



**RESPONSIBLE
MICA INITIATIVE**



Co-funded by
the European Union

CEP impact report

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India

Community Empowerment
Program mid-year impact
report (January to June 2026)

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NB: This document reports on activities carried out during the first half of 2026 and does not reflect the full scope of activities that will be implemented over the program's three-year duration.

1. Executive summary

The Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI) **Community Empowerment Program (CEP)** has been active since 2017 and is currently in its third implementation cycle (January 2025 - December 2027). The KPIs presented in this report cover the period from January through June 2026. **Co-funded by the European Union**, the CEP third cycle is part of RMI's broader holistic approach to responsible mica sourcing, which is built around three strategic pillars.

The current CEP cycle is supporting companies in addressing the root causes of human rights risks in **50 mica-producing villages** in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand. Building on previous implementation cycles, the program has reached 230 villages altogether, expanding its long-term impact across the region. The

CEP is implemented by a network of trusted **local NGO partners**, whose local expertise is essential to delivering sustainable outcomes. Through partnerships with stakeholders, government authorities and communities, **the program contributes to preventing child labor, strengthening household resilience and improving access to essential services**. Rather than focusing solely on direct interventions, the program seeks to strengthen the community systems that enable long-term prevention of human rights risks. Its approach aligns with the **OECD Due Diligence Guidance** and supports companies in implementing effective human rights due diligence under the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)**.

From risk to resilience

During the reporting period, the program focused on **4 interconnected areas** that address the root causes of human rights and child labor risks:

Identified risks	Program response
Inadequate access to education and child protection	Access to quality education, child protection and school retention
Household poverty & economic vulnerability	Livelihood resilience and income diversification
Limited access to rights and public services	Strengthening access to government services and entitlements
Poor community health and wellbeing	Community health, nutrition, WASH and emergency preparedness

In addition to addressing specific human rights risks, the program invests in two cross-cutting enablers: **gender equality and women's empowerment**, and **stronger community systems and local governance**. These help sustain program outcomes beyond individual activities.

Cross-cutting systemic enablers	Contribution across program areas
Gender equality and women's empowerment	Strengthens household resilience, child wellbeing, financial inclusion, participation and inclusive decision-making across all interventions.
Community systems and local governance	Enhances community capacity to prevent and respond to human rights risks, improves access to services and social protection, and supports the sustainability of program outcomes.

Key Impact Highlights (January-June 2026)

-2.4 pts

in **child labor prevalence**
decreased from 6.4% to
4% since baseline

75

children re-enrolled in school; 239 students' attendance regularized

>79%

of **financial literacy**
participants were
women

2,651

community members
supported through
Jan Suvidha Kendras*

1,638

villagers benefited from
trained community first-aid responders

**QUALITY
EDUCATION**



**ECONOMIC
RESILIENCE**



**HEALTH &
NUTRITION**



**ACCESS TO
SOCIAL SECURITY**



ENABLERS:

LOCAL GOVERNANCE & GENDER EQUITY



KEY OUTCOMES:

REDUCED HUMAN RIGHTS RISKS

- **CHILD LABOR**
- **HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITY**
- **EXCLUSION FROM PUBLIC SERVICES**
- **POOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

*Citizen Service Centers

2. Interventions and impact by risk

2.1 Inadequate access to education & child protection

Why this is important

Access to **quality education** is one of the strongest protective factors against **child labor**. In mica-producing communities, poverty, irregular school attendance and limited early childhood education increase children's vulnerability to entering work prematurely. Strengthening education systems and child protection mechanisms helps reduce these risks while improving children's long-term opportunities.

How the program contributes

The program supports children's right to education and strengthens community-based child protection systems through:

- **Providing early childhood education** through Balwadis and Anganwadis to support children's development and school readiness.
- **Delivering remedial education** to help children overcome learning gaps and remain engaged in school.
- **Supporting the reintegration** of out-of-school children into formal education and promoting regular school attendance.
- **Strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs)** to improve community oversight of education, support school enrolment and attendance, and address barriers to children's continued education.
- **Facilitating Child Clubs** that empower children to participate, raise concerns and promote child rights within their communities.
- **Providing educational scholarships** to vulnerable children to reduce financial barriers to continued schooling.
- **Community libraries** and learning spaces that promote children's education and engagement.

Key outcomes (January-June 2026)

75

children **re-enrolled**
in school

239

students' **attendance**
regularized

464

children **enrolled**
in Balwadis*

369

children receiving
remedial education

50

active **Child**
Clubs

34

scholarships
awarded

1,030

children accessing
community libraries

*Early childhood centers

2.2 Household poverty & economic vulnerability

Why this is important

Economic vulnerability is a **key underlying driver of child labor** in mica-producing communities. When households lack stable and sufficient income, they are more likely to rely on negative coping strategies, including sending children to work, reducing school attendance, taking on unsustainable debt, or accepting unsafe and exploitative working conditions. Strengthening household resilience helps reduce these vulnerabilities and supports the long-term prevention of human rights abuses.

How the program contributes

- **Delivering financial literacy training** to strengthen household financial management, budgeting and savings practices
- **Providing climate-smart agriculture** training to improve agricultural productivity, resilience to climate change and sustainable farming practices
- **Supporting livestock health** through veterinary services, animal health awareness and improved livestock management
- **Promoting kitchen gardens** to improve household nutrition, food security and dietary diversity while reducing food expenditure
- **Providing targeted support to ultra-poor households** to strengthen their livelihoods and reduce reliance on child labor

Key outcomes (January-June 2026)

1,570

people trained in
financial literacy

584

households supported
through **livestock
services**

20

ultra-poor households
received **productive
assets**

86

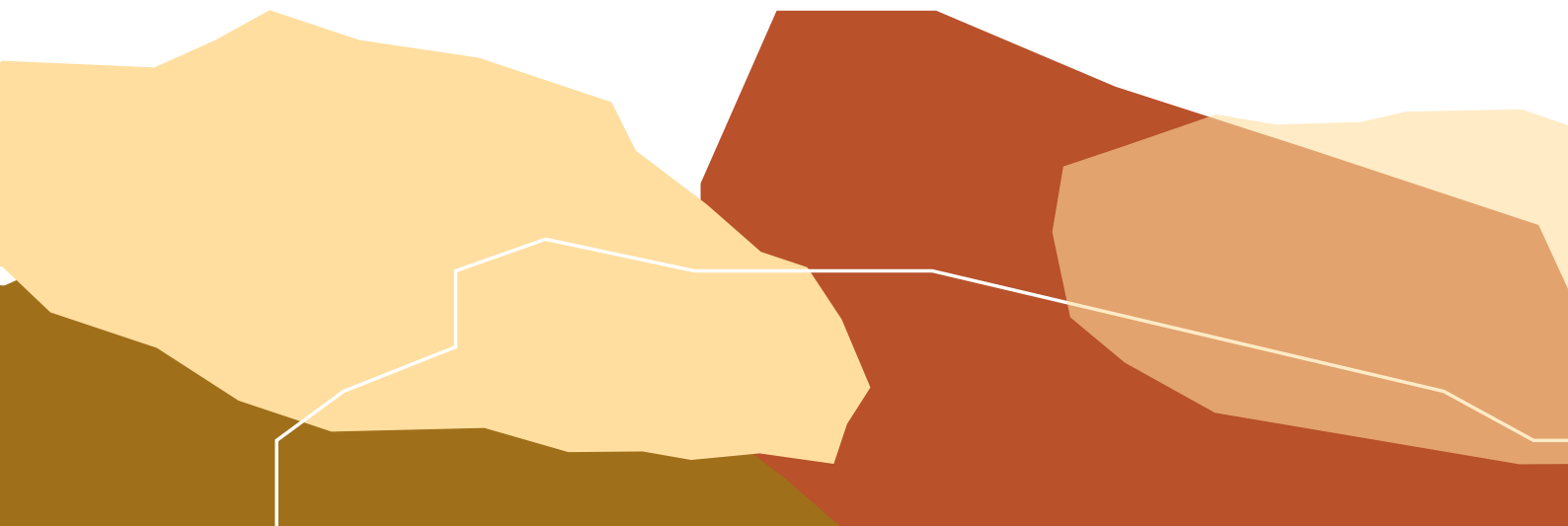
farmers trained

2,810

animals treated

64

kitchen gardens
established



2.3 Limited access to social security & public services

Why this is important

Access to identity documents and public services is essential for the enjoyment of fundamental rights. When households are excluded from social protection and government services, their vulnerability increases, reducing their resilience to economic shocks and elevating the risk of child labor and other human rights impacts.

How the program contributes

- **Operating Jan Suvidha Kendras** (Citizen Service Centers) **and digital kiosks** to provide information, guidance and support for accessing government social entitlements
- **Deploying community facilitators** to identify vulnerable households, raise awareness of available services and provide ongoing support
- **Supporting households to obtain identity and official documentation** required to access education, healthcare, social protection and other government programs
- **Establishing referral mechanisms** that connect vulnerable individuals and families with relevant government departments and specialized support services

Key outcomes (January-June 2026)

50

**Jan Suvidha
Kendras***
operational

6

digital kiosks
established

2,651

beneficiary
interactions

1,074

social security
enrollment and
document updates

*Citizen Service Centers



2.4 Poor community health & wellbeing

Why this is important

Poor health, inadequate sanitation and limited emergency preparedness can increase vulnerability, reduce productivity and affect children's ability to attend school. Health-related expenses are often the first source of expenses, and impacts families' revenues and livelihoods. **Healthier households and safer working and living conditions increase the resilience** of mica picking communities and their ability to participate in safe and sustainable livelihoods.

How the program contributes

- **Delivering nutrition awareness sessions** to improve maternal and child nutrition and promote healthy household practices
- **Improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** through community awareness and local infrastructure initiatives
- **Training community first-aid responders** to provide immediate assistance and improve emergency preparedness in remote communities
- **Building a network of community health volunteers** who raise awareness, support referrals to health services and promote healthy behaviors within their villages

Key outcomes (January-June 2026)

1,638

villagers
received first aid

49

community first-
aid volunteers
trained

174

patients treated
through health
camps

203

households
accessing to safe
drinking water



3. Systemic enablers

In addition to addressing specific human rights and child labor risks, the program invests in two cross-cutting systemic enablers that strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of all interventions. Gender equality and women's agency improve household resilience, child wellbeing and inclusive decision-making,

while strong community systems and local governance enable communities to identify, prevent and respond to human rights risks over the long term. Together, these enablers help ensure that program outcomes are sustained beyond individual activities and contribute to lasting improvements outcomes across mica-producing communities.

3.1 Local governance and community capacity

Why this is important

Sustainable **reduction of human rights risks depends on strong community systems and local institutions** that can identify, prevent and respond to risks. Empowered communities with effective local governance mechanisms are better equipped to protect children's rights, support vulnerable households and sustain positive change beyond individual projects.

How the program contributes

The program strengthens local governance by establishing and supporting community-based structures that enable communities to prevent, identify and respond to social risks independently. Building local capacity helps ensure that improvements continue beyond project interventions.

This includes:

- **Running Child Clubs** (Bal Manchs) that empower children to participate in decisions affecting their wellbeing and act as peer advocates
- **Running Jan Suvidha Kendras and kiosks** that improve access to government services, documentation and social protection schemes
- **Establishing and strengthening Village Development Committees** (VDCs) to coordinate local development priorities, facilitate community participation and support collective action on human rights and community issues
- **Village volunteer and facilitators** who raise awareness, connect vulnerable households with services and support program implementation
- **Community libraries and learning spaces** that promote children's education and engagement
- **Community first-aid responders** who strengthen local preparedness and access to basic health services

3.2 Gender equality and women's agency

Why this is important

Women play a central role in household resilience, children's wellbeing and community life. In the program area, **65%** of households whose primary occupation is dhibra (mica) picking are female-headed, highlighting the critical role women play in household decision-making and livelihoods. Many of these households also face significant economic vulnerability, with more than **43%** relying exclusively on dhibra picking as their sole source of income (Source: CEP 3 Baseline data across 50 villages). Strengthening women's knowledge, economic agency and participation in community decision-making therefore enhances the effectiveness of interventions across education, livelihoods, health and access to rights, contributing to more resilient households and reducing vulnerability to human rights risks.

How the program contributes

Women are actively engaged across program activities that strengthen household resilience and community capacity. The program contributes by:

- **Providing menstrual health education** to adolescent girls to improve health awareness, reduce stigma and support regular school attendance.
- **Delivering financial literacy training** to improve women's knowledge of household budgeting, savings and financial planning.
- **Supporting women's participation** in livelihood and agricultural training, helping them diversify household income and strengthen economic resilience.

Key outcomes (January-June 2026)

Women represented the majority of participants in livelihood and community capacity-building activities, including:

1,242

women trained in **financial literacy** (out of 1,570 participants)

61

women trained in **agriculture and livestock** (out of 86 participants)

79

women trained in **Common Facility Center committees** (out of 166 participants)

11

training sessions were conducted for **pregnant and lactating women** on **breastfeeding, complementary feeding** and **dietary diversity**



Acknowledgments

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