

Heifer International

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 35 million people, with millions more now on a pathway to living incomes.



Heifer India

Heifer International started work in India in 1955, delivering cattle to communities through the Ministry of Agriculture. To date, Heifer India has supported 755,000 families, providing technical training to improve animal management and build resilience by diversifying incomes with crops and livestock. Farmers are joining cooperatives and self-help groups, accessing resources that enable them to increase profit from livestock, poultry, swine and vegetable production. Farmers are using hubs for business transactions and to strengthen their positions within value chains, facilitating sales of goats and other products. Women are building sustainable livelihoods by training as Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs and providing affordable animal health services to farmers. Heifer India is working with families to create kitchen gardens, providing training on climate smart agriculture practices such as crop rotation to increase crop yields. By growing their own fodder, farmers are reducing production costs. Working alongside local and national organizations, the government and other entities, Heifer India is implementing projects that increase economic security and resilience.









Hatching Hope India (2018-2021)

Donors include: Cargill

Total Value: \$2.6 million

Hatching Hope India is part of a multi-country program developed to improve the nutrition and economic livelihoods of 100 million people by 2030 through the production and promotion of backyard poultry. Currently being implemented in Odisha, the project will reach 3.2 million individuals, with plans to scale up in the future. Heifer India estimates that in the first three years, the project will increase average flock size from eight to 80 birds, with farmers generating an additional total income of \$228 by the third year from poultry production. To make chickens a viable business option and increase the quality and quantity of egg and meat production, the project promotes good practices around bio-secure poultry housing, improved feed and nutrition using local resources, improved poultry health through regular deworming and vaccination, and increased production through small-scale feed mills, community hatcheries and bio-secure hamlets. During this period, the initiative will reach 1.65 million people through the production, consumption and sale of poultry products and 1.55 million people through a targeted campaign promoting information on poultry production and consumption. Heifer India facilitates a market system approach, connecting farmers to new markets so they can increase sales and incomes. Collaboration between producers, community stakeholders and private sector actors is encouraged to enable farmers to become sustainable market actors. Training is provided to smallholder farmers so they can develop business plans and join farmer producer organizations that link them with new markets to expand their poultry businesses. Farmer producer organizations strengthen farmers' bargaining power and increase their income through improved business operations and access to capital. The organizations function as hubs, linking smallholder farmers across the value chain. An additional \$1 million in local funding is being leveraged to support the project.

Bihar Socio-Economic Development Project (2016-2020)

Total Value: \$1.5 million

Developed to support 24,000 families in Bihar, this project is working with women in Dharbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Vaishali districts to increase incomes through goat production and improved connections to markets. Women are organizing into self-help groups where they run savings and loan programs that offer interest rates of 2% per month, adding to the assets under management and increasing the total funds available for loans, while providing members with a much more affordable way to access finance compared to the 5-6% per month charged by other lenders. Producer organizations and business hubs help women build stronger connections to markets, facilitating the sales of goats and other products and helping farmers negotiate fair prices. Through the project, more women are gaining decision-making power over their incomes by selling goats and vegetables. Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs are providing affordable animal health services, vaccinating goats and reducing mortality rates. The project is also providing training in nutrient-dense vegetable gardening, fodder and forage to improve human and animal nutrition. To increase the resilience of families against natural disasters, Heifer India is training farmers in Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction to minimize loss of life and productive assets. An additional \$2.4 million in local funding is being leveraged to support the project.

Bihar Sustainable Livelihood Development Project (2019-2025)

Total Value: \$10 million

Implemented in six districts in Bihar, this project was developed to support 70,000 families to improve their nutrition and increase incomes by strengthening farmer-owned agribusinesses. The Bihar Sustainable Livelihood Development Project will close the living income gap for 53,620 vulnerable women-led households and put an additional 16,380 on the pathway to a sustainable living income by 2025. Farmers will use resources such as goat and poultry breeding centers and crop and animal insurance packages, as well as technical assistance, to improve their goat, poultry, vegetable and crop production and engage in more inclusive markets. As they join self-help groups that eventually become agribusinesses, farmers will have access to financial services such as affordable loans that allow them to invest in their farms and businesses and enter larger markets by selling their products in bulk. Heifer India will train farmers on production techniques and post-harvest handling and storage. Farmers will learn business skills, negotiation and marketing skills that help increase their profits. Alongside Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and the Disaster Management Department of Bihar, Heifer India will work with families to increase their resilience, providing training on the Food and Agriculture Organization's Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards and by working with farmers to create community-managed disaster risk reduction plans and individual-level disaster mitigation plans. Heifer India projects \$185.89 million worth of goat, poultry and vegetables will be produced, marketed and/or processed through this project, with farmer-owned agribusinesses achieving a 5% profit margin. An additional \$6 million in local funding is being leveraged to support the project.