

GROW+ ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

Empowering Grassroots Organizations.
Strengthening Climate Resilience in India.



FROM GROW TO GROW+

There is courage in recognising that something has worked — and then choosing not to stop there.

GROW was built on the conviction: that strong institutions are the foundation of lasting impact. By offering grassroots organisations flexible, trust-based funding, the programme let them invest where it mattered most — in their people, their systems, and their long-term resilience — rather than in short-term outputs alone. Over time, that choice changed something real. Organisations became steadier, more confident in their own decisions, and better able to navigate complexity. For funders, it settled a question long treated as optional: institutional strength is not a supplement to impact. It is impact.

GROW+ carries that conviction and applies it to the current climate crises. As climate pressures intensify and development challenges grow more entangled, strengthening organisations one at a time is no longer enough. The work now is to enable collective, place-based responses — bringing flexible capital, capacity building, and networked learning together so organisations can act not only for themselves, but for the land and the communities they serve, and become climate-aware, adaptive, and context-responsive.

This is a shift from isolated progress to shared intelligence, where partnerships and ecosystems — not single organisations — carry the weight of change. FY 2025–26 is the year that shift began. It is a foundation year: one that set the direction, built the structures, and formed the partnerships that will shape everything to follow.

01

The GROW+ Model

A Climate-intelligent Model For Grassroots Resilience

GROW+ is a climate-intelligent capacity-strengthening model that positions grassroots organisations not merely as recipients of funding and support, but as the frontline architects of community-led climate action. It helps grassroots organisations strengthen their ability to respond to the pressures facing the land and the communities who depend on it — building institutional resilience, interpreting evolving climate realities, and enabling responses led by communities themselves. In doing so, it works to close the distance between two worlds that rarely speak directly: the lived realities of the communities, and the resource ecosystems — funders and global actors — whose decisions shape them. Insight travels up; support flows down.

The Landscape Approach

Climate change does not arrive uniformly. Across India's ecological diversity, it takes many forms — shifting rainfall, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and the slow unravelling of livelihoods built over generations. GROW+ therefore organises its work around six landscapes shaped by India's physio-geographic contours:

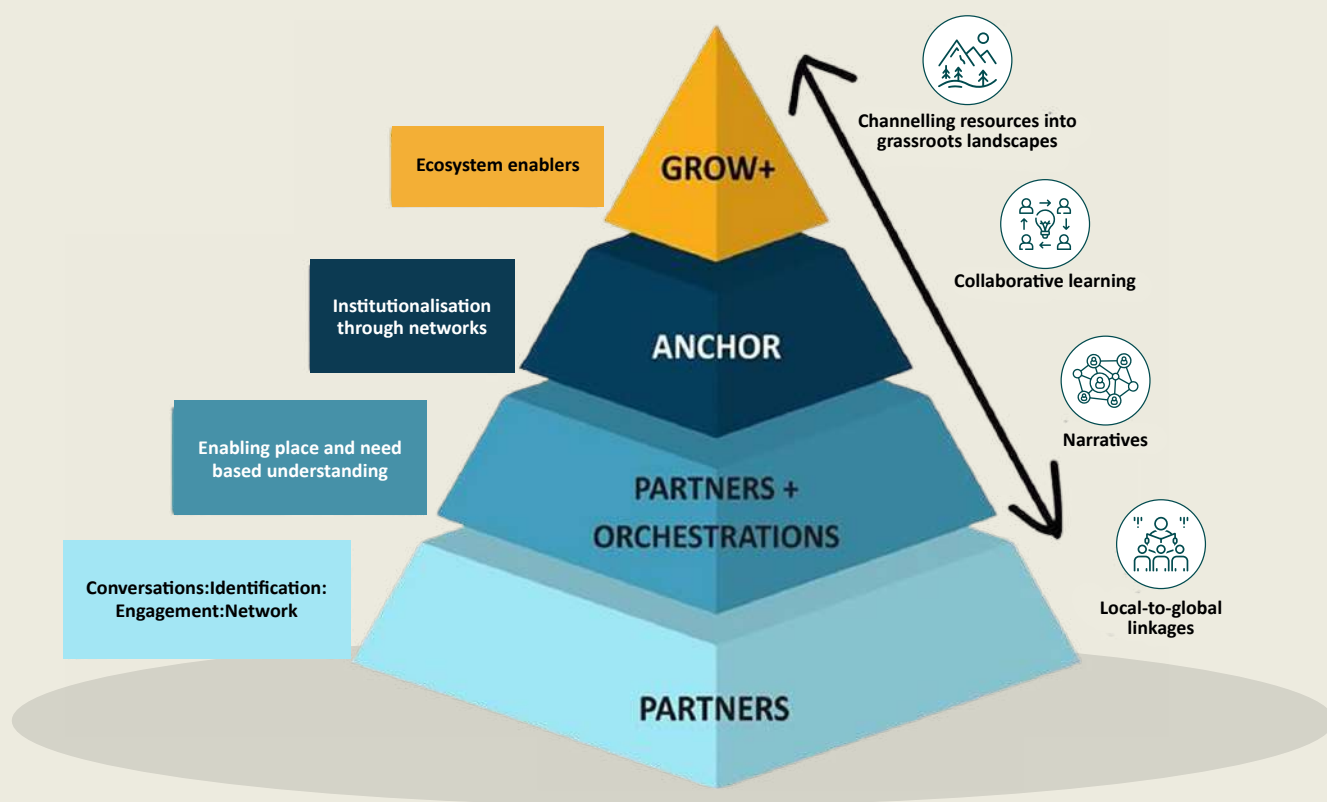
- **The Himalayan Mountains**
- **The Northern Plains**
- **The Indian Desert**
- **The Peninsular Plateau**
- **The Coastal Plains**
- **The Islands**

The landscape approach is an attempt to design climate work around people and communities — to start from how climate is actually lived in a place — and then to tie that local reality back into the wider, global understanding of climate crisis and intelligence. Each landscape functions as its own ecosystem of knowledge, with distinct vulnerabilities, communities, and organisational networks. GROW+ treats that diversity not as complexity to be managed, but as a strength to be understood and mobilised.



The Pyramid Structure

Within each landscape, GROW+ brings together a cohort of fifteen or more grassroots organisations, anchored by an experienced organisation that provides structure, connectivity, and support. This pyramid — places Anchor at the centre, and Partners around it. It is the programme's basic operational unit. It keeps focus on the issues of the land, lets organisations work together rather than in parallel, and channels resources and learning through a collaborative network that links local realities to broader ecosystems. Knowledge flows and resource flows are deliberately designed to make collaboration practical and operations smooth, without ever pulling focus from the communities being served.



The GROW+ pyramid: an Anchor connecting a cohort of grassroots Partners within each landscape.



The Capacity Architecture: GROW Classic And GROW+

Strengthening an organisation and equipping it for climate action are two different tasks, and GROW+ treats them as two deliberate stages rather than one undifferentiated effort.

GROW Classic comes first. It builds the core institutional systems every organisation needs to operate with confidence at greater scale and complexity — financial resilience, human resources, and technology. These are the foundations GROW identified and proved: the difference between an organisation that absorbs a shock and one that is broken by it.

GROW+ builds on that foundation to add the capacities climate action specifically demands. Three needs surfaced directly from grassroots engagement:

- **Data and knowledge management** — so that what organisations know about their landscapes can be captured, held, used.
- **Network and evidence-based engagement** — so that local insight can shape decisions well beyond the organisation itself.
- **Learning and evaluation** — so that adaptation is measured, understood, and improved over time.

This advanced layer is where climate intelligence enters the model — environmental data, cross-country networks, evaluation systems, and global learning loops, supported over time through the technology platform and a cohort of Climate Fellows. Together, the two stages form a single, modular capacity architecture — one an organisation moves through in sequence, and one that grows stronger as more organisations and more landscapes join the network. The pathway is phased in practice: in Year 1, cohorts consolidate their GROW Classic capacities; from Year 2 onward, they draw on their collective strength to take on the climate-integrated capacities of GROW+ — adding the ability to bridge the gap between community distress and community response.



02

Progress so far

Two Landscapes With Two Pyramids Went Live:

Two pyramids were activated with agreements and disbursements done for two Anchors and 34 Partners, with grant-making and compliances creating the financial and operational base for implementation.

The programme stood up its first two pyramids — anchored by Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) in the Indian Desert and by Partnering Hope Into Action (PHIA) Foundation in the Peninsular Plateau, built a diagnostic system to guide capacity work, delivered its first capacity-building sessions, and introduced the digital learning platform that grew from nine modules to twenty-five. Behind each of those numbers sits a considerable amount of careful work.

Systems And Processes:

Much of the year's real work was invisible from the outside: the internal machinery that let the team run Anchor onboarding, Partner selection, due diligence, learning design, review processes, and convenings at once. That machinery — trackers, reporting templates, review calendars, process maps, and orientation materials — was built and steadily systematised through the year, with clearer ownership replacing ad-hoc coordination. The team also developed playbooks to ensure the processes can be repeatable for scale.

Pyramid Onboarding Plan:

Standing up a pyramid begins with getting the right anchors and partners into it.

Rather than treating each new pyramid as a fresh coordination challenge, the plan sets out every step, output, and hand-off on a shared timeline, so that the programme's hard-won early learning travels directly into every landscape that follows.

The Anchor is onboarded first, since its readiness sets the pace for the cohort that forms around it; Partners follow on a deliberate spacing, so that a settled Anchor is in place before its network is brought in.



Impact Numbers



5M+

Views on
animation
film



2

Field Visits



600+

Organisations
Considered



34

Selected through
a common
governance process



2

Landscapes



2

Anchors



34

Grassroots
Partners



3

Convenings



6

Global
Salons



25

Learning
Modules



5

Capacity
Building
Sessions



6

Major
Funding
Partners

Anchor Onboarding:

The Anchor is brought on through six sequenced phases, each with its own output and quality gate before the next begins. The six stages are:



Partner Onboarding

Once the Anchor is in place, its Partners move through a parallel sequence that mirrors the same discipline. Eligible network Partners are identified by the Anchor and undergo due diligence, proposal review, and Review Committee approval before agreements are signed and grants are disbursed.

The post-selection phase includes Partner onboarding through a convening, the first reporting cycle, and deployment of the Organizational Development tool.

Codifying onboarding this way does more than tidy the calendar. It protects quality at every gate — no organisation reaches an agreement without due diligence, a field visit, and a rubric-scored proposal behind it — and it makes scale credible: the sequencing, hand-offs, and outputs that the team worked put this year are now a documented system any new pyramid can follow. It is, in practice, how GROW+ turns a demanding first-year build into a repeatable one.

Review Committee:

Selecting the right Partners is the highest-stakes decision in standing up a pyramid, and GROW+ deliberately does not leave it to any single judgement. The Review Committee Process is the programme's Partner-selection gate: a three-layer review that carries each candidate organisation from an anchor's recommendation, through EdelGive's standardised evaluation, to independent validation by a Review Committee. Each layer adds something the others cannot. The process begins with Anchors identifying and screening eligible organisations based on agreed criteria such as budget size, compliance status, years of operation, and staffing strength, followed by proposal submission and due diligence. EdelGive then evaluates all applications using a standardised weighted rubric and the Review Committee reviews the scored applications, brings strategic and governance perspectives, manages conflicts of interest, and validates the final set of Partners for selection.



Layer	What It Adds	What Happens
Recommendation by Anchors	Ground reality	Anchors draw on field knowledge and community insight to screen the landscape pool against eligibility criteria, run finance due diligence, invite shortlisted organisations to submit detailed proposals, and prepare proposal-summary notes for EdelGive.
Evaluation by EdelGive	Fairness & consistency	EdelGive team scores every recommended application against a standardised, weighted rubric, so that organisations across both landscapes are judged on the same objective basis.
Validation by the Review Committee	Strategic oversight	The Committee independently reviews the scored applications, brings diverse and governance perspectives, manages conflicts of interest, and confirms the final Partner set.

Across the two landscapes, the Anchors began with a combined pool of more than 600 organisations — over 200 in the Peninsular Plateau and over 400 in the Indian Desert — and narrowed it, through screening and due diligence, to 37 recommended organisations. EdelGive's evaluation and the Committee's validation then carried that set to the final 34 Partners.



Agreement Process

Turning a Review Committee approval into a signed, funded agreement is its own discipline — and with thirty-four partner agreements to prepare at once, it had to be a system rather than a series of one-off efforts. The Agreement Process is that system: a standardised, multi-actor workflow that carries every agreement from template to signature through defined stages, shared tools, and clear quality gates. This is also done considering the scale of the program for future pyramids.

Agreements are populated based on funding-source mapping, undergo verification and query-resolution cycles before approval, and progress through four stages: agreement preparation, stakeholder review and verification, approvals and execution, and record management.

Annual Calendar

The GROW+ Calendar serves as the programme's master operating plan, providing a single, shared view of activities across the year and ensuring that multiple workstreams are coordinated effectively. Organised around six key workstreams, namely Grant Management, Program Management, Communications, Partnerships, Events, and Capacity Tools, it aligns onboarding, partner selection, agreements, reporting, capacity-building, and stakeholder engagement activities on a common timeline. By mapping dependencies, milestones, and responsibilities, the calendar helps teams manage parallel priorities efficiently while creating a scalable planning framework that can be reused in future programme cycles.

02.2 GROW Classic Activated:

All organisations entering GROW+ begin with GROW Classic, focusing on strengthening core systems and capabilities before progressing to climate-integrated learning and action. The programme activated this foundation layer across Anchors and Partners through a combination of diagnostics, structured capacity-building, and shared learning resources. Together, these elements established a common baseline for organisational development and prepared participants for deeper engagement with the GROW+ model.



Diagnostic-led Capacity Building

A core principle of GROW+ is that capacity building must rest on evidence, not assumption. The programme's diagnostic architecture — anchored by the OD Tool — is what makes that possible, providing a structured way to identify priorities, shape learning pathways, and track change over time.

The OD Tool assesses organisational capacity across **12 domains, 65 sub-domains, and more than 380 maturity-linked questions**. Both Anchors completed baseline assessments during the year, establishing a clear starting point for the work ahead. The tool builds on the earlier GROW Fund diagnostic but is adapted for larger organisations with more complex structures and ecosystem roles: it keeps the Knowledge–Skill–Practice framework while placing greater weight on systems, decision-making, and organisational readiness — moving beyond whether something is documented to whether it is consistently practised.

Individual diagnostic reports were generated and unpacked with each Anchor through one-on-one conversations. The analysis pointed to clear strengths in human resource and financial management, alongside a need for deeper work on risk management and operations management.

To keep the diagnostic accessible to smaller organisations, a separate Partner OD Tool was developed. It retains the same twelve-domain architecture but reduces the depth and complexity of its sub-domains and questions and is available in both English and Hindi to support field-facing teams. Before rollout, it was pre-tested with three organisations through orientation sessions, guided survey access, open-house forums, and feedback calls; their input sharpened its clarity and usability. It has since been rolled out to all thirty-four Partners, with baseline generation now underway.



Central Capacity-building Sessions

Capacity building this year was tied directly to what the diagnostics revealed. Five virtual sessions were delivered for both anchors, focused on strengthening systems across people, finance, and programme delivery — covering learning and development systems, true-cost budgeting, hiring and retention, project management, and risk management.

In total, **thirty-seven participants engaged across the five sessions, reporting high satisfaction (80–100%) and strong relevance (~90%)** — a sign that the sessions were meeting real, identified needs.

The Hub: A Shared Learning Backbone

Alongside the live sessions, GROW+ built The HUB — its digital learning backbone. Designed as a blended platform, it supports self-paced learning, reinforces live sessions, and gathers tools, templates, and programme resources in one place. It launched with nine foundational modules covering HR development, financial resilience, and technology adoption, and grew to twenty-five modules by year-end, adding fundraising, compliance, communications, impact measurement, project management, and risk management.



“The HUB and live capacity-building platforms have been useful — curated courses with core concepts and principles across key functional domains. They have been a great learning for the team, reminding them of key ideas and helping them put new learning into practice day to day.”

- A GROW+ Partner

03

Insights and Learnings

Convenings & Field Visits

Convenings and field visits are where GROW+ stops being a structure and becomes a network. Grants, diagnostics, and learning platforms build the architecture, but it is in these in-person spaces that the model comes to life. Convenings turn scattered organisations into a community — building trust, alignment, and peer exchange, and letting Partners see growth made tangible through one another. Field visits ground the programme in landscape realities, showing how institutional support translates into durable, community-led action. Together they surface the year's sharpest insight — that institutional strength is itself a form of climate resilience — and carry learning across landscapes.

The convenings and field visits were not only milestones; they were the programme's first structured act of listening. Across both landscapes, Partners named a strikingly consistent set of pressures.

Inaugural Convening — Jodhpur

The Jodhpur convening formally launched the programme, bringing grassroots organisations, Anchors, funders, and ecosystem Partners together to align on a shared approach to locally rooted climate action. Set in a climate-vulnerable landscape, it grounded GROW+ in both urgency and opportunity. A clear theme emerged — that climate action must move beyond programmatic funding to strengthen institutions, leadership, and long-term adaptive capacity — with trust at its centre.

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“Trust is the foundation. By trusting organisations to set their own priorities, funders enable adaptive solutions and long-term impact that are grounded in local realities.”

- Rubina N,
CEO & Founder, SAFA India



Participants sign the pledge wall.

A collective pledge to collaboration, ownership, resilience, and organisational well-being closed the convening — positioning GROW+ not just as a programme, but as a platform connecting resources, knowledge, and institutions.

All-Partners Convening — Ranchi

The Ranchi convening brought all thirty-four Partners together across the Indian Desert and Peninsular Plateau for the first time, to build a shared reading of the climate and institutional realities they face. A particularly resonant moment came when a GROW alumnus in the current cohort spoke hearing growth described by a peer made the programme journey feel tangible and achievable in a way standard messaging could not.

What surfaced was a recognition that climate change is no longer a standalone issue but a force reshaping livelihoods, migration, natural resources, governance, and organisational stability — with erratic rainfall, groundwater depletion, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss now embedded in everyday work, compounded by growing market dependence, structural migration, and weakening traditional governance.

Set against organisational constraints — limited long-term funding, staffing gaps, data gaps, compliance burdens — one insight crystallised: **institutional strength is itself a form of climate resilience**. It was here that the pyramid model showed its purpose — as a framework for collective action and shared learning across landscapes, and as a shift from isolated effort to a network grounded in trust and shared purpose.



GROW+ Inaugural Convening, Jodhpur 2025.



Field Visit — Ranchi, Peninsular Plateau

The programme's first field visit turned toward direct community engagement in villages around Ranchi, Jharkhand, with twenty participants from across the sector. Climate resilience appeared there not as concept but as lived reality — shaped by the intersection of environmental stress, livelihoods, and local institutions. Anchored by PHIA and implemented by Torpa Rural Development Society for Women (TRDSW), the visit showed how quickly the Anchor–Partner model builds trust and coordination, even without prior collaboration.

What the visit made visible was not dramatic impact so much as durable, practical infrastructure: a functional Gram Sabha secretariat, safety belts for lac cultivation, seed preservation across six women farmers' fields, and documentation systems built to outlast short project cycles. Farmers are already adapting — crop diversification, natural inputs, low-risk practices — though these remain exposed to extreme weather, while traditional food systems, seed diversity, and ecological knowledge erode under market pressure and youth migration. Livelihoods such as lac cultivation show the fragility plainly, as shifting rainfall disrupts production cycles. Yet community institutions hold in Tunel village, the Gram Sabha actively manages forest rights, resources, and entitlements, with strong leadership from women. Grassroots organisations act as the connective tissue — linking policy to access and translating climate pressure into local action.

Cross Pyramid Exchanges

Strikingly, practices seen in Jharkhand echoed climate-resilience actions underway in Western Rajasthan — evidence that community-driven approaches can travel across landscapes while staying rooted in local context, which is precisely what the pyramid model is built to enable. The visit reinforced that resilience is built at the intersection of ecology, livelihoods, culture, and governance — and that strengthening institutions matters as much as delivering interventions.



Field visit to Jharkhand, February 2026.

What Partners Named Across Landscapes

- Migration is shifting from seasonal stress to structural stress.
- Youth engagement in agriculture is steadily declining.
- Traditional, community-led governance is eroding.
- Tribal communities, women, and small farmers face deepening marginalisation.
- Climate variability and economic stress are increasingly interdependent — one cannot be addressed without the other.

What This Points To

- India's ecological diversity calls for a response that is differentiated yet coordinated.
- Institutional strengthening is not a precursor to climate adaptation — it is a climate adaptation strategy.
- Cross-landscape learning can reduce isolation and accelerate response.

Place-based Intelligence Observed

- Tradition, captured well, becomes institutional memory.
- When Partners feel safe, they collaborate for the interests of their place, not their organisation alone.
- “Place” emerges as a space for connection, shared experience, and common reality — not merely a location.



Emerging Patterns From Partner Organisations

While the above sections capture the insights from program and climate perspective, a closer look at our Partner organisations surfaces a set of patterns in organisational development sphere which resonate with how GROW+ channels its support:

A Climate Risk–response Gap: Twenty-eight organisations name water scarcity and drought as a major challenge, yet only fifteen run water-conservation or ecological-restoration work and fourteen run climate-resilient agriculture programmes. Awareness of climate risk runs well ahead of the programmatic response — precisely the gap GROW+ exists to close.

Budget: Nine organisations operate on annual budgets of ₹50 lakh–1 crore; twenty-five on ₹1–5 crore.

Governance & Localisation: Eighteen organisations have indigenous community representation on their boards, and twenty-six draw more than 30% of staff from local communities — a strong signal of local rootedness.

Funding Constraints: Twenty-two organisations have raised less than ₹10 crore over the past four financial years, and twenty-six report ongoing funding and resource limitations.

Systems & Maturity: Twenty-seven identify technology and data systems as a key gap; only six have eight or more formal policies and systems in place; and the absence of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems is a persistent, cross-cutting challenge. Many Partners also find it hard to map their funding to organisational-development categories.

Read together, these patterns make the case for the dual investment at the heart of GROW+: expanding programmatic reach and strengthening organisational capability at the same time. Better access to long-term, flexible funding lets Partners expand their climate interventions; parallel investment in technology, data systems, and institutional capacity is what makes that expansion durable.



Discussing core needs
and development opportunities.

04

The Ecosystem

Who We Build With

GROW+ is a networked programme: its impact comes from the interplay of Partners, Anchors, funders, and technical expertise, not from any single actor. Much of the year's work went into forming that ecosystem and giving it a shared framework of learning and collaboration. At its core are:

- **Ecosystem Enablers** - the funders, technical Partners, and EdelGive who resource and steward the pyramid.
- **Institutionalisation Through Networks** - capacity held by the Anchors, not only by individual organisations.
- **Partner Level Orchestration** - Partners who don't only implement but collaborate across the cohort.



The Anchors

Anchors sit at the centre of each pyramid. Working closely with EdelGive and their Partner organisations, they co-create context-specific solutions, support implementation on the ground, and hold coordination across stakeholders. They bring regional expertise and act as the ecosystem's key connectors — enabling knowledge-sharing, fostering collective learning, and helping solutions adapt across very different physio-geographic zones. Their role is to translate programme goals into action while amplifying the work of Partners and communities.

GRAVIS — Indian Desert

Founded in 1983 by Gandhian development practitioners, GRAVIS has worked for decades in the remote reaches of the Thar Desert to strengthen rural livelihoods and community-led development. Guided by the philosophy of Sarvodaya — placing the most marginalised first — its work centres on restoring natural resources and building self-reliant communities. Under GROW+, GRAVIS Anchors the Indian Desert landscape, working with sixteen Partner organisations.

PHIA Foundation — Peninsular Plateau

Established in 2005, PHIA began with education for children of waste-picker families and has since grown into a multi-sector organisation serving vulnerable communities, guided by a vision of a just and equitable society built on rights, dignity, and inclusion. Under GROW+, PHIA Anchors the Peninsular Plateau landscape, working with eighteen Partner organisations.



The Partners

Partner organisations turn the programme's vision into action on the ground. Locally embedded, with deep community relationships, they implement interventions attuned to local needs, vulnerabilities, and climate realities — and because they are close to the ground, they continuously adapt, surface insight, and strengthen what works. Within the Anchor–Partner model, they plan jointly with Anchors, take part in regular reviews and shared learning, and contribute to documentation, reporting, and compliance — building their own institutional capabilities even as they deliver.

The Partner Network At A Glance:

The names of all 34 Partners are as below:

Sr.no.	NGO Partners
1	Aragati
2	Badlao Foundation
3	Chaupal Gramin Vikas Prashikshan Evam Shodh Sansthan
4	Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre (DBRC)
5	SAMVAAD
6	Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development (SPREAD)
7	Sahyogi Mahila
8	Society for Advancement in Tribes, Health, Education and Environment (SATHEE)
9	Torpa Rural Development Society for Women (TRDSW)
10	Mahila Samagra Utthan Samiti (MSUS)
11	Abhivyakti Foundation
12	ALERT
13	Prakash Jan Sewa Sansthan (PJSS)

Sr.no.	NGO Partners
14	Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS)
15	Jago Foundation
16	Pratigya
17	Karra Society for Rural Action (KSRA)
18	Farmer's Organisation for Research, Welfare, Agriculture and Rural Development (FORWARD)
19	Unnati
20	Mahan Seva Sanstha
21	Foundation For Ecological And Environmental Sustainability Trust (FEEST)
22	Roman Catholic Diocesan Social Service Society (RCDSSS)
23	Gram Vikas Navyuwak Mandal, Laporiya (GVNML)
24	Society for Education Conscientisation Awareness and Training (ECAT) Bodhgram
25	Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti
26	Gram Chetna Kendra
27	Gram Bharti Samiti
28	Centre for Labour Research and Action (CLRA)
29	Navjyoti Mano Vikas Kendra Sanstha
30	Meera Sansthan
31	Apna Sansthan
32	Vasundhera Sewa Samiti
33	Prayas Kendra Sansthan
34	Urmul Khejri Sansthan

The thirty-four Partners are, characteristically, small teams with long histories in their geographies and modest financial bases, delivering integrated programmes for vulnerable communities. Their profile also reveals where the programme's support is most needed.:

Social Lens — Principal Capacity-building Partner

Social Lens, EdelGive's long-standing Partner, serves as the programme's principal capacity-building Partner. It designs the tools that assess and strengthen organisational health, helping Partners identify and close gaps across human resources, financial management, technology, and measurement systems, with a tailored, context-driven approach suited to each organisation. The partnership has reinforced a core lesson of GROW+: effective capacity building is less about one-off training than about strengthening the underlying systems that let organisations sustain and deepen their impact.

Engagement & Visibility

Communications ensured demonstration of the value of the original GROW model, introduced GROW+ as its next evolution, to build the programme's visibility across philanthropy and the wider ecosystem.

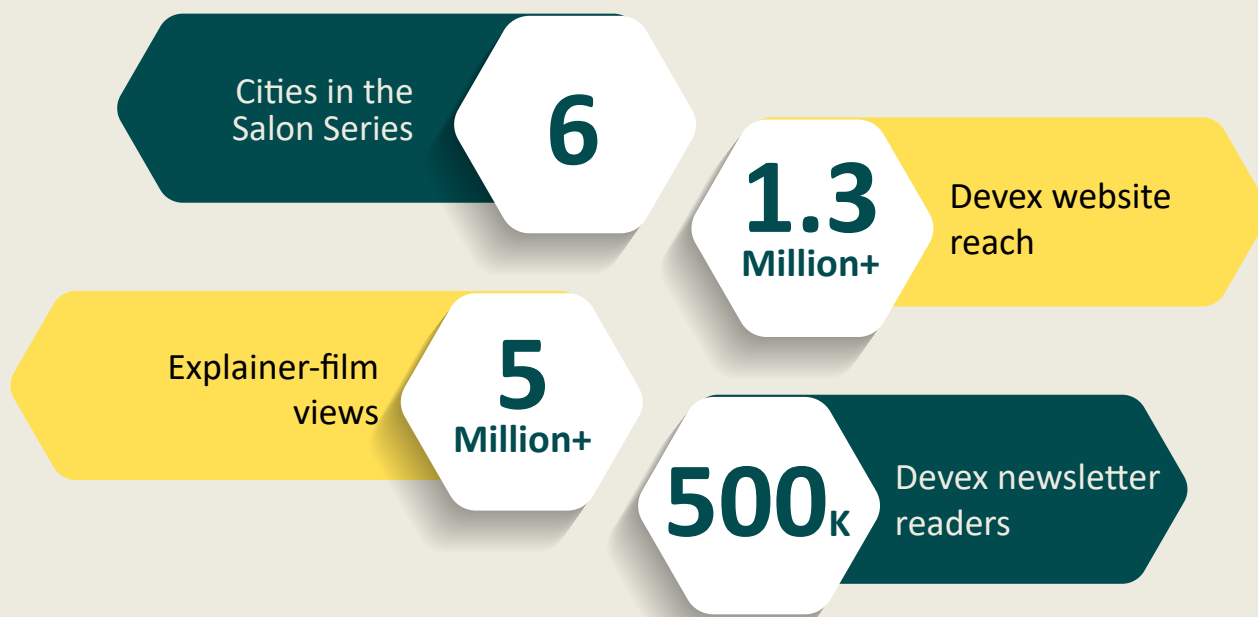
New Instagram and LinkedIn channels were launched to carry the programme's legacy, vision, and ongoing work, with a content strategy built to make complex ideas about philanthropy, climate, and capacity accessible. Recurring formats did much of that translation: the Growth Tracker used familiar cultural references to open conversations about growth and readiness; Philanthropy Made Simple demystified key concepts in short form; Is That FR? turned surprising climate facts into striking visuals; and Asking Questions that Matter used polls and discussion to probe public perceptions of pressing social and environmental issues.

The GROW website was redesigned to reflect both continuity and evolution — honouring GROW's legacy while creating a flexible identity able to carry future iterations. And to make the programme easy to grasp anywhere, the team produced an animated explainer film introducing its origins, vision, and method through visually driven storytelling that works across languages. Since launch, the film has drawn more than five million views across digital platforms and screenings.



Engaging with community members in Jharkhand.

Global Engagement



The GROW+ Salon Series ran across six global philanthropic hubs — Hong Kong, Toronto, San Francisco, New York, London, and Singapore — creating direct engagement with funders, practitioners, and ecosystem actors around climate philanthropy and capacity strengthening. To bridge physical and digital engagement, the team designed custom GROW+ materials, including QR-enabled coasters distributed across the events. A live-audience Devex webinar featuring Naghma, extended that reach further, generating coverage that reached 1.3 million website visitors and 500,000 newsletter readers.



Funders and practitioners in conversation at a GROW+ Salon Series convening.

05

From Foundation to Forward Momentum

The first year of GROW+ was the year intent became institution. In a short span, the programme moved from design to activation — two operational pyramids, Partnerships across two landscapes, and a shared foundation for learning, collaboration, and capacity strengthening. What has emerged is not only a programme structure but the early outline of a networked ecosystem grounded in trust and local realities.

The year also made the road ahead visible. Climate risks are intensifying, and constraints in funding, human resources, and systems continue to shape how fast and how far organisations can respond. But Partners have shown depth, adaptability, and commitment — reinforcing the premise beneath everything GROW+ does: grassroots organisations are not merely participants in climate action, but among its most important drivers.

It also clarified that capacity building cannot be one-size-fits-all. Anchors need support to strengthen their own systems while playing an enabling role for others; Partners, in turn, need something simpler, more accessible, bilingual, and firmly practice-oriented. Differentiated pathways for the two are now a design principle rather than an afterthought.

With the foundation in place, the programme now turns to Year 2 — deepening implementation, embedding learning, and preparing to scale.

The direction holds steady: to deepen what has been built while enabling systems that can grow with complexity. GROW+ will keep investing in institutional strength, connecting landscapes, and ensuring that learning travels across the network. What has begun is a long-term shift — from funding programmes to strengthening systems, from fragmented efforts to connected ecosystems, and from short-term outputs to sustained resilience.



Organisational strengthening, climate resilience, and ecosystem building cannot be treated as separate tracks. They are mutually reinforcing. Capacities such as people management, financial resilience, risk preparedness, and technology adoption are not prerequisites for climate action — they are part of it.



