

# Community Cadres: Backbone of Last-Mile Delivery

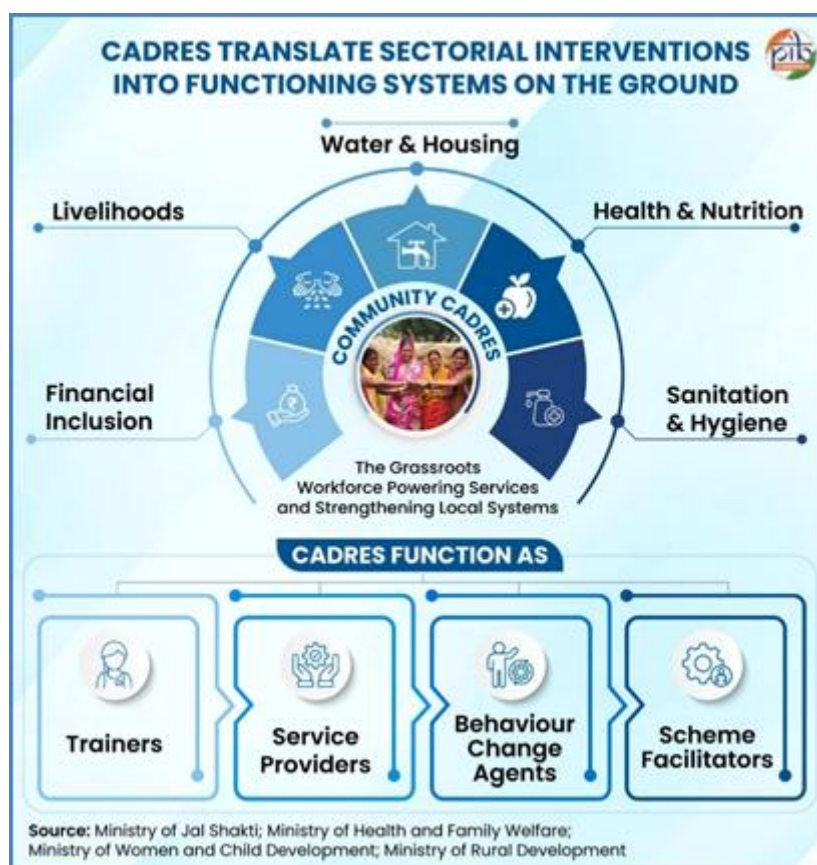
## The Last-Mile Architects of Rural Transformation

A network of trained grassroots workers forms the backbone of decentralized service delivery.

The role of **community cadres and frontline workers** in ensuring last-mile delivery of government programmes and strengthening rural institutions.

Over **9 lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs)**, along with ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, Swachhagrahis, Awaas Mitras and others, connect rural households with government services.

### 1. Community Cadres: Backbone of Last-Mile Delivery



Community cadres act as a bridge between **government institutions and rural communities**. Their major roles include:

- **Capacity building:** Peer learning and dissemination of skills.

- **Service delivery:** Providing livelihood, banking and financial services locally.
- **Behaviour change:** Promoting better practices in health, sanitation and social inclusion.
- **Scheme facilitation:** Helping with documentation, enrolment, verification, bank linkages and convergence.

Their remuneration is generally **activity-based**, with incentives linked to service delivery and community mobilisation.

## 2. Community Resource Persons under DAY-NRLM

The **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** is central to this community-led approach.

- More than **10 crore rural households** have been mobilised into around **92 lakh SHGs**.
- Over **9 lakh CRPs** support agriculture, livestock, fisheries, enterprises, banking, insurance and social development.
- Around **4.08 lakh CRPs** focus on livelihoods.

This approach transforms rural women from beneficiaries into **trained service providers, community leaders and change agents**.

## 3. Livelihood CRPs

Livelihood cadres support both farm and non-farm activities.

### Farm and allied sectors:

- **Krishi Sakhis:** Promote sustainable agriculture and market linkages; over **1.91 lakh** mobilised.
- **Pashu Sakhis:** Support livestock health and productivity; around **1.70 lakh** mobilised.
- **Matsya Sakhis:** Support fisheries livelihoods and market access; over **2,012** active.
- **Van Sakhis:** Support collection and value addition of forest produce; around **2,993** active.

More than **4.62 crore Mahila Kisans** had been covered under farm livelihood interventions by June 2025.

### Non-farm sector:

- **Udyog Sakhis and CRP-EPs** help identify business opportunities, prepare enterprise plans, access credit and establish markets.
- Nearly **48,785 Udyog Sakhis** support non-farm livelihoods.
- Under **SVEP**, **4.32 lakh enterprises** had been supported by June 2026.
- The National Campaign on Entrepreneurship aims to train **50,000 CRPs** and **50 lakh SHG members**.

#### 4. Financial Inclusion at the Grassroots

**Bank Sakhis and Business Correspondent (BC) Sakhis** provide doorstep banking services such as account opening, deposits, withdrawals and fund transfers.

- Over **1.48 lakh BC Sakhis** provide digital financial services.
- More than **50,548 Bank Sakhis** facilitate credit linkages.
- Bank Sakhis have helped SHGs access **₹13.41 lakh crore** in bank credit since 2013-14.
- **56,727 Financial Literacy CRPs** promote financial awareness.
- Over **3.81 crore women SHG members** received financial literacy training during 2025-26.

#### 5. Health, Nutrition and Sanitation

**ASHAs** serve as the first community-level contact for healthcare, while **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** support nutrition and early childhood development.

- Over **10.40 lakh ASHAs** were serving as of December 2025.
- Over **10.58 lakh AWWs** had been trained by March 2026.
- AWWs support supplementary nutrition, identification of **SAM/MAM** children and behavioural change.
- **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi** strengthens Early Childhood Care and Education.

Under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**, Swachhagrahis promote sanitation and behavioural change. Over **10.36 lakh functionaries** and **36,342 master trainers** have been trained.

#### 6. Water and Housing

Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, Gram Panchayats and **Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs/Pani Samitis)** undertake village-level water planning and management.

- Over **5.33 lakh VWSCs/Pani Samitis** are operational.
- VWSCs ensure **at least 50% women's representation** and inclusion of SC/ST and disadvantaged households.
- **Nal Jal Mitras** provide technical support for plumbing, electrical work and pump maintenance.

Under **PMAY-G**, **Awaas Mitras** assist beneficiaries with identification, documentation, construction monitoring and scheme convergence. PMAY-G aims to construct **4.95 crore houses by March 2029**.



## 7. Convergence at Household Level

The emerging approach moves beyond **sector-specific service delivery** towards integrated household development involving:

**Livelihoods + Health + Nutrition + Sanitation + Financial Inclusion + Social Protection**

Frontline workers facilitate this convergence by linking households with multiple schemes and institutions. Gender CRPs also address **gender-based violence, exclusion and inequality**.

## 8. Continuous Capacity Building

Community cadres receive continuous training through:

- Induction and thematic training
- Refresher courses
- Field mentoring
- On-site handholding
- Decentralised knowledge transfer

This model is reflected across **NRLM, health, sanitation, water and housing** programmes.

## Conclusion

- Community cadres have become the **human backbone of rural transformation**.
- By combining **awareness, capacity building, service delivery and convergence**, they help translate government schemes into household-level outcomes.

- Sustained investment in these grassroots institutions can strengthen **rural livelihoods, financial inclusion, social empowerment and resilient local governance**.

## Reference

[PIB](#)

