

SCE GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

May 2024



Photo : UN Women - Cameroon

CREATING PATHWAYS OF LEARNING, EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN

Second
Chance



WHAT IS SCE?

The approach of UN Women's Second Chance Education programme recognizes that, for women who are marginalized by crisis, poverty or harmful social norms, transformational change requires more than the offer of training or education alone.

SCE works with women who have been held back by gender-based barriers and discriminatory practices all their lives without necessarily being aware of it.

SCE provides access to practical support and life skills training that enable women to participate fully in whichever learning pathway they choose. Similarly, it recognizes the importance of social learning and personalized support throughout the SCE journey.

This scaffolded approach has led to high retention and low dropout rates and is represented by SCE's signature features.



Photo (top) : UN Women - Cameroon
Photo (bottom) : UN Women - India

GLOBAL SCE HIGHLIGHTS

Gender, Leadership & Personal Growth

OUR THREE FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AVAILABLE SOON IN ARABIC, FRENCH AND SPANISH!

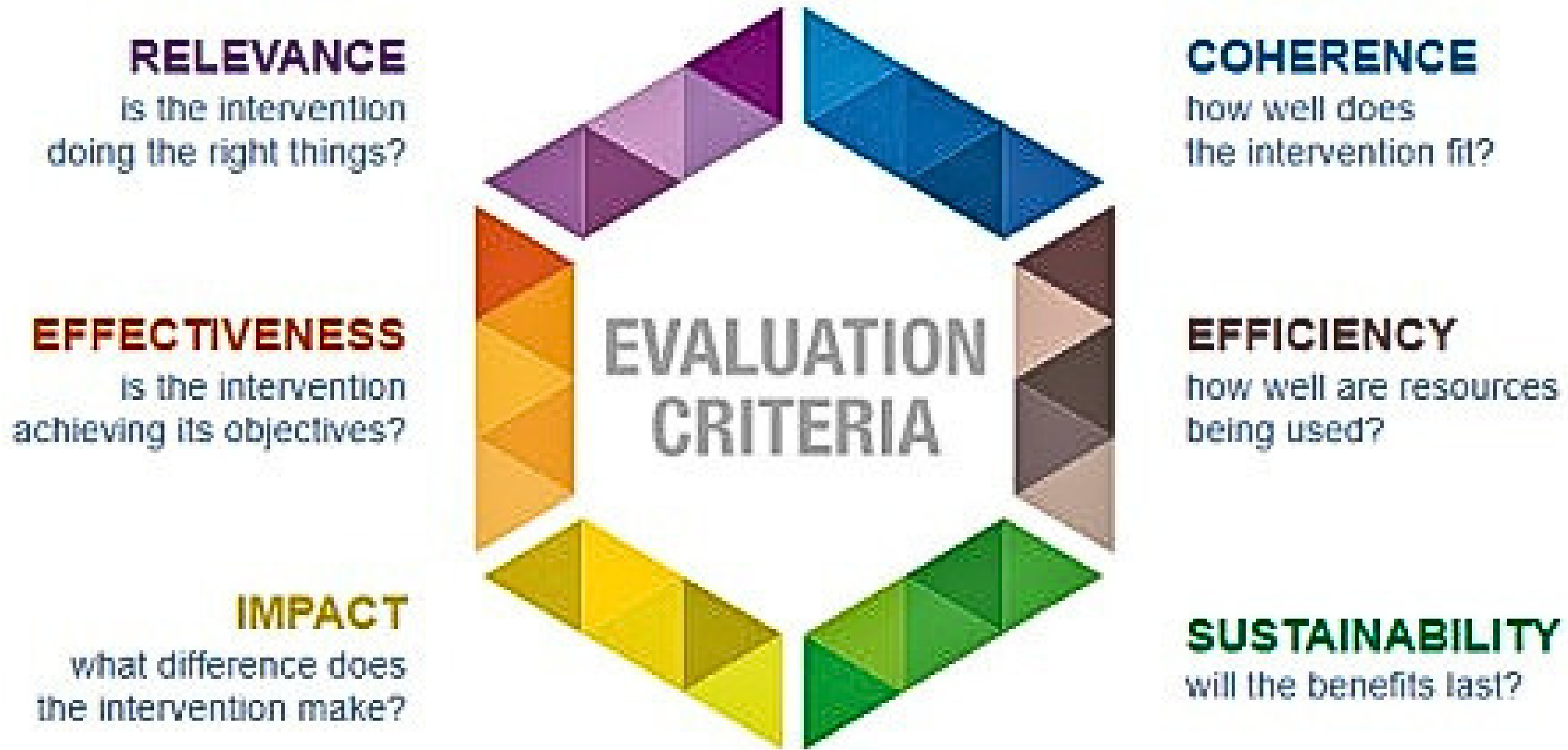
Three foundational courses were designed to accompany participants in their SCE journey. They not only provide training and core knowledge, they aim to be transformative, reinforcing the sustainable impact of all other SCE training! Those three pillars for transformational change and sustainability are **gender, leadership** and **personal growth**.



Our selection of EdApp and in-person foundational courses will be available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish by end of June 2024, along with PowerPoint presentations, standardized notes for the facilitators, and highly transformative educational content!

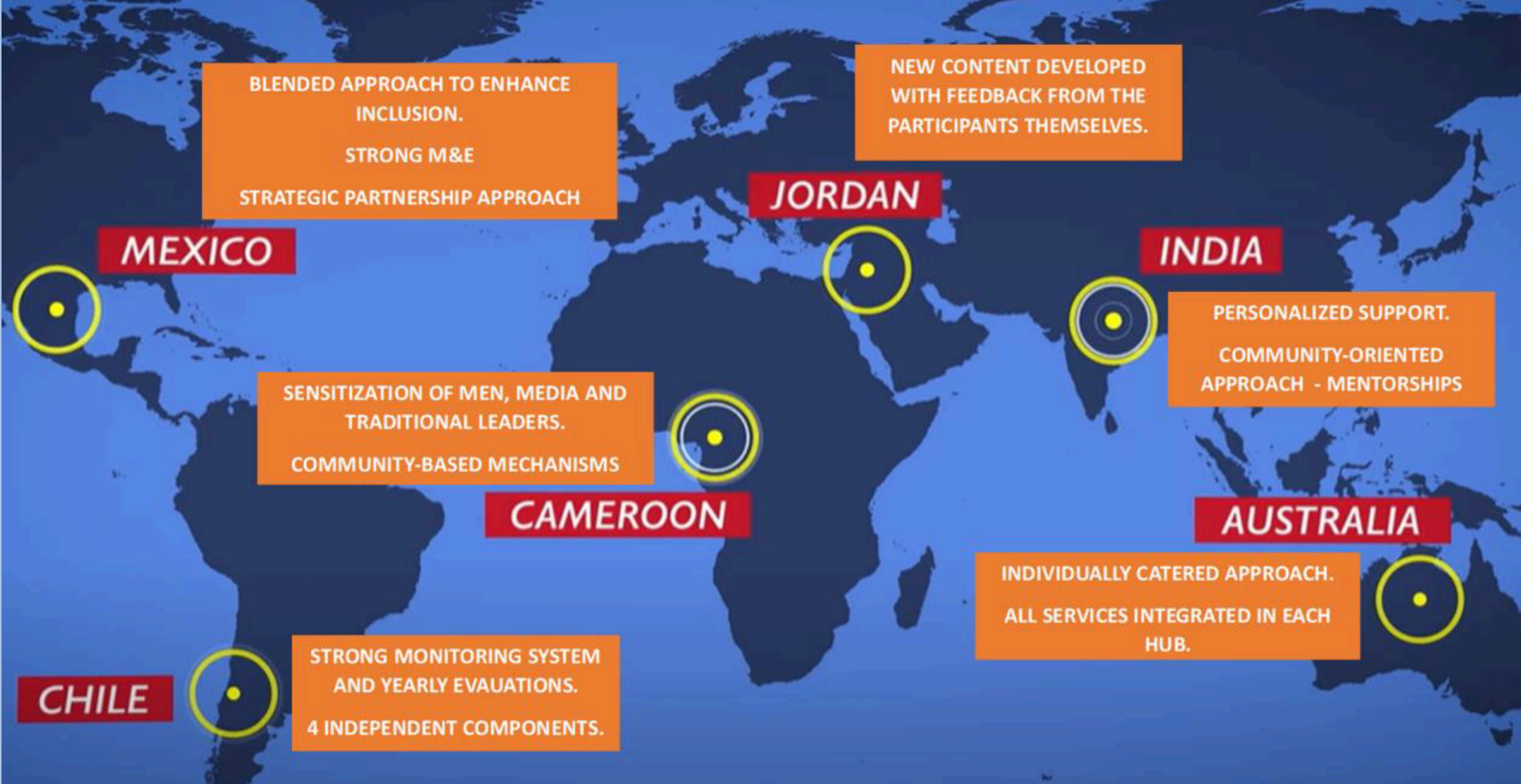
GLOBAL SCE HIGHLIGHTS

THE SCE EVALUATION IS OUT!



After a methodical monitoring of SCE's activities at a global scale, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme were evaluated, and recommendations made for its optimal improvement! If you want to know what we did well, the challenges we had to overcome, and how we can improve our solutions in the future, check out the complete evaluation [here!](#)

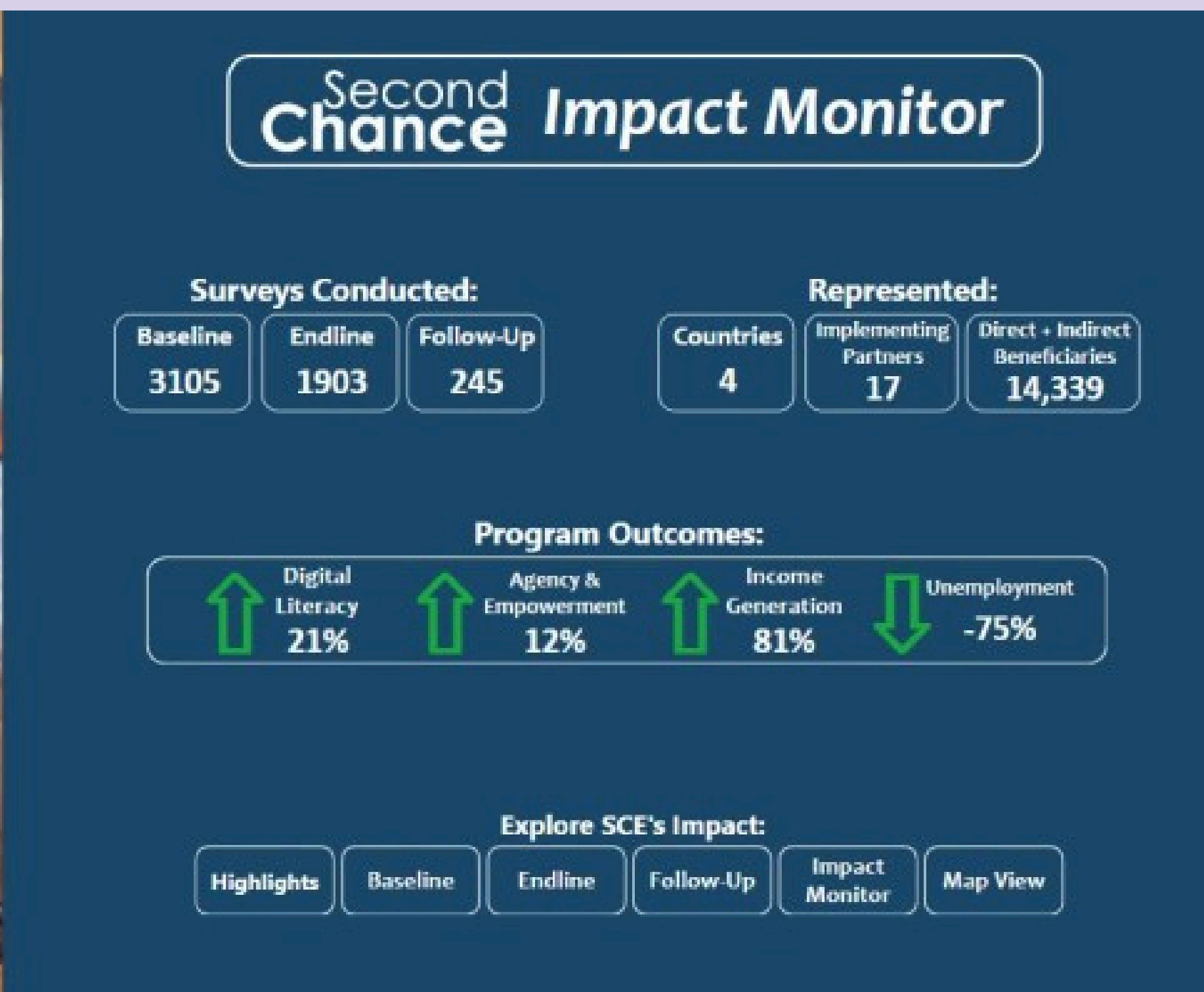
GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS: COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



The SCE Impact Monitor dashboard - A milestone in measuring programme impact!

The SCE Programme has recently reached a milestone with the completion of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system that enables real-time measurement of impact and progress towards intended outcomes. The programmatic evidence base is supported by three global surveys completed by participants: one at entrance, a second at graduation and a third post-graduation, approximately six months following programme completion. The surveys are available in seven different languages for use in different countries and contexts and were created in close collaboration between global SCE staff and UNW SCE country office staff.

The data from the surveys automatically feeds into a dashboard, the SCE Impact Monitor, created in Microsoft Power BI and available to all UNW staff members involved in the SCE programme. The dashboard provides detailed information on participants' demographics and background, feedback on their SCE journey and captures changes to their circumstances over the life of and following their involvement with the programme. The dashboard includes rich, fully interactive visuals that can be filtered by a significant number of variables, enabling micro-analyses around particular characteristics. The real-time nature of the system in turn supports adaptive management techniques, such as whether the intended beneficiaries are being targeted and reached and whether an intervention is having its intended effect. The SCE Impact Monitor highlights notable positive outcomes that programme participants are reporting, such as increased levels of income and employment, digital literacy and agency & empowerment following their SCE journey. [Click here to check it out!](#)



SCE Cameroon

UN Women's SCE programme in Cameroon, executed through UN Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) initiative, offers refugee and internally displaced women in the conflict-affected areas of Cameroon across seven regions (Far North, East, Adamawa, Littoral, Center, Northwest and Southwest Region), along with vulnerable women from host communities, training and learning opportunities in entrepreneurial, employment and life skills. In Cameroon, SCE has been implemented since 2019 in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), reaching over 12,000 participants.

SCE in the Center Region of Cameroon: Eliane's story

"SCE SAVED MY EDUCATION AND MADE ME AN ICT EXPERT," ELIANE NYABA

Eliane Nyaba Nouma Emmanuelle, 20, lives in the Etoug-Ebe neighbourhood in Yaounde, which hosts over 1000 IDPs who have fled the crises in the Northwest and Southwest Regions since 2016. Eliane, her four siblings and her mother all relocated to their grandparents' home and she was a participant in SCE's ICT (Information, communications and technology) training.

ELIANE COMPLETED THE ICT VOCATIONAL TRAINING

She received a computer to support her stay in school by making some income, typing her own assignments and thesis, and training her siblings and mother to become computer literate. Just when Eliane's mother was giving up hope for her daughter's education, along with her four siblings, due to financial challenges, SCE gave Eliane another chance. SCE enabled her to stay on at school and gave her vocational training in ICT. Today, she is a happy third-year University student in Linguistics at the University of Yaounde.



"This programme has been a very big relief to me because I could no longer continue to send Eliane and the rest of her siblings to school. She had to drop out from school after her Advanced level and either get married or look for a job to take care of herself", Endeguele Etoundi Julienne, Eliane's mother, explains. Due to financial difficulties and as a single parent, Eliane's mother could no longer afford to keep her daughter and siblings in normal day school. Eliane had to drop out from normal day school and attend an evening school, which was cheaper.

Photo: UN Women - Cameroon

SCE Cameroon

Eliane explains...

“She also informed me that evening at home that this will be my last year to go to school...that I will have to drop from school and start looking for a job, or even get married. When I listened to her, I started crying. My friends and classmates in Day school started laughing and mocking me that I can't afford a day school. I adopted a strategy of going to school in the evening very late so that I don't get to meet my friends and classmates who have just closed from the day school to avoid being mocked. I was disturbed for a very long period. I almost got into depression.”

Just when she was on the verge of dropping out of school, she was informed about SCE and she quickly met the team who accepted her into the programme after a detailed explanation of her precarious situation.

“I started attending my dream training in ICT, which was taking place during the day. In the evenings, I would go to school. During the training, we learned many things; how to type, how to repair a computer, how to design flyers, academic thesis, how to prepare letters as well as Secretariate duties. I picked up so fast and I even started assisting the trainer in training other women who were IDPs, refugees in that school. I was so passionate about it. Just before I even finished the training, our trainer recommended me to be recruited as a secretary in a real estate enterprise. I was able to earn a salary for the first time, I could save some money to further my studies in the university and help my struggling mother. I could see my future becoming bright again.”

“Eliane has been one of my best front-line staff working at my Secretariat. She is so confident, fast in typing and makes clients feel at home. After her university studies, my doors remain open for Eliane to be fully recruited as staff”, said Ngassine Romoulth, CEO of a real estate enterprise in Yaounde and former employer of Eliane.



SCE Cameroon

Today, Eliane is not only a blessing to her family but a reference amongst her peers. “Those same friends and classmates who were mocking me are envying me. Some have approached me for advice, and many are asking me to share my books and even help type their assignments for them. I will advise other young girls who have dropped out of school or are about to drop out of school never to give up. They should exploit opportunities like the SCE to get a vocational training and be able to empower themselves and even the community”.

Eliane is determined to share her skills and go the extra mile to also give a second chance to girls in need. “I have decided that I will not relent efforts in supporting young girls who have difficulties. I will share my skills and train many girls who do not have the opportunity. I would like to further my studies abroad, return home and set up a vocational training centre to give young girls and struggling women like my mother a second chance, just as I was given by UN Women”.





SCE Chile

Digital skills

Digital inclusion for economic empowerment

For UN Women, reducing the gaps in digital skills is essential to achieve gender equality and move forward towards a more fair and inclusive society. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adaptation of the virtual implementation of the Tu Oportunidad-Second Chance Education programme so that it could contribute to women's empowerment in times of health and economic crises. The model, implemented by partner AIEP, incorporated a first phase that provided, amongst other things, basic digital skills training for women. The programme also included an individual support process where tutors assisted women in using virtual communication platforms and helped them overcome any difficulties using technology.



During the asynchronous workshops and sessions, women developed skills for growing their employment and business opportunities, especially in applying for entrepreneurship grants, using digital marketing and social media, and accessing employment portals. At the end of the programme, the participants had e-mentoring sessions where they received personalized assistance in different areas. The programme has proven to be an entryway for online training for women since 43% of the graduates continued with training of this kind after completing the programme.

Digital literacy for refugee women

A digital skills course was offered within the framework of the social and economic inclusion initiative for Afghan refugee women and in collaboration with Microsoft. The course focused on the development of digital competencies for employment search and employment in Chile. The participants learned basic computing concepts, using the Spanish keyboard, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint, filling in online forms, using emails, and browsing Internet sites. This in-person course was adapted to the pace of each participant and their previous digital experience. It has proven successful and helped hundreds of women find employment!



Photo (top) : UN Women - Chile
Photo (bottom) : UN Women - Chile

Brisa's story

TRAINING WOMEN LEADERS TO BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE

“Apart from the fact that the programme gives you valuable tips and advice, you also get to meet other women who are going through the same thing as you, so it creates an environment of trust in which you can feel free to share your experience.”

In an interview with Brisa Sandoval, a participant in UN Women's Tu Oportunidad program, we gain valuable insights from her experience after she participated in personal empowerment and employability workshops. Brisa describes how the programme boosted her self-confidence and expresses gratitude for the support she received during her job search. Through the programme, she was able to strengthen her CV and adapt it to what she was looking for in the working world. She gives us details about her new job and the complex role of women in masculinized labour sectors, as Brisa joined as a trainee developer for a digital commerce company that has presence in several sectors of Chile. Now working in the headquarters within the Project management sector, Brisa participates in doing test cases for the online shopping experience, checking that both the mobile apps and the website work correctly and ensuring the user can have a smooth shopping experience.



“With this programme I was able to strengthen my CV and adapt it to what I was looking for in the working world”

Among all the teachings she received, Brisa identifies teamwork and self-care as the most valuable ones as she embarks on her new life, built on the foundations of her strengthened agency. A successful economic agent, Brisa is no longer dependent on other people and she knows it.



Visit to Paranal observatory

Within the framework of the UN Women and European Southern Observatory (ESO) alliance, the SCE Chile team visited Paranal observatory in Antofagasta, where they got the chance to meet with SCE graduates Leslie Pedrero, Adriana Sotillo and Daniela Sánchez. They graduated from a joint initiative developed between SCE and ESO (look for acronym) , to train women to acquire skills for employment in the local value chain of observatories. After the training, they were employed by one of ESO's contractors. During the visit the team also got the chance to visit the extremely large telescope (ELT) that will be the largest visible and infrared light telescope in the world: the world's biggest eye on the sky.



In 2020, ESO and the SCE programme signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aiming to ...

1

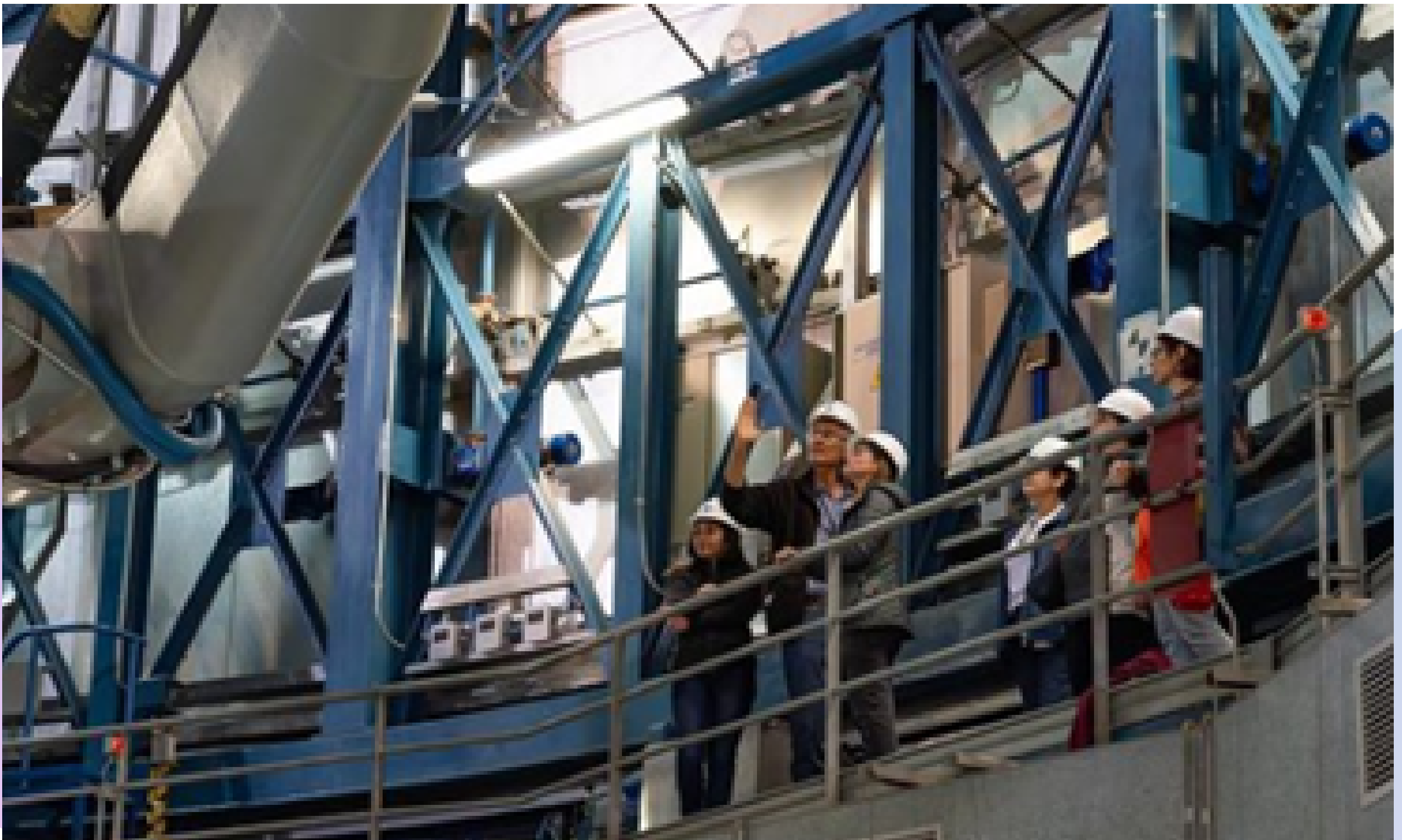
Promote sciences and engineering among young girls and adolescents,

2

Empower disadvantaged women in Chile through training and education and...

3

Work towards the adoption and implementation of the Women Empowerment Principles.



Technical Support to partners and civil society

Within the alliance with NTT Data Foundation, SCE Chile developed a toolkit for supporting the inclusion of more women and girls in STEM education, targeted at tutors, facilitators and teachers, with tools and information that support the elimination of barriers that girls and young women face when pursuing male-dominated areas. Check it out!



Photo Credit: V. Lizana & S. Aedo

Launch of the ExpoEmpleo AIEP-UN Women virtual job fair at national level with a panel discussion:

“Economic Autonomy: A way to eradicate gender-based violence”



In honour of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls on 25 November, UN Women and SCE partner AIEP organized a women-only virtual job fair for participants of the Tu Oportunidad–SCE programme on 5 December. As part of this commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, hashtag#AIEPantofagasta and UN Women organized the discussion ‘Economic autonomy: a way to eradicate gender violence’. The aim of the discussion was to reflect on the strengthening of employability as a tool to eradicate violence against women. In addition, the event was used as an opportunity to recognise mentors, users and tutors of the programme.

Rector Loreto Ferrari led the event, which was attended by AIEP's National Director of Graduates and Employability, Gail Maureen Mac-kay Martini, a participant and mentor of the Tu Oportunidad programme, Maricel Rivas, the HR and Social Responsibility Manager at the Altonorte metallurgical complex, Ana Fabres, and BHP's Corporate Affairs Specialist Elizabeth Cameron Ovando. The dialogue focused on the importance of gender equality in education and providing women not only with access to work, but also with the conditions to keep it.



Photo (top) : AIEP
Photo (bottom) : AIEP

SCE India

UPDATES FROM INDIA!

As at February 29th, 2024, SCE in India has made remarkable strides in empowering women across four states. A total of 40,664 women have been enrolled across the SCE pathways, marking a significant step towards gender equality and economic empowerment.

Moreover, 4,442 women have successfully completed vocational skills training, equipping them with valuable expertise and enhancing their employability. SCE's efforts have also facilitated the education of 3,081 women, opening doors to brighter futures and expanded opportunities. 64 women recently passed their examinations in December 2023, underscoring the tangible impact of SCE's interventions in facilitating educational success and academic advancement.

Enhancing capacities of women entrepreneurs from Bihar, India: Collaboration with MeraBizNet

SCE India in collaboration with MeraBizNet is trying to enhance capacity building, marketing strategies, financial linkages, and mentoring support for women entrepreneurs in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, and Gaya, Bihar. MeraBizNet is an organization which aims to provide livelihood opportunities to a million women by 2030 through supporting, developing and incubating women-led entrepreneurial initiatives with a special emphasis on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India.

Under this initiative, several rounds of meetings were held to gain a comprehensive understanding of the programme's objectives and the specific needs of women entrepreneurs in the target areas. These discussions have been instrumental in shaping the approach and tailoring the support to meet the unique requirements of the local communities.

Online interactions have been initiated with a select group of women entrepreneurs to assess their needs, challenges, and aspirations. These conversations have provided valuable insights that will inform the design and implementation of the capacity-building initiatives.

Currently, MeraBizNet is in the planning phase for in-person field training sessions with women entrepreneurs. These sessions will offer practical guidance and skills development opportunities to empower women to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors. Efforts are also underway to onboard mentors who will provide ongoing guidance and support to women entrepreneurs throughout their journey.



SCE India

Capacity building for SCE trainers



Training of Trainers on Life Skills was held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 4th to 8th December 2023. Some 20 trainers from across Odisha attended the training.

REIMAGINING FUTURE WITH SCE

Recently, more than 50 SCE participants attended 'reimagining future' trainings, also known as aspiration mapping workshops, at women empowerment hubs across our implementing states. During these 16-hour trainings, the on-ground partner conducted aspiration mapping exercises with the newly enrolled women and girls in SCE, in which areas of potential for each participant were assessed and participants were placed in different curriculum programmes.



Photo (top) : UN Women - India
Photo (bottom) : UN Women - India

PERSONALIZED SUPPORT TO SCE WOMEN EMPOWERING CONVERSATIONS

Engagement with placed SCE participants

Under the post-placement support mechanism, SCE participants placed at various offices and factories are visited routinely.

Recently, our implementing partner PRADAN engaged in face-to-face interactions with candidates employed at Motherson Sumi Wiring India Limited in Chennai. The discussions encompassed various facets of employment, financial management, and personal well-being, aimed at providing valuable guidance and support to the employees.

During these conversations, PRADAN delved into topics such as employment prospects, financial planning, and accessing benefits like the Provident Fund (PF). The discussions were tailored to address the specific needs and concerns of the employees, fostering a supportive environment conducive to growth and development.

Among the candidates was Minda, who shared her inspiring journey. Despite facing financial constraints, Minda displayed remarkable determination and resilience. Having completed her 12th grade education, she was compelled to discontinue her studies due to financial challenges. However, her aspirations remained undeterred.

The PRADAN team provided Minda with encouragement and support, offering guidance on how to navigate her educational journey and overcome financial hurdles. They discussed strategies for managing her studies alongside her professional responsibilities and explored avenues for accessing resources and support services.

Minda expressed her fervent desire to pursue higher education and fulfill her dream of becoming an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. Despite her busy schedule, she diligently dedicates time to study every day after returning from work, displaying unwavering commitment to her goals.



SCE encourages women to self-empower on India's Republic Day



Our implementing partner in Bihar, **PRAN**, organized a **Public Service Announcement (PSA)** vehicle on women's empowerment at a Republic Day celebration at Gaya, Bihar on January 26, 2024. This innovative initiative aimed to inspire and motivate women to embark on a journey of self-empowerment through education and skill development.

At the stall, women were encouraged to explore opportunities for job skills and livelihood training offered through the SCE programme. Through interactive displays, informative materials, and engaging discussions, women were empowered to take charge of their futures and pursue avenues for personal and professional growth.

Furthermore, the initiative extended its reach beyond women, fostering dialogue and engagement among men on the crucial topic of 'Naari Shakti' (women's power). By encouraging men to actively participate in conversations about women's empowerment, the initiative aimed to foster a culture of inclusivity, support, and gender equality within the community.



Stories of Change from India

Transforming Lives: Sunita Melaka's Journey



Sunita Melaka (21) is a resident of Sikampadar village, nestled within the Rayagada district in Odisha. Born into a modest farming family, Sunita's aspirations for education were met with the harsh reality of financial constraints. Despite completing her studies up to the 12th grade, the burden of familial responsibilities weighed heavily on her dreams of pursuing further education. However, Sunita's resolve remained unshaken. She yearned to break free from the cycle of limited opportunities and carve out a brighter future for herself and her family. Her journey took a positive turn when she discovered the UN Women's "Second Chance Education" programme, through her friends.

This program, tailored to provide skill development and employment opportunities to those hindered by obstacles in formal education, offered Sunita a ray of hope. Eager to acquire new skills and contribute to her family's well-being, she seized the opportunity to join the Yashoda Foundation for General Duty Assistant (GDA) training in Hyderabad.

Under the guidance of the foundation, Sunita received comprehensive training coupled with holistic development initiatives, paving the way for her assured employment. With newfound skills and confidence, she secured a position at Yashoda Hospital in Hyderabad.

For the past year, Sunita has been diligently working, her monthly income of Rs. 12,000 (USD 144) making a significant impact on her family's financial stability. Her contributions to household expenses have ensured better educational opportunities for her siblings, thereby uplifting the prospects of her entire family.

Beyond her personal achievements, Sunita has become a beacon of inspiration for other young individuals in her village facing similar challenges. Her success story underscores the transformative power of second chances and the importance of creating pathways to success for individuals in rural communities.

Sunita expresses that her life altering experience is a result of enrolling into the Second Chance Education programme and coming down to Hyderabad, to study at the Yashoda Foundation. Their support not only provided her with a second chance at education but also empowered her to shape a brighter future for herself and her loved ones.

She says initiatives like second chance education programme should continue to inspire and empower women like her to make a difference.

Investing in women and creating opportunities for growth and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society makes an overall development.

Photo: UN Women - India

Stories of Change from India



Rita's story of resilience, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit

Meet Rita (30) resident of Dogegav Village in the Nandurbar District, Maharashtra.

Rita joined the Chaitanya Self-Help Group (SHG) in 2022 and thereafter started her entrepreneurial journey.

Coming from a background where farming was the primary occupation, Rita aimed to venture into her own business. Recognizing the need for financial support, she turned to the SHG for credit assistance. With her family facing economic challenges, Rita felt the weight of responsibility on her shoulders as the eldest among them.

When the SCE (Second Chance Education) member visited Dogegav to identify capable entrepreneurs, Rita seized the opportunity. She participated in business mindset training and received incentives for survey purposes. It was during this time that she noticed a pressing need in her village – the lack of rice and flour mills. Determined to address this gap, Rita decided to invest in both.

Equipped with digital and financial literacy training and support from SCE, Rita navigated the process of acquiring assets through her SHG. She fulfilled all requirements for rice distribution by the District Cooperative Society (DSC) and secured benefits for her village. With a loan obtained through DSC, Rita purchased the necessary equipment and successfully launched both businesses.

As her enterprises flourished, Rita's journey continued. She underwent record-keeping training, ensuring the efficient management of her businesses. Today, Rita stands as a beacon of economic empowerment in her community. Not only is she running successful ventures, but she also extends a helping hand to other women in her SHG, assisting two of them in setting up their own businesses.

Rita's story exemplifies the transformative power of entrepreneurship and community support. Through determination, resourcefulness, and the guidance of SCE, she has not only improved her own livelihood but also uplifted those around her.

SCE Jordan

Updates from Jordan!

SCE in Jordan, in partnership with its new partner, Injaz, is developing five new educational courses on the topics of Digital Skills, Financial Literacy, Nutrition, Health, and Life Skills. They will be delivered through the Oasis programme. Additionally, 27 women have been selected for a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, which will equip them to deliver these educational courses at the UN Women Oasis centres.

Mariam's path to skill development and confidence

Mariam Al-Gharableh, a Jordanian widow and mother of four, resides in Aqaba, Jordan. Before her enrolment at the Oasis centre, Mariam lacked work experience and had only been engaged in a Hairstyling Training and a Soap and Perfume making course. Her introduction to the Oasis centre came through her relatives.

While she was initially hesitant due to the centre's distance from her home and the extended time commitment to attend its programme, Mariam adapted and found the experience rewarding. The diverse community at the centre allowed her to learn how to interact with people from different backgrounds and personalities. Technically, she acquired numerous tailoring skills and techniques. The course boosted Mariam's confidence, making her a better tailor and improving her interpersonal skills. Post-course, she expanded her business, "Al Makarem," to include bag-making, drawing on the knowledge gained at the centre. At "Al Makarem," Mariam creates soap, perfumes, and bags.

"I recommended the programme for many women I know, so they can benefit as much as I did."

The Oasis Model has notably enhanced its reach, establishing a total of 22 centres that have significantly empowered over 30,000 individuals, predominantly Syrian refugees, and vulnerable Jordanian women, including a substantial number with disabilities. Recognized for creating safe, inclusive spaces, these centres have provided crucial cash-for-work, skill development, and early childhood services.

Mariam encourages women to work and educate themselves, emphasizing the importance of not staying idle at home. Her dream is for her business to thrive, achieving full independence.

This personalized narrative echoes the transformative impact of the UN Women-operated Oasis centre, mirroring the success stories made possible by the European Union (EU) funding through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. Mariam's journey illustrates the positive changes facilitated by the centre, echoing the sentiments shared by Dua'a in a similar context.



SCE Jordan

Azhar's journey: A story of empowerment and self-growth



Azhar Riyati, a married Jordanian with six children, took the initiative to register at the Oasis Centre with the encouragement of her husband. Having transitioned from dedicating all her time to her family, Azhar, who now serves as a trainer at the centre, initially found it challenging to balance her time between the centre and her family commitments.

"When I first started, I was afraid I wouldn't do a good job. Interacting with staff and participants from different ages and backgrounds made me enjoy my time, overcome fears, get familiar with the equipment, and become more flexible in dealing with others."

Azhar reflects on the transformative journey: "It was a great experience! It helped me and other women develop new skills and become more confident. After completing the programme, I bought a sewing machine and started working from home. Although I'm not earning much now, I am hopeful, especially since my project is still at its beginning and will improve, becoming more well-known."

"Working from home is a great concept for some women. You can take care of your home and kids while still running your own business and earning an income."

Recognized as highly successful by international and national actors for creating safe, inclusive spaces, the Oasis centres have provided crucial cash-for-work, skill development, and early childhood services. UN Women's female-centred approach has notably advanced refugee women's economic autonomy and self-confidence, driving the program's relevance to national response efforts.

Her advice to women is to "Overcome their fears and get out of their comfort zone". "For housewives, I advise them to educate themselves, always learn something new, and try having their own business. This will change their perception of life and the way they see things."

Azhar's story aligns with the transformative impact of the Oasis centres, showcasing the positive changes facilitated by the European Union (EU) funding through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development..

SCE Mexico

SCE Graduation at the CEMEX Learning Center: A graduation to celebrate the women who completed their SCE training!

167 women received a diploma in a very cheerful graduation ceremony at Second Chance's Learning Center in Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, on January 27th. The graduates took courses in digital literacy, financial education, human development, and entrepreneurship to strengthen or start their businesses. They completed 40 hours of training and took workshops in different trades, such as baking, carpentry, spa massages and balloon design for decoration. These arts and crafts trainings are part of CEMEX's training offerings at its Community Center, where the SCE Learning Center is located. As part of the event, there was a bazaar where the entrepreneurs were able to showcase and market their products.



SCE allies meeting in February 2024



An SCE Allies meeting took place in February in Guadalajara to lay the groundwork for updating the Mentoring Model and define a work agenda with a joint actionable plan for the short, medium, and long term with priorities agreed upon by all the organizations that are part of the SCE network in the state of Jalisco.

SCE Allies meetings are spaces for organizations that work as Learning Centers to discuss challenges, strategies, proposals, and points of view regarding the SCE programme's implementation. From a macro point of view, these meetings focus on how to contribute to reducing the gender-based economic inequality gap among women in Jalisco; these are spaces for co-construction, common work, and a commitment to collective impact.

During the February edition, an exercise was carried out to provide feedback on the Mentoring Model, as well as a detailed description of how it currently operates, to work on a proposal to update the model, considering the points of view of the implementing organizations. There was also a reflective exercise on the purpose of collaborating in the Allies Network and its expectations.

The most tangible results were that each representative of the Learning Centers answered a form that included the lines of action that have emerged in past Allies Meetings according to the assessment of priorities individually (by organization). This contributed to generating inputs for SCE's responsible party, ProSociedad, to work on an ordered list according to priorities on which all the Centers agree.

This is an example of how Second Chance continues to grow stronger, thanks to the resources and links that each partner has and makes available to build comprehensive strategies to promote the economic empowerment of women.

GETTING TO KNOW THE SCE TEAM

Tania Calderas

**M&E AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
OFFICER FOR SCE, MEXICO**

When did you join SCE and what are your responsibilities?

I joined as M&E and Knowledge Management Assistant for SCE Mexico on September 2022, when the program was starting an exciting process of strengthening its Monitoring and Evaluation commitments.

What is your favourite thing about SCE?

I love many things about SCE, but mainly its integral approach and its multisectoral functioning. I think SCE is very special because it empowers women from deep inside. It goes beyond the pure training in skills and abilities needed for employment and entrepreneurship, it provides training on personal skills with gender perspectives, along with personalized support and leadership training through the mentorship model and its support networks. All this makes the SCE a relevant path for women. It has an impact on every dimension of their life and makes them agents of change within their families and communities.

The multisectoral approach, has made the programme sustainable and has been the way to guarantee that trainings are relevant to the context, providing real opportunities for participants to enter the active economic world.

What are the most challenging parts of your role?

An exciting and challenging part of my role has been to find a way to harmonize and implement a good information flow to consolidate a strong M&E strategy on many levels. The first level identifies needs, validate global instruments and implement changes on processes at the level of implementation with RP's and centers, gathering relevant information from face-to-face challenges directly with participants. The second level requires implementing processes to guarantee the availability of the necessary information to fulfill country office requirements, provide inputs for SCE decision making and systematization of the experience. Within the third level, I have had the opportunity to incorporate suggestions and to strengthen M&E processes, instruments, and decisions at the global level by means of a M&E global work group that became a great productive space to learn, analyze, share, produce and strengthen all M&E SCE strategy.



What are your expectations for the team and for the whole programme for next year?

Because pilot phase already finished, I hope SCE brings enough attention and all that we have accomplished in terms of experience, availability of good quality information, reliable instruments, and systematized methodology could be useful for continuing the improvement and economic empowerment of women.

At the country level and with RP's close collaboration, we already systematized and packed the methodology that can be used to strengthen and complement empowerment training programs focused on women. This can be useful for governments that may have in mind or currently running skills training programs for women. We are confident that this will raise interest to boost future opportunities to reach more women needing a Second Chance. Currently in Mexico there is continuity with two allies.

Also, UNW Mexico has been working towards achieving an innovative sustainability approach for SCE by leading the codesign process, structuration process and consultant relation aiming to launch the first Outcome-Based Approach (OBA) experience for SCE with the interest of outcome-funders (Government of Nuevo León, Fundación Nacional Monte de Piedad, and Fomento Social Citibanamex) so that improvement of employment outcomes for women in disadvantaged situations can be guaranteed, contributing to their economic empowerment and improving gender equality.

Photo: Tania Calderas, UN Women - Mexico