



UN WOMEN IN INDIA



An Overview



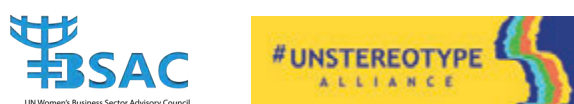
UN Women is thankful to all our partners for their support of gender equality and women's empowerment.



UN Women is grateful for the contribution made by our donors in support of programmes that advance gender equality



UN Women is proud to be part of important alliances and partnerships.

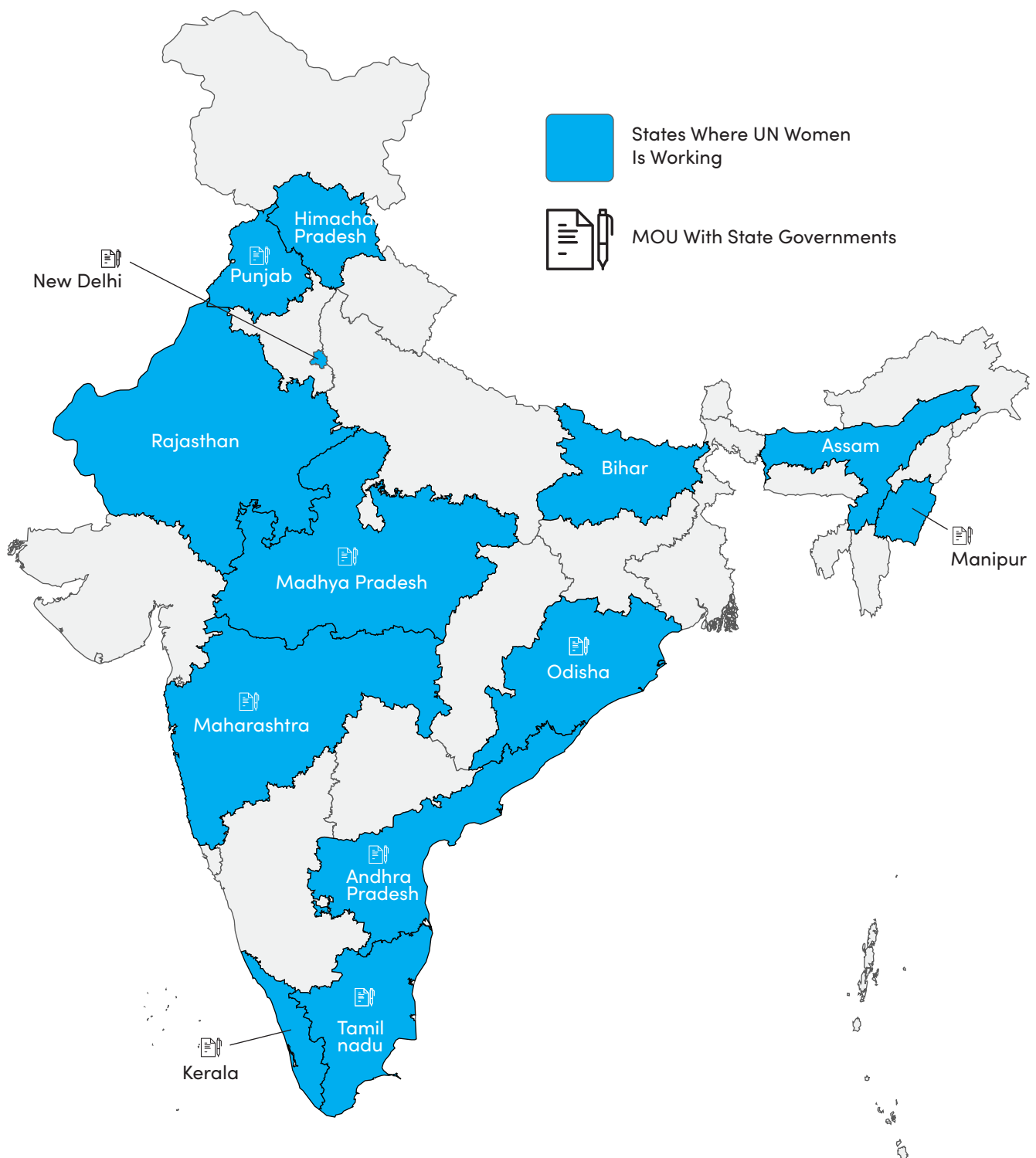


UN Women would like to express gratitude to its Implementation Partners which include government entities, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies and non-UN intergovernmental organizations that are working with us to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals.

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UN WOMEN PRESENCE IN INDIA





UN WOMEN INDIA

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women was established in 2010 to accelerate progress on meeting the needs of women worldwide.

UN Women works in India to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on the following strategic priorities:

- 1 Women lead, participate in, and benefit equally from governance systems, and live free from all forms of gender-based violence;
- 2 Women have income security, decent work, and economic autonomy, and marginalised women and young women have access to, participate in and achieve quality learning, entrepreneurship and employment; and
- 3 All women and girls benefit from the implementation of a comprehensive and dynamic set of norms, policies and standards that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

UN Women's Office in India, based in New Delhi, works with the Government of India, other UN agencies, civil society, the private sector and influencers to achieve India's strategic priorities for women's advancement. Our programmes focus on upholding women's human rights and providing opportunities for women and girls to live up to their full potential.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

UN Women works closely with the Government of India to set national standards for achieving gender equality. While UN Women works all over India, its nodal ministry at the national level is the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). UN Women has Memorandums of Understanding with 12 states to provide technical support to accelerate gender equality.

Consultations in global, regional and national civil society advisory groups help UN Women draw upon their diverse expertise, experience, outreach and knowledge. They sharpen ideas and strategies for our advocacy initiatives, policies and programmes. UN Women India has a Civil society Advisory Group that brings together 13 women's organisations to provide advice on our work. In addition, our programmes have extensive networks with a range of civil society organisations working on related areas.

The UN Women Business Sector Advisory Council (BSAC) is an advisory group of senior business and corporate leaders drawn from 17 of the largest firms in India. It was set up in July 2017. The Council is a part of the global initiative towards deepening our corporate sector engagement to better catalyse and unleash the potential of the private sector towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment goals.

Our key funding partners in India are European Union, GIZ, Government of Korea, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Asian Development Bank, LinkedIn, Prosus and BHP Billiton Foundation.

UN Women is thankful to all its partners for their support of gender equality and women's empowerment.

ACHIEVEMENTS – POLICY REFORMS AND PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENT

 10,000 nurses upskilled in COVID-19 response and management	 >3500 women re-entered formal education	 13 members across advertising & media industry
 >2200 businesses started by women.	 10,000 downloads of MyAmbar	 15 % Increase Indian female military observers in peacekeeping missions in 2020
First Women Entrepreneurship Cell at Maharashtra Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department	8,200 women farmers income increased	3800 women skilled and linked to employment opportunities
>7000 women trained to respond to survivors of violence during the COVID-19	>2700 women participated in Shri Shakti Challenge	8600 women linked to existing government social welfare services
3 states issued first Gender Budget Statement Manipur, Andhra Pradesh & Himachal Pradesh	10000 Counsellors capacity built	>3000000 people reached through awareness campaigns
327 Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP) signatories	16 top business Leaders as BSAC members	



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING | MAKING BUDGETS MEET WOMEN'S NEEDS

THE ISSUE

Governments around the world, including India, have signed on to the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. Achievement of gender equality is Goal 5 of the SDGs. The goal is to achieve gender equality by 2030. Tracking a country's public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment is a key indicator of its commitment to gender equality. The amount of money invested in women's interests not only demonstrates Government commitment to achieving gender equality, it is also essential to bringing about equality between women and men, and ensuring better lives for women and their families.

Equitable and sustainable budgets require a targeted public investment approach as well as the reprioritization of public spending to address policy gaps. Ministries of finance have a critical role to play in expanding resource availability, including by modifying budget rules, introducing supplementary budgets or increasing spending within existing lines. Gender-responsive Budgeting or GRB equips policy makers and those at the helm of decision making with tools that enable medium and long-term equity in public finance management.

OUR SOLUTION

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) leads the work on Gender-responsive Budgeting at the national level. India is one of the global leaders on gender responsive budgeting. This is an innovative tool to design and budget projects and schemes through a gender lens. In 2005, India, for the first time released a gender budget along with its Union Budget. Since then, UN Women has been a part of the Government's journey on making budgets works for all since then.

UN Women supports the National and State Governments in India to prepare their gender budgets. We have helped prepare gender budgets within sectors such as agriculture, urban development, and village council development. A gender budget statement sets out how Governments expect to support women and achieve gender equality outcomes.

Our work supports Governments in identifying gender needs and allocating resources to programmes, including social protection and employment, that are vital for a gender-responsive and women-first development.

Recently, the Asian Development Bank extended a technical grant to UN Women to continue this work. With UN Women's support, three states – Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur – published their first Gender Budget statement in 2021-22. This has helped Departments allocate funds – and monitor the budget spends on women's needs and interests. Himachal Pradesh published its first gender budget statement in 2022-23. In July 2022, Manipur prepared its second Gender Budget and Statement.

UN Women supports the Government to conduct research and analyse the funds allocated to women's interests. We work with the Government to integrate this research into training of Government officials who can develop budget statements keeping women's needs in mind.

Customised knowledge products such as sector-specific training manuals and a gender budget handbook have been developed to enable budget officials to allocate and assess public finances with a gendered lens.

We are working with the Government of India to develop an online learning platform that will help improve transparency and accountability of Government Ministries in implementing their gender budgets.

While gender budget statements allow the Government to better target gender priorities, they serve as a useful advocacy tool for civil society organizations to monitor and analyse the progress on the goal of gender equality by looking at funding allocated to women-related schemes and programmes.



OUR IMPACT

Promising experiences have emerged from the States of India that have embarked upon the gender responsive budgeting journey, either at the State or sub-national levels. Madhya Pradesh reaffirmed its commitment to Gender Budgeting during the 13th Five-Year Plan. Because of this commitment, 10 per cent of the total state plan outlay is mandatorily used for women specific schemes. In Kerala, where UN Women has been the part of the State Government's gender budgeting journey, total plan allocations for women in the Gender Budget Statement have increased from 11.4 per cent in 2017-18 to 20.9 per cent in 2022-23, showing the impact of gender analysis and allocations within the budget.

The state of Madhya Pradesh has been publishing an annual Gender Budget Statement since 2007-08 when it adopted gender responsive budgeting. With UN Women's support, the state committed to making Madhya Pradesh a safe tourism destination for women in 2021. The Department of Tourism is collaborating with UN Women to strengthen the Department's ongoing efforts to make tourist sites safe and violence-free for women and girls. 'Safety of Women in Tourist Places' is reflected in Part A of the state's Gender Budget Statement with an increased allocation between 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

This allocation, based on robust budget analysis, will improve women's lives by creating more jobs in the tourism industry. This is a direct result of government allocation that recognises the needs of women and actively invests in sectors that are likely to benefit women.

Similarly, in Kerala, the attempt to include gender in the budget process began in earnest during the 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-2012). The Government has taken steps to digitally empower women through the Kerala Start Up Mission, IT Mission, Kudumbashree. Through specific allocations to women's needs in the budget, the Government has created opportunities for women in the non-IT sector, too. The state's gender budgeting exercise, with its particular emphasis on creating jobs for women, has helped increase the urban female workforce participation rate increased from 22.1 in 2017-18 to 23.4 percent in 2021.

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

Since 2015, UN Women India had financial support for this work through the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Ford Foundation. Most recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided funding for this work.

GRB CURRENT FOCUS STATES :

Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY | DRIVING WOMEN'S ACCESS, LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE IN CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

Women's Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy programme facilitates women's access to clean energy as consumers, as well as producers, distributors and stakeholders in the energy value chains. The programme works to mitigate gender stereotypes and barriers that women in India face as entrepreneurs and consumers of clean energy.

Access to clean energy has multigenerational impact around the world. In rural India, women and girls walk for miles to collect fuel, wood and water. Accessing traditional fuels not only takes up time, but the lack of clean energy also has fatal consequences. Close to 4 million people – mainly women and children – die prematurely every year from household air pollution caused by using traditional fuels. Conversely, improved and clean energy access leads to significant increase in rural girls' enrolment in school and opens entrepreneurial opportunities for women. In many parts of the developing world, including India, women are largely absent in the clean energy workforce, value chains and decision-making.

Since 2017, the Women's Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy programme has delivered impact by investing in technology that is most responsive to the energy needs of women and has potential for women's energy entrepreneurship, such as solar rooftop solutions and solar dryers, as well as solar-dried food products that generate more income.

UN Women works to integrate gender perspectives in clean energy policies. As part of the task force created by Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam (the Department of Renewable Energy) on renewable energy-based cooking solutions, UN Women provided recommendations on integrating women's energy needs in the design and upgradation of clean energy products.

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

UN Women and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam (Department of Renewable Energy) co-financed the pilot programme to bring clean renewal energy to the Anganwadi centres in Madhya Pradesh.

UN Women partnered with S4S Technologies, PRADAN and Chaitanya Foundation to implement the solar energy dehydration project, with an investment of INR 70,19,000 (USD 95,000 approximately) from its core resources.



SMART ANGANWADI CENTRES

In 2017, UN Women partnered with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to bring solar energy to women-run and managed Anganwadi centres that are community centres providing basic health services, education and nutrition to underprivileged children and mothers. The pilot installed decentralized solar energy stems at 63 centres in Alirajpur and Burhanpur districts so that they had electricity for lighting and cooling, as well as mobile and computer charging facilities for the first time. As a result, more children started attending classes, stayed longer, and could access technology-based learning.

The initiative also trained women Anganwadi workers in the management and maintenance of the installed solar energy systems. The centres are now better equipped to provide technology-enabled spaces that are well-lit and safe to use for women's self-help groups to meet, learn vocational skills and participate in income-generating projects. The Department of Women and Child Development in Madhya Pradesh replicated the initiative in additional Bal Shiksha Kendras (early childhood care and education centres) across the state once they saw the impact that solar energy brought to women's lives.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH SOLAR DRYING



Photo: Dhurpadaa Shevare is a seasonal farm worker in Vadala-Vadali village in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. With the solar dryer installed, she learned to dry ginger and onion, staples in Indian cuisine. Today, she earns an additional income of INR 5000 per month, which has boosted her family income significantly. "It is so convenient for me to be able to work from home and to not have to visit the farm. I am also able to take care of my entire household expenses myself with the money I earn," she says. Photo credit: Sandeep Patil, S4S Technologies

The programme installed 60 solar dryers and trained 60 women who are small-scale farmers from "Aspirational Districts" in Odisha and Maharashtra to use clean solar-powered dehydration technology to produce and sell dried and processed foods. It also assured market access through a "buy back" provision through which S4S Technologies, which installed the solar dryers, also bought the dehydrated food products from women farmers. Women entrepreneurs who benefited from this initiative have seen their daily income more than double since November 2020. The Aspirational Districts are designated by the Government of India as vulnerable and marginalised districts with high poverty pockets, in need of targeted support. By improving access to clean energy and income of women in the Aspirational Districts, UN Women delivers on the promise of "leaving no one behind" as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

UN Women's clean energy projects in India have achieved the following results:

- Installed decentralized solar energy stems at 63 off-grid Anganwadi centres in Madhya Pradesh to provide electricity. This resulted in increased numbers of children enrolling and staying for education, nutrition and health services.

Installed 60 solar dehydration units in two Aspirational Districts in Odisha and Maharashtra to boost small-scale women farmers' skills and income.

- At least 60 agri-entrepreneurs have reported up to a 250 per cent increase in their daily income.

Trained 185 women to access and manage solar rooftop systems, enhancing their skills and access to renewal energy.

- Improved market access and income for women entrepreneurs through assured buy-back of solar dried products by S4S Technologies, a programme partner who distributes and markets them to hotels and retailers across India and internationally.
- Increased family nutrition security through women's improved access to better income and dehydrated food products for year-round consumption.





SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION | CREATING PATHWAYS OF LEARNING, EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN IN INDIA

UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning Programme enables women to re-enter formal education, access vocational training, learn entrepreneurial skills, and connects them to employment and business opportunities.

India's female labour force participation, at 21 per cent, is well below the global average of 47 per cent, and declining further. Investment in women's vocational training, education and job placement in India improves lives and the economy. Since 2018, the Second Chance Education programme has impacted more than 30,000 women from some of the poorest and most vulnerable areas, across 12 districts and 200 villages in the states of Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Odisha. Eight of the programme districts are "Aspirational Districts" as designated by the Government of India.

RETURN TO FORMAL EDUCATION

While the number of girls enrolled in schools overall is increasing, 17.3 per cent still drop out of secondary school, because of long distances between school and home, unsafe public transportation, lack of gender-specific toilets, and unequal gender norms that place the burden of domestic work on girls and women.

By connecting women with community educators near their homes and by providing safe, women-friendly spaces, the programme helps women return to formal education. A network of 54 community educators across the 12 programme districts under the Second Chance Education programme have enrolled 3,836 women and girls in formal education. Through a partnership with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and state-level open schooling systems, the programme helps women to prepare for and complete their secondary education.



SKILLS, MENTORSHIP AND SAFE SPACES

UN Women's Funding and Learning Initiative for Girls in Higher Education and Skills Training (FLIGHT) programme upskills Indian women to boost their employability for productive participation in the formal workforce.

The FLIGHT programme is currently working with young women and girls in five districts in Maharashtra – Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Palghar – to enhance their employability skills. The project works in partnership with government or government-supported colleges, government polytechnics and government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

It is supported by the Skill Development, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department and the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra. With a budget of USD \$336,213 from 2021 – 2024, the programme aims to connect 750 young women and girls from marginalised backgrounds to skill training programmes and placement opportunities. It also aims to sensitise 5,000 community members to create an enabling environment for the young women to continue in higher education or employment.

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

UN Women's Second Chance Education programme in India is funded by the BHP Foundation and implemented by Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) as the lead partner along with other implementing, consortium and state government partners.

With a budget of USD 4,501,611 for 2018 – 2023, the programme has reached out to more than 60,000 women across four states in India and impacted more than 30,000 women through education, skilling and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Central and state governments are key allies of the programme. UN Women provides technical support to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to incorporate gender perspectives in skill development initiatives across the country. The programme has teamed up with state government partners, such as the Department for Skilling and Entrepreneurship Development in Maharashtra and the Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA).

This programme in India is part of a multi-country effort that is active in low- and middle-income countries with high levels of poverty pockets, crisis and displacement, and marginalized indigenous groups (namely Australia, Cameroon, Chile, India, Jordan and Mexico).

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Only 13 per cent³ of rural women in India own land, even though 85 per cent among them work in agriculture. The Second Chance Education Programme is working with women farmers to increase their household income by teaching them new and sustainable techniques to improve their crop yield.

Some 8,252 women have received training in the use of quality seeds, pest management and organic farming techniques. Women farmers have increased their

household food security and 60 agri-entrepreneurs in Jalgaon and Rayagada districts have reported a 300-per cent-increase in daily income, using new solar drying technology to preserve seasonal food products for year-round consumption.

The programme has also linked women who complete their vocational training to jobs and financial support to start small businesses. As of 2021, 1,863 women had started their own businesses, using micro-financing from self-help groups and personal funds.



Without an education, it is difficult to succeed in life, says Kavita Manjhi, from Gaya, Bihar. Kavita had to leave her education early because her village didn't have a school nearby. She enrolled back into formal education through the Second Chance Education Programme. Recently, she appeared for her senior secondary examinations and is hoping to continue her education further. Photo: UN Women India

WORKING DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Second Chance Education Programme is geared to support women and girls when crisis strikes. The Covid-19 lockdowns and mobility restrictions created significant barriers for women's and girls' education and livelihoods. The community educators with Second Chance Education were trained to adapt their lesson plans through WhatsApp video calls and Zoom so women could continue to learn. They also disseminated information on Covid-19 prevention and safety.

In rural India, where the health infrastructure is weak, female health workers were at the frontlines of the Covid-19 response. The programme trained and certified 10,000 nurses and nurse assistants across 20 states to provide front-line health services safely during the pandemic. Through local partners, the programme delivered 4,800 medical kits for Covid-19 patients, 840 oximeters, and personal protection equipment for local health workers when the crisis peaked with the second wave of infections.

SHAPING POLICIES TO EDUCATE AND EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

While supplying women with tools and opportunities to learn and grow their incomes, the programme influences enabling policies to support women and girls. In July 2020, the Rajasthan State Women's Policy waived school fees for women and girls returning to formal education based on the Second Chance Education Programme recommendations, a big win for women and girls looking for a second chance.

UN Women is working with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to create an enabling vocational training ecosystem for women learners.

IMPLEMENTING AND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS OF THE SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME ARE:

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National HRD Network, Learnet Skills India Limited, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP- I), Chaitanya, Manjari Foundation (MF), Preservation and Proliferation of Rural Resources and Nature (PRAN), Area Networking and Development Initiatives (ANANDI), Aaina, Shristi, B – Able, Development Alternatives, TRIF, and Pratham Foundation.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

To date, the Second Chance Education Programme has:

- Enrolled 3,863 women and girls in formal education, of whom 2,535 have successfully completed their Secondary and Higher Secondary, with the National Institute of Open Schooling or State Open Schooling System.
- Provided skill training to 4,319 women, of whom 3,737 have completed their training and 1407 are now employed.
- Taught 8,252 women farmers new techniques to improve their crop yield and 60 per cent of them are set to earn an additional annual income of INR 25,000.
- Supported 2,686 women to start small businesses and 45 women entrepreneurs to develop Covid-safe business plans, such as online saree businesses and digital service centres.
- The SCE programme in partnership with NSDC trained 4500 trainers across the vocational training ecosystem in India on gender and equipped them with the skills and knowledge to integrate gender sensitivity at each stage of training. The focus is to create an ecosystem which enables more women to participate in the vocational training value chain supported by the Government of India, thereby improving female labour force participation.
- FLIGHT has over 470 young women and girls undergoing employability skills training.





ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN INDIA

THE ISSUE

Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and psychosocial consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death. According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS), a large scale, and multi round survey conducted in Indian households, “29.3% married Indian women between the ages of 18-49 years have faced domestic violence or sexual violence”.

Violence negatively affects women’s health and well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. It impacts their families, their community, and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

A woman’s right to live free from violence is upheld by international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.



India is among the 155 countries that have passed laws on domestic violence and has strong legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace. But challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls’ access to safety and justice. Efforts to prevent violence must be stronger, along with effective accountability of perpetrators.

OUR SOLUTION

Preventing violence before it starts is vital. We support women and girls’ access to quality, multi-sectoral services essential for their safety, protection and recovery, especially for those who already suffer multiple forms of discrimination. We partner with the Government of India and State Governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions to find ways to prevent violence against women and girls. Prevention is still the most cost-effective way to stop the impact of violence and reduce the public costs of supporting survivors.

As part of UN Women’s comprehensive approach, we also work with partners to enhance data collection and analysis to provide a better understanding of the nature, magnitude, and consequences of violence against women and girls. Data collection and analysis also helps UN Women, and our partners understand what works and doesn’t work to address this violence.

KEY INITIATIVES

Ensuring safe cities and safe public spaces

Sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces is a significant barrier to equitable development as it restricts mobility and access to services such as education, healthcare, and civic amenities. For more than 10 years, UN Women has implemented our global initiative, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, to prevent and respond to sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces.

In India, the focus has been on widening the use of public spaces by women and increasing autonomous mobility of women and girls in cities. We are now expanding the methodology to improve safety for women in sectors such as tea industry in Assam and textile industry in Tamil Nadu.

In Madhya Pradesh, UN Women is collaborating with the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, to support 'Safe Tourism Destination for Women in Madhya Pradesh' programme. The programme brings together State Departments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), hoteliers and travel associations, to develop a safe environment for women travellers, and to improve service quality across 50 tourist destinations in the state. This programme is funded by the Nirbhaya Fund, Government of India with technical support from UN Women India Office.

In Assam, UN Women has launched a catalytic programme towards the prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in six tea estates in Udalguri district. Experiences from this programme contributed to the development of "A Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces".



Responding to violence against women and girls during COVID-19

Emergency response

In 2020 to 2022, UN Women's work concentrated on reducing the impact of rising rates of violence due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Outlined below are some examples of our working during the pandemic and immediately beyond:

UN Women collaborated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to jointly conduct virtual capacity building sessions with community mobilisers and civil society partners who closely work with the refugee communities in India. 'Ask the Expert' sessions were organised and covered issues such as gender and COVID-19, mental health and COVID-19, vaccination process of refugees and busting myths related to vaccination. This programme reached 100 vulnerable and at-risk refugee women during the deadly second wave.



Beena is a single parent. Mother to two young children, she separated from her husband during the pandemic owing to increased physical violence at home. However, initially, she was hesitant to leave as she was financially dependent on her abusive husband. The immediate cash transfer gave her the confidence to leave her husband and move to her sister's home, without being dependent on her or feeling like a burden. She could contribute to her sister's household expenses with the help of the cash transfer. She has since then started working and has moved into her own rented accommodation with her two children.

UN Women conducted a series of eight capacity building and counselling webinars in six states of Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab and Rajasthan covering a total of 9703 frontline functionaries, health care professionals. We also organised virtual trainings of counsellors in 33 One Stop Centres, 40 Mahila Suraksha Salah Kenras and 181 Women Helpline Centres.

UN Women trained 3,572 Anganwadi Workers, 1,002 nurses, 1,400 police officers and lawyers, and 1,200 functionaries working with the One Stop Centres, women's helpline (181) and other helplines and shelter homes to sensitively respond to survivors of violence, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tech-based Solutions to Address Violence

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021, there was a sharp rise in all forms of violence against women and girls across the globe and in India. At the same time, due to government lockdowns, women were trapped in their homes with their abusers without access to support services.

UN Women, in partnership with Vodafone India Foundation, developed MyAmbar, a tech-based solution to ensure women had uninterrupted access to essential services, even during lockdowns. The mobile application is available in both English and Hindi and provides easy access to support services, including important helpline numbers and contact details of service providers across the country. The application includes a step-by-step risk assessment tool to guide the user through vulnerable situations, and an extensive service directory of legal and counselling services. So far it has been downloaded 10,000 times.

Building on this success, UN Women is working with DolphinChat, an artificial intelligence-enabled conversational platform, to develop SAMBAL, a chatbot for women survivors of violence and their allies and supporters. The app will enable the ease of reporting of domestic and other forms of violence and strengthen access to resources and tools to address Sexual and Gender based Violence. The app is expected to go live by end of 2022.

Supporting women's economic empowerment

Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the economic effects of COVID-19. Direct Benefit Transfers have emerged as a priority area for the Government of India in reforming the delivery system. It has reduced leakages and allowed for simpler and faster flow of information and funds, ensuring accurate targeting of beneficiaries. Consistent with this approach, and in collaboration with SEWA Bharat, we piloted immediate emergency COVID-19 relief of INR 1500 each to over 5000 vulnerable women, including at-risk women and girls, and a support of INR 10,000 each to 130 women micro-entrepreneurs for skills upgradation and learning new digital skills to restart their businesses in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition, 8600 women were linked with existing Government social welfare schemes.



VOICES FROM THE GROUND

"The virtual training on COVID-19 and protection from violence against women and girls was very useful. I am now taking these learnings to my community and urging women to report any violence against them. I am also making them aware of available redressal mechanisms against gender-based violence."

Kavita (Anganwadi Worker)

"The training on COVID-19 and Gender based violence helped me understand the types of gender-based violence and ways to support and care for survivors of gender-based violence."

Maya (Nurse)

BRINGING ALIVE THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

UN Women in India regularly runs campaigns to end violence against women. These campaigns have reached more than 7 million people. For example, our [#HeforShe campaign](#), in 2021, had a direct outreach of 7 million, and over 5.5 million indirect outreach through online and offline events. As part of our [#Campaign on Cyber Safety](#), Delhi Metro ran an anti-violence message that reached over 1.5 million passengers.



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

In 2020-2021, UN Women received a support of over USD 1.4 Million for emergency COVID-19 response and recovery programme. The support was made available from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF), with contributions from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and the Government of The Republic of Korea.

"I found the session on cyber security and gender responsive action extremely timely, informative, and knowledgeable. The examples of cases and laws applicable to cybercrime and the interactive session helped strengthen my knowledge in this area."

Vijaylakshmi (Legal aid professional)



WOMEN IN POLICY, PEACEKEEPING AND LEADERSHIP

THE ISSUE

In intergovernmental forums at the United Nations, Member States come together to debate and seek agreement on global gender equality norms and standards. These commitments offer the basis for action by governments and other stakeholders to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment at the global, regional and national levels. They provide impetus for adopting and enhancing laws, policies and programmes that bring about equality between women and men. Conflicts, including war or terrorism or violent extremism, have a devastating effect on women and girls, and yet, women are largely missing from conflict resolution processes and security efforts. UN Women is committed to the Women, Peace and Security agenda around the world.

OUR SOLUTION

UN Women in India has adopted a multi-pronged approach to advance the goal of gender equality through interventions that support the formulation of gender policies and norms at par with global standards. Our Inter-governmental Processes (IGP) programme works with the Government of India in supporting an enabling environment necessary for the fulfillment of India's international commitments to advance the goal of gender equality.

Through the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) initiative, we provide a platform for dialogue and action on gender-based issues.

Our support to global peacekeeping efforts has ensured that women play a decisive leadership role in UN humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts.

UN Women has an important role in working across the UN in India, supporting and coordinating the UN system's work in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

TOWARDS FULFILLMENT OF INDIA'S GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

UN Women supports interventions led by the Government of India and the State Governments for women's leadership development and increased participation in decision-making and for their social protection.



In India, UN Women has worked with NITI Aayog, the Government of India's policy think tank, to draft the gender chapter for Vision Document 2047. We supported a participatory approach to the preparation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a periodic assessment of India's overall contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 600 women's rights groups from across the country were mobilized for the national consultation to review progress on the Beijing Platform For Action (Beijing+25) that set the global feminist agenda in 1995. The consultation informed India's reporting on Gender for the Second Voluntary National Review. The Review was presented by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in July 2020 at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020.

UN Women is supporting the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in setting the gender agenda through technical support and evidence building for the 2023 G20 Summit in India.

Most recently, UN Women has worked with the United Nations Country Team -- comprised of all UN entities in India to develop the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that will guide the UN's support to India between 2022-2027. UN Women is the focal point for the Resident Coordinator on developing a system to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by any UN entity representative, contractor or implementing partner. At the global level, this work is led by the UN

Secretary General and entails intensive training for staff, contractors and implementing partners. Over 320 implementing partners have been trained and all staff have attended 'town halls' to ensure they are fully aware of our joint obligations to prevent this kind of exploitation. UN Women has also worked with the UN Resident Coordinator to establish a grievance mechanism so complaints can be investigated.

A PLATFORM FOR GENDER DIALOGUE

In 2021, the global Generation Equality Forum was launched by UN Women and the Government of Mexico, to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 on Gender Equality. UN Women India, a national convener of GEF in the country, serves as a knowledge hub and an ally of civil society and women's rights organisations in their participation in the GEF Forum.

The Generation Equality Forum in India has mobilised a new generation of feminist advocates who are beginning to take on the feminist leadership. In the recent past, the next-gen youth leaders from India had their voices heard on crucial issues of gender and caste-based discrimination at the 'Generation Equality: Young Feminist Unconference', held ahead of the high-level Gender Equality Forum in Paris in June 2021, where youth curated a panel, "Young Feminists Against Caste: An Action Agenda".



"I grew up in India, in an environment where you see gender disparity around you everywhere, but I was also brought up in a supportive, inter-caste and cosmopolitan environment at home that was very gender-equal. I believed that if my family can create a nurturing environment, I should be able to do the same"

- Jeevika Shiv,
lawyer and social worker, India.

A member of the Women in Criminal Law Association WCLA, Jeevika serves as a National Youth Gender Activist from India for UN Women. She works on the gender equality agenda with marginalised communities including tribal people and the rural poor, with a focus on building grassroots feminist leadership, legal systems, livelihoods, governance, social security and justice.

Military Officers' Course. The Course is guided by UN Women headquarters in New York and India is one of the select field offices of UN Women involved in on-the-ground execution of this initiative. The training modules introduce the officers to the prevailing socio-cultural, political and security situation in the countries where they are to be deployed. The courses have helped increase the numbers of Indian female military observers in peace keeping missions from 3 per cent in 2015 to 15 per cent in 2020.

Within the country, these courses have equipped the internal security organizations such as the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force with tools to address Conflict-related Sexual Violence and Gender Responsive Community Development among the para-military forces.

"The presence of female peacekeepers positively impacts the confidence of the local population; the reporting of gender-based violence increases; and in fact, my troops become role models for the local girls," says Seema Dhundia Deputy Inspector General of the Central Reserve Police Force in Chandigarh Union Territory, north of New Delhi. She was the commander of the world's first all-female UN peacekeeping force that was dispatched to Liberia.

WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING



Since 2015, UN Women has been supporting the government of India's Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in running the Female Military Officers' Course for military officers from 25 countries. The course is designed to help peacekeepers understand their mandate and rules of engagement in line with the obligations of the United Nations, including Security Council Resolution 1325. This Resolution calls for more women peacemakers, more women in peace building efforts and protection of women and girls in conflict zones.

India is one of the biggest contributors to peace keeping. It is one of the select few hosts for advancing women's participation and leadership roles within peace-keeping through its flagship programme - Female

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- NITI Aayog
- National Alliance of Women's Organisation (NAWO)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- Partners for Change
- Ford Foundation
- Gender at Work India Trust
- Breakthrough India
- Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability
- Best Practice Foundation

OUR FOCUS AREAS OF WORK



Governance and participation in public life



Women's income security, decent work and economic autonomy



Ending violence against women



Integrating gender perspectives in UN peacekeeping and national security



Strengthening global norms and standards



ABOUT US

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities.

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence, Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.

Learn more about our work in India:

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