

# SEED

(Society for Socio-Economic and Ecological Development)

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (JAN-MARCH 2026)



### Quarter Highlights (Jan–March 2026)

- 100 young children received integrated early childhood education, nutrition and health services in SEED's ECCCs.
- 48% reduction in moderate underweight and zero Severe Acute Malnutrition cases recorded among enrolled children.
- 84 mothers screened through maternal health camps, improving community awareness on nutrition and preventive healthcare.
- Six climate-vulnerable villages in Ghoramara Island mobilised under a water security and livelihood programme.
- 50 landless families trained in weaving and backyard poultry to diversify income sources.
- 100 marginal farmers trained in pond-linked irrigation and climate-resilient agriculture practices.
- 62 forest-fringe villages in Palamu Tiger Reserve benefited from improved lighting infrastructure.
- 1,979 LED lights and 100 solar streetlights installed, improving safety and mobility in wildlife-affected areas.



### Muskaan ECCCs

SEED's Muskaan Early Childhood Care Centres (ECCCs) in Ghoramara and Sagar Islands continued to support 100 children aged 2–6 years through integrated early learning, nutrition, health services, and psychosocial support. During the quarter, 89–92% of children demonstrating improved classroom participation and engagement.

Health and nutrition interventions further strengthened child well-being. 100 children received nutritious mid-day meals over 50 programme days, with attendance rising from 81% in January to 92% in February. Comprehensive health screening covered 100% of enrolled children, identifying 55 cases requiring early medical attention, while maternal health camps screened 84 mothers. Nutrition outcomes improved significantly, with moderate underweight cases reducing by 48%, wasting declining by over 50%, and Severe Acute Malnutrition reduced to zero, while 91% of children were within the normal MUAC category. Active parental engagement was sustained through workshops attended by 79 caregivers in January and 89 in February, strengthening home-based learning and nutrition practices.

### Integrated Water & Livelihood Project

Under the Integrated Water and Livelihood Solutions project, supported by the Azim Premji Foundation, Village Water Management Committees (VWMCs) and Water User Groups (WUGs) meetings were held across all six villages, with women representing over 50% of members, strengthening community ownership of water resources. One raised tubewell was installed at Mandirtala village and pond rejuvenation work began for the selected 8 ponds. Livelihood initiatives focused on strengthening income opportunities for 50 landless families, primarily women-headed households.

25 households received poultry shed and chicks and participants received hands-on training in loom weaving and backyard poultry, supported by technical experts and practical demonstrations. Marginal farmers also participated in pond-linked irrigation and rabi cultivation training sessions, strengthening collective planning around water use and climate-resilient agriculture. The programme has successfully built institutional readiness, technical planning, and community participation, laying a strong foundation for the next phase of infrastructure implementation and livelihood expansion.





## A Story of Change

For Rina Mondal, a mother from Ghoramara Island, the Muskaan Early Childhood Care Centre has brought a visible change in her child's life. Earlier, her four-year-old son struggled to speak confidently and rarely interacted with other children. After attending the centre regularly, he now participates actively in group activities, can count numbers, recognise letters in both Bengali and English and enjoys reading storybooks at home.

Rina also attended SEED's parent workshops and health camps, where she learned about balanced nutrition and early childhood development. "My child now looks forward to going to the centre every day," she says. "We can see the difference in his learning, health and confidence."

The Muskaan programme continues to support families like Rina's by creating a safe and nurturing environment where climate affected children can learn, grow and thrive.



## Solar Lighting in Palamu Tiger Reserve

SEED successfully completed the Solar and LED Lighting Project in forest-fringe villages of the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) with support from Signify Innovations India Ltd. Between August 2025 and January 2026, the project installed 1,979 LED lights and 100 solar streetlights across 62 villages in the Garu, Mahuadanr, and Barwadih blocks of Palamu and Latehar districts, Jharkhand.

The initiative significantly improved nighttime visibility and safety for communities living near forest areas, where elephant movement and wildlife encounters pose regular risks. By improving lighting in vulnerable settlements and pathways, the project supports safer mobility for women, children and forest-dependent households, while contributing to non-lethal human-wildlife coexistence strategies in ecologically sensitive landscapes.

## Community-Led Mangrove Restoration

For strengthening coastal protection and creating livelihood opportunities for local women; this programme engaged 150 women from vulnerable households in mangrove nursery management, plantation activities, and ecosystem stewardship. During the quarter, the women's groups successfully planted 28,000 mangrove saplings across 1.5 hectares of degraded coastal land, contributing to the restoration of vital natural barriers that protect island communities from cyclones, tidal surges, and coastal erosion.



Beyond ecological restoration, the initiative also strengthened women's leadership and community participation in climate action. Through hands-on training and collective plantation drives, women gained practical skills in nursery raising, sapling care, and coastal ecosystem management. The project not only enhances long-term environmental resilience in the Sundarbans, but also creates sustainable livelihood opportunities and community ownership of conservation efforts, demonstrating the power of nature-based solutions led by local communities.



## Looking Ahead

The coming quarter will focus on deepening impact rather than simply expanding activities. SEED will move into the next phase of implementation by strengthening community institutions already formed in project villages—particularly Village Water Management Committees, women’s livelihood groups, and early childhood learning networks—so that local communities increasingly manage and sustain these initiatives themselves.

Efforts will also continue to integrate climate adaptation with livelihoods, ensuring that families in fragile landscapes like the Sundarbans are better prepared for environmental shocks while securing stable income opportunities.

At the same time, SEED will work to build stronger partnerships with institutions, knowledge partners, and community leaders, enabling scalable solutions that combine environmental restoration, social development, and community resilience. We extend our heartfelt thanks to SBIF, Azim Premji Foundation, Signify Innovations India Ltd., Tiger Widows Association, and T & I Global Ltd. for their continued support and shared commitment to building resilient communities.



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