



Women's Day

CARE India recently organised an event at the India International Centre in Delhi on 10th March to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). The event, held in a hybrid mode, aimed to create an intense, interactive, and immersive experience for all employees. CARE's primary focus is advocating for the well-being and empowerment of women and girls, making IWD an important occasion. The event sought to underscore the importance of equal treatment between genders, acknowledge the valuable contributions made by women and girls worldwide, and shed light on their rights and aspirations.

The event also aimed to acknowledge the individuals, both women and men, who have been champions of women's equality and have worked towards turning aspirations into reality. Additionally, it sought to reinforce CARE's commitment to creating a future free from discrimination and inequality, where gender equality is a lived reality. The highlight of the event was "Turn in the Light," a unique theatrical experience. Various installations and activities were designed to draw attention to crucial gender issues and the importance of building partnerships. Overall, the event aimed to promote the vision of a society that values and supports women's aspirations, and to foster a gender equal society.

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Quality Improvement - Maharashtra

In India, poor-quality healthcare services lead to approximately 16 lakh deaths every year, including maternal deaths that could have been prevented with better care. Improved quality of care in government hospitals can help build confidence in these facilities and reduce the need for costly private healthcare services. To this end, CARE India has been working with government health facilities in eight districts of Maharashtra state to achieve certification for quality standards. In March 2023, assessment and mentoring visits were conducted at 13 public health facilities across five districts: Dharashiv, Gadchiroli, Kolhapur, Latur, and Washim. The facilities included primary health centres, sub-district hospitals, and women's health centres. The visits aimed to assess the quality of care provided and provide guidance to improve services. The facilities visited were chosen based on their certification status or potential to achieve certification in the future.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to



address the unfinished maternal and newborn health agenda in India, particularly in the areas of care around labour and delivery, and postnatal care. By improving the quality of healthcare services in government facilities, more people may be encouraged to use these services, reducing the burden of healthcare costs on vulnerable families.

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CARE at CII - Innovation, Inclusion and Collaboration

Ms. Nidhi Bansal, the Executive Director of CARE India, recently spoke at the 10th CII Regional Conference on CSR about how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can drive social change through innovation, inclusion, and collaboration. The conference provided a platform for influential individuals in corporate social responsibility (CSR), forward-thinking individuals, emerging leaders, business leaders, and those involved in the social sector to exchange knowledge and ideas, and collaborate on enhancing the impact of CSR initiatives, strategic thinkers, young icons, industry leaders, and stakeholders in the social sector to share their experiences and strategize ways to make CSR initiatives more effective.

CSR has been a longstanding practice in India and the country was the first in the world to mandate it for industries. India has also aligned its CSR activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda for 2030, enabling industries to integrate their social and environmental efforts and contribute more effectively to socioeconomic



development.

Collaboration and collective action are key to building a sustainable and inclusive future for all. "The power of CSR should be harnessed to create a positive impact and showcase India's commitment to social responsibility" quoted Ms. Bansal.

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Changing Climate Risk Landscape - Odisha

Climate change has resulted in more severe and frequent climate-induced disasters, leading to a significant increase in economic burden. India has spent over \$10 billion* on relief for natural calamities, and its annual relief expenditure is \$481 million. Odisha is one of the most disaster-prone states in India, exposed to flooding, droughts, and cyclones, with the risk landscape changing due to climate change and extreme weather events. Coastal communities are vulnerable to erosion and settlements are on the verge of permanent displacement. The RCDC, in collaboration with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), is working to rehabilitate and build climate resilience for displaced families. However, the increasing vulnerability due to climate change presents a significant challenge for humanitarian practitioners. A consultation was hosted by Regional Centre For Development Corporation (RCDC) and CARE India with the goal of gathering stakeholders, which included the government, UN, INGOs, CSR, academia, and civil society leaders. The purpose was to outline key strategies for collective action on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction in Odisha.

*<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2023/mar/13/200-km-odisha-coast-to-face-erosion-by-2050-255570.html>

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Breaking Barriers - Eicher

Entrepreneurship is a difficult journey, especially for women in India, who face several challenges such as limited access to finance, market information, mobility, and societal restrictions. To overcome these obstacles and empower women, CARE India has launched the Promotion of Women Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship project in Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. With the support of the Eicher Group Foundation, the project aims to promote entrepreneurship among 200 women in five Gram Panchayats by providing them with training and resources through the Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) Centre. The project has already completed two years of its three-year duration and has successfully trained over 600 women on financial and digital literacy, as well as over 250 women on entrepreneurship. Through the project, 240 women have become entrepreneurs by forming both collective and individual enterprises, contributing 20% to 50% of the investment required for starting their businesses. This project serves as a successful model to address livelihood issues by promoting women-led enterprises and achieving the SDG goal of Decent work and Economic Growth.

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Khushi, Balrampur - Biomerieux

The Khushi Project successfully completed its first year of structured activities in March 2023. The team has directly reached out to 1872 children aged 3-6 years old, out of a total of 3006 enrolled in 52 Anganwadi Centres in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh. The project has also refurbished 42 AWCs, painted 45 AWCs with BaLA designs to stimulate children's curiosity, and provided learning corner resources in 52 AWCs. Additionally, electrification work has commenced in 45 AWCs. Throughout the year, the Khushi Project team has organised 96 community meetings to raise awareness about early childhood education and convince PRIs for cleanliness of the village surroundings and renovation of the Anganwadi Centres. They have also held 271 parents' meetings to actively involve parents in their children's education and distributed 1872 Parents' Kits for children to engage with at home to prepare them for school.

The fifth capacity building Cluster Workshop was held for the Anganwadi Workers, which included practical activities on ICDS theme-based Calendar, Pahal Manual, and assessment cards to deepen their understanding of the same. The team is also collecting data on the digitised Monitoring Learning and Evaluation (MLE) tools to evaluate the project's needs, reach and impact.

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