



# **Guideline on Operationalising Convergence in OFSDP, Phase-II**



**Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II**  
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society  
Forest & Environment Department, Government of Odisha

## **Guideline on Operationalising Convergence in OFSDP-II**

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## **FOREWORD**

Substantial public investments are being made to strengthen the rural economy and livelihood base of the poor, especially the marginalised groups like SC/STs and women staying in the forest fringe areas. To effectively address the issue of poverty alleviation, there is a need to optimise efforts through inter-sectoral approaches. It is agreed now that the convergence of different programmes run by Government and other organizations will enable better planning at community level and bring optimum results.

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) has one of the important component on strengthening livelihood options for the forest dependent communities through inter-sectoral convergence. Augmenting alternative livelihood options through varied Income Generating Activities at the community level, would help in reducing dependence of the communities on forest resources, thereby minimizing the anthropogenic interference in sustainable forest and Bio-diversity management. Ensuring alternative livelihoods opportunities for the forest dependent communities through inter-sectoral convergence programmes have been given utmost priority in the OFSDP-II project design. To steer this segment, different committees have been constituted from State level to grass-root level, to ensure optimum synergy in the programmes of the line departments and those initiated by the OFSDP-II.

The Project Management Unit of OFSDP-II has come up with a guideline on operationalising convergence programmes with an

objective to sensitise the project functionaries, authorities and stakeholders on various flagship schemes of the different line Departments of the Government along with their provisions and output.

I am happy to learn that this Guideline is prepared with a special feature of an Inter-sectoral Convergence Matrix. The sincere endeavour by Dr.Meeta Biswal, IFS, Additional Project Director, Dr. P.R. Karat, IFS, Joint Project Director, in preparing and compiling the Guideline are praise worthy. The efforts of the PMU officials and PMC expert team in preparing this Guideline Booklet are acknowledged thankfully.

I am hopeful that this Convergence Guideline will work as a hand book for the project authorities at different level to ensure that the inter-sectoral convergence are planned and executed at VSS level. I am sure this booklet will be helpful in accelerating expected outputs of convergence with other departments and programmes under OFSDP, Phase-II.



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## **PREFACE**

Convergence programmes are planned in partnership with different Government Departments with focussed strategy to facilitate fast-track poverty alleviations programme and improve quality of life of the targeted community. It also serves the multiple objective of enhancing income opportunities, creation of durable assets by increasing physical capital, collective planning among stakeholders, improve social capabilities, build synergies among institutions to address different dimensions of poverty and entitlement.

In the Phase-II of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP), maximum thrust has been given to Convergence as a project component to achieve the project objective. Project is also expected to play a significant role in identifying the community need and potential beneficiaries, enabling the outreach of extension officers in implementing different Government schemes and programmes. Realizing the importance of Inter-Sectoral Convergence in achieving the project goal, the Project Management Unit of OFSDP-II in collaboration with PMC consultants developed a comprehensive guideline for Inter-Sectoral Convergence. The guideline has been formulated to help the project authorities at different level (PMU, DMU & FMU) and particularly the Partner NGOs Team members in strategic planning and coordination with the line departments for dovetailing the relevant Government schemes and programmes for holistic development of the villages covered under OFSDP-II.

Following the project goal and objectives, the Convergence Guideline has classified convergence broadly into the categories viz. 1. Resource Based Convergence. 2. Service Based Convergence. 3. Entitlement based Convergence 4. Skill Based Convergence.

The Guideline has been prepared under the guidance of Shri L.K.Tewari, IFS, Project Director of OFSDS. The sincere efforts, dedication and contribution made by the experts of PMU and the support of PMC in preparing this guideline are highly appreciated.



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# 1. Introduction

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II), with the financial assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is under implementation in 50 Forest Management Units (Forest Ranges) of 12 Territorial Forest Divisions and 2 Wild Life Divisions in Odisha. The main objective of the project is to enhance forest ecosystem along with sustainable livelihood of local people by improving sustainable forest management, sustainable biodiversity conservation and community development, thereby contributing to harmonization between environmental conservation and socio-economic development in the Project area in Odisha.

The envisaged approach to achieve the overall goal of OFSDP-II in a sustained manner includes restoration of degraded forests, securing sustainable forest management through Joint Forest Management mode and by promoting alternative Income Generation Activities for the targeted forest dependent communities for improvement in their income for better livelihood. Moreover, strengthening the capacities of the forest dependent communities on sustainable forest management and its resources would

definitely contribute for restoration of degraded forest, enhancing the forest growth and thereby enhancing forest eco-system on a sustained manner.

One of the important component of OFSDP-II is to strengthen the livelihood options for the forest dependent communities through inter-sectoral convergence. Augmenting alternative livelihood options through varied Income Generating Activities at the community level, would help in reducing dependence of the communities on forest resources, thereby minimizing the anthropogenic interference for sustainable forest and Bio-diversity management.

Ensuring alternative livelihoods opportunities for the forest dependent communities through Inter-Sectoral Convergence have been given utmost priority in the Project design of OFSDP-II. Different committees have been constituted from State level to grass-root level to ensure optimum synergy between the line departments and the project authorities of OFSDP-II in implementing the Govt. Schemes and Programme at the community level.

## 2. Rationale of formulation of Inter-sectoral Convergence Guideline

Importance of Inter-sectoral convergence has been emphasized in the project document to achieve the broader objective of OFSDP-II i.e sustainable forest management and sustainable biodiversity conservation in tandem with and community development. It is realized that no single department / organization can alone ensure the holistic development of the communities in true spirit but the coordinated efforts among different departments / agencies has the potential to implement the govt. schemes and programme effectively and to achieve desired results to the large extent.

Substantial public investments are being made for strengthening of rural economy and livelihood base of the poor, especially the marginalized groups like ST / SC and Women. In order to address the issues of poverty alleviation, there is a need to optimize the efforts through inter-sectoral convergence. Convergence of different programme like Poverty Alleviation Programme, Livelihood Promotion Programme, Watershed programme, Agriculture Development Programme, Horticulture Development Programme, Livestock Development Programme, Public Health related programme and other entitlement related schemes and programmes etc., need to be ensured at community level to address the holistic development in the rural belt.

The institutional set up under OFSDP-II in shape of VSS, FMU & DMU level is expected to play a crucial role in coordinating with the officials of line departments and their extension officers for better coordination and smooth implementation of the community development schemes and programmes. Necessary consultative meetings between the communities and the extension officers shall be arranged by the project staff and P-NGO Team members of OFSDP-II, as and when required, for dovetailing the Govt. schemes and programmes for holistic development of the project communities in a structured way.

Project will also play a significant role in identifying the community need and potential beneficiaries, enabling the outreach of extension officers in implementing different Govt., schemes / programmes. Further, necessary follow up support can also be rendered by the project for timely implementation of the programmes. Such convergence will not only lead to comprehensive development of the communities but also will facilitate the extension officers of various line departments to augment support of other departments for effective implementation of their schemes and programmes in a time bound manner.

### 3. Objectives of the Inter-Sectoral Convergence Guideline

Convergence is successful delivery of services that are provided by different organizations in unison. It aims at bringing the organizations/ agencies/ departments together to perform the task in a synergy mode for perspective development of the targeted communities. Strategic planning, coordination, coherence etc. are the essential ingredients of convergence.

Realizing the importance of Inter-Sectoral Convergence in achieving the Project Goal, these comprehensive guidelines for Inter-Sectoral Convergence have been formulated. The guidelines will help the project authorities at different level (PMU, DMU & FMU) and particularly the Partner NGOs Team members in strategic planning and coordination with the line departments for dovetailing the relevant Govt., Schemes and Programmes for holistic development of the villages covered under OFSDP-II. The guidelines have following objectives:

- To leverage additional resource support to project community of OFSDP-II, from different schemes and provisions of Government, which will contribute to realise the project outputs.
- Enhance economic opportunities for the target mass in the project locations, which will strengthen the livelihood opportunities of the people.
- Capacitate the community/grassroot level institutions to plan and make their own decisions towards convergence.
- To establish synergy among different programmes in planning and implementation, so as to maximize the benefits flowing to the beneficiaries.
- Enable sharing of resources for common objectives and avoid duplication of efforts.
- To ensure linking of basic extension services with the line department for different livelihood interventions, which include agriculture, dairy, fishery, poultry, goatary, human health, horticulture etc.
- Develop effective linkages with various development initiatives of Govt. of Odisha and Govt. of India and other private players.
- To link with the financial institutions and other corporate bodies for financial linkage and marketing of SHG products etc.

## 1.1. Expected Benefits of Convergence

- Complementing the efforts of different departments / agencies for effective grounding of the scheme / programme in a time bound manner.
- Meeting the anticipated increasing demand of people / SHGs / clusters in different livelihood areas where project is not having adequate or no fund allocation.
- Minimising / filling the resource gap in certain areas identified during the project execution process including micro planning of VSSs.
- Technical support in different livelihood areas like product value addition, marketing, agricultural production and productivity, Off-farm activities such as mushroom cultivation, apiculture, pisciculture, animal husbandry and livestock, handicrafts etc. and Non-farm activities like value addition and processing of NTFP products etc.
- In the sphere of value addition of different products, initial financial and technical support shall be rendered by the project and when it achieves a scale, inputs from other agencies / Government departments will be mobilised to manage, maintain and improve the scale in the value chain.
- Holistic and sustained development of the targeted communities is ensured.
- Target / plans of each department / agencies are achieved through a consorted effort.
- Reduction of transaction / operational cost in the process of convergence, which will benefit both the project and the concerned line department.
- Channelize the expertise developed in other projects to give inputs as resource persons in OFSDP-II
- Integrate the use of various infrastructures developed under various schemes for target communities.

## 4. Types of Convergence

Following the project goal and objectives, the convergence may broadly be classified in to following categories:

1. Resource Based Convergence.
2. Service Based Convergence.
3. Entitlement based Convergence
4. Skill Based Convergence

### 4.1 Resource Based Convergence

The Resource Based Convergence with OFSDP-II would focus on human resources, material & infrastructure resources and financial resources of different programmes / schemes implemented by different departments. This also includes convergence at the perspective level where the project requirements match to the overall mandate of different schemes / programmes implemented by different departments.

Various welfare schemes, programmes are being formulated by the Government / other agencies for the broader perspective of the development of rural communities. Further each department has their mandate to implement the schemes / programme and attain their target. Examples of few such schemes are as below:

- Provision of agricultural inputs by Agricultural & Farmers Empowerment Department & Co-operation Department.
- Provision of land development through Watershed Mission.
- Provision of daily wage and infrastructure development under MGNREGS.
- Provision of enhancing the irrigation facilities by the department of Water Resources, Watershed Mission etc.
- Provision of varied inputs and other infrastructural support by National Horticultural Mission.
- Provision of improvisation of community infrastructure such as Rural Connectivity, Cleaning of Pond, Pond Ghats, Repair of School Buildings etc. by Rural Development Department
- Provision of wage-employment programme, self employment programme, rural housing, safe drinking water, sanitation, provision of street lights etc. by Panchaytiraj & Drinking Water Department.
- Provision of breed improvisation both in Goatary, Poultry, Dairy at community level at subsidised rate by Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department.
- Provision of promotion of fisheries by Fisheries Department / Block Office.
- Provision of Solar Electrification by Department of Science & Technology
- Provision for electrification by Energy Department.

- Provision of supply of Ujjala Chullah, supply of modern Chullah etc. by Panchayatiraj & Drinking Water Department
- Provision of aid for physically challenged and old age members etc.

Similarly, many training institutions have been developed and resource persons been trained which can be beneficially channelized for use by the project functionaries in operationalising convergence.

## 4.2 Service Based Convergence

This type of convergence does not necessarily look at dovetailing resources from other schemes / programmes, rather it aims at augmenting services being offered by different departments, either under different programmes / schemes or under its core functions. The services of the rural development related departments on different thematic areas have been recognized to be highly crucial for sustained development of the communities.

Innovative and community driven poverty alleviation programme / schemes are being launched by government at regular intervals. But due to lack of continued follow up / handholding support and relevant support services, the benefits do not percolate down to the beneficiaries. Often, these services are detrimental in nature for augmenting the benefit on sustained manner. Non availability of timely support service at community level also led to severe financial loss to the communities. Examples of such support services are as below:

- Agricultural extension services offered by Agricultural & Farmers Empowerment Department & Co-operation Department.
- Health Care Services offered by Health and Family Welfare Department.

- Nutrition and RCH Care services by Integrated Child Development Society (ICDS) and National Health Mission (NHM).
- Animal Health Care services by Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department.
- Maintenance of Rural Assets by Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj etc.
- Banking / Financial institution related services.

Hence, to operationalize convergence at the service level, it is pertinent to say that the project should identify the service gaps in different service areas like technological services, infrastructural services, financial services etc. and attempt to make efforts accordingly to bridge the gap in a convergence mode. After identification of gap in services, the agencies providing such services could be tied up for better service provisioning.

## 4.3 Entitlement based Convergence

While poverty reduction has been addressed gradually in recent decades, vulnerability of some sections of society still remains high.

The entitlement program is a government-sponsored program, designed to provide guaranteed benefits to its targeted citizens, through right or legislation. Generally, the term is associated with the many forms of welfare / safety-net programme of Govt. targeted towards the disadvantaged, deprived and weaker sections of the communities. These entitled based schemes / safety-net programmes provide the basic support and assistance to the targeted communities to find the means of income for survival and ensure availability of food grain at

subsidized price. Examples of such entitlement schemes / programme are as below:

Schemes	Type
• Public Distribution System (PDS)	• Subsidized food and fuel distribution
• Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGS)	• Self-targeted public works
• Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)	• Targeted credit scheme for groups and some individuals
• Old Age Pension Scheme	• Non-contributory social pensions
• Madhu Babu Pension Yojana	
• National Old Age Pension to Destitutes	
• Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	• Targeted rural housing
• Midday meals	• School feeding program
• Schools stipends	• Stipends for school enrollment
• Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)	• Subsidized and targeted health insurance
• Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)	• Life/disability/ accident insurance for BPL
• Social insurance for unorganized workers	• Subsidized social insurance
• Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Schemes	• Financial Assistance to widow, who are in BPL Category.
• Minimum Support Price for MFP	• Sale of MFP at remunerative Price

#### 4.4 Skill based Convergence

Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), Govt. of Odisha has the mandate to impart trainings to youth in the age group of 15–34 to increase their skills, employability, and income. OSDA undertakes skill based trainings in association with training partners in priority sectors such as manufacturing, construction, service industry and the creative economy sector for formal employment. OSDA project aims at

benefitting youth, women, and disadvantaged groups. Similarly many other agencies also conduct employment linked training programme for youth (girls & boys).

The potential youths (both girls and boys) for OFSDP-II villages will be selected for such employment based trainings. Due coordination with the OSDA and other partner agencies are to be ensured to dovetail the benefit of the scheme for the rural youths of project villages.

## 5. Approaches of Convergence

### 5.1 Need based Approach for Convergence

Prioritised needs of the communities identified through participatory approach will be tabulated in the micro plan. The intervention which cannot be covered under OFSDP-II shall be separately listed for being implemented through Convergence in the Micro Plan for each VSS. The convergence plan in form of Annual Action Plan at each VSS level so prepared shall be placed at Gram Panchayat level or at Block Level Coordination Committee for integrating the identified plan / activities with the execution of plan of respective line departments.

### 5.2 Demand based approach for Convergence

Resources are limited in nature. Optimal utilisations of resources for genuine beneficiaries are essential criteria for sustained development. The need identified by the communities in the micro planning processes are the set of wish list towards the overall development but all needs may not be addressed due to inadequacy of resources or budget for the purpose. So community should be sensitized to prioritize the need for convergence at the time of preparation of Microplan or the subsequent preparation of Annual Plans.

Once the priority lists of interventions are prepared, community / beneficiaries are to be

sensitized about the source or department for respective interventions along with complete information on the eligibility criteria. Such efforts help the communities to negotiate with the extension officers to meet their demand through convergence. During the ceremony of the Project, the p-NGO team members will act as the bridge.

The demand generation strategy aims to create demand for resources in the areas of livelihood, entitlement, Natural resource management, skill and capacity etc. Actions warranted to create demand for convergence by the communities are as below:

1. Community shall be educated as regards ongoing government schemes and programmes, which are applicable to them for inclusive growth.
2. Community shall be sensitized on the details of benefit, eligibility criteria for being beneficiary of the scheme / provision etc.
3. Community shall be capacited to identify the beneficiary following the eligibility criteria of each scheme / provision.
4. Community shall also be educated about the department, where they can approach for undertaking the schemes and provisions through convergence.
5. A list of contact persons with their contact details will be prepared for each VSS and attached in their respective micro plans from different departments.

## 6. Prerequisite of convergence

The prerequisites of effective convergence are as below:

1. Works / interventions to be taken up through inter-sectoral convergence shall be identified during micro planning processes.
2. Facilitators like p-NGO Team Members and Animators should have clear understanding about the requirements of VSS community with regard to the varied schemes / programme of other department for convergence.
3. Facilitator should have clear understanding on the eligibility criteria of the beneficiaries for availing the benefit of the schemes / programmes.
4. VSS wise items of work to be achieved through convergence will be prepared annually in the form of Annual Plan of operation at Gram Panchayat level during October every year.
5. For each Range, the list of VSS wise proposed convergence Annual Action Plans will be collected and placed before Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC) meeting by November each year. These plans will then be scrutinized by the Departments for operationalization.
6. Similarly, at each Division Level, these Annual Action Plans of each FMU will be compiled and placed for convergence at DAC meeting.

## 7. Processes for Convergence

Effectiveness of implementation of any programme / schemes or provision largely depends upon selection of right beneficiary at right time. Often it is observed that the outcome of many well designed schemes & programme do not commensurate with the efforts due to lack of appropriate selection of beneficiaries under these schemes. Bottom up approach of planning process is the only solution to select the most appropriate beneficiary / beneficiaries to enable successful implementation of different Govt. Schemes / provisions. The processes for convergence will be as below:

### Step-1:

#### **Selection of Schemes / Programme for Convergence through Micro Planning Process:**

Perspective long term development plan of the communities covered under OFSDP-II will be prepared following participatory processes. Such participatory processes would enable to identify need based interventions required for overall development of the target community. The extension officer of the various departments associated in community development shall be coordinated for convergence. Micro Planning processes contributes significantly for effective convergence with other departments in the following manner:

- Identification of need based interventions required for development.
- The interventions are prioritised in a participatory way for execution
- Identify the beneficiaries for each planned intervention.
- To map the interventions and corresponding line department for convergence.

### Step-2:

#### **Preparation Annual Action Plan for convergence:**

The interventions identified during the micro planning process at VSS level shall be classified based on the departments / agencies, who shall be approached for convergence. Accordingly a comprehensive a VSS-wise Annual Action Plan for Convergence will be prepared by the VSS. This Annual Action Plan for Convergence plan of each VSS will be consolidated at respective FMU level, so that the matter could be discussed in the Block level Advisory Committee (BLAC) Meetings under the Chairmanship of Block Development Officer for necessary execution through convergence.

Each FMU shall prepare a matrix of Convergence Plan for necessary follow up with appropriate authorities in the Block Level Advisory Committee

(BLAC) for execution in the manner prescribed below:

Type of Interventions / Activity	Volume of Activity (Unit)	Name of the VSS	No of beneficiaries	Proposed Period	Priority level	Executing Department/ Agencies

### **Step: 3:**

#### **Integration of Convergence Plan in the Gram Panchayat Plan:**

The Annual Action Plan for convergence of each VSS, formulated based on the Micro Planning processes will be presented in the Panchayat Committee Meeting for their endorsement. Moreover the plans / interventions planned to be executed through convergence mode shall be appropriately integrated into the Panchayat plan. This will stimulate the Panchayat to facilitate the departments / agencies for required convergence with other departments.

### **Step: 4:**

#### **Coordination with Line Departments through Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC):**

The Annual Action Plan for Convergence prepared for each VSS shall be shared in the Block level Advisory Committee Meeting in details for better appreciation of the officials of other line department. Efforts shall be made to workout detailed execution plan of identified interventions through convergence and to augment the commitment of respective line departments with tentative timeline. The project staff from OFSDP-II (FMU level officials, P-NGO Team members) shall coordinate with the officials of line department for execution of works through convergence. Necessary assistance shall be rendered to the extension workers / other line department staffs

by the project officials for smooth execution of proposed activities under convergence. FMU Chief shall take lead responsibility to ensure the optimal synergy and coordination is established with the line departments for execution of work under convergence.

Progress made in execution of the planned convergence interventions at the community level shall be shared in subsequent meetings and challenges, difficulties, issues etc. if any, in execution of work.

### **Step-5:**

#### **Partner NGO Coordination Cell Meeting:**

The Annual Action Plan for convergence vis-à-vis progress of execution of interventions of each VSS shall be presented by the P-NGO Team Leaders in the P-NGO Coordination Cell meeting held at FMU and DMU level every month.

Challenges in implementation of work under convergence, if any, shall be brought to the notice of DMU Chief for necessary follow up with the district level officials of respective line department and to ensure necessary steps are being taken for execution of work under convergence.

#### **Step-6: District Advisory Committee Meeting:**

District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting of OFSDP-II is being held once in every two months, under the Chairmanship of District

Collector. District level officials, particularly the departments associated in rural development are the member of the DAC. DFO cum DMU Chief of the head quarter Forest Division is the member Convenor of the meeting.

This forum has been exclusively established to ensure inter-sectoral convergence under OFSDP-II. DMU Chief shall apprise the committee member in brief about the convergence plan vis-à-vis the achievement made. Support / assistance required to maintain optimal synergy among between the departments and the OFSDP-II shall be discussed in details. This will enable to issue necessary instruction to concerned line departments at block level for convergence.

Progress in convergence plan vis-à-vis execution shall be presented in the DAC Meeting for the appraisal of the members. Further the challenges, difficulties etc., if any, observed during implementation of activities under convergence shall also be brought to the notice of DAC members for suitable remedial action at their level.

## **Step-7:**

### **Convergence at Project Management Unit Level:**

Achievement of OFSDP-II in term of inter-sectoral convergence at VSS level vis-à-vis the Annual Action plan relating to inter-sectoral convergence will be presented in the HPC. Moreover, the issues and challenges etc. as regards the Inter-sectoral convergence, if any, shall also be discussed, so as to seek necessary direction of HPC for the district level officials of respective line department for convergence.

## **Step-8:**

### **High Power Committee Meeting:**

Various poverty alleviation schemes, programmes and entitlement based programmes are being implemented by state government. These schemes / programmes are also applicable to the concerned beneficiaries of project villages of OFSDP-II. However, due to several reasons or lack of coordination among the departments, the benefits of these schemes / programmes doesn't optimally reaches to the beneficiaries.

The High Power Committee (HPC) of OFSDS is chaired by the Chief Secretary with the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department as the Vice Chairman. Development Commissioner and Principal Secretaries / Commissioner-cum-Secretaries of different Departments namely Finance, Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment, Revenue and Disaster Management, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, ST&SC Development, Rural Development, Women & Child Development & Mission Shakti, Health & Family Welfare, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha etc. are the member of HPC. The HPC is expected to play a significant role in ensuring Inter-sectoral convergence under the project. The expected role of HPC for inter-sectoral convergence can be stated as below:

- To take policy level decisions and direct different line departments to integrate various poverty alleviation schemes / programme for the project villages of OFSDP-II.
- To follow up with the line departments at district level to ensure optimal coordination with OFSDP-II for implementation of relevant schemes / programme on priority through inter-sectoral convergence.

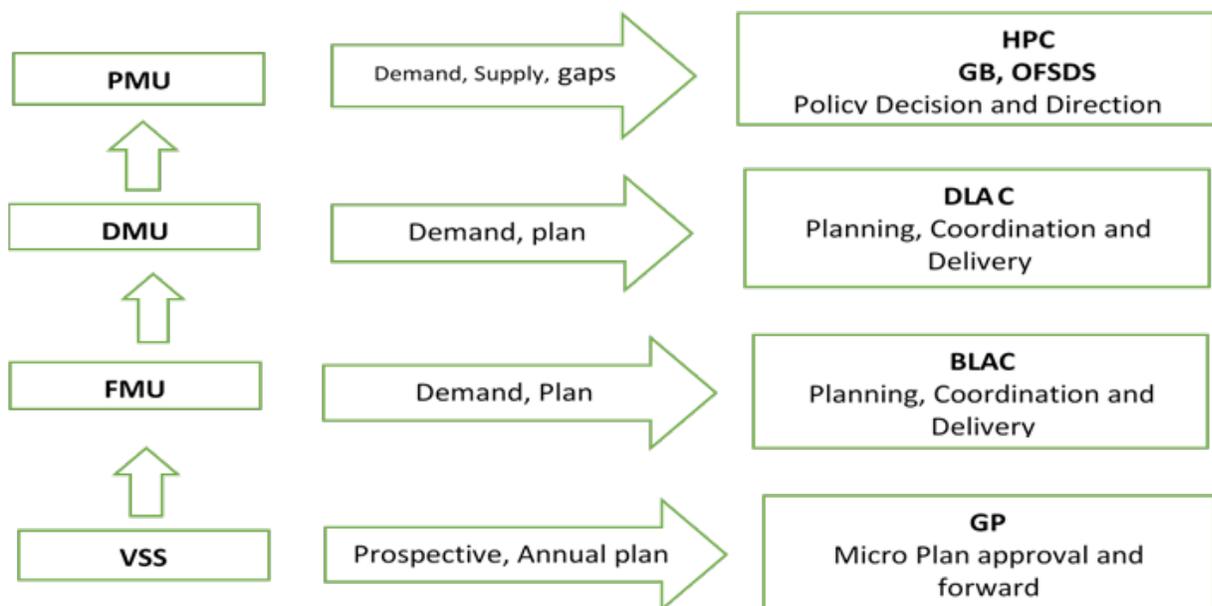
## 8. Institutional Arrangement for Convergence: OFSDP-II

A well defined institutional framework at different level has been envisaged in the project document for effective coordination with line departments for inter-sectoral convergence. The HPC and the Governing Body of OFSDS is the apex entity, which issues appropriate directions to concerned line departments for optimal synergy with OFSDP-II and to ensure inter-sectoral convergence in the project areas of OFSDP-II.

District Level Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC) have been established and are being convened regularly to facilitate the concerned line departments and the extension officers for undertaking the works

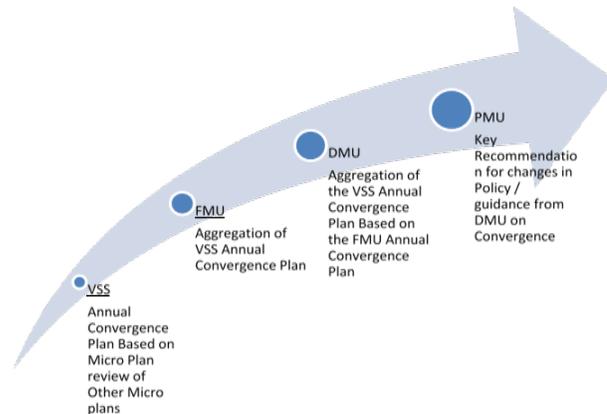
/ interventions identified by the communities through convergence. Issues and challenges, if any, reported by the project authorities or the authorities of other departments, are discussed for settlement by the members of DAC & BLAC regularly.

At grass-root level, the Annual Action Plan for convergence prepared at VSS level through micro plan are being approved at Panchayat / Gram sabha. The activities, which are to be covered through convergence, are also integrated in Panchayat plan for execution through convergence mode. The outline of the institutional arrangement in OFSDP-II is given below:



## 8.1 Role of Project Implementing Units at different levels in Convergence

Project implementing Units at different level shall contribute for inter-sectoral convergence of govt. schemes, programmes and other similar programmes at the community level. The framework of convergence in OFSDP-II is as below:



### i. VSS level

VSS shall be facilitated for preparation Annual Action Plan, based on the approved perspective plan / micro plan. The activities to be under taken through convergence shall be incorporated in the Annual Plan. The Annual Plan shall be forwarded to Palli Sabha for approval and the same to be integrated into the GP Plan for convergence. The Animators and the P-NGO Team members shall coordinate with the extension officers of respective line department for timely execution of work.

### ii. FMU level

The officials and professionals of FMU and the team members of Partner NGOs for respective FMU shall facilitate the extension officers to be associated in planning process. Moreover the activities proposed to be covered under convergence in the Annual Plan prepared at VSS level, shall be compiled at FMU level. The same shall be presented at Block Level Coordination Committee (BLAC) meeting for inter-sectoral convergence with other departments. The block level line departments shall be requested to participate during preparation of Micro Plan & Annual Plan at VSS level. Successful cases of convergence and lessons learnt in the processes

of convergence shall be documented by FMU and reported to DMU for record and knowledge management.

### iii. DMU level

DMU of OFSDP-II shall be responsible to prepare the DMU level Annual Action Plan for convergence plan by compiling the recommendations of FMUs. Challenges/ Issues relating to the implementation of activities identified by the VSS at community level through convergence shall be discussed at District level Advisory Committee Meetings (DAC) for issue of appropriate instructions to the concerned line departments at block level for execution of work through convergence. Such meetings have been planned to conduct at least once in every quarter to facilitate the implementation of activities through inter-sectoral convergence.

### iv. PMU /State level

Overall Convergence Strategy of OFSDP-II will be prepared by Project Management Unit (PMU) in association with the Project Management Consultants (PMC). PMU will coordinate with all relevant departments associated in community development for issuing the instructions to the district level / block level departments

for effective inter-sectoral convergence with OFSDP-II. The suggested departments for inter-sectoral convergence include Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, ST & SC Development, Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Energy, Women and Child Development & Mission Shakti, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Departments etc. The other relevant societies and state owned

corporations such as Odisha Livelihood Mission, Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation, Odisha Rural Marketing Society, Odisha Forest Development Corporation etc., will also be coordinated for optimal convergence. Accordingly, for coordination with relevant departments and other agencies for inter-sectoral convergence, a State level Convergence Committee has been constituted.

### **State level Convergence Committee at PMU level:**

Convergence Committee at PMU level has been envisaged under the Chairpersonship of Project Director / Addl. Project Director and other members proposed for the Committee are Dy. Project Director (CME&S), State Programme Manager (LLI/ NRM & ISC), Livelihood Expert and Micro Planning Expert of PMC and State Project Manager (CI & D) as Member Convenor. This committee will be responsible for overall coordination with the line departments at the

state level and to guide the officials of DMU, & FMU for effective inter-sectoral Convergence at community level. Requisite support, guidance, trainings etc. to facilitate the inter-sectoral convergence will be facilitated by this committee. Trainings and Capacity Building will be integral part of all convergence initiatives. Requisite trainings for the personnel responsible for inter-sectoral convergence will be organized at all level.

## 9. Levels of Convergence

Convergence would be promoted at five different levels i.e. [1] at the household level, [2] at SHG level, [3] at village/VSS level and [4] at cluster level [5] at LRC level. The type of convergence would depend upon the nature of the scheme and its potentiality for convergence. While, some social welfare schemes like old age pension, maternity benefit scheme are having the potentiality of convergence at the household level, schemes like SHG bank linkage programme are having the potentialities for convergence at the SHG level. Schemes promoting infrastructure development are mostly having convergence potentiality at the VSS or cluster level. Detail of convergence at different levels are as below:

### a. Household Level

Convergence of this type would be focusing on individual household level based on their needs and entitlement. The households to be given priority, at the initial stage, would be from families below the poverty line, ST/SC families having poor social and economic standing, single women headed households, forest dependant families having poor asset base etc. Through Micro Plan such households would be identified in project villages and their entitlement and schematic access status will be reviewed. Based on the mapping of these households, convergence plan needs would be derived. In such cases, household level convergence focus would be to ensure the linkage of such families

with entitlement schemes. Similarly, linkage of different category of households in social and economic segment, can be converged with different schemes / programmes in sectors like agriculture, horticulture, fishery, MGNREGA, animal resource development etc. by which they can access required support for improving their livelihood.

### b. SHG level

There are different schemes which are meant to cater to the need of such community group or having provisions by which these groups can access to resources and services. In many cases, collective action is preferred under different interventions to achieve the scale of operation, to promote a common and unified approach for service delivery and developing people's collective bargaining power. The schemes, that demand collective approach, would be linked to such groups, wherever feasible. In case of necessity, such groups can be promoted based on their livelihood engagement to leverage the available benefits.

### c. VSS level

This type of convergence is basically geographically demarcated covering one or more villages / GPs etc. Certain community-based schemes are designed under different departments for collective benefit in a particular

geographical area for example, accelerated rural water supply, community toilet under total sanitation campaign, community pond under MGNREGA, village approach road under MGNREGA / PMGSY etc. These types of convergence would be mostly infrastructure related by which people's standard of living in a particular geographical location can be improved. For these types of convergence, needs and priorities of the village / project areas will be identified which can benefit to the common mass. Accordingly, at the planning stage, a detail convergence plan will be prepared which may be specific to one village or more than one village. Based on the needs, micro convergence projects will be designed for implementation in collaboration with different other departments / programmes / schemes.

#### **d. Cluster and LRC**

OFSDP-II has mandate to promote product clusters around SHGs and Livelihood Resource Centre to support these clusters. Project implementing divisions/districts are having prospects for a number of enterprising clusters based on agricultural and allied products, NTFP products etc. These clusters need specific attention for growth and expansion. In view of the importance of these clusters, specific schemes are also implemented by different departments. In the overall convergence strategy, the project / LRC may undertake measures to strengthen these clusters with additional resource allocation and value addition inputs. Apart from that, initiatives may be taken at the project level for strengthening/developing similar clusters in other divisions. So, the schemes / programmes, having cluster development approach would be converged with existing clusters and areas having potentiality for product-based cluster development.

## 10. Expected Outcomes of Convergence

The expected output (s) of convergence with other departments / programmes / schemes under OFSDP-II are as below:

### a. Household Level:

1. Improvement in the household capital base and asset base
2. Fulfilment of entitlements
3. Improved social capital base
4. Better investment capacity
5. Skill and knowledge base of the household members in specific areas
6. Accessing multiple support systems
7. Increased scope of employment and income
8. Improved credit worthiness

### b. SHG Level:

1. Improvement in skill and knowledge base of the members
2. Better accessibility to resources and services
3. Improvement in group capital base
4. Better investment capacity
5. Cost minimisation in operational system
6. Group based livelihood activities

### c. VSS Level:

1. VSS level micro plans / perspective are prepared in collaboration with the line departments.
2. The approved Micro Plans are integrated with the Plan at gram Panchayat level
3. Development Schemes and Programmes of all line departments, as per priority of the communities are executed.

4. Equitable and comprehensive development of the community improved.

5. Alternative livelihood programme enhanced the economy position of the villages and the dependency on forestry reduced.

### d. Cluster Level:

1. Specific trade / service / product based cluster development
2. Better access to financial resources
3. Better access to technology, infrastructure and services
4. Better marketing facility and market penetration
5. Credit support from financial institutions
6. Improvement in technological skill and knowledge
7. Improvement in engagement and income
8. Quality products and higher scale of produces

### e. LRC Level:

1. Wider coverage and improved outreach
2. Intervention becomes more holistic in comparison to piecemeal approach
3. Improved availability and accessibility to other support services
4. Minimisation of resource deficiency
5. Productive / effective use of available resources
6. Better output / result contributing to the scheme / programme / project mandate
7. Scope of bridging the gaps
8. Minimisation in operational / service cost

## 11. Strengthening MIS & Concurrent Monitoring

Convergence plans and its execution shall be reviewed at regular intervals. Agenda on progress in convergence shall be incorporated in each review meetings of PMU, DMU & FMU levels. Moreover the issues and challenges in implementing the inter-sectoral convergence shall be reviewed in the District level advisory Committee and Block level Advisory Committee regularly. The proceedings of the DAC and BLAC shall be sent to PMU for its observation and necessary action to take up the issues to HPC for necessary redressal of critical issues, if any.

**Dedicated MIS Module for capturing Convergence:** A comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) module shall be

prepared by PMU enabling the FMU and DMU to record the progress / achievements made on inter-sectoral convergence.

**Back to office report:** Back to office report shall be structured appropriately, so as ensure that senior officer tours to fields should make a brief report on convergence initiatives.

**Documentation:** Similarly project has planned give adequate focus on documentation of good practices and innovations of the project on regular interval. All such good initiatives under convergence shall be documented and published at appropriate forum for upscaling the similar initiative else where.

## 12. Conclusion:

The convergence guidelines will work as hand book for the project authorities at different level to ensure the inter-sectoral convergence are planned and executed at VSS level. Moreover, the guideline will also help the authorities to understand the different forums, at different levels, where the issues and challenges can be aptly placed for necessary action. Most

importantly the officials of DMU / FMU & Partner NGO Tem Members will get clarity as regards convergence of various govt. schemes and programme during the micro planning processes. A matrix on convergence with regard to important ongoing schemes is given as Annexure-I

## Annexure-1

### Matrix on Convergence with regard to important Ongoing Schemes

Sector	Scheme	Department	Provisions	Year	
Agricultural & Horticulture Promotion	Agriculture Inputs from Department	Agriculture & Farmer Empowerment	Provision of Seed, Fertiliser, Pesticides, Machineries, Technology, Promotion of improved agricultural practices etc	Regular	
	Biju Krusak Kalyan Yojana		A health insurance scheme for the farmers in the state of Odisha	2013	
	Odisha Free Smartphone Yojana for Women Farmer		Provision of Smart Phone to small and marginal women farmer to have access to market parices	2018	
	Mukhyamantri Abhinav Krishi Yantripati Samman Yojana		Promotion of Agriculture and facilities for Agri- Labours	2018	
	Mukhya Mantri Krusak Udyog Yojana		increase the income of the farmer by creating new employment opportunities in agro	2018	
	National Horticultural Mission		1. Inputs, 2. Infrastructure Support, 3. Storage, 4. Technology, 5. Transportation, 6. Cold Chain Management, 7. Subsidies etc.	Ongoing	
	Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme		Direct Benefit Transfer to beneficiaries in Odisha		
	Agricultural Promotion and Marketing		1. Crop Insurance / 2. Rural credit / 3. Agricultural Inputs / 4. Agricultural Marketing	Regular	
	Livestock & Fisheries Development	Inputs from Livestock Improvement	Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Department	Supply of improved livestock breed at subsidised price, Insurance, management support, Artificial Insemination, Diseases Control support etc.	Regular
		Matsyajibi Unnayana Yojana		It is for enhancement of fish production	
Matsyajibi Basa Gruha Yojana			Its aim to provide to enhance fish production to provide gainful livelihood through better management of water resources		
Odisha Fish Pond Yojana			The main aim of the scheme is to cultivate more freshwater fishes in the state and to generate more employment.	. 2017	
Mukhyamantri Adibandha Scheme			Pond Development	2017	

Homestead land	Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana	Rural Development	Aims at converting all Kucchha Houses to Pucca Houses in Rural Areas.	2014
	Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana	Labour & Employee Insurance	To provide shelter to construction worker.	2015
Farm Land Development	VASUNDHARA Yojana	Revenue & Disaster Management Department	It aims to provide homestead land to landless to reduce poverty and homestead development	2005-06
	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)	Panchayatiraj Department	To support farm land development and increase in agricultural production and productivity at rural belt	Regular
	Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)	Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department/ Odisha Watershed Development Mission (OWDM)		
	Watershed Programme			
Irrigation	Land development through different schemes of Soil & Water Conservation Offices			
	BASUDHA	Water Resources Department	Buxy Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations	2017
	Minor Irrigation Programmes		Provision of improved Irrigation facilities in the farm land	Regular
	Lift Irrigation Programme			
	Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)			
	Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana (BKVY)			
	Odisha Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP)			2011
	Deep Bore-well irrigation programme.			Regular
Repair, Renovation, Restoration of water bodies. (RR&R)				
Soura Jananidhi Scheme	OREDA	Provision of Solar Pump to the Farmers for strengthening Irrigation facility	2018	

Water Conservation and Water harvesting Structures	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) Watershed Programme Land development through different schemes of Soil & Water Conservation Offices OTELP Plus / OPELIP Programme	Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department/ Odisha Watershed Development Mission (OWDM)/ OTELP Plus/ OPELIP	Provision of improved Irrigation facilities in the farm land	Regular
				2014 / 2017
Drinking Water & Sanitation	Safe Drinking Water at community level Total Sanitation Campaign Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana	Panchayatiraj Department Rural Development	Provision of safe drinking water at the village level	
			Provision of construction of toilets in participatory mode Supply of drinking water and electricity to the 11 districts which are not covered under the Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF)	Regular 2006
Entitlement related services	Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Disabled Pension etc. National Family Benefit schemes Annapurna SAHAY- Public Distribution System, Madhu Babu Pension Scheme Minimum Wage days	Social Security & Empowerment of person with Disability Department FS&CW Department Women & Child Development MGNREGS, Panchayatiraj Department	Pension related entitlement	Regular
			Family benefit entitlement schemes	Regular
Entitlement related services			Monthly Rice	Regular
			A Scheme for Protection, Care & Rehabilitation of Beggars Monthly Ration	Regular Regular 2006

Electrification / Solar Electrification	Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana	Energy	Provision of electricity connection to the villages which are not covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutkaran Yojana (RGGVY)	2007
	Ama Ghare LED Light Scheme	Energy / Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL).	Free LED Bulbs to NFSA Beneficiaries in Odisha	2018
	Solar Electrification at village level	Science & Technology Department	Solar Electrification, Solar lantern, Solar Street Lights	Regular
Social Welfare / Community Right	Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in Odisha	Panchayatiraj Department	Smoke free fuels to avoid the cause of alarming household pollution and adversely affects the health of Women & children causing several respiratory diseases/ disorders	<b>2016</b>
	Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir	Law Department	Provision of free legal aid to citizen to the weaker sections of the society for justice	<b>2016</b>
	Forest Right Act (FRA)	SC&ST Development & Minorities & Backward Classes welfare Department	It aims to provide the ST and traditional forest dweller rights for their forestland which they were dependent	2006
	Barishtha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana	Handlooms and handicrafts	The scheme aims at improving the financial condition of over 8,000 weavers in the state. The beneficiary must have been worked in this field at least	2016
Rural Connectivity	Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana		To cover roads that have been left out under PMGSY.	2014
	Biju Setu Yojana	Rural Development	Construction of New Bridges on RD Roads and Important PS Roads to provide all weather connectivity to rural areas	2011
	Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana	Road & Transport Department	Improvement in communication in backwards tribal district in Odisha	2014
Rural Development	Akanshya Scheme	SC&ST Development & Minorities & Backward Classes welfare Department	Provision of construction of Hostels in urban areas for SC, ST & backward classes	2014
Skill Development	Employment linked Skill Training Programme	Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA)	Vocational & ITI level trainings and linking for employment generation	2016

SHG Promotion & IGA	OLM	Panchayatiraj	Promotion of SHGs, Federation, IGA etc.	Regular
	ORMAS		IGA, Marketing, Value Addition etc.	Regular
	NABARD	Bank	Financial Linkages	
	TDCCOL	ST & SC Dev. Department	Machinery Support, Marketing etc.	
	O TELP/ OPELIP		Promotion of SHGs, IGA, Value Addition, Marketing	2004/ 2012
Forest & Environment Protection & Management	MSP for NTFP		Sale of NTFP at Minimum Support Price	2014
	Ama Jungle Yojana	Forest & Environment Department	Sustainable Forest Management through VSSs & strengthening of alternate livelihood options for the communities	2015
	Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phasw-II		Sustainable Forest Management through VSSs & strengthening of alternate livelihood options for the communities	2017
	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICZMP)		Coastal Zone Management Programme	2011
	Odisha Forest Development Corporation		To exploit the state forest resources scientifically To ensure fair wages to forest labourers To promote forest based industries in the state To provide sufficient revenue to Govt.	1990
	Compensatory Afforestation funds Management & Authority (CAMPA)		Compensatory Forest Growth Management	2009
	Wildlife Management		Wildlife Management	Regular
	Odisha Green Mahandi Mission	Forest & Environment Department	Green Cover Along Mahanadi & Other Major Rivers	2018

Health Care	Health Institutes	Health & Family Welfare	Free Health Treatment at PHCs, CHCs, Sub Divisional Hospitals and District Hospitals	Regular	
	Mobile Health Units in KBK Districts	Health & Family Welfare	Outreach health services at community level	Regular	
	SAHAY Scheme		Free Dialysis Health Care Service to Poor People in the public health facilities	2018	
	Supplementary Nutrition Program		Nutrition supplement to children (6 months-6 years) and pregnant and lactating mothers under ICDS	Regular	
	NIDAAN Scheme		Providing free Diagnostic Health Care Services to all patients in the public health facilities	2018	
	Mukhyamantri Swasthya Seva Mission		Complementing health services	2018	
	Universal Eye Health Programme		Free Eye Treatment	On going	
	Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in Odisha		Health Insurance for Poor people		
	ANMOL Scheme		Health & Family Welfare	Supply of ANMOL Tablet by ANMs to improve real time services to pregnant women, mothers & new borne	2017
	AMA Clinic Yojana			Fixed Day Specialist Services in Urban Clinics. Includes Obstetrics and Gynecology, Paediatrics, Medicine and Geriatrics, Eye-care, Physiotherapy and Psychiatric services	2017
	Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana			Provision of Financial Assistance for Health Care	2018
	Mamta Scheme		Women & Child Development	Partial Wage Compensation of Rs. 5000/- for pregnant & lactating mother above 19 years	2011
	Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)			Health & Nutrition Services for children (0-6 years)	1975
	Biju Shishu Surakshya Yojana			Nutrition Supplement to Child, Pregnant and Lactating Mother	
Adolescent Anaemia Control		Reproductive Child Health & Reproductive Health Care Services, IMR, MMR etc.			
		HealthCare and protection towards orphans and HIV infected children of the state	2016		
		Adolescent Girls' Anaemia Control Programme and Nutrition Interventions at Rural Belts	1995		

Health Care	Kendu leaf plucker and binders welfare	Forest and Environmental Department	Provision of insurance for family engaged in Kendu leaf plucking and binding	2012
	Biju Gadi Chalak Bima yojana	Commerce & Transport	Provision of insurance cover to all the vehicle drivers in case of death or medical treatment in case of injury sustained in accident	2017
Education	Sudakhya Yojana to Encourage Girls for Technical Education	Skill Development and Technical Education	Provide Technical education to eligible female students	2011
	Odisha Free Laptop Distribution Scheme	School & Mass Education	Free Laptop Distribution for Meritorious +2 students	
	Anwasha Scheme	SC&ST Development & Minorities & Backward Classes welfare Department	Under the scheme annually 5000 Sc & ST children will be register in std-I a foremost private schools in urban areas of the state	2015
	Banishree Yojana	Women & Child Development	Provision of Scholarships to the children with special needs studying in schools from primary to University level including those pursuing technical and vocational education.	2016
	Biju Juba Sasaktikaran Yojana	School & Mass Education	Providing laptops to meritorious students between age group of 18 to 25	2011
	Mukhya Mantri Medhabruti Puraskar Yojana	School And Mass Education Department	Provision of financial assistance for the students who will give their upcoming board exams in shape of cash prizes	2017
	Kishori Shakti Yojana	Women & Child Development	Health, Nutritional, Hygiene and Family Care Assistance to Adolescent Girls	2007
	Khushi Scheme	Women & Child Development	Provision of free sanitary napkins to girl students studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.	2018
	Pre matric Scholarship to all category	SC&ST Development & Minorities & Backward Classes welfare Department	Provision of Scholarship to student of SC & ST and Backward Classes studying in pre matric level.	Regular
	Prerna Post Matric Scholarship		Transfer of scholarship electronically to the Bank account of the students (ST, SC, OBC, SEBC and economically backward classes) studying at post-matriculation level.	On going

Self Employment	Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana	MSME department	Loans and subsidy provision to the people of the state for self-employment.	2015
	Mukhyamantri Nijukti Srusti Yojana	Skill Development & Technical Education	Employment opportunities for unemployed youths through skill development training.	2014
Empowerment	Chief Ministers Employment Generation Program	Skill Development and Technical Education	The aim is to generate more employment among youth of odisha, subsidies	, 2017
	Sabla Scheme	W&CD	Nutritional & Other health assistance for all out of school adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years through Anganwadi Center on a fixed day at regular interval.	2011
	Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana	W&CD	Creation of enabling environment for Girl Child in selected districts (Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam)	2016
	Mukhyamantri Mahila Sasaktikaran Scheme	Women & Child Development	Aims at Empowerment of Women & Gender Equality.	2018

