

ON TRACK

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From the Representative's Desk

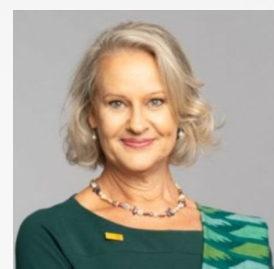
Greetings from UNFPA India!

It is my pleasure to share with you the second edition of the UNFPA India Newsletter, '**On Track**'. The newsletter highlights key achievements, encouraging progress and innovative initiatives undertaken by UNFPA in the third quarter of 2022.

With the approval of the [10th Country Programme Document \(CPD10\)](#) by the UNFPA Executive Board in September, the India Country Office is now gearing up to implement the 10th programme cycle (2023 to 2027). The [evaluation report of the 9th Country Programme \(CP9\)](#), which was rated 'very good', was instrumental in the development of a well-informed CPD10.

I hope you enjoy reading about how midwives in India are getting empowered, panchayats enhancing the value of women and girls, the hackathon to address gender-based violence, and much more.

Andrea M. Wojnar
UNFPA India Representative
& Bhutan Country Director



Towards ending preventable maternal deaths



National Midwifery Training Institute (NMTI) in Patiala, Punjab, operational

With UNFPA's support, the National Midwifery Training Institute (NMTI) in Patiala, Punjab, is up and running. The training of the first batch of Midwifery Educators commenced on 21st September. The NMTI was made operational with UNFPA's technical assistance. To provide midwifery education based on international standards, UNFPA placed international experts.

The midwives trained at NMTI will play a critical role at the State Midwifery Training Institutes (SMTIs) and will provide services at the Midwifery Led Care Unit (MLCU) established at high delivery case-load hospitals providing quality sexual and reproductive health services and ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths.



Orientation of health service providers on evidence-based intrapartum care and midwifery practices

To promote and enhance the use of evidence-based recommended practices in intrapartum care and midwifery-led care initiative, UNFPA in partnership with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, conducted an orientation for health care providers, particularly doctors and nurses, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 5 parent hospitals linked to 5 different NMTIs in India - Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, and Assam.



Leveraging the power of data to end maternal deaths

In Odisha, UNFPA conducted a deeper analysis of the maternal health data to map and identify areas where indicators are significantly below the state average. Based on the analysis of micro-level data, health institutions at the Community and Primary Health Centre levels were mapped and clustered. Critical insights were also gathered through field and community engagement.

A targeted action plan was prepared and implemented in each cluster with localised strategies. The action plans were closely monitored and followed through. By the end of September, institutional delivery had increased from 70% to 90% in three of the blocks identified.



LaQshya Certification of General Hospital, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

By providing technical and coordination support, UNFPA played a key role in ensuring the General Hospital in Sawai Madhopur, an Aspirational District in Rajasthan, become a **LaQshya-certified** health facility. After state and national assessments, the facility scored an impressive 95% in Labour Room and 97% in Maternal Operation Theatre in terms of quality of standards and delivery of services.

'**LaQshya**' is an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to reduce maternal and newborn deaths; improve the quality of care during delivery and immediate post-partum period; ensure positive birthing experience and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending public health facilities. Any public health facility achieving a 70% or above score on National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) on both Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatre will be certified as a **LaQshya-certified** facility.

Towards ending unmet need for family planning



FP 2030 Vision Document launched; introduction of two new reversible contraceptives

As the country focal point and co-convenor of the FP 2030 partnership, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and contributed significantly towards finalising the FP 2030 Vision document. The vision document was launched by MoHFW at the Family Planning Summit on 27th July 2022.

In line with the commitments made in the vision document, MoHFW announced its decision to expand the basket of choices for contraceptives by adding 2 new reversible methods - injectable Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate, Subcutaneous (DMPA SC) and single rod Implanon, Nexplanon. By providing initial procurement and technical assistance, UNFPA will be supporting MoHFW in a limited introductory roll-out of the new methods in select areas identified in Rajasthan and Odisha.



Madhya Pradesh State Quality Assurance Workshop on Family Planning

To ensure the delivery of quality family planning services in Madhya Pradesh, the Directorate of Health Services, National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with UNFPA, conducted a State Quality Assurance Workshop on Family Planning for 130 service providers and concerned officials from all 52 districts of the state.

The workshop was followed by field visits to two districts on the border of Madhya Pradesh to ascertain the challenges related to family planning and maternal health. Based on the workshop, the National Health Mission has issued a guideline for all districts to strengthen quality assurance in the Family Planning Programme.

Towards ending gender-based violence and harmful practices



Hackathon to prevent and address gender-based violence launched

UNFPA in partnership with [TechGig](#) launched a hackathon, [Crack the Code to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\)](#), to crowdsource innovative ideas and prototypes to address GBV particularly related to Persons with Disabilities, Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and humanitarian situations. More than 8,500 registered for the hackathon including individuals, students, women-led teams, start-ups, techpreneurs, and people with diverse lived experiences.

The next phase of the hackathon is underway in which the shortlisted teams and individuals will submit their prototypes and receive mentoring support from subject matter experts.



Enhancing the value of women and girls through Panchayats

UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, organised a two-day National Conference on Enhancing the Value of Women and Girls through Panchayats.

The key objective of the conference was to enable the State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) to integrate gender as part of their training for Panchayat Raj Institute (PRI) members and to prepare gender-responsive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Some of the important recommendations that emerged from the conference include the need to involve women, girls and other vulnerable groups in the development of GPDPs to ensure their needs get reflected and to develop linkages between Panchayats and Self-Help Groups for the economic empowerment of women.



Scaling up Girl Friendly Gram Panchayats to create an enabling environment for girls

Following the successful pilot of the Girl Friendly Gram Panchayat (GFGP) model in Rajasthan, UNFPA supported the Department of Women Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan, in scaling up the model across the state. To facilitate the scale-up, a Master Trainers Training Programme was organised for 142 master trainers from across all districts of the state.

Girl Friendly Gram Panchayat is an initiative supported by UNFPA under the ***Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*** scheme to create an enabling environment for girls at the gram panchayat level. It includes extending the benefits of government schemes to girls, building schools where there are no schools for girls, addressing safety and security issues, and protection from gender-based violence.



Strengthening health sector response to gender-based violence (GBV)

To strengthen comprehensive health sector response to gender-based violence (GBV), UNFPA in collaboration with the Indian Nursing Council organised a workshop for principals of nursing colleges across India. The workshop emphasised the critical role nurses can play in preventing GBV and responding to the needs of survivors of violence. This includes upholding survivors' right to emotional, sexual and physical health and linking them to support services.

The key recommendations of the workshop include the need to integrate prevention and response to GBV with a focus on a human rights approach, as part of the pre-service nursing curricula.



Building the capacity of One-Stop Centre (OSC) counsellors to respond to GBV survivors

UNFPA in collaboration with the Women & Child Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and iCALL, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, jointly organised a three-day residential workshop for 101 OSC counsellors, administrators and case workers from all the districts in Madhya Pradesh.

The key objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of counsellors to deliver effective counselling services at their respective OSCs. This includes counselling skills, identifying signs of distress and crisis among survivors of violence and self-care for counsellors.

Empowering young people and adolescents



Responding to the emerging needs and concerns of adolescents

Supported by UNFPA, the Adolescent Health Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, conducted a five-day residential training workshop for 150 state master trainers from 36 States and Union Territories in India.

The purpose of the training was to equip medical officers with the information and skills to respond to the emerging needs and concerns of the health and well-being of adolescents. These master trainers, in turn, will build the capacity of other medical officers, Auxilliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers when they return to their respective states and districts.



State Resource Centre for Adolescence Education Programme in Bihar inaugurated

The State Resource Centre (SRC) will play a critical role in the successful implementation of ***Talim-i-Naubalighan***, the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) for Madarsas in Bihar. The SRC will act as the apex institution driving the programme's implementation and bridging the policy and programmatic gaps.

Talim-i-Naubalighan is an initiative jointly implemented by the Minority Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, Bihar State Madrasa Education Board, Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Hyderabad) and UNFPA. The programme aims to develop critical thinking and scientific temperament in Madrasa students that can bridge the gap between Madarsas and schools, and transform the 2,500 Madarsas in Bihar into institutions of transformative learning.



Disability Inclusion: Generating rights-based discourse

Generating a positive discourse on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) is an important step towards their inclusion based on the nuanced understanding of their special needs to fulfil their rights

An advocacy-cum-learning workshop was organised at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with an aim to better understand disability and to create a discourse on the importance of inclusion of PwD for achieving not only SDG targets but also the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.

Attended by PwDs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the area of disability, they shared their experiences and best practices. Different kinds of tools and materials, assistive technologies and aids used by the organisations were also showcased.



Promoting positive masculinities to address gender inequalities

To address harmful gender stereotypes and promote positive masculinities, UNFPA in collaboration with partners organised state-level and district-level workshops for 185 trainers at Bhopal and Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The trainers were trained in 6 batches.

The workshop was aimed at building the capacity of trainers to understand the various aspects of masculinity and to initiate discussions in schools on positive masculinity with the students and the teachers.

Population Dynamics and Research



Sharing good practices and knowledge under South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

Under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) initiative, a study visit supported by the [India-UN Development Partnership Fund](#) was organised for officials of the National Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Moldova, to learn good practices on the use of administrative data and their use for preparing the next population and household census in India.

An eight-member team visited the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI), the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation), and the National Institute of Medical Statistics (Indian Council of Medical Research).

At the Global South-South Development Expo 2022, a side event was held where the delegation from Moldova shared their learnings and experiences from the south-south cooperation with the Government of India in the field of data.



UNFPA India Representative Andrea Wojnar with the delegates from the Republic of Moldova after a successful debriefing meeting with Shri Srinivas Gotru, Joint Secretary, United Nations Economic & Social (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Inclusion of SDG Indicator in the National Indicator Framework to achieve gender equality

UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) to estimate SDG indicator number 6.6.2 – ‘Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education’. This indicator was finally included in the National Indicator Framework (NIF).

NIF is the largest ever monitoring framework in the country for monitoring the SDGs at the national level and is aimed at providing strategic direction to policymakers and the implementers of various schemes and programmes.



District-level population projections for UNFPA priority states

For better planning and monitoring of health-related interventions at the local level, UNFPA conducted district-level population projections for its four priority states in India - Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

The projections have age-sex disaggregated data for the period 2021 and 2026. The district-level projections utilised the state projection figures provided by the Government of India.



MoU signed with A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Sciences, Patna to bolster research

UNFPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies (ANSISS), Patna (Bihar), to strengthen policy and research on reproductive health, population dynamics and gender.

As part of the MoU, UNFPA will place young interns at ANSISS from reputed institutes across India to support research in Bihar.

Partnerships and campaigns

Young Professional Internship Programme (YPIP) 2022

UNFPA launched the Young Professional Internship Programme (YPIP) 2022 to provide recent graduates and young professionals from diverse academic and professional backgrounds exposure to international development. Three interns from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi and Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune were inducted for a period of three months starting in July 2022.

The internship provided first-hand experience of working in the UN through exposure to the day-to-day working environment of UNFPA in India. It also provided an opportunity for young people, especially women from diverse social groups to learn about UNFPA's mandate in India, engage with policies and programmes and further advance the agenda.



Ayushi Bajaj is a student at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi. She graduated in B.A. (H) Economics from Delhi University in the year 2020. In 2019, she volunteered for the Delhi Government's programme Saajha and helped in organising Non-Plan Admissions to Delhi Government Schools.

She is interested in analysing and understanding the role of Education on Human Capital as a major driver for economic growth.

During her internship with UNFPA, she will be affiliated to the A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies in Patna and will be supporting research in the areas of education and its linkages with reproductive health and child marriage.



Kritika Chauhan is pursuing MSc in Population and Health Economics from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. As part of her core subject, she studied econometric and statistical modelling, business analytics, research methodology and population dynamics. She did her undergraduate degree in BA(H) Economics from Delhi University.

Kritika has experience with population databases [NFHS, NSS, CENSUS, PLFS].

During her internship with UNFPA, she intends to support analysis of female workforce participation, focusing on the trends and the elements that would enable to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.



Rahul Kushwaha is pursuing M.S. in Quantitative Economics from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi. He did his B.A.(H) Economics from Delhi University. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi where he is working on macroeconomics and industry interaction.

He has a strong interest in macroeconomics. During his internship with UNFPA, he will be analysing data related to the productivity of the workforce for their effective contribution to economic development and is keen to apply econometrics modeling to this research.



World Population Day

For World Population Day 2022, UNFPA ran a social media campaign to raise awareness among young people, especially young women and adolescent girls, about modern contraception choices/methods, right to access voluntary family planning and promote bodily autonomy. UNFPA also collaborated with UNDP to develop a few creatives on the need to invest in girls and promote equal access to digital technology, the internet and employment opportunities. The campaign reached more than 900,000 people across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



International Youth Day

To promote intergenerational connectedness, foster partnerships and collaboration among the young and elderly people in India, UNFPA ran a social campaign called [#ForAllपीढ़ीस](#) (For All Generations). The campaign was also aimed at addressing age-related stereotypes, discrimination, and social norms that prevent young people and the elderly from accessing opportunities to actively participate in social or economic activities. An estimated 940,000 people were reached.

UNFPA Representative Mission in Bihar



UNFPA India Representative Andrea M. Wojnar visited Bihar and reviewed programmes related to key areas such as sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, gender equality and youth empowerment.

The Representative met with senior political leaders and high-ranking government officials including the Deputy Chief Minister cum Health and Urban Development Minister, Shri Tejaswhi Prasad Yadav and the Chief Secretary, Mr. Amir Subhani, IAS.

In Patna, the Representative met the *Swacchangini* Women Sanitation Workers, an initiative by UNFPA and Patna Municipal Council to empower women from the sanitation workers community and address manual scavenging. The Representative also visited the districts of Sheikhpura, Nalanda and Gaya.

Key Publications



Community Insights

[Social norms withholding the potential of women and girls...must be reversed](#)

Meet the women and girls in Madhya Pradesh who in the face of insurmountable odds, refuse to give up, and continue to challenge gender unequal norms and narratives everyday...with the help of their partners, their families and their communities.



[National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\) 2019 -2021 - Analytical Paper Series](#)

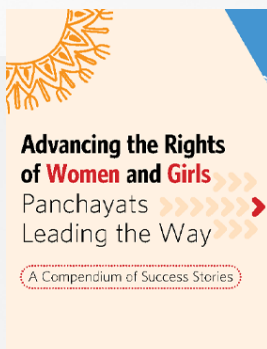
Three Analytical Paper Series based on the analysis of unit-level data from the latest NFHS-5 were published. These are [Women's Ability to Decide about Sexual Relations, Contraceptive Use and Reproductive Health Care in India \(SDG Indicator 5.6.1\)](#), [Child Marriage in India: Key Insights](#), and [Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls](#).



[Integrating Menstrual Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and menstrual health (MH) are fundamental to health, well-being, and gender equity. SRH and MH have deeply intertwined roots, biologically and socio-culturally; yet over the years, these integral components of health have not been addressed or often overlooked in programs, policy and research, globally and in India.

[Click here to download](#)



[Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls: Panchayats Leading the Way](#)

A compendium of 21 success stories of women-friendly panchayats in India to inspire other panchayats across India to work towards attaining the goals under SDG-5. This initiative is part of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India (GoI) towards localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve the 2030 development agenda.

[Click here to download](#)

In the news

[Opinion | India must harness the potential of young girls](#)

Op-ed by Andrea Wojnar, Representative, UNFPA India and the Country Director Bhutan, on World Population Day

[Published in The Hindustan Times](#)

[Reducing Her Burden: contraception as a critical step toward women's empowerment](#)

Op-Ed by Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director of Population Foundation of India and Andrea Wojnar, Representative, UNFPA India and the Country Director Bhutan, on World Contraception Day.

[Published in ET Health World](#)

[UNFPA-TechGig launch a nationwide hackathon - Crack the Code to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence](#)

Times of India