



WE, THE PEOPLE

REPORT BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY OF INDIA FOR THE DECADE OF ACTION
2020



COORDINATED BY WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN

WITH SUPPORT FROM
UNITED NATIONS IN INDIA

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IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do **HEREBY**
ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Acknowledgements

We, The People: Report by the Civil Society of India for the Decade of Action is a result of the collective effort of civil society organisations (CSOs) across the country to bring together community voices, especially those of the vulnerable communities, to reflect and share their aspirations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2020–2030 Decade of Action.

We express our gratitude to Ms Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser, SDG Vertical, NITI Aayog and to Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, for remaining engaged with the above process; for collaborating, cooperating and making an effort to participate and listen. We also gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) in organising these consultations through the office of the UNRC. We sincerely thank the team at UNRC Office and UN agencies for their extensive support in planning and facilitating the consultative process.

Our sincere thanks to the anchor organisations for co-designing the consultations, for ensuring extensive outreach to bring in diverse voices of community members, CSOs, academia and other experts to inform this exercise. The anchor organisations also co-opted other co-anchor organisations, and together they organised subnational consultations to ensure in-depth discussions that subsequently fed into the national consultations. Their tireless efforts led to consultations with nearly 1,000 CSOs with 2,000 members participating across the 36 subnational consultations and 16 national consultations. We owe this report to the community leaders and organisations working with vulnerable communities over several decades, who generously shared their time and insights with us.

It has been extremely challenging to capture the spirit of the conversations and the insights shared. We thank Lucid Solutions for supporting documentation of this process; their thoroughness in putting the document together brought further clarity to many points discussed in the report. Our sincere thanks to Mr Sundar Mishra, Consultant, NITI Aayog, for his inputs and insights, which helped in strengthening the report. We also gratefully acknowledge the support provided by Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) and OFFER-Islamic Relief in the design and printing of this report.

We hope this document will guide government, civil society, UN and private sector actions for accelerating sustainable solutions for India. The follow-up actions on recommendations offered here can promote faster and more equitable achievement of the SDGs for the vulnerable communities and also guide speedier inclusive recovery post-COVID.

We hope that this continued engagement with the CSOs and institutionalisation of such processes will help translate the transformative agenda of the SDGs and make 2020–2030 indeed a Decade of Action to deliver the goals.

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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Charter of Recommendations	2
3. Adivasis	3
4. Adolescents, Youth and Youth Workers	4
5. Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking	5
6. Children	6
7. Dalits	7
8. Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	8
9. Elderly	9
10. Farmers	10
11. LGBTQIA+	11
12. Migrants and Urban Poor	12
13. North East Region	13
14. Persons Living with HIV	14
15. Persons with Disabilities	15
16. Refugees	16
17. Religious Minorities	17
18. Women	18
Annexes	19
Abbreviations	24

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious agenda that address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The Government of India is committed to the SDGs and has attempted to mainstream Agenda 2030 into India's development strategy. However, India cannot undermine the enormous challenges it faces in achieving the SDGs, the fulcrum of which lies in securing them for the vulnerable and marginalised (the LNOB) communities.

As a critical milestone in the SDGs journey, India presented its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2020. NITI Aayog, as the nodal government body anchoring the SDGs in India, coordinated the preparation of the VNR Report and expressed interest in including inputs from multiple stakeholders, particularly from the vulnerable communities. The Indian civil society welcomed the initiative to hold a series of national consultations with vulnerable communities of India to hear from them directly, how they viewed their progress on SDGs, the challenges they faced and the recommendations they had for the future. The process resulted in the report aptly titled as *We, The People*.

Consultation Process:

The CSOs, in consultation with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in India, identified 16 such vulnerable groups. Organisations with expertise and long-term working experience with these communities were identified to coordinate these consultations to involve more CSOs and community members.

While only national consultations were initially envisaged, the CSOs recognising the limitations in reaching across the length and breadth of the country subsequently organised multiple subnational consultations to enhance the depth and scope of the inputs.

This entire process was coordinated by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) to ensure high quality and productive consultations. The WNTA National Secretariat (in discussion with NITI Aayog and UNRCO) led the CSOs in planning and designing the participation and documentation processes for the consultations. Over a thousand organisations participated in the consultation process from November 2019 to February 2020, and more than half of them also took part in the 16 national consultations. The planning and preparatory meetings engaged as many partners as possible to make the process inclusive and ensure a sense of ownership across all stakeholders and participants.

The 36 subnational and 16 national consultations engaged a broad audience, ranging from the LNOB community members to policy formulators in each domain. The inputs from the consultations have been taken onboard by NITI Aayog in drafting the standalone chapter on LNOB in the 2020 VNR Report.

The Consultations indicated some overarching directions and approaches, among which was the need to strengthen the SDGs to create a universal sustainable foundation for all, with mechanisms to institutionalise the whole of society approach and strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration. An important point was the emphasis on the right to life for all vulnerable communities, with the elimination of all forms of exclusion, discrimination and stigmatisation.

Strong legislations must be strictly implemented for the same. It is extremely important to protect and translate the social contract between the citizens and the government. Given the centrality of state provisions to meet the needs of vulnerable sections, the overall objective is to promote state accountability to protect the vulnerable at the centre of its plans.

Charter of Recommendations

The following Charter lists the recommendations cutting across communities:

- Design and implement social equity measures, recognising the intersectional dimensions, through targeted policies and provisions, affirmative action, special budget provisions and any other means to facilitate vulnerable communities move beyond the vicious cycle of historical exclusion, discrimination and disadvantage.
- Ensure local governments have the capacities and resources to deliver on SDGs and are accountable to identify, track and report on the SDG achievements of vulnerable communities in their jurisdiction.
- Build a robust framework for generating community disaggregated data for vulnerable communities, engaging civil society organisations and community representatives to fill data gaps wherever necessary.
- Encourage and facilitate participation and agency of vulnerable communities at all levels of governance and in all processes related to development planning and implementation.
- Strengthen public provisioning and public services to ensure essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation, housing, employment reach vulnerable communities.
- Build sensitivity among duty bearers and decision-makers to respect, consult and incorporate the values and knowledge of vulnerable communities in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.
- Recognise and encourage partnership with CSOs in implementing the SDGs, with particular reference to reaching the vulnerable communities. Consistent and institutionalised engagement of NITI Aayog with vulnerable communities beyond the VNR reporting would be step in the right direction.
- Translate the Government of India demand on Climate Justice at the international level towards a holistic domestic climate policy to tackle climate change while being cognizant of the specific vulnerabilities of communities most at risk of being adversely affected.
- Regularise the national and state progress reports on the SDGs, including annual reports to the people on the progress towards the SDGs at the national and subnational levels.
- NITI Aayog should share this report along with the VNR with all chief ministers and planning departments of their respective states. State governments should be encouraged to establish CSO Committee on SDGs for follow up on implementation for LNOB groups and record progress through formal reporting at regular intervals. CSO engagement on SDGs can be shared with various official stakeholders and other development partners for collective and collaborative strategy building and joint programming.
- Promote accountability for all agencies, government, and private, to ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind, and CSOs, media and the UN to integrate inclusion and human rights norms and standards in their work.

Adivasis

Introduction:

Adivasis is the collective name for the tribal population of India. There are over 700 ethnic groups spanning 30 states/union territories that are notified as Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India. As per Census 2011, the tribal population in India is around 104 million (8.6 percent of the total population). Almost 90 percent of them reside in rural areas, mainly in forests and hills.

Challenges:

The primarily urban and competitive approach to development is at variance with the Adivasi way of life. Natural resources in Adivasi areas are continuously overexploited for such 'development', without any meaningful benefits to the local population. Consequently, Adivasis continue to have the highest rates of poverty in the country with 50 per cent of them being poor. This is compounded by their relatively poorer educational attainment and health indicators. Given that tribal communities continue to operate within the overall patriarchal framework, women experience additional and multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage.

The extraordinary powers under the Fifth Schedule have rarely, if at all, been deployed to benefit Adivasis. They are not fully aware of their rights and entitlements under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1989 (PESA). Consequently, the planning and development activities in the para/ tola/ mohalla are not informed by the positive features of these legislations.

Recommendations:

- PESA must be implemented in letter and spirit in Fifth Schedule areas, with PESA Rules notified and implemented in each PESA State. Further, proper implementation of the FRA is essential to restore the faith of Adivasis in government authorities and officials.
- Mechanism of Tribal Advisory Council need to be strengthened to provide customized benefits to Adivasis in general and addressing their specific issues in particular. Further, the Tribal Sub Plan Fund should not be diverted to other programmes and additional budgets under the same must be provided for focused interventions for the development of Adivasis.
- Any project planned in the Fifth Schedule areas must take cognizance of the provisions under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLAAR), 2013 to ensure that the rights of those displaced are protected, with mandatory prior information and Gram Sabha consent.
- Concerted efforts should be made towards the capacity-building and training of tribal women organisations and leaders to take an active role in the governance of the community and work with other community leaders to challenge norms that discriminate against women.
- Where Adivasi communities constitute considerable population in a panchayat outside the Fifth schedule, they should be provided specific rights in keeping with the Fifth schedule related to land/forests, livelihood, traditions and culture.
- It is important to document, preserve, disseminate and promote Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), the Adivasi world view and their spirituality for a better understanding of Adivasis outside their community, as well as learn from the relevant practices of the Adivasis that add to the sustainable development discourse.

Adolescents, Youth and Youth Workers

Introduction:

India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with around 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age. Currently, the youth (aged 15–29 years) constitute 27.5 per cent of the population of India, contributing 37 per cent to the Gross National Income.

Challenges:

One of the biggest challenges has been India's inability to create enough employment for the burgeoning work force which has left many young people feeling financially excluded from the fastest growing economy in the world. Studies show that India faces a strange paradox where industries are not finding skilled workers due to low access to skill building education. Youth participation in formal vocational/technical training remains extremely low at 2.8 per cent.

Spaces for youth development and platforms for youth voices are not part of the mainstream discourse, with limited large-scale meaningful leadership experience available to young people from an early age. More often than not, there is a lack of safe and non-judgemental space for self-expression and intergenerational dialogue, especially on young people's agency and aspirations. Unless policies and programmes become more youth-centric, the much-publicised demographic dividend may speedily become a demographic disaster.

Recommendations:

- All curricula and syllabi should emphasise teaching appreciation of one's rights and administrative and legal structures, all of which will help adolescent learners to analyse and exercise their agency critically. Particular focus to be on equipping them with life skills that are especially relevant in the current socio-cultural context such as collaboration, coping mechanisms, appreciation for diversity and inclusivity.
- There should be increased budgets for teaching technical as well as employability skills required for sustainable employment. Industry professionals and experts should work in tandem with academic institutions and government bodies to ensure that the skill development curricula imparts skills relevant to the market.
- All healthcare providers should be well equipped to deal with issues of mental health and SRH and dispel notions of stigma around them reassuringly. Youth-friendly SRH services, including contraceptives, maternal health services, safe abortion should be made readily available for young people.
- The heterogeneity of youth needs to be taken into account with appropriate institutional structures and budgetary allocations for youth from marginalized groups like LGBTQIA+, SC, ST, religious minorities, PwD, among others.
- The GoI should institute a dedicated Ministry for Youth Development with appropriate budget allocation. Youth should have representation and say in decision making within the institutional structure, with officials and stakeholders trained to ensure meaningful youth participation. A democratically elected National Youth Council, governed by youth, may be formed with a mandate to represent young people's aspirations, dreams and realities at the national level. Further, the Youth Development Index should be comprehensively reviewed every five years to remain true to current needs, aspirations and realities of young people.

Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking

Introduction:

Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people through means such as force, fraud or inducement. Bonded labour is a facet of poverty and inequality, bearing a legacy of unjust social and economic power relations between labourers and employers, in the unorganized sector of the economy. As a highly organised crime, human trafficking continues unabated, destroying the lives of the poor and vulnerable in India.

Challenges:

The issue of trafficking for forced labour is deeply rooted in the discourse of poverty, poor health, lack of education, exploitative labour, gender inequality, migration and effects of climate change. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2018, of the 5788 victims of trafficking in India, 1210 were trafficked for forced labour, domestic servitude and beggary. However, annual reports of the Ministry of Labour and Employment do not release data on bonded labour incrementally for each year, but report cumulative figures by state. This type of aggregated data is not a very effective tool for annual target setting, planning and budgeting.

A major problem area is the fact that full rehabilitation is contingent upon the conviction of offenders. The empathy of officials with the accused often results in high acquittals and low convictions, (rate of conviction was merely 8.1 per cent in 2018). In several cases, labourers rescued from exploitative sites are not given 'Release Certificates', disentitling them from receiving welfare assistance from the government and increasing their vulnerability to re-bondage.

Recommendations:

- Current laws should either be updated or new legislations framed to prescribe time-bound procedures for rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims of trafficking, and prosecution of all trafficking-related offences, including accountability of authorities. Additionally, the law should keep up with the changing trends of the crime, with new forms of forced and bonded labour.
- Law enforcement agencies as well as Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), Child Welfare Committees (CWC), and CSOs should be adequately trained and sensitised to ensure the victims are awarded protection, compensation and effective prosecution. These AHTUs must be empowered adequately to conduct rescue operations and thorough investigations.
- Capacity building of law enforcement officials regarding timely filing of FIRs, using scientific tools for proper evidence collection, and receiving online investigative training will help in building stronger cases against offenders. The use of technology must be promoted and utilised across the states for a speedy trial.
- Convergence meetings with the participation of the police, legal services authority, courts, CWCs, labour department, and CSOs, should be made mandatory to aid rehabilitation and prosecution processes. These meetings should be convened by an official agency that can demand accountability.
- The GoI must strengthen prosecution and speedy trial processes. "Rate of prosecution and conviction of offenders in bonded labour and trafficking cases" should be included as an indicator of SDGs.

Children

Introduction:

India is home to the largest child population in the world, with persons aged 0–18 years constituting almost 40 percent of the total Indian population. It thus becomes important to prioritise children in the endeavour to achieve the SDGs as the SDG agenda has enormous implications for the rights of children.

Challenges:

While there are specific well-recognised vulnerabilities among children (emerging from factors including caste, religion, area of residence, state of residence, gender and disability), there are some particular groups of children that are at higher risk of exclusion and denial of rights as compared to their peers, such as children of vulnerable parents, children belonging to stigmatised or discriminated communities, children affected by humanitarian crises and conflict, child victims of sexual abuse, out of school children, children living in street situations with or without parents, among others. These sub-groups of children are among the most marginalised groups and invisible, and thus excluded from the benefits of various policies and schemes. It is, therefore, important to understand the specific vulnerabilities of each sub-group to develop customised interventions that can address them, as prevailing schemes have limited impact on these children.

Recommendations:

- Children should be considered an important intersectional constituency within every LNOB group. Specific strategies should be designed to reach out to children excluded from the service net through integrated village planning with a multi-sectoral focus. Vulnerability mapping of children should be conducted by the Panchayats; they could then be categorised into groups by risk (high or low). Appropriate interventions could then be designed and accountability of stakeholders identified accordingly.
- Prioritise child-centric policies and institutions that engage them in designing, implementing and monitoring their programmes. Include a child delegate within national delegations attending and participating at the UN HLPF and provide space for them to express their views and recommendations.
- Strengthen and expand good practices of exclusive platforms for children's participation such as Children Parliaments, Meena Manch and Children and Adolescent Groups. Additionally, form Child Cabinets in all schools. These should be entrusted with the responsibility of choosing child representatives for School Management Committees (SMC) and Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC).
- Institute an exclusive 'Child Budget' for comprehensive growth and development of children and realising SDGs for children. Invest in all child-focused systems and bodies like Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), and Bal Mitra-Child Friendly Police stations to make these more functional and robust.
- Identify and felicitate agents of change at the grassroots (like Child Champions identified by child rights organisations) including children who voice their concerns, or young adults who can support children in being heard and ensuring structural support through service providers such as Anganwadi Workers.

Dalits

Introduction:

The word 'Dalit' is the self-identity chosen by the sub-communities within the Hindu caste system who have historically faced deprivation, oppression and extreme social exclusion on account of their perceived 'low caste status'. With over 201 million Scheduled Castes (SCs) in India, this community accounts for 16.4 per cent of the total population of the country.

Challenges:

Traditionally, Dalit communities have been considered as unclean communities, assigned to serve the other castes. Earlier referred to as 'untouchables', these communities have faced servitude for thousands of years, resulting in socio-economic backwardness. Despite Constitutional and legal safeguards, Dalits are excluded, segregated and discriminated against with violence, facing mental harm, assault, murder and destruction of property.

The scourge of manual scavenging is far from being eradicated, with more than 90 per cent of manual scavengers from the Dalit community. Untouchability and discriminatory practices are routinely reported in public facilities and services, educational institutions, and health facilities, acting as barriers for them to access schemes and entitlements. Crimes against Dalits continue, particularly violence and atrocities against Dalit women and girls. Over the past five years, more than 40,000 cases have been recorded annually, with more than 139,000 cases pending trial since 2017. The overall judicial process for the Dalits truly reflects the scenario of 'justice delayed is justice denied.'

Recommendations:

- Stricter implementation of all the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (PEMSRA), 2013 is recommended. If Section 36 of the Factories Act, 1948 can be included as part of the PEMSRA, it will lead to fewer deaths and probably end the practice.
- It was suggested that a monitoring tool be developed based on the SDGs and the various indicators. Such a tool will help in identifying the areas where discrimination and untouchability practices persist. Activists at the grassroots could be trained to monitor the indicators for the SDGs. A working group could be set up to formulate these monitoring tools.
- The Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan Budgets should be commensurate with the population proportion as mandated by the plan. Budgets set aside for the welfare of Dalits should be fully utilised and not be allowed to lapse owing to under-spending. Further, only those schemes should be taken up which directly benefit SC individuals, families and habitations.
- All forms of caste and gender-based discrimination at the workplace should be dealt with strictly with consequences on the employment, promotion and remuneration of the persons who discriminate.
- The state should ensure the establishment of exclusive police stations and special courts to facilitate speedy trials of the large number of pending cases under the Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act. There should be higher transparency and accountability of the judicial system. Various provisions for vigilance and monitoring embedded within the PoA Act at the district and state level needs to be effectively implemented.

Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

Introduction:

The term Denotified Tribes refers to communities who came within the purview of the colonial era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 and other such renditions of the Act. These Acts were repealed by the Indian government in 1952, thereby 'DE notifying' these communities. Apart from DNTs, several other Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes were also affected by colonial-era policies and nomenclature. While there is no official data since they are not separately enumerated in the Census, it is estimated that there are nearly 1,500 NTs and SNTs and 198 DNTs, comprising a population of 150 million DNT-NT-SNTs in India.

Challenges:

These tribal groups have a long history of extreme poverty, marginalisation, neglect and oppression. Through the enactment of the Habitual Offenders Act between 1952 and 1976 and the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, the post-colonial GoI ended up perpetuating the systematic branding of these groups as criminals, delinquents and vagabonds, furthering the consequent harassment of these communities till date.

They do not have a uniform classification across the country and are not recognised as a separate social category under the Constitutional schedules. Instead, they are part of SCs, STs and OBCs in different states, with some of them not even listed under any recognised marginalised category. They remain invisible due to the lack of requisite documentation, awareness and the capacity to demand and secure rights and entitlements. As a result, they have limited access when it comes to availing state-led interventions for marginalised communities.

Recommendations:

- The Habitual Offenders Act should be repealed. The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act and similar laws across India should be re-examined as they criminalise and de-humanise street performing nomadic communities.
- The DNT-NT-SNTs should be included in the SC/ST PoA Act, 1989 so that they are covered under the protective measures, with similar laws introduced for those that do not come under either category. The NHRC and SHRCs should provide training on DNT-NT-SNT sensitisation to the police, central and state civil servants, and members of the judiciary. Further, the Legal Services Authority should offer community-based training to DNT-NT-SNT youth in constitutional rights, including the right to protection from violence.
- The Census of 1931 and the Ayyangar Committee Report, 1952 should be used for an updated enumeration of these communities, with the Anthropological Survey of India conducting the survey to build a shared and collective identity, with duplication and anomalies corrected. They should also be included as a separate category for enumeration in the Census, the NFHS and NSS to address their human development needs with adequate financing.
- A permanent national-level 'DNT-NT-SNT Commission' should be set up on the lines of the SC and ST Commissions, with the Chairperson preferably holding the rank of a 'cabinet minister'. In states with more than 2.5 million DNT population, a similar state-level commission should be set up, while in other states, DNT-NT-SNT boards can be formed. Members of these bodies should primarily and largely be DNT-NT-SNT members too.

Elderly

Introduction:

Demographic trends of India suggest that it will soon join the league of nations where the percentage population more than 60 years of age is large enough to pose a socio-economic challenge for its policymakers and administrators. Life expectancy projections by UNFPA combined with other expected demographic changes show that the elderly population will increase from 104 million (8.6 per cent of the population) in 2011 to 425.5 million (25.7 per cent of the population) in India by 2061.

Challenges:

Census 2011 indicates that almost 70 per cent of the elderly live in rural areas. Additionally, studies by UNFPA show that high poverty co-exists with low social security coverage among the elderly, leading to the inevitable conclusion that most of India's elderly will indeed be living in poverty in 2061. Further, women are expected to outnumber men, especially after 70 years of age. However, there is no authentic data published by the government on the number of elderly living below poverty line and their access to public healthcare facilities.

Other significant factors are income, livelihoods, nutrition, morbidity, mortality, healthcare-seeking behaviour, mobility, disability, gender, accessible and enabling environment, social security, informal and institutional care system, and the real-life complexities produced by the intersection of some or many of these factors that make the elderly population vulnerable.

Recommendations:

- Given the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, universal coverage for a non-contributory pension is essential to end age-related poverty with a periodic review of the monthly pension amount to make it meaningful.
- Digitisation does not always help the most dispossessed poor elderly as they do not have access to computers, smartphones, internet or even electricity. The application and disbursement processes should be designed such that they are senior-friendly.
- Specific services for the aged should be introduced in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) at the Panchayat level. Preventive health care and screening for diseases should be taken up in PHCs and by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA).
- Each Panchayat should take up awareness generation initiatives to ensure that the seniors living within its jurisdiction are fully aware of the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and know how to make effective use of it. Outreach facilities for older women afflicted by violence/distress should be instituted along with the provision of short-stay homes.
- NITI Aayog should create an Index on Ageing in India and should report yearly on it. An Age Friendly District Index should be developed, and age-friendly districts reported. Indicators to be used for developing the index for which data is available from most of the states/districts must be mapped in consultation with other stakeholders.
- Just like gender budgeting, there should be elderly budgeting. The cue may be picked up from local self-governments in Kerala where all Panchayats are mandated to utilise at least 5 per cent of their budgets for the welfare of senior citizens. Further, a 'Special Plan of Action for the Most Marginalised among the Elderly' should be drawn up.

Farmers

Introduction:

While the value share of agriculture as well as its employment share has declined over the years, it remains a source of livelihood for 43 per cent (2019) of the working population in India—the Indian farmers.

Challenges:

Small and marginal farmers with less than two hectares of land account for 86.2 per cent of all farmers in India and own just 47.3 per cent of the cropping area. The predominance of smallholdings creates unique challenges in yield maximisation, aggregation, transportation, demand forecasting and wastage reduction. As the NSSO data shows, more than one-fifth of rural households with self-employment in agriculture have income below the poverty line. Women farmers are particularly vulnerable, with around 80 per cent of rural women dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods but seldom holding land titles and rarely recognised as farmers. They are thus unable to access formal credit and benefits from state programmes and schemes.

Rising indebtedness, continuing farmer suicides, land alienation and landlessness, climate change, disappearing commons, the feminisation of agriculture, deteriorating soil health and farmers' health due to the use of harmful chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and lack of attention to the situation of the often left behind farmer groups are some of the significant challenges.

Recommendations:

- De-link land ownership for availing benefits meant for farmers. This will operationalize the definition of farmers as contained in the National Policy for Farmers, 2007.
- Take concrete steps to enhance farmers' resilience through making resilient infrastructure, introducing agro-ecological approaches based on diverse cropping, providing weather information and early warning systems and improved crop and livestock insurance.
- Develop and strengthen local Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) on aspects of resource and infrastructure management, value addition, market linkages, accessing inputs and credit.
- Protect farmers' and soil health by reducing and phasing out the use of harmful chemicals.
- The government should provide employment for at least 200 days instead of 100 days under the MGNREGA with adequate outlays set aside and prompt payments made to workers. Further, MGNREGA should be extended to the livestock keepers, integrating the need for water for livestock in the watershed development projects and promoted especially in the rain-fed areas of the country.
- Provide recognition to women farmers, secure their resource rights and ensure equal entitlements. All registered FPOs should have at least 50 per cent female membership which should also be made mandatory for the governance structure of the FPO.
- Steps to be taken to ensure that remunerative prices are obtained by all farmers, and the coverage of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be expanded to include more farmers, with separate MSP for often-left behind farmers, such as rain-fed farmers or Adivasi farmers, commensurate with the risks and ecosystem services provided by them.

LGBTQIA+

Introduction:

The LGBTQIA+ persons figure among the most marginalised and near-invisible communities of India. They face multiple challenges and, for the longer part of 70 years since independence, have faced a legal battle against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC 377).

Challenges:

The challenges faced by this community are multi-fold—lack of parental and societal acceptance, bullying in educational institutions, disinheritance, eviction, physical assault, sexual assault, forced heterosexual marriages, honour killings, discrimination in the job market especially during recruitment, absence of mechanisms for grievance redress at the workplace, inadequate legal recourse in case of harassment, lack of same-sex spouse benefits, and deprivation of the right to form a family or even to adopt a child.

Additionally, there is no pan-India data available for the LGBTQIA+ population, and they are not included in welfare schemes (except for a negligible proportion of the transgender community that is included in some schemes, implementation of which continues to be a challenge).

Recommendations:

- Gender reaffirmation guidelines and documentation processes should be uniform across the country, with post-operative care and post-gender affirmation processes protected by law. Laws concerning domestic violence, blackmail, harassment and rape should be gender-neutral in order to protect LGBTQIA+ people effectively.
- More shelter homes for the rehabilitation of transgender persons should be started with the help of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to ensure acceptance and safe transition. Further, safe houses and helplines should be set up for LGBTQIA+ people affected by violence.
- Social infrastructure should be strengthened to address the mental health issues of the community. Serious efforts should be made to stop conversion therapy immediately as it adds to the psychological trauma of LGBTQIA+ people.
- Community members should be suitably supported to obtain the requisite legal documents and facilitate recognition of same-sex partners.
- Gender affirmation and Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) should be included as essential services, and viable options should be provided for alternative assisted reproductive technologies to LGBTQIA+ people intending to become parents.
- Educational institutions should ensure zero-tolerance for bullying and harassment of LGBTQIA+ persons with gender sensitisation of teachers and staff. Further, transformative and affirmative workplace policies to be introduced for employment of LGBTQIA+ people. Gender-neutral facilities and environment to be promoted.
- It is imperative that non-discriminatory and gender-inclusive language be a part of SDG 5 so that it becomes relevant not just for women and girls but also for LGBTQIA+ community.

Migrants and Urban Poor

Introduction:

The poor in the cities of India, many of whom are interstate migrants, are the ‘city makers’ as they fuel the economy by carrying human capital to regions where it is most needed. According to the Census of India 2011, the migrant population stood at 454 million and as per the NSSO, comprised 28.3 per cent of the workforce. There is very little current data available on the migrants.

Challenges:

Over the years, migrants have experienced exclusion or poor integration into the prevailing social, economic and political rights framework in India. They remain invisible, vulnerable, deprived and often destitute. Absence of domicile papers and identity at worksites in cities deprives them of political voice, rendering them unable to vote for representatives to Urban Local Bodies (ULB), interlinking with the creation of ineffective government schemes and lack of proper monitoring systems for the same.

Absence of safe and affordable housing and land rights, lack of education and skilling all reinforce the vulnerability of the urban poor, which already has no job security, insurance or assurance of minimum wages. While government schemes and programmes aim at inclusion, they paradoxically exclude access based on individual and family documentation.

Recommendations:

- State authorities should ensure better monitoring of implementing agencies and accountability mechanisms, including setting up ward sabhas that are mostly missing in several states. Further, there should be periodic monitoring and course correction of government schemes such as PMAY-U because poor implementation leads to higher displacement of the urban poor communities than their actual rehabilitation.
- The government should allocate land/patta rights to the urban poor and assist them through schemes like PMAY (U)-BLC to help them build houses. Land should be allotted to people who have been residing in an area for an extended period so that even if they migrate for work, they can have a place to come back to.
- As per the guidelines under the National Urban Livelihood Mission, adequate shelters should be constructed immediately. However, ‘shelter’ is not a permanent solution and as a next step, housing programmes should facilitate in-situ rehabilitation instead of relocating the poor and homeless to the periphery of the city.
- Migrants should have voting rights in their city of work so that their issues and demands are heard. Additionally, the universality of essential services is necessary to ensure that migrant poor have access to the same. Portability of social services should be smooth, and should also be applicable for short durations and across multiple states.
- Efforts should be taken to ensure that labour registrations are done as a mandatory requirement with proper implementation of labour welfare laws for the protection of the informal workforce.
- It is imperative that legislations under the 74th Amendment Act are implemented and monitored diligently. The ULBs should prepare city-specific urban poverty alleviation plans, and this process must bolster participatory planning processes through the Act.

North East Region

Introduction:

The North-Eastern Region (NER) comprises of eight states of the Indian Union—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and is a unique melting pot of South, Southeast, and Far East Asian cultures. It is also one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world with rich flora and fauna.

Challenges:

Post-1947, the indigenous peoples asserted their right to self-determination leading to widespread unrest. To control the same, the GoI imposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in 1958, giving armed forces the power to maintain public order in ‘disturbed areas’ and leaving behind a trail of violence with frequent violation of human rights. The NER is disproportionately governed by such laws with limited freedom and liberty to the people.

While the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution institutionalised tribal self-rule through Autonomous Councils, they are mostly ineffective, leading to weak policy linkage of a village in the NER to the Parliament. Further, the NER states (being cash strapped) are unable to invest in industry, innovation and infrastructure, resulting in rudimentary scaffolding for secondary economic activity. There is acute shortage of livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare, physical infrastructure and centres of innovation and excellence in the region.

Recommendations:

- The GoI should take pro-active measures to share and promote understanding about the rich culture and traditions of the people of NER in other parts of the country.
- The Regional/District Councils under the Sixth Schedule should be centrally funded through the Consolidated Fund of India and they should be granted rights over land and forest as per the directives under Article 3 of the Schedule.
- UN, in collaboration with CSOs, could undertake a comprehensive human rights education programme to empower the vulnerable communities with the knowledge of their rights and entitlements. The initiative will also build the capacity of the policymakers, technocrats, CSOs and community leaders from the NER.
- Develop a committed and irrevocable roadmap towards the repeal of AFSPA and other laws, such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), National Security Act (NSA), and sedition laws that have been unduly harsh on the people of the NER. Further, build clear criteria and guidelines for declaring an area disturbed.
- The centre and state can explore alternate measures to bring peace and normalcy in the region in addition to the peace talks with the big militant groups. It is of utmost importance to establish strong and effective Human Rights Commissions in all the NER states and grant them adequate power and resources to function effectively as per the Paris Principles, as well as protect human rights defenders so that they can carry out their work freely.
- Reduce pendency of cases in the courts, strengthen justice delivery in the lower courts and tribunals in the NER. The state should set up special courts to hear cases dealing with drugs and violence against women like the special courts to hear cases of extra judicial executions in the region.

Persons Living with HIV

Introduction:

In 2017, 2.1 million persons were living with HIV in India with HIV prevalence among adults (15–49 years) at 0.2 per cent. Incidence of HIV per 1,000 uninfected persons among people of all ages was 0.1 with 88,000 people newly infected with HIV and 69,000 people dying from AIDS-related illness. The National Health Policy 2017 promises to achieve the global target of ‘90:90:90’ for HIV–AIDS by 2020, i.e. ‘90 per cent of all PLHIV will know their HIV status, 90 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive sustained Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and 90 per cent of those receiving ART will have viral suppression.’ However, while 79 per cent of PLHIV knew their status in 2017, only 56 per cent of those were on treatment.

Challenges:

Limited availability of viral load machines and facilities in most districts hampers effective monitoring of health and HIV care aspects. Further, stockouts and supply chain issues regarding ART medicines hamper the attainment of the goal of viral suppression. The community does not have a full understanding of new treatment guidelines, protocols, drug regimens, government schemes and emerging global developments related to PLHIV. District and state-level PLHIV networks are not adequately supported, and communication channels for community engagement restricted. Additionally, stigma, discrimination, poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, poor nutrition and lack of access to healthcare and education are factors that continue to hinder progress of the community.

Recommendations:

- The GoI should ensure that all PLHIVs are covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and other health protection schemes. Also, HIV co-infection with Hepatitis C and tuberculosis should be addressed, ensuring accurate information on treatment protocol and medications. There should be smartcard-based access to all health services and government schemes.
- Procurement through TRIPS should be revised as per the latest laws and regulations to avoid the drug stockout of ART medicines and other commodities.
- The PLHIV community should work more closely with other ministries and departments besides the Ministry of Health, as well as relevant CSOs to map schemes that will help the community and work out a plan of action for their implementation. This plan of action should include a comprehensive database on government schemes and entitlements that can be easily accessed by the PLHIV. This database should be shared with relevant ministries and state departments for improved delivery systems.
- The government should ensure consistent advocacy and action on the incidence of stigma and discrimination by documenting cases of human rights violations and facilitating access to appropriate grievance redress mechanisms. It should also look at the formulation of rules and regulations as well as setting up an ombudsman system to exercise the powers entrusted under the HIV and AIDS Act.
- An ‘Advocacy Plan’ aligned with the SDGs should be developed in the context of PLHIV, with action points to promote greater public awareness on the themes of no new infections, cure for HIV, viral load suppression, economic empowerment, gainful employment, zero stigma and effective mainstreaming of PLHIV. Another proposed action point was to showcase the political commitment for the PLHIV community in India wherein a representative is appointed to share the issues of the community in the Parliament.

Persons with Disabilities

Introduction:

There is no consensus on the baseline number of PwDs in India. According to Census 2011, the number is 26.8 million (2.2 per cent of the population), the WHO estimates it at 200 million (15 per cent of the population), while CSOs peg the number between 70 and 100 million. Even if we go by the lowest estimate of 26.8 million PwDs, the number is higher than the total population of three-quarters of the world's nations.

Challenges:

India's policy framework has so far seemed to ignore PwDs. The SDG India Index 2018 included no indicators relevant for PwDs, and the 2019 Index had only one. While there are over 100 current laws that discriminate against PwDs, the implementation of existing disability laws, such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWDA) 2016, is inadequate and India is yet to align provisions under RPWDA, Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), Rehabilitation Council of India Act (RCIA) 1992 and National Trust Act (NTA) with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and remove contrary stands.

PwDs fare poorly in most development indices, and tend to remain excluded from the development agenda. Women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable, facing multiple forms of disadvantages and discrimination. Though there is a direct link between disability and poverty, poverty line estimates do not consider the cost of living with a disability. There are also considerable gaps in accessing assistive products and technologies for PwDs in India due to lack of availability, accessibility, affordability and information about the same.

Recommendations:

- A disability index should be developed to collect and report disaggregated data on disability as a subset of the SDG India Index to monitor the well-being of PwDs in comparison to persons without disabilities. To improve the quality of disability data and make it internationally comparable, agencies should consider adopting the Washington Group's short set of disability questions; the Model Disability Survey developed by the WHO, and a child functioning module developed by UNICEF.
- Disability cells and budgets should be created in all relevant ministries and government departments based on clear technical guidelines, along with robust partnerships between disability and sectoral experts. Specific disability budgets should incorporate accessibility on all fronts, and focus on supporting assistive technology, community-based services, social protection programmes, and employment assistance.
- All schemes and policies announced by the government must be inclusive of and accessible to PwDs and must be aligned to the RPWDA. Social audits of all schemes and policies should be carried out regularly. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) caters only to people with 80 per cent disability and above; this should be amended to include people with benchmark disabilities as stated in the RPWDA.
- Capacity-building programmes on UNCRPD, RPWDA, and MHCA should be initiated with focus on disability-related concepts, such as accessibility, universal design, reasonable accommodations, and disability-specific health care system. Capacity-building should include MPs, MLAs, all ministries and government departments concerned with human development, NGOs, academics, civil society, the private sector, and PwDs.

Refugees

Introduction:

Refugees and asylum seekers have rarely been identified explicitly in national data collection instruments, so there is currently negligible baseline data to monitor progress towards achievement of SDGs for refugees. The little available evidence indicates that they generally live in poor socio-economic circumstances.

Challenges:

In the absence of refugee law, the entry, stay and presence of refugees in India are governed by complementary laws which do not differentiate between different categories of persons- foreigners, refugees, migrants and the stateless. Further, the status of different groups of refugees in India varies, with some refugee groups formally provided protection and access to essential services, while the presence of others is tolerated, without formal recognition of their status and limited access to essential services.

The trauma and loss of assets and capital experienced during displacement, and lack of adequate legal and social protection mechanisms in countries of asylum make refugees particularly vulnerable. Since they are often forced to flee without proper documentation, they are prone to being detained as illegal migrants. In fact, some refugee groups in India live in what can best be described as an indefinite state of limbo. Their lives may not be at risk, but their basic rights and essential economic, social and psychological needs remain unfulfilled.

Recommendations:

- Create and support a policy environment that includes refugees in national development and sectoral plans and harness the SDGs to promote policies that enable refugees to become self-reliant. A task force can be set up to study the situation of displaced communities in India and make some recommendations to the government.
- Provide temporary protection to refugees present on Indian territory, issue long term visa to regularise their stay, and provide legally recognised documents which could prevent harassment and exploitation, enabling them to access basic services. For this, designate an identified expert authority in charge of defining various categories of displaced populations, examining applications of individuals claiming to be refugees and issuance of documents.
- In coordination with the UN and WNTA, organise capacity-building training and workshops for CSOs and engage with various institutions at all levels on issues of the displaced communities to promote respect and tolerance towards refugees, ensure correct use of terminology and view them from a humanitarian perspective. This will ensure that CSOs and local communities are better prepared to extend and adapt services and systems to the specific needs of asylum seekers and refugees.
- Support and upscale innovative initiatives to promote self-reliance of refugees in a manner that takes into account the skills and capacities of the host communities and the refugees.
- Security considerations need to be reconciled with humanitarian principles so that they are not implemented at the expense of persons forced to leave their home countries, with detention to be considered as a last resort and on an individualised determination of its necessity, reasonableness and proportionality to a legitimate purpose. Guidelines should be framed by the government to address this issue.

Religious Minorities

Introduction:

Religious minorities are recognised as a distinct population group in India, with direct reference made in Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992 formally notified five sections as religious minorities—namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. In 2014, the Jain community was also accorded legal status as a religious minority under the NCM Act. These six statutory religious minorities of India constitute almost 20 per cent of the Indian population.

Challenges:

While India has made significant progress in growth and development since Independence, there are indications that not all religious groups have equally shared the benefits of the growth process. A self-assessment by the participants during the consultation on key development parameters regarding their vulnerability highlighted a very bleak status of their development and progress.

Religious minorities perceive that rising majoritarianism and cultural nationalism in India is making it difficult for them to preserve their distinct religious practices, languages, cultures, traditions, places of worship and institutions. Hardships endure beyond identities, in education, employment, business, and civic life. The general perception among minority groups is that the National Population Register/National Register of Citizens may leave millions stateless— particularly from vulnerable communities depriving them of citizenship rights and any hope of entitlements in government schemes in the future.

Recommendations:

- The GoI should work towards the inclusion of religious minorities in the development agenda through a well-designed package—with due policies and fiscal provisions for the same at par with SCs/STs—for the progress of religious minorities, with the Ministry of Minority Affairs as the nodal agency for strategic implementation of SDGs for religious minorities.
- Recommendations of the Sachar Committee to establish Equal Opportunity Commission, Diversity Index and Databank on Minorities should be implemented as soon as possible. Further, the recommendation of the Ranganath Misra Commission to reserve 15 per cent of the government jobs and educational opportunities for minorities, with sub-quotas according to their demographic composition, should be implemented.
- The Ministry of Law should consider the exclusion of Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains from the umbrella term of ‘Hindus’ under different Acts as they are all distinct religions and the Muslim and Parsi Personal Law should be made in consonance with the tenets of their respective religions. The government should also withdraw the Presidential Order, 1950 which excludes Christian and Muslim SCs from the provisions of protection or reservations available to Hindu/Buddhist/Sikh SCs.
- Institutions such as the NHRC, NCM and the NCM Educational Institutions should be strengthened and mobilised to play an effective role in safeguarding the Constitutional rights of minorities. Efforts should be made to identify and remove the various barriers encountered by religious minorities.

Women

Introduction:

Women constitute 48.5 per cent of the total population of India with rural women constituting the majority (69 per cent) of the female population. 'Gender equality and the empowerment of women' as a stand-alone goal and priority, cuts across all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, a gender lens must be applied while planning interventions and assessing achievements under all the SDGs.

Challenges:

There is lack of recognition of the everyday economic, social, political and cultural discrimination and violence faced by women, particularly women from marginalised communities. Women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ community continue to endure inequality in all aspects of life in their homes and public places. The violence they face is structural as well as physical, sexual and emotional. As a result, they fare poorly on all development indicators.

Critical challenges remain in the absence of disaggregated data across gender, age, disability, caste, class, tribe, marital status, occupation and location; gaps in the implementation of laws and policies along with inadequate budgetary allocation for programmes and schemes for women and girls. Further, planning of city spaces is not gender responsive and is done without any consultative processes with women.

Recommendations:

- Adoption of a 'National Policy for Women' should be top priority. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion action plan should be made integral to all policies and programmes with adequate central and state financing ensured for gender equality measures. Gender-responsive budgeting, including its implementation and monitoring could significantly strengthen interventions for the safety of women and girls.
- The government should recognise and ban the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among girls belonging to communities like Dawoodi Bohra. It should also formulate a national law banning witch-hunting. The legislation can be informed by experiences from the states of Assam, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha where such laws are in place.
- The state should ensure access to continuous education to adolescent girls and reform the school curricula to include gender, rights and career education that would support their 'school-to-work' transition. Further, a comprehensive labour policy should be formulated that helps bring more women to the workplace. Crèches should be initiated across the country, and the ICDS scheme that provides food and pre-school education for children should run till 6 pm.
- A differential approach is needed to address the health care needs of women, including sex workers, women living with HIV, single women, tribal women and migrants, among others. Further, all women should necessarily have access to reproductive and sexual health-related information and services, irrespective of age.
- Poly-centric cities should be planned with mixed land use having gender-sensitive physical and social infrastructure while ensuring the safety and inclusion of women and girls. The transport, as well as street infrastructure, should be friendly for women and girls with disabilities, pregnant women, elderly and other vulnerable groups. Spatial planning of industrial and economic areas must account for gendered employment patterns.

Annexes

Annexe 1: List of anchor/co-anchor organisations

Community	Anchor Organisations	Co-Anchor Organisations
Adivasi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Education and Development Support, Ranchi Jharkhand (LEADS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization Functioning for Eythams Respect (OFFER)
Adolescents, Youth and Youth Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ComMutiny Youth Collective, New Delhi Pravah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audacious Dreams Foundation (ADF) Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) Pranthakatha Rupantaran Foundation
Bonded Labour and Victims of Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Justice Mission, New Delhi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) India Aide et Action Anthodaya Association for Rural Development (ARD) Foundation for Sustainable Development Jai Bhim Vikas Shikshan Sansthan Jan Sahas Justice Ventures International (JVI) Mukti (Alliance to end Human Trafficking and Bonded Labour) National Coalition to Eradicate Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking (NCEBHT) People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) Prajwala Prayas Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan Save The Children Shout for freedom Social Development and Management Society (SDMS) Voice of People – UP Volunteers for Social Justice World Vision

Community	Anchor Organisations	Co-Anchor Organisations
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children, New Delhi India • NINE IS MINE • World Vision India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Fund India • Child Rights and You (CRY) • National Coalition for Education (NCE) • Plan India • SOS Children's Villages of India • Terre des hommes
Dalits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, New Delhi (NCDHR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) • Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network (DHRD Net) • Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS) • Jan Sahas • National Coalition for Strengthening SC/ST PoA Act (NCSPA) • National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW) • Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA)
Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis-Institute of participatory practices, New Delhi, India • National Alliance Group for De-notified and Nomadic Tribe (NAG-DNT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharatpur Ghumantu Yuva Sangathan • Bharatiya Van Samta Parivar • Bhumi Gramuthanevum Sehbhagi Gramin Vikas Samiti • Budhan Theatre • DNT Adhikar Manch • Jan Kalyan Parishad • Kota heritage Foundation • Maji Badhilakhi • Muskan • Naya Jeevan Gyan Parchar Sewa Samiti • Nomad Film Trust • Nomad Times • Partner in Change (PIC) • Paschim Banga Kheria Sabar Kalyan Samiti • Sambhawana Welfare Society • Towards Advocacy, Networking and Developmental Action (TANDA) • Vajra Mahila Sangathan

Community	Anchor Organisations	Co-Anchor Organisations
Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HelpAge, New Delhi, India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) • United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society-CECODECON, Jaipur, Rajasthan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture) • Kisan Sewa Samiti Mahasangh • Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability and Mutuality (MAUSAM) • Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values (PAIRVI)
LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humsafar, Mumbai 	
Migrants and Urban Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, (YUVA) • Indo-Global Social Service Society –IGSSS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Aid • Adarsh Seva Sansthan (for Ranchi) • Centre for Child and Women Development (CCWD) • Indian Institute of Education and Care • Sahabagi Vikas Manch • Youth for Social Development
North East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Alert, Manipur, India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) • Indigenous Perspectives (IP) • Manipur University (MU) • North East Institute of Social Science and Research (NEISSR) • North East Social Trust (NEST) • United NGO Mission Manipur (UNM-M) • Women in Governance Network (WinG)

Community	Anchor Organisations	Co-Anchor Organisations
Persons Living with HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Coalition of People living with HIV in India (NCPI+), New Delhi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) World Health Organization (WHO)
Persons with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SightSavers, New Delhi National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) 	
Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Aid Bosco Organization for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO) Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) Save the Children, India Silaiwali
Religious Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Social Institute, New Delhi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA) Organization Functioning for Eythams Respect (OFFER)
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jagori, New Delhi, India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All India Women's Conference (AIWC) Azad Foundation Bebaak Collective National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) Nazariya: A Queer Feminist Group North-East Network (NEN) Sahaj

Annexe 2: Coordination, Communication and Editing Team

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Abbreviations

AFSPA	Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958
AHTU	Anti Human Trafficking Unit
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti Retroviral Therapy
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
CAA	Citizenship Amendment Act
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIR	First Information Report
FPO	Farmer Producer Organisation
FRA	Forest Rights Act, 2006
GoI	Government of India
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
IPC	Indian Penal Code
ITK	Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual; the plus sign covers all others who identify themselves as sexual minorities.
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MHCA	Mental Healthcare Act
MSP	Minimum Support Price
NCM	National Minorities Commission
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NER	North East Region
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NSA	National Security Act, 1980

NSAP	National Social Assistance Programme
NSS	National Sample Survey
NSSO	National Sample Survey Office
NTA	National Trust Act
OBC	Other Backward Classes
PEMSRA	Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013
PESA	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1989
PHC	Primary Health Centres
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV
PMAY-U	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban
PMAY (U)- BLC	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)- Beneficiary-Led Individual House Construction or Enhancement
PoA	Prevention of Atrocities (Act), 1989
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
RFCTLAAR	Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
RCIA	Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
RPWDA	Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
SC	Scheduled Castes
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SMC	School Management Committee
SRS	Sex Reassignment Surgery
ST	Scheduled Tribes
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
UAPA	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967
ULB	Urban Local Bodies
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VLCPC	Village Level Child Protection Committee
WHO	World Health Organisation
WNTA	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan



Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign focused on promoting Governance Accountability to end Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination, through tracking government promises and commitments at the national and international levels.

WNTA emerged from the consensus among human rights activists and social action groups who were part of the World Social Forum 2004 (Mumbai). The purpose was to create an environment through focused and concerted effort and try to make a difference in India where one-fourth of the world's poor live and experience intense deprivation from opportunities to learn, live and work with dignity. In this regard, WNTA highlights the aspirations and concerns of the most marginalized sections of the society – Dalits, Adivasis, Nomadic Tribes, Minorities, Women, Sexual Minorities, Children, Youth and the Person with disability to the government through People's Manifestoes before elections. Further, WNTA reviews and monitors the performance of the government on its promises and plans towards the marginalized sections on the framework of Constitutional mandates, National development goals and International commitments set in the UN Millennium Declaration (2000) / The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. We work to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of the marginalized sections are mainstreamed across programs, policies and development goals of the central and state governments.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

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