



### Launch of Work 4 Progress Coalition

With a strong belief in the power of partnerships, the Work 4 Progress programme of Development Alternatives (DA) and la Caixa Banking Foundation has developed regional multi stakeholder platforms for joint action. The coalition has been launched on 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Bundelkhand and Mirzapur (Eastern Uttar Pradesh), to service a network of 5000 entrepreneurs. The coalition saw participation from over 90 representatives from the local government, universities, training and financial institutions. It enabled dialogue between the existing entrepreneurs supported under the programme, and gave them a platform to state their problems in front of other stakeholders in the ecosystem. The objectives of the Work 4 Progress Coalition include promoting a listening and learning discourse on entrepreneurship and job creation with various stakeholders through periodic working sessions and virtual interactions, such as e-mailers, radio shows and WhatsApp Messenger, to steer local entrepreneurship; and identifying synergies for undertaking collective action to influence local initiatives for helping communities access information, opportunities, and integrated businesses support services – especially the vulnerable and the marginalised. The members of the coalition consist of representatives from government bodies like District Industries Commission, Rural Self Employment Training Institute, NABARD, Financial Institutions, Academia and Civil Society Organisations. From the discussion held at the coalition launch events in both geographies, there were three major takeaways: the need to create awareness and opportunities, especially for youth, to take up micro entrepreneurial activities for livelihood, thus promoting entrepreneurship in the regions; the need for capacity building of not only entrepreneurs, but other actors in the micro enterprise development space, as well as to effectively respond to the growing needs of the entrepreneurs and address challenges; the coalition will be helpful in showcasing the power of convergence to bridge the existing gaps in service delivery to entrepreneurs by various stakeholders. The coalition launch event, envisioned as a rolling meeting between the various stakeholders, was widely covered by various news channels and print media.