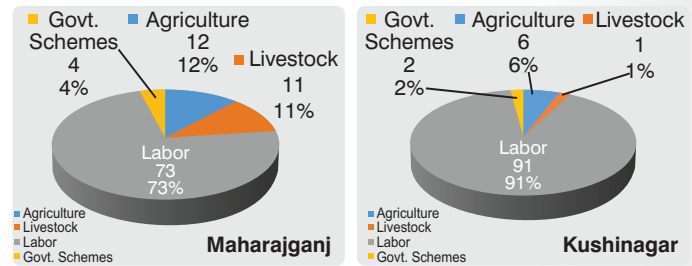


As seen from the graph above 100% of the Musahar households have a broad based livelihood strategy which includes agriculture, livestock rearing, physical labor and some income from govt. schemes. Being landless or having extremely marginal lands, the vast majority of the households viz. 73% and 91% in the project villages of Maharajganj and Kushinagar respectively, are dependent on physical labor for their livelihood.



In district Maharajganj a household's net average income is Rs. 14,792 per year, whereas in Kushinagar the income per year is Rs. 9,105 which is the baseline for the above indicator for both the districts.

IMR and Access to health services
As per the Millennium Development Goals India aims to reduce the IMR rate to 42 for 1,000 live births by 2015. Two-thirds of the way to the 2015 finishing line for achieving the eight globally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), India is at a crucial turning point with a few successes and some failures. As per 2011 census, UP's official IMR is 61/100 which is higher than the national average of 46/1000. **The baseline for IMR rates was found to be 57/1000 and 82/1000 for Maharajganj and Kushinagar respectively.** As a matter of fact various studies have shown that 80% of children (0-5 yrs) are malnourished and only negligible numbers of children are immunized against infectious diseases. 82/1000 is a very high IMR rate in Kushinagar when compared to district level indicators. The study found no respondent family who had availed all 3 hospital checkups for pregnant women. Only 17% of the pregnant women in Kushinagar had received IFA and calcium supplements during their pregnancy.

Institutional delivery
The study found that in Maharajganj 29% of the total deliveries are done in hospitals whereas the figure stands 11% for Kushinagar. The project indicator stands at increasing the rate to 40% by 2016. FGDs conducted with respondents found that the two most important reasons of low institutional deliveries are; a) lack of access to the government health facilities and b) the continuation of the traditional practice of seeking remedies from unqualified and high-risk service providers such as quacks and sokhas / ojhas. The study found that 47% of the respondents in Maharajganj and 19% in Kushinagar had access to healthcare services. In Kushinagar about 62% of the respondents went to sokhas, ojhas and quacks for healthcare services and 56% of the respondents went to facilities other than Government health centers. Moreover, the average distance from the district hospitals in Kushinagar was found to be 14 KMs and the nearest PHC / CHC were 1 km. The services of the health centers of the government were also rated as "bad" by 67% of the respondents.

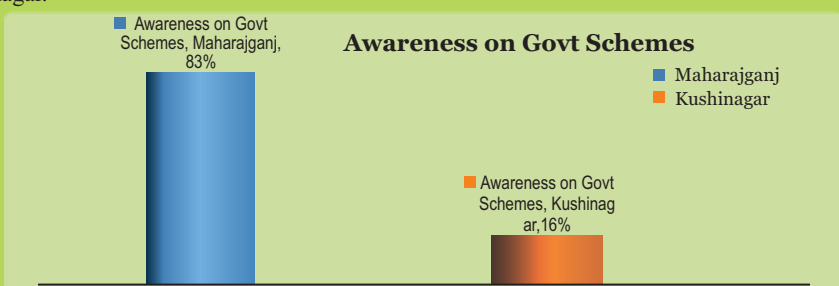
Educational Status and Employment
Among the HHs. surveyed there were 271 children in district Maharajganj and 142 in Kushinagar in the school going age of 0-14. The project aims to out of 800 children enrolled (6-14 years), 550 children pass out from primary school and 150 children pass out secondary school by end of 2016. **Only 33% of the surveyed children in Kushinagar were enrolled in school, whereas 84% of the children were enrolled in schools in Maharajganj district.** Reasons for children not attending schools are children help their parents in field, landlords use them for livestock grazing, and Musahar children are either not allowed in schools or insulted/ill-treated in schools.

Number of unemployed Musahar youths
There are 215 Musahar youths in Kushinagar and 276 in Maharajganj as per the sample size. 91% of the youths in Kushinagar are unemployed, whereas in district Maharajganj the unemployment % is 67%. Hence the base line is 67% and 91% for Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts respectively.

A majority of the youths (91%) in Kushinagar are unemployed; they are dependent on unskilled labor jobs. The percentile was similar in Maharajganj when the project began. However, there have been youth focused livelihood training programs during the past three years in Maharajganj making a considerable number of youths engaged in skilled employment such as cycle repairing, radio & TV repairing, motor driving, mason jobs, plumber jobs, carpentry, etc.,. Moreover, 55 youths in Maharajganj have been supported with cycle rickshaws for employment on a gift chain basis, where they payback a certain amount which is further used by the CBOs to support other Musahar youths.

Musahar CBOs level of advocacy, Group formation and member's knowledge
The project has just been started in Kushinagar; hence the CBO formation & registration process is underway. The baseline for Kushinagar is therefore zero. The baseline for Maharajganj district for this indicator is therefore 100%. Where all 23 CBOs use stakeholder listing and project generated fact sheets for various issues like health, education, economic entitlements, etc. All the CBOs further have developed their Action Plans on an Annual Basis, that comprise of 4 major components; a) Yearly target, b) activities to be done, c) deadline of activities and d) resources required. Finally, all 23 CBOs in Maharajganj and 10 CBOs of Kushinagar have developed their bylaws and have shared it amongst the members. Gender ratio of 50:50 has been maintained while forming the CBOs. Since the project has just started in Kushinagar, all issue based representatives shall undergo an intensive issue wise trainings where they shall learn basic concepts of the issue, Government schemes and programs on the issue, assessing issued based implementation in the villages, developing plan for addressing particular issues, and advocacy techniques

Gram Panchayat Proactive in advocating for the Musahar community
The study wanted to gauge the pro-activeness of the panchayats in prioritizing Musahars for providing socio-economic schemes. It was found from the Panchayat records that in district Kushinagar where the project has just been started, no Gram Panchayats have actively prioritized the eligible Musahar beneficiaries for providing benefit from socio economic schemes. The baseline for this indicator remains zero for Kushinagar district. In district Maharajganj all the 24 gram Panchayats were advocated & sensitized by the 23 CBOs and the project staff. The data collected from the Panchayat records show that all 24 gram Panchayats of district Maharajganj had identified and processed applications for eligible Musahar communities in the 2011-2013 phase, thus the base line for Maharajganj district is 100%. Study of the panchayat records of district Kushinagar show that no petitions have been submitted to the panchayats. Hence the base line for Kushinagar for the above indicator is zero. In the district of Maharajganj 913 applications have been filed with Gram Panchayats and local administration between the years 2011 to 2013 which in percentage terms means 67.23%. **7403 (83%) respondents of the survey in district Maharajganj were aware of their basic entitlements, whereas in Kushinagar only 1343 (16%) respondents were aware.** The reasons behind lack of awareness amongst the Musahar communities in Kushinagar are: a) ignorance on the part of Musahar community; they are so engrossed in eking out their bread, they do not know, neither do they care if there are government schemes for them, b) the officials at the block & Tehsil levels have never been to Musahar villages despite of the knowledge they exist, and c) no efforts have been made so far by any Government or non-government organization in Kushinagar.



There are 1358 households in the old project area; District Maharajganj. In the project area:
 •25% landless Musahar families have got Agriculture land allotted (181.98 acres)
 •41% Musahar families benefited from Indira Awas Yojana & Mahamaya Awas Yojana
 •92 %Musahars families have job cards (MGNREGA)
 •66% families linked with Public Distribution System (subsidized food and non-food items)
 •28% families are getting cash benefits (€ 5/month) under Arthik Graeeb Yojana
So far, 49% families have been supported by Government schemes in district Maharajganj.

Advocacy
As found on the website of the Planning Commission, Government of India and their reports that we acquired through their website, there are no central level sub-groups formed for any special interest groups for the 13th five year plan. No committees have been formed by UP, Bihar or any other state government for documenting the status of special interest communities. The baseline for this indicator is also zero. There is no Musahar/CSO alliance in the national level. The Musahar CSO Alliance shall be formed after the 2nd Quarter of 2014 and hence no strategy papers have been developed or meetings conducted so far. No media debates on Musahar communities are taking place, nor are petitions being filed for the rights of Musahar community. The base line is therefore zero. No website or online advocacy platforms have been formed for advocating the rights of Musahar community. The baseline is zero

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
The following is the summary and conclusion of the findings of the study:
LIVELIHOOD ENTITLEMENTS
 •76% HHs in the new project district of Kushinagar did not possess land and were indeed landless, whereas 66% of the HHs in Maharajganj were in possession of some land.
 •The average land size is 20 decimals in Kushinagar and 40 decimals in Maharajganj which is far less as compared to the land holdings of the upper and middle castes in the project villages which is 80 decimals and 120 decimals in Kushinagar and Maharajganj respectively.
 •40 landless families in district Maharajganj have been allotted land pattas by the Gram Panchyats so far, whereas in Kushinagar only 8% of the respondent families were allotted land pattas.
 •A vast majority of the households viz. 73% and 91% in the project villages of Maharajganj and Kushinagar respectively, are dependent on physical labor for their livelihood.
 •In Kushinagar the income per year is Rs. 9,105 which is very low considering that all the other communities had income levels more than Rs. 36,000 per year.

HEALTH ENTITLEMENTS
 •The current IMR in district Maharajganj among Musahar villages is 57/1000 births and in the Musahar inhabited villages of Kushinagar it is as high as 82/1000 births.
 •In Maharajganj 29% of the total deliveries are in hospitals, whereas in Kushinagar only 11% of the deliveries are in Hospitals.
 •47% respondents had access to healthcare services in Maharajganj and 19% in Kushinagar had access to healthcare services.

EDUCATIONAL ENTITLEMENTS
 •Around 84% children of Maharajganj are enrolled in Schools and 33% of the children in Kushinagar are enrolled.

ADVOCACY
 •83% respondents of the survey in district Maharajganj were aware on their basic entitlements, whereas in Kushinagar only 16% respondents were aware.
 •There are no central level sub-groups formed for any special interest groups for the 13th five year plan.
 •No committees have been formed by UP, Bihar or any other state government for documenting the status of special interest communities.



Baseline Survey Report
AWO International Funding No. : 2013.2621.4/AWO0002



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program for Livelihood Promotion of Marginalized Groups and Labour Migrants in South Asia is a three year AWO/BMZ funded initiative that is implemented by regional NGO partners in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Under this program, Manav Seva Sansthan “SEVA” an NGO based in Uttar Pradesh has been engaging with Musahar Community, one of the most economically and socially ostracized communities among scheduled castes in India. In UP the community is pushed to a status lower than the Dalits. They are isolated, both politically and socially, as well as in terms of habitation, being relegated to the outskirts of villages.

The project “Inclusive Development of Musahar Community” is being implemented in Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts of Uttar Pradesh. The engagement with Musahar community started in the year 2009 with a 15 months pilot project implemented in 22 villages of Nichlaul Block in district Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh. The learning and best practices were replicated in 33 Villages in the Nichlaul in the year 2011-2013. In the current project phase (2014-2016), the project intervention is being expanded in Kushinagar district covering 24 villages with phase-out interventions in 55 villages of Maharajganj district.

A baseline study for the project phase (2014-2016) was conducted in March – May 2014 by means of a household survey covering 55 villages in district Maharajganj and 24 villages in district Kushinagar. The purpose of the study was to gain a greater understating of the situation of Musahars with regard to their access to entitlements, livelihood & food security, social security care and support services, the educational, nutritional, general health and economic concerns and issues faced by them in Uttar Pradesh. The study was designed to:

- Determine the extent of food security and the net house hold income of the Musahars,
- Establish the extent of benefits of health and education from government's social service delivery systems particularly in favor of women and children and
- Establish the extent of inter-state advocacy and the benefits of the government's poverty reduction schemes for the Musahars.

A sample size of 260 households (out of 2600HHs) was calculated for 95% confidence level and a 5% precision so as to reflect the proportion in the population. 148 and 112 households were selected from Maharajganj and Kushinagar respectively, using a process of systematic random sampling from the list of the households. An average of 4-6 households per village, depending upon the population of Mushahar households, was interviewed using a formal questionnaire.

A structured questionnaire was administered to heads of households (HH) in each study district to obtain information on access to livelihood, education and health entitlements and services. Qualitative and quantitative information's were collected by means of focus group discussions (FGDs) with various community sub-groups (e.g., vulnerable/poorest women, vulnerable/poorest men, agricultural producers), PLA, local newspapers and questionnaire.

The survey data was collected by the cluster staff and field level volunteers. The staff and volunteers were trained on the study protocol and data collection instruments and pre testing the instruments was also done. The cluster staffs and volunteers based in project district undertook the data collection and the project manager provided overall supervision before, during and after data collection. All data's from HH survey were stored in Microsoft excel sheets and the project staffs were capacitated in data cleaning, data Analysis using Excel and Graphics and Baseline Report Writing.

The survey results are summarized as follows:

Livelihood & food security: 76% of the Musahar's in Kushinagar are landless while in Maharajganj 66% of the Musahar possess agriculture land with an average land holding at 40 decimals. In Kushinagar only 3% of the landless families are involved in microenterprises and 91% of the Musahar youths are unemployed.

Health & access to services: The IMR among Musahar children is as high as 82 per 1000 in Kushinagar district and 57 per 1000 in Maharajganj district. While 81% of the Musahar families in Kushinagar do not have access to Govt. health services, while 47% of the Musahar families of Maharajganj are linked to Govt. health service.

Child Education: Literacy rate among Musahars are drastically low. 67% of the musahar children in Kushinagar never went to school. However in Maharajganj only 16% of the Musahar children are out of school.

Rights Awareness and Entitlement : More than 80% of the Musahar families in Kushinagar were not aware about their rights and entitlements while in Maharajganj 83% of the Musahar families were aware of the rights and entitlements.

ABBREVIATION	STANDS FOR (in National Language)	TRANSLATION/DESCRIPTION (in English)
MSS	ManavSevaSansthan	
CBO	Community Based Organization	
SMKP	Seva Musahar Krishi Products	
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions	Grassroots governance (elected) structure
U.P.	Uttar Pradesh	
NGO	Non-Government Organization	
IAY	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	Indira AwaasYojana is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India
PDS	Public Distribution System	An Indian food security system, it distributes subsidized food and non-food items to India's poor. a representative elected by the voters of an electoral district to the Legislature of a State in the Indian system of government
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly	
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services	(ICDS), Government of India sponsored programme, is India's primary social welfare scheme to tackle malnutrition and health problems in children below 6 years of age and their mothers.
SC ST	Scheduled Cast Scheduled Tribes	
RCH	Reproductive Child Health	
LEISA	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture	
PLA	Participatory learning Appraisal	
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal	
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Agriculture research centers setup by the Government for technical assistance to farmers
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	(MGNREGA) is an Indian law that aims to guarantee the 'right to work' and ensure livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Baseline Study

AWO International, the international entity of AWO, a humanitarian organization based in Germany, works in partnership with national organizations in Asia and Central America with the goal of supporting disadvantaged people to improve their livelihood and living conditions in a sustainable way. AWO International's Regional Programme in South Asia titled “Regional Program for Livelihood Promotion of Marginalized Groups and Labour Migrants in South Asia” encompassing “livelihood promotion by the help of social structures; organic farming and other income generating activities; promotion of gender equality and awareness; and lobbying in context of safe labour migration” is being implemented by 8 partner organizations in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Manav Seva Sansthan (MSS) based in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh is one of AWO International's partners since the year 2009. AWO International and MSS collaborated on the project titled “Inclusive Development of the Musahar Communities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh” with the mission of socio economic development of the Musahar community by emphasizing on securing their rights to economic assets such as land, housing, PDS cards, etc., developing sustainable income generating avenues, improve government response towards the Musahars through an interstate level advocacy program.

1.2 Socio-Economic Context of the Project.

In India groups are face exclusion and discrimination based on traditional categories of caste or ethnicity. The nature of exclusion especially through caste gradations are strongly enforced in UP, India's poorest and most regressive province. The Musahar community has historically been a victim of such discrimination that denies them their basic right to life and reducing them to a life of servitude.

While exact figures are not available it is estimated that the Musahar community between 5 lakhs to 7 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh and concentrated in eastern belt of Uttar Pradesh in districts Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Deoria and are also found in Siddharthnagar, Mau, Jaunpur, Chandouli, Gazipur, Mirzapur and Varanasi districts. Exact figures are not available as they are included in SC category in the state but were not counted separately in last census. They are estimated to be closer to 3 millions in Bihar. The community being 'untouchables' are forced to unhygienic jobs like cleaning human waste, animal scavenging. Moreover, they are forced to living in foul smelling ghettos called 'Mushairies' or 'Musahar Tolis' on the margins of many Uttar Pradesh and Bihar villages. Decades of deprivation and apartheid has led to too the community taking to crime with a large number of youth joining the Maoist movement, active across large parts of Bihar to secure economic and social justice for the state's poor and dispossessed through its 'People's War'.

Expected Project Impact and Outcome

In afore mentioned context the intended Impact of the project is “**Musahar communities have improved food security and livelihood conditions and better access to basic entitlements**”.

The specific outcomes of the project are: 1. Targeted Musahar households / communities benefit from health, education and economic asset entitlements. 2. Musahar communities benefit from government provisions and/or bodies addressing Musahar issues / needs. 3. Musahar communities have equal access to govt development schemes programs.

1.3 Objectives Of The Baseline Study

Arising from the foregoing considerations, MSSM carried out in its project areas a base line study with 2 major objectives: 1. To find out the existing socio-economic status of the Musahar Community residing in villages of Maharajganj & Kushinagar. 2. To gather factual data of Maharajganj and Kushinagar for setting up baseline information and yearly targets in the project log frame against the result indicators

The Specific Objectives of the baseline study are:

- Determine the extent of food security and the net house hold income of the project's focus population viz. the Musahars.
- Establish the extent of benefits of health and education from government's social service delivery systems particularly in favor of women and children.
- Establish the extent of inter-state advocacy and the benefits of the government's poverty reduction schemes for the Musahars.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sampling Population

Around 2600 Musahar households residing in the MSS project area comprising of 55 villages of district Maharajganj and 24 villages of block Khadda in district Kushinagar was the sampling population. Sample size taken was 10% of the total of 2600 households which would be sufficient to provide a known level of confidence and precision i.e 95% confidence level and a 5% precision so as to reflect the proportion in the population. The 260 households should therefore be sufficient to represent the population in the old and new project districts.

2.2 Sampling Techniques

The sampling methodology was designed to allow statistical comparisons between the two districts viz. Maharajganj and Kushinagar which are the old and new project areas respectively.

The Total sample population was 2600 households were drawn in a two-stage sampling process from 79 villages chosen with probability proportional to their number of households. 148 and 112 households

were then selected from Maharajganj and Kushinagar respectively, using a process of systematic random sampling from the list of the households. An average of 4-6 households per village, depending upon the population of Mushahar households, was interviewed using a formal questionnaire.

2.3 Data Collection Instruments

(i) Questionnaire for household survey

The questionnaire for the household survey component of the baseline survey was designed around key expected outcomes and associated indicators of the MSS-AWO programme. Qualitative information was collected by means of focus group discussions (FGDs) with various community sub-groups (e.g., vulnerable/poorest women, vulnerable/poorest men, agricultural producers, etc.). The FGD's used open questions focusing on specific themes.

Questionnaire content The questionnaire contents were based on the following core issues:

- Livelihood Entitlements
- Health Entitlement
- Educational Entitlements
- Advocacy
- Gender Related Entitlements
- Village Level Institution Building

(ii) Village Profiles

The characteristics of each village selected for the survey were documented through a process of key informant interviews, FGDs, PRA methods like resource mapping, entitlement mapping etc. with representatives from the village, opinion leaders and local political leaders.

Field study and Data Collection: The cluster workers collected information both qualitative and quantitative from primary and secondary sources with the help of participant learning approach (PLA), FGD, local news papers and questionnaire. It was basically an extensive exercise which covered almost a fortnight and included the mobilization of the communities and participatory meetings with them.

3. FINDINGS

Baseline Information for Project Indicators

Outcome 1: Targeted Musahar households / communities benefit from health, education and economic asset entitlements About 76% HHs in the new project district of Kushinagar were found to be landless, whereas 66% of the HHs in Maharajganj were in possession of some land. This difference in the pattern of land ownership between the two districts can be attributed to MMS-AWO presence in Maharajganj since the inception of the project in 2009. The average land size of community was found to be 20 decimals in Kushinagar and 40 decimals in Maharajganj respectively. This is far less as compared to the land holdings of the upper and middle castes in the project villages which is 80 decimals and 120 decimals in Kushinagar and Maharajganj respectively. This stark difference reflects the entrenched deprivation faced by the community. Since the project' start in district Maharajganj 77% of the land holding families were trained on Sustainable agriculture during 2011 to 2013 out of which 451 families are practicing farming and are availing an average annual income of Rs. 13,200/- per year. Similarly 91 % of the landless families have been trained in off farm livelihood activities through the project during 2011-2013. About 27% (40 families) landless families in district Maharajganj have been allotted land pattas by the Gram Panchayats so far, whereas in Kushinagar only 8% (09 families) of the respondent families were allotted land pattas. 41% families in Maharajganj and 23% families in Kushinagar hold agricultural land. Out of the landholding families in Maharajganj 32% are involved in agriculture and harvest crops from all three seasons of farming. In district Kushinagar, only 9% of the landholding families are able to practice agriculture and that too only in 2 seasons. Currently 41% farmers of Maharajganj are engaged in diversified agriculture whereas the baseline for this indicator of 0%. Further 76% landless families in Maharajganj are engaged in microenterprises, whereas in Kushinagar the baseline figure is only 3%. The table below shows the distribution of microenterprises run by landless families in both the districts :

Sr. No	District	Landless families	Microenterprises
1	Maharajganj	51 / 148	39
2	Kushinagar	87 / 112	3