



UNITED WAY
Mumbai



ANKUR

Early Childhood Education Initiative

February to March-26

Project Location: Karjat



TABLE OF CONTENT

Executive summary	3
Programme Updates	8
Financial Utilisation	15
Way Forward	16

Executive Summary

Project summary:

The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) is a pivotal state-run programme in India, tasked with delivering essential services for children under six years old, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls. These services encompass health, nutrition, immunisation, and non-formal early education. Implemented through Anganwadi centres (AWC), staffed by field workers known as Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), this programme represents one of the largest and most accessible state-run networks offering-

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services.

Despite its robust framework and other government initiatives, ECCD in India faces numerous challenges, including:

- Insufficient training and awareness regarding ECCD.
- Limited focus on responsive caregiving.
- Inadequate emphasis on child safety and security.
- Neglected maternal mental health.
- Lack of facilities for early detection and management of developmental delays.

To address these gaps, the Early Childhood Education Initiative of United Way Mumbai formerly known as Ankur Project, in collaboration with the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) and Anganwadi centres, emphasises three critical components:

- Creating an Environment conducive to Learning
- Focusing on School Readiness
- Engaging and Readyng the community for ECCD

As part of the support provided by Creative It India Private Ltd., in this project, we focused on:

- Creating an Environment conducive to learning by upgrading the infrastructure of the Anganwadi centre and installing solar panels
- Providing teaching learning materials to the Anganwadi centre

Executive Summary

The Early Childhood Education Initiative strives to co-create an ideal environment in the Anganwadi Centres with other stakeholders like Government departments - ICDS and communities and thereby contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This collaborative effort ensures that the project's work aligns with the following SDG goals. (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)



SDG 3:
Good Health and Well-Being



SDG 4:
Provide Quality Education



Executive Summary

Name of the Project	Ankur
Cause Area/ Thematic Area	Education
Intervention Areas	Early Childhood Education Initiative
UN SDGs Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being● SDG 4: Provide Quality Education
CSR Focus in alignment with Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013	Aligned with Schedule VII (ii) – promoting education (early childhood learning), and Schedule VII (i) – supporting child health, nutrition, and hygiene.
Objective of the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To create safe and accessible learning spaces for children through infrastructure upgradation and solar installment● To provide access to Teaching-Learning Materials to facilitate learning.
Target Group Profile	Children, Parents, Anganwadi Workers
No of participants directly impacted (Children)	65
No of Participants indirectly impacted (Children)	57
Project Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Improved learning environment for children● Access to teaching learning materials
Project Period/ Reporting period	Februray 2026 to March 2026
Project Budget	INR 628000

Impact Areas of the Project

Early childhood education initiative project focuses on holistic child development, encompassing physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, and cultural aspects. These initiatives aim to provide high-quality early learning experiences, improve nutritional status, support families and caregivers, promote health and well-being, and foster social and emotional development in young children.



Infrastructure Upgradation: The project endeavours to ensure that the anganwadi infrastructure available to the children is conducive to learning and to ensure the availability of a safe space for learning.



Solar Installation: Setting up solar panels on the rooftop of the Anganwadi centres to ensure a reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective source of electricity, thereby improving the overall functioning of the centres



Provision of teaching learning materials: To provide age-appropriate teaching and learning materials to Anganwadi centres in order to enhance early childhood education, promote interactive learning, and support the holistic development of children.

Impact Figures

2

Anganwadi Centres
Refurbished

122

Total Children
impacted

Profile of the project participants

- Direct project participants – 65 individuals

The primary beneficiaries include children aged 3–6 years enrolled in 2 Anganwadi Centres and their Parents in Karjat. These children belong to marginalised and tribal communities with limited access to quality early childhood education, nutrition, and healthcare services.

According to UNICEF, nearly 38% of children under five in India are stunted, and many are at risk of not reaching their full developmental potential due to limited access to nutrition, early learning opportunities, and supportive environments.

In Karjat, around 23.9% of the population belongs to Scheduled Tribes, with many families residing in underserved areas with limited access to early childhood services.

- Indirect project participants – 57 individuals

The indirect beneficiaries include children aged 0–2 years, parents, caregivers, Anganwadi workers, and community members who benefit by the conducive learning environment of the centre.

Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was conducted across Anganwadi Centre in Karjat to gain a detailed understanding of the challenges, requirements, and future planning needs for these existing centres. Through this assessment, critical issues faced by each centre, as well as the needs of the sevika and children, were identified, allowing for targeted solutions and effective improvement strategies for the centres' operational performance. Based on the insights gathered, two centres were shortlisted:

- Salokh AWC
- Telangwadi AWC

Sr No.	Points Assessed	Purpose
1	Status of physical infrastructure and repair work required	To ensure a safe & conducive learning environment.
2	Status of electricity connection at the centre	To ensure a safe & conducive learning environment.
3	Availability of hand wash area, and sanitization station.	To assess to quality and accessibility of hygiene services
4	Availability of Teaching Learning Material	To determine the access to play material that aids in the learning process

Permissions from ICDS

After shortlisting the 2 Anganwadi centres, a formal request for permission was submitted to the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) in Karjat. This letter included details of past collaborative work with Anganwadi centres and sought authorization to undertake infrastructure upgradation at the 2 Anganwadi centres. The CDPO responded positively, promptly signing the permission letter and expressing strong support for the project.



Infrastructure Upgradation

The objective of this initiative is to make the Anganwadi a child-friendly space as well as a conducive learning environment. The format and design standardised for the Ankur project was incorporated. Additionally, the project team ensured that the vendor was not using any harmful chemicals or paint that would cause problems for the children. The infrastructural upgradation will play a major role in bringing more children and parents to the centres.

The following were the areas of work undertaken and completed:

- Refurbishment of the walls
- Plastering and waterproofing of roof and walls
- Reinforcement and refurbishment of the roof.
- Fixing kadappas in the kitchen and storeroom
- Refurbishment of the sanitary facilities.
- Painting the centre and incorporating educational murals.
- Provision of mosquito nets
- Electric work

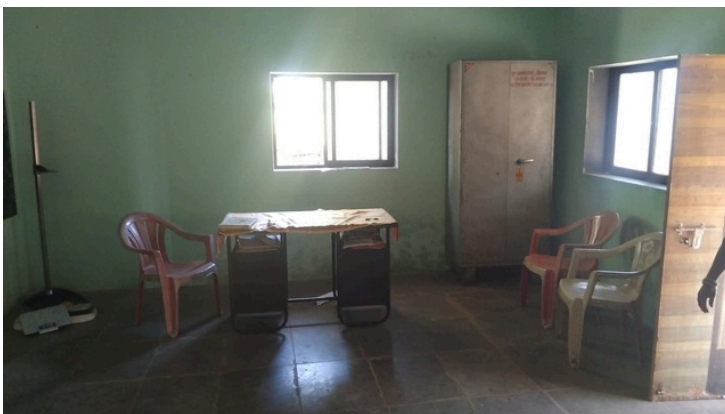
Following are the before and after pictures of the 2 Anganwadi centres:

Telanganwadi AWC

Before



After



Salokh AWC

Before



After



Solar Power Generating Systems

Installing solar power systems in Salokh and Telangwadi AWC will be beneficial since the centres face unreliable electricity. Setting up a solar system ensures a consistent and independent source of power. This enables uninterrupted early childhood education activities, proper lighting, and the use of basic equipment like fans and digital learning tools.. Solar energy also reduces dependence on erratic grid supply and lowers long-term electricity costs, making the centres more sustainable. Additionally, it creates a safer and more comfortable environment for children and staff, while promoting the use of clean and renewable energy within the community.



Solar panels were set up along with the lights and fan at Telangwadi AWC

Solar Power Generating Systems



Solar panels were set up along with the lights and fan at Salokh AWC

Provision of learning materials & seating mats

Provision of Various Materials and their Purpose:

Sr. No.	Material Details	Purpose
1	Teaching learning materials which included building blocks, stacking toys, shape sorters, and puzzles, at the centre	To be used during different activities conducted for: Cognitive development to build their thinking and pre-math skills Physical-motor development Language development Spatial sense to understand size, position, direction
2	Centre Kit	These kits are designed to support the Sevika or Helper in conducting activities for children and also when she goes on home visits.
3	Seating Mats	For children to sit on while doing different activities. It is especially beneficial in winter when the floor gets cold, to protect the child from the cold.



Teaching Learning Materials



Centre Kit



Seating Mats

Financial Utilisation



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Community Development • CSR • Payroll Giving • Volunteering • Philanthropy Events

Date: 10-04-2026

Utilization Certificate		
Project: Creative IT's Ankur Project		
Donor: Creative IT		
Submitted by: United Way Mumbai		
Project Period: February 2026 to March 2026		
Project Expenses		
Particulars	Budget (INR)	Expenses (INR)
NEW ANGANWADIS - Creating child friendly, learning conducive environments through infrastructural inputs		
Civil work including repairs, refurbishment, construction - depending on a thorough needs assessment per AWC	240000	240000
Construction/refurbishment of toilets and sanitation facilities- depending on a thorough needs assessment	24000	24000
Construction/refurbishment of hand wash station- depending on a thorough needs assessment at the AWC	8000	8000
Provision of seating mats	4400	4400
Provision of early learning materials for children (educational toys for children)	24000	24000
Provision of learning kits for the AWC for the Anganwadi Workers (stationery such as chalks, pencils, charts etc.)	3000	3000
Installation of solar power-generating systems(Cost includes the cost for installation of solar panels, a fan and two tubelights	184000	184000
Programme Monitoring and Coordination		
Programme Manager (Partial Cost)	40000	40000
Travel for monitoring team	3500	3500
Monitoring and evaluation	40000	40000
UWM admin	57100	57100
GRAND TOTAL	628000	628000

Total amount received	628000
Expenses till 31 st March 2026	628000
Percentage fund utilized	100%



Anil Parmar

Senior Vice President-
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Way Forward

- Undertaking infrastructure refurbishment work and providing learning materials to the children will lead to a conducive learning environment at the AWCs.
- To strengthen our interventions in these 2 Anganwadi centres in the next FY, we propose focusing on school readiness activities by onboarding facilitators who will conduct activities with the children, focusing on the five key developmental areas.
- Strengthen community engagement for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) through initiatives such as Palak Shala sessions, home visits, godhbharai events, and community celebrations.

These combined efforts will support more children in transitioning to formal schooling with improved readiness and confidence.



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