

IMPACT STORY



TRAINING WOMEN LEADERS TO BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE

Photography: UN Women/Gerald Ojeda Martínez

“It is we who support not only our families but also processes like, in my case, searching for decent housing, not only for myself but also for my neighbours. I feel proud to be an Indigenous woman. I am glad to know that despite the machismo that still exists, more and more indigenous women are taking over leadership spaces in different areas.”

These are the words of Mireya Reyes Campusano, who graduated from UN Women’s Tu Oportunidad-Second Chance Education Programme Leadership School in Chile. Mireya lives in the city of Puerto Montt, in the region of Los Lagos, where she is the head of the Housing Committee at the informal settlement Chile Barrio, whose purpose is promoting decent housing for its inhabitants.

skills, knowledge, and tools to boost their roles as change agents promoting transformation. It is aimed at women from all over the country who exercise leadership roles in their communities, with a special focus on the Araucanía region and the southern zone.

The school provides online training for 10 weeks with **three modules** and **three workshops** of two hours each, and a celebration and closing ceremony at the end of the training programme. The participants receive personalized **assistance** from a **female mentor**, who is responsible for communicating the general and specific objectives of the school, as well as ensuring that the participants have all they need to take part in all activities actively. The mentors provide individual support to women, constantly motivating them and being available to assist with and oversee the homework given at the school.

PARTICIPANTS’ PROFILE

16% are migrant women

19% are indigenous women

79%
are working

54%
are heads of
the household

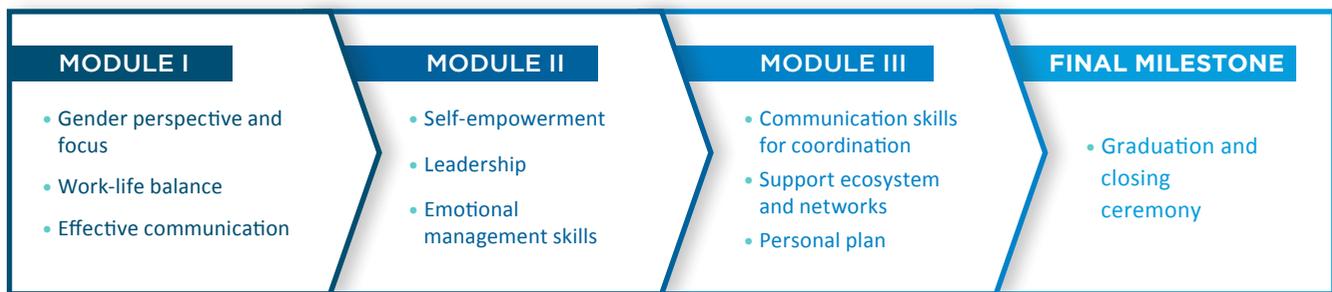
59%
have children

The chart shows the topics covered in the workshops of the programme. These workshops are based on the ontological **coaching**, constructivist, and **experiential** learning approaches, and all activities have a **gender perspective**. This programme gathers self-knowledge and personal growth activities that contribute to the empowerment of women leaders. Mireya expresses the importance of the programme for its participants: *“This training instance gives us the possibility to learn new tools to lead and have an influence in the territories, but above all, these are instances that allow us to appreciate the real importance that women leaders have in different areas.”*

“Tu Oportunidad - Second Chance Education Programme Leadership School” aims to promote women’s leadership and participation in the community and strengthen their

Photo above: Mireya Reyes Campusano, leader woman from Los Lagos region in Chile.

Women’s Leadership School Methodology



Source: Veomás methodology proposal

The **team** in charge of implementing the programme consists of six female facilitators with broad experience in the topics of leadership and gender. In each online session, they are assisted by a hostess who welcomes the participants and is in charge of providing technical support. They use audiovisual material, music, and a presentation that serves as a guideline to conduct the activities, together with additional material shared during the week to keep up the participants’ motivation. This programme component is vital to ensure its success and is highly appreciated by the participants. Mireya says: *“Tu Oportunidad team gave a lot of confidence to the participants, and they supported us in everything; this was very well appreciated because it made me feel safe.”*

The **creation of networks** is promoted in every session, as well as the **exchange of learning experiences** between participants from all over the country through work in

small groups and a feedback session on the activities. Mireya highlights that one of the characteristics of the programme she liked the most was *“getting to know other women from all over the country, especially indigenous women who, like myself, play a leadership role in their communities... This is a space that allows you to meet women from Arica to Punta Arenas with the same learning needs and who are eager to grow.”*

Mireya, as a woman leader who belongs to the Mapuche indigenous community, is convinced of the role that women have in society: *“As long as we become involved in society, we can achieve a positive change for us, our children, and our communities, but most importantly we can convey the values of our culture... We are fighters and warriors, and we always aim at the well-being of our communities. We will never give up because we feel proud of who we are, our heritage, and our roots.”*



Photography: UN Women/Pablo Sanhueza

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

Tu Oportunidad-Second Chance Education Leadership School is implemented with the support of VeOmás, an institution with more than 12 years of experience working for gender equality through women’s empowerment and leadership programmes, gender equality advisory services for institutions, and facilitating cultural change.

Networks have been established with public and private institutions that have contributed to promoting the initiative among women leaders and their circles. These are the municipality of Puerto Varas, Biblioredes, INJUV, FOSIS, Balloon Latam, Universidad Autónoma in Temuco, SERNAMEG Antofagasta, and Corporación Yunus.

TU OPORTUNIDAD – SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The [Tu Oportunidad - Second Chance Education Programme](#) of UN Women, in partnership with Fundación BHP, provides training tools for women’s autonomy and economic empowerment, using information technology based on public-private cooperation.

The **Leadership School for women** has been implemented since October 2022, with the participation of 112 women

leaders from all over the country, with 87 graduates and a success rate of 78%.

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