

CNI SBSS

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
Annual Report 2025-2026



It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the CNI Synodical Board of Social Services (CNI-SBSS) for 2025-2026

The year under review was one of both challenge and renewal for CNI-SBSS. The disruption related to the FCRA registration created significant operational difficulties during the year, but the organisation responded with resilience and commitment. Following the grant of a new FCRA registration in September 2024, the Board and the team worked to restore programme operations and strengthen the systems required for the organisation to move forward with confidence.

As a Board, we remained conscious of our responsibility to provide sound governance, oversight and stewardship of the resources entrusted to CNI-SBSS. Particular attention was given to statutory compliance, financial accountability, organisational systems and the strengthening of partnerships.

I am encouraged by the continued commitment of our staff and programme teams, who worked alongside communities during a period of considerable uncertainty. The work of CNI-SBSS remains firmly rooted in the belief that sustainable development must be community-led, inclusive and responsive to the realities faced by vulnerable communities.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our development partners, Churches, Diocesan Boards of Social Services, staff, volunteers and community leaders for their continued commitment and partnership. Our partners have walked with us through both opportunities and challenges, and their trust remains an important strength of CNI-SBSS.

As we look ahead, I believe CNI-SBSS has an important role to play in strengthening community resilience, livelihoods, food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, youth engagement and social inclusion. Equally important will be our continued efforts to strengthen the organisation itself so that our programmes are accountable, effective and sustainable.

I am confident that, with the commitment of the Board, the dedication of our staff, the participation of communities and the continued support of our partners, CNI-SBSS can build on the experience of this year and move forward with renewed purpose.

I commend this Annual Report to you with gratitude for the work accomplished during the year and with hope for the journey ahead.

Rt. Revd. S.K Nanda
Chairperson
CNI Synodical Board of Social Services

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF COORDINATOR'S DESK
Annual Report 2025-2026



The year 2025-2026 was a period of transition and consolidation for CNI-SBSS. Throughout the year, our work remained focused on strengthening communities through livelihoods, food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, youth development and community leadership

Our major programmes included Community Development – From Margin to Many, Fullness of Life, Jharkhand Food Security Project and Let My People Go, with activities covering sustainable agriculture, nutrition, access to government schemes, gender equality, youth development and community capacity building.

Alongside programme implementation, we continued to strengthen our monitoring and evaluation, financial management, organisational systems and staff capacity, while maintaining engagement with government departments, community institutions and partners.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the CNI Synod, the Moderator and other Office Bearers, and the Board of CNI-SBSS for their guidance, support and oversight during the year.

I am equally grateful to our development partners and donors, particularly Bread for the World, Christian Aid, Kerk in Actie, PWS&D and USPG, for their continued trust and partnership. Their support has enabled CNI-SBSS to sustain its work across diverse communities.

My appreciation also goes to our staff, diocesan partners, community leaders, volunteers and participating communities whose commitment makes this work possible.
As we look ahead, our focus will remain on strengthening the quality and sustainability of our programmes, improving institutional systems and responding to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Monijinjir Byapari
Chief Coordinator & Secretary
CNI Synodical Board of Social Services

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INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

The year 2025–26 was a year of continued engagement, consolidation and strengthening for the Church of North India – Synodical Board of Social Services (CNI-SBSS). Across India, vulnerable and marginalised communities continued to face interconnected challenges of livelihood insecurity, food and nutrition concerns, gender inequality, limited access to productive resources and markets, and increasing environmental and climate-related risks. Small and marginal farmers, women, children, Dalit and Adivasi communities and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups remain particularly affected by these challenges. These realities reinforce the need for development approaches that are inclusive, community-led and focused on long-term resilience and dignity.

CNI-SBSS, as the development arm of the Church of North India, continues to respond to these challenges through its commitment to social justice, human dignity and sustainable development. Its Vision is to “Establish a society based on equality, justice and peace in harmony with nature.” Its Mission is, “In the spirit of service and sacrifice as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, CNI-SBSS aspires to restore the dignity of the marginalized communities through a collective struggle.” This vision and mission guide the organisation's engagement with communities and shape its efforts to address both immediate vulnerabilities and the underlying causes of exclusion and poverty.

During 2025–26, CNI-SBSS continued its work across seven states, more than 600 villages and over 200 panchayats, reaching more than 800,000 people through village-based organisations, community leaders, volunteers and staff. The organisation's programmes addressed a wide range of interconnected needs, including sustainable livelihoods, organic and climate-resilient agriculture, food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, youth development, education, social protection, community leadership and institutional strengthening. Particular emphasis remained on enabling communities to access government schemes and services, strengthen local institutions, improve livelihood opportunities and participate more meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives.

The year also provided important learning on the need to move beyond short-term interventions towards sustainable and community-owned development processes. Strengthening local leadership, improving access to markets and resources, building resilient livelihoods, promoting gender equality and deepening partnerships with government, churches and other development actors remain central to CNI-SBSS's approach. Monitoring, evaluation, financial management and organisational systems were also strengthened during the year to improve programme quality, accountability and effectiveness.

The work of CNI-SBSS contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 – Climate Action, SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. Through its programmes and partnerships, CNI-SBSS seeks to translate these global commitments into locally relevant action, ensuring that development reaches communities at the margins and strengthens their capacity to shape their own future.

Against this backdrop, 2025–26 was a year of strengthening foundations, deepening community engagement and preparing for the next phase of growth and impact, while remaining firmly rooted in CNI-SBSS's commitment to equality, justice, peace, dignity and service.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2025–26, CNI Synodical Board of Social Services (CNI SBSS) implemented a diverse portfolio of programmes addressing livelihoods, employment, food security, gender equality, youth development, social protection, community leadership, peacebuilding and climate resilience across multiple states in India. The programmes combined direct livelihood support with community mobilisation, access to government entitlements, leadership development and strengthening of community institutions. The portfolio demonstrated a consistent focus on enabling vulnerable communities to move from dependence and insecurity towards greater economic resilience, participation and self-reliance. Across the programmes, interventions reached thousands of people and supported women, youth, farmers, workers and community institutions.

Key Programme Results

The Community Development: Fullness of Life – II programme reached 7,552 people across 30 villages, including more than 4,351 women and 1,500 youth. The programme strengthened SHGs, Mahila Adhikar Manch and People's Organisations, while improving access to government schemes and entitlements. Scheme linkages generated reported benefits of over ₹1.02 crore, while women-led livelihood initiatives such as tent-house services, candle-making and vegetable farming created additional income opportunities.

The Jharkhand Food Security Pilot Project reached 4,430 people from 1,310 households across 30 villages, with women comprising 2,702 of those reached. The programme promoted nutrition gardens, organic farming, livelihood diversification and improved access to ICDS, POSHAN and government entitlements. Farmers and women's collectives increasingly adopted sustainable agricultural practices, while women were recognised as lead demonstration farmers and agricultural knowledge holders.

The Socio-Economic Development of Women Programme directly reached 637 people, including 621 women, across 15 villages. Eight SHGs comprising 67 members accessed ₹8.55 lakh in NRLM loans for small enterprises and farming activities. The programme also strengthened women's participation in Gram Sabha processes and promoted greater awareness of gender equality, rights and nutrition.

The Let My People Go Programme 2023–26, implemented across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, Maharashtra and the North Eastern Region, addressed youth unemployment, vocational opportunities, gender inequality, leadership, peacebuilding and social cohesion. The programme reported 27 youth moving into gainful employment with earnings of ₹5,000 or more per month, while a further 10 youth began earning ₹3,000–4,000 per month. More than 212 youth were actively engaged in community activities, including civic facilitation, mediation and access to social-security services.

From Training to Livelihood and Enterprise

An important feature across the portfolio has been the movement from training and awareness towards tangible livelihood outcomes. The programme reports demonstrate several examples of participants creating or strengthening their own sources of income.

In Punjab, a training-cum-production stitching centre enabled 20 women to produce bags, school uniforms and winter garments, with reported earnings of approximately ₹8,000–₹10,000 per month. A further 15 young women are receiving tailoring training.
In Assam, two young people trained in welding and fabrication established a local enterprise providing fabrication services and earning approximately ₹16,000–₹20,000 per month, while also engaging two unemployed youth as apprentices. In Jharkhand, programme interventions enabled women and families to diversify livelihoods through agriculture, small businesses and cottage enterprises. The stories of Mersa and Roshni demonstrate how modest financial and technical support can contribute to increased economic independence and entrepreneurship.

Strengthening Women's Agency and Community Leadership
Across the portfolio, women's economic empowerment was closely linked with increased voice and participation in community decision-making. Women participated more actively in Gram Sabha meetings, raised issues concerning rights and entitlements, and took on leadership roles in agriculture and community institutions.
The Jharkhand programmes particularly demonstrate this transition. Women moved from being regarded primarily as agricultural labourers or helpers towards becoming demonstration farmers, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Rita Kujur, for example, received a power tiller and developed a marigold enterprise generating approximately ₹300–500 per day, while also becoming recognised as a demonstration farmer.

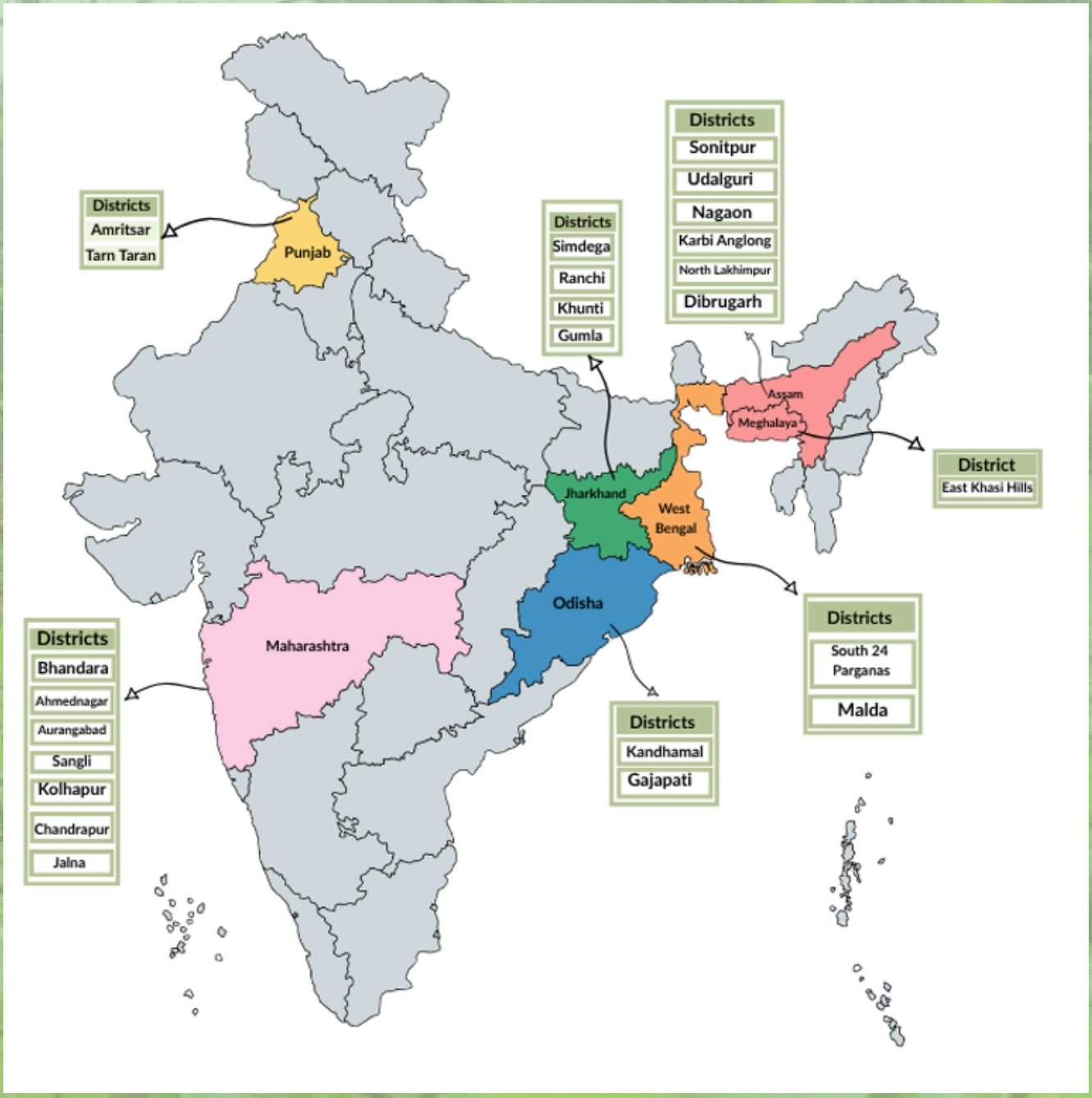
Building Resilient Communities
The programmes also addressed vulnerabilities beyond income. Community mobilisation contributed to improved awareness of social protection, nutrition, gender equality, women's rights, conflict resolution and civic participation. Community institutions such as SHGs, People's Organisations, Mahila Adhikar Manch and youth leadership networks were strengthened to continue this work beyond individual project interventions.
The programme portfolio therefore reflects an integrated approach in which **livelihoods, gender justice, food security, social protection, leadership and community resilience** reinforce one another.

Financial and Organisational Position
The Treasurer's Report records that CNI SBSS had total income of ₹8.29 crore and expenditure of ₹8.24 crore during FY 2025–26. Foreign contribution receipts were approximately ₹7.77 crore, with ₹2.61 crore in unutilised foreign contribution balances at year-end. The audit also noted project-wise accounting, adequate liquidity, recognition of project liabilities and continued donor and statutory compliance.

Key Challenges
The reports identify a number of continuing challenges: limited access to start-up capital and markets, unemployment and migration, persistent gender norms, substance and alcohol dependency, water scarcity and climate-related risks, administrative delays in accessing government schemes, and the sustainability of community institutions after project support ends.
The experience also demonstrates the importance of strengthening systems that connect skills and training with markets, finance and enterprise opportunities, while ensuring that community institutions have the capacity and resources to sustain their work.

Looking Ahead
The programme experience of 2025–26 provides a strong foundation for CNI SBSS to deepen its integrated development approach. The next phase can build on the demonstrated strengths in livelihood promotion, women's empowerment, youth engagement, food security, community leadership and access to entitlements, while placing greater emphasis on measurable outcomes, sustainability, institutional strengthening and quality and accountability.
Overall, the programme portfolio demonstrates CNI SBSS's continuing role in working with vulnerable communities to transform access into opportunity, participation into leadership, and livelihood support into greater resilience and self-reliance

WHERE WE WORK



PROGRAMME

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

Brot für die Welt

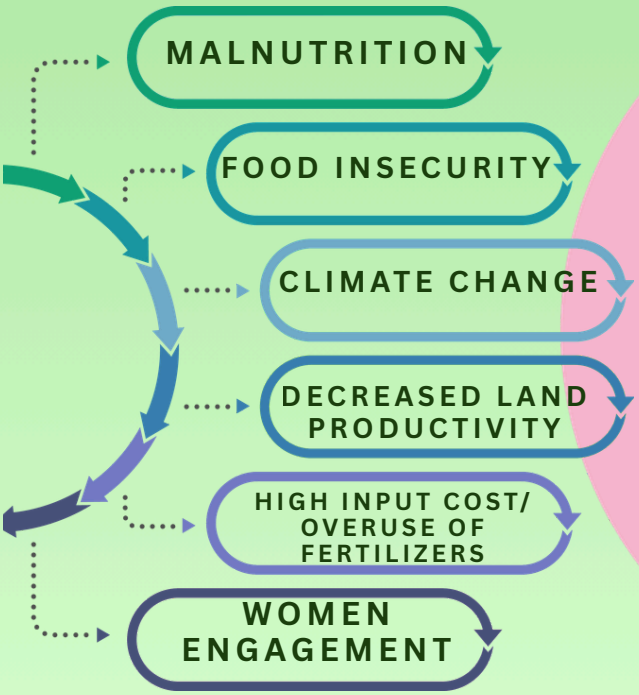
PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	Community Development: Margins to Many - II
Thematic Area	Agriculture / Nutrition/ Gender / Climate

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab
Districts	15 Districts
Blocks	37 blocks
Villages	424
People Reached	22952
Households Reached	12520

ISSUES ADDRESSED



ACHIEVEMENTS

Indicator	Achievement
People reached	22952
Households supported	12520
Women reached	5834
Youth reached	862
Farmers	495
Villages covered	424
Community institutions strengthened	32
Enterprises / livelihoods supported	32
Money received through access to schemes	INR 1,19,92,450

RESULTS & CHANGES

Economic Change
A total of 495 marginal farmers successfully accessed diverse government welfare schemes and public subsidies totaling INR 1,19,92,450 (averaging INR 24,227 per beneficiary). These leveraged resources facilitated critical agricultural and livelihood support, including solar pump installations, water panels, quality seeds, livestock assistance and agricultural loans.

Social Change
Women are now recognized as primary, equal partners in agricultural governance and farm management rather than being relegated to secondary helper roles.
32 visible successes of integrated demonstration plots have inspired farmers from non-intervention villages to adopt organic farming practice.

Institutional Change
Structured dialogues with 915 government officials and line agency representatives-built scheme awareness and bridged administrative gaps. This catalyzed significant institutional change by establishing direct, transparent communication channels between local departments and target communities. The project achieved structural institutional changes by revitalizing 110 local Anganwadi Centers and aligning frontline ICDS operations with POSHAN 2.0 norms.

Behavioral / Practice Change
12488 families' dietary habits have improved across families through the active cultivation and regular daily consumption of fresh, chemical-free vegetables grown in their household nutrition gardens. Community perception around organic farming being excessively expensive has shifted, as farmers actively adopt low-cost organic manure prepared from locally available materials. Recognizing the higher market value and consumer demand for organically grown produce, farmers are successfully getting premium prices for their produces which is directly boosting their household earnings.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Unpredictable climate conditions like severe dry spells, shifting monsoon patterns and unseasonal rainfall disrupts crop cycles and posed recurring threats to agricultural productivity across target regions.
- Complex paper trails, stringent documentation requirements and slow administrative processing caused significant delays in the timely approval and release of statutory government schemes and subsidies.
- Statutory compliance requirements and administrative adjustments under the FCRA regulatory framework required substantial operational resources, occasionally creating administrative bottlenecks for field execution.
- Deep-Seated Socio-Cultural Discrimination & Intersectional Barriers across caste, class, and gender lines continued to pose structural hurdles, hindering marginalized households from fully accessing public services and equal leadership opportunities.

PHOTO GALLERY



SHG members and SBSS project member from Amritsar project area met with President of India to present their work.



Farmer Uday Jojo from Chotanagpur field area with materials received from government scheme to make poly house



Farmer Renuka Khulsi and another farmer from Kolkata project area ploughing her field



Farmer Barsagade from Nagpur project area received these buffaloes under govt. scheme

STORY OF CHANGE

Cultivating Change: Shyamali's Journey to Organic Farming

In Akushe village, West Bengal, 50-year-old Shyamali Maji and her family of five, living in a single-room hut on just 150 sq. ft. of land, struggled to survive on irregular daily wage labour and small-scale livestock rearing. Desperate to boost vegetable yields on their tiny plot, they turned to chemical fertilizers, which backfired into degraded soil, poor harvests, rising costs and frequent family health issues. Identified as a vulnerable yet motivated household through CNI-SBSS Kolkata Project surveys, Shyamali actively enrolled in organic farming capacity-building trainings. Guided by hands-on mentoring from SBSS field staff, the family overcame initial fears of crop failure and completely shifted from chemical inputs to self-prepared Jeevamrut and compost pits made from cow dung and household waste.

Today, this low-cost transition has transformed their lives: the 150 sq. ft. plot now fulfils the family's daily vegetable needs, drastically reduces food expenses, improves household health and provides quality fodder that boosts their cow's milk productivity. Recognized as a model of community-led organic farming, their plot even drew an official study visit from the Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) of the Bishnupur–II Block (ATMA, Government of West Bengal). Looking ahead, Shyamali plans to expand livestock rearing and advocate for eco-friendly farming across the fields where her family works, declaring.

"With women's strength and the support of the Kolkata Project, our lives have changed forever. What we have today is healthy food, dignity, and hope for the future"- Shyamali Maji

One Acre, Multiple Crops, Greater Returns: Dhanraj's Farming Transformation

In Mundala village of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra, Dhanraj Ramji Bharadkar was traditionally limited to mono-crop paddy farming using chemical inputs. Over time, escalating costs for synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and labor, compounded by erratic climate patterns, drastically eroded his farm margins and made traditional paddy cultivation unsustainable.

Seeking a viable alternative, Dhanraj attended a local Manviya Hakka Sangharsh Samity (MHSS) meeting organized under the CNI-SBSS program. Inspired by program staff insights on demonstration plot models and agro-ecological practices, he developed a dedicated farm micro-plan in May 2025 to shift from single-crop paddy to diversified organic vegetable cultivation across one acre.

Guiding his transition, CNI-SBSS assisted Dhanraj in establishing a green shade net for nursery propagation and preparing bio-inputs, including Jeevamrut, Panchagavya, Dashparni extract, Waste Decomposers and on-farm vermicomposting. By replacing chemical inputs with homemade organic preparations and diversifying into crops like brinjal, okra, leafy greens and pigeon pea, his annual net returns from that single acre surged from ₹45,000 under paddy to approximately ₹1,40,000. In addition to processing and preserving indigenous seeds for localized seed sovereignty, Dhanraj now generates extra income selling surplus vermicompost, serving as a prominent demonstration model and inspiring neighboring smallholders across Saoli Taluka to adopt sustainable farming.

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	Local Capacities for Peace – VII
Thematic Area	Community engagement, Peace building,

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Odisha, Jharkhand
Districts	15 Districts
Blocks	37 blocks
Villages	424
People Reached	7961
Households Reached	1747

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- PEACE BUILDING
- GENDER DISCRIMINATION
- MINORITIES RIGHTS
- LAND DEVELOPMENT

ACHIEVEMENTS

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
People Reached	7961
Women Reached	324
Youth Reached	180
Community Institutions Strengthened	3

RESULTS & CHANGES.

Social Change
41 Staff, community leaders and mentors equipped to develop strategies for addressing different issues of at hand. Broader community resilience and cohesion improved significantly, marked by reduced tensions, stronger cross-community dialogue, and a growing environment of peaceful coexistence across participating regions. Targeted villages developed strong collective voice and community-led leadership, fostering organized public demand to ensure the effective delivery and implementation of government schemes.

Institutional Change
Institutional capacity was strengthened by equipping 139 key stakeholders including 41 staff members, mentors and local leaders, alongside 98 community youth and women's group members with specialized leadership, advocacy and problem-solving strategies to drive sustained local action.

Behavioral / Practice Change
A total of 1,450 community actors—including 1,422 community members, 28 trained youth and local women leaders demonstrated tangible behavioral shifts by actively practicing inter-group tolerance, applying analytical conflict-resolution skills and directly engaging local authorities to secure public entitlements and drive accountability.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Strict surveillance to systematically shrink the operational freedom of Civil Society Organizations.
- Polarizing groups leverage targeted misinformation and hate speech to trigger inter-community mistrust and spark communal conflict.
- Entrenched patriarchal structures deliberately restrict women from gaining equal leadership, political representation, and socio-economic autonomy.
- Industrial development, mega-infrastructure, and weak legal titles forcibly alienate indigenous communities from their ancestral territories.

PHOTO GALLERY



Campaign for Gender Equality across different project areas



Youth from SBSS participating in LCP National level sharing workshop



Youth planning and developing strategies to address different issues

STORY OF CHANGE

The Nandre Turning Point

For years, the Dalit families living on the neglected grazingland of Nandre village, Miraj Taluka, endured life without basic necessities, no paved roads, functioning drainage, streetlights or reliable drinking water. The burden fell heaviest on women and children, worsening their daily struggles and deepening their social exclusion. The turning point came on January 21, 2025. Led by Ms. Priyanka Kale, President of the Women's Wing of the Dalit Samaj Vikas Parishad(People's organization) and Youth Resource Person Ms. Manisha Kamble, the settlement's women organized a collective response. They resolved to attend the Republic Day Gram Sabha on January 26 in large numbers nearly 175 strong to publicly demand accountability from the Panchayat, where the higher class people were in leadership positon.

The sheer scale of this upcoming mobilization sent clear ripples through the local administration. Seeking to prevent disruption at the official Republic Day event, the Sarpanch, Gram Sevak and Panchayat members took the rare step of visiting the Dalit settlement on January 23. In a firm but peaceful negotiation, the women laid out their non-negotiable demands for basic infrastructure, agreeing to cooperate only if action was swift and visible. The response was immediate. Within days, local officials laid gravel on internal roads, installed street lighting, initiated drainage work and upgraded household water access.

By combining disciplined collective action with strategic dialogue, the women of Nandre proved that peaceful, organized grassroots leadership, driven by women and youth can hold local governance accountable and secure long-overdue community rights.

Standing Against Power: Justice for a Sangli Daughter

In a quiet corner of Sangli District, a heinous crime against a young minor girl from an economically fragile, marginalized family threatened to vanish into silence. Her attacker was backed by political influence, a terrifying advantage that usually enforces silence through fear and social shame.

The family was isolated and intimidated until the CNI SBSS Kolhapur Project team and a local People's Organization stepped in. Recognizing the danger of political suppression, they formed an unyielding shield around the family.

First, members of the People's Organization walked side-by-side with the parents into the police station, providing the institutional backing needed to formally lodge the complaint. Next, to neutralize local political clout, the CNI SBSS team submitted a written representation directly to the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sangli District, bringing high-level administrative visibility to the case, the relevant case has been filed and preparator has been arrested. Throughout the entire ordeal, they strictly guarded the survivor's privacy, protecting her from public stigma.

By transforming a lonely struggle into a strategic, organized movement, these grassroots organizations proved that courage, paired with collective action, can confront powerful interests and demand uncompromised justice for the most vulnerable.

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	**Community Development: Fullness of life – II**
Thematic Area	**Livelihoods & Agriculture, Gender Equality, Social Protection & Entitlements, Community Development & Leadership**

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	**1**
Districts	**3**
Blocks	**3**
Panchayats	**10**
Villages	**30**
People Reached	**18161**
Households Reached	**4036**

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Low and stagnant agricultural productivity, including water scarcity and vulnerability to drought.
- Poverty, unemployment and distress migration among rural and tribal communities especially youth.
- Limited access to government schemes, social protection and entitlements.
- Gender inequality and patriarchal norms
- Limited livelihood opportunities and income diversification for women and rural households.
- Weak community participation in local governance, accountability and rights-based processes.

ACHIEVEMENTS



CHALLENGES FACED

- Unemployment and continued out-migration of young people and families.
- Labour exploitation and engagement in unsafe/dangerous manual work.
- Water scarcity, low groundwater levels, contamination and limited irrigation
- Corruption and administrative delays affecting access to government schemes and services.
- Persistent patriarchal norms
- Resistance in some villages to women operating farm machineries.

PHOTO GALLERY













Women-led initiatives across the Torpa & Karra blocks focused on livelihoods, empowerment, access to entitlements, leadership, and community participation

STORY OF CHANGE

From Financial Crisis to a Farm of Hope

In Village Ela, Panchayat Soy, Block Bano, Uday Jojo shouldered a family of six including a daughter whose ongoing medical treatment in Kolkata weighed heavily on the household. When Uday was linked to the Irrigation Well Construction Scheme, a ₹4,24,000 government investment, it promised transformation. But delayed wage payments plunged him into crisis, forcing him to mortgage his own field just to survive.

Rather than remain silent, Uday turned to CNI SBSS. Through the MGNREGA awareness campaign, he learned he had rights and the power to demand them. With support from the People's Organization, he co-authored a formal application to the Block Development Office, pressing for accountability on unpaid wages.

While payment recovery continues, Uday didn't wait for resolution to rebuild. With CNI SBSS's support, he transformed the well site into 3 acres of horticulture and secured a poly house nursery worth ₹2 lakh turning a stalled government scheme into a self-driven livelihood. His story shows that awareness of entitlements, paired with the courage to act, can turn vulnerability into forward motion even amid unresolved struggle.'
"Uday's story shows that awareness of one's rights, paired with the courage to keep building, can carry a family forward even while justice is still being pursued."

From Daily Wage Earner to Leader

In Barkuli, Jharkhand, Swati Kerketta's life was shaped by early marriage, limited schooling, and the daily grind of wage labour that barely fed her family of four. With no land or skills to call her own, economic vulnerability was her constant companion.

CNI SBSS's entry into her village changed that. Through her Self-Help Group, Swati stepped into the male-dominated space of the Gram Sabha, building confidence alongside technical knowledge. Selected to run a demonstration plot for organic farming, she mastered Jeevamrit, neem extract, and bio-pesticides — turning 0.5 acres into a thriving, climate-resilient farm.

Between October 2025 and March 2026, Swati earned ₹26,800 selling tomatoes, cabbage, okra, brinjal, and more — freeing herself from daily wage dependence and building real savings for her children's future. Today, neighbouring farmers, both men and women, follow her lead in organic methods. Swati's journey shows how sustainable agriculture and local governance, woven together, can turn one woman's resilience into a community's shared path forward.

"Swati's success is a testament to the power of integrating local governance with sustainable livelihoods to achieve true gender equity."

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	**CNI – Let My People Go Program 2023 - 2026**
Thematic Area	**Livelihoods, Employment opportunities, Youth Development, Gender Peacebuilding & Social Cohesion, Community Leadership**

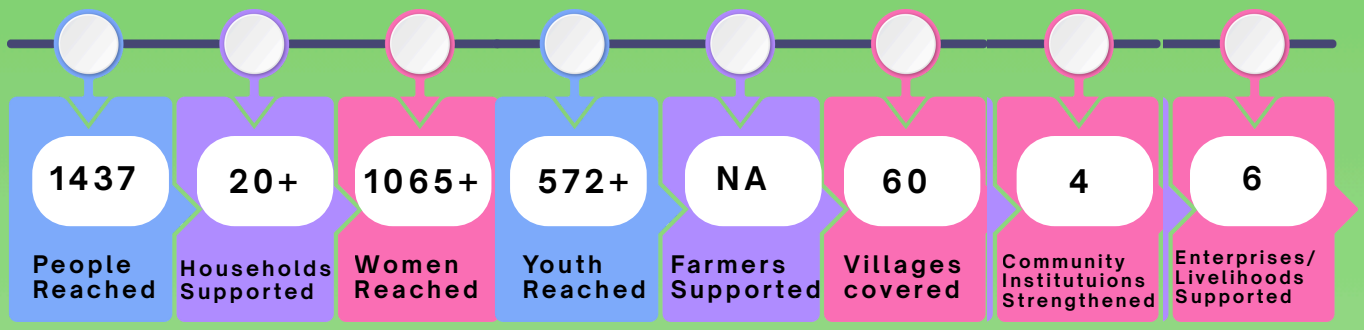
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	**6**
Districts	**6**
Blocks	**12**
Panchayats	**47**
Villages	**60**
People Reached	**1437**
Households Reached	**20**

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Youth unemployment and underemployment
- Limited access to vocational training and livelihood opportunities
- Conflict, social divisions and limited community cohesion
- Substance dependency and low motivation among some youth
- Gender inequality and limited economic opportunities for women
- Limited awareness of women's rights, gender issues and reproductive health
- Limited youth and community leadership in local development

ACHIEVEMENTS



RESULTS & CHANGES

Economic Change
27 youth achieved gainful employment, earning INR 5,000+ per month, while 10 others began earning INR 3,000–4,000 monthly. The stitching centre has also strengthened the livelihoods of 20 women/households through production and market-linked activities.

Social Change
212+ youth are actively engaged in community activities, including civic facilitation, mediation and access to social-security services. Community leaders, faith leaders and women leaders have also been strengthened on gender, peacebuilding and local development issues.

Institutional Change
The programme strengthened SHG-based livelihood structures, youth leadership networks and community-level leadership mechanisms. Regional networking through LCP South Asia Network and ACT Alliance–India Forum has further supported knowledge exchange on peacebuilding, gender justice and resilience

Behavioral / Practice Change
Youth are increasingly applying mediation, communication and leadership skills to resolve grassroots disputes and support community cohesion. Communities are also engaging more actively in gender awareness, women's rights, conflict resolution and civic participation.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Financial constraints among vulnerable families
- Substance or alcohol dependency among some youth, affecting motivation, participation and retention.
- Limited access to start-up capital, credit and local market demand making it difficult for trained youth to establish their own enterprises.

PHOTO GALLERY













Youth involved in various livelihood & skill development training & activities across North East & Barrackpore Project Area

STORY OF CHANGE

From Insecure Labour to Sustainable Livelihoods: Women of Suffian, Punjab

For the women of Village Suffian in Amritsar, earning a stable income was a constant challenge. Many depended on irregular agricultural labour or low-paid domestic work, often earning only a few hundred rupees a day. This left families financially vulnerable and limited women's ability to make decisions within their households.

With support from KIA, Netherlands, a Training-cum-Production Stitching Centre was established in February 2026. Twenty women from the Anureet and Ekta Self-Help Groups are now engaged in producing cotton and jute bags, government school uniforms and winter garments. They earn approximately ₹8,000–₹10,000 per month, providing a more stable source of income for their families. The centre has also created a pathway for younger women, with 15 young women currently receiving tailoring training.

The initiative has strengthened household incomes while increasing women's confidence, economic independence and participation in family decision-making.
"The stitching centre provided a way to earn with dignity and contribute more confidently to families, thereby increasing their limits to achieve"

From Educated Unemployment to Local Job Creators: Ashman and Aman, Assam

Ashman and Aman Munda, young members of the Adivasi community in Sirajuli Tea Estate, Assam, had completed their education but struggled to find meaningful employment. With limited land and few local opportunities, they faced the prospect of low-paid work or migration in search of jobs.

Through the programme, they received fully sponsored residential training in Welding and Fabrication. After completing their training, they identified a local need for fabrication services and established their own enterprise near the tea estate. The unit now produces window grills, iron gates, agricultural tool modifications and structural frames, generating approximately ₹16,000–₹20,000 per month depending on orders.

Their success has extended beyond their own livelihoods. As the enterprise grew, they engaged two other unemployed youth as apprentices, creating additional employment and opportunities for skills transfer within the community. Their journey demonstrates how practical training, when connected to local opportunities, can enable rural youth to become entrepreneurs and job creators.

"We wanted to create work here instead of leaving our community to look for jobs elsewhere and now we have it,"said Ashman.

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

USPG

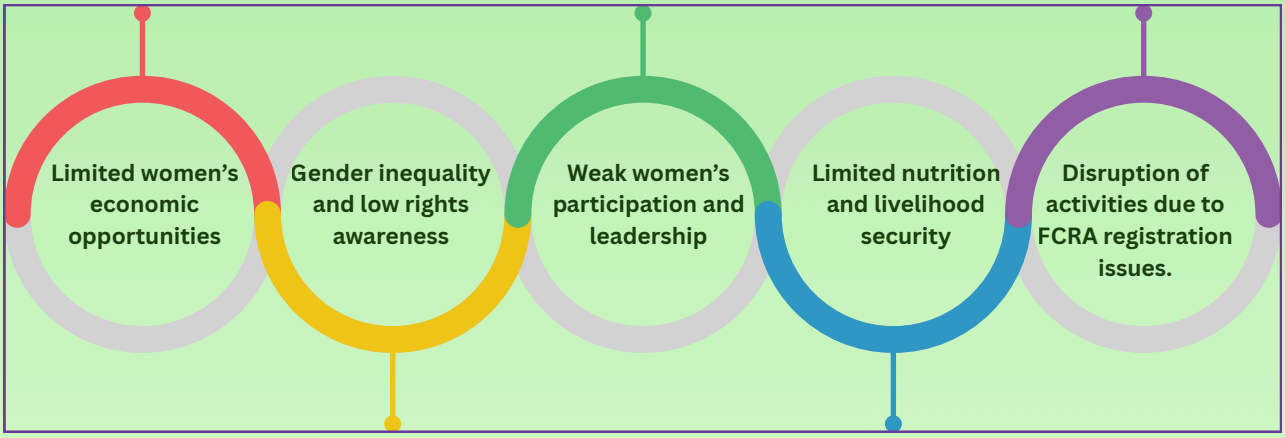
PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	Socio – Economic Development of Women
Thematic Area	Gender, Livelihoods, Nutrition

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	3
Districts	3
Blocks	6
Panchayats	8
Villages	30
People Reached	1800
Households Reached	400

ISSUES ADDRESSED



ACHIEVEMENTS

Indicator	Achievement
People reached	637 direct
Households supported	400
Women reached	621 (including all trainings)
Youth reached	NA
Farmers / workers supported	67
Villages covered	30
Community institutions	2 (MAM & POs)
Enterprises / livelihoods supported	8

RESULTS & CHANGES

Economic Change
8 SHGs comprising 67 members accessed ₹8,55,000 in loans under NRLM to set up grocery shops, food stalls, and farming ventures. Women trained in nutrition gardening began selling surplus vegetables, earning a minimum of ₹1,500/month while also improving household food security and dietary diversity.

Social Change
International Women's Day celebrations drew 637 direct participants (137 men, 500 women) across 9 villages, creating public space to discuss women's societal role. MAM members reported increased confidence in applying gender knowledge in their personal lives, with some men committing to more empathetic, less bias-driven household behaviour.

Institutional Change
MAM members began actively participating in Gram Sabha meetings, putting forward women's issues directly in local governance spaces. The project is working toward institutionalizing women-led Community-Based Organizations (SHGs, MAM, Producer Groups) as financially and socially self-sustaining structures beyond the project period.

Behavioral / Practice Change
Gender analysis tools (e.g., the 24/7 daily activity schedule) helped 45 women and community members understand patriarchal norms and gender disparities in resource access and decision-making. Nutrition garden training led families to adopt homemade organic manure practices (kitchen/animal waste composting), shifting household food production toward pesticide-free, self-sufficient models.

CHALLENGES FACED

- FCRA renewal was initially denied, bringing FCRA-supported activities to a halt during part of the reporting period. SBSS subsequently received fresh FCRA registration in September 2024.
- Persistent gender inequality, patriarchy and harmful gender norms affected women's participation and decision-making.
- Women required continued support to strengthen their livelihoods, entrepreneurship and access to finance.
- Continued need to strengthen youth participation and leadership in community development.
- Sustaining women-led community institutions and ensuring their long-term financial and social sustainability remains an ongoing requirement.

PHOTO GALLERY











Stills from community-based interventions promoting gender equality, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods, including nutrition gardens, gender equality and gender-transformative workshops, with active participation of women, men and youth.

STORY OF CHANGE

From Daily Wage to Self-Reliance

Mersa and her husband, from Kasmar village in Torpa block, Khunti district, belong to a simple rural family whose livelihood once depended almost entirely on daily wage labour. With limited resources and no land of their own, the family struggled for years to gain any real economic footing.
The turning point came in 2024. Following discussions in the Gram Sabha, Mersa's in-laws allotted her and her husband a piece of land, and for the first time, she began cultivating paddy, finger millet, and vegetables with her own hands. Around the same time, CNI SBSS selected Mersa for SHG support and provided ₹10,000 in financial assistance to help her start a small shop. As the shop's income steadily grew, it strengthened the family's economic footing and eased the burden of daily household expenses.

Encouraged by this progress, the couple took another bold step and purchased a second-hand tempo for ₹1,50,000. Mersa's husband now runs it on hire, transporting passengers between Kasmar and Torpa and taking bookings for weddings and social functions, adding a third income stream to the family. Between the farm, the shop, and the tempo, the family's economic challenges have reduced significantly. Today, Mersa and her husband are able to focus on their children's education and nutrition, meet household needs with far greater ease, and move steadily toward true self-reliance. Where there was once only struggle, there is now an environment of happiness, shared effort, and new dreams for the future.
“We started with nothing but daily wages, now we have our land, our shop, our tempo, and hope for our children's future” says Mersa.

Lighting Her Own Path — A Cottage Industry Is Born

Mrs. Roshni Soy, a tribal woman from Patpur village, Panchayat Jariya, in Torpa block, Khunti district, carries the weight of her household largely on her own. Her family of six includes her husband, Mr. Fauda Soy, who works as a labourer far from home, and their four daughters, three of whom are still pursuing their education. With her husband away for work, the responsibilities of farming and managing the household have long rested on Roshni's shoulders, and the family has always depended on agriculture as its primary source of income.

When SBSS organized a one-day candle-making training in her area, Roshni saw a rare opportunity to build something of her own. She didn't hesitate — with the support of SBSS staff, she travelled all the way to Ranchi to personally purchase two candle molds and 25 kilograms of raw wax, investing ₹11,000 of her own money into the venture.
Today, Roshni has begun candle production from her own small cottage enterprise. Though the venture is still young, it already represents far more than extra income — it is a source of pride, independence, and possibility. For Roshni, this is not just about selling candles; it is about proving to herself and her daughters that a woman can build something entirely her own, strengthening both her family's finances and her place as an entrepreneur in her community.
" Roshni's story shows that even the smallest investment in oneself, a single day of training, a handful of raw materials can become the seed of independence, when paired with the courage to begin."

REPORT FOR PROGRAMME

Presbyterian World Service & Development

PROGRAM IDENTITY

Name of the Programme / Project	**Jharkhand Food Security Pilot Project**
Thematic Area	**Agriculture, Livelihoods, Food Security, Nutrition & Health, Gender, Youth, Climate Resilience, Community Development, Government Entitlements**

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

States	**1**
Districts	**2**
Blocks	**3**
Panchayats	**6**
Villages	**30**
People Reached	**7500**
Households Reached	**1667**

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Low agricultural productivity, soil degradation and limited adoption of sustainable/organic farming.
- Household food insecurity, poor dietary diversity and limited access to nutritious vegetables
- Limited awareness and access to ICDS, POSHAN, government entitlements, and livelihood opportunities.
- Gender inequalities limiting women's agricultural decision-making, leadership and income generation.
- Climate and livelihood vulnerabilities, including rainfall, water scarcity, soil erosion, crop/livestock losses, limited diversification, weak community institutions and youth engagement.

ACHIEVEMENTS



RESULTS & CHANGES

Economic Change
Nutrition gardens have reduced household spending on market vegetables, freeing income for other needs, while demo-plot farmers like Sunil Sanga earned ~₹2 lakh from tomato cultivation alone. SHG members running small trading and food-stall businesses report daily incomes of ₹300–400, going directly toward household needs and children's schooling.

Social Change
Jharkhand outperformed neighbouring states in 2025 Take Home Ration delivery (~65% of eligible beneficiaries reached in Ranchi and Khunti), reflecting stronger household engagement with ICDS. Women's collectives launched a grassroots anti-alcohol campaign across Chata Panchayat, directly addressing a driver of domestic instability and land loss.

Institutional Change
Three women were selected as lead demo farmers, institutionalizing a shift toward recognizing women as primary agricultural knowledge-holders rather than "helpers." Village-level collectives and people's agencies are now positioned to independently advocate for entitlements and manage local development.

Behavioral / Practice Change
Community understanding of nutrition improved significantly when households changed their perception on nutrition/hygiene with families adopting practices like Tiranga Bhojan and improved personal hygiene. Farmers exposed to organic methods (vermicompost, Jeevamrit) are voluntarily adopting these techniques after seeing peer success on demo plots.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Extreme weather, soil erosion, and livestock mortality due to water scarcity.
- Digital access barriers from the ICDS in remote areas.
- Migration of YRPs and inconsistency in Anganwadi services affecting community engagement.
- Alcohol addiction driving economic and domestic instability.
- Livestock losses, limited land, fencing issues and low adoption of allied livelihoods affected household incomes.

PHOTO GALLERY








Stills from project interventions across Karro, Bera & Itki blocks addressing sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, government linkages, climate resilience, and livelihood development

STORY OF CHANGE

Turning the Soil into a Legacy

In the rugged landscape of Jharkhand, where the average farmer's income often stagnates between ₹5,000 and ₹7,000 a month, Paul Nelson Dhan and his wife lived a life defined by quiet sacrifice. For years, they wrestled with the soaring cost of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that ate into their already narrow profits. Yet their focus was never on their own comfort it was on ensuring their three daughters could break the cycle of poverty through education.

The turning point came in 2024, when Paul transitioned to organic farming with the support of CNI SBSS. By eliminating expensive chemical inputs and adopting sustainable practices, he dramatically reduced his overhead costs. A newly added water facility transformed his 50-decimal plot from a seasonal gamble into a year-round engine of income. A recent tomato harvest alone brought in ₹14,422, the first tangible proof that years of struggle were finally bearing fruit.

Today, the heavy cloud of financial uncertainty is beginning to lift. With two daughters training to become nurses and the third pursuing a Bachelor's in Commerce, Paul and his wife have achieved what many once thought impossible for marginal farmers.

Paul's journey stands as a powerful testament to the fact that when resilience meets the right support, the earth can provide enough to change a family's legacy forever.

The Woman Behind the Power Tiller

In the quiet village of Kurgi, in Itki Block, the rhythmic hum of a power tiller has become a new kind of anthem - the sound of Rita Kujur reclaiming her identity. For years, like many women in her community, Rita was the invisible backbone of the fields, working from dawn until dusk, yet always labelled a "helper" rather than a farmer.
Everything changed when the CNI SBSS project recognized that transforming a village begins with empowering its women. By providing Rita with a power tiller worth ₹60,000, the project gave her far more than a machine, it gave her independence. For the first time, she no longer had to wait at the mercy of others to prepare her land. With the turn of a key, she became the master of her own schedule and her own 50-decimal plot of earth.
Rita's true passion blooms in the vibrant oranges and yellows of her marigolds.

Transforming 25 decimals of her land into a floral sanctuary, she combined traditional wisdom with modern techniques like mulching and drip irrigation, weaving garlands by hand every morning and evening. What began as a hope for "extra income" is now a thriving daily business, earning her ₹300–500 a day. In the cooling months of October, she turned to potatoes, harvesting a bounty that fed her family and added ₹5,000–6,000 in profit, with labour costs reduced to little more than the price of petrol.

Rita's story shows that when women are given the tools to lead, they don't just grow crops — they grow belief in themselves and in the future of their community.

Punjab Flood Relief Support: Reached **1,762 flood-affected families** through direct **beneficiary transfers, dry ration and survival kits, with relief support** from **ACT Alliance, Royal Enfield, Amazon and Himalayan Mountain Forum.**



FINANCE

The Statutory Audit of CNI SBSS for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2026 was conducted by KAMG & Associates, Chartered Accountants. The audit covered the examination of the Consolidated Financial Statements, Foreign Contribution Accounts, Local Contribution Accounts, books of accounts, supporting records, statutory compliances, internal controls, and project fund utilization.

Key Strengths Observed by Management

The audited financial statements indicate the following strengths:

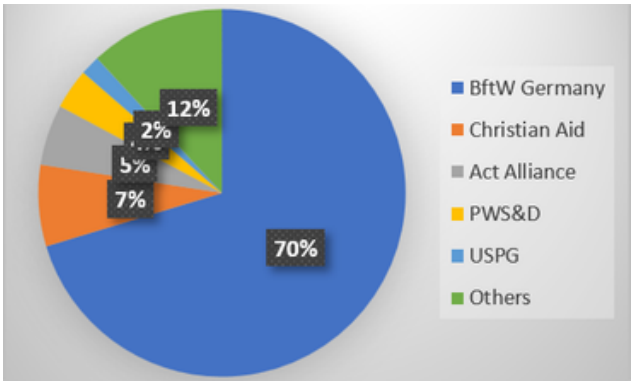
- *Significant expansion in programme activities during FY 2025-26.*
- *Successful management of multiple donor-funded projects.*
- *Strong growth in unrestricted reserves.*
- *Continued compliance with donor and statutory requirements*

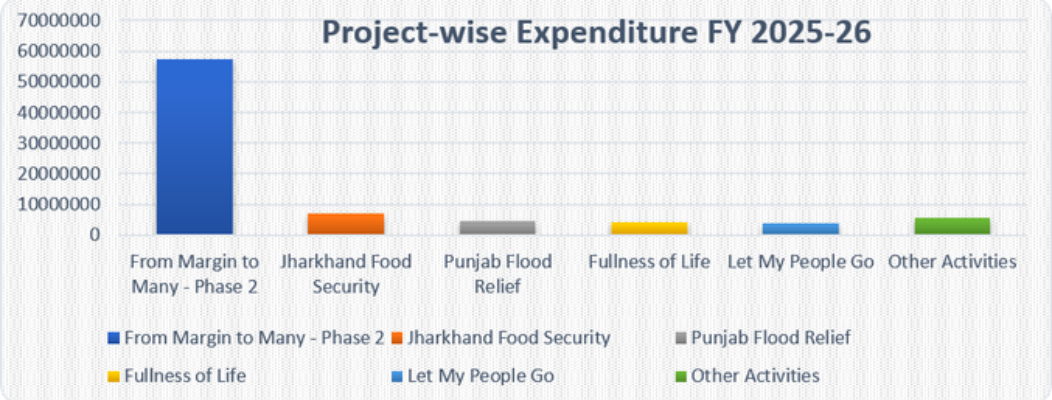
Income and Expenditure Performance

During FY 2025-26, CNI SBSS recorded a total income of ₹8.29 crore and total expenditure of ₹8.24 crore. Surplus is ₹ 5 lakhs.

Major Sources of Income	
Source	**Income (₹)**
BftW - From Margin to Many Phase II	5.82 Crore
Christian Aid - Fullness of Life	59.40 Lakh
ACT Alliance (Punjab Flood Relief)	44.17 Lakh
PWS&D (Jharkhand Food Security)	29.52 Lakh
KIA - Let My People Go	9.18 Lakh
USPG - Social Economic Development of Women	14.23 Lakh
Interest on Grants and Bank Accounts	6.03 Lakh
Other Special Projects – LCP UMN	42.60 Lakh

Major Sources of Expenditure	
Project	**Expenditure**
BftW - From Margin to Many Phase II	**5.74 Crore**
PWS&D - Jharkhand Food Security Pilot Project	68.96 Lakh
Christian Aid - Fullness of Life	42.95 Lakh
ACT Alliance - Punjab Flood Relief	44.04 Lakh
KIA - Let My People Go	36.55 Lakh
USPG - Social Economic Development of Women	10.74 Lakh
Other Special Project Activities – LCP UMN	26.47 Lakh
Other Special Projects – LCP UMN	42.60 Lakh





GOVERNING BODY



Rt. Rev. B. B. Baskey
Chairperson



Rt. Surendra Kumar Nanda
Vice Chairperson



Soumya Ranjan Mohanty
Chief Coordinator & Secretary



Manjur Halder
Treasurer



Subrata Gorai
Member



Lal Bahadur Kamble
Member



Rt Rev. Mrs. Sushma Kumar
Member



Rev. Dr. D.J. Ajith Kumar
Member



Matthew C.P
Member



Shona Thangavel
Member



Prita Samantroy
Member



Joshua Rathnam Chinthala
Member



Rev. Pradeep Kawah
Member



Anima Ekka
Member



Parvesh Mattu
Member

OUR TEAM

TOTAL TEAM

79

46 men · 58%

33 women · 42%



HEAD OFFICE

12 staff

9 | 3

FIELD AREAS

54 staff in 12 areas

30 | 24

FIELD STAFF BY AREA

Chotanagpur	Nagpur	Amritsar	Kolhapur	Barrackpore	Kolkata
12	8	7	6	6	5
2 · 10	7 · 1	6 · 1	3 · 3	2 · 4	3 · 2

Durgapur	Cuttack	Marathwada	Phulbani	Nasik	North East
2	2	2	2	1	1
1 · 1	1 · 1	2	2	1	1

Men · Women

CONSULTANTS

13

MEN **7**

WOMEN **6**

OUR PARTNERS



CONCLUSION

The year 2025–26 was a year of continued engagement, consolidation and strengthening for the Church of North India – Synodical Board of Social Services (CNI-SBSS). Across India, vulnerable and marginalised communities continued to face interconnected challenges of livelihood insecurity, food and nutrition concerns, gender inequality, limited access to productive resources and markets, and increasing environmental and climate-related risks. Small and marginal farmers, women, children, Dalit and Adivasi communities and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups remain particularly affected by these challenges. These realities reinforce the need for development approaches that are inclusive, community-led and focused on long-term resilience and dignity.

CNI-SBSS, as the development arm of the Church of North India, continues to respond to these challenges through its commitment to social justice, human dignity and sustainable development. Its Vision is to “Establish a society based on equality, justice and peace in harmony with nature.” Its Mission is, “In the spirit of service and sacrifice as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, CNI-SBSS aspires to restore the dignity of the marginalized communities through a collective struggle.” This vision and mission guide the organisation's engagement with communities and shape its efforts to address both immediate vulnerabilities and the underlying causes of exclusion and poverty.

During 2025–26, CNI-SBSS continued its work across seven states, more than 600 villages and over 200 panchayats, reaching more than 800,000 people through village-based organisations, community leaders, volunteers and staff. The organisation's programmes addressed a wide range of interconnected needs, including sustainable livelihoods, organic and climate-resilient agriculture, food and nutrition security, women's empowerment, youth development, education, social protection, community leadership and institutional strengthening. Particular emphasis remained on enabling communities to access government schemes and services, strengthen local institutions, improve livelihood opportunities and participate more meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives.

The year also provided important learning on the need to move beyond short-term interventions towards sustainable and community-owned development processes. Strengthening local leadership, improving access to markets and resources, building resilient livelihoods, promoting gender equality and deepening partnerships with government, churches and other development actors remain central to CNI-SBSS's approach. Monitoring, evaluation, financial management and organisational systems were also strengthened during the year to improve programme quality, accountability and effectiveness.

The work of CNI-SBSS contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 – Climate Action, SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. Through its programmes and partnerships, CNI-SBSS seeks to translate these global commitments into locally relevant action, ensuring that development reaches communities at the margins and strengthens their capacity to shape their own future.

Against this backdrop, 2025–26 was a year of strengthening foundations, deepening community engagement and preparing for the next phase of growth and impact, while remaining firmly rooted in CNI-SBSS's commitment to equality, justice, peace, dignity and service.



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