## W4P India and IMEDF recognised as UN Sustainable Development Goals Good Practices 2021

Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF)and Work 4 Progress (W4P) Indiahave been recognisedas United NationsSustainable Development Goals Good Practices. The Second Open Call for SDG Good Practices was dedicated to identify sustainable solutions to the world's challenges, and to highlight examples of good practices, including those that could be replicated or scaled-up by others across the globe. The application from both projectswas sent in March 2021.

The practices followed through IMEDF cluster development initiative are aligned towards **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities)**. The SFURTI scheme aims to achieve - Industry Innovation and Infrastructure through setting up advanced production units, training halls and design centers that are also made using locally available materials. Innovative and sustainable technologies are also introduced in the clusters for efficient production processes and packaging. The practice also ensures equal opportunities by promotion of women led and tribal oriented clusters where the focus is on social and economic growth, reducing biases and inequalities, hence ensuring them sustained income.

W4P program is primarily aligned with **SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)** by co-creating entrepreneurship solutions with local community members. The focus on giving impetus to aspirations of youth and women to address the need for dignified livelihoods, align with **SDGs 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries)**. Innovative solutions and prototypes are based on equal entrepreneurship opportunity to enable underserved communities to move beyond subsistence based, low-paying jobs. The program enables achievement of its aims and objectives through partnerships across at the regional, national and global scales, to initiate systemic change, thereby addressing **SDG 17**

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**(Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)**.

Along with catering to UN Sustainable Development Goals, both the projectsshowed high level of resilience during and post COVID-19 pandemic. Six clusters at IMEDF became operational during this phase and the remaining 10 clusters continued activities at a fast pace including construction of infrastructure. Capacity building and skill training were conducted keeping in mind the COVID-19 protocols. People returned to their villages due to lockdown got employment opportunities in and around their villages which helped them in keeping a check on reverse migration. At the same time, W4P leveraged digital mediums to conduct online listening sessions and workshops with 250+ entrepreneurs. The systemic prototypes developed under the program adapted to the external changes to ensure that communities have access to essential goods, government services, and finance. Women-led E-rickshaws ensured door-step delivery of essential items and provided urgent transport services to communities.

*IMEDF is a special purpose vehicle of the Development Alternatives Group that accelerates the development of micro-enterprises at scale. It is also the nodal agency of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India for the development of clusters under SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries).*

*The Work 4 Progress (W4P) India program led by Development Alternatives accelerates the creation of meaningful and dignified employment through platforms for innovation, action and continuous learning. In India, W4P provides enterprise development opportunities for youth and women in two regions; Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is based on principles such as collaboration, learning, community-led and bottom up action and adopts social innovation methodology to uncover and unleash people's capacities through which it listens to the community through dialogue, finds answers through co-creation, and then prototypes solutions and shares learnings to eventually create impact at scale.*

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