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Controlling Corruption in Public Works Safety Nets

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About the PTF Working Paper Series

The PTF Working Paper Series connects Citizens and Civil Society Organizations around the world with knowledge, experience and How-to advice on Anti-Corruption interventions, tools and methodology. Each paper is written by experienced and recognized experts in their field. The explicit focus is to bridge theory and practice, providing a set of possible solutions or entry points to an array of challenges frequently faced by CSOs. Most papers draw examples from international best practice, the universe of PTF-funded Anti-Corruption interventions or address issues with a regional focus. While not prescribing any one model for success, the PTF Working Paper Series aims at sharing and disseminating knowledge, inviting CSOs and individuals to test, comment and further discuss.

The Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) supports citizens and civil society organizations around the world in their fight against corruption. PTF provides small-scale grants and pro-bono technical assistance through highly experienced and specialized volunteer project advisors.

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Abstract

Many governments support publically-funded rural works programs to provide safety nets for the rural poor and to deploy the underused labor productively. The programs aim to build and/or maintain simple infrastructure such as rural roads, irrigation and drainage works—adding to the country’s productive capacity and providing much needed employment to the rural poor. It is estimated that developing countries spend over 10 billion dollars a year on such programs aiming to benefit over 100 million poor.

The rapid expansion of rural works programs has increased their importance as social safety net instruments, implying the need for increased attention to their efficiency and effectiveness. Because of their decentralized nature with activities scattered over thousands of often remote work sites and with most potential beneficiaries not used to dealing with government bureaucracies, fraud and corruption are often a major risk in such programs.

PTF projects and activities combating corruption in rural works programs have been concentrated in India. PTF has provided nearly \$320,000 in ten grants to five separate CSOs for projects aimed at corruption in Indian rural works programs. In addition, PTF has provided \$166,000 in 7 grants to address corruption in joint rural employment and food distribution (PDS) projects. These projects often include training programs covering social audits, public hearing techniques, community score cards, and India’s Right-to-Information (RTI) law and its application.

PTF has achieved remarkable local-level results addressing corruption in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) program in India. This paper reviews this experience and makes recommendations for future action.

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1. Introduction: The Importance of Public Works Employment Programs

For poor people labor is often their only significant economic asset. The ability to deploy their labor remuneratively is critical to their well-being. Unfortunately, the demand for labor, especially in rural areas of many developing countries, fluctuates substantially, due to the seasonal nature of agriculture—the main economic activity in those areas. The related patterns of unemployment and under-employment not only mean a waste of potential economic resources but also expose the poor to malnutrition and extreme hardships. To provide safety nets for the rural poor and to deploy the underused labor productively, many governments support publically-funded rural works programs. Using labor-intensive techniques, the programs aim to build and/or maintain simple infrastructure such as rural roads, irrigation and drainage works—adding to the country’s productive capacity and providing much needed employment to the rural poor. More recently, many governments have also used public works programs to help cope with one time shocks (e.g., droughts) as well as to support reconciliation efforts in the aftermath of civil wars and ethnic strife.



A public works program in Orissa, India. Image by Suraksha.

Public works safety nets may be found in developing and transition countries, in low and middle income countries, and in fragile and well-established states. Programs exist in all regions and legal and institutional systems. A recent World Bank review of public works programs found 77 such programs in 62 countries over the past two decades. Based on partial data available, it is estimated that, currently, the developing countries spend over 10 billion dollars a year on such programs aiming to benefit over 100 million poor. In some regions (e.g. South Asia), the programs are expected to reach over 10% of the economically active population. The World Bank review concluded that “the use of public works is expanding and they have emerged as an essential part of the social protection toolkit to respond to risks and persistent poverty.”

The most noteworthy rural works employment scheme is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) in India, with annual outlays in excess of US\$7 billion. Other major programs include the PNPM Program in Indonesia (US\$1.5 billion), the PSNP Program in Ethiopia (US\$300 million), and the KKV Program in Kenya (US\$197 million). In India the MGNREGS, approved by the Indian Parliament in 2005, is available to 56 million households providing 100 days of employment annually upon demand. The Ethiopia program, established in 2004, helped 7.6 million people within 5 years. In Latvia, following the 2008 financial crisis, the government spent about \$80 million over two years on a ‘Workplaces with Stipend Emergency Public Works Program.

The rapid expansion of rural works programs and their importance as social safety net instruments have implied a need for increasing attention to the efficiency and effectiveness of the resources devoted to these programs. Because of the decentralized nature of these programs, with activities scattered over thousands of often remote work sites and with most potential beneficiaries not used to dealing with government bureaucracies, fraud and corruption are often a major risk. Potential avenues for fraud and corruption in these programs include:



National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) entitlement holders seeking to gain corruption-free work. Image by Suraksha.

- Favoritism in beneficiary selection (politically influenced or driven by considerations such as caste, status, bribes etc.) leading to benefits captured by undeserving people, while denying them to the most needy;
- Leakage of program resources (e.g., actual wage payments lower than those mandated under the programs or reporting a higher number of workers than actually employed (“ghost” workers));
- Favoritism in sub-project selection with benefits captured by the rich and/or poor technical designs;
- Inadequate oversight during implementation leading to sub-standard works; and
- Extortion of bribes for timely release of wage payments to the workers.

Reliable global data on the prevalence of fraud and corruption in rural works programs are not available. Anecdotal data suggest that in many cases, the leakages tend to be quite large. In India’s MGNREGS program for example, many observers believe that between a quarter and two-thirds of the total resources devoted to the program are misappropriated and/or wasted.

2. The Role of PTF in Combating Corruption in Rural Works – a Focus on India

PTF projects and activities combating corruption in rural works programs have, not surprisingly, been concentrated in India. PTF has provided nearly \$320,000 in ten grants to five separate CSOs for projects aimed at corruption in Indian rural works programs. In addition, PTF has provided \$166,000 in 7 grants to address corruption in joint rural employment and food distribution (PDS) projects. Project completion reports have been prepared for these projects, and a number have had external evaluations.

PTF projects have typically included capacity building support to CSOs and other local bodies, particularly in the areas of information, education, and communication (IEC). Social accountability, practiced locally, is an essential element of the PTF approach. Overall, the PTF projects focus on:

- Community engagement and empowerment, to increase awareness of relevant government laws and regulations and use of tools like RTI;
- Constructive engagement with the public authorities including the elected representatives as well as the concerned government officials at village, GP and block levels, as well as with the local media, personalities, CBOs/NGOs and their networks; and
- Peer learning and knowledge sharing, to develop capacity.

In the early stages, PTF projects have given particular attention to increasing awareness and understanding of the MGNREGS program by beneficiaries, and to the establishment of baseline surveys of scheme beneficiaries. These surveys in turn have formed the basis for data-based advocacy and dialogue with public officials. In Rajasthan, for example, a ‘Ground Realities and Corruption Vulnerability Survey’ was conducted with 600 scheme beneficiaries, engaging a consortium of citizens groups against corruption. It revealed that every beneficiary of MGNREGS was paying bribes to obtain benefits. These findings formed the basis for evidence-based advocacy and dialogue with high officials of the concerned Rural Development Department.



Community capacity building. Image by Suraska.

In some cases, what used to be a strained relationship between District-level officials and communities in the allocation of emergency work and the selection of public work projects in the MGNREGS scheme has been turned into a positive relationship, with the authorities trusting the communities themselves to select the projects and allocate the work. This is a win-win for all concerned, except for the crooked engineers and others who previously benefited by holding both the reins and the purse-strings in these public works schemes.

PTF’s work combating corruption in rural works in India depends critically on a positive external environment. In India this environment includes:

Freedom of association: CSO formation and operation in India are fundamental to the working of its democracy.

Official openness: The PTF approach only works if key officials or elected representatives are prepared to engage with CSOs and if it is relatively easy to access the official information needed to probe accountability, such as under the application of increasingly widespread Right to Information laws. Of course, this openness may grow over time, as trust is created and confidence replaces confrontation.

Freedom of the press: An important weapon of social accountability is for CSOs to be able to place prominent stories in the media and cooperate with journalists, especially where the government resists constructive engagement or facing up to well-substantiated allegations.

Women have proved to be critical to PTF's successes in combating corruption in rural works in India. Most of the CBOs that PTF's Indian partners work with are women's groups or are dominated by women. This is partly out of equity considerations and partly because the women are usually in and around the villages, while the men often travel far for work. In one area of India, the PTF evaluation found that women's groups supported by PTF have forced officials to be respectful, and that MGNREGS beneficiaries have even got more than their 100 day work entitlement. They have won the right to choose the public works projects themselves, subject to approval by the district engineers. Determined advocacy by the women has changed their relationship with duty-bearers. Having seen what these women's groups have achieved has earned considerable respect from the men. This has further increased the confidence of the women activists.



Community mobilization by a local women's organization - Nava Jeevana Mahila Okkoota (NJMO). Image by NJMO.

This has given them the courage to tackle other issues that affect women deeply.

The MGNREGS program is the subject of public debate and controversy in India, particularly but not exclusively around its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The new Indian Government, under Prime Minister Modi, is facing public pressure to reduce or eliminate subsidies for the MGNREGS program in its new budget, and there are public calls for greater accountability and increasing focus on supporting sustainable investments rather than just employment, and for greater focus on the poor. The centrally sponsored subsidy schemes, like the public food distribution program, are prime targets because, critics argue, they are administered by local governments but paid for by the central government and so the oversight is weak. However, when communities are empowered to provide their own oversight mechanisms – as has been done under PTF projects - leakage can be stemmed. For very poor people the rural works program and the public food distribution (PDS) program are vital lifelines.

Another area of controversy concerns the Indian Right to Information Law. The Indian Supreme Court has ruled that all central and state commissions examining Right to Information (RTI) requests – which form essential elements of PTF projects in India - must work in benches of two members each, one of whom must be a lawyer with judicial experience. RTI advocates fear that the ruling could hamper the work of the commissions.

3. Results: Some PTF Achievements

As detailed in the Annex, PTF has achieved remarkable local-level results addressing corruption in the MGNREGS program in India. In South India, the final evaluation of a package of PTF projects supported by the British international development agency DFID calculated that \$11 of benefits accrue in the shape of improved services accrue to poor people for every \$1 PTF grants to its partners. In addition the evaluation found other less quantifiable benefits, such as empowerment of women and tribal groups, and greater awareness of entitlements. In Karnataka it is estimated that through grants of just \$219,000 over a 3 year period four PTF partners have secured benefits worth \$2.4 million per year to poor people and have greatly reduced losses (estimated at 30-50% overall) in the rural works schemes. This has resulted in a very substantial improvement in the living conditions of some 48,000 families (270,000 people).



Job card holders demanding NREGS work. Image by Visionaries of Creative Action for Liberation & Progress (VICALP).

Social watch committees and other forms of local anti-corruption bodies supported by PTF have contributed directly to reduction of corruption. In select gram panchayats in Balangir district of Orissa, 85% of MGNREGS work was conducted without the use of machines and 850 fake job cards - two frequent abuses - were identified as a result of the myriad initiatives of the local anti-corruption committees. In Mohana Block of Gajapati district, the efforts of Vikalp, an Indian NGO which traditionally works with the downtrodden, led to the submission of 29 new job demands by 3,560 citizens from 68 villages resulting in new MGNREGS projects that provided employment to 2,991 citizens. The amount of wages was also increased by over 100 percent. The active involvement of members of a social watch group was important to release of job cards to 274 citizens and payments for 173 works under a PTF Citizens Against Corruption project executed by the local NGO Sambandh in Jashipur (Orissa).

4. Looking to the Future

The demanding nature of institutional change in the culture of programs such as the Indian MGNREGS means that two or three years of PTF support are rarely sufficient for long-term change. Furthermore, the vast size of India, and the growing importance of public employment programs in other developing and transition countries, imply a great and continuing need for the kinds of activities supported by PTF. To support activities along the lines of the successful projects in India, and to make them sustainable on a larger scale, PTF can work with governments at the national and state levels, with individual bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as in other forms of partnership with private firms and foundations.

Moving beyond the local level, with new funding PTF could seek to develop more synergy between grassroots activities and national-level advocacy by encouraging and helping partners to connect with national or sub-national policy networks, to share their experience proactively and to use PTF's own web of contacts to connect partners with research centers, national advocacy groups, reform-minded officials etc. who could make good use of their grassroots experiences. To mention but one example, the national People's Right to Employment Campaign (PREG) merits increased support.

Annex: PTF PROJECTS TO REDUCE CORRUPTION IN RURAL WORKS

I. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

Project Name	PTF Project No.	Location	PTF Grant(s) (US\$)	Name of CSO	Project Objectives and Results
Corruption in Implementation of MGNREGS in Uttarakhand, (RLEK - Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra 1& 2)	104, 181	Uttarakhand, India	\$32,000 \$35,000 Total: \$67,000	RLEK – Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra	<p>Objectives (Phases 1 and 2, from PCA): To increase awareness and understanding of MGNREGS and RTI and to develop community institutions and methods for monitoring the implementation of MGNREGS. The project hoped to ensure transparent and fair implementation of the MGNREGS, sensitization of the community about the provisions under the Act and its functioning, and continued monitoring by the community in order to ensure transparency in the working. The project objectives also aimed to ensure that all eligible excluded families of the project blocks get job cards at the end of the project period.</p> <p>Results: In a very inaccessible area, the community has 80 RTI applications in phase 1; this led to successful work demands under MGNREGA. Work under MGNREGA has begun in some Gram Panchayats where no work was allocated earlier. 35 per cent of the eligible excluded families got job cards, 40 per cent of workers received full stipulated wages under MGNREGS, 80 per cent of job card holders participated actively in meetings and discussions with public institutions. Jan Sunwai was held in some villages in the presence of the Panchayat Development Officer and Development Planning Officer for MGNREGA in the project area. 12 RASS (Rozgar Adhikar Sararka Samiti) groups have been formed, and empower people to act as a watchdog and report on corruption in NREGA. The CSO team learned to engage with government officials and the media, and held 6 public</p>

					hearings.
Contributing towards Corruption Free and Transparent Service Delivery in MGNREGS through Civic Engagement	109	Jaipur and Tonk Districts, Rajasthan, India	\$36,000 \$30,000 ¹ \$25,000 ² Total: \$91,000	CUTS - Consumer Unity and Trust Society	<p>Objectives (from 2013 PCA) of the three phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Generating awareness and encouraging common citizens to apply the RTI Act, as a tool to address corrupt practices. 2) Empowering CSOs and vulnerable grassroots populations to curb corrupt practices by improving functioning of existing accountability mechanisms and legal measures. 3) Advocating with the policy makers for making specific tools such as the RTI Act, Citizen Charters and The Lokayukta (Ombudsmen) Act effective. 4) Including targeted and identified eligible entitlement holders of selected blocks of Jaipur and Tonk districts in MGNREGS, and ensuring that they get all the MGNREGS guaranteed days of employment, wages, allowances and facilities at the worksites. 5) Ensuring effective participation of targeted and identified entitlement holders in MGNREGS identification, planning, monitoring and evaluation. <p>Results: A network of trained & resourceful a Consortium of Groups for Combatting Corruption (CGCCs), CSOs and other interested individuals working together for transparency and accountability in Jaipur and Tonk districts; community increased use of RTI. The 'RTI Ground Realities and Corruption Vulnerability Survey' conducted with 600 scheme beneficiaries, engaging the CGCCs revealed that every beneficiary of NREGS was paying bribes to obtain benefits. These findings formed the basis for evidence-based advocacy and constructive and continued dialogue with high officials of the concerned Rural Development Department. As an outcome, one</p>

¹ Feb 2011 PCR

² Third phase PCA, June 2013

					visiting official passed an order down the line in all Gram Panchayats and Block Development Offices to have a complaint-cum-suggestion box, fixed at some prominent place. More than 90 people filed a total of 450 RTI applications on corruption. The RTI applications were need-based, represented burning issues among beneficiaries and were filed individually, but supported collectively.
Checking Corruption by Rural Call Centre and Social Watch Groups – SAMBANDH 1 & 2	114, 190	Orissa, India	\$35,000 \$35,000 Total: \$70,000	SAMBANDH	<p>Objectives (from PCA report): (1) Rural Call Center in Jashipur block established (phase 1) and expanded (phase 2) with information available on demand (through linkages with government departments) for tracking public service delivery as well as providing market information and producer–supplier database for establishing market linkages; to ensure job cards for all eligible excluded households in Phase I (95 per cent) and Phase II (90 per cent) respectively, with 100 days of work to all the card holders</p> <p>(2) Visible tracking system panchayat level for delivery of quality services focusing on Health, Education, and Livelihood in place with a vibrant watch groups in one block.</p> <p>(3) Specific capacity building modules and IEC materials developed and widely disseminated for the social watch process; communities empowered to raise grievances for greater transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Results: Rural call centre fully functional - functioning properly and managed by an entrepreneur, running successfully in sustainable manner; IEC material distributed; 95% of eligible households in Jashipur received their job cards and 90% in Karanjia. On average, targeted population received 70 days of work. All workers received their full wages within 15-30 days. False entry in job cards have totally stopped in 4 model GPs. Work demanded by job card holder has been given on time, 65% get full wages, the wage rate is the same for both</p>

					the sexes in 4 model GPs; delayed wage payments given to 173 job card holders.
Reduce corruption in MGNREGS through RTI – SURAKSHA Phase 1	115	Gajapati District, Orissa, India	\$35,000	SURAKSHA - <i>Society for Integrated Voluntary Action and Services</i> -	<p>Objectives (from PCR): To initiate steps toward citizen-responsive and transparent, non-corrupt, governance through active civic vigilance, monitoring of public services and action against corruption; to ensure non-corrupt implementation of NREGA through exposing corrupt practices and empowering community to demand their rights and monitor implementation in 19 GPs; and to increase awareness of poor governance and poor implementation of government schemes through a proactive media program, investigative reporting and social audits.</p> <p>Results (from PCR and CSO self-assessment): (a) Achieved 40% success in creating citizen responsive, transparent, non-corrupt governance in public services; (b) recovered more than Rs.130,000 in corrupt practices in NREGS & more than Rs.150,000 in delayed payment & non-payment issues; (c) awareness level of job card holders has gone up more than 60% 100% of job cardholders worked in 2012-2013; (d) 356 People's Social Organization Members have been capacitated and are orienting the people of 79 villages on provisions of MGNREGS; (d) 53 RTI applications filed, 34 cases resolved at the block level.</p>
Reduce corruption in implementation of MGNREGS, Orissa VICALP 1 and 2	116, 185	Orissa, India	\$20,900 \$34,986 Total: \$55,886	VICALP - <i>Visionaries of Creative Action for Liberation & Progress</i>	<p>Objectives (from PCR assessment by CAC): To include all eligible excluded families of 54 selected villages; to ensure that all job cards have at least 80 days of work per year with the full stipulated wages and other entitlements in the 54 villages; to ensure participation of at least 50% of the people (of the 54 villages) at all stages (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) of the MGNREGS schemes and positively influence policies and decision making on issues relating to MGNREGS; to promote citizen corruption monitoring through social</p>

					<p>watch committees, good governance (in terms of transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency, effectiveness, equity and abiding the rule of law) of Government agencies and local institutions relating to MGNREGS; and to carry out district level CBOs/NGO policy advocacy relating to MGNREGS.</p> <p>Results: VICALP has a strong people’s base in 200 villages. 1031 leaders were trained on NREGS and RTI. 826 leaders are active, of whom around 10% (80) leaders are actively doing NREGS monitoring. 120 cases of irregularities were identified and discussed, of which 55 were filed through RTI; 25 were solved. 12 Social Watch Committees (SWC) were formed in 12 target Panchayats consisting 7 (4 men and 3 women leaders) Social Watch Volunteers (SWV) in each SWC in each Panchayat, with a total of 84 SWVs. 98 Government officials were directly interacted by the people through Panchayat level meetings and in other events like training and NREGS evaluation. 390 eligible excluded families from 54 villages got job cards; beneficiaries got their wages through bank/post office within the stipulated period of 7-15 days Trained leaders, Social Watch Volunteers, and village NREGS vigilance committees monitor NREGS activities. 98% of total targeted household have job cards, 100% job card holders have accounts in their name in the banks/ post offices and are paid by check. 74 job demands were put and 74 new NREGS projects were sanctioned.</p> <p>Results (top 3 from PCR assessment): 390 eligible excluded families from 54 villages got job cards; beneficiaries got their wages through bank/post office within the stipulated period of 7-15 days; in 94 new MGNREGS worksites the workers availed shade, drinking water, child care, first-aid, work assignment in closer distance, equipment allowances, and display board in the work-site.</p>
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II. JOINT RURAL EMPLOYMENT/FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS

Reduce Corruption in MGNREGS & PDS in 12 Panchayats	183	Gajapati, Odisha, India	\$31,500	SURAKSHA - <i>Society for Integrated Voluntary Action and Services</i> (Phase II)	<p>Objectives (from phase 2 PCR): To ensure at least 65% of the eligible excluded families get job cards and at least 85 days of work per year (out of the stipulated 100 days); to empower and capacitate people about their entitlements vis-à-vis MGMGNREGS; to promote good governance relating MGMGNREGS; and to reduce corruption in PDS. (Note: Phase I did not deal with PDS)</p> <p>Results (rural employment only): 2417 families were identified, oriented on the provisions of MGNREGS and supported to get job cards by filing applications and constant follow-up by interacting with the concerned government officials. As a result, by the end of the project period, all the 2417 families were included under MGNREGS without getting entangled in any corrupt practices; 2306 families of 121 villages got job cards by March 2012.</p>
Reduction of Corruption in MGNREGS & PDS	116, 182	Nuagad Block, Odisha, India	\$18,977 \$19,259 Total: \$38,236	PREM – <i>People’s Rural Education Movement</i>	<p>Objective: To reduce corrupt activities by local government employees and functionaries in key public service provision through direct monitoring and exposure of corrupt activity.</p> <p>During Phase 1 it was seen that corruption, in general and especially in MGNREGS was a gigantic issue and needed detailed intervention to bring about accountability and transparency in the whole system. While working in Phase 1 it was also realised that PDS is also affected by the clutches of deep-rooted corruption in the block. As a result, Phase 2 of the CAC project was designed to address both MGNREGS as well as PDS.</p> <p>Results (rural employment only): During 2012-2013, 96 per cent of household were made fully aware of their rights and entitlements in MGNREGS; 16 citizen groups were formed and strengthened including 6 monitoring and vigilance committees in 15 GPs of both the blocks for monitoring MGNREGS services. 3</p>

					public hearing meetings, 22 social audits, 8 activities related to constructive engagement, 2 media engagement activities and submission of 2 memorandums by the community.
Citizens Against Corruption	117, 189	Raichur, Karnataka, India	\$26,000 \$34,867 Total: \$60,867	NJMO - Nava Jeevana Mahila Okkoota (Prerana)	<p>Objectives (rural employment only): Reduce corruption in basic services and schemes for the poor, especially in food security programs, primary health centers, at the gram panchayat level, and improve governance; ensure that at least 50% of the 10,000 families from 100 villages get 100 days of work in MGNREGS in one financial year (2011-12); ensure that all the workers under MGNREGS in the 100 villages get their stipulated wages; enhance capacities of the community to ensure proper and effective functioning of the NREGS; and bring in changes required at district, state and national levels to reduce corruption in MGNREGS.</p> <p>Results: (rural employment only): 6. NJMO has been successful in establishing itself as a strong community based organization standing for the rights of the marginalized. As a result the community is well organized, and aware of their rights and entitlements. NJMO has been able to influence local government officials, and has good rapport. Social audits have been undertaken in 50 panchayats, the citizen report card has been published, and the Grievance Redressal System has been established for NREGS and PDS. 60% of target village employment in MGNREGS was achieved; all workers received their wages, and community capacity is increasing with establishment of electronic fund transfer beneficiary accounts.</p>
Reducing corruption in MGNREGS and PDS in Loisingha block	113, 184	Bolangir, Orissa, India	\$11,675: \$24,000 Total: \$35,675	ADHAR	<p>Objectives. During the first phase the status of corruption and irregularities in MGNREGS and PDS were analyzed. It was found that in the two major poverty alleviation programs of the govt. are totally defunct in all 8 GPs concerned. The main reasons behind it were lack of information and knowledge among beneficiaries, non-resistance against discrepancies, and the greedy attitude of duty bearers. So, the initial activities were focused on promoting and</p>

				<p>strengthening community action, to reduce corruption in the MGNREGS and PDS through a citizen campaign.</p> <p>Rural employment objectives: To ensure that all the 900 eligible excluded families of the 48 villages of Loisingha block of Bolangir district of Orissa get their MGNREGS job cards on time; to ensure that all job card holders get their stipulated days of work (100 days per year), wages (Rs.120 per day), and other MGNREGS entitlements on time; to enhance the capacity and participation of people at all stages of MGNREGS in 48 villages and ensure good governance in MGNREGS in Balangir district.</p> <p>Results: Anti-corruption committees (gramya durniti nibarana manch) formed in 48 villages with active membership of MGNREGA and PDS beneficiaries, and anti-corruption committees formed at GP level in 8 GPs, and taking collective action in monitoring and addressing discrepancies. Citizen report card developed and distributed, RTI used to make officials accountable.</p> <p>Rural employment results: Out of the 900 eligible households, 855 households got job cards, in 48 villages; 7970 job card holder families demanded jobs and 193 families got the full 100 days of work. All 4800 cardholders received stipulated wages. 5680 cardholder families working under MGNREGS got their prescribed wages on time.</p>
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