

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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Anuradha A Member Of Nav Chetna Ujra Man Mala Mahila Samiti, Powered By 30KwP Solar Mini Grid In Sihhar, Mirzapur

ORGANISATION AT A **GLANCE**



DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

Mission

To create models that generate sustainable livelihoods in large numbers

Vision

A world where every citizen can live a secure, healthy, and fulfilling life, in harmony with nature

Approach

Innovation, Incubation, Implementation and influence to create a large scale impact



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Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860;
Registration No. 12964

FCRA

Section 6 (1) (a) of the Foreign Contribution
(Regulation) Act 1976 (FCRA Reg. No.
231650202)

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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on the accomplishments of Development Alternatives over the past year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude. The year 2023-24 has been one of extraordinary achievements, underscoring the resilience and ingenuity of our teams, our partners, and the communities we serve.

In our relentless pursuit of inclusive, green development, we mobilised an unprecedented ₹40 crore to enhance secure livelihoods and foster permanent entrepreneurial ecosystems that leave no one behind. This investment has empowered countless individuals, enabling them to build sustainable futures for themselves and their families.

Our commitment to safeguarding natural ecosystems and bolstering climate resilience has yielded transformative outcomes. Through innovative water conservation initiatives, we augmented water availability to 3,000 hectares of land, a vital resource for sustaining rural livelihoods and nutrition security. Additionally, over 4 Lakh individuals were trained in climate-resilient practices, equipping them with the knowledge to anticipate, understand and navigate an increasingly uncertain future.

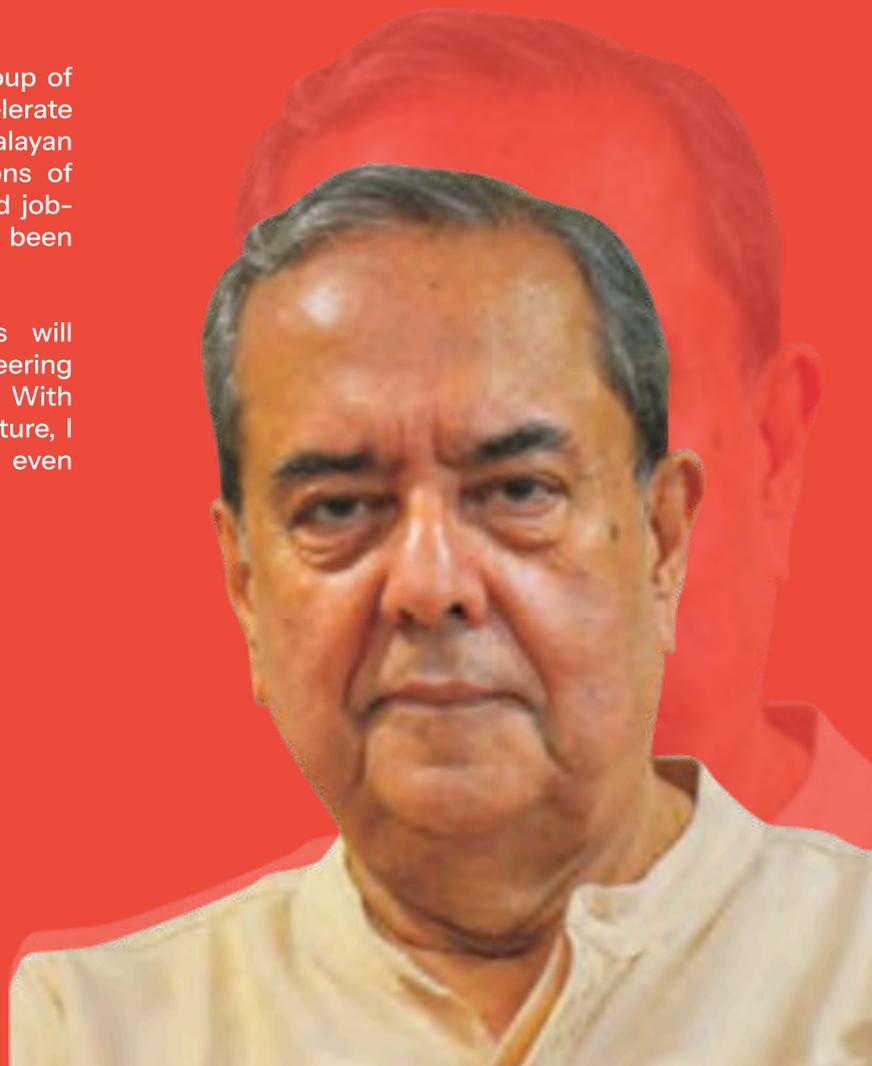
Our endeavors in sustainable resource management have been equally impactful. Over 1.9 million tonnes of natural resources were conserved, and 20,202 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions were avoided, underscoring our contribution to global climate goals.

These milestones are not merely statistics but stories of transformation—of ecosystems rejuvenated, of communities strengthened, and of futures secured. They are a testament to what can be achieved when innovation meets collaboration, and when determination is paired with purpose.

Co-convening, with the Club of Rome-India a group of CEOs of major NGOs, initiated a process to accelerate change of direction in the development of the Himalayan regions and to formulate policy recommendations of forestry, water management, farming, tourism and job-creation. The cooperation of other NGOs has been exemplary.

As we look ahead, Development Alternatives will continue to serve as a catalyst for change, pioneering solutions that enable a just and sustainable world. With unwavering resolve and a shared vision for the future, I am confident that the coming years will bring even greater progress.

Dr. Ashok Khosla
Chairman, Development Alternatives





An Entrepreneur Operating Her Flour Mill

YEAR IN A REVIEW

Development Alternatives Group continues to prioritise sectors of the economy in which green and inclusive businesses have the potential to create significant social and environmental impact. So far, through our work across various geographies, we have touched more than 20 million lives.

Development Alternatives Group - Impact

Year 2023-2024

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

- 19,240** green houses enabled
- 20,202** million tonnes (LC³, brick kiln, fly ash) CO₂ mitigated
- 1.9** million tonnes of natural resource saved
- 291** fly ash brick enterprises supported
- 47,376** million tonnes (Plastics, constructions & demolition, fly ash, agri- residues) of waste managed
- 400** million litres made available/ recycled water and air
- 1.2** million tonnes Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC³) produced by cement companies

Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

- 77,600** livelihoods secured
- 15,000** workers upskilled
- 11,700** job opportunities created
- 5,030** enterprises established
- INR **40** cr + raised in 2023-24 competitive advantage of systemic prototypes
- 27%** decline in project cost/enterprise in 2023-24 from INR 13,246 to INR 9,407



Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

- 630** million litres of water potential enhanced
- 50+** ponds restored
- 1500+** hectares of area impacted through land and soil conservation activities
- 1 lakh** women made aware on Climate Resilient practices through Radio Bundelkhand
- 2.5** lakh people made aware on health, nutrition, WASH, agriculture and other practices through Radio Bundelkhand

DEVALT OVER THE YEARS

- INNOVATION
- INFLUENCE
- FOOTPRINT

Born in 1982, Charting DA's Progress over the years.

1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 100% earth-based urban building - DA Headquarters • TARA Balram Mud block Press • TARA Chulha 101 • TARA loom • Jal - TARA filter 		
1990s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARA handmade paper • Aqua Check vial and Jal-TARA water testing kit • VSBK - TARA EcoKiln • TARA MCR Roofing Tiles • TARA Brickmek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate action Network, South Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARAGram Livelihood resource center in Bundelkhand • DESI Power - India's first Biomass gasifier based power plant • Check Dams in Bundelkhand • Clean India Program Launched • TARA Karigar Mandal Launched
2000s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pawan TARA air monitoring kit • TARA soil retesting kit • Building Materials and Services Bank, Odisha • Fly Ash Brick Technology Package 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Environment (SOE) Atlas for India Published • Rural Housing policy for GOI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New DA Green Headquarters • Rural climate change action • Radio Bundelkhand Established • Shubh Kal - Climate Communication Change Programme • PACS - Largest Civil Society Support Program
2010s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARA soil retesting kit • Udy ME - Enterprise Information Network • Bridge2Naukri - Youth Employment Portal • TARA Urja - Mini Grids in UP and Bihar • CELAMeD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA Co-Found Green Economy Coalition • IMEDF, Nodal agency for the ministry of MSME SFURTI Scheme • Trialogue 2047 - Sustainability Discourse Launched • TARAGram Yatra - Annual Development Pilgrimage • MoU with OneUN for partnership in UN programmes in India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamara Gaon - Integrated Village Development Programme Launched • Community Based water services delivery in Bundelkhand
2020s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Trial of LC³ in Rajasthan • Bridge2Naukri - Youth Employment Portal • TARA Urja - Mini Grids in UP and Bihar • CELAMeD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on carbon neutrality in construction Sector in Bihar • MoU with J&K Cement to decarbonise cement production • Engagement with Global AFN to double Adaptation fund country cap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARA Akshar+ literate 250,000 Women • SAM - Udyam launched at the Livelihoods India Summit 2021 • LC3 reaches Thailand, Fiji and Malawi



OUR APPROACH

Innovation

We create innovative business models and institutional systems that promote local initiative and benefit sharing



Incubation

We incubate and prove the viability of business models that increase access to basic needs, products, and services



Implementation

We work with a wide spectrum of stakeholders to implement development solutions on-ground



Influence

We develop our insights from on-ground action and analysis to provide critical advice for policy-making

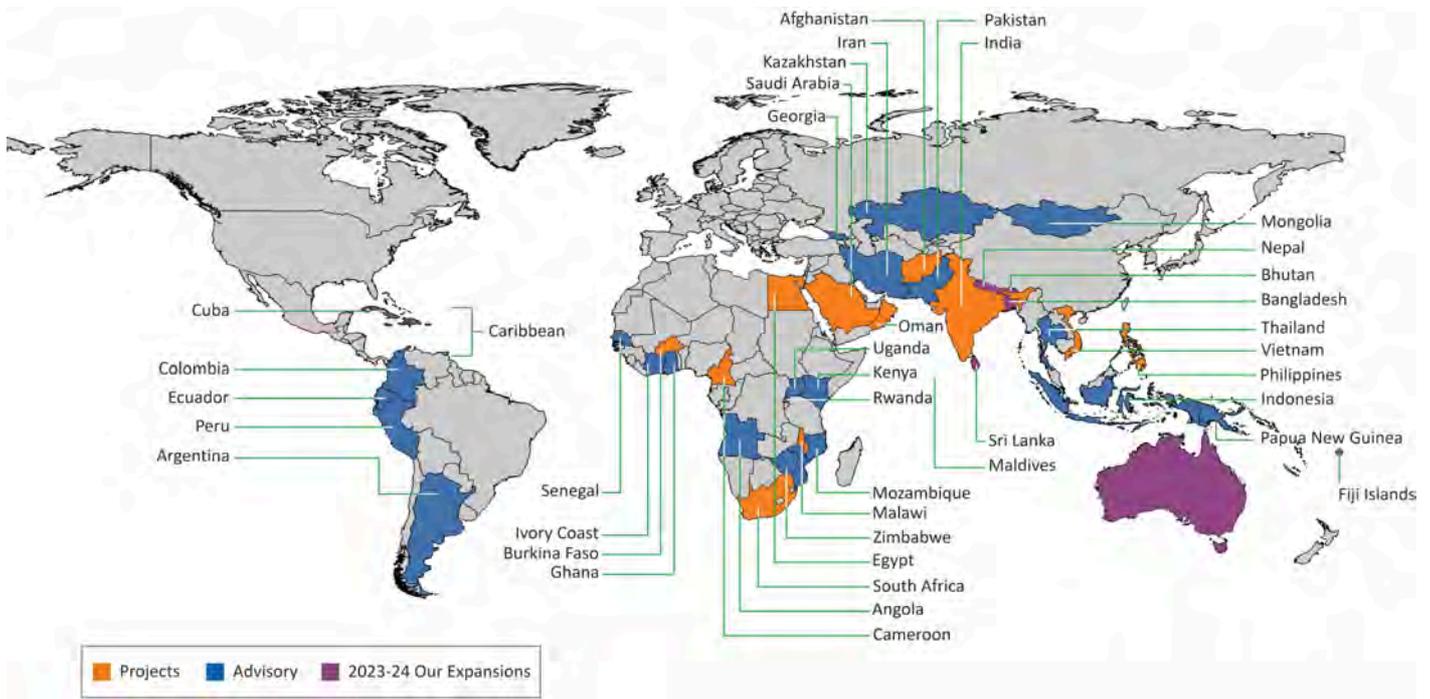


Impact

We work towards creating replicable models that have a large-scale impact and speeding up multiplication



OUR PRESENCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



Advancing Sustainable Construction: Workers in Fiji Conduct Clay Sampling For LC3 Production

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Empowering rural communities, and forging paths to economic independence, and eradicating poverty. Through innovative business models, the aim is to drive transformative change by connecting people in backward areas with opportunities. Creating a lasting impact, one life at a time we envision a society where everyone thrives.

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

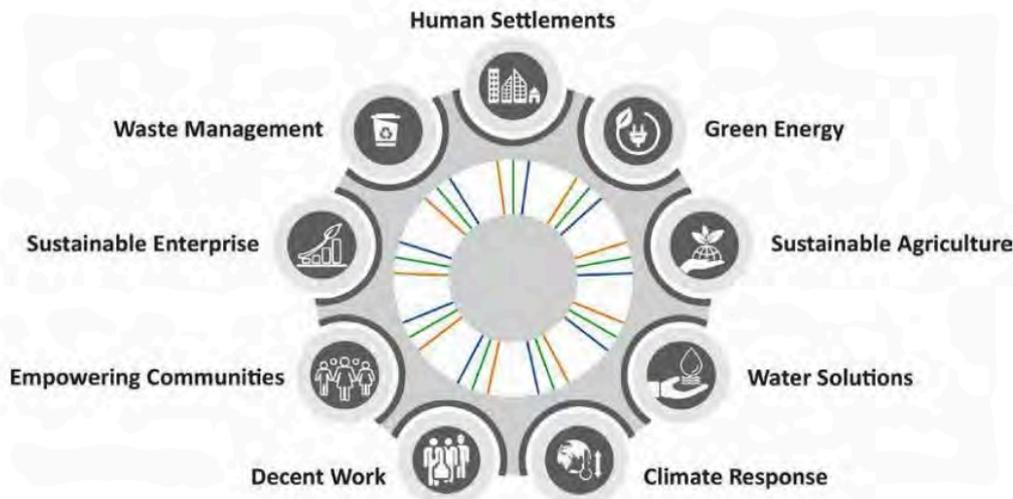
Accelerating the transition to inclusive and circular models of production and consumption by reducing carbon and material footprints across the lifecycle of economic activity while promoting local value and wealth creation

Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

Working towards restoring degraded ecosystems in such a way that they become resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. The focus is on solutions that allow humanity to thrive.



Scan the QR Code to know more about **Development Alternatives**



- Innovate and package green technology solutions
- Create and support entrepreneurship
- Catalyse and service markets for alternatives
- Build community and institutional capacities for resilience
- Design and catalyse social change processes
- Influence and service policy and industry shifts

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

India, one of the youngest countries globally, boasts 67% of its population in the working-age group, with an additional 100 million people expected to join the workforce by 2030. However, despite India's rapid and consistent economic growth, job opportunities for millions of unemployed youth remain scarce, making jobless growth a significant concern.

To address this, Development Alternatives is fostering systemic changes to create opportunities that are socially purposeful, systemic in nature, and inclusive by design. Their initiatives aim to empower sustainable livelihoods for youth and women in underserved regions of the country. Providing green and inclusive entrepreneurship is our goal.

5k+

Enterprises Established

11.7k+

Job Opportunities Created

15k+

Workers Upskilled

77.6k+

Livelihoods Secured



Erickshaw Entrepreneurs in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

Resilient Realities

Pinki: A Dream Ignited

Pinki, a determined woman from a village in Uttar Pradesh, India, always dreamed big despite her modest beginnings. Starting by selling Dona Pattal to local factories, retailers, and street vendors, she aspired to further her education in healthcare. However, family responsibilities led her to marry and manage a household.

Balancing care for her husband and four children on a limited income, Pinki held onto her dream of financial independence. In 2014, she joined a Self Help Group (SHG) in her village, hoping to improve her socio-economic status. Taking a loan of INR 50,000 from the SHG, she set up a small Dona Pattal manufacturing business. Her monthly revenue soon reached INR 50,000–60,000, with a profit of INR 20,000.

Frequent power cuts in her village posed a significant challenge, but during Development Alternatives' Equality4Progress project, she learned about solar energy solutions. This sparked a vision of a future where her business could run efficiently on solar power. Pinki now aims to invest 2–3 lakhs, gain skills in managing people and marketing, and employ ten women, providing them with meaningful opportunities.

Pinki's journey is one of resilience and determination. From selling Dona Pattal to dreaming of a successful business, she is transforming her life and bringing hope to her community.



Pinki (Left) With Her Paper Plate Manufacturing Machine In Uttar Pradesh

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

Entrepreneur Ecosystem

Enterprises +5,000 | Jobs +11,700 | Upskilled +15,000 | Livelihoods +77,600

Accelerating entrepreneurship - systemic & future forward enterprise prototypes

- 18 DECs conducted across 7 districts of EUP, Bundelkhand generating INR 26.28 crore worth cash flow across 7 districts, 14 blocks
- 17,057 potential entrepreneurs - udyAME Mela (200), 2 Digital KBBL with Gram Vaani (380) , 4 Aarya Manch (350), 18 DECs (9,947), Urja Mandala (6100) , SIYB Training (80)
- 104 women-led safe mobility network serviced 2.75 Lakh women across one district in 2023-24 - 73 women-led e-rickshaw enterprises set up in 2023-24
- 50 new enterprise models inc. women-collectives led Shakti Samuday, Kendra-Mart, Urja Mandala, and RIPAs leading to enhanced income of 14,200 women

Enhanced job creation and inclusion

- 15 enterprises/day, 30 jobs/day for enhanced inclusion and green economy
- INR 7.20 Cr disbursed by udyAME through 5 persona based credit products
- Upskilling in critical sectors such as logistics and government - newly recruited government officers from 18 ministries of GOI
- Skill set of 13,751 individuals enhanced resulting in improvement of family income for 68,755 individuals
- Digitisation through U Report chatbot (UNICEF-Yuwaah!) & udyAME Vaani IVRS system leading to engagement with 120,000+ community members



Anand Sahu, An Entrepreneur, Working On His Solar Powered Oil Expeller In Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

FLAGSHIP INTERVENTIONS



Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Fostering systemic change by building strong ecosystems that provide equal access to entrepreneurial opportunities for everyone. This approach aims to promote social inclusion, quality employment, and sustainable economic growth.

The women-led enterprises funded by the Bill and Melinda Foundation aims to empower women by creating 10 robust district entrepreneurial ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. The project aims to establish 100,000 women-led enterprises, directly employ 200,000 people, and enhance the lives of 244,000 women over 42 months. We hope to place the ownership of empowerment and entrepreneurship solutions in the hands of women and their institutions so that they can act as 'agents of change' to unlock entrepreneurship and boost the local economy.

The Equality4Progress Project funded by Bank of America National Association seeks to empower women in rural India who face socio-economic disempowerment and limited access to resources and livelihood opportunities. The initiative, based on a social innovation approach, envisions empowering women by co-creating: solidarity-based platform called "Shakti Samuday" (Empowered Community) for enhanced women's participation in local decision-making processes as well as promoting entrepreneurship for green and inclusive development. In addition to this, the project aims to establish renewable energy powered economic models (Shakti Kendra, Shakti Mart) and non-traditional enterprises to break the stereotypes with respect to rural women and entrepreneurship.

The Accelerating Entrepreneurship through Social Innovation (AESI) project In partnership with SBI Foundation, is replicating tested solutions developed in the "la Caixa" Foundation funded Work4Progress Program. The collaboration is envisioned to facilitate the establishment of 7500 micro enterprises and generate 20,000 jobs for youth and women in underserved villages of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand region within 5 years. The project envisions a systemic shift in which the target group (youth and women) become job creators through entrepreneurship.

The programme promotes 'inclusive entrepreneurship', a phenomenon that is characterised by systemic change that enables under-represented groups such as youth and women to access entrepreneurship opportunities, thereby leading to social inclusion, quality employment, and sustainable economic growth. The program, launched in 2016 in India by Development Alternatives, and supported by "la Caixa" Foundation, has expanded to Peru and Mozambique with a total of 7 national networks.



Green Enterprise Solutions

Supporting 'Local Green Enterprises' as catalysts for change through inclusive, community-driven, circular, and regenerative business models and practices.

HSBC India and Development Alternatives partnered in October 2022 to demonstrate the catalytic role of renewable energy in the sustainable socio-economic growth of local communities through the productive use of reliable power. The pioneering "Urja Mandala" (Energy Constellation) economic model, powered by decentralised renewable energy systems, leverages a Private-Public-Community partnership with Women Collectives at the forefront for an inclusive and just energy transition.

Till date, the project has launched three Urja Mandalas, one each in Bahraich, one in Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh, and the other one in the Palkot, Gumla districts of Jharkhand state powered by a 60 kWp, 30 kWp and 32 kWp solar mini-grids respectively.

These micro utility businesses are owned, operated and managed by Virangna Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti (Bahraich) and Nav Chetna Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti (Mirzapur) selling reliable, affordable solar electricity to micro entrepreneurs majorly dependent on expensive, highly polluting diesel generators. As of March 2024, of over 150 enterprises, 30 enterprises have transitioned to clean energy, boosting productivity, and cutting energy costs by upto 60%, and mitigating 105 tons of carbon emissions annually while increasing the income of Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti members by 70%.



Decent Work

The HDB Financial Services (HDBFS) Skills to Livelihood Project, implemented in partnership with Development Alternatives (DA), has been equipping marginalised communities in Jaipur and Noida with practical skills aligned to local market demands since 2017.

Focused on providing technical and soft skills training, fostering employment and entrepreneurship pathways, and ensuring long-term sustainability through community support networks, the project has achieved significant milestones. As of 2023-2024, 5,827 individuals have been trained, with 3,778 successfully linked to dignified employment opportunities.

In the current phase alone (from May 2024), 311 youth have been trained, and 248 have secured suitable jobs, showcasing the program's impactful vocational training and community-centric approach.

DA SPEAKS



Sudhir Sah

Assistant Programme Director

SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES

(Development Alternatives Group)

“ As part of its mandate to enable sustainable livelihoods and address India's job crisis, DA promotes sustainable economic growth through ‘Inclusive Entrepreneurship’. It enables under-represented groups such as youth and women to transition from job seekers to job creators and access entrepreneurship opportunities in underserved regions, leading to social inclusion, quality employment, and sustainable environmentally sound economic growth.



LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

IMPACT

In this financial year, we pioneered new approaches to entrepreneurship-led job creation in Eastern UP and Bundelkhand. Through these initiatives, more than 11,500 jobs have been created, and over 6,000 enterprises have been established across various regions.

These efforts are part of a range of inclusive and green entrepreneurship projects aimed at fostering economic growth and sustainability. The projects focus on empowering 88% marginalised communities and promoting gender equality, with a significant portion of the enterprises being 40% women-led.

By integrating innovative strategies and leveraging local resources, we successfully contributed to the economic development of the regions involved, ensuring that the benefits of entrepreneurship reach the most underserved populations. This holistic approach not only drives job creation but also supports the establishment of sustainable businesses, ultimately contributing to the broader goal of inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

40 Cr+

INR Raised in 2023-24 for this cause

27%

Decline in Project Cost / Enterprise in 2023-24

15x

Decrease in Project Cost / Enterprise in 4 Years

WAY FORWARD

The programme continues to pursue its mandate of creating “1 million jobs 2027” through the development of a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem. This year, the focus will shift towards building a youth-focused network, securing youth-focused investments, and playing a more facilitative role in the emerging ecosystem of the DA network. The programme will also concentrate on packaging Social Innovation & Inclusive Entrepreneurship modules for transference, co-creating new business models that enable green value chains and green service networks and fostering convergence with SRLM, government programs, and potential partners like Bajaj Finserv.

To achieve these goals, the programme will continue to leverage national and international platforms to position Development Alternatives as a thought leader in the Livelihood Security & Inclusive Entrepreneurship space. By capitalising on evidence-based knowledge resources and collaborating with like-minded organisations, we aim to make significant strides in securing 200,000 livelihoods, creating 80,000 jobs, supporting the setup of 40,000 individual and 200 group enterprises, and mitigating 10,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

This year, we will focus on the following goals:

-  Building a Youth-Focused Network: Engaging with GOYN, YuWaah, and Bajaj Finserv
-  Co-creating New Business Models: Enabling green value chains (Biomass) and green service networks (e-Mobility)
-  Finance: Securing youth-focused investments
-  Facilitative Role in the Emerging Ecosystem of the DA network
-  Business & Program Development: Fostering convergence with SRLM & government programs, and collaborating with Bajaj Finserv
-  Packaging Social Innovation & Inclusive Entrepreneurship Modules for Transference: Through initiatives like CREATE and Nirantar



Aarya Manch Training In Progress At Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Ineffective environmental management is a major driver of environmental degradation. To address this, we must accelerate the transition to inclusive and circular production and consumption models.

This means minimising carbon and material footprints throughout the entire lifecycle of economic activities while enhancing local value creation and promoting sustainable wealth generation.

27.6

Tonnes of Solid Waste Managed

20.2k

Million Tonnes of CO₂ Reduced

400

Million Litres of Water Made Available



Fly Ash Brick Unit In Patna, Bihar

Resilient Realities

Empowering Resource Efficiency: Munni Jha's Journey With Development Alternatives

Munni Jha, a resident of Ghughuwa, exemplifies entrepreneurial dedication and resilience. Despite completing her education only up to the 8th grade, she has become a self-reliant entrepreneur, running an RO water plant enterprise at the Shakti Kendra in Ghughuwa. Her initiative ensures access to clean drinking water for her village, earning her a steady income of ₹5,000 per month.

Development Alternatives (DA) played a pivotal role in Munni Ji's journey by providing her with a ₹1.5 lakh RO water plant machine and comprehensive training. She attended Shakti Samuday training, fire safety training, and Start Your Business (SYB) sessions, gaining essential technical, managerial, and marketing skills to grow her enterprise. DA's guidance in marketing strategies further boosted her confidence and enabled her to expand her business.

An active member of the Shree Ram Raja Cluster Level Federation (CLF) and the Ramaraja Shakti Samuday, Munni Ji serves as a cadre of Sanskar VO. She actively participates in CLF meetings and training sessions, continuously enhancing her knowledge and skills. With the support of her family of four, including her husband and two sons, Munni Ji is a shining example of empowerment and community contribution through sustainable entrepreneurship.



SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

Waste Managed

- Total Solid Waste Managed = 27.6 tonnes
- Plastic waste - 9.3 tonnes
- Wet waste - 13.9 tonnes
- New jobs created - 6
- Achieved cleanliness and litter-free surroundings and water bodies in developing peri-urban rural areas.
- Raised awareness and fostered a sense of collective responsibility within the community regarding waste management and the importance of not polluting nature.
- Successfully mobilised and engaged the community in waste management activities.

Green Affordable Housing

- Policy influence in Maharashtra and Odisha to improve livability and environmental performance of affordable housing

CO₂ Mitigated

- 20,202 Million tonnes (LC³, Brick kiln, Fly ash)

Water and Air

- 400 Million litres made available/ recycled
- Air Quality monitoring in 2 cities

LC³

- 1.2 Million tonnes produced by cement companies in pilot scale

Enterprise and Livelihoods

- 1,750 green tech enterprises, creating 4,500 new jobs



Fly Ash Brick Unit In Patna, Bihar

FLAGSHIP INTERVENTIONS



Waste Management

Incorporating circular economy paradigms is imperative for enhancing urban waste management efficacy. This entails facilitating technological transitions geared towards the productive utilisation of secondary resources, thereby fostering sustainable waste management strategies.

Development Alternatives is working on building a solid waste management system in two rural areas with peri-urban characteristics: Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh and Jhajjar in Haryana. The Nalagarh project, funded by HUL, operates in three villages: Rakhramsingh, Kripalpur, and Nikoowal. The project in Jhajjar, funded by DB Schenker, focuses on the village of Ghubana.

Through the project, DA conducted waste audits and household surveys, distributed dual dustbins to households, cleared littering hotspots, and conducted IEC activities to promote source segregation. An MRF was constructed, and bifurcated waste collection vehicles were purchased as part of the waste management infrastructure. Daily door-to-door waste collection, waste segregation at the MRF, and the final disposal or sale of valuable items were ensured throughout the project.

The three-year India – Australia Industry and Research Collaboration for Reducing Plastic Waste was conceived as a result of the first bilateral India-Australia virtual leaders' summit held in June 2020 between Prime Ministers of India and Australia. Six research organisations from both India – The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the CSIR-NEERI, and Development Alternatives; and Australia – University of New South Wales (UNSW), the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) collaborated on this project.

It prepares the foundation for a circular economy transition to enable India to meet its commitments towards signing the global treaty on plastic pollution by identifying the size of the issue and creating a roadmap, co-developed with industry and government stakeholders, and to drive change in plastics supply chains. The project developed a comprehensive knowledge base tracking plastic flow from import to reuse, with a full supply chain analysis in sectors like packaging, agriculture, construction, automotive, electronics, and household appliances. It developed a roadmap for technical innovations and established principles and strategies for transitioning to a circular plastics economy.

DA has conducted various short-term studies to assess the circularity and resource efficiency of various sectors;

The study, **Climate and Resource Impacts of Textile and Apparel Waste in India**, supported by GIZ, India, analyses the environmental impact of textile waste, highlights the potential for circular economy models, and identifies data and management gaps to inform sustainability policies.

The project, **Policy and Market Drivers for Utilisation of rPET in Food-Grade Applications**, supported by Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd, analysed policies and market drivers affecting recycled PET (rPET) production for food-grade bottles in India, offering insights and recommendations to enhance sustainability and promote a circular economy in packaging.

The study, **Finished Product Waste: Policy Landscape Analysis and Pre-competitive Collaboration**, supported by Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd, examined policies on managing textile, footwear, and plastic packaging waste, mapped collaborative efforts within the textile industry for achieving resource efficiency, and assessed the impact existing regulations, and offered recommendations to enhance waste management and circularity.



Sustainable Human Settlements

Designing integrated strategies for a low-carbon and circular built environment presents a tremendous opportunity for enhancing the resilience and livability of habitats, especially for vulnerable communities.

The project, Transforming the built-environment through sustainable materials, co-supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Government of Germany (BMZ) and SED Fund and administered by the UN Environmental Programme seeks to address the supply and demand side bottlenecks in the value chain for affordable housing construction and facilitate the transition to low-carbon pathways by developing a sustainable building materials market in Indian States of Odisha and Maharashtra.

The project has built partnerships for state-level action through MoUs with Odisha State Housing Board in Odisha and Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Technology Limited in Maharashtra. The project has developed a draft sub-national roadmap for the building and construction sector in Odisha with recommendations and action items for GHG emission reduction and promotion of low-carbon and circular building materials and technologies. The roadmap presents strategies for enhancing the resilience of affordable housing projects and the development of a localised, community-led supply chain for green building products and services.

FLAGSHIP INTERVENTIONS

In Maharashtra, an affordable housing project in Thane by Mahapreit with approximately 19,240 dwelling units was supported to include green building certification and integration of low-carbon and circular materials in tender documents and specifications. The project has identified locally available alternative materials for application in demonstration projects in Odisha and Maharashtra. A technical comparative assessment of these materials was conducted considering the cost-benefit factor along with environmental implications. Further, the project includes a significant component of learning, information, and knowledge sharing to increase awareness and build capacities of relevant actors involved in the built environment sector.

Low Carbon Development Pathways for Industrial Sector of Bihar

Development Alternatives, in partnership with International Sustainable Energy Foundation, embarked on a transformative initiative to provide technical and management support to the industrial sectors of Bihar towards achieving a carbon neutral growth. Since there were no verifiable inventory of GHG emissions of the various industrial sectors in Bihar, Development Alternatives focused on mapping the various industrial units and create a GHG inventory. The key emission-intensive industries mapped were brick kilns, sugar mills, rolling mills, and distilleries. The fly ash industries were also mapped to understand the impact of low carbon growth in brick making compared to the energy intensive burnt clay brick industry. Through extensive field visits, GIS mapping, GHG audits and process mapping, stakeholder consultations, and capacity-building sessions, the project identified sector-specific pathways to align with Bihar's developmental targets and India's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2070. By leveraging policy recommendations, technology upgrades, and energy efficiency measures, Development Alternatives has successfully laid the foundation for a low-carbon future, empowering industries in Bihar to embrace sustainable practices while contributing to global climate action.

Outcomes:

The project achieved significant milestones, including the completion of GHG inventorization for sugar mills, rolling mills, distilleries, and brick kilns across Bihar. A total of 231 fly ash enterprises were mapped and geocoded, while detailed surveys of 465 brick kilns in East Champaran were conducted to understand operational dynamics and emissions. Knowledge products such as sector-specific Low Carbon Development Pathway reports for the Sugar, Rolling and Brick industries and a GeoAI-based study on brick kilns were released in collaboration with key partners. Additionally, stakeholder consultations facilitated the dissemination of findings and promoted the adoption of sustainable practices, such as the use of fly ash bricks. Training manuals were developed and distributed to support capacity building among industry stakeholders, paving the way for widespread adoption of cleaner technologies and emissions reduction strategies in the state.



Green Energy

Facilitating access to decentralised renewable energy systems empowers rural communities, paving the way for an inclusive and equitable green transition.

HSBC India and Development Alternatives partnered in October 2022 to demonstrate the catalytic role of renewable energy in the sustainable socio-economic growth of local communities through the productive use of reliable power. The pioneering "Urja Mandala" (Energy Constellation) economic model, powered by decentralised renewable energy systems, leverages a Private-Public-Community partnership with Women Collectives at the forefront for an inclusive and just energy transition.

Till date, the project has launched three Urja Mandalas, one each in Bahraich, one in Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh, and the other one in the Palkot, Gumla districts of Jharkhand state powered by a 60 kWp, 30 kWp and 32 kWp solar mini-grids respectively. These micro utility businesses are owned, operated and managed by Virangna Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti (Bahraich) and Nav Chetna Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti (Mirzapur) selling reliable, affordable solar electricity to micro entrepreneurs majorly dependent on expensive, highly polluting diesel generators.

As of March 2024, of over 150 enterprises, 30 enterprises have transitioned to clean energy, boosting productivity, and cutting energy costs by upto 60%, and mitigating 105 tons of carbon emissions annually while increasing the income of Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti members by 70%.

Anita Devi, member of Palkot Urja Mandala Mahila Samiti, switching on the mini-grids for the first time



DA SPEAKS



Mohak Gupta

Assistant Programme Director

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

(Development Alternatives Group)

“ In a world reeling from exploitative resource use to feed the evergrowing needs of a consumerist society, coupled with a waste management crisis that threatens the stability of our natural ecosystems and the liveability of human settlements, circular economy models offer pathways for transformation. DA drives innovation to generate new opportunities to redefine consumption behaviours, optimise resource use, and valorise waste. Collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and civil society will be crucial to create the enabling ecosystem for transitioning to a circular economy that is both preservative and regenerative.



Material Recovery Facility Under Prakriti Project in Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

IMPACT

- 1.9 Million Tons of Natural Resource Saved
- 0.51 Million Tons of CO₂ Saved
- 291 Fly Ash Brick Enterprises Supported
- 600 Sustainable Jobs Through Brick Sector Initiatives
- 47,376 Million Tonnes of Waste (Plastics, Constructions & Demolition, Fly Ash, Agri-Residues) Managed
- 400 tonnes of Solid Waste Managed in 8 Villages
- 20,202 Million Tonnes (LC³, Brick Kiln, Fly Ash) CO₂ Mitigated
- 1.2 Million Tonnes LC³ Produced By Cement Companies Under Pilot Scale
- 4,500 New Jobs Created
- 15,000 Low-Cost Houses In Maharashtra And Odisha Under Green Affordable Housing
- 19,240 Green Affordable Houses Enabled

WAY FORWARD

In the waste management front, DA aims to scale up the waste management model to other rural and peri-urban areas, enhancing community engagement and promoting livelihood development. The projects envision a sustainable transfer of assets to local governments, with community participatory bodies formed to ensure sustainable operations. DA aims to ensure financial viability for local micro-entrepreneurship models and guarantee environmental sustainability by selecting appropriate technologies.

Within the sustainable human settlements, DA aims to build 1 million sustainable housing by 2030, with an aim to achieve significant reduction in emission, virgin resource consumption, thereby improving life and resilience of 5 million individuals. In order to achieve this, DA will design and execute projects, campaigns, and events to identify and utilise sustainable building materials, construction technologies and design, support setting up of green material manufacturing enterprises, and training construction sector stakeholders.



An Eco House In Village Madore, District Niwari, Orchnha, Madhya Pradesh

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

India's geographical diversity, agricultural dependence, and growing population makes it highly vulnerable to climate threats. Addressing these challenges requires enhancing climate resilience and restoring ecosystems through nature-based solutions.

These strategies not only help mitigate the effects of climate change but also foster biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods, and improve overall environmental health.

630

Million Litres of Water Potential

50+

Ponds Restored

1500+

Hectares of Area Directly Impacted through Land and Soil Conservation Activities



Rejuvenated Pond Dujana in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Initiative Supported By HCL Foundation

Resilient Realities

From Neglect To Nurtured Haven: A Pond Rejuvenation Success In Milak Lachhi, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

In a remarkable tale of transformation, a once-neglected pond in a bustling locality named Milak Lachhi has been rejuvenated, bringing significant change to the community. Development Alternatives, in collaboration with HCL Foundation, has breathed new life into this water body, addressing long-standing issues and revitalising the ecosystem under their project of Pond Rejuvenation.

Previously, the pond would overflow during rains, causing floods and water clogging, that disrupted the daily life. However, the rejuvenation efforts have deepened the pond and improved drainage channels, effectively collecting rainwater and preventing flooding. A sturdy bund structure has also been constructed, ensuring the pond's stability and security in heavy rainfall as well.



The cleaning of the pond has had a profound impact on the local wildlife. Once again, the pond is teeming with fish, and various bird species have returned to the area, creating a vibrant and thriving ecosystem with various shrubs, trees, and plants alongside. The revitalised pond now not only serves as an improved tool for change in the ecosystem but also has become a haven for nature lovers where they can sit by and enjoy the peaceful breeze with greenery alongside. Now it is a source of pride for the community.

This transformation has not only improved the aesthetic appeal of the locality but also addressed pressing environmental concerns. The rejuvenated pond now serves as a natural water harvesting system, recharging groundwater, and supporting the local biodiversity. This collaborative effort between Development Alternatives and HCL Foundation has brought about a significant change in the minds of people who now also takes responsibility in taking care of the pond.

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

Ecological restoration through promotion of climate resilient farming and restoration of water bodies to tackle water insecurity

- Model demonstration of increased surface water potential by 30-40 percent in peri-urban and rural geographies through pond rejuvenation and allied water conservation activities
- Provided planning support to Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority for rejuvenating 27 ponds in UP
- Convergence of 20 ponds till date (28.76 hectares) with Amrit Sarovar scheme of the MoRD
- Increased green cover in 221.6 hectares of land by plantation of 27000 horti-forestry plants through various WADI and plantation activities

Community engagement for ownership- 8646 people reached out on climate change- resilient practices for water conservation and sustainable agriculture through different workshops and capacity building sessions.

Institutionalisation with the government-

- Collaborated with Govt. of UP to improving water policies, especially focusing on pond rejuvenation using a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) approach.

Science and Policy Interface- Assessment of pond rejuvenation models to draw recommendations for Mission Amrit Sarovar under a project funded by TNC.

Climate Change Communication:

- One lakh women made aware on Climate Resilient practices through RB
- 2.5 lakh people made aware on health, nutrition, WASH, agriculture and other practices through RB

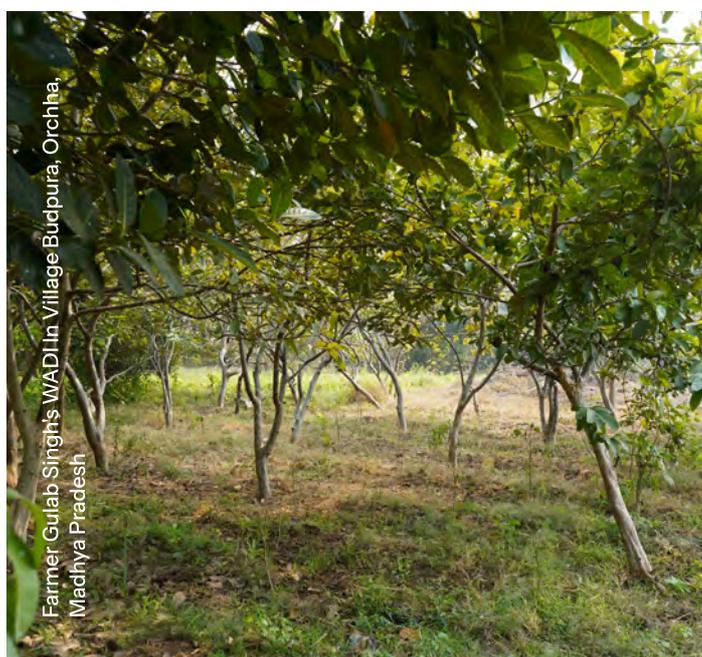
A special focus was put into developing different partnerships and networks such as:

- Funding Partnerships - ATECF, HCLF, HUL Prabhat, CANSA, Adaptation Fund, RRAN, IUCN-GBM, US AID, The Climate Reality Project- India & South Asia
- Knowledge Partnerships - Bundelkhand University, IIT Madras, MNIT Jaipur, etc.
- Government Partnerships - Directorate of Environment, Government of Uttar Pradesh, YEIDA, GNIDA

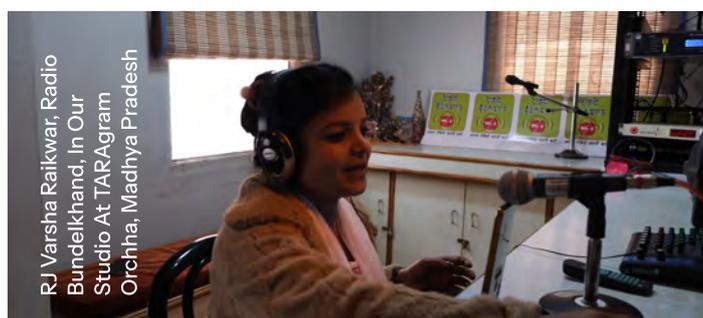
Radio Bundelkhand

For the past 16 years, Radio Bundelkhand has been a symbol of impactful community radio, earning significant accolades and recognition for its dedication to social change, environmental advocacy, and gender-inclusive communication. Varsha Raikwar, Radio Bundelkhand's RJ, received the prestigious TARA Award 2024, the Nari Suraksha Samman Award in Bhopal, and was honored on International Women's Day for her exceptional contributions. The station's literary excellence was highlighted as the station manager Manish Samadhiya was conferred the Bundelkhand Literary Award. Further, an appreciation letter from Chief Secretary Avdesh Pratap Singh underscored its influence. In partnership with the L'Oréal Foundation, Radio Bundelkhand also demonstrated its commitment to gender-inclusive climate communication by creating a compelling 6-series video podcast on climate change and its impact on women. Additionally, a DW Hindi documentary focused on a community champion showcased its inspiring stories, while Stories of Our Green Sherohes by Sridevi (Notion Press) featured Varsha Raikwar. Moreover, the Radio Bundelkhand app also saw a spike in listenership engaging around 4000 listeners monthly.

These achievements highlight Radio Bundelkhand's pivotal role in empowering communities, celebrating unsung heroes, and promoting sustainability and inclusivity in Bundelkhand and beyond.



Farmer Gulab Singh's WADI in Village Budhpura, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh



RJ Varsha Raikwar, Radio Bundelkhand, in Our Studio At TARAGram Orchha, Madhya Pradesh



RJ Manish Samadhiya, Radio Bundelkhand, in Our Studio At TARAGram Orchha, Madhya Pradesh

FLAGSHIP INTERVENTIONS



Natural Resources Management

Solutions focussing on strong practice-to-policy connect with on - ground demonstration of resilient models and improved practices for land and water management.

Alternate solutions should focus on establishing a strong connection between practice and policy, with on-ground demonstrations of resilient models and improved practices for land and water management.

An integrated village model was promoted in the tribal belts of Sonbhadra region, Uttar Pradesh where the prime focus was on water conservation and natural resource management.

Under this the following activities were undertaken:

→ Cattle Protection Trench and Farm Bunding:

The construction of cattle protection trenches and farm bunding in WADIs not only safeguards plants from animals but also contributes to water conservation. This can lead to increased agricultural productivity and sustainability.

→ Nala Deepening:

The deepening of 1,147 running meters of Nala in five villages is a significant step in groundwater recharge, potentially benefiting an area of around 300 acres. This could address water scarcity issues and enhance agricultural productivity.



Climate Adaptation And Resilience

Solutions focussing on climate change communication through radio programmes or citizen science to enable communities to adopt nature-based solutions (NbS).

Solutions targeting climate change communication through radio programs or citizen science to empower communities to embrace nature-based solutions (NbS).

Radio Bundelkhand's flagship initiative – Shubh Kal (i.e. better tomorrow) received a grant from L'Oréal Foundation, to strengthen its initiative on climate change communication, specially addressing women farmers.

Under this, special programs were developed on different themes related to climate change and its impact on agriculture, natural resources, environment, individual health and overall well-being, with women at the centre.

20 programs were broadcasted, narrow casted with women SHGs in different villages and lot of live Q/ A sessions were organised which featured experts that addressed clarifications and provided suggestions to the community.

The program has reached to more than 2.5 lakh people.

Sharing some success stories:

Our programs have made a significant difference in the lives of farmers like Damini Kushwaha and Mamta Kushwaha and her SHG group members. Damini Kushwaha, aged 28, residing in Ganeshpura, Panchayat Sinoniya, Block-Niwari, District-Niwari, Madhya Pradesh, began practising regenerative agriculture after her father-in-law listened to Radio Bundelkhand's Shubh Kal.

With 2 hectares of land, Damini adopted organic farming practices for wheat and vegetables (tomatoes, chillies, ladyfingers, cabbage), which reduced the expenditure on agricultural inputs.

Similarly, Mamta Kushwaha, Chairperson of the Jai Ma Kali Self-Help Group, a SHG in Kulua Bhata, Panchayat-Kulua Bhata, Block-Niwari, District-Niwari, Madhya Pradesh, mobilised her group members to use Amrit Mitti on their collective 2.2 acres of land for wheat cultivation.

This initiative was made possible after our Radio reporters educated her on the significance of organic farming and how to mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture through organic practices during Narrowcasting sessions. The radio reporters connected her to a training program on Amrit Mitti. As a result, each member sold a significant amount of wheat in Jhansi at a rate of INR 3,500 per quintal, compared to INR 2,400 per quintal for wheat cultivated using inorganic farming.



Sustainable Agriculture

Solutions focusing on linking small-holder farmers, to appropriate eco-technologies, providing technical support, and conducting farmer training through promotion of WADI model.

Solutions focusing on connecting smallholder farmers with appropriate eco-technologies, offering technical support, and conducting farmer training through the promotion of the WADI model.

WADI is a successful agri-horti model that ensures a year round income to small and marginal farmers. The model provides an effective solution to ensure their livelihood and nutritional security while also helping to regenerate the natural resource base.

It is one of the best sustainable solutions for tribal areas where the land holdings of farmers are relatively less than 2 acres as the model presents a sustainable solution that makes farming profitable even on small plots. The multi-tiered cropping pattern ensures nutritional security of the households by the provisioning of cereals, pulses, vegetables and fruits. The agri-horti model reduces climate risks, regenerates production potential of the land and ensures that farmers enjoy a regular flow of income due to diversification of production.

Under the integrated village development project in Sonbhadra, nearly 250 farmers were trained on this model, out of which 101 farmers successfully adopted the model which will result in their additional income, showcasing economic empowerment through sustainable or multilayer farming practices.

DA SPEAKS



Aakriti Uttam

Programme Officer

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LIVELIHOODS

(Development Alternatives Group)

“ Investing in Nature Based Solutions, believing in indigenous traditional knowledge and putting community first, is a path towards a thriving ecosystem and hence a sustainable planet. Development Alternatives is committed towards achieving climate resilience through restoration of ecosystem.”



DA Team Assessing Rejuvenated Pond Milak Lachhi, In Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

IMPACT

Under climate resilience and ecosystem restoration, efforts were strengthened in the water conservation sector, where apart from infrastructural development, focus was also on scaling the initiative by establishing networks and partnerships with government and other private institutions. Efforts were strengthened to develop and deepen monitoring evaluation frameworks that can produce evidence-based data to influence policies at larger scale.

Radio Bundelkhand through its flagship initiative on climate change communication, Shubh Kal, delivered programmes that focussed on the intersections of impacts of climate change on women, with respect to their health, nutrition, environment, agriculture and overall well-being.

WADI as our flagship model was scaled in Sonbhadra area in Uttar Pradesh, where new 101 farmers were adopted the model which ensures them will a year round income from the agri-horti model.

- Water Availability Enhanced In 3,000 Hectares
- 200 Water Conservation Structures Restored
- 3,700 hectares of land restored through sustainable agriculture and land development initiatives
- 1,500 families received direct access to clean drinking water
- 100 Women Benefiting Enterprise Models Established
- 12,000 individuals equipped with enhanced knowledge on Climate Resilient practices

WAY FORWARD

Under climate resilience and ecosystem restoration, Development Alternatives will continue to mainstream natural resource management through a PPCP model, where the dialogue is expanded to cover the interlinkages with agriculture, livelihoods, gender and protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Strengthening science policy interface on climate change and water conservation by engaging and promoting citizen scientist and expanding collaboration and capacity-building support in water related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies. Using AI and IoT based technologies to generate evidence-based impacts that can influence the policies at a larger space.



A Check Dam in Budhpura Village In Babina District, In Orchna, Madhya Pradesh

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Development Alternatives At COP28: Leading The Change For Sustainable Development

Development Alternatives (DA) marked its presence at COP28, the conference of the parties under the UNFCCC, that was held from November 30th to December 12th, 2023 in Dubai. In this 12-day event, DA played a vital role as a key participant in the discussion focusing on Climate action and sustainable development.

DA showed its active involvement in shaping dialogues and advocating for transformative solutions. Notably, CEO Shrashtant Patara moderated a panel discussion on "Green and inclusive Micro-Economies for Climate Smart and Sustainable Futures." This session invited esteemed experts including Dr. Mao Amis and Ms. Sofia Martiez under one roof exploring partnerships and strategising for a sustainable future.



Panel On 'Green And Inclusive Micro-Economies For A Climate - Smart And Sustainable Future' At COP28, 2023 In Dubai

In a proceeding trade-centric session, our CEO Shrashtant Patara took the opportunity to emphasise the significance of green international trade from a livelihood perspective, encouraging collaboration between countries to decarbonisation and creating decent employment opportunities.

Meanwhile, an impactful intervention was made by Associate Vice President and Lead - Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship of DA, Kanika Verma. She drew everyone's attention to the need for meso-level policy frameworks in transitioning to green inclusive micro-economies, stressing social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

In addition, she also extended everyone's attention to discussions on empowering women through decentralised renewable energy solutions along with optimising climate adaptation financing for women entrepreneurs, presenting DA's commitment to gender equality and sustainable development.

Dr. Soumen Maity, Vice President at DA, shared insights on greening the construction sector in Bihar, demonstrating DA's practice-to-policy approach and contributions to sub-national energy transition planning.

The presence of Development Alternatives (DA) at COP28 showcased its innovative solutions and dedication to mitigating climate change.

By effectively communicating and engaging with stakeholders, DA demonstrated its impact and established itself as a frontrunner in tackling worldwide climate challenges.

Overall, DA's participation at COP28 not only contributed to meaningful discussions but also fostered collaborations and heightened awareness, setting the stage for continued impact in sustainable development efforts worldwide.

Bihar Climate Action Conclave: Development Alternatives' Essential Role In Driving Sustainable Change

In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, WRI conducted the Bihar Climate Action Conclave on 4th March 2024.

This conclave highlighted a crucial moment in the state's climate journey and was made possible by esteemed partners including the Department of Environmental, Forest, and Climate Change, Bihar, and the Bihar State Pollution Control Board.

This event brought together stakeholders, policymakers, and experts from diverse backgrounds and advocated to address pressing climate changes along with strategising a path towards climate-friendly development.

Development Alternatives (DA) participated as a significant contributor to the conclave, presenting their strategic insights on carbon emission reduction strategies in essential sectors like industry and construction. Their projection highlighted their substantial contributions along with outlined critical policy changes important for achieving long-term sustainability objectives.

The strategic roadmap presented by DA aiming for decarbonisation by 2047, focused on the regulatory framework significance of incentivising low-carbon technologies, promoting circular economy principles, and prioritising integration of renewable energy.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, praised this vision, highlighting DA's contribution to moving forward with the state's climate plans.

DA also took the opportunity to showcase substantial carbon emissions reduction in the construction sector by exhibiting their innovative approach to sustainable construction, particularly through advancements in fly ash brick production.

DA also demonstrated how the bricks made of fly ash from burning coal not only help the environment but also save energy and resources along with promoting the adoption of fly ash bricks. In addition, DA also brought everyone's attention to the initiatives to encourage LC³ cement as an alternative to OPC Cement, utilising C&D waste as a substitute for natural aggregates and sand, and advocating for briquettes as a replacement for coal.

Overall DA's participation in the Bihar Climate Action Conclave represented their leadership and contribution in catalysing transformative change towards a greener, more resilient future along with positioning DA as a trailblazer in sustainable development.



Glimpses Of Bihar Climate Action Conclave Held In Patna, Bihar In March 2024



Kanika Verma, Associate Vice-President And Lead, Green And Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Development Alternatives At The Livelihoods India Summit 2023

Livelihoods India Summit 2023: Fostering Collaboration For Entrepreneurship And Women's Empowerment

ACCESS hosted a two-day Livelihoods India Summit 2023 in New Delhi from January 17th to 18th, 2024 which united around 60 thought leaders, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse sectors, Development Alternatives being a part of this summit. The main aim of this summit was to discuss key issues and challenges related to livelihoods in India.

This summit included various activities including the session, titled "Unlocking Entrepreneurship, Creating Jobs at Scale - A Collaborative Platform Approach," which focused on innovative approaches to entrepreneurship, and a closed-door round table on advancing women's entrepreneurship in India.

Kanika Verma, Associate Vice-President and Lead - Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship at DA took the seat as a panelist in the summit's closing plenary session, highlighting DA's platform approach through Work4Progress, presenting the transition towards joint platforms for open innovation and job creation. In addition, other panelists shared insights on removing systemic barriers, improving access to finance, and supporting grassroots entrepreneurs.

Moreover, Kanika Verma along with Shabnam Durani, Lead of Knowledge, Learning, and Communications at DA, engaged in a closed-door round table focused on advancing women's entrepreneurship in India. The dialogue explored the strategies of generating a national network to help women entrepreneurs with finance, markets, and capacity building.

DA also set up a booth at the summit to showcase its work featuring knowledge data and products from the Nautical Artefacts cluster in Roorkee under the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF).

The summit was overall a package of impactful dialogues and collaborations aimed at improving livelihoods, fostering entrepreneurship, and empowering women.

A Reflection On World Water Day 2024: Celebrating Water For Peace

To mark World Water Day 2024 with a strong sense of purpose and enthusiasm, Development Alternatives organised a number of significant events. These events included collaborations with various esteemed partners including the Climate Reality Project, NIUA, W for W Foundation, and WICCI. These events aimed at addressing critical issues related to water conservation management, provided a platform for experts, policymakers, practitioners, and cultural enthusiasts to unite and participate in thought-provoking discussions and actions.

The roundtable on Water for Peace is marked as the inaugural event marking a significant milestone in the collective efforts towards water conservation. This event brought around 25 experts under one roof for the discussion from a diverse sector whereas keynote speaker Shri. Ashish Tiwari, Secretary of MOEFCC, Govt. of UP took the podium to set the context, drawing everyone's attention to the urgent need for catering burning issue of Water Conservation.

Triologue 2047: Water For Planet, People, Peace, And Partnership

A thought-provoking triologue unfolded after the roundtable which took the discussion a step ahead delving deeper into the interconnectedness of water management with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Ms. Hyun Hee Ban from UNICEF, Dr. Debolina Kundu from NIUA, and Ms. Nidhi Pundhir from HCL Foundation, joined the event as a panelist and enlightened the participants about fostering agreement towards India's shift to a sustainable future.

Cultural Event: "Dastan Goi"

The day filled with enriching knowledge and insights concluded with an engaging cultural event named "Dastan Goi" (a traditional form of storytelling). This refreshing art form was presented by Dr. Mansee Bal Bhargava and the team from Living Waters Museums, in collaboration with East India Dastangos.

The artists beautifully with their storytelling took their audiences on a journey through India's rivers and their cultural importance along with drawing everyone's attention to the pressing issues confronting these crucial water sources, emphasising the urgent need for united efforts to preserve their health and resilience.



Glimpses From World Water Day 2024 Celebrations Held At DA Headquarters

AWARDS AND HONORS

Development Alternatives Group - Impact - 2023 - 24

01

Sohrabh Pirojsha Award For Environment, 2024

Dr. Ashok Khosla was awarded the Sohrabh Pirojsha Award for the Environment at its inaugural edition. The award for the outstanding contributions to the field of environment and sustainability.



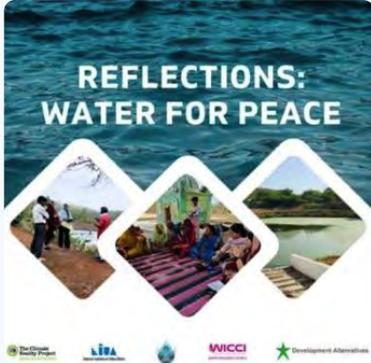
02

Great Himalayan Star Award, Balipara Foundation

Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, of Development Alternatives was awarded by Balipara Foundation, for the 'Great Himalayan Star Award'. Balipara Foundation recognised individuals from every state in the Eastern Himalayan region, standing out for their substantial contributions to biodiversity preservation.



PUBLICATIONS 2023-24



Reflection:
Water For Peace



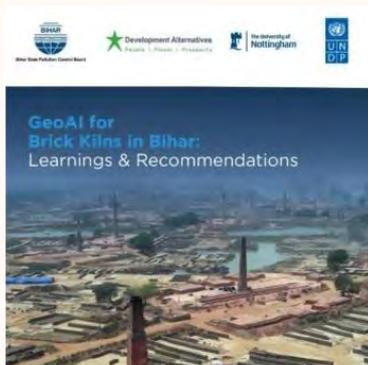
**National Circular
Economy Roadmap
For Reducing Plastic
Waste In India**



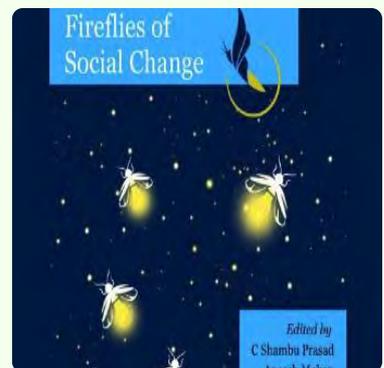
**Low Carbon
Development Pathway
For Sugar Mills In Bihar**



**Low Carbon
Development Pathway
For Re-Rolling Mills In
Bihar**



**GeoAI For Brick
Kilns In Bihar:
Learnings &
Recommendations**



**Fireflies Of Social
Change**



WORK4PROGRESS E-NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 6 -

Collaboration For Impact At Scale - Shifts In Local Narratives



OUR PONDS NEED OWNERSHIP TO
THRIVE - A COLLABORATIVE
INITIATIVE TO

Rejuvenate Ponds In Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP



T20 POLICY BRIEF - FIXING THE
GREEN INVESTMENT AND
COHERENCE GAP

Through Structural Green Transition Policies



WORK4PROGRESS E-NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 5 -

Women And Youth- Led Entrepreneurship In Bundelkhand



Scan the QR Code to know more
about publications at
Development Alternatives

And many more publications in the coming year.

DA IN NEWS 2023-24



Water Trialogue 2047: A Gathering By Development Alternatives On World Water Day

[FABIAN MEDIA | Check Out Now](#)



A Lodestone For The Loss And Damage Fund

It is not the trajectory of the GDP or aggregate national carbon emissions that is important in evaluating a country's contribution to the Fund or its entitlement from it but the range of living conditions of its population.

[FINANCIAL EXPRESS | Check Out Now](#)



India's Climate Leadership Test Will Come After COP28. Here's How It Can Step Up

This can be India's moment of genuine leadership in building self-reliance and demonstrating a 'Lifestyle for the Environment' beyond a global showcase.

[THE PRINT | Check Out Now](#)



Reviving A Vital Resource Of Water

Prior to our intervention, Milak Lacchi's pond was disregarded and had become a dumping ground for the community, causing inconvenience due to litter, mosquito breeding, and contaminated water. It has now been transformed into a clean water body with aquatic life.

[THE HINDU | Check Out Now](#)



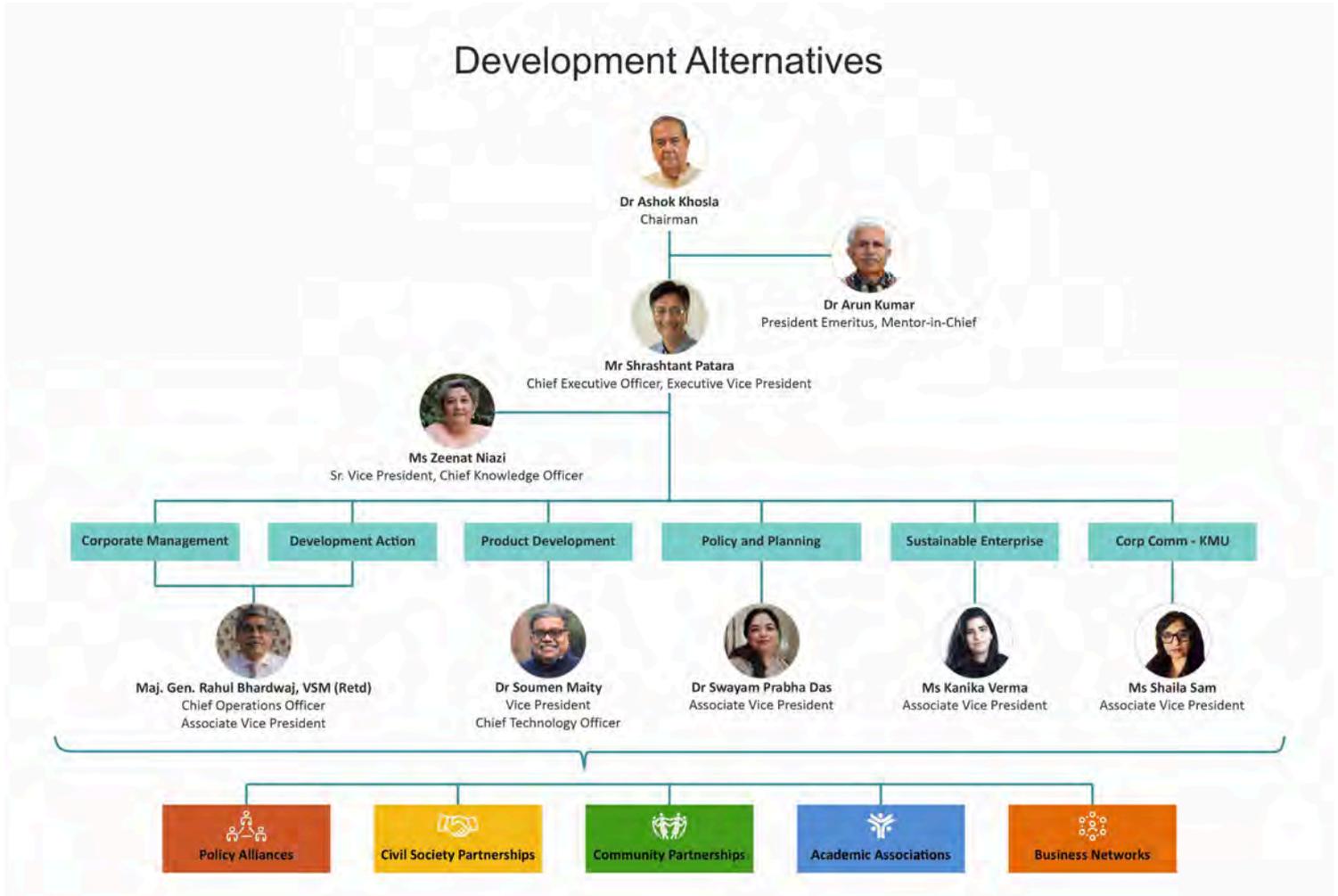
Climate Hotspot: A Warming Climate Parches An Already Dry Bundelkhand

With climate change, an already drought-prone area has rising temperatures and more erratic rainfall. An already water-scarce region is facing a triad of challenges: rising temperature, more rainfall over fewer days which means more runoff and lower groundwater recharge, and overuse and mismanagement of existing groundwater resources, experts tell us.

[INDIASPEND | Check Out Now](#)

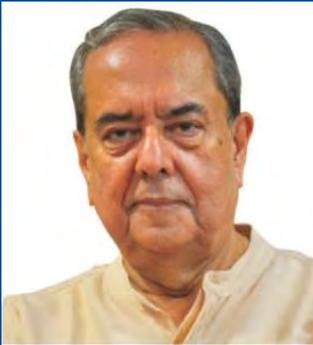
DA'S ORGANOGRAM

Development Alternatives Group - 2023 - 24

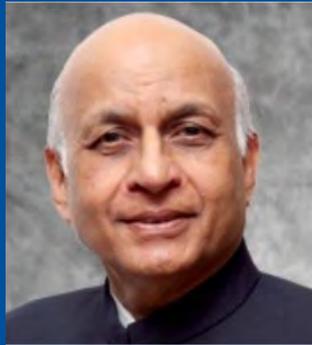


MEET OUR GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is primarily responsible for an overall policy formulation and ensuring statutory compliance. They bring to the organisation systems thinking, institutional development, planning and management, legal and financial, gender and social issues, natural resources and environment, social enterprise and business expertise and experience.



Dr Ashok Ghosla
CHAIRMAN



Mr Lalit Mansingh
MEMBER



Prof. Ravinder Kaur
MEMBER



Prof. Amitabh Kundu
MEMBER



Ms Gita Sidhartha
MEMBER



Mr Mathew Cherian
MEMBER



Lt Gen. Arun Kumar S
MEMBER



Mr Shrashtant Patara
MEMBER

CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE

Identity

- **Society for Development Alternatives** is registered as a not-for-profit society under **Societies Registration Act. XXI of 1860 (Reg. No. 12964)**.
- Society for Development Alternatives is registered under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA Reg. No. 231650202)**.
- Visit us at the addresses given on the '**contact us**' link on our website: www.devalt.org
- Name and address of main bankers: **Axis Bank Limited, K-12, Green Park, New Delhi - 110 016, India**
- Name and address of auditors: **K G Somani & Co LLP, Delite Cinema, Asaf Ali Road, 3rd Floor, New Delhi - 110002, India**

COMPLIANCE - DA

Development Alternatives was set up in 1982. The Society for Development Alternatives is registered as a not-for-profit society under the Societies Registration Act. XXI of 1860 (Reg. No. 12964). Also, it is registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA Reg. No. 231650202).

[Check out more at devalt.org](http://www.devalt.org)

GOVERNANCE

None of the society for Development Alternatives' **Governing Council** members are related to each other.

The **Governing Council Members met twice in the FY 2023-2024, on 21st February 2024 and 28th March 2024**. The minutes of the Governing Council meetings are documented and circulated.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

No sitting fee or any other form of compensation has been paid since the inception of the Society of Development Alternatives to any Governing Council Members.

STAFF DETAILS

(as on 31 March, 2024)

No sitting fee or any other form of compensation has been paid since the inception of the Society of Development Alternatives to any Governing Council Members.

Salary Range (INR)	Regular Staff		
	Male	Female	Total
<10000	0	0	0
10000-25000	4	0	4
25001-50000	4	6	10
50001-100000	7	8	15
>100000	7	6	13
Total	22	20	42

OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

National and State Governments



Academia and Research



Networks



Industry and Business



Civil Society & Think Tanks



Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies



Foundation and Philanthropic



LIST OF ACRONYMS

- AAA** - Action Aid Association
- CSC** - Common Service Centre
- DA** - Development Alternatives
- DEF** - Digital Empowerment Foundation
- DIU** - Development Intelligence Unit
- EPR** - Extended Producer's Responsibility
- GHG** - Green House Gases
- GPDP** - Gram Panchayat Development Plan
- IMEDF** - Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation
- IRMA** - Institute of Rural Management Anand
- IUCN** - International Union for Conservation of Nature
- LC³** - Limestone Calcined Clay Cement
- LGE** - Local Green Enterprises
- LOCO** - Locally Owned and Community Operated
- MSME** - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
- NABARD** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- NbS** - Nature-based Solutions
- NRLM** - National Rural Livelihood Mission
- RSETI** - Rural Self Employment Training Institutes
- RTS** - Rooftop Solar
- SDGs** - Sustainable Development Goals
- SFURTI** - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries
- SMART** - Seeking Modern Associations for Real Transformation
- TARA** - Technology and Action for Rural Advancement
- TRIF** - Transforming Rural India Foundation
- UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
- UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund
- UNFPA** - United Nations Fund for Population Activities
- W4P** - Work4Progress
- WADI** - Watershed Development Projects
- WWF** - World Wide Fund





 **Development Alternatives**
People | Planet | Prosperity

 **TARA**
Scalable Solutions for People and Our Planet

 **TARAlife**

 **TARahaat**
Helping People Help Themselves

 **TARA Machines**
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DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

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 **Development Alternatives**