

ASSIST/RRDF:

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN LAKSHMIPURAM

PROGRESS REPORT: APRIL TO JUNE 2025

With the support of RRDF, The Netherlands, ASSIST has either executed or executing a comprehensive community development programme in all the villages of Edurumondi Island, Nagayalanka Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Due to the success of this programme in all the island villages, the surrounding villages on the other side of Krishna River in Guntur District repeatedly requested ASSIST and RRDF for a similar development programme in their villages.

After looking into the situation of these villages, ASSIST as well as RRDF decided to look for donors to support a Comprehensive Community Development Programme in the village of Lakshmipuram. As the project in Gollamanda is coming to an end, Evert de Blok has contacted SRF (Stichting Reborgh Foundation, The Netherlands) and submitted the project proposal of Lakshmipuram village in Guntur District. The support of funding from SRF along with MORE Foundation through RRDF enabled us to start and implement a comprehensive development programme in Lakshmipuram for four years starting from 1st January 2022.

Lakshmipuram is a village in Rajukalava panchayat of Repalle mandal in Guntur district. This village is on the banks of Krishna River. Most of the villagers are backward and live on agricultural labour and fishing. When ASSIST started working in Elachetladibba from 2008, we had to go through this village. From then onwards, people of this village started asking ASSIST to work for their development, too. Later on, ASSIST took up villages under Edurumoni panchayat and started developing them. The pressure from this village increased, hence, ASSIST adopted this village from January 2022 with the support of SRF and MORE through RRDF, The Netherlands.

The total families in the village are 142, out of which Other Backward Castes are more in number with 124, Scheduled Castes are 3 families and Scheduled Tribes 15 families. The total population is 442, males 213 and females 229.

This is the brief report on the activities executed in the 2nd quarter of 2025 (April to June):

1. People's Organisation:

The Executive Committee of "Lakshmi Village Development Society" meets every month on 11th to discuss the various developmental issues relating to Lakshmi puram village. This VDS Committee comprising of 21 members (8 male and 13 female) is actively functioning in this village. These committee members along with the village elders and the field staff of ASSIST meet every month to discuss the activities being

executed in the village including to be executed in the following month. Accordingly, three meetings were conducted during this reporting period.

The following is the summary of the discussions held during these meetings:

- ⇒ Collection of monthly savings and loan repayments and depositing the same in the bank account.
- ⇒ Regular repayments of loan instalment and interest from the people who have taken Loans from the revolving fund.
- ⇒ To participate in the Leadership training camp scheduled in this quarter.
- ⇒ Motivating and ensuring all the school age children are enrolled in the schools as the academic year commenced with the reopening of schools from 12th June.
- ⇒ Preventive measures to be taken in the summer, especially among the children and elderly persons.
- ⇒ Livelihood promotion opportunities for eligible persons under the Government NREG Scheme.
- ⇒ Establishment of Washing Platforms for eight families in this quarter.
- ⇒ Ensure 100% immunisation for pregnant women and 0-5 age group children.
- ⇒ Analyse the results achieved by 10th class and higher-class students in the last academic year and plan further action for their future.
- ⇒ Annual audit of the records and registers of SHGs in the village.
- ⇒ Application process in the Secretariat for eligible families to obtain ration cards.
- ⇒ Construction of new houses and the restoration of old houses.
- ⇒ Extension of loans of Rs. 10,000- each to 38 members.

Impact

The village is peaceful as the Committee members of VDS along with the village elders are taking appropriate decisions and ensuring that there is no dispute on any issue in the village.

Leadership Training Programme

Two-day leadership training programme was held for 31 people (6 male and 25 female) on 5th and 6th June 2025 in Cyclone Shelter. The resource persons for this training programme were:

1. Mr. K. Basavaiah, Welfare Assistant
2. Mr. K. Venkata Lakshmi, Village Women Police
3. Mr. M.V. Rama Rao, Deputy Director, ASSIST

The following topics were dealt by these resources in this two-day training camp:

- ⇒ Leadership qualities
- ⇒ Role of SHGs and Village Development Society
- ⇒ Preventive measures to be taken in summer

SHGs and Federation:

Women SHGs and Village Development Society are playing vital role in the development of their village. All the SHGs in the villages are federated into a village-level federation. Through the Federation, the common guidelines have been formulated for the effective functioning of the Federation and SHGs as well. Monthly savings, internal lending, bank linkages and timely repayment of loans are the strict norms being followed by these SHGs apart from monthly meetings and maintenance of records and registers.

Village Development Society (VDS):

All the families in the village are the members of VDS and the committee of 11 people (5 male and 6 female) has been formed to oversee the execution of all the activities under VDS. The committee is elected annually and they are responsible to the General Body, which meets once a year. The VDS functions on the following guiding principles:

- ⇒ Mutual cooperation and assistance among all the families.
- ⇒ Identification of problems and finding feasible solutions to overcome them.
- ⇒ Giving ample scope to express the problems and to listen the problems by giving them liberty to speak openly.
- ⇒ Finding the root-causes for the problems and finding ways and means to overcome them permanently.
- ⇒ Ensuring all the people work unitedly to overcome the problem.
- ⇒ Developing periodic plans for the sustainable development of their village.

Preventive measures in Summer:

- ⇒ Each and everyone has to be more careful in attending daily works in the summer. Any negligence will lead to severe problems in this summer.
- ⇒ One has to be cautious right from the early morning in taking sufficient water, wearing cotton and loose dresses, and if need to go out carry compulsorily umbrella.
- ⇒ Mere water is not sufficient, and one need to consume sufficient liquid items such as buttermilk, lemon juice, coconut water, etc.
- ⇒ Children should not wear polyester or synthetic products. Light colour and dresses are good for children in the summer.

Impact

- ⇒ SHG leaders, VDS Committee Members and Village elders are working jointly for the development of the village and keeping the village clean and tidy. Target families are keeping their houses and surroundings neat in all aspects.

2. Awareness Generation:

House Visits

142 families have been visited by the field staff of ASSIST twice and 28 families thrice during this quarter. The particulars are as follows:

- ⇒ 43 fishing families were informed of the seasonal fishing ban to allow for fish breeding and replenishment and the respective families were advised to spend time on restoration of fishing boats and nets. Accordingly, 24 families are involved in developing new nets for fishing, 16 families are involved in the restoration of fishing boats and 3 families on the restoration of motors of fishing boats.
- ⇒ 19 families having children and elderly persons were visited and cautioned them on the safety and preventive measures to be taken in this summer not to get sunstrokes. They were advised to consume more water and liquid items in this summer and to carry umbrella while they go out by any chance.
- ⇒ 68 families having school age children were visited and motivated the children and parents to get enrolled and admitted in the schools on 12th June as all the schools reopened on that day in this academic year.
- ⇒ Seven eligible families were identified for NREGS works and they were supported to submit the applications to obtain the job cards. Having completed the application process, six of them obtained job cards and attended the work as well.
- ⇒ Seven families were identified in need of Washing Platforms as the water getting stagnated around their houses. All these seven families were supported with the construction of washing platforms in their respective backyards. As a result, the surroundings of these seven houses are free from water stagnation.
- ⇒ 23 families were visited and they were informed of the results of 10th class and higher-class examinations.
- ⇒ Three newly married couple were supported with the application process to obtain the ration cards.
- ⇒ Six eligible families were identified and assisted to submit the application for the sanction of new houses.

Impact

Villagers have realised the necessity and importance of washing platforms in their respective backyards and maintaining them properly preventing the stagnation of wastewater around their houses.

3. Children and Education:

The village has 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) in the age group of 0-2, 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) in the age group of 3-5.

Among them, 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) of 3-5 age group are attending the local Government Anganwadi Centre. Here, the children are provided nutritious diet apart

from preparing them for schooling through the variety of games, pictures and audio-visual aids. Their height and weight are being monitored constantly by maintaining register in the centre. Anganwadi teacher is also taking care of the pregnant women and lactating mothers by giving the supplementary nutritious diet to these candidates.

There are 67 children (26 boys and 41 girls) in the age group of 6-14 and all of them are attending the schools either in the local school or outside. Details of these children are given under:

Class	Total studying			Local Schools			Hostels outside		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1 st class	3	2	5	3	2	5	-	-	-
2 nd class	2	2	4	-	2	2	2	-	2
3 rd class	3	10	13	2	8	10	1	2	3
4 th class	5	3	8	5	3	8	-	-	-
5 th class	2	3	5	2	-	2	-	3	3
6 th class	2	7	9	2	7	9	-	-	-
7 th class	3	5	8	3	5	8	-	-	-
8 th class	3	6	9	3	6	9	-	-	-
9 th class	3	3	6	2	2	4	1	-	1
Total	26	41	67	22	35	57	4	5	9

Out of 67 children, 36 children (14 boys and 22 girls) are studying in local elementary school, 21 children (8 boys and 13 girls) are studying in Lankavanidibba High School while 9 children (4 boys and 5 girls) are studying in boarding schools outside the village. All of them are attending school without fail. Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme is being provided to meet nutritious meals to school children across the State.

14 boys and 14 girls are attending classes from 10th to graduation and above level. The following are the details of students of tenth and above from the village:

Class	Hostels			Remarks
	Male	Female	Total	
10 th class	3	3	6	Studying in the nearby high school.
1 st Year Intermediate	6	2	8	All are studying in colleges outside staying in Government hostels.
2 nd Year Intermediate	2	4	6	
Degree 1 st year	1	1	2	
Degree 2 nd year	1	1	2	
Degree 3 rd year	-	2	2	
B.Tech. 1 st year	1	1	2	
Total	14	14	28	

X Class Results: 8 students (6 male and 2 female) appeared for 2024-25 academic year examinations and all the eight students have passed in the examinations.

Intermediate 1st Year Results: 6 students (2 male and 4 female) appeared for 2024-25 academic year examinations and all the six students have passed in the examinations.

Intermediate 2nd Year Results: 4 students (2 male and 2 female) appeared for 2024-25 academic year examinations and all the four students have passed in the examinations.

Vocational Training:

15 candidates (3 male and 12 female) having studied Intermediate and Degree and idle at home were given training in Computer Applications, Desktop Publishing and Accounting Package. While 15 have successfully completed the training, 8 candidates (3 male and 5 female) have obtained jobs and living on it.

Impact

With the support extended under the project for educating the children to the higher level, the parents are showing greater interest to educate their children. As a result, the villagers have realised the value and importance of education.

4. Community Health:

The village has 3 pregnant women in the beginning of this quarter. In this quarter, one woman has given birth to female child. Hence, pregnant women are two as of now.

The village has 3 lactating mothers in the beginning of the quarter and one added during this quarter. Hence, there are four lactating mothers in the village as of now. Government Health Worker is doing the monthly check-up to all these women and following immunisation chart for their safety and proper growth of children.

In addition to this, 32 children (16 boys and 16 girls) of 0-5 age group are being monitored by the Health Worker following the immunisation chart.

133 washing platforms were constructed by ASSIST up to March 2025. In this quarter, 7 more were constructed taking the total number to 140. With the use of these platforms, the surroundings of wash area are clean and dry. The used water is being diverted to the kitchen gardens. Hence, cleanliness and greenery are also being promoted besides conservation and preservation of water resources.

10 dustbins are provided in the village and villagers are using them as per decision taken in the VDS meeting.

142 families were provided with varieties of seeds like cucumber, ridge gourd, lady finger, cluster beans, egg plant and tamota etc., to promote kitchen garden. These

families are getting organic free vegetables and green leaves not only for them also giving to other families.

Impact

People have started giving greater importance for health, hygiene and environmental sanitation in the village.

5. Women Empowerment:

Self-Help Groups

12 Self-Help groups with 124 members meet on or before 5th of every month and contribute @ ₹ 100 per member per month. The savings are deposited in their respective bank accounts and the accounts are maintained up to date.

Particulars	Amount in INR
Balance of 12 groups as on 31 st March 2025	812,300
Add: Savings of 124 members of 12 groups (Apr-June 25)	37,200
Total	849,500
Internal loans recovered in this quarter – Principle	162,000
Internal loans recovered in this quarter – Interest	43,400
Total	1,054,900
Less: Internal loans extended to 9 members of 6 groups in this quarter	120,000
Balance as on 30 th June 2025	934,900

Details of internal loans:

Particulars	Amount in INR
Internal loans outstanding as on 31 st March 2025	1,661,400
Less: Internal loan recovered (Apr-June 25) – Principle	162,000
Total	1,499,400
Add: Internal loans extended to 9 members of 6 groups in this quarter	120,000
Internal loans outstanding as on 30 th June 2025	1,619,400

Bank Linkage Loans

Particulars	Amount in INR
Total Bank loans outstanding of 12 groups as on 31 st March 2025	4,645,000
Less: Loans repaid by 12 groups in this quarter (Apr-June 25)	603,000
Bank loans outstanding of 12 groups as on 30th June 2025	4,042,000

Annual Audit of Self-Help Groups was conducted by the District Audit Team from 7th to 10th April in the village and they have given the report with 99% grade to the groups in the village.

Impact

The villagers used to depend on money-lenders to meet the urgency needs of their respective families by getting the required amount at high rate of interest. Now, with their regular savings, internal lending and bank linkages, they could have access to credit more easily at nominal rate of interest. Slowly, their economic status is also enhancing.

6. Housing:

ASSIST along with the local Government supported 24 families till the end of last quarter. Four families got the sanction of their houses newly in this quarter. The total number of houses in this village have increased to 28 and their status is as follows:

Status	As on 31 st Mar 2025	As on 30 th June 2025
Basement	6	1
Lintel level	-	1
Roof level	1	2
Completed	17	24
Total	24	28

Repairs/Renovations of Old Houses

29 old houses completed repairs till the last quarter and in this quarter one more family was extended support. Hence, 29 families have renovated their old houses while one more house is in progress by the end of this quarter under this project in this village.

Impact

The villagers are extremely happy the project provided an opportunity for the restoration of their old houses, which they never imagined. Now, they are extremely happy and feel proud either with the new houses or the restored houses.

7. Land Development:

The village has 58 acres of land and the total land is being cultivated with paddy crop every year. The farmers are making the fields ready for cultivation having cleared the waste material of last crop. They are looking for rains to start ploughing their fields and getting the fields ready for cultivation this year.

8. Government Pensions:

56 persons are getting different types of pensions from the government as per the details given below thereby making life easier to the people:

Pension Name	Members receiving pensions	Monthly Each INR	Monthly Total INR
Old age	12	4,000	48,000
Widow	12	4,000	48,000
Fishermen	27	4,000	108,000
Single woman	1	4,000	4,000
Persons with Disability	4	6,000	24,000
Total	56		232,000

9. Revolving Fund:

All the 142 families of Lakshmipuram are the members of the Village Development Society and all have paid the share capital for the promotion of revolving fund in the village. They are also doing periodic savings as well. They are availing of loans from this fund towards livelihood activities. The status of this revolving fund is as follows:

Particulars	As on 31 st Mar 2025 INR	Apr-June 2025 INR	As on 30 th June 2025 INR
RECEIPTS:			
Membership fee	7,100	-	7,100
Share capital	71,000	-	71,000
Matching Grant	71,000	-	71,000
Savings	138,590	18,600	157,190
Loan Repayments	405,000	135,000	540,000
Interest on loans	26,450	4,900	31,350
Bank Interest	7,650	-	7,650
Project grant for landless families	200,000	-	200,000
Total	926,790	158,500	1,085,290

PAYMENTS:			
Loans given	620,000	380,000	1,000,000
Community Development Works	24,000		24,000
Closing balance	282,790	-221,500	61,290
Total	926,790	158,500	1,085,290

Details of loans given are as follows:

INCOME GENERATION UNITS	NUMBER	AMOUNT INR
Fishing Nets Repair	12	120,000
Milch animals	4	40,000
New Nets for Fishing	4	40,000
New Nets for Prawns	2	20,000
New Nets for Crabs	2	20,000
Petty Shops	1	10,000
Tiffin centre	1	10,000
Fishing business	6	60,000
Prawn business	5	50,000
Cloth business	1	10,000
Total	38	380,000

Place: Chilakaluripet
Date: 10th July 2025

M. Vishnu Priya
Associate Director

J. Ranga Rao
Director, ASSIST

Regular House visits by Community Organiser





Children in School





Taking care of Health by Government Health workers





Community Dust Bins





Monthly Meetings of Self- Help Groups





Housing





Washing Platforms







Leadership Training Camp for Committee Members



Kitchen Gardens



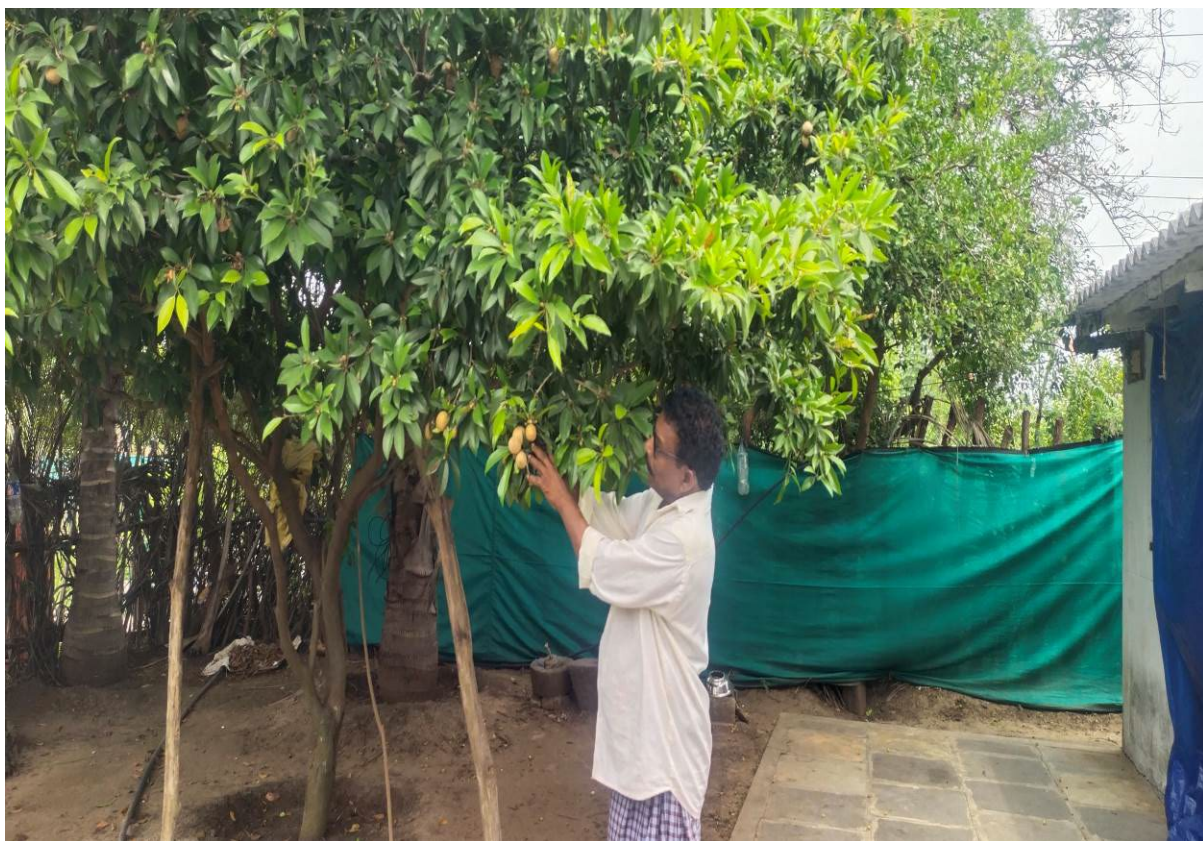


Monthly Meeting of VDS Committee Members





Taking care of Fruit Plants



Income Generation Units







NREGS Works





