



Planning Session Conducted Under W4Progress Programme in Uttar Pradesh

As a part of the Work4Progress Phase III programme, a planning session was conducted by the Development Alternatives team in Mirzapur, along with field implementation partners, Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Sansthan (SVSS), and Manviya Drishtikon Sewa Samiti (MDSS) on 5 March, 2022. The objective of the discussion was to identify various modes of support to accelerate job creation and introduce a new prototype, i.e., Digi-Socio Currency, to enable entrepreneurship among communities.

The session was moderated by Mayank Nautiyal, Senior Manager, DA. The meeting was hosted at the Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Sansthan office in Mirzapur.

In the new phase, the focus is on accelerating job creation and building a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem. Based on the previous co-creation session with the core partners on Digi-Socio Currency, which was held in November 2021, the team emphasised on a need assessment with entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. This planning session was organised to get onboard the field implementation partners and to start listening to the voices of the people about Digi-Socio Currency in the region.

Through various examples, participants collectively understood the concept of Digi-Socio Currency. It is an alternative credit system that can be utilised to gather points for loan disbursement. The session also covered the role of individual project partners in visualising the new prototype. Ultimately, the new prototype is meant to reduce the field workers' workload while also engaging in activities to achieve the project goals.

The DA team intends to co-design a framework for Digi-Socio Currency with its partners. The data collected through stakeholder engagement from the field will enable the core team to understand the significant shifts, development, and change in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Field Implementation Partners Discussing Digi-Socio Currency in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh