

**WORD: Women's Organisation for Rural Development**

**Koraput District, Odisha, India**



## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2023-2024**



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## ***ABOUT US:***

WORD (Women's Organisation for Rural Development) is a women-initiated and managed organization that has been active in the Koraput District of Odisha since 1991. WORD envisions itself as a people's initiative dedicated to promoting justice, peace, equality, and fraternity. Central to its mission is the empowerment of communities to drive their own development, with a strong emphasis on gender equality in all its processes and projects.

Registered under the Societies Registration Act in Koraput, WORD also complies with FCRA and Income Tax 12A regulations. The organization has built robust relationships with the community, other civil society organizations, and government institutions, working together to advance the overall development of communities in the Koraput District.

## ***VISION:***

### **TO STRIVE FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY**

**WORD visualizes a Just and self-reliant society where all the members enjoy equal opportunities, rights, justice and participate for democratic decision making to resolve the issues of the society. A society in which the people can live with dignity challenging discrimination and exploitation and exercise their rights for the development of self and the society at large.**

## ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

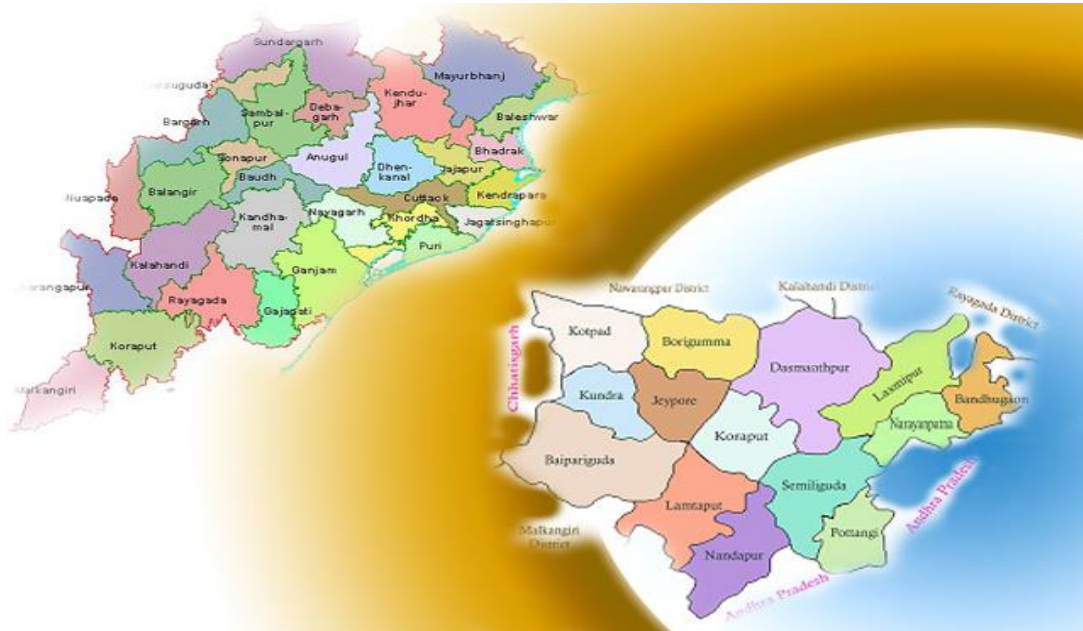
**OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER TRIBAL AND DALIT PEOPLE TO  
ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AND FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**by**

**enabling all vulnerable sections of the society, service providers, stakeholders and policy makers to recognize and respond to the needs of the women, children, farmers, adolescent and youth to ensure better standard of living**

## ***Target Area:***

**AREA OF OPERATION: ODISHA – KORAPUT DISTRICT- LAXMIPUR, NARAYANPATNA, BANDHUGAON, SEMILIGUDA AND KORAPUT BLOCKS**

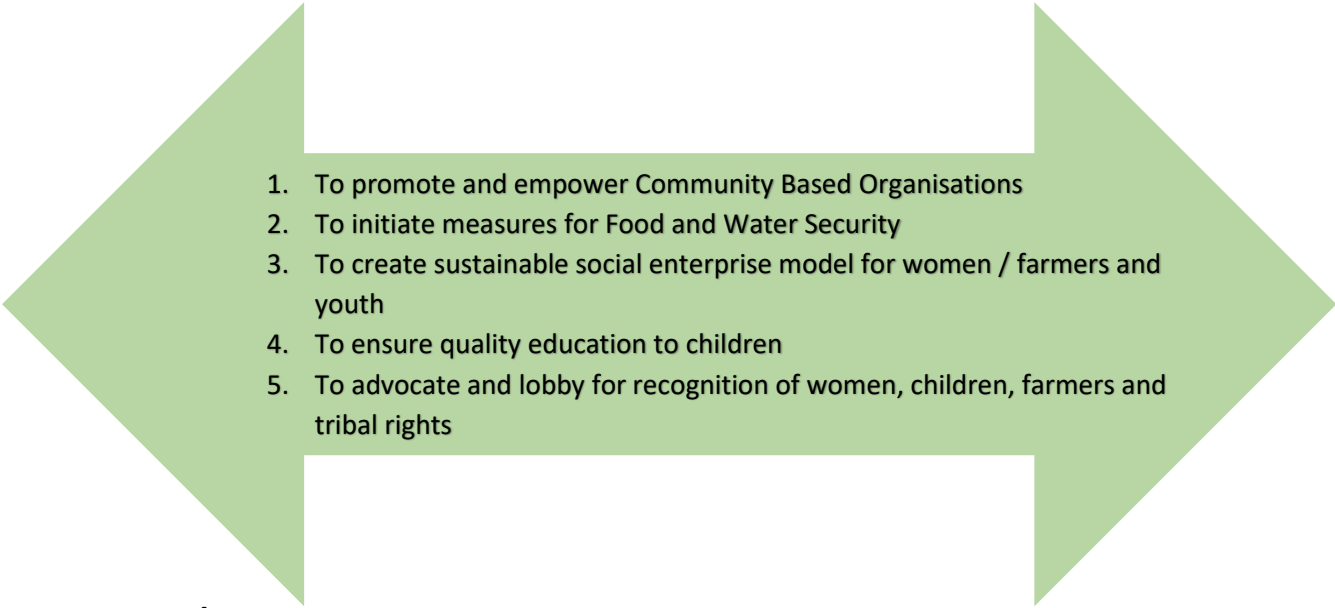


## ***Target group:***

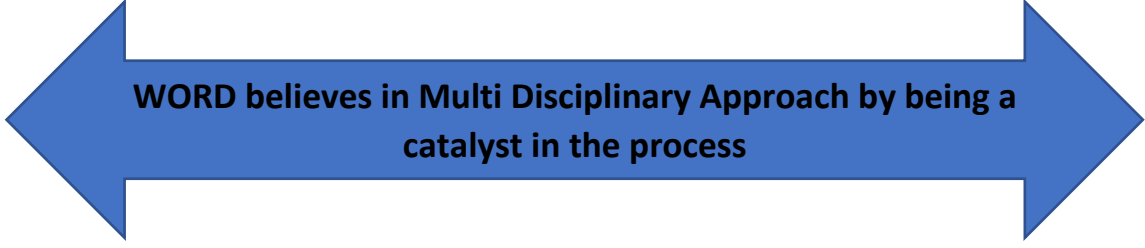
The target groups are the rural and marginalized tribal and Dalits of the most vulnerable being the women, children, and marginal farmers. At present WORD is covering about 300 villages consisting of around 50,000 families.



### ***Strategic Objectives:***

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1. To promote and empower Community Based Organisations
  2. To initiate measures for Food and Water Security
  3. To create sustainable social enterprise model for women / farmers and youth
  4. To ensure quality education to children
  5. To advocate and lobby for recognition of women, children, farmers and tribal rights

### ***Approach:***



**WORD believes in Multi Disciplinary Approach by being a catalyst in the process**

### ***Thrust Areas:***



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024**

### **Major projects undertaken in 2023-2024:**

- **Child Rights and Child Protection” – CHILDLINE 1098** for addressing vulnerable children's issues in child survival, child education, child protection, child growth and development. Supported by CHILDLINE INDIA FOUNDATION, **Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi until August 2023.**
- **Continuation of Women Support Centre for counselling and legal support to women subjected to Domestic violence in Superintendent of Police Office, Koraput**
- **“Mainstreaming Children into Education” – ADARSH VIDYALAYA** – catering to 150 children in a residential school. Supported by European Third World Association (ETWA)-Germany and NALCO FOUNDATION
- **Establishment of SMART learning systems in ADARSH VIDHYALAYA** for underprivileged children with support from Individual donor Shri Samar DasGupta, Kolkata
- **“Increasing of Institutional Delivery impacting the reduction of IMR and MMR – Maa Gruha”** in Laxmipur Block of Koraput district. Supported by the District Mineral Fund through NHM, Koraput.
- **“Initiation of Urban Primary Health Care through UPHC”** in Jeypore Municipality Supported by National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), GOI
- **Breaking the Silence – Addressing issues of 256 Mental ill and Epilepsy patients along with their 300 primary and secondary carers** – supported by TLLF through Carers Worldwide, UK
- **Scaling of Breaking the Silence project in Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon Block for 750 Mentally ill and Epilepsy patients and their carers**
- **Economic empowerment through women-led vegetable farming and marketing** – Supported by OXFAM, India and Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust
- **Climate Resilience Agriculture and Livelihood Security in Koraput Block by Manos Unidas, Spain**
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood Project** – Supported by Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore
- **Family Focused Village Development Programme in eight villages of Laxmipur Block** supported by Linsi Foundation, Switzerland
- **Organisation Development through Niranthara Classic Programme of Dhvani Foundation, Bangalore**



## ***I. Child Rights & Child Protection:***

### ***Backdrop:***

Children are the nation's assets but are often neglected, especially in rural areas, due to a lack of love and care. In Koraput district, superstitious beliefs and child marriage are widespread, violating children's rights. Many children are denied the opportunity for higher education and become trapped in a cycle of child marriage and early childbirth.

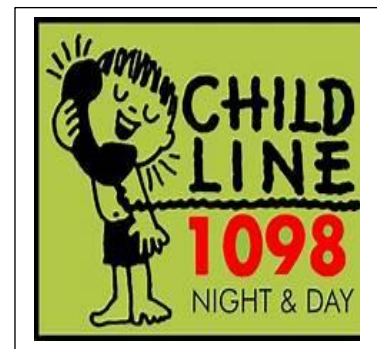
To address these issues, WORD, in partnership with Childline India Foundation, has been actively working on child rights and child protection in four blocks of the Koraput district for the past seven years.

### ***Goal of the Project:***

To ensure the promotion and protection of the Rights of Children Guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

### ***Objectives :***

- To respond to children in emergencies, referring them to appropriate governmental and non-governmental organisations and connecting them to long-term rehabilitation services.
- To provide opportunities for the community to address
- the needs of children in difficult circumstances.
- To sensitize the community, stakeholders, and the public to the problems faced by these children.
- To create a platform for networking among organisations and coordinating with support systems that facilitate the rehabilitation of children, particularly those in challenging situations.



The project concluded in August 2023 following the Ministry's decision to transfer the Childline project to the respective state and district government departments.

From April 2023 to August 2023, the WORD Childline team reached out to 2,480 children and registered 42 cases. Among these, there were 2 child marriages, 4 cases of child labour, and 3 cases requiring shelter, along with other core cases involving medical assistance, sponsorship, and restoration.

Additionally, 4 children were included under the Ashirwad scheme for those who lost their parents. During this period, 2 child clubs were formed, and 4 open house events were held, providing platforms for children to voice their concerns.

WORD also established networks with panchayat members, stakeholders, self-help groups, youth clubs, and government officials. Approximately 240 calls were received from the public inquiring about Childline services.

## ***II. Women Support & Counselling Centre:***

The Women Support Centre (WSC), located on the premises of the SP office in Koraput, addresses violence against women and children. At this center, victims of harassment receive counseling and guidance for obtaining free legal support, police protection, shelter, medical assistance, and livelihood support. The office is staffed by a trained counselor knowledgeable in counseling skills and various laws regarding domestic violence.

### **Major highlights of this year's achievements through the WSC include:**

- Addressed a total of 215 cases: Domestic violence - 144, Stalking - 5, Cybercrime - 17, POCSO - 12, Child marriage - 2, Kidnapping - 4, Elopement - 6, Rape - 7, False promise of marriage - 14, Senior citizen cases - 3, Acid attack - 1, and one-time intervention - 5.
- One POCSO victim received compensation through the active involvement of the DLSA and POCSO court, with support from the Women Support Centre.
- 29 women received medical support from the district health administration for physical abuse cases, and 14 survivors were sent to shelter homes.
- 19 survivors received support from the District Legal Support, and 54 survivors were enrolled in vocational training programs through JSS and SBI RSETI.
- 12 women secured employment in various fields such as Mission Sakti, Ahara Kendra, Jana Seva Kendra, teaching, and beauty parlors.
- 3 women received financial support from the District Collector/Red Cross fund.
- 14 one-time settlements were resolved through the intervention of WSC with the support of SP IUCAW, police, lawyers, and the One Stop Centre.
- 2 children received support for further education through the DCPO.



### **III. Mainstreaming children into Education: ADARSH VIDYALAYA**

#### **Right to Education – Adarsh Vidyalaya:**

##### **Goal:**

Expand access to quality education for vulnerable children in the district's remote villages.

##### **Objective:**

Create a positive, safe, and stimulating environment where children can enjoy learning, reach their potential, and develop into independent lifelong learners.

#### **Major Interventions:**

- 156 children are enrolled in the residential program for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Out of the 55 children who took the Std X Board exam, 50 passed successfully. Five students achieved first class, 20 students achieved second class, and the remaining students passed in third division. They are the first-level learners in their family.
- All the 50 passed students are enrolled for higher education in different schools and 100% retention of the children in Higher Secondary schools.
- A SMART class and online learning systems have been established to enhance the quality of education.
- Capacity-building programs are provided to support and train adolescent students in goal setting, peer support, team building, and more.
- Staff received training on creating teaching and learning materials, as well as orientation on using digital learning systems.
- Five children won prizes at the Block and District levels in various extracurricular activities.
- Two Children with Disability (CWD) are continuing in inclusive education and their grades are improving
- Exposure organised for children for mutual learning and sharing





#### ***IV. Inclusive Health Care:***

##### **1. Maa Gruha – Maternity Waiting Home – Laxmipur**

WORD has been implementing the Maa Gruha project in the Laxmipur Block of Koraput district for the past seven with the support of the District administration ( District Mineral Fund) and NHM, Koraput to cater to the immediate needs of the expectant mother in the last stage of pregnancy. The centre is manned by one Lady health worker, four health care assistants and two support staff to cater to the needs of the expectant mothers.

***The goal of the project is to increase the rate of institutional deliveries, particularly for geographically and clinically high-risk expectant mothers.***

##### ***Salient Features of Maa Gruha:***

- Accommodation facilities for expectant mothers & their escorts.
- Provision of food for expectant mothers, dependants & escorts.
- Lady Health Care Assistant for attending cases in shifts.
- Provision for shifting of cases from Maternity Waiting Home to hospital.
- Regular health check-ups by the doctor.
- Health education sessions through IPC & Audiovisual aids.
- Recreation facilities at the Maternity Waiting Home like TV, mobisides etc.
- Client friendly environment & support.

##### ***Achievements:***

This year, 236 pregnant women utilized the facilities at Maa Gruha, Laxmipur.

Of these, 224 women had institutional deliveries, while the others were referred to higher health institutions.

There were 224 live births during this period through institutional delivery.

Approximately 230 women came from geographically high-risk areas with poor communication facilities.

56 women were clinically high-risk and were successfully managed to avoid pregnancy complications.

All women received thorough orientation on postnatal care, breastfeeding, personal and child health and hygiene, and nutritional food practices and family planning.

During their stay, all residents were provided with nutritious food, counseling, health check-ups, and rest.

They were taken to the hospital for institutional delivery, and cases with complications were referred to the district hospital by the CHC doctor for further support.

Additionally, 2250 eligible couples in the community received orientation on early pregnancy registration, folic acid use, vaccinations, self-care during pregnancy, family planning, child marriage issues, and the facilities available at Maa Gruha.



## 2. Health and Wellness through Urban Primary Health Centre – Jeypore – LR:

With the National Health Mission's support, WORD has been implementing the Health and Wellness Centre at UPHC, Jeypore-LR., Koraput District for the past six years.

### ***Objectives of UPHC:***

- To provide comprehensive primary health care to the urban population in general and particularly the urban poor.
- To achieve and maintain an acceptable standard of quality of care.
- To make the services more responsive and sensitive to the needs of the urban poor.

The UPHC is catering to the health needs of around 50000 population in the slums and semi-urban areas of Jeypore. It is manned by a Medical Officer(i/c), Pharmacist, Lab technician, three Staff nurses, one data entry operator/accountant, and four Support staff. The center also provides specialist services like O& G, ENT, dental, and physiotherapy. Yoga classes are also conducted in the HWC to promote wellness.

Apart from this, other interventions like community awareness, UHND, immunization, PMSMA, RKS, MAS, WKS, sector meetings, etc., are also conducted for the smooth implementation of the project.

**Some of the achievements during this year are:**

- Around 42790 outpatients were treated during the year for various ailments
- Around 6975 patients received specialist services on O&G, dental, ENT, physiotherapy etc.,
- Around 40000 pathology tests were conducted for the outpatients
- 4500 women and children covered under UHND, immunization, specialist services etc.,
- 10 Mahila Arokiya Samitis(MAS) strengthened and facilitated different interventions like breastfeeding week, Swacchta pakhwada, slum cleanliness, observation of important health days etc.,
- Conducting regular RKS meetings; both the General body and the Executive committee to monitor the health centre
- Awareness creation on health to around 58000 community members during various awareness generation activities.
- Referral of complicated cases to district health administration.
- Support to the District administration in observing health events like pulse polio, immunisation camps, sickle cell anaemia, family planning etc.,



### **3. Mental health and Psychosocial counselling:**

For the past seven years, WORD has been addressing the needs of individuals with mental illness and epilepsy, along with their caregivers, in the Laxmipur block. Due to the positive impact in Laxmipur, the project has now expanded to include Narayanpatna and Bandhugaoan blocks.

#### **Objective of the Project:**

Transform the lives of 1,100 people with mental illness and epilepsy, as well as their carers, through counseling, medication, and support services.

#### **Interventions:**

Demystifying myths surrounding mental illness

Providing access to mental health services and essential medicines for patients in the most underserved villages

Collaborating with government and health departments for social security and health support services

Training ASHA, Anganwadi workers, and village-level health professionals to identify mental health patients and link them to treatment

Creating and strengthening carer groups and block-level carer federations for advocacy and lobbying

Linking Block/District Carer Association with the Odisha State Level Carer Forum

#### **Achievements:**

- 730 individuals with mental illness and epilepsy received health support services through camps and essential medicines, with around 240 becoming stable enough to resume studies, work at home, or participate in MNREGA work and livelihood programs
- Five children with mild mental illness symptoms and epilepsy are now stable and have returned to school
- Over 5,000 people are now aware of mental health issues, can identify simple symptoms, and know where to seek support services
- Approximately 300 families received doorstep psychosocial counseling
- 50 carers received skills training in food processing and leaf plate making, earning a reasonable additional income



- 80 families of stable mental illness patients/carers were supported with initial capital for livelihood activities such as vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, and backyard poultry
- 70 carer groups were strengthened, along with 30 cluster groups and two block federations of carers
- Integrated into the District Carers Association and Odisha State Level Carer Forum
- 15 staff members, 4 doctors, 21 health staff, 300 ASHA workers, and 450 carer leaders are now knowledgeable about mental health and referral services



## ***V. Livelihood and Nutrition security:***

Koraput's livelihood primarily revolves around agriculture and agri-allied activities. However, food insecurity persists, especially in rural areas during the lean season. This is due to outdated agricultural practices, inadequate storage facilities for perishable goods, limited bargaining power in the market, and a lack of skills in value addition.

The goal is to create sustainable livelihood mechanisms to enhance food and nutrition security.

The main objectives of the interventions include:

- Enhancing farmers' knowledge, information, and capacity to increase production.
- Organizing collective and institutionalized market linkages to secure better prices and value advantages in the supply/value chain.
- Improving annual income by enhancing access to existing and potential income and social security schemes, as well as agriculture/land development opportunities from the government and other sources, through informed, organized, and positive engagements with Panchayats, the government, and other agencies.
- Promoting a model of vegetable farming-based livelihood development for tribal and small farming households.
- Creating Women Producer Groups in villages for collective marketing.
- Establishing a Producer Company comprising 1,000 women to conduct business with farm produce.

### **Achievements:**

Approximately 3,500 progressive farmers have been identified and trained in climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Farmers sold vegetables, including ginger, tubers, and turmeric, worth Rs. 70,00,000.

Families consumed vegetables worth approximately Rs. 25,00,000, enriching their diet and nutrition.

WORD initiated and strengthened 30 Women Farmer Producer groups.

Producer groups established market linkages worth Rs. 1.40 crore, especially for turmeric, ginger, sweet potatoes, vegetables, millet, and NTFP products.

Thirty seed banks were established in various villages.

Three demonstration models for agriculture were created in the operational area.

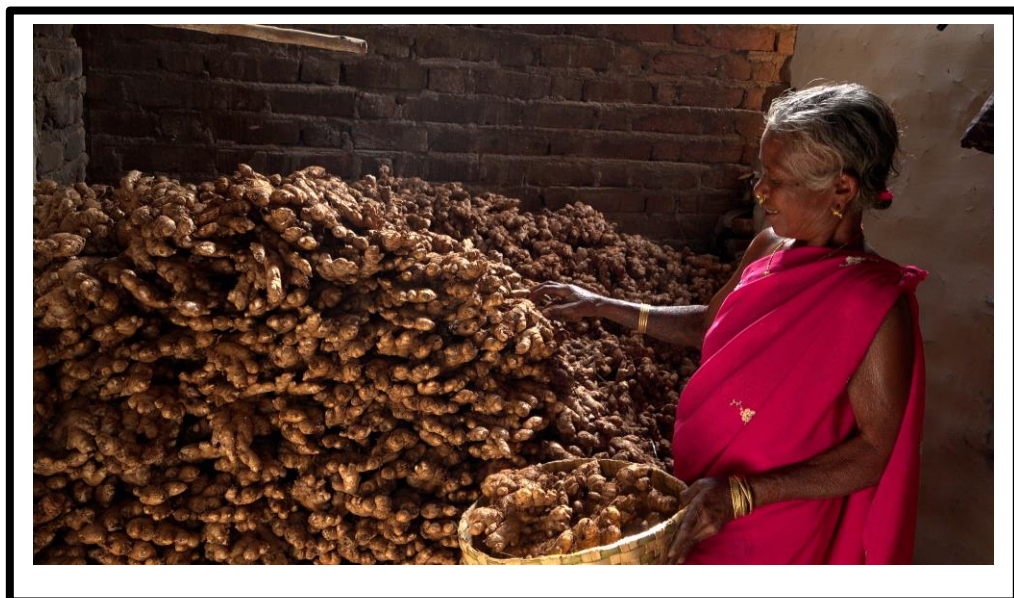
Five solar irrigation pumps and one cold storage facility were installed to reduce post-harvest losses.

Government schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, and OLM worth Rs. 70,00,000 were mobilized into different villages.

Three model farm units were established in the operational areas.

One market facilitation center was established for collective marketing and leverage with traders/marketers.

A Producer Company "Dhartani" was established and registered.



## ***VI. Family Focused Village Development Programme(FFVDP)***

WORD has been actively working across various thematic sectors in the operational villages.

As a new initiative, WORD has introduced a wholistic development concept for all families in the village, focusing on leadership and community engagement, education, household care, healthcare, earning and finance, and social cohesion.

The project, launched in October 2023, targets 605 families across eight villages in the Laxmipur Block of Koraput district.

***Vision:*** "Strong families and self-responsible and supportive communities."

***Objective:*** "Build Sustainable Community-Based Organisations with a Family-Focused Approach."

Despite being in the early stages, the project has already made significant progress:

Village Development Committees with focus groups on health, education, livelihood, and social cohesion have been established in all eight villages.

After-school study centers in each village are enhancing the learning outcomes for 276 children. Functional literacy for adult learners is also happening

Skills training in electrical and house wiring has been provided to 20 youth, with two already securing placements.

Skills training for 60 families in mushroom cultivation has led to the establishment of small production units.

An afforestation program on the hill slopes and the planting of 1,200 fruit saplings in home backyards are enhancing nutrition and the environment.

Village cleanliness initiatives are creating a cleaner and greener environment.

Programs promoting handwashing practices, menstrual hygiene, and reproductive healthcare have been initiated.

Eight defunct Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been revived and mainstreamed for thrift and income generation.

40 acres of land development taken up, making them suitable for cultivation in the coming season.

Electrical connections and supply have been restored to Kaliakhola village after nearly three years of disconnection.

Basic social security measures and schemes, such as Aadhar cards, job cards, widow pensions, BSKY cards, MGNREGA works, support from OLM, and Mission Sakti, have been mobilized for the most vulnerable.



Advocacy efforts are underway to control alcohol production and consumption and address substance abuse.

These small initiatives are expected to bring about significant change over time.



## 7. Organisational Development:

Although the various projects undertaken by WORD are progressing well, a review was conducted to strengthen the organization as a whole, considering existing government compliances, rules, regulations, and the expectations of donors and stakeholders.

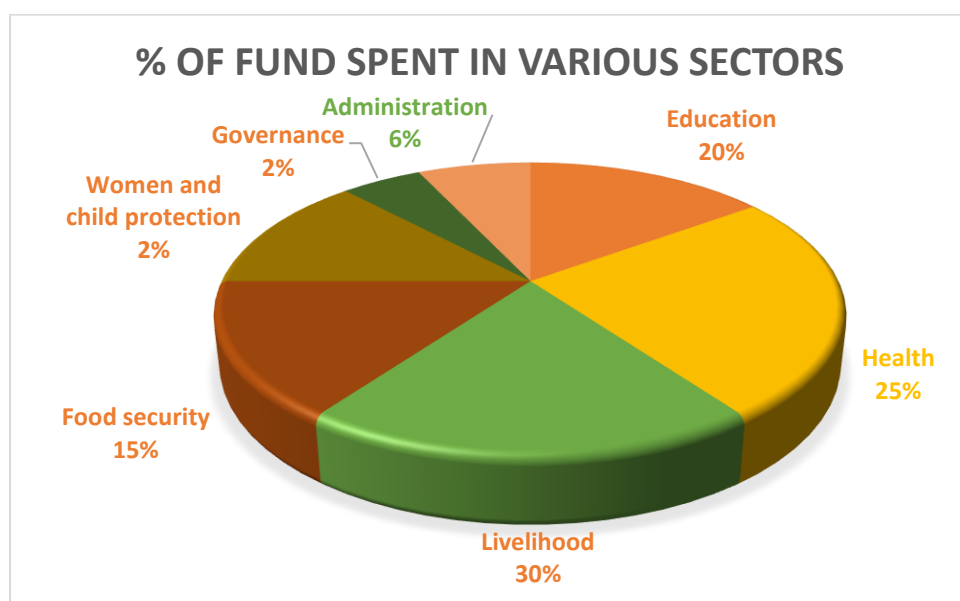
In partnership with DHWANI FOUNDATION, WORD is undergoing a comprehensive organizational strengthening process. This process focuses on enhancing compliance, governance, finance and accounts, human resources, management information systems, fundraising, leadership, marketing, and branding.

Throughout this process, the organization's leader, board members, core team, finance team, and program team are being equipped to foster an effective and efficient work culture with a strong emphasis on values and ethics.

Additionally, staff members are participating in various personality development and technical training sessions to enhance their professional and personal knowledge.



## 8. Financial Details:



## 9. Financial Report:

Receipts	Amount	Payments	Amount
Opening Balance	64,32,045.56	Expenditures toward various projects and administration	3,35,11,282.06
Grants received in FY 2023-24	3,71,72,837.74		
Bank Interest	2,29,280.00	Closing Balance	1,03,22,881.24
Total	4,38,34,163.30	Total	4,38,34,163.30

### Major Donors:

Monos Unidas – Spain

Linsi Foundation – Switzerland

European Third World Association (ETWA) Germany

National Urban Health Mission

District Mineral Foundation Fund

OXFAM India

Carers Worldwide, India

NALCO Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation



Dhwani Foundation

Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)

Mr. Samir Dasgupta – Individual donor

### ***10. Conclusion:***

2023-2024 has been a great year for WORD. We had great opportunities and meaningful collaborations with the Government, international donors, national institutions, CSRs, and like-minded agencies to reach the organization's objectives. We could forge new partnerships for potential learning and support.

WORD also underwent critical thinking and analysis on the present work and the future strategies in light of the current needs of the working environment and striving towards excellence.

WORD thanks the community who has the utmost faith in our interventions and has been all along through thick and thin.

WORD thanks each one of them who were part of this journey and continuously cheered for our endeavours.

We look forward to many more years of growth and creating positive impacts together...



***Dr. Racheal Raykumari***

***Executive Secretary***