

What a Dongria Kondh Family Can Access — The Complete Entitlement Stack

This note is for NGO practitioners, ITDA officers, social workers, community mobilisers, and researchers who work with Dongria Kondh communities in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha. It maps every government entitlement a Dongria Kondh household can legitimately access —...

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A [convergence-notes](#)

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This is not a scheme directory. It is a convergence analysis — meaning it shows how multiple schemes stack together to create a cumulative package that no single scheme provides alone. For a family that accesses even half of what is listed here, the economic and welfare difference is transformative.

Who Are the Dongria Kondh?

The Dongria Kondh are one of India's 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) — one of 13 PVTGs in Odisha. They live in the Niyamgiri Hills across Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, practising a mountain-ecology-rooted lifestyle of horticulture, forest produce collection, and shifting cultivation. Their population is approximately 8,000-10,000.

The Dongria Kondh are globally known for their 2013 victory over Vedanta Aluminium's proposed bauxite mining project in the Niyamgiri Hills — where 12 village gram sabhas, citing their Forest Rights Act Habitat Rights, unanimously refused the mining project. The Supreme Court upheld this decision, establishing the most significant indigenous rights precedent in India's history and affirming that PVTG gram sabha consent is legally binding.

Despite this national recognition, the Dongria Kondh remain among Odisha's most economically marginalised communities. Rayagada district has completed 4,399 houses under the PM-JANMAN scheme — the second highest in Odisha — benefiting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups such as the Dongria Kondh and Lanjia Soura communities living in remote hill regions. But housing is only one dimension of a multi-scheme entitlement package that most families have not fully accessed.

The Complete Entitlement Stack

Layer 1 — Shelter and Habitat (Annual value: Rs. 2.39 lakh one-time + infrastructure)

PM-JANMAN Housing Every Dongria Kondh household living in a kutcha or temporary structure is entitled to a pucca house under PM-JANMAN — valued at Rs. 2.39 lakh per house. PM-JANMAN moves ahead with 2.5 lakh homes, 1,200 km of built roads, and mobile health services to 8.66 lakh PVTGs in Odisha. In Rayagada, thousands of PM-JANMAN houses have been sanctioned and a significant number completed. However, the digital Awaas+ registration process has created access gaps for families in remote hill habitations without mobile connectivity.

FRA Habitat Rights Under Section 3(1)(e) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, every PVTG community is entitled to Habitat Rights — a collective recognition of rights over their entire customary territory. Only 10 PVTGs across three states — Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh — had been granted habitat rights as of March 2025. Odisha has been the leading state, with recognitions including the Dongria Kondh community. Dongria Kondh Habitat Rights have been recognised — but this recognition must be formalised and operationalised by every individual gram sabha in the community's range.

What this means for the family: A legally recognised habitat prevents displacement and makes all infrastructure development (housing, roads, water) legal rather than encroachment.

Barrier: Awaas+ digital registration. PM-JANMAN houses are tracked through geo-tagged photographs and the Awaas+ app — which requires mobile internet connectivity that many Niyamgiri hill habitations do not have. NGOs can facilitate this by bringing smartphones and internet to registration sessions.

Layer 2 — Water and Sanitation (Annual value: Free piped water; Rs. 15,000 one-time for toilet)

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM 2.0) Every Dongria Kondh household is entitled to a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) delivering 55 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water — free of cost. JJM 2.0 specifically prioritises PVTG habitations as a last-mile coverage target.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) Every household without a toilet receives Rs. 15,000 in two installments (via DBT to Aadhaar-linked bank account) to construct an Individual Household Latrine (IHHL). PM-JANMAN habitations have PVTG priority for SBM-G convergence.

Barrier: Water quality in Niyamgiri hill springs is generally good — but piped supply

infrastructure is absent in many habitations. NGO facilitation for JJM complaint escalation to the Block Medical Officer and RWSS Engineer is required for habitations not yet covered.

Layer 3 — Health Coverage (Annual value: Up to Rs. 10 lakh per family)

Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana (GJAY) + AB-PMJAY All Dongria Kondh households are automatically eligible for GJAY — the Odisha health insurance scheme providing cashless treatment at government hospitals (free for all) and empanelled private hospitals (up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, with Rs. 5 lakh additional for women members — total Rs. 10 lakh for families with women beneficiaries).

Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) The nearest Sub Health Centre should have a Community Health Officer (CHO) conducting scheduled visits to Dongria Kondh habitations — providing primary health care, NCD screening, immunisation support, and TB/malaria surveillance (malaria is historically endemic in Niyamgiri hills).

Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) under PM-JANMAN PM-JANMAN specifically funds Mobile Medical Units for PVTG areas — bringing a medical team on a scheduled circuit to habitations too remote for Sub Health Centre access. 578 MMUs are deployed nationally under PM-JANMAN.

Barrier: GJAY card access. Many Dongria Kondh families have existing BSKY cards (the predecessor scheme) which remain valid. New families need GJAY card issuance — available at Mo Seva Kendra with Aadhaar.

Layer 4 — Food Security (Annual value: 35 kg free grain per month)

National Food Security Act (NFSA) — PDS Entitlement All Dongria Kondh households covered under NFSA ration cards receive 5 kg of rice/wheat per person per month at Rs. 2/kg (effectively free post-2022 under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana). A household of 7 persons receives 35 kg per month.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) Extended through December 2028 — providing free food grains (beyond the normal NFSA entitlement) to all NFSA-covered households. Dongria Kondh families with NFSA cards automatically benefit.

Annapurna Scheme Elderly Dongria Kondh family members who do not receive pension and are destitute are entitled to 10 kg of food grain per month free under Annapurna.

Barrier: Ration card access in remote habitations. Dongria Kondh families who have not been surveyed in SECC 2011 or whose habitations were not covered may not have NFSA cards. NGOs can facilitate NFSA inclusion surveys with the Block Supply Officer.

Layer 5 — Income and Livelihoods (Annual value: Rs. 30,000-80,000 from multiple streams)

TRIFED MSP for Minor Forest Produce The Dongria Kondh's primary livelihood is forest produce collection — amla, mahua, honey, sal seeds, bamboo shoots, and other NTFP. Under the MSP for Minor Forest Produce scheme (87 notified items), these products can be sold to TDCCOL (Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha) at government Minimum Support Prices — typically 2-4 times the open-market middleman price.

For a family collecting 10 quintals of amla at MSP versus middleman price:

- Open market (middleman): Rs. 10-15/kg × 1,000 kg = Rs. 10,000-15,000
- TDCCOL at MSP: Rs. 35-40/kg × 1,000 kg = Rs. 35,000-40,000
- **Difference per family per year: Rs. 20,000-30,000**

Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) Groups of 15 Dongria Kondh SHGs can form a VDKV — receiving Rs. 15 lakh from TRIFED for honey extraction equipment, amla processing units, or bamboo product manufacturing. Value-added processed products earn 3-5x more than raw collection.

Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights under FRA Gram sabhas with CFR titles are the legal owners of all forest produce in their CFR area — meaning they can sell collectively at MSP rather than individually to middlemen, with the price benefit flowing to the entire community rather than being individually negotiated.

VB-G RAM G (formerly MGNREGA) — Rs. 247/day All Dongria Kondh adults with job cards are entitled to 125 days of wage employment per year at Rs. 247/day (Odisha 2025-26 rate). For a family with 2 earning adults working 60 days each: 120 days × Rs. 247 = Rs. 29,640/year in guaranteed wages.

PM-JANMAN Vocational Education Vocational education centres in 60 PVTG blocks at Rs. 50 lakh per block — providing skill development opportunities for Dongria Kondh youth in trades relevant to the local economy.

Layer 6 — Women's Direct Transfers (Annual value: Rs. 15,000-16,000 per woman)

Subhadra Yojana Every eligible Dongria Kondh woman aged 21-60 — with an Aadhaar-linked individual bank account — receives Rs. 10,000 over two years (Rs. 5,000 per installment on Raksha Bandhan and International Women's Day). Over 5 years: Rs. 50,000 total. All Dongria Kondh women with NFSA ration cards are automatically eligible.

MAMATA-PMMVY (Maternity Benefit) Every Dongria Kondh woman who is pregnant receives MAMATA benefits — Rs. 10,000 in two installments (Rs. 6,000 during third trimester, Rs. 4,000 at 10 months post-delivery). Critically: **For PVTG communities, the MAMATA benefit is available for every pregnancy — not limited to two live births.** This is the most important Odisha-specific equity provision for Dongria Kondh women and is rarely communicated at AWC level.

Layer 7 — Education (Annual value: Rs. 12,000-20,000 per child in school)

Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) EMRS schools in Rayagada provide free, full-residential CBSE education for Dongria Kondh children from Class 6 to Class 12 — covering all fees, hostel, food, uniforms, textbooks, and healthcare. This is the single most transformative educational intervention available to the community. Selection is through EMRSST entrance test.

PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal) Every Dongria Kondh child enrolled in a government primary or upper primary school receives a hot cooked meal every school day. For a child from a food-insecure household, this meal may be the most nutritious of their day.

SC/ST Scholarship Dongria Kondh students in Classes 9 and 10 are entitled to the Pre-Matric Scholarship — Rs. 3,500/year (day scholars) or Rs. 9,000/year (hostellers) — through the National Scholarship Portal (scholarships.gov.in). Class 11 and 12 students receive the Madhu Singh Hata Kharcha — Rs. 5,000/year specifically for ST students at these critical transition grades.

Post-Matric Scholarship Dongria Kondh students in higher education receive full fee reimbursement plus maintenance allowance — enabling college and professional education that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Layer 8 — Social Security (Annual value: Rs. 500-1,000/month per eligible person)

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) + MBPY Elderly Dongria Kondh members (60+), widows, and severely disabled persons are entitled to the combined Central + Odisha state pension (NSAP + Madhu Babu Pension Yojana) — ranging from Rs. 500-1,000/month depending on age and category.

PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) Life insurance of Rs. 2 lakh for Dongria Kondh adults with PMJDY bank accounts — at Rs. 436/year premium (auto-debited).

PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) Accident insurance of Rs. 2 lakh at Rs. 20/year — the

cheapest formal financial protection available to anyone in India.

The Cumulative Annual Package — What a Household Can Access

Stream	Source	Annual Value
Housing (one-time)	PM-JANMAN	Rs. 2,39,000
Habitat rights protection	FRA	Non-monetary but foundational
Food grain (7 persons)	NFSA/PMGKAY	Rs. 8,400 (in-kind)
Health insurance	GJAY	Up to Rs. 10,00,000 (protection)
NTFP income (vs. middleman)	TRIFED MSP	Rs. 20,000-30,000 more
Employment wages (2 adults, 60 days each)	VB-G RAM G	Rs. 29,640
Subhadra Yojana (1 woman)	Odisha	Rs. 10,000 over 2 years (Rs. 5,000/year)
Maternity benefit	MAMATA	Rs. 10,000 per pregnancy
Children's meals	PM POSHAN	Rs. 3,600-7,200 (in-kind)
EMRS education (1 child)	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Rs. 1,09,000/year (in-kind)
SC/ST scholarship (Class 9-12)	Central + State	Rs. 3,500-9,000/year
Social pension (elderly)	NSAP+MBPY	Rs. 6,000-12,000/year
Life + accident insurance	PMJJBY + PMSBY	Rs. 2 lakh + Rs. 2 lakh protection

For a 7-member household accessing all streams: Total cash/in-kind value exceeds **Rs. 1,50,000-2,00,000 per year** — in addition to the Rs. 2.39 lakh one-time housing grant. This is transformational for a community whose cash income from forest produce was historically less than Rs. 30,000-40,000 annually at middleman prices.

The Gap Between Entitlement and Access — Why This Note Exists

The schemes above are not theoretical. They are legally mandated, currently funded, and nominally operational. The gap between what the Dongria Kondh are entitled to and what they actually receive is not a policy gap — it is an implementation gap, and it has five specific causes:

1. Digital registration barriers. Awaas+ (PMAY-G), MPAS (OMM millet), PMJDY bank activation, Subhadra eKYC — all require smartphone access and often mobile internet. In the Niyamgiri hills, connectivity is absent in most habitations.

2. Document gaps. Land records for podu cultivators, birth certificates for children, income certificates for scholarships — these documents are absent in many households and require multiple trips to block headquarters that are hours away on foot.

3. Language barriers. Scheme communication — registration forms, eKYC prompts, bank OTPs — is in Odia. Dongria Kondh speak Kui/Kondhi. AWW and ASHA workers in PVTG areas are often not fluent in the community's language.

4. MSP awareness. Research from Rayagada consistently documents that NTFP collectors have no knowledge of MSP. They sell to whoever comes to the village — which is always a middleman, not TDCCOL.

5. The MAMATA unlimited-pregnancy provision is unknown. The most financially significant women's welfare provision for Dongria Kondh mothers — unlimited MAMATA benefit for every pregnancy for PVTG women — is not communicated by AWWs in most habitations.

How JaBaSu and Partner NGOs Can Close This Gap

Step 1 — Habitation-level entitlement audit. Map each of the 8 entitlement layers for each habitation — which schemes are delivered, which are pending, which are absent. This creates a saturation gap register that can be formally presented to the ITDA Project Officer.

Step 2 — Document facilitation camp. Organise a single camp at the habitation that combines: birth certificate correction (Registrar's office), land records (Revenue Inspector), Aadhaar update (CSC operator), PMJDY bank account activation (Bank Mitra), Subhadra eKYC, and MAMATA registration (AWW). A family that would otherwise make 8 separate trips to block headquarters completes everything in one day.

Step 3 — TDCCOL MPAS registration for NTFP collectors. Facilitate MPAS (Millet Procurement and Sales app) registration for Dongria Kondh NTFP collectors — connecting them to MSP prices. For collectors without land records, the FRA IFR title application and MPAS registration should happen simultaneously.

Step 4 — ITDA formal escalation. For habitations where PM-JANMAN houses were sanctioned but not completed, or where VB-G RAM G job cards were deleted, JaBaSu formally writes to the ITDA Project Officer with a documented gap register requesting administrative action.

Step 5 — MAMATA provision communication. Formally write to the CDPO and AWW supervisor for Niyamgiri blocks requesting that the unlimited-pregnancy MAMATA provision for PVTG women be communicated in every AWC session.

Contact Points for Dongria Kondh Communities

Authority	Jurisdiction	Contact
ITDA Rayagada	Primary tribal authority	At Rayagada town

Authority	Jurisdiction	Contact
ITDA Kalahandi	Kalahandi-side habitations	At Bhawanipatna
Block Development Officer	PM-JANMAN, VB-G RAM G, JJM	Bissamcuttack / Muniguda blocks
TDCCOL District Office	NTFP MSP procurement	At Rayagada HQ
CDPO	MAMATA, POSHAN, Anganwadi	At ICDS Project office
Mo Seva Kendra	GJAY card, Subhadra eKYC	Nearest MSK

Last verified: June 2026. Rayagada: 4,399 PM-JANMAN houses completed (second highest in Odisha, FY 2025-26). Habitat Rights: Dongria Kondh among PVTGs recognised (March 2025 data). MAMATA unlimited-pregnancy provision: current for all 13 Odisha PVTGs — verify with WCD Dept. and CDPO. VB-G RAM G replaced MGNREGA from December 2025; Job Cards remain valid during transition.

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