

## C4. Annual Report – India JP

# Migration MPTF Annual / Final Report

PROJECT INFORMATION	
<b>Joint Programme Title:</b>	Enhancing the resilience to climate change of migrant and vulnerable households in the coastal areas of Odisha State and drought-prone areas of Telangana State
<b>Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):</b>	The Republic of India
<b>Project Identification Number:</b>	MPTF-140297
<b>Start and Planned End Dates</b>	Start: Sept 2023      End: Aug 2026
<b>Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):</b>	FAO
<b>PUNO(s) (PUNOs):</b>	IOM
<b>Key Partners:</b> (include Implementing Partner)	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India (GoI); Government of Odisha (GoO); Government of Telangana (GoT); local NGOs/CSOs as implementing partners (IPs); research institutions.
<b>Project Period (Start – End Dates):</b>	Sep 2023 – Aug 2026
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	Sep 2023 – Dec 2023
<b>Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget:</b> (breakdown by PUNO)	PUNO 1: USD 1,800,000 PUNO 2: USD 1,200,000  Total: USD 3,000,000
<b>Total Funds Received To Date:</b> (breakdown by PUNO)	PUNO 1: USD 1,260,000 PUNO 2: USD 840,000  Total: USD 2,100,000
<b>Report Submission Date:</b>	31 Mar 2024
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## Executive Summary

*The Joint Programme (JP) team in India took the necessary first steps through the first four months (September-December 2023) to get the Joint Programme off the ground. The working together between the two PUNOs was streamlined. The processes for recruitment of personnel and procurement for service providers for the initial studies were initiated. This period has also focused on stakeholder engagement both within government and civil society. Emphasis was also put on communication and visibility of the JP and its link to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).*

## Annual (or End-of Project) Progress

### 1. Summary and Context

The Joint Programme commenced on 1 September 2023. During the reporting period, primacy was given to informing relevant stakeholders that the Joint Programme is operationally active and setting up a joint project team and establishing a coordination mechanism between FAO and IOM.

The reporting quarter observed noteworthy affairs, including the state legislative elections in Telangana, political events on food security in Odisha, and ongoing preparations for national general election in India (scheduled for April – June 2024). During this period, the project team contended significant changes in each of the two states:

- In Telangana, the change in the state government cabinet required the Joint Programme team to recommence talks with the relevant department in the newly formed government to be able to proceed with the project;
- In Odisha, the state government asked for one of the previously agreed districts (Ganjam) to be replaced by another.

The project team together was able to adapt to the changes and proceed with the implementation of activities. However, there have been inadvertent delays due to political processes beyond the control of the PUNOs.

The project team worked towards developing government linkages at the central and state level of both states with the aim to set up the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the state level Technical Steering Groups (TSG). By the end of the reporting period, PSC and TSGs are yet to be formed as internal government processes take time. As a result, the PUNOs have been liaising with relevant government agencies individually, rather than as a collective in the planned PSC/TSG meetings. Despite that, there have been valuable in-principle support from the two state governments for the formation of the TSG in both Odisha and Telangana with multi-departmental representation. Nodal officers have been designated as focal contact points for the Joint Programme.

In order to gain a good understanding of the situation on the ground and the challenges faced by the intended beneficiaries, the project team invested time in consulting with a range of local stakeholders in the two states.

An official launch event for the Joint Programme took place in November 2023 by FAO in coordination with IOM and the UNRC India. The event was held in hybrid mode in New Delhi, India on 21 November 2023.

Necessary preparations for the two initial studies and baseline surveys have been initiated.

## **2. Results**

During the first quarter, essential connections have been initiated with a wide array of stakeholders to inform them that the Joint Programme is now operational. On 13 September 2023, the project team met with the Joint Secretary and relevant staff of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) at the MoA&FW, GoI to seek endorsement and cooperation of GoI in project implementation. Likewise, the project team reached out to the relevant departments in the two state governments of Odisha and Telangana to discuss potential cooperation under the scope of this Joint Programme activities in Q1Y1 related largely to Outcome I, which aims at strengthening the climate-resilience of rural livelihoods and agricultural value chains, while making them more inclusive, gender- and youth-sensitive, and improving the adoption of climate-adaptive agricultural practices by vulnerable households as sustainable alternatives to climate-induced migration. The project expects the selection of target districts with the stewardship of local stakeholders and the approval of the government line departments under the MoA&FW to be finalized in the next reporting quarter, after which the rapid gender-sensitive climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) Study would be conducted.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has under its National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) identified the most vulnerable districts of the country from a climate and agriculture perspective. Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha state and Adilabad and Mahbubnagar of Telangana state are categorized as ‘highly vulnerable’ districts. These districts are also being scoped out by the project team to be potential target project locations.

In order to finalized the selection of target districts, the project team worked closely with relevant government department representatives in both states, mainly from the:

1. Departments of Agriculture;
2. Departments of Labour and Employment;
3. Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM); and
4. WASSAN, the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) of the Government of Odisha’s Odisha Millets Mission (OMM).

In early December 2023, FAO undertook a mission to Bhubaneswar – the state capital of Odisha, which resulted in general agreements with the GoO for moving forward with the JP work.

In the third week of December 2023, the project team undertook a joint mission to Hyderabad city of Telangana and met with government officials, state undertaking institutions promoting skill building and livelihood opportunities, NGOs/CSOs, farmers groups and local communities. Meetings were held with the Secretary of the Agriculture Cooperation Department and the Director of Department of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare of the Government of Telangana to expedite the district selection process. The implementation strategy of the Joint Programme is embedded in the government’s administrative processes after having discussion with the ministry at the union level and the state level departments. Discussions within

the government took place and the state and district administrations were suggested to extend support to the Joint Programme Team for smooth execution of the planned activities.

The selection process experienced some delays due to state elections in Telangana. Gulf migrant returnees from the state decided to field candidates in some assembly constituencies to mark their protest for government inaction in providing livelihood support to the affected migrant families. Since, migration became a political issue, the PUNOs had to navigate the landscape as UN agencies, while also gathering preliminary information from the ground on issues around migration. The results of the elections were declared on 3 December 2023. With a new party in power, administrative changes in key government positions followed (except the Secretary of the Agriculture Cooperation Department who remained in the same position and continued to facilitate the clearance of the Joint Programme by the State Agriculture Minister). The new government has committed itself to preparing a new agriculture policy considering the climatic conditions of Telangana, with the aim to make farming more profitable. This opens the space to align the policy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Joint Programme with respect to climate-resilient agriculture.

Coordination with departments other than agriculture is also critical. Therefore, apart from the agriculture and allied sector officials, the project team also visited other state agencies such as the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) at Hyderabad to discuss the Joint Programme and explore opportunities to work together on skill building and the reintegration process of returnees. The project team also met prospective implementing agencies from the NGO/CSO sector as part of the due diligence process.

### **Inception of the Joint Programme**

During the reporting period, IOM and FAO individually and jointly undertook activities towards the setting up of the Joint Programme.

1. PUNOs developed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for onboarding the Service Provider to conduct activities under Output 1.1 of the Joint Programme.
2. FAO's geospatial unit collected climate change scenarios, agricultural trends and vulnerability trends from the two states as a background to the VRA and as a sharing with IOM.
3. The ToRs for onboarding state consultants for Odisha and Telangana towards the deliverables under Outcomes I and II were listed. (
4. The project team co-developed the ToRs for the gender and social safeguards specialist to be onboarded for the gender sensitivity training under the Joint Programme in line with Outcome III.
5. IOM and FAO also developed the three-year Communications and Visibility Plan (CVP) for all communications and visibility activities undertaken in tandem with project implementation. The final copy will be shared in the next year's report.

### **Coordination mechanism**

The project team, steered by the heads of both PUNOs, conducted several meetings to establish the coordination mechanism, including:

#### **1. 1st High Level Meeting of PUNOs on 30 November 2023**

At this meeting, the followings were discussed and agreed upon:

**PART I: General issues**

- Keeping the migration and agriculture balance for selection of districts for implementation.
- Delegation of responsibilities between organizations and syncing the project recruits/staff in both the states
- Appropriate methods and approaches to resolve differences of opinion and dispute resolution.
- Establishing the implementation strategy as per the JP document.

**PART II: Finance and Administrative issues**

- Implementation Agreement
- Reporting – schedules & templates as per the draft calendar based on the MMPTF Operational Manual.
- Practicalities of the cost-sharing elements in the Joint Programme.

**2. 2nd High Level Meeting of PUNOs on 8 December 2023**

The meeting was conducted to discuss technical aspects and finalization of the ToRs for the VRA and Baseline Study. The project team focused on adoption of a state-specific strategy, based on each organization's mandate and leveraging existing linkages. Both IOM and FAO presented preliminary findings to facilitate the district selection process, with data on climate trend, migration and agri-relevant criteria, which would be used to develop the sampling strategy in the potential target districts. At the meeting, FAO project staff on green agribusiness and the in-house resource person for gender, youth and child sensitivity training were also introduced.

Regarding the coordination mechanism, it was agreed that the project team will meet on a weekly basis, in addition to regular email exchanges and WhatsApp updates. The mechanism is not only limited to sharing routine practical matters but also involves substantive discussions on approach and attempts toward convergence and agreements, for instance, on defining 'vulnerability' from the perspective of the trisection of migration, agriculture and climate change.

**Launch Event**

The project team organized the Joint Programme launch event on 21 November 2023 at the UN Hall in New Delhi. It was conducted in hybrid mode to allow for out-of-station participation.

The launch was chaired by the Joint Secretary for Natural Resource Management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The event was also honoured with the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator, MMPTF donors (i.e. Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal and Türkiye), Odisha and Telangana state Departments of Agriculture, as well as the NGO Sansriti and other relevant stakeholders.

At the event, country representatives from the Embassies of the Netherlands and Mexico voiced their appreciation towards the integrated approach adopted by the Joint Programme, which looks at

intersectionality as a cause and effect of climate-related challenges. Invitations were extended to MMPTF country representatives to ensure requirements set forth by the MMPTF Secretariat to engage with donor nations which fund the Joint Programme in the current cycle are met.

The launch event was given due coverage on IOM and FAO webpages and via both agencies' X/Twitter accounts (see Launch event report attached as **Annex**).

RESULTS REPORTING FRAMEWORK						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3</i>	Notes
		Y1	Y2	Y3		
<b>OUTCOME 1</b> Households living in areas at risk of climate-induced migration have resilient and sustainable livelihoods in agrifood systems						
Indicator 1a						
Indicator 1b						
<b>OUTPUT 1.1</b> Improved evidence on the links between migration, agriculture and climate change in selected districts						
Indicator 1.1a  Number of rapid vulnerability and risk assessments completed	0	Terms of Reference (ToRs) for onboarding the Service Providers for the VRA and Baseline Studies in both states finalised and Calls for Interest (Cfi) issued by both PUNOs; FAO's geospatial unit has done preliminary analysis of the proposed districts.				The selection and procurement process for the Service Providers is underway.
Indicator 1.1b  Number of baseline study conducted in selected districts in both states.	0	Cfi issued and service providers being shortlisted; internal discussions held on proposed questionnaire				Procurement process underway
<b>OUTPUT 1.2</b> Enhanced capacities of rural people living in areas at risk of climate-induced migration to adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices and						



establish successful green agribusinesses.						
Indicator 1.2a Number of beneficiaries reporting enhanced knowledge and skills to adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices.	0					
Indicator 1.2b Percentage of trained beneficiaries reporting increased ability to start/strengthen green agribusinesses.	0					
OUTPUT 1.3 Enhanced awareness of agricultural extension services of the climate-migrationagriculture linkages and improved capacities to support rural households to adopt climate-resilient practices and technologies through gender- and agesensitive approaches						
<b>Output Indicator 1.3.a</b> Percentage share of trained extension agents reporting to have improved knowledge of the climate-migrationagriculture linkages and gender and youth sensitive approaches	0					
<b>Output Indicator 1.3.b</b> Share of trained extension agents reporting to have improved capacity to support rural households to adopt climate-resilient	0					

agricultural practices and technologies						
<b>Output Indicator 1.3.c</b> Percentage of extension agents reporting to have improved knowledge of gender- and child-sensitive approaches and capacity to apply these approaches in their work	0					
<b>OUTCOME 2</b> Rural households in areas at risk of climate-induced migration are able to make safe migration choices to support their livelihoods and wellbeing.						
Indicator 2a						
Indicator 2b						
<b>OUTPUT 2.1</b> Rural people in areas at risk of climate-induced migration have improved access to migration related referral services and reintegration planning support						
Indicator 2.1a Number of MRCs that are set up as one-stop-shops for addressing migration related queries and concerns in targeted areas.	0	IOM developed and released the Terms of Reference for onboarding state consultants for Odisha and Telangana towards the deliverables under Outcome 2				
Indicator 2.1b Number of people who receive information, assistance and training on safe migration and sustainable reintegration.	0					
<b>Output Indicator 2.1.c. (linked to output indicator 2.1.a)</b> Number of citizen support institutional structures like CSCs, KVKs, MeeSeva kendras	0					

(Telangana), Mo Seba Kendra Centres (Odisha) linked with MRCs.						
<b>Output Indicator 2.1.d</b> Share of marginalised and vulnerable households having received support from stationary and mobile MRCs	0					
<b>OUTPUT 2.2</b> Rural households have increased awareness on services and opportunities to establish and sustain their climate-resilient livelihoods and agribusinesses.						
Indicator 2.2a Share of rural advisory services, including agricultural extension services and financial services, linked with static and mobile MRCs.	0					
Indicator 2.2b Share of households in targeted districts reporting increased knowledge of and ability to access local financial/banking services and advisory services for remittance utilisation and investments in climate - adaptation.	0					
Indicator 2.2c Number of information and knowledge materials in local languages disseminated amongst beneficiaries to improve awareness on services and	0					

opportunities to establish and sustain climate-resilient livelihoods and agribusinesses.						
<b>OUTPUT 2.3</b> Community-led knowledge sharing mechanisms for peerto-peer learning on migration, rural livelihoods and climate adaptation are reinforced and/or established.						
Indicator 2.3a Number of regular and special meetings of the Gram Sabha/Mahila Sabha/Bal Sabha conducted at the village level to discuss migration, rural livelihoods and climate adaptation topics	0					
Indicator 2.3b Number of times community radio, local media, mural/wall writings promote and/or discuss the issues and emerging lessons covered under the programme.	0					
<b>OUTCOME 3</b> Rural people living in areas at risk of climate-induced migration are supported by more coherent policies and programmes in the area of migration, agriculture and climate change and by greater collaboration and exchange among multisectoral actors						
Indicator 3						

OUTPUT 3.1 Enhanced capacities of key stakeholders, including policy and decision makers, to address the interlinkages between migration, agriculture and climate change and the related needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups						
Indicator 3.1.a Number of stakeholders reporting increased knowledge on the linkages between migration, agriculture and climate change	0					
Indicator 3.1.b Number# of stakeholders reporting increased knowledge on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups	0	A new staff responsible for gender and social safeguards hired				
OUTPUT 3.2 Strengthened inclusion of human mobility and climate change considerations in local level development plans.						
Indicator 3.2 Share of villages reporting discussions on how to integrate human mobility, climate change and rural livelihoods' considerations into local development plans	0					
OUTPUT 3.3 Enhanced learning at country and regional level on multi-sectoral approaches and						

exchange of experiences on tackling the migration agriculture-climate nexus.						
Indicator 3.3.a Number of national workshops organized on the migration-agriculture climate nexus.	0					
Indicator 3.3.b Number of South Asian regional conferences organized in Year 3, in hybrid mode, to share good practices and country experiences.	0					

### 3. Partnerships

Implementation Agreements			
Name & Type of Partner	Type of implementation agreement(please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)	Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart	Financial value (if any)
Local government and/or related entities			
Name of partner Type of partner	Department of Agriculture, Government of Odisha	FAO	Non-financial working arrangement to be finalized, with in-kind contribution from the state government
Name of partner Type of partner	Department of Agriculture, Government of Telangana	FAO	Non-financial working arrangement to be finalized, with in-kind contribution from the state government
Name of partner Type of partner	Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) Company incorporated by the Government of India	IOM	TOMCOM is a traditional partner of IOM and a non-financial arrangement is in place.
Non-governmental stakeholders			
Name of partner Type of partner	WASSAN (with work experience in both the states) has been identified as a project partner in Odisha in consultation with the Government of Odisha. NGO, currently the SPMU for OMM	FAO	To be determined for purposes of Letter of Agreement (LoA) to be signed
Name of partner Type of partner	IOM has shortlisted some NGO partners in Telangana and Odisha.	IOM	Agreement to be signed
Name of partner Type of partner	National Workers Welfare Trust (NWWT) NGO	IOM	Agreement to be signed

#### **4. Cross-Cutting Issues**

The Joint Programme team ensures to apply a rights-based approach in all of its programming and activity implementation; it is acutely conscious that the needs of people on the ground will vary across the four locations of the project across the two states. Therefore, in every joint mission, due care has been taken to meet with and consult with relevant local groups working on cross-cutting issues in order to design activities that adequately reflect and cater to the differing needs of beneficiaries.

For instance, in Telangana, to gain understanding of local populations and how to provide them with appropriate forms of support, the PUNOs have consulted the following agencies:

- Centre for World Solidarity (CWS)
- Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA)
- Centre for People's Forestry (CPF)
- National Workers Welfare Trust (NWWT)

The PUNOs also arranged to meet directly with women and youth in villages and those from migrant communities to gather inputs during preliminary missions to the field.

Likewise, in Odisha, the PUNOs have reached out to the Odisha Millets Mission (OMM), the Darbar Sahitya Sansad (DSS), and so on for their inputs and insights.

Farmers producer organizations have been a useful point of interaction at the village level to better understand the intersectionality of issues with respect to agriculture and climate change. Interactions with rural households with migrant family members from farming families, such as in Narayanpet district in Telangana, have been very insightful.

As a priority and in tune with the Joint Programme's commitment to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), the two PUNOs had recruited a staff to be responsible for Gender and Social Safeguards. This person has been working on the gender equality and child-sensitivity training modules, while also closely involves in the discussions for the development of the baseline survey to ensure it appropriately incorporates gender dimensions.

#### **5. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices**

##### **Constraints**

The biggest constraint is the pace of work when coordinating with government counterparts. The internal process for decision-making takes more time than anticipated. With the general elections looming in India, a lot of the focus of officials is on completing the delivery of government's agenda prior to the announcement of the elections. This has meant that the implementation as per the agreed calendar is slightly delayed. Post-elections in Telangana, the project team had to restart conversations with the newly appointed state government officials.

Another constraint is with respect to adequate data on migration trends and human mobility in rural areas. While there is evidence of inter-state migration and large intra-country movement of people, not all international mobility is captured by government and other sources. The gaps in data and analysis on the



interlinkages of migration, agriculture and climate change also have to be addressed.

### **Adjustments**

In Odisha, originally the Government of Odisha suggested Ganjam and Kendrapada as the two target districts. However, the PUNOs were advised to consider another district instead of Ganjam, as there are already several other ongoing in Ganjam. The PUNOs had proceeded to scope out other possible coastal district in the state for project interventions.

### **Lessons**

Since the GCM is not so well known among government partners, the Joint Programme team found it necessary to prioritise awareness-raising on the GCM and its objectives for all relevant stakeholders to facilitate meaningful participation. For that reason, both FAO and IOM have invested in better support for Media and Communication needs.

The main learnings related to the necessity to keep the government abreast of all activities from the beginning of the programme and ensure regular and close communications with key government stakeholders. To do this, the project team place significant focus on building strong linkages with other allied stakeholders, especially from the NGO/CSO sector, who have experiences with government programmes.

### **Good Practices**

Vis-a-vis communication has been key to achieving progress, including:

1. Internally between the two PUNOs – keeping each other informed, holding regular meetings, coordinating missions together and co-developing communication outputs;
2. Externally with the potential partners – constantly consulting with the government counterparts to ensure their buy-in and with NGOs/CSOs to maintain connection with the ground situation in real time.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

In the reporting period, the Joint Programme has commenced with equal commitment and efforts from both PUNOs.

The next steps include:

1. Onboarding and orienting the relevant new personnel in both PUNOs;
2. Contracting the service providers for the VRA and baseline study;
3. Conducting inception workshops in both states;
4. Finalize selection of the project sites and clusters/villages for the project intervention;
5. Holding the first round of gender and child-sensitivity trainings;
6. Finalizing the implementing partners in both states;
7. Starting the implementation of activities in both states in consultation with the governments and local partners and intended beneficiaries.

## ANNEXES

### ***Communications and Visibility***

From the very outset, the PUNOs paid due emphasis on communications and visibility. A Communications and Visibility Plan (CVP) has been co-developed and shared with the MMPTF Secretariat. A Communication Focal Point was onboarded early on at FAO.

The CVP will guide all communications activities throughout the implementation of the Joint Programme. The CVP will be used by the Joint Programme communications focal point to design and deliver communication objectives. The plan will follow an integrated approach with clearly defined *objectives, audiences, messages, timelines, and tools*. As required by MMPTF, a Communications Focal Point located in the FAO Country Office will:

1. Coordinate with the PUNOs to ensure that the communication and visibility plan is jointly implemented and monitored;
2. Liaise with the Strategic Communication Coordinator of the UN Migration Network Secretariat
3. Coordinate with the offices of the Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the UN Information Centers (UNIC) at New Delhi, India.

IOM also initiated a discussion with the Outcome Group 5, which reports on the UNSCDF India, for the inclusion of the JP's objectives and deliverables to the Outcome Group.

### ***Key Project Deliverables during the reporting period:***

- The initial steps to get the Joint Programme off the ground have been initiated and are on track.
  - Another deliverable was the official launch event for the Joint Programme (detailed report attached as Annex).
-