We had already discussed in detail about Kudumbashree's interventions as a National Resource Organisation (NRO) in 19 other states of India for the women empowerment activities, for extending training and handholding for enterprise development and for convergences with Panchayat's in the Making an Impact Article-03. While implementing these projects in other states, Kudumbashree NRO received a request from the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), Government of Bihar to support them to start canteen units run by SHG members in government hospitals.

SRLM of Bihar wanted us to help the women self-help groups to set up and operate canteens in various
government hospitals. In addition to extending training, SRLM also wanted us to do hand holding support for 6 months. Our team took up this challenge with greater enthusiasm! And we started working to assist SRLM of Bihar to launch the canteen chain branded as ‘Didi ki Rasoi’.

This project was started during 2018. The first canteen was inaugurated at the Government Hospital, Sadar at Vaishali district of Bihar. 10 day intensive training was provided to 22 women members who started the first ‘didi ki rasi’ as a micro entreprise. Modules like cooking, serving, business management, soft skills etc were covered in the training. After the launch of the canteen, continuous on the job training and handholding for the daily activities of the canteen was also given for one month under the leadership of Kudumbashree Mentors.

At present ‘Didi ki Rasoi’ canteens are opened in the district hospitals of Buxar, Purnia, Sheikhpura districts of Bihar. Bihar SRLM has plans to start ‘Didi ki Rasoi’ in all the district hospitals. Anticipating this expansion, 150 women entrepreneurs from Bihar was selected and trained till now. Knowing about this success story, the SRLM of Government of Telengana has approached Kudumbashree seeking support to start canteen chain in their state as well. We have therefore started working in a new sector which will easily help women earn income using their culinary skills, providing the taste of India.