

**CHILD FRIENDLY  
AND GENDER  
RESPONSIVE  
LOCAL  
GOVERNANCE**



2019

UNICEF Office for the State of Uttar Pradesh, India

This matrix of suggested activities is developed in the context of Gram Panchayats in India but it can be adapted for any context of local level planning and community level interventions.

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# Child Friendly and Gender Responsive Governance: Matrix of suggested activities at Gram Panchayat (GP)<sup>1</sup>

Name of the Gram Panchayat:.....

Name of the Gram Pradhan:.....

Block:.....

District:.....

## Child friendly and Gender Responsive activities that shall be included in Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)<sup>2</sup>

### Activity: 1

Activity and cost of **Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)**<sup>3</sup> infrastructure is included in the GPDP and procured by the GP (examination table, screen, step ladder, table and chair for counselling, seating arrangement (at least mats) etc.



Status/Number

### Activity: 2

Activity and cost of supporting transport facility to girls in accessing secondary/ higher education is included in the GPDP and implemented.



Status/Number

### Activity: 3

GP has prioritized toilet construction for persons living with disability, especially women and children.



Status/Number

<sup>1</sup>Gram Panchayat (GP) is the local self-governance body functioning as per the Constitution of India.

<sup>2</sup>Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) is prepared in a participatory manner at the community level to plan and implement activities, utilizing funds from government sources as well as other sources of revenue.

<sup>3</sup>Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND) is organized by the Departments of Health and Women & Child Development to provide services to pregnant women, children below 6 years, lactating mothers and adolescent girls at the community level on a fixed day of the month.

## Activity: 4

Number of activities GP has identified to promote gender equality<sup>4</sup> and included under no cost and low cost activities in the GPDP such as addressing sex selective abortion (female foeticide), providing equal opportunities for education to girls, addressing social norms that hampers dignity of women, early marriage, addressing issues related to dowry (death and harassment) girl's consent for marriage etc.



Status/Number

## Activity: 5

Activity and cost for providing play space and facilities for children including girls are included in the GPDP (identification of space, trainers, materials etc).



Status/Number

## Activity: 6

Activity and cost included in the GPDP to address substance abuse including alcoholism / smoking / use of pan masala among men and youth (counselling, reference to deaddiction courses etc).



Status/Number

## Activity: 7

Activity and cost for addressing domestic violence included in the GPDP. This is also included as an agenda and discussion point during gram sabha<sup>5</sup> meetings (special meeting held with affected families, counselling support etc).



Status/Number

<sup>4</sup>Gender equality means equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for women and men, girls and boys. It implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration.

<sup>5</sup>Gram Sabha, as per the Constitution of India under Article 243(b), means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

## Activity: 8

Crèche facility activated in MGNREGA<sup>6</sup> sites for facilitating women workers in the GPDP.



Status/Number

## Activity: 9

Number of works that have been identified for increasing participation of women in MGNREGA.



Status/Number

## Activity: 10

Number of skill training opportunities for women and girls identified and included in the GPDP (especially non-gender stereotype<sup>7</sup> skills).



Status/Number

## Activity: 11

Activities identified and included in GPDP to recognize women's contribution to agriculture, such as celebration of 15 October as Women Farmers' day.



Status/Number

<sup>6</sup>MGNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 It is the employment guarantee scheme in India.

<sup>7</sup>Non-Gender Stereotype are simplistic generalization about the attributes, differences and roles of women and men. These assumptions are not supported by science, but are part of how we are socialized to perform gender roles as women and men. Stereotypical characteristics about men are that they are more intelligent, competitive, leaders, good at decision making etc. Parallel stereotypes of women hold that they are caring, nurturing, emotionally weak etc. Stereotypes are often used to justify gender discrimination and reinforcing gender stereotypes and the idea that women are inferior come in a variety of forms- songs movies, advertisements and proverbs.

## Activity: 12

Activities included in GPDP to increase the awareness about family planning methods and two children family norm among community members, especially among men.



Status/Number

## Activity: 13

Activities included and implemented to discuss the legal rights of girls and women with community members, including girls and women. These include laws pertaining to inheritance, domestic violence, dowry, sexual harassment at work place and POCSO (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act).



Status/Number

## Activity: 14

All births are registered within 21 days and birth certificates are issued to all children, with special focus on home deliveries.



Status/Number

## Activity: 15

Provisions made in the GPDP to organise special Gram Sabha on issues related to girls and women in the month of March and October.



Status/Number

## Activity: 16

Provisions made in the GPDP to organize special Gram Sabha on issues related to children in the month of November.



Status/Number

## Activity: 17

Budgetary provisions made in the GPDP to support the activities of the Anganwadi<sup>8</sup> in imparting early childhood education as per the academic calendar (It can be provision of mats, play materials, additional trained human resource support to the Anganwadi worker, WASH facility, wall paintings, snacks in the morning etc).



Status/Number

## Activity: 18

Special sessions organized with pregnant women, their spouses, lactating mothers and their spouses on brain development during pregnancy and activities that can help in early stimulation of the brain during 0-3 years).



Status/Number

## Activity: 19

Provision of establishing Day Care for children of working mothers in GPDP



Status/Number

## Activity: 20

Special provision for waste management, especially menstrual waste (safe disposal of sanitary napkins) in GPDP



Status/Number

<sup>8</sup>Anganwadi – Pre-school centres run by the Department of Women and Child Development.

# List of activities that GP can undertake to promote child friendly and gender transformative work at community level and within families

## Activity: 1

Organise interactive sessions with boys on gender norms<sup>9</sup> and gender equality with special focus on child marriage. Use this forum to discuss substance abuse that youth tend to pick up/emulate during adolescence.

Ending child marriage is included as an agenda and discussion point during panchayat meeting as well as gram sabha meeting.



Status/Number

## Activity: 2

Organise interactive sessions with girls on gender norms and gender equality with special focus on ending child marriage, girls education and menstrual hygiene management.



Status/Number

## Activity: 3

Organise interactive sessions with men on gender norms and gender equality with special focus on stopping child marriage.



Status/Number

## Activity: 4

Organise interactive sessions with women on gender norms and gender equality with special focus on child marriage.



Status/Number

<sup>9</sup>Gender norms are ideas about how women and men should be and act (roles and division of labour). These are the standards and expectations to which women and men generally conform within a range that defines a particular society, culture, community at a given point in time. For example, women should cook for all and wash clothes for all and men should take decisions and should be bread winner. Men can be aggressive and women need to be caring.



### Activity: 5

Encourage families to celebrate the birth of a girl child during gram sabha or through ward members/SHG.

Felicitate families celebrating birth of girl child.



Status/Number

### Activity: 6

Felicitating families for opting (family planning) for only two girl children.



Status/Number

### Activity: 7

Encourage and felicitate families that opted to send girl children to secondary and higher secondary education.



Status/Number

### Activity: 8

Encourage and felicitate families to practice equal rights for women and girls in death ceremony (funeral/cremation).



Status/Number

### Activity: 9

Persuade and felicitate families that have agreed to give equal property share to girls (in the will or partition of household property).



Status/Number

### Activity: 10

Persuade and felicitate families to encourage girls to pursue sports, physical education (also training on self-defense).

Status/Number

### Activity: 11

Persuade and felicitate families to encourage daughters and daughter-in-law to engage in economically productive work (list activities/jobs for which they were encouraged).

Status/Number



### Activity: 12

Identify and reach out to families vulnerable for child marriages through ward level or family level discussions (list the number of families identified).

Status/Number



### Activity: 13

Document the experiences of vulnerable families benefited from the discussion on changing the perspective towards child marriage.

Status/Number



### Activity: 14

Document the number of families agreed not to seek marriage alliances or conduct marriages for girls and boys below the legal age of 18 years.



Status/Number

### Activity: 15

Organize discussions on dowry and document the experience of families agreed not to indulge in the practice of giving dowry.



Status/Number

### Activity: 16

Organize discussions during gram sabha on eating together as a family and encourage families to do so and document the number of families that initiated the practice.

Status/Number

### Activity: 17

Organize discussions during gram Sabha on PCPNDT<sup>10</sup> Act – the illegality and that sex determination test and sex selective abortion are inhuman and perpetuate discriminatory practices against girls. Document the stories of young couples and families encouraged **not** to undergo any treatment or methods to discriminate girl children.



Status/Number

<sup>10</sup>Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994.

### Activity: 18

Make special efforts (by the Gram Panchayat secretary and ward members) to build the confidence of Mahila Pradhan (if applicable). These include making her chair the sessions, helping her to address the gathering, explaining procedures, supporting her to attend the trainings and meetings at block level.



Status/Number

### Activity: 19

Organize special ward level sessions with families and especially young couples to discourage the social pressure to have at least one son. Document the cases where couples and families were convinced.



Status/Number

### Activity: 20

Encourage families to include names of all members (including children) of the family in the name plate/or front door/wall/gate. Document the cases of families where they have written the names of husband and wife in one row with &. If it is a female headed household, encourage the family write her name first and not the names of other male members.



Status/Number

## Activity: 21

Ensure the participation of Gram Pradhan in the VHSND and regular follow up with ANM/ASHA and Anganwadi on all pregnancies and child births in GP.



Status/Number

## Activity: 22

Identify families with out- of -school children and reach out to the families to address their issues through existing schemes and provisions (SHG<sup>11</sup>, pensions, scholarship, BOCW<sup>12</sup>, KSY<sup>13</sup>, CCT<sup>14</sup> for Child Labour, SHG/ SRLM<sup>15</sup> /MGNREGA). Document cases of children who were enrolled back to school.



Status/Number

## Activity: 23

Identify the cases of children (Below 14 years) engaged in work/ employment within the GP or outside and reach out to the families with existing schemes to bring back the child to school. Document the cases of children brought back from work to school.



Status/Number

## Activity: 24

Identify the cases of children (Below 14 years) engaged in work/ employment within the GP or outside and reach out to the families with existing schemes to bring back the child to school. Document the cases of children brought back from work to school.



Status/Number

<sup>11</sup>Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994.

<sup>12</sup>BOCW – Building and Other Construction Workers Act

<sup>13</sup>KSY – Kanya Sumangala Yojana – Cash assistance scheme for girl child in Uttar Pradesh

<sup>14</sup>CCT – Conditional Cash Transfer

<sup>15</sup>SRLM – State Rural Livelihood Mission

## Activity: 25

Form adolescent and youth group and organize movie clubs/sports club and use this forum to discuss substance abuse, respect for girls and women etc.



Status/Number

## Activity: 26

Organise discussions with existing platforms of men and boys (farmers group, sports club etc.) to encourage them to engage in the care giving activities of infants and elderly in the community.



Status/Number



