



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the second edition of our quarterly newsletter. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared feedback on our very first newsletter. Your thoughtful comments, suggestions, and encouragement mean a great deal and we are actively working on your suggestions to help you feel more connected to the work.

This edition brings you updates from the last quarter July-Sept, stories of impact, and a closer look at the people and partners who make Seniors in Seva (SIS) what it is.



QUARTER IN REVIEW

Strengthening Roots, Expanding Reach

The past quarter focused on program enhancement, strategic collaboration and digital transformation.

10

new volunteers

4

new partners

4

new projects initiated

7

projects completed

One of our flagship initiatives is the Independent Directors' Development Program (IDDP), which is run in collaboration with the National Association of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). During this quarter, we gathered extensive survey-based feedback from our Independent Directors, and are now working on using those suggestions to further strengthen this initiative. This assessment provided critical insights into oversight and advisory roles that will drive our future improvements. We are also working with NAFPO to develop new training resources, including an FPO governance handbook, an ODOP (One District One Product) agribusiness note, and a climate-resilient agriculture practices guide. Finally, to ensure continuous monitoring and rapid corrective action, we instituted monthly stakeholder meetings.

Another milestone is that **Seniors in Seva are now Online** with the launch of our new platform - encore.seniorsinseva.org. This platform successfully transitions both volunteers and partner organizations into a paperless, real-time digital ecosystem.

For partners, this digital solution streamlines project posting and instantly connects partners with a pre-vetted, qualified pool of senior volunteers ready to support your cause. This digital transition speeds up matching, allowing volunteers to connect with impactful projects in real time. Our volunteers can now browse and apply for opportunities online, while we continue to vet all participants to ensure a safe, trusted community.

Seniors in Seva are now Online

encore.seniorsinseva.org

How to use the On-line Platform

● How to Register Your Organization:

- 1 Visit encore.seniorsinseva.org and click Sign up (top right) → Organizations & Partners.
- 2 Click Create an Account on the sign-in page.
- 3 Enter your official organization email or mobile number (this will be your admin login, so please do not use a personal email).
- 4 Log in and fill out your organization details to complete your profile for verification.

● How to Register as a Volunteer:

- 1 Visit encore.seniorsinseva.org and click Sign up at the top right.
- 2 Select the Individual button to open the volunteer registration page.
- 3 Fill out your initial identity and contact details. (Note: Your email will be your login ID, and your mobile number will be used for password recovery).
- 4 Update your profile by uploading your CV, one Photo ID Card (Aadhar, PAN, or Driving Licence).

■ OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Growing in Skill and Spirit

We welcomed the following 10 new volunteers this quarter, each bringing unique expertise in diverse areas.



Anita Nirody



Bishnu Parida



Brajaraj Sundar Ghosh



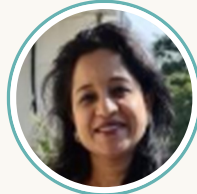
Ian Forber-Pratt



Moloy Bora



Nivedita Raina



Sudeshna Mukherjee



Anita Kathpalia



Illora



Rahul Mukhopadhyay

■ PARTNER ECOSYSTEM

New Collaborations, Stronger Impact

We are delighted to welcome 4 new partners who joined us this quarter, further expanding our ecosystem. These include the following organisations:

Mesha Mahila Bakaripalak Producer Company Limited

An all-women goat farmer-owned enterprise based in Muzaffarpur, Bihar dedicated to the economic and social empowerment of rural women through sustainable goat farming.

Association of Future Agriculture Leaders of India (FALI)

Dedicated to nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders in India by providing comprehensive training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to empower students and young professionals in the field of agriculture.

Bhagyashali Bhavishya Shiksha Foundation

They reach out to the children, youth and women of the Wadari community (near Pune), to help them to improve their lives.

Sanskriti Samvardhan Mandal

They foster sustainable livelihoods by uplifting underprivileged groups and providing them with tools for long-term progress. They leverage a network of allied organizations across Maharashtra to implement programs that focus on education, skill development, agriculture, and natural resource management.

These partnerships reflect our commitment to supporting organizations that are driving meaningful change across the country.

■ IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Projects That Moved the Needle

This quarter, we initiated **4 new projects** and **completed 7**, each contributing to institutional strengthening and community impact.

Key themes of the new projects include a feasibility study to convert pine needle biomass into moulded packaging, integrated support initiative for children with special needs, volunteer lead fund raising & resource mobilisation support and strengthening of a company newsletter.

7 projects were completed with the following partners - Kankura Masat Social Welfare Society, Gram Arogya Ghati, Women on Wings, Gram Arogya Ghati, Subhiksha Voluntary Organization, Sangopita and Utthan.

The Kankura Masat Social Welfare Society project had a requirement to manage financial accounting workflows in Tally by creating customized groups, generating accurate invoices, performing bank reconciliations, and utilizing shortcuts for maximum efficiency. Our partner, was extremely satisfied with the efforts of the SiS volunteer and the project outcome.

■ VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Partner feedback continues to be our most valuable indicator of impact. This quarter, several partners shared appreciation for the effort that our volunteers put into understanding the project, needs and goals, their commitment and professionalism to follow through on completing their projects.

Outlined below is feedback from a valued partner, Utthan.

Utthan is a Gujarat-based grassroots organization empowering rural women and marginalized communities through gender-responsive solutions in agriculture, water security, and resource management.

The project was to develop a web-based monitoring, evaluation, and learning system that streamlines field data for agriculture initiatives supporting over 2,000 women farmers across 13 villages in Bhavnagar.



Review call on the Utthan MEL project with Seniors In Seva Volunteer CV Jayanthi

Senior Volunteer CV Jayanthi gave Utthan the clarity and momentum needed to build a robust data system in a low-connectivity rural environment. Her customized mentorship & agile approach turned a long-term vision into immediate action. Jayanthi's contribution is summarised:

● **Tailored Mentorship:**

Rejected a one-size-fits-all approach to build a system grounded in Utthan's actual field realities.

● **Immediate Action:**

Helped launch an interim, project-based data pipeline using KoboToolbox and Google Sheets, enabling instant web tracking and PDF reports.

● **Scalable Future:**

This pilot is now expanding into an organization-wide MIS using a Local Government Directory structure for seamless external database compatibility.

Utthan's feedback to SIS has been -

“

Utthan deeply values the strategic guidance Seniors in Seva provided through this engagement. We see strong potential for continued collaboration — particularly through a team-based model that pairs domain experts with technical specialists, offering organizations like ours integrated advice on complex digital transformation challenges.

— UTTHAN

Contained below is feedback from our volunteer Anil Taneja on the HR Development Project at Kat Katha.



Anil Taneja
SIS volunteer

“

In August 2025 I volunteered to take up a project which Seniors in Seva had identified as worthy of supporting, for its members. It was a request from an NGO - Kat Katha – an organization which helps workers in the sex trade opt out of it, learn life skills and become economically independent. They required help to streamline, develop and update their Human Resources processes across all levels of the organisation. Given the noble work they do, I was deeply motivated to work and help develop performance assessment processes, and tools for them – it felt like a worthwhile task.

For any staff assessment/appraisal program in an organization to be effective, meaningful and be aligned to deliver on the organisations' stated mission, it is critical to set goals in consultation with each team and its team leader. So I set about with this plan to execute.

And in an organization like Kat Katha, that works with trafficked/abused women that are on the margins of society, measuring success achieved by its members is a challenge, made even more difficult given how dynamic situations/circumstances are with these vulnerable women. Months of hard work can be lost overnight, impacting motivation and commitment on the part of workers driving the program. A holistic approach to identifying key areas of achievements, setting goals that were measurable, and assessing success was needed.

Over several weeks of meetings we developed KRAs – Key Result Areas that identified progress in areas of improvement, quarter by quarter. Document were developed that empirically measured progress for all to see, and modified KPIs.

They seemed very satisfied with the success of the project and also asked me to develop a similar program for their CEO.

Field Visits to Lighthouse FPOs





■ A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Every volunteer, every partner, every conversation — you make SIS what it is. Thank you for your time, your expertise, and your belief in strengthening India's social sector through collaborative, pro-bono support.

We would continue to love to hear your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for future editions. Write to us anytime at Malini.johnson@seniorsinseva.org.