

# Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience (SENU) - India

## Context

India's goal to improve access to nutritious food, education and caring structures is reflected in its national nutrition strategy *Mission POSHAN 2.0*.

The Indo-German development cooperation project 'Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience' (SENU) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India. The project is part of a larger Global Programme under the Special Initiative 'Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems' (SI AGER) by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is co-financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In India, the project is providing technical assistance to MWCD to improve the nutrition situation of women of reproductive age (15-49 years), adolescent girls (14-18 years) and young children (6-23 months) from vulnerable communities in ten *Utkarsh* districts across ten states in India.

## Our Approach

Since 2021 the project implements a nutrition-sensitive integrated approach in six districts of the Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (Barwani, Khandwa, Sheopur, Chhatarpur, Nandubar and Washim). By linking nutrition trainings with Community Nutrition Gardens, the project established nutrition-sensitive micro-planning at community level and strengthens women self-help groups.

Since 2023, the project provides systematic capacity building and trainings for the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) frontline workers and the adolescent skilling programme to support MWCD's *Mission Poshan 2.0* in ten *Utkarsh* districts. These

<sup>1</sup> The four government schemes are namely the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the National

districts are part of the initiative of 'rapid improvement of selected districts' across ten states to improve the selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under four government schemes<sup>1</sup>. As part of the project's nutrition governance work, best practice examples are institutionalised with the respective government bodies to be scaled up across and beyond states. A recent initiative is the enhancement of the monitoring of the supply side of Take-Home-Rations led by the Department of Women and Child Development, Maharashtra.

Project name	Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience (SENU)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh
Lead executing Agency	Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India
Duration	2015-2025

## Activities

### 1. Nutrition – Participatory Learning Action (N-PLA)

The project is upscaling a social behaviour change-driven N-PLA approach with social frontline workers to improve maternal and child nutrition through improved knowledge on nutrition and hygiene practices of mothers, fathers, and the surrounding communities. The sessions mainly cover three topics: Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Nutrition Gardens. Gender roles and socio-cultural power dynamics are an integral part of the sessions' lively discussions.

Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).



Left to right: A mother is tending the plants in a Community Nutrition Garden in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.

Young boys using a tippy tap for handwashing in Washim, Madhya Pradesh.

## 2. Community Nutrition Gardens (CNGs)

Under MGNREGS, Community Nutrition Gardens (CNGs) are upscaled with women self-help groups (SHGs) on community land to improve year-round availability of and access to diverse and nutritious foods. The CNGs are managed by SHGs under the State Rural Livelihood Mission. For their work in the gardens, the women receive wages under the social protection scheme for guaranteed work (MGNREGS). The agroecologically sound CNGs are linked with social behaviour change-driven nutrition education.

## 3. State Social and Behaviour Change Strategy

To positively transform the status of women and children in Madhya Pradesh, the project supported DWCD in developing a comprehensive state-specific Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) strategy and implementation plan. This strategy addresses individual, families' and community behavioural aspects that affect the issues under the thematic areas of nutrition and health, child protection and women empowerment.

## 4. Gender Transformative Approaches

A comprehensive Gender-Transformative Approach (GTA) is implemented which focuses on changing attitudes and perceptions of gender roles and stereotypes on nutrition, food production and childcare at individual, family, and community level. Specific interventions target women livelihoods, engagement of men in nutrition and household chores, and engaging with community leaders.

## 5. Digitalisation

Together with DWCD, the project developed a 40-hour e-learning training course for *Anganwadi Workers* (AWW) to impart nutrition and hygiene-related knowledge using participatory methods. Further, together with DWCD Maharashtra, an application was developed to enhance the transparency and efficiency in the supply chain of Take-Home Rations (THR) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The IT-solution serves officials, suppliers, and AWW. It supports seamless recording, online and offline, thus ensuring precise data capture and quality control of THR packets as well as its availability in accurate quantity and quality for the beneficiaries at *Anganwadi Centres*.

## 6. Capacity Building and Adolescent Skilling

Together with the Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF), which is part of the Piramal Group and has an India-wide network in the field of vocational training, SENU is planning to provide vocational training for adolescent girls aged 14-18. This includes a curriculum for life skills. Further, SENU promotes capacity building and training of ICDS frontline workers (supervisors, *Anganwadi* social workers and *Anganwadi* helpers) through a certification process.



## Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



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