Monitoring and Evaluation at UN Women South Asia

UN Women South Asia seeks to increase accountability for results, inform decision-making and contribute to learning on the best ways to achieve women’s empowerment and gender equality. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit of UN Women monitors and evaluates UN Women programmes in the region in line with UN Women Evaluation Policy and United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards.

Monitoring and Reporting
A reporting mechanism has been put in place to ascertain the progress made by projects and document their achievements on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Monitoring feedback is used to strengthen and improve programme implementation work plans and serves as critical input for evaluation.

Evaluation
The evaluation framework includes a baseline, benchmarks and targets as performance indicators in the programme logical framework. Mid-term reviews are conducted based on the programme logical framework to assess the progress towards intermediate outcomes. The final programme evaluation examines the impact after the completion of the programme.
Key Evaluation Results

A safe space for HIV positive women: Evaluation findings suggest that UN Women's collaboration with the Positive Women's Network (PWN+) from 2006 to 2011 was instrumental in providing a safe space, counseling, health and income generating services to women living with HIV. By increasing their visibility, PWN+ and UN Women were able to locate the voices of the positive women at the state, national and international levels. In the case of Tamil Nadu, efforts led to the reduction of age eligibility criteria for widowhood pensions for widows whose husbands had passed away as a result of HIV/AIDS. In addition, gains were made in engendering the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) phase III.

A one-stop gender info shop for South Asia: Launched in 2007, a unique regional information base provides gender disaggregated data to policymakers, governments and researchers in eight member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). An independent evaluation commissioned by UN Women and SAARC found that for most Member States, this was the first time such gender based mapping of information and disaggregation of existing data was made available. For those countries that were at a more advanced stage, the info base identified data gaps. The evaluation also found that UN Women was one of the most valued partners for SAARC as it provides relevant technical expertise to the regional association.

Making budgets count for women: In India, UN Women's support to the government has led to greater awareness about Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). An evaluation of UN Women work on GRB in India since 2001 confirmed that UN Women's technical support to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was critical in achieving results. For example, Gender Budgeting Cells were established and a Gender Budget Statement has been published with UN Women support. Research and advocacy with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has significantly improved the understanding of how budgets can be allocated to enhance the situation of women. Finally, UN Women support has increased participation of civil society organisations and women's rights advocates in the national and state planning process.

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