

# UN WOMEN PROGRAMME IN ODISHA

- **Name of the Project:** “*From opportunities to capacities: A Multi-sectoral approach to Enhancing Gender Responsive Governance (GRG) in Odisha*”

- **Background**

In recent years, the Government of India has undertaken several initiatives to reduce the vulnerability and secure the entitlements of marginalised groups, including women. Illustrating the significance of gender responsive governance based on strengthened capacities of governance institutions, which will provide a strong framework to actualise the commitments of inclusive and sustainable societies, an agenda that was adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The United Nations recently celebrated the adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Goals that if realised, will create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment are cross-cutting throughout the 2030 Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Goals are intrinsically linked to the lives of women and girls globally- particularly the goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, the goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

In this context, UN Women and the Government of Norway through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi signed an Agreement of Cooperation to implement a project entitled ‘From Opportunities to Capacities: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Enhancing Gender Responsive Governance’. UN Women entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Panchayati Raj, Govt of Odisha on 23 June 2016 for implementation of the programme aims at strengthening the capacities of governance institutions to better leverage opportunities created for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through legislation, policies and programmes.

- **Program Strategies:**

- Enhanced accountability and transparency of governance institutions to ensure gender responsive design and implementation of legislation, policies and programmes

- Strengthened implementation of Normative Frameworks for gender equality at the international, national and sub-national levels thereby enhancing government accountability
- **Implementing States:** Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana
- **Implementing Districts in Odisha:** *Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj*
- **Project Duration:** 2 years
- **Major Components of the Project:**
  - Develop a body of evidence to inform and enhance the capacity of governance institutions particularly PRIs to leverage opportunities created through legislation, policies and programmes.
  - Strengthen key capacity development institutions at the state level to mainstream gender responsive governance in their programmes and curricula.
- **Expected Results**
  - Capacity development strategies and approaches on Gender Responsive Governance at the PRI level developed:
  - Resource pool on Gender Responsive Governance at the PRI level Established.
  - Evidence based advocacy and network support on GRG conducted at the panchayat level
  - Strengthened Panchayat Resource Centers in select districts
  - Convergence model-gender friendly beacon panchayat piloted in 1 GP in each District
- **Stakeholders of the Project:**
  - UN WOMEN, MOPR - GoI, NIRD& PR, SIRD&PR, GoO, District Administration, LBSNAA
  - The programme is being implemented under the guidance and supervision of SIRD & PR, Odisha
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