



### Listening exercises conducted in Mirzapur district for enterprise development

A 4-day field visit to the Mirzapur district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh was organised under the Work 4 Progress Programme. Three listening sessions were conducted in the first two days of the visit by the DA team with an objective to listen and understand the needs, aspirations, desires and challenges of the community. The participants included 64 women and 25 youngsters from Tikapur, Kharagpur and Bhatevra village. To enhance the quality of listening, a combination of tools such as 'appreciative inquiry' and 'finding WHYS' was adopted. This was done to capture the interests and aspirations of people. The session extended to discuss the opportunities in their village and identify possibilities of peer to peer linkage.

An interactive session was organised on the third day with the implementing partners (SVSS and MDSS) and the core partners (Janastu and RangDe) along with 22 successful entrepreneurs, centred around the discussion on ways to implement successful prototypes in the region. During the second half of the day, an activity session was moderated by Shrashtant Patara, Senior Vice President, DA and Kanika Verma, Associate Vice President, DA, wherein participants brainstormed on how abstract ideas of Digi socio-currency can be transformed to find real-life solutions to complex social problems.

On the fourth day, a mini regional entrepreneurial coalition was held in Mirzapur that had SVSS, MDSS, JSS, Vindhya Beej Sabji FPO, UNIBASE Microfinance and four entrepreneurs as participants, discussing how the coalition platform has evolved since its inception and how it can be transformed in the future so that its benefits can reach the masses. The day ended with a meeting with young girls who shared how ASPi technology, that records audio and visual messages and transmits them over a local network consisting of groups of 5 to 6 girls each, has changed their lives.