30	Roundtable on 'Feminist Solidarity Economies for Social Transformation' <i>Exploring how women-led collective enterprise can empower vulnerable communities Hosted by Alianza - ActionAid Association</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:45	Roundtable on '#SAMUDYAM - Unlocking Entrepreneurship for Job Creation' <i>A national level 'collaboratory' for building local entrepreneurship ecosystems Hosted by Development Alternatives</i>
15:45 - 16:00	Closing Remarks <i>Marta Solsona Masana, "la Caixa" Foundation and Prema Gera, External Coordinator, Work4Progress India Platform</i>
16:00 - 16:15	Vote of Thanks <i>Ankit Mudgal, Development Alternatives and Blanca Mingo, Alianza por la Solidaridad</i>