

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*.

Objective

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 10 *Utkarsh* districts across ten states in India.

Project Approach

Since 2021 the project implements a nutrition-sensitive integrated approach in six districts 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 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

¹ 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 Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

frontline workers and adolescent skilling programme to support MWCD's *Mission Poshan 2.0* in 10 *Utkarsh* districts. These 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 schemes¹. As part of the project's nutrition governance work, best practices 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)
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



Left to right: A member of the women self-help group is tending to the plants in a Community Nutrition Garden in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.

Through recipe demonstrations, which are part of the N-PLA trainings, women learn how to cook nutritious meals.

Nutrition Gardens. Gender roles and socio-cultural power dynamics are an integral part of the sessions' lively discussions.

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 agro-ecologically 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 Anganwadi Workers. 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 Centers.

6. CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADOLESCENT SKILLING

Together with the Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF), a foundation of the Piramal Group, which has an India-wide network in the field of vocational training, and Jhpiego as the implementation partner, 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) with Jhpiego through a certification process.



Contribution to the 2030 agenda



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