



WHAT IS SCE?

UN Women's Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning (SCE) programme was created in partnership with BHP Foundation to fill the gap in support for women who have missed out on education and are at risk of being left behind. SCE provides them with a second chance to access learning and training opportunities and find pathways to empowerment.

The SCE programme is now in its fifth year of the innovative pilot phase (2018–2023), which has been implemented across six very different contexts in order to create a broad evidence base for prototyping and model development for scale up.

Throughout the pilot phase, the programme has leveraged partnerships and used holistic approaches and digital technology to provide comprehensive solutions for SCE participants. SCE's three learning pathways of entrepreneurship, employment and return to formal education are tailored not only to participants' needs as learners but also to their future as earners. They may be offered in-person, online or through blended learning. The pathways form part of SCE's signature features which reflect its holistic approach, encompassing support to address gender-based barriers, gender-transformative life skills, personalized support and advocacy and policy work.



Photo (top): UN Women India/Ruhani Kaur

Photo (middle): Real Futures

Photo (bottom): UN Women/Maria Fernanda Novelo Duarte

GLOBAL SCE HIGHLIGHTS

MEXICO: FIVE GRADUATIONS TO CELEBRATE THE WOMEN WHO COMPLETED THEIR SCE TRAINING!

In total, 217 women received their diplomas during graduation ceremonies in Huixquilucan, Toluca and Lerma (Estado de México), and Tehuacán and Ajalpan (Puebla). In order to become an SCE graduate, a participant must complete the courses on human development/life project, digital literacy and financial education, and choose one of the pathways offered by the SCE programme in Mexico, i.e., education, entrepreneurship or employment.

The SCE implementing partners in Mexico and the entire SCE team at UN Women worked very hard to make in-person graduations a reality, to celebrate and recognize the participants' achievements. The municipal presidents in Huixquilucan and Ajalpan attended the graduation ceremonies. UN Women's Mexico Country Representative, Mrs. Belén Sanz, attended the graduation ceremony in Huixquilucan. She seized the opportunity to meet and greet a group of participants who shared their testimonies about SCE with her.



MEXICO: CONFERENCES FOR THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET OF JALISCO

Three conferences as part of this series took place in March and May 2023. The themes covered were: the role of the private sector in the inclusion of women in the labour market in Jalisco; how to create better working conditions for female workers; and how to create better working conditions for women in the agroindustry. The first two conferences took place in Guadalajara and the last one was organized in the municipality of Zapotlán el Grande, a world-known hub for agriculture in the southern region of Jalisco. Representatives from UN Global Compact, FAO Mexico, global companies like AstraZeneca, local companies like Vainilla Molina, and the Government of Jalisco participated as panellists.

Photo (top): SCE graduates in Huixquilucan, Estado de México (UN Women Mexico)

Photo (middle): SCE graduates from Tehuacán, Puebla (UN Women Mexico)

Photo (bottom): UN Women's Mexico Country Representative chatting with SCE participants, accompanied by Huixquilucan's Municipal President, Mrs. Romina Contreras, and her team (UN Women Mexico)

INDIA: COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

During the Commemoration of International Women's Day 2023 at the UN Women Country Office in New Delhi, Second Chance graduate **Sulochana Hembram** from Odisha had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Mrs Smirti Zubin Irani. She also had the opportunity to take a selfie; a photograph she will always cherish.

Sulochana (42) completed her 10th grade (secondary school) and 12th grade (senior secondary school) education with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), under the SCE Programme in India. Today, she has her own farm-based business and is financially supporting her family. Read her story [here](#).

“ *If a woman my age can begin again and pursue her dream, anyone can. I want to tell women my age to dream new dreams and work towards them without fear.* - **Sulochana Hembram**

INDIA: SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION, WOMEN TAKE A LEAD. BE. LEARN. EARN.

A group of ten women from Rajasthan in India have taken their second chance by skilling themselves, earning, and becoming self-reliant. **Watch their inspiring journey through [#DusraMauka](#) (the Hindi translation of [#SecondChance](#)) by clicking on the image thumbnail below. [#SecondChanceEducation](#) [#SCEIndia](#) [#BeLearnEarnLead](#)**



INDIA: KIRANBALA LEARNS TO MAKE PHENYL (LIQUID CLEANER)

Kiranbala Biswal is a resident of Tarajanga in the Kankadahad block, Dhenkanal district of Odisha, India. Through the SCE programme, she enrolled in senior secondary education through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). In April 2021, she passed the senior secondary examinations and enrolled as a part of the phenyl training course. Through this training, SCE implementing partners teach the participants how to manufacture phenyl and sell it in the market. Kiranbala has gained two skills through the training - manufacturing and marketing.

Why SCE trains women in phenyl manufacturing

During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the training for phenyl manufacturing was started considering the importance of sanitation and the needs of the community both financially and in the context of cleanliness. The phenyl-making process is a low-cost enterprise model, which meant many women would take it up as the cost of setting up was affordable. Marketing the product was also easy because of greater demand.

Outcome of the training

Second Chance learners underwent training in manufacturing and marketing the phenyl locally. They soon started to sell at a price lower than market prices in schools, nearby public health centres and community health centres, which led to income generation.



Photo (top): Sulochana Hembram (left) with the Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Mrs. Smirti Zubin Irani (UN Women India)

Photo (second): Cover/featured image for the YouTube video (UN Women India)

Photo (third): Kiranbala Biswal (Prashanth Vishwanathan/UN Women India)

Photo (bottom): Phenyl manufacturing workshop (UN Women India)

JORDAN: TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT WITH 268 CURRENT AND FORMER OASIS PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES

Throughout the month of May, UN Women Jordan conducted a training needs assessment with 268 current and former Oasis programme beneficiaries to assess their educational skills and needs and the effectiveness of the training that they had received. The Oasis programme plans to enhance its educational services to empower women and equip them with skills to actively engage in the labour market. The answers reflect the urgent need for digital as well as financial skills. Beyond that, life skills such as “decision-making” and “positive-thinking” are required. The overall answers will contribute towards evaluating previous interventions and developing an educational curriculum together with SCE. This shall include training in tailored courses that address the needs of women to benefit comprehensively from the Oasis programme.

JORDAN: CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Call for Proposals: UN Women Jordan seeks to partner with an organization to provide vulnerable women in camps and host communities with access to high-quality education courses

UN Women Jordan published a Call for Proposals for a partner to support delivering high-quality education courses to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian women through the 22 Oasis centres across Jordan. The new partner shall provide a ToT course for master trainers, and will eventually conduct educational courses with Oasis beneficiaries on a predefined curriculum.

CHILE: SCE PROGRAMME MENTORS

Meet the [#SecondChance](#) programme mentors from Chile who are leading the charge on women’s empowerment and gender equality. After having taken their second chance, they have become agents of change, who support and inspire other women. Here is a short video with testimonies from women who have become mentors for the programme and their communities in Chile – **click on the thumbnail image to the right to watch the video.**



CHILE: SCE DIGITAL SKILLS GRADUATE, BERNARDA ÓRDENES, SAYS: "I FELT LIKE I WAS REBORN; IT WAS A FEELING OF STARTING OVER".



Bernarda Órdenes is one of the graduates of the Digital Skills Course by UN Women's Tu Oportunidad programme together with Claro and the Municipality of Maipú. Bernarda, along with 60 entrepreneurs and heads of household of Maipú, obtained her certification after two months of virtual classes. Through these classes, she learned spreadsheet management techniques, social network management, and also participated in workshops aimed at strengthening socio-emotional competencies in personal leadership. Read the full conversation with Bernarda by clicking [here](#).

Image (top): Screenshot of webpage (UN Women Jordan)

Photo (first): Cover/featured image for the YouTube video (Tu Oportunidad/UN Women Chile)

Photo: (bottom): Bernarda Órdenes (Tu Oportunidad/UN Women Chile)



CHILE: MEET OUR MENTORS – FABIOLA MUÑOZ MOYANO

“ I was one of the first in my maternal and paternal family to finish high school, the first to go to college and the first to go to university. I have had the opportunity to learn different subjects and work in various fields, alongside getting to know different cultures and people.

I have developed the ability to start over every time life has led me to do so, especially with my youngest son, who has a disability. I stopped working in order to dedicate myself to his care, looking for new ways to care for him, looking for new ways to generate resources.

Learn more about Fabiola’s heartening and remarkable journey by clicking on the following link - [Tu Oportunidad Newsletter number 24](#).

AN SCE PARTICIPANT’S JOURNEY

Verónica from Mexico, SCE participant, Radio Host and future restaurateur

Verónica González Cruz is from Ajalpan in Puebla, Mexico. When Verónica enrolled in the SCE programme, she was going through a difficult phase in her life, both financially and emotionally. When she heard about SCE, she felt that this was the second chance that she had been waiting for.

Once she became a part of the programme, she rediscovered her strengths and the courage to rise again. Verónica only went to primary school. She got married and had children at a very young age, and she was a homemaker, until her husband died. All of a sudden, she had to provide for herself and her children, even though she did not know how to make the most out of her income. She then decided to open a shop where she could sell and buy clothes.

Through SCE, she learned how to connect with her inner dreamer (“Vero the dreamer”) and inner entrepreneur (“Vero the entrepreneur”). She found motivation from the programme training team and her classmates, who helped her regain confidence. The most valuable parts of SCE for her have been the training and activities related to human development and well-being, as well as those about financial education. For example, she realized that her expenditure exceeded her income. Subsequently, she learned how to set financial goals, how to save and how to manage her money more efficiently. Another SCE component she feels has helped her a lot with her business is the training she has received on how to use Canva and social media. This has helped her add design elements to her Facebook page as well as promote her shop online. In her free time, Verónica accepted the opportunity to participate in a community radio project because SCE helped her to gain confidence in herself. There she talks about subjects she is interested in and promotes her shop and skills as a seamstress. She is also contemplating opening a small restaurant and she is willing to search for further training to learn the specific skills required. She also wants to become an SCE mentor and inspire other women.

Meanwhile, her message to other women is that - **“it is never too late to learn, there will always be new opportunities and you must not let anybody cut your wings. You must keep on dreaming and accepting invitations to new learning opportunities, even if the economic situation is critical or the household work is too much.”**



Photo (top): Fabiola Muñoz Moyano (Tu Oportunidad/UN Women Chile)
Photo (middle): Verónica González Cruz (Segunda Oportunidad/UN Women Mexico)
Photo (bottom): Verónica with SCE’s M&E Analyst from UN Women Mexico, Tania Calderas, who interviewed her (Segunda Oportunidad/UN Women Mexico)

AN SCE PARTICIPANT'S JOURNEY

Impact Story: Social and Economic Integration of Migrant and Refugee Women from Afghanistan in Chile

"I am the Afghan girl the Taliban wanted to chain. I am the girl they wanted to imprison, who cannot study or work in that society. So, my crime and that of other Afghan women is to fight for our freedom," said Zahra Karimi during the launch of the UN Women's social integration and economic empowerment initiative. 22-year-old Zahra fled Afghanistan after the Taliban took power in 2021 and now lives in Santiago de Chile as a refugee.

Together with 25 women, she participates in the UN Women's Second Chance Education programme in Chile. This initiative provides comprehensive support for migrant and refugee women. As part of the initiative, participants receive tools to help them integrate into the country's economy and society.

In parallel and in partnership with UNHCR, legal counseling sessions were held, supported by university legal clinics. Through this component, participants learned about Chile's social protection network and got more information about their immigration status. Like other women, Zahra arrived in Chile without knowing where she was going. In this sense, the sessions are crucial to educating them about their rights and the environment in which they develop.

The intervention includes support for developing CVs, job search strategies, and interview preparation. On the other hand, participants interested in entrepreneurship have been referred to other initiatives to learn how to strengthen their businesses thanks to the Second Chance Education programme's network with the civil society. An example is Fundación Gastronomía Social. This organization offers cooking and entrepreneurship courses to vulnerable people free of charge.

In each activity, spaces are provided to establish refugee women's networks. In addition, they are invited to participate in the Second Chance Education network through the web application, allowing them to connect with other women in the programme in Chile. Zahra appreciates the importance of networking. She says, *"from my asylum experience in this country, I want to share some issues with others who are also refugees so that we can find solutions together to our problems."*



Kanchan from India, SCE participant, Entrepreneur

SCE graduate **Kanchan Devi** (37) from Bihar in India had a dream: to have her own grocery store in her village. She says that Second Chance has given her the resources which turned her dream into a reality. Today, she is a proud entrepreneur and can contribute towards a better tomorrow for her children. This [video](#) briefly captures her inspiring story.

Kanchan is among the thousands of women who have participated in the Start Your Business (SYB) training programme under UN Women's SCE programme in India. Women who have undergone training under SYB and Grow Your Business are today running successful small ventures, and are able to provide a better lifestyle to their families.



The SCE India implementing partner PRADAN had been providing these training programmes in Bihar and Odisha. Markandeya Mohapatra is an Enterprise Anchor with PRADAN. He has helped many women within the SCE programme to open up their business. He shares his experiences through a [blog](#) (which is called 'Sangita Is Smart And So Is Her Phone!'), which was featured in the top 20 entries of *Youth Ki Awaaz** writing contest on the topic 'Digital Access for All'.

* *Youth Ki Awaaz* is the voice of the youth forum. It is where young people write articles, opinions, stories and poems on what matters to them, making their voices count

Photo (top): Zahra Karimi (UN Women Chile/Pablo Sanhueza)

Photo (bottom): SCE graduate Kanchan (UN Women India/Magic Spangles)

PARTNER-IN-FOCUS

Experience-Sharing Workshop within the Framework of the SCE programme in Cameroon



In its first phase of implementation (2019–2023), SCE is being piloted in seven regions of Cameroon: Far North, East, Adamawa, Littoral, Center, Northwest and Southwest Region) targeting vulnerable women and girls who are IDPs, refugees and from the host population and who left school early. Since its launch in 2019 the project has reached close to 12,000 beneficiaries, providing them with both physical and virtual learning environments, access to high-quality learning materials and links with employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, while addressing in a holistic manner the factors that caused them to miss out on school as girls. The first phase will come to an end by the 31st of December 2023 and has realized great results and equally faced some challenges.

In order to capitalize on lessons learnt during the pilot phase, UN Women organized a two-day lessons learned and capacity building workshop on 16 and 17 May 2023. The workshop brought together implementing partners and SCE field facilitators from all project sites to share lessons learned among programme teams. Workshop participants included coordinators, ITC and tailoring trainers. Alongside capturing success stories and lessons learned, implementing partners were introduced to the e-learning platform now being used in SCE, EdApp. Building the capacity of field facilitators to use the platform to deliver the skills and knowledge that SCE participants require, and to enable SCE participants to access relevant and high-quality content themselves, is of high importance.

The presentation from **SCE implementing partner BONET** during the workshop showcased their activities in the Bamenda, Bertoua, Buea, Douala, Minawao, Mokolo, Mora and Ngam sites. The activities undertaken by BONET were implemented during 2021-22; there were 10 activities that affected 6,540 people and included providing equipment for 4 nurseries in 4 sites, the provision of computer equipment and the schooling of 63 girls and women aged 15-25.

BONET also conducted awareness-raising campaigns for positive change on the importance of:

- women and girls' economic empowerment, raising awareness among their husbands and parents
- women and girls' education and reducing girls' school drop-out rates
- preventing and combating GBV
- compliance with barrier measures in the context of Covid-19
- life skills.

Learn more about BONET'S intervention, through a video featuring the SCE-BONET mentorship programme in Cameroon. Click on the image thumbnail below.



GETTING TO KNOW THE SCE TEAM

Sonali Hedditch

CONSULTANT - SCE GLOBAL TEAM

Q: When did your journey with UN Women's SCE programme start and what are your responsibilities?

I started with UN Women's SCE programme in April 2019. I was engaged as the Project Manager for designing and implementing SCE in Australia. I worked with our implementing partners, SisterWorks, who support refugee and migrant women in Victoria, and Real Futures, who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, to plan and roll out the SCE programme. I also became involved in the global programme management from fairly early on, and have loved working with colleagues globally on our shared passion, and learning lessons and developing our evidence base over the course of the pilot.

Q: Is there anything in particular about the SCE program that has inspired you at a personal level?

I am continuously inspired by our partner organizations, who have such deep ties to the communities we work with and cherish their roles in providing women with a second chance. I have been lucky to meet with quite a few programme participants as well and every woman has a unique story and is showing us all the power of a second chance. The importance of a safe, supportive space to pursue a second chance has been a vital turning point in the lives of all the participants I've talked to. The holistic nature of what we offer is unique, and creates real and meaningful change for women, their families and communities.

Q: Something that you have particularly liked working on and why

There are many highlights, but I really enjoyed working with the global team to plan and deliver a series of mini conferences to share knowledge amongst all of our global implementing partners. It was great to see our partners share lessons, methods, and relate to each other on meeting women's needs, even though each partner works in very different contexts globally. I also loved bringing together global experts on select innovative topics for a series of webinars. Most recently, I was able to support members of the Real Futures team to attend the 67th Commission on the Status of Women in New York. These women spoke at various events and inspired everyone whom they encountered; audiences had visceral reactions to their stories. They continue to inspire every day in the Women's Business Second Chance Hub in Sydney.



Photo: Sonali Hedditch

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED: SCE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS WITHIN THE LAST QUARTER WITH THE HIGHEST ENGAGEMENT

Second Chance
SUCCESS STORY
Amarni Kelly
 SCE Programme Australia

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Liked by missy86xo and 22 others

sceprogram We are delighted to share the inspiring success story of Amarni Kelly, a proud Australian... more

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Second Chance
Afghan refugee women have been supported by SCE Programme in Chile and Mexico through the Afghan Refugee Women Initiative

7 1 repost

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SecondChance
 Published by Daria Komteva · 9 June at 07:57

We are happy to give a spotlight to the incredible journey of indigenous Australian Aleesha Salmond, a proud Gumbaynggirr woman and a devoted mother of two. Despite her busy schedule, Aleesha was determined to pursue her passion for photography and start her own business. With the support of the Real Futures Women's Business - 2nd Chance Hub, Aleesha developed a business plan, received one-on-one mentoring, and secured a micro-loan to launch her very own Jade Photography. Ale... See more

Second Chance
ALEESHA SALMOND

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Meet Sangita Majhi, a 25-year-old grassroots entrepreneur from a small village in Odisha who started her own puffed rice business five years ago.
shethepeople.tv/interviews/san...

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 #SCEProgram #shecan #shecanlearn
 #shecanearn #shecanlead
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pic.twitter.com/VWTE5cND0O

2 11

Top mention earned 27 engagements

UN Women India
 @unwomenindia · Jun 1

Women take a lead, Be.Learn.Earn
 UN Women's @SCEprogram enables women to re-enter formal education, access vocational training, learn entrepreneurial skills & connects to employment & business opportunities. #SCEIndia #DusraMauka udaan ka pic.twitter.com/WD6UjB7fJY

7
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