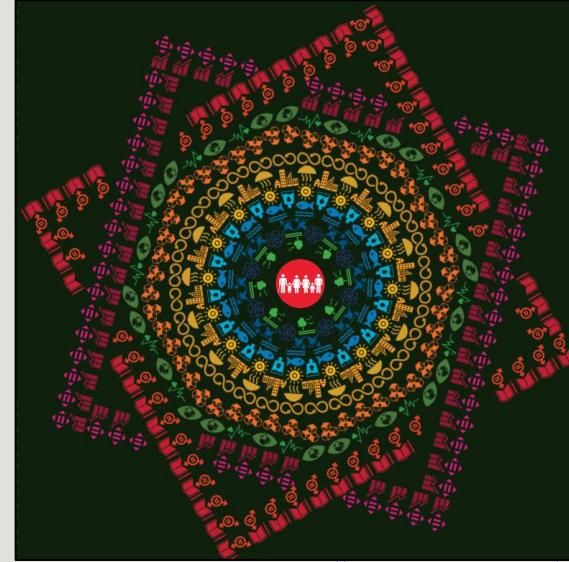


SAME DATA,
DIFFERENT
STORIES—
DECODING INDIA'S
DEVELOPMENT
DILEMMA



Ref: <https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/>

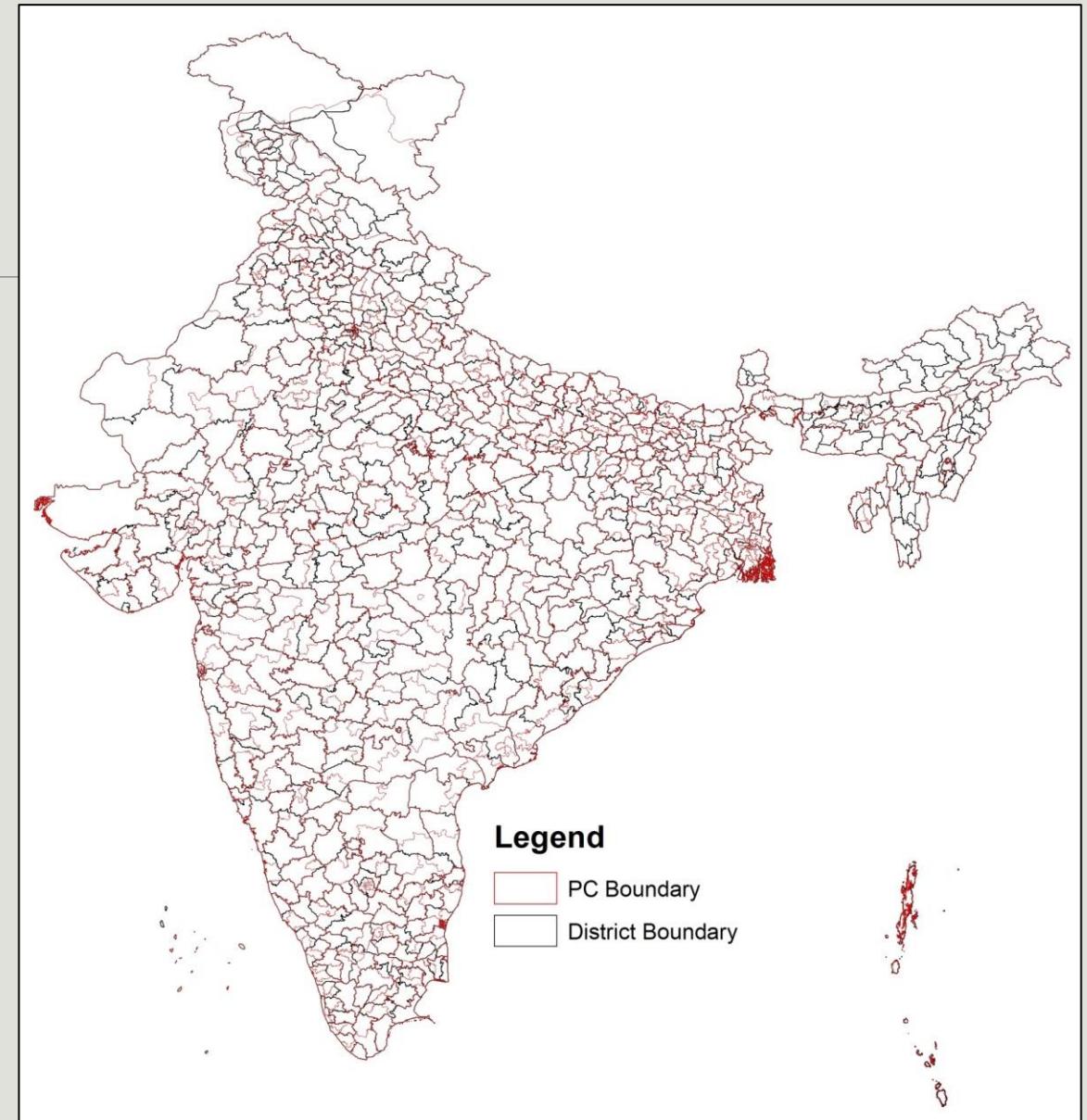
One Nation, Two Maps

SDG Accountability in India

Administrative(District) Unit VS. Political (PC) Unit

- In India, there is a fundamental disconnection between **the administrative unit (i.e., 785 districts)** at which data on key developmental indicators are available and **the political unit (i.e., 543 parliamentary constituencies [PC])** at which political actions take place.
- The discussion and decision around policies and programmes concerning health, education, and livelihoods are largely driven by data at the district level. However, there are no political representatives directly accountable for the performance at this administrative level.
- Whereas **Members of Parliament (MPs)** in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Indian Parliament), each representing 543 PCs as per the 2014 India map are accountable for the vision and implementation of public policies at the national and the specific constituency level.
- Hence, it is critical to produce **the most accurate and up-to-date evidence on the state of health and wellbeing at the PC-level** for MPs to efficiently and effectively serve their people, and for the constituents to understand the performance of their MPs for re-election.

Ref: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100375>



Ref: <https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S2352827318303732-mmc1.docx>

Administrative(District) vs. Political (PC) Lens on SDG Indicators

- This research initiative aims to compare SDG indicators in selected districts (707) against their parliamentary constituencies (543) to highlight how the lack of alignment in data boundaries leads to inconsistent accountability. Most importantly empower MPs to identify focal points within their constituencies to drive their policy decisions.
- Lancet's Study on SDG 2030 – India as per NFHS5(2019-21) who presented district-level and constituency-level data is utilised along with their Geographic Insights at Harvard University.
- Due to the absence of PC identifiers in nationally representative surveys and lack of hierarchical structure where PCs perfectly nest within districts, two methodologies were developed by S. V. Subramanian(2019) to enable PC-level estimations from the NFHS data(district-level) and is proven with empirical evidence.

Progress on Sustainable Development Goal indicators in 707 districts of India: a quantitative mid-line assessment using the National Family Health Surveys, 2016 and 2021

S. V. Subramanian,^{a,b,*} Mayanka Ambade,^c Akhil Kumar,^d Hyejun Chi,^e William Joe,^f Sunil Rajpal,^{e,g} and Rockli Kim^{e,h}

^aHarvard Center for Population and Development Studies, Cambridge, MA, USA

^bDepartment of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

^cLaxmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute-India Office, New Delhi, India

^dCenter for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

^eInterdisciplinary Program in Precision Public Health, Department of Public Health Sciences, Graduate School of Korea University, Seoul, South Korea

^fInstitute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, India

^gDepartment of Economics, FLAME University, Pune, India

^hDivision of Health Policy and Management, College of Health Science, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lansea.2023.100155>

Call for action: presenting constituency-level data on population, health and socioeconomic wellbeing related to 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for India

S. V. Subramanian,^{a,b,*} Amar Patnaik,^c and Rockli Kim^{d,e}

^aHarvard Center for Population and Development Studies, 9 Bow Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA

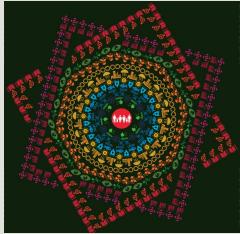
^bDepartment of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

^cMember of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India, India

^dDivision of Health Policy and Management, College of Health Science, Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

^eInterdisciplinary Program in Precision Public Health, Department of Public Health Sciences, Graduate School of Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lansea.2024.100358>



Administrative(District) vs. Political (PC) Lens on 9 SDGs, 12 Indicators



- Access to Basic Services



- Stunting in Children
- Wasting and Overweight in Children
- Anaemia (Women)



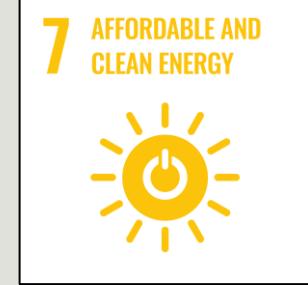
- Teenage Pregnancy (15 to 19)
- Tobacco Use (Men)



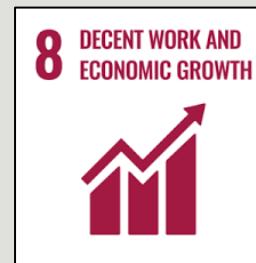
- Partner Violence (Physical or Sexual)
- Child Marriage Girl (<15)



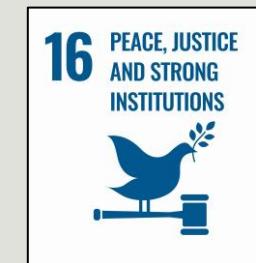
- Improved Water



- Clean Fuel for Cooking

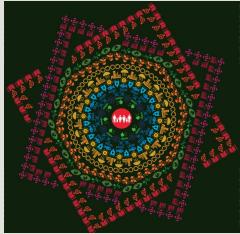


- Bank Account for Women



- Teenage Sexual Violence

Ref: <https://knowsdgs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



Administrative(District) vs. Political (PC) Lens on 9 SDGs, 12 Indicators

Metadata

- SDG Status

| |
|-------------|
| Achieved-I |
| Achieved-II |
| On-Target |
| Off-Target |

Achieved: These constitute districts/PCs that have already met the SDG target by 2021. The Achieved status can be categorized into two types:

- Achieved-I:** districts/PCs that have already met the SDG target by 2021 and have either observed an improvement between 2016 and 2021 or a worsening small enough in magnitude between 2016 and 2021 such that they will still maintain their Achieved status by 2030.
- Achieved-II:** districts/PCs that have already met the SDG target by 2021 but have observed a worsening magnitude of change between 2016 and 2021. If this trend continues, the status of these districts as Achieved will be undone by 2030.

On-Target: These constitute districts/PCs that have not met the SDG target by 2021 and have observed a magnitude of improvement between 2016 and 2021 sufficient to meet the target by 2030.

Off-Target: These constitute districts/PCs that have not met the SDG target by 2021 and either observed worsening between 2016 and 2021 or observed an insufficient magnitude of improvement between 2016 and 2021. If these districts/PCs continue with either of these trends, they will not meet their targets by 2030.

- Source Fields

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|
| State ABV | AAC | NFHSS | NFHS4 |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|

State ABV: State Name Abbreviation (28 States & 8 Union Territories)

AAC: Annual Absolute Change for each indicator

NFHSS: National Family Health Survey Projection as of 2021

NFHS4: National Family Health Survey Projection as of 2016

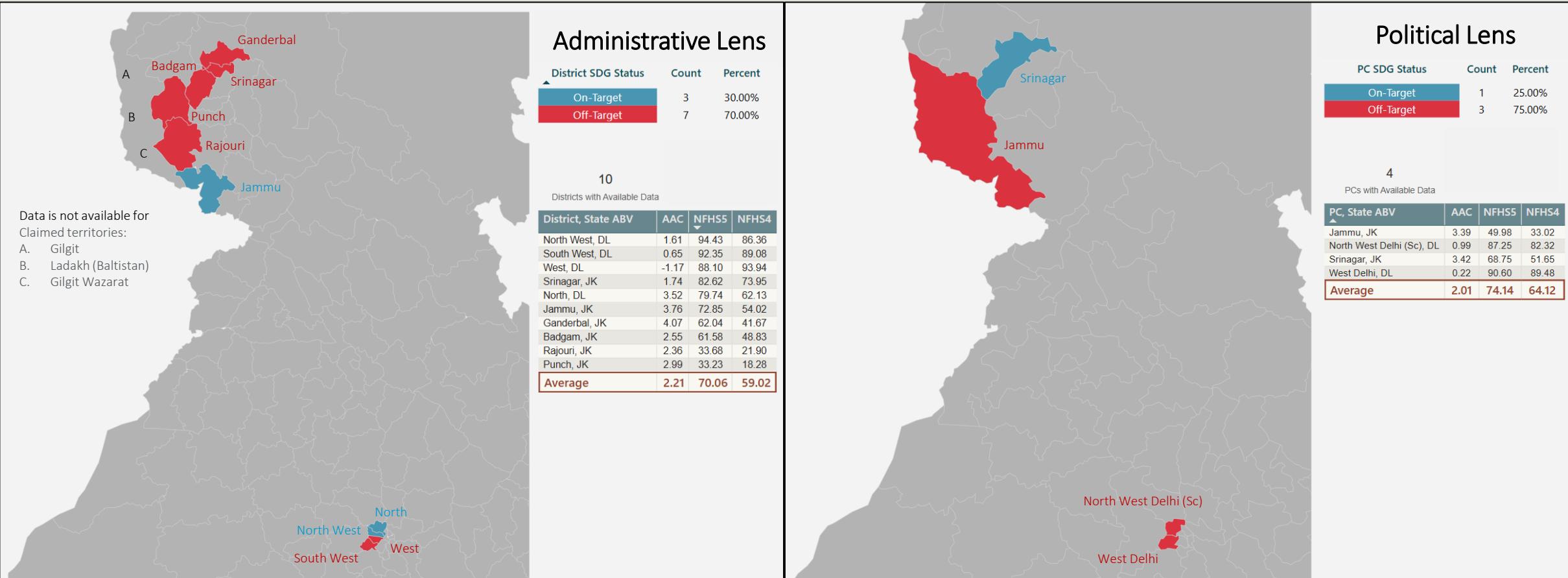


Access to Basic Services

1 NO POVERTY



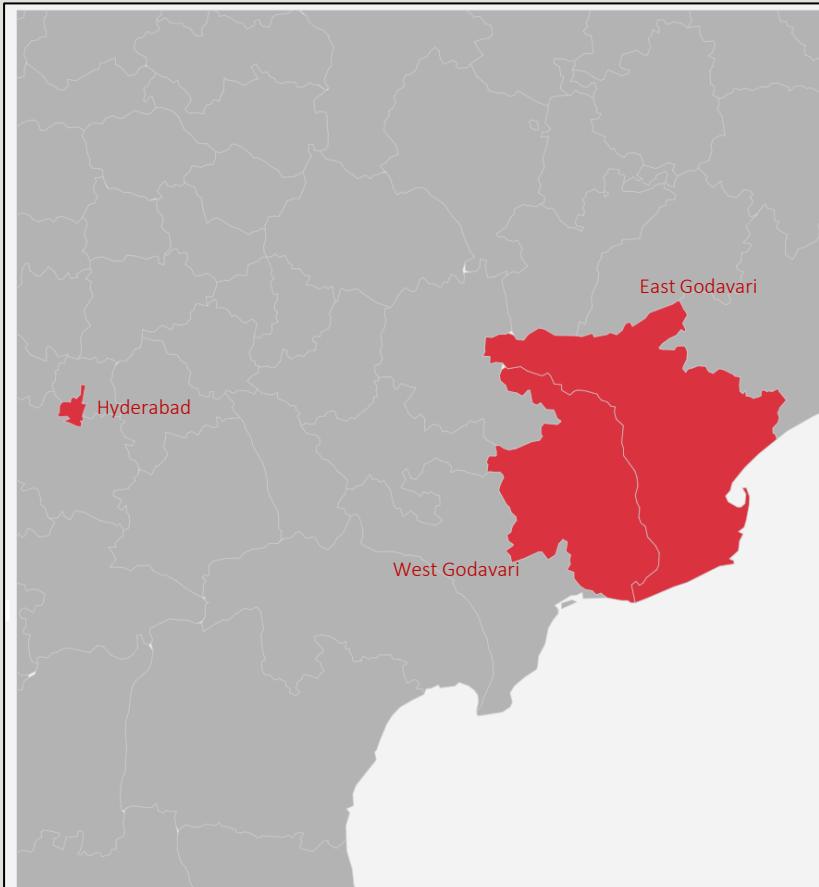
- ❑ Jammu constituency has to focus on access to basic services within Rajouri and Punch districts.
- ❑ Even though Srinagar constituency looks on-target, it has to make sure performance of individual districts (Srinagar, Badgam and Ganderbal) doesn't go off-target.
- ❑ North West Delhi constituency might need further investigation as it appears on-target at district-level.





Access to Basic Services

- ❑ Secunderabad constituency still got work to do. Hyderabad and Rajahmundry are on-target.
- ❑ Burden of West & East Godavari districts can be distributed among Narsapuram, Kakinada, Eluru and Amalapuram constituencies and make regional policy decisions to reach on-target.



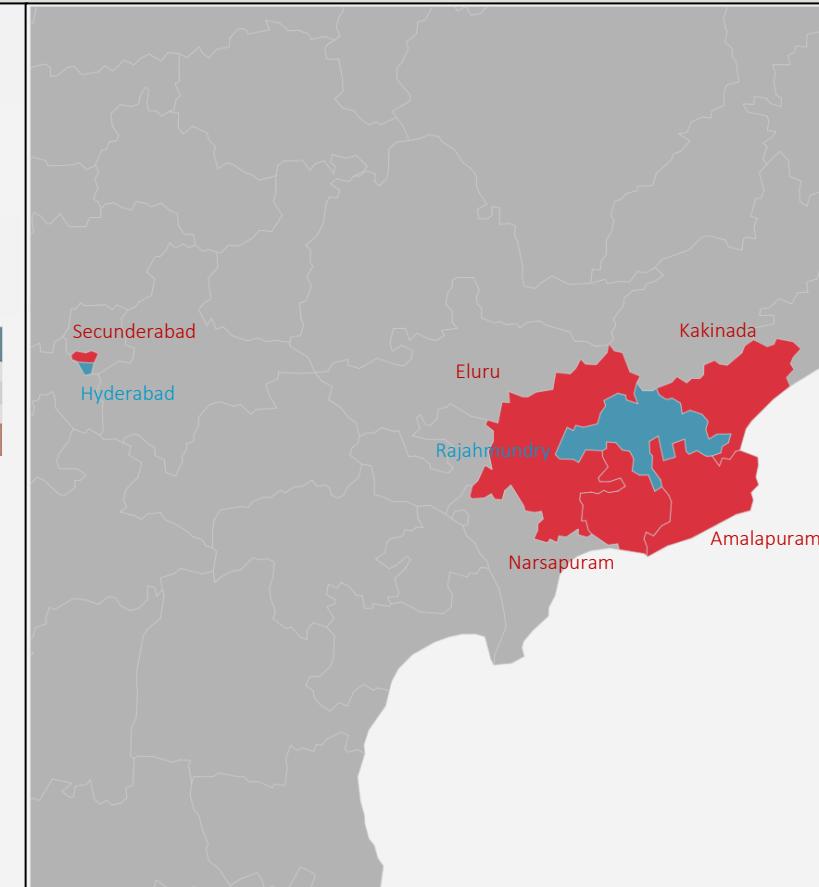
Administrative Lens

| District SDG Status | Count | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Off-Target | 3 | 100.00% |

3

Districts with Available Data

| District, State ABV | AAC | NFHSS | NFHS4 |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Hyderabad, TS | 1.46 | 74.51 | 67.20 |
| West Godavari, AP | 1.99 | 51.04 | 41.07 |
| East Godavari, AP | 2.85 | 46.48 | 32.21 |
| Average | 2.10 | 57.34 | 46.83 |



Political Lens

| PC SDG Status | Count | Percent |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| On-Target | 2 | 28.57% |
| Off-Target | 5 | 71.43% |

7

PCs with Available Data

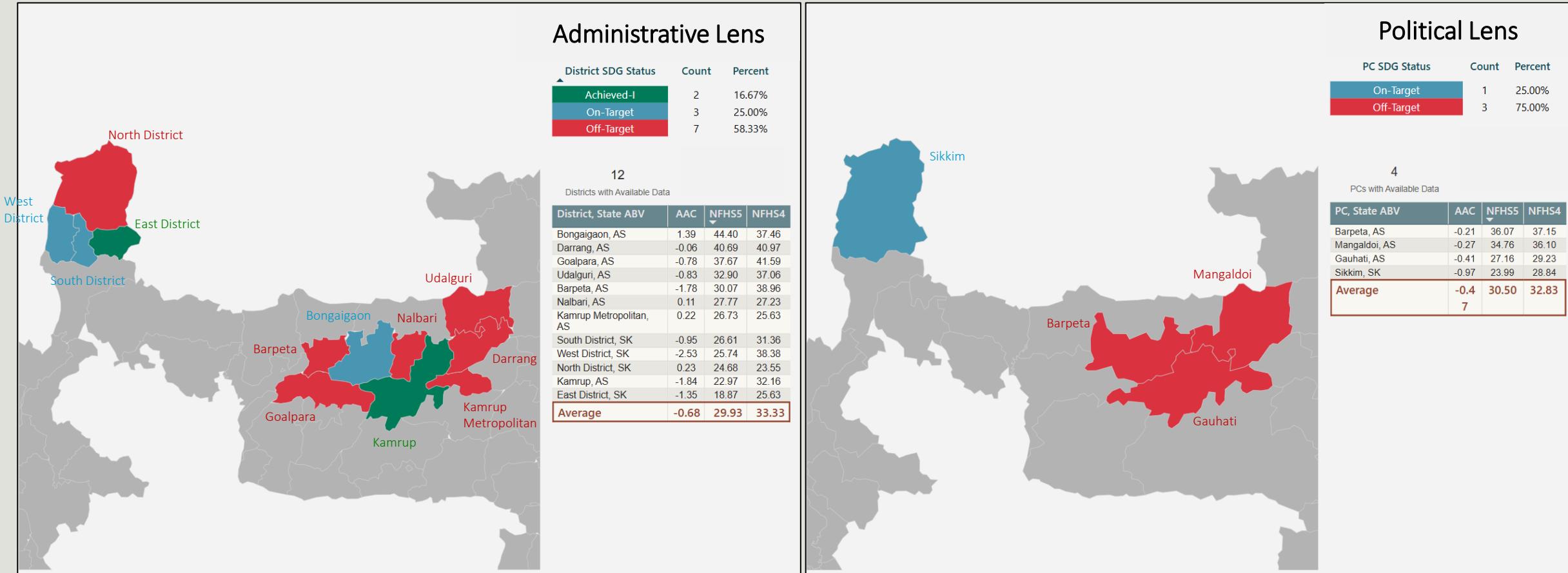
| PC, State ABV | AAC | NFHSS | NFHS4 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Hyderabad, TS | 4.92 | 91.23 | 66.65 |
| Secunderabad, TS | 0.16 | 66.21 | 65.40 |
| Narsapuram, AP | -0.89 | 51.67 | 56.14 |
| Rajahmundry, AP | 5.54 | 50.38 | 22.69 |
| Kakinada, AP | 3.13 | 47.94 | 32.30 |
| Eluru, AP | 1.97 | 45.14 | 35.30 |
| Amalapuram (Sc), AP | -0.29 | 39.17 | 40.64 |
| Average | 2.07 | 55.96 | 45.59 |



Stunting in Children

- Sikkim constituency has to focus on child mal-nutrition in North district.
- Although Kamrup district achieved the target, Gauhati constituency has to prioritise child nutrition in Kamrup Metropolitan, Goalpara and Darrang regions too.

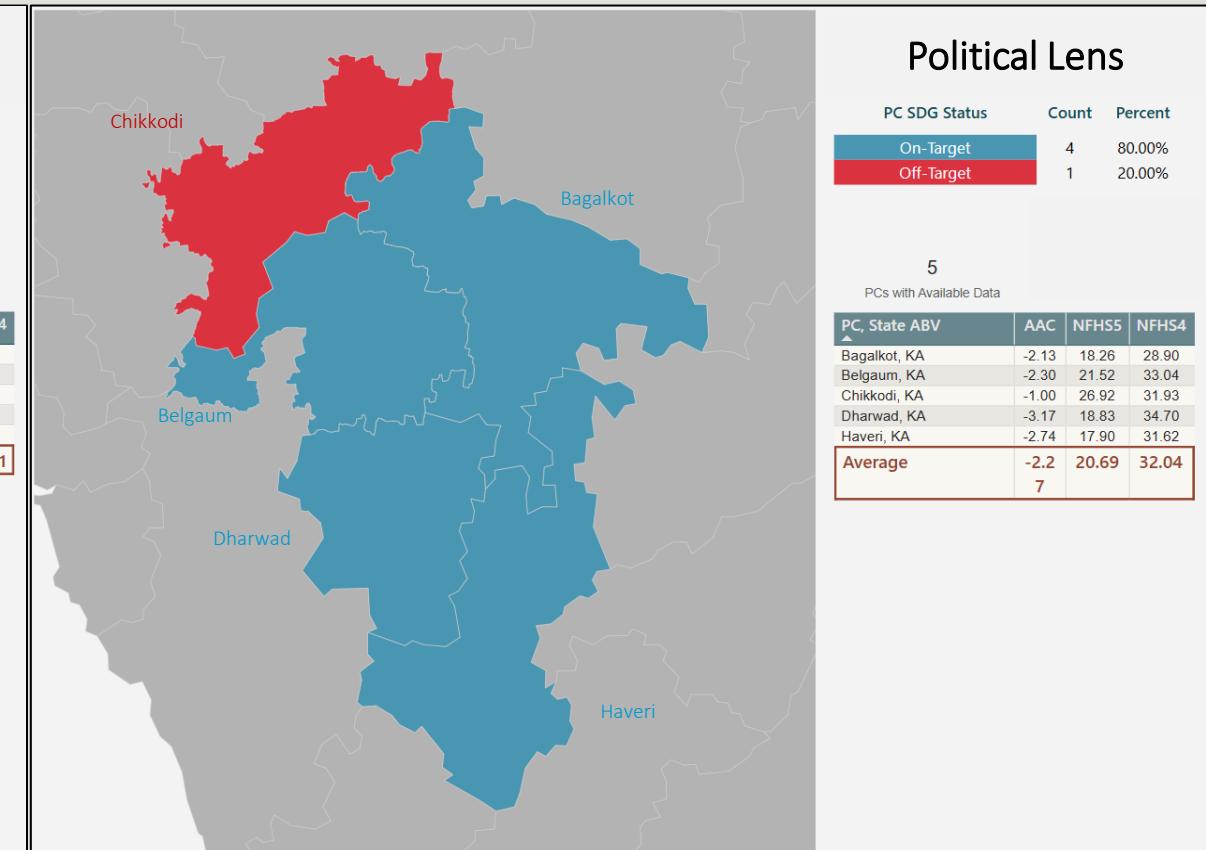
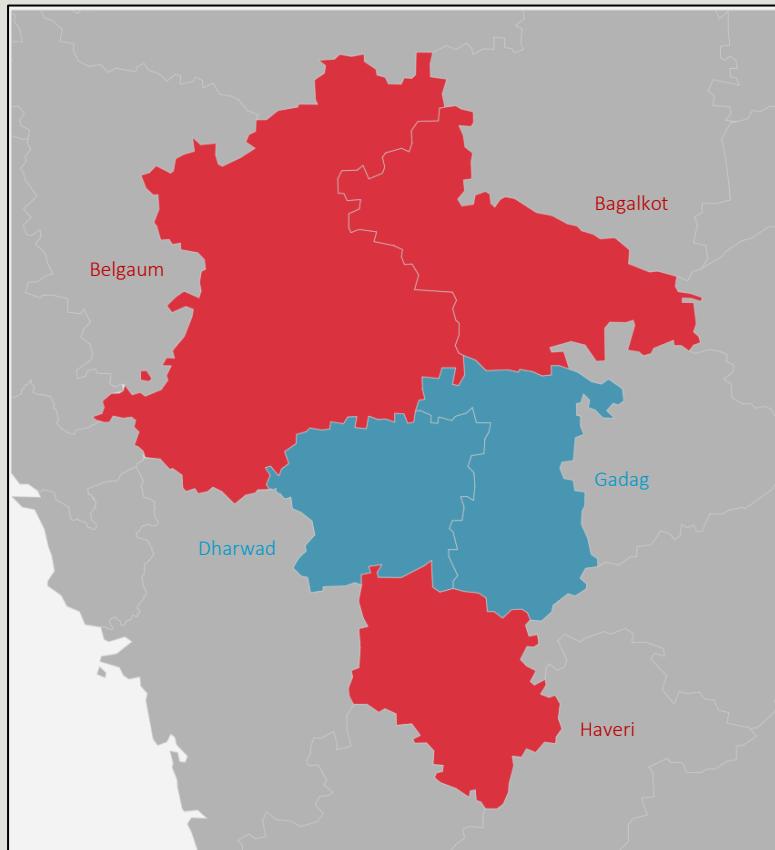
2 ZERO HUNGER





Wasting and Overweight in Children

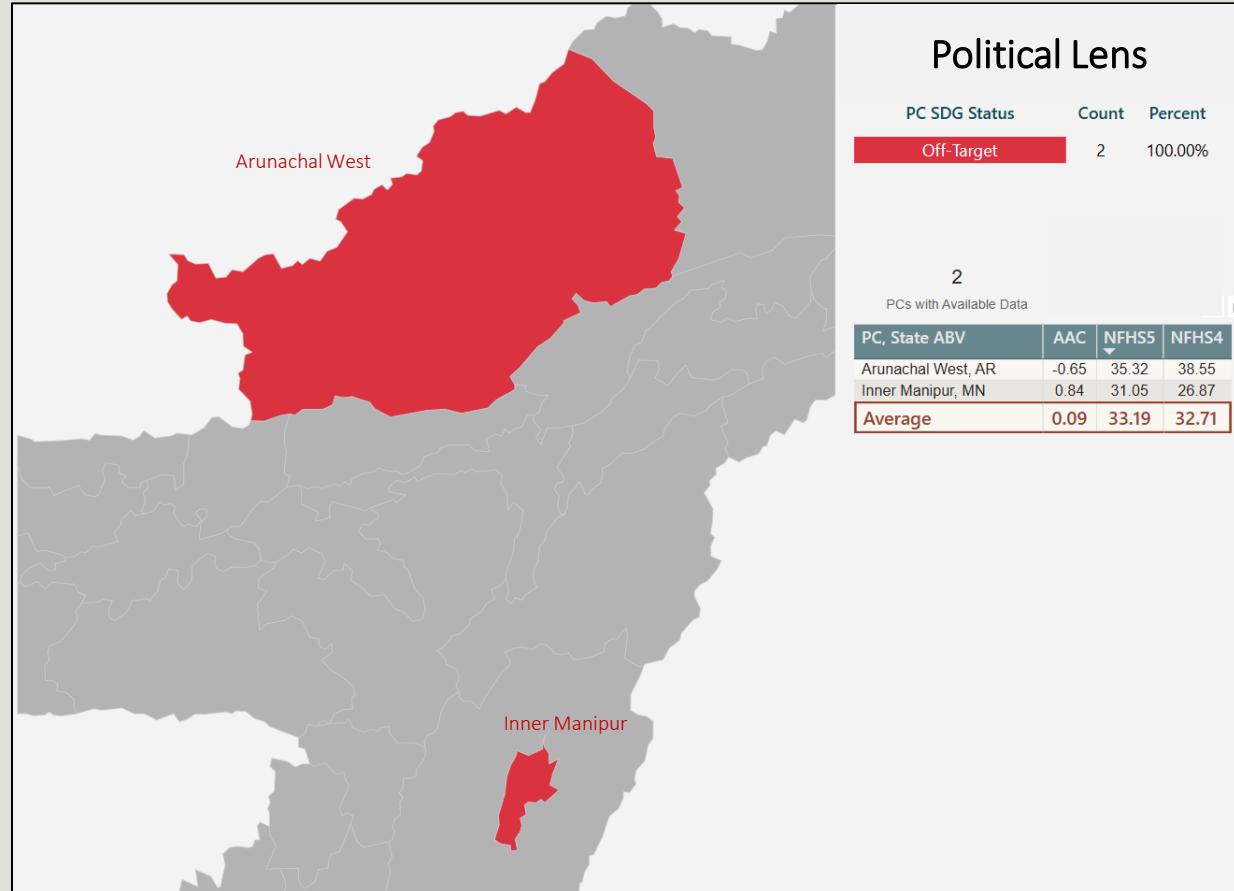
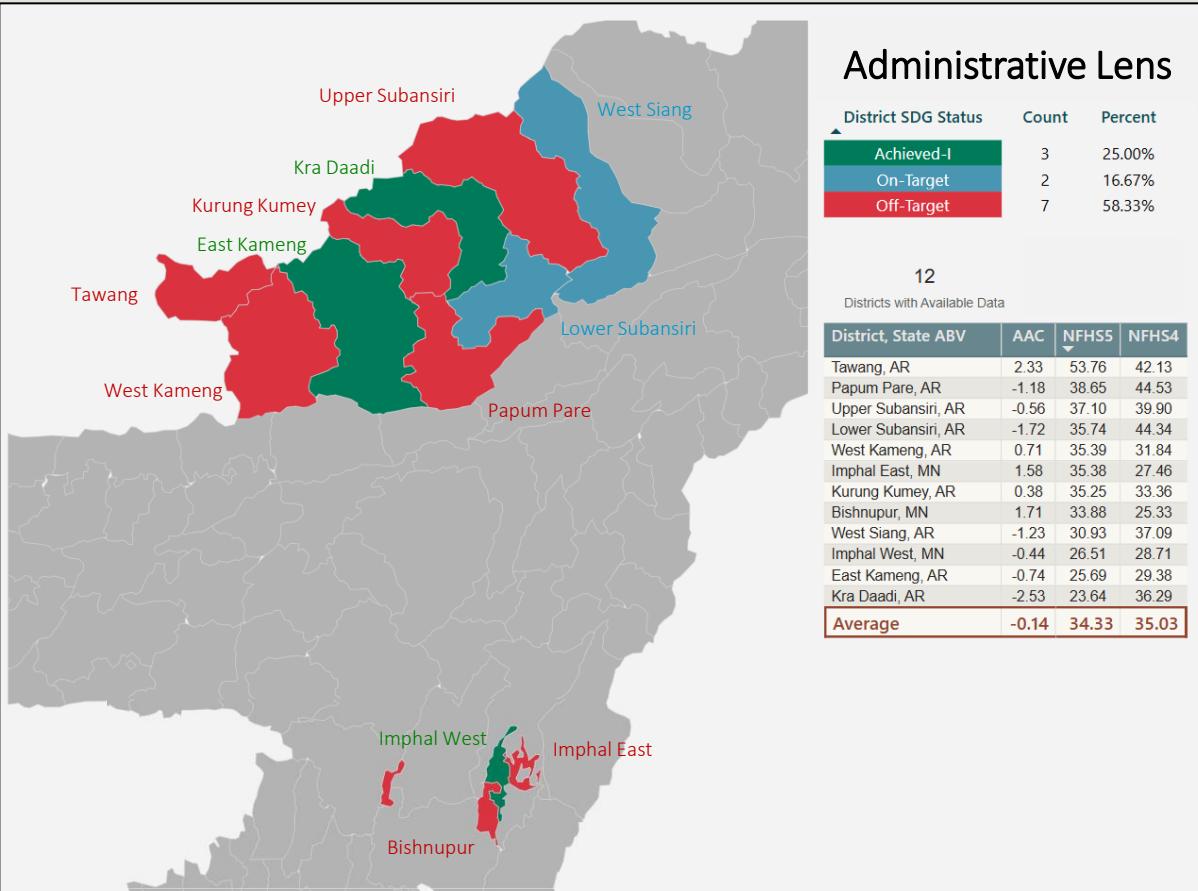
- ❑ Chikkodi constituency can find insights from the on-target progress of Belgaum region to minimise wasting in children.
- ❑ Southern region of Haveri and Northern region of Bagalkot still need policy tweaks.





Anemias (Women)

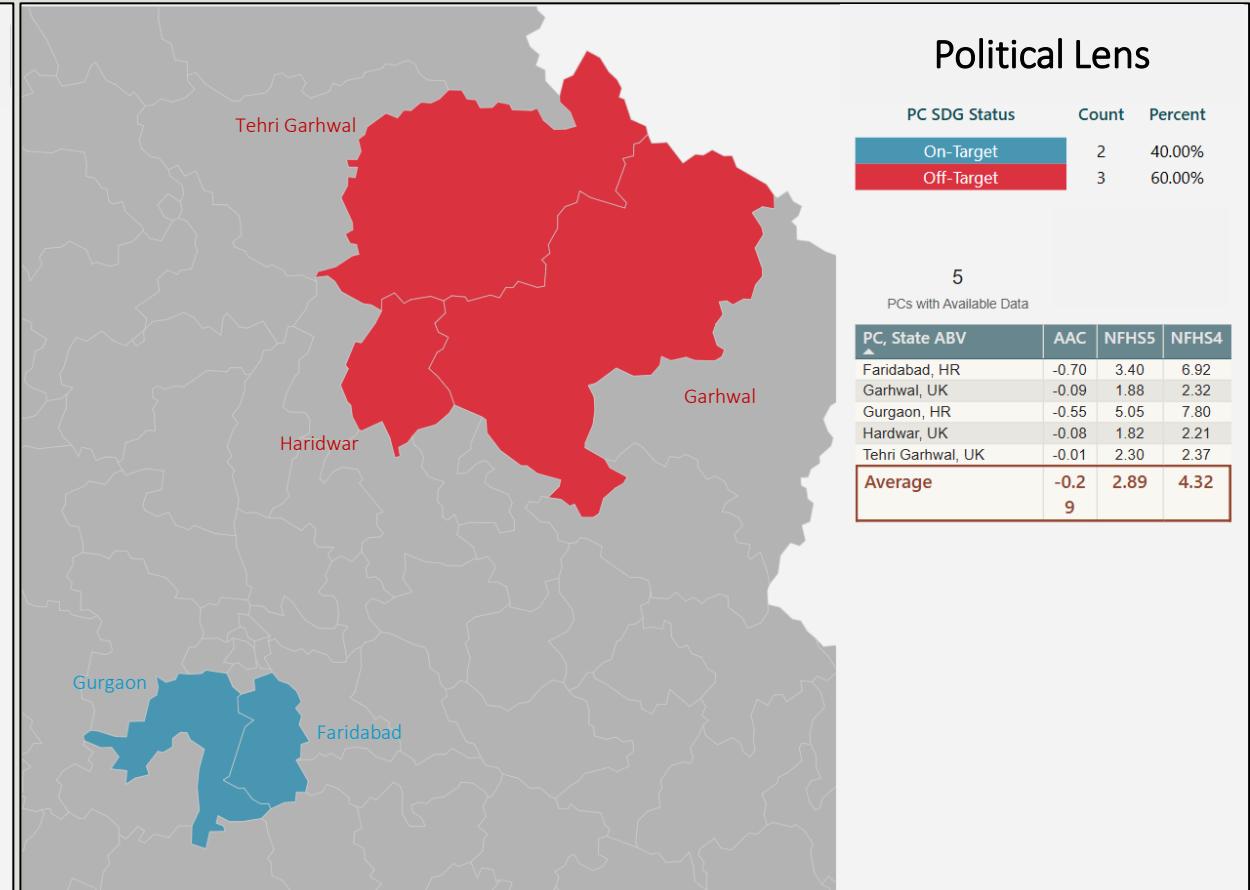
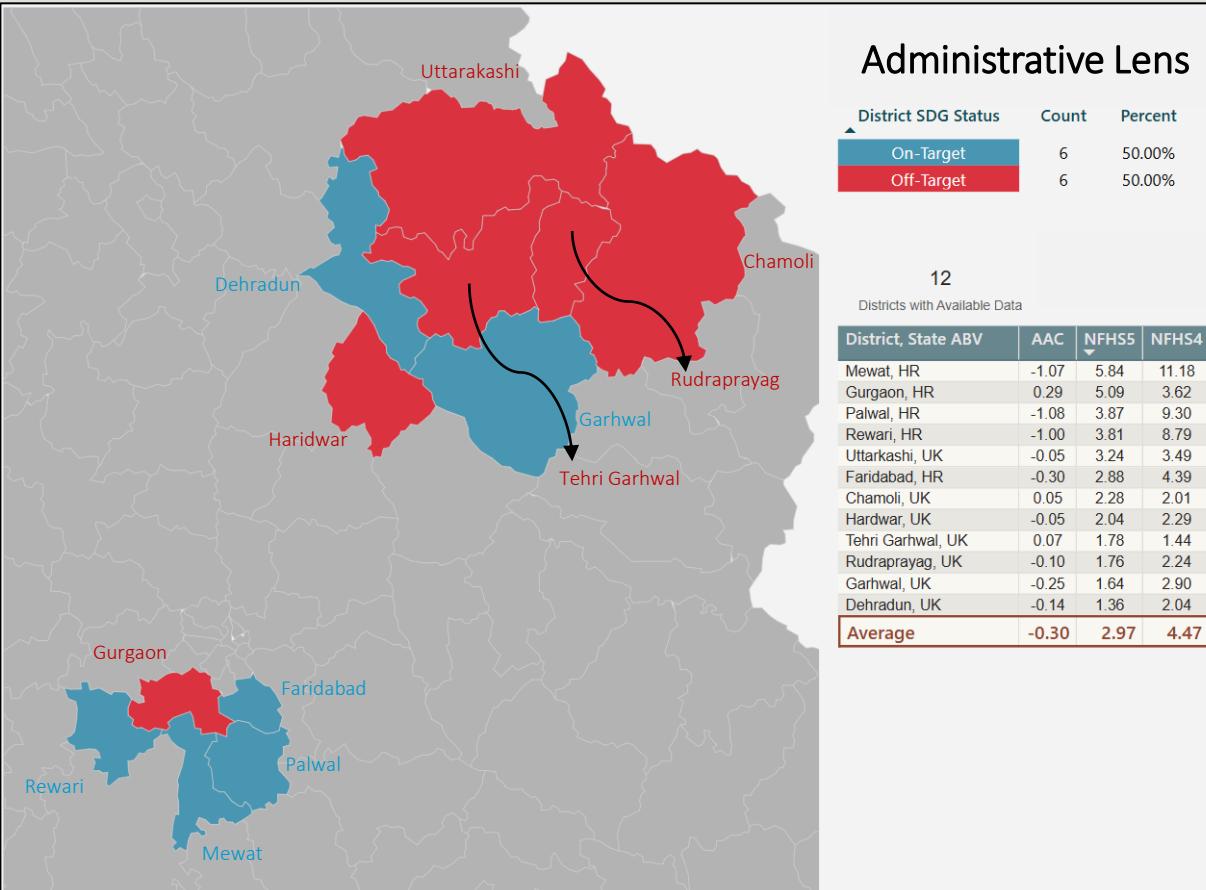
- For Arunachal West constituency to reach on-target, women's health belonging to Upper Subansiri, Kurung Kumey, West Kameng & Tawang regions must be of top-priority.
- It's high time for Inner Manipur constituency to implement refined policies in Imphal East & Bishnupur regions to regulate anaemia in women.





Teenage Pregnancy (15 to 19)

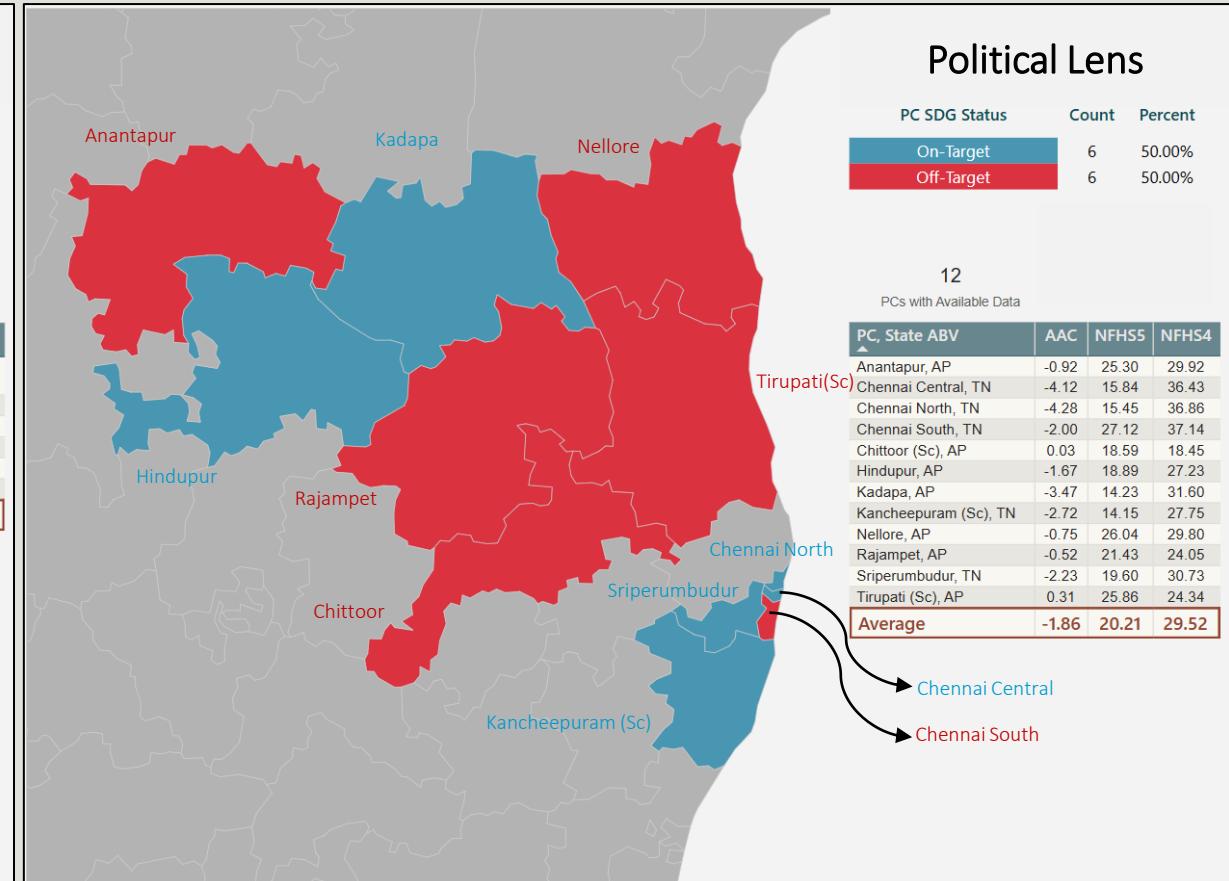
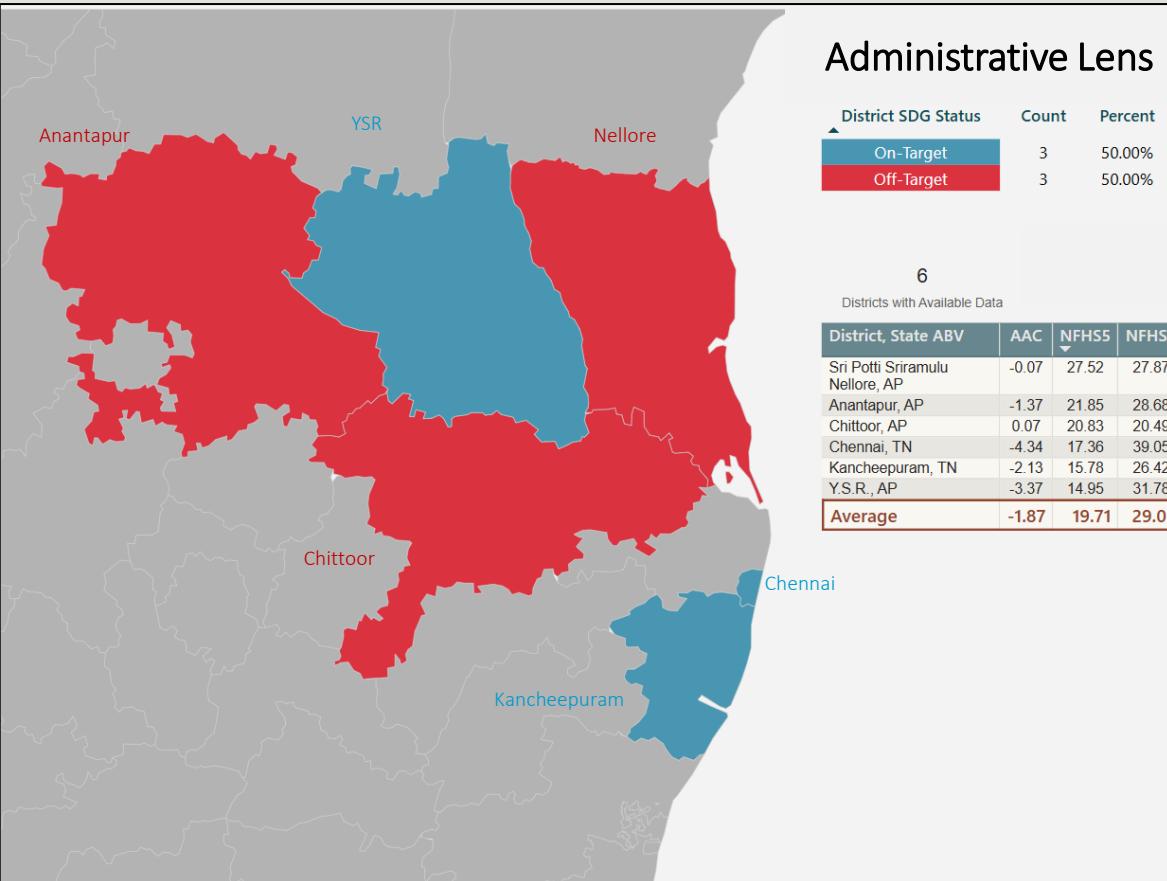
- ❑ Gurgaon constituency is on-target, but focus has to continue on teenager's safety and security within Gurgaon district.
- ❑ Both Garhwal & Tehri Garhwal constituencies look unsafe for teenagers, whereas Dehradun & Garhwal districts are on-target.





Tobacco Use (Men)

- Chennai South constituency needs immediate attention as it can impact the progress in neighbouring regions like Kancheepuram, Chennai North & Central and Seriperumbudur.
- Anantapur, Nellore & Rajampet constituencies have barely showed any progress since 2016. On the other hand, Tirupathi & Chittoor constituencies show symptoms of worsening their off-target status. A series of awareness campaigns during 'World No Tobacco Day' may mitigate the risk.

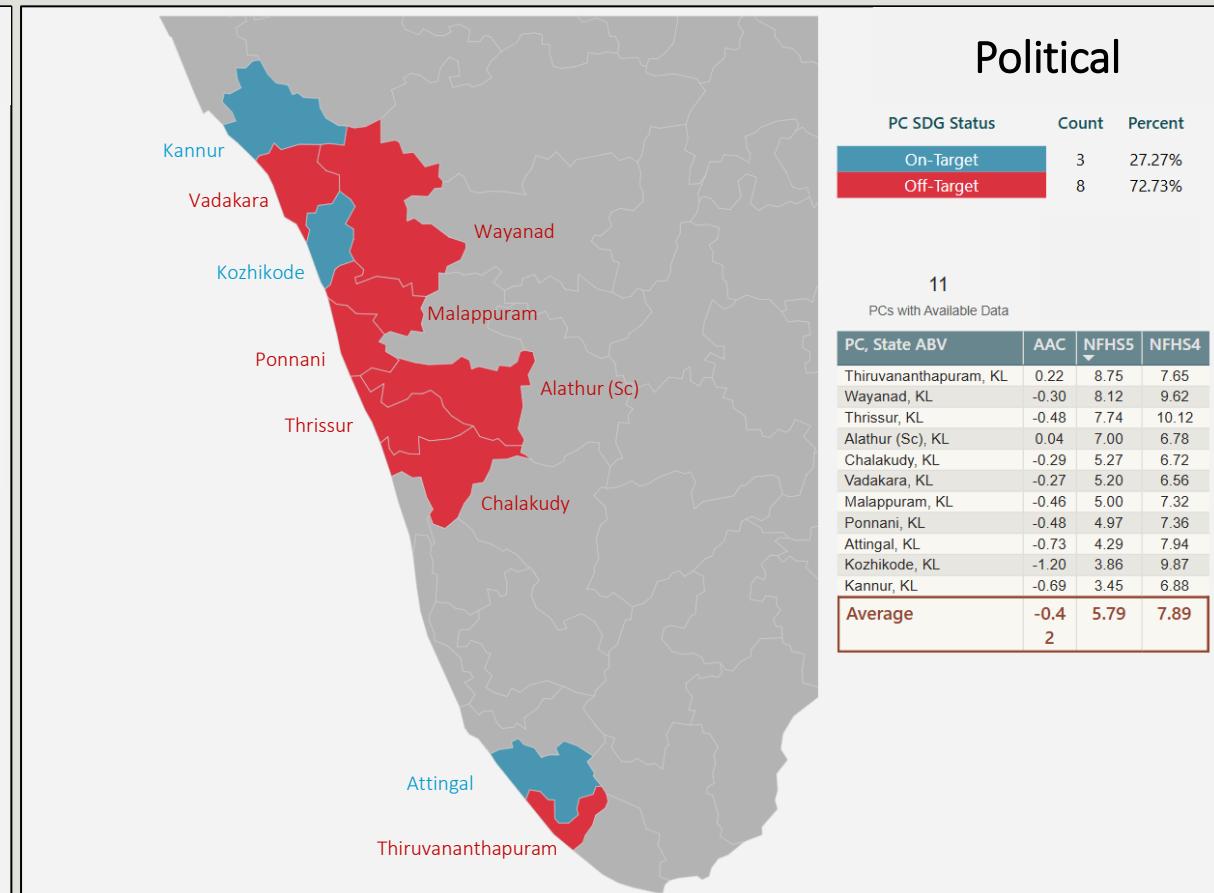
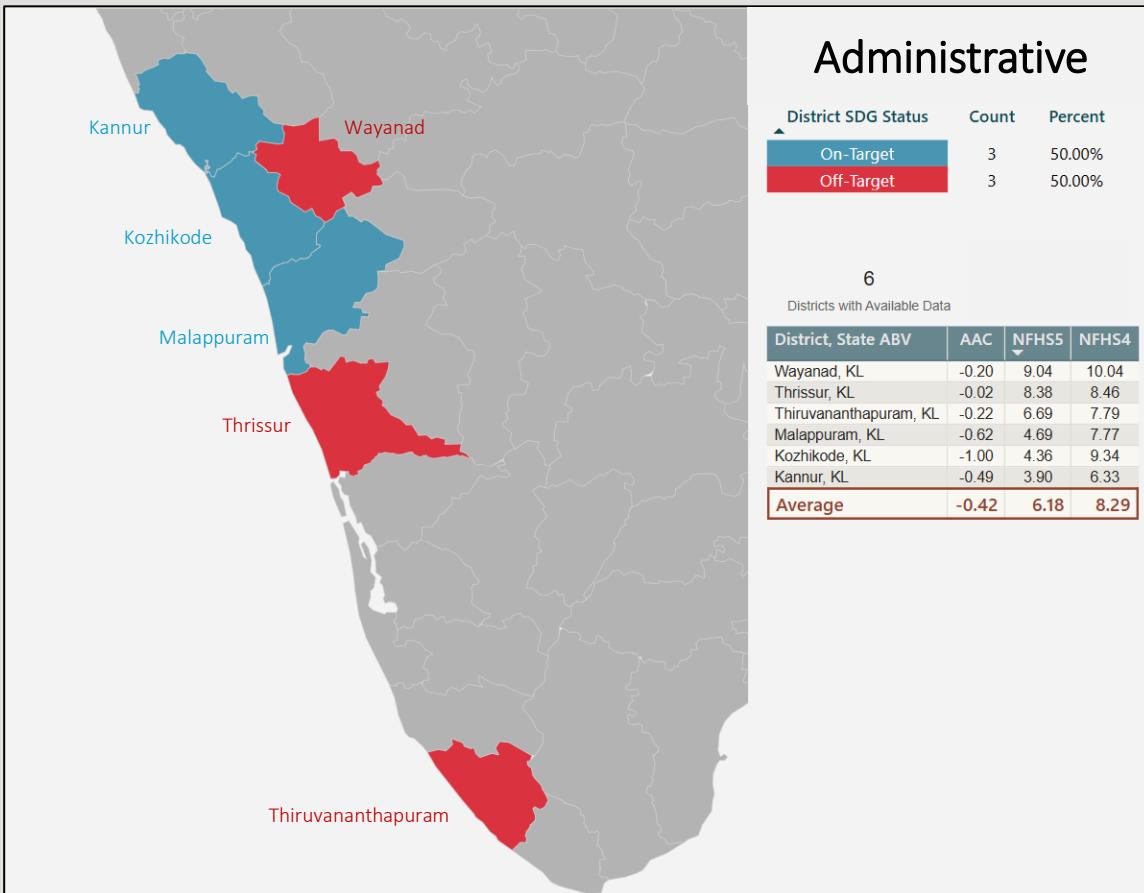




Partner Violence (Physical or Sexual)



- ❑ Thiruvananthapuram constituency should set an example for rest of the state by bringing down partner violence.
- ❑ Kannur, Attingal & Kozhikode constituencies showcase increased sensitivity towards women.



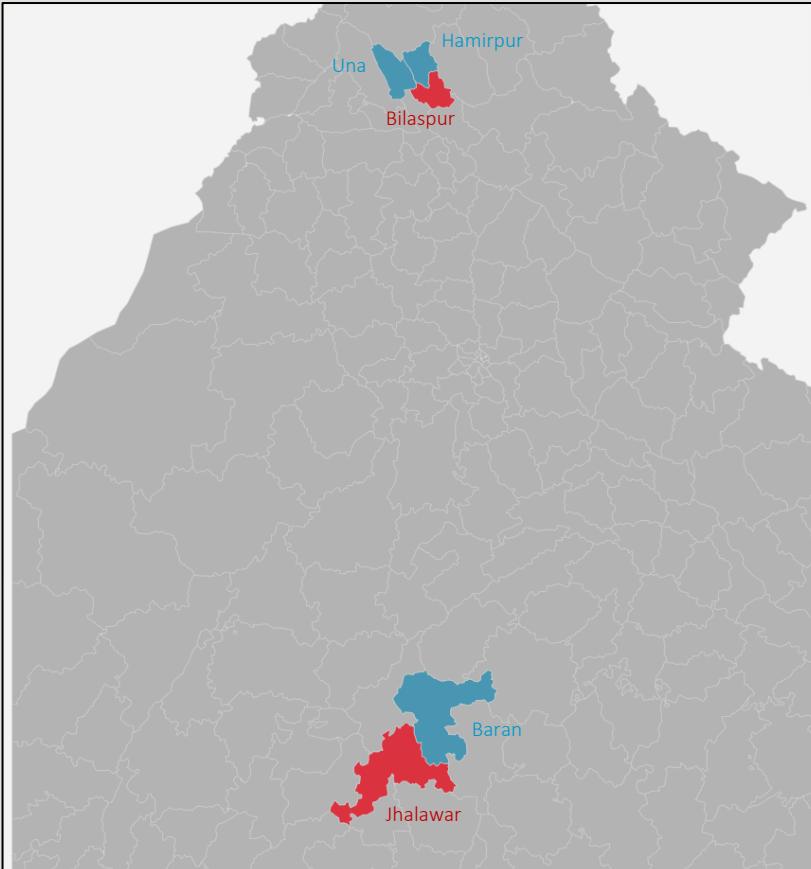


Child Marriage Girl (< 15)

5 GENDER EQUALITY



- Child Marriage is still prevalent in Bilaspur and needs prompt action.
- Jhalawar-Baran constituency need to shift his focal point to Jhalawar region to prevent child marriage.



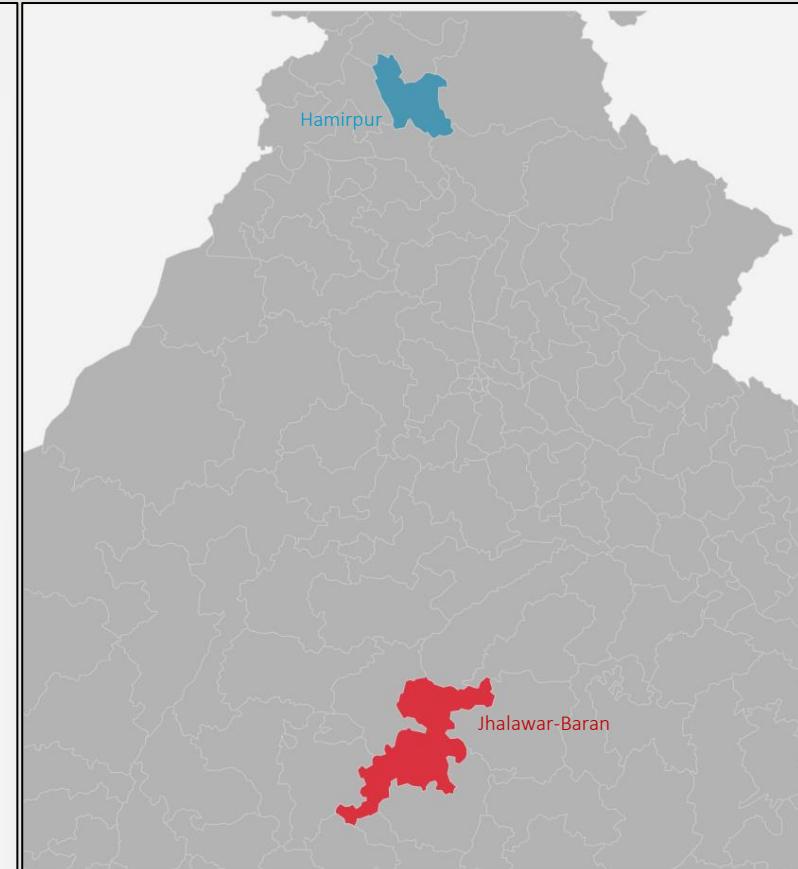
Administrative

| District SDG Status | Count | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| On-Target | 3 | 60.00% |
| Off-Target | 2 | 40.00% |

5

Districts with Available Data

| District, State ABV | AAC | NFHS5 | NFHS4 |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jhalawar, RJ | 0.27 | 5.41 | 4.07 |
| Baran, RJ | -0.44 | 1.41 | 3.61 |
| Bilaspur, HP | 0.01 | 0.95 | 0.90 |
| Hamirpur, HP | -0.11 | 0.55 | 1.11 |
| Una, HP | -0.05 | 0.51 | 0.76 |
| Average | -0.06 | 1.77 | 2.09 |



Political

| PC SDG Status | Count | Percent |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| On-Target | 1 | 50.00% |
| Off-Target | 1 | 50.00% |

2

PCs with Available Data

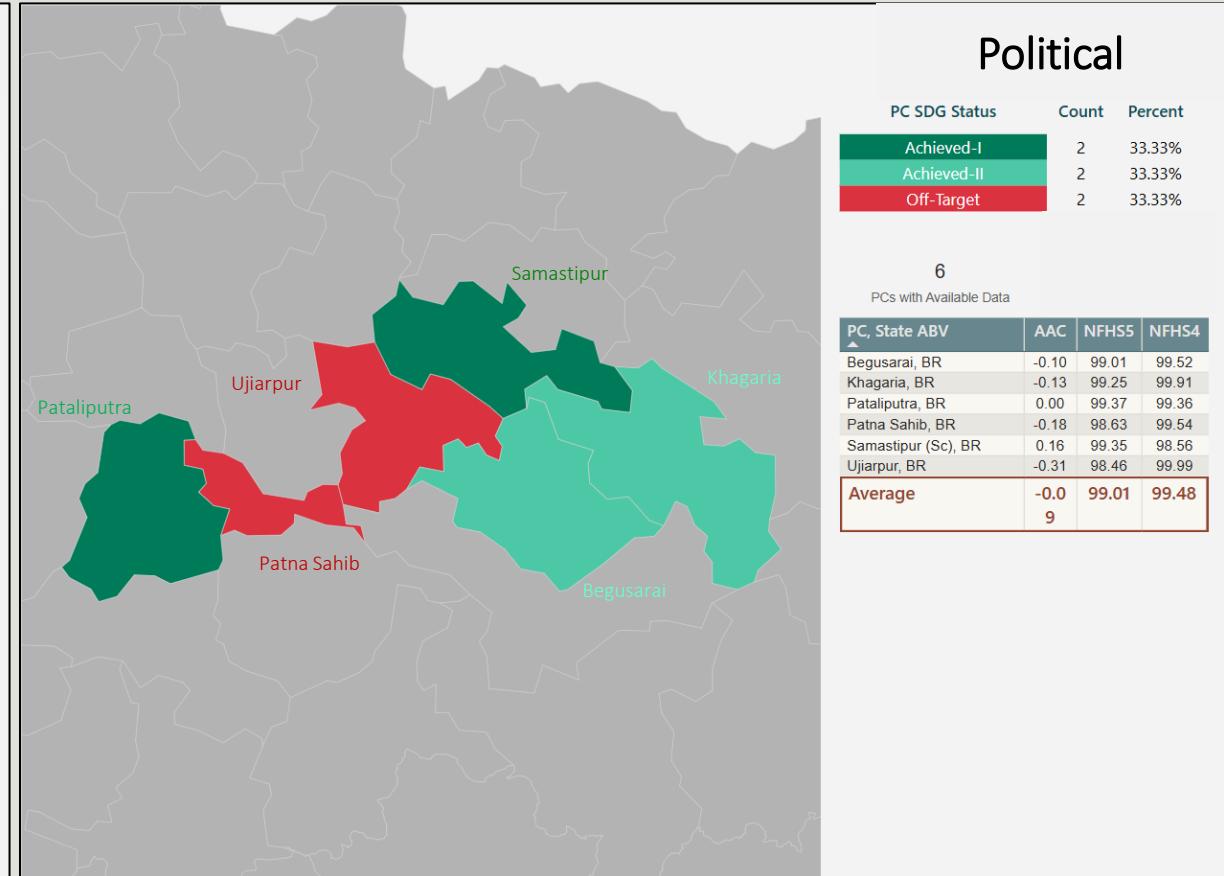
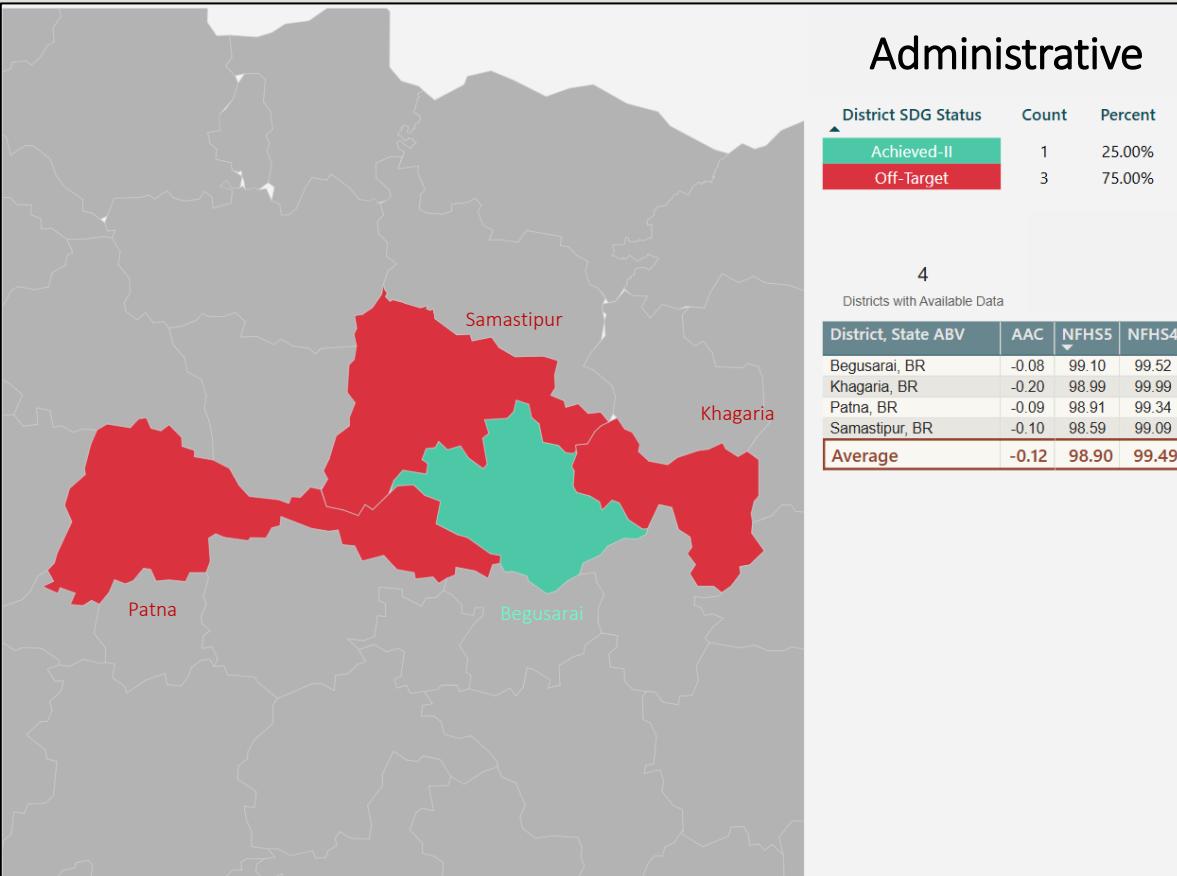
| PC, State ABV | AAC | NFHS5 | NFHS4 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Hamirpur, HP | -0.05 | 0.65 | 0.90 |
| Jhalawar-Baran, RJ | -0.09 | 3.39 | 3.85 |
| Average | -0.0 | 2.02 | 2.38 |



Improved Water



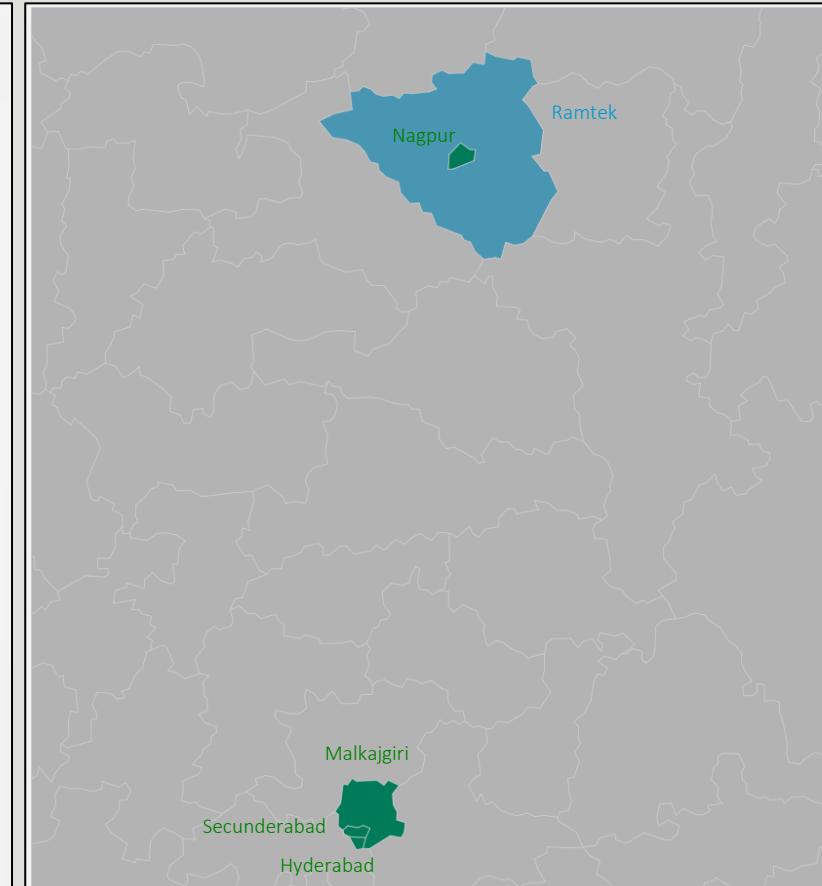
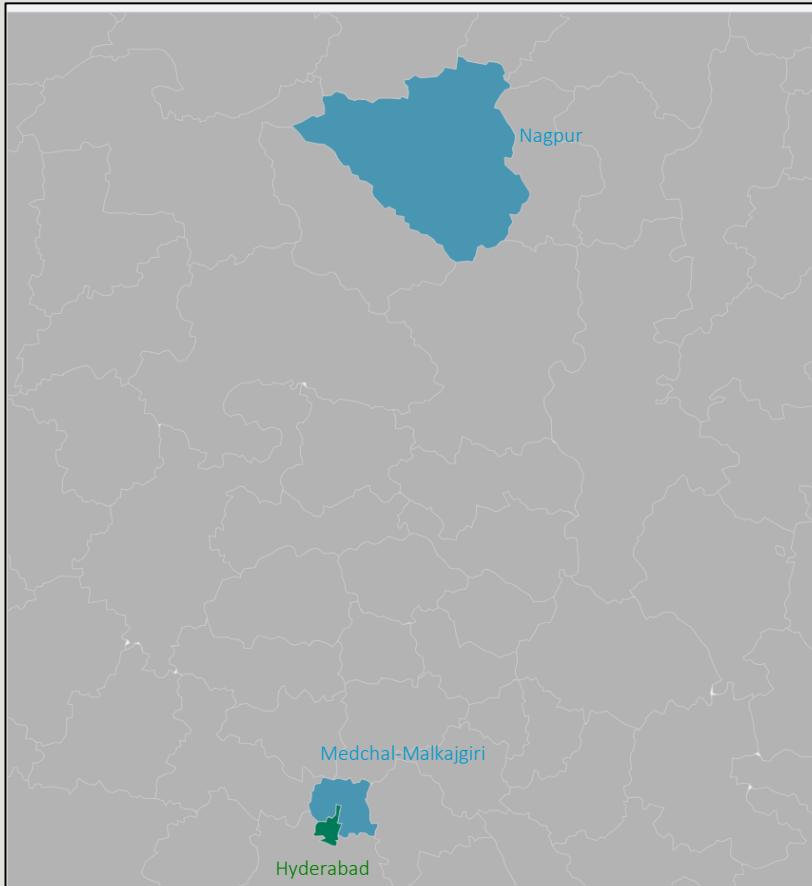
- Water quality in Patna Sahib and Ujiarpur constituencies has degraded - needs immediate attention.
- Begusarai & Khagaria constituencies have probability of shifting off-target if water quality isn't tracked & maintained.





Clean Fuel for Cooking

- ❑ Nagpur constituency is in a good position with achieved target, whereas Ramtek is on-target.
- ❑ Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Malkajgiri regions are also on Achieved-I status.



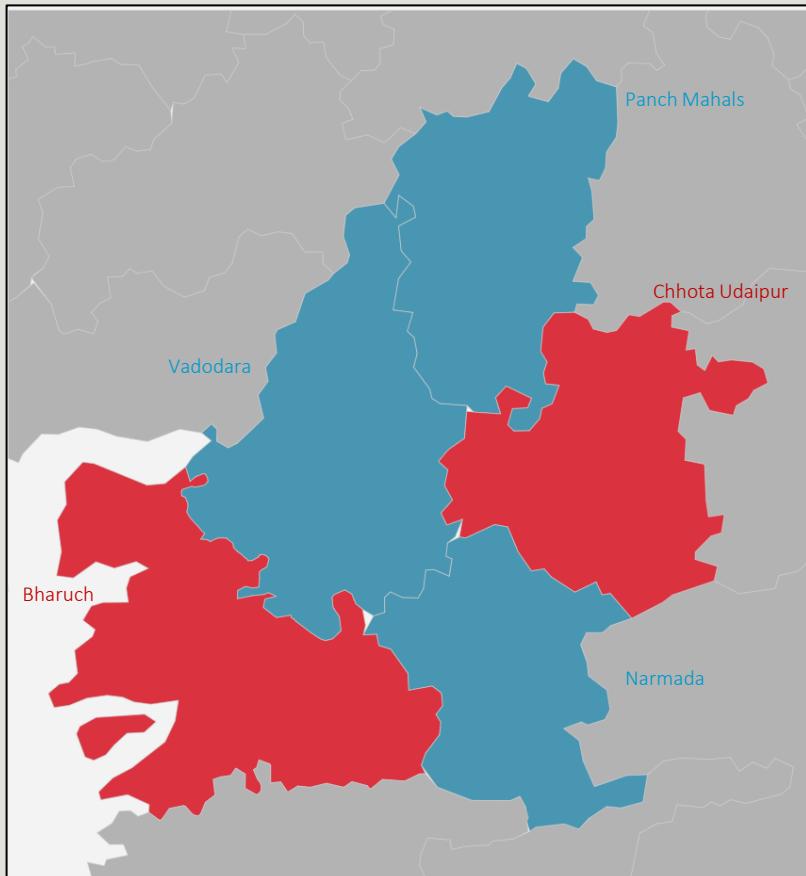


Bank Account for Women

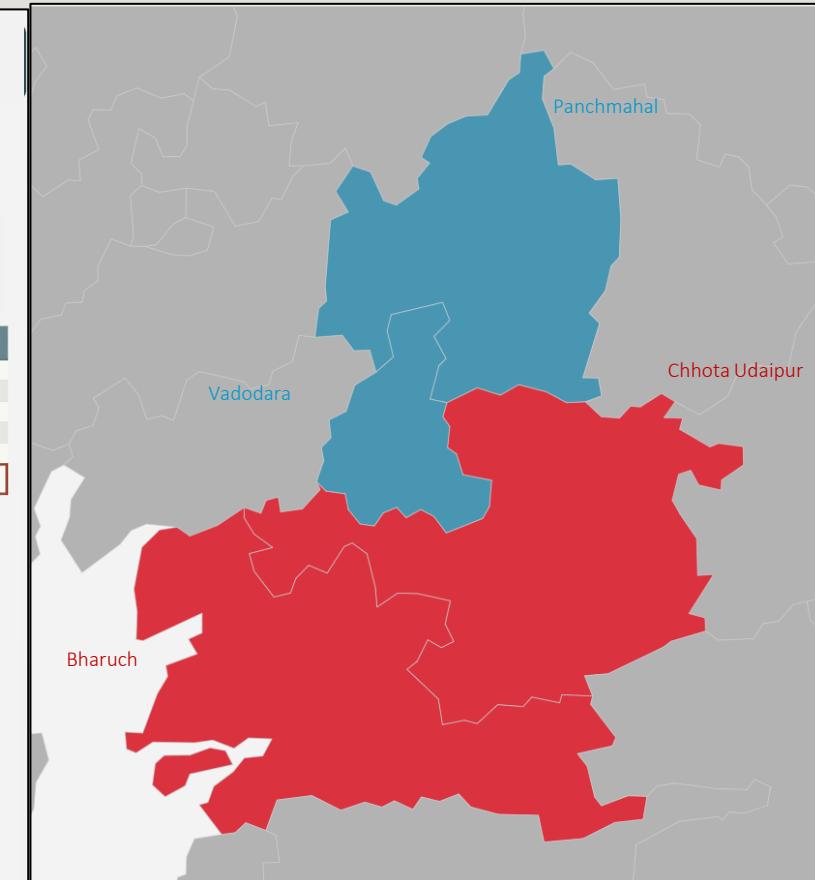
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- ❑ Northern part of Chhota Udaipur and Western part of Bharuch constituency need serious attention to help women with identification & bank accounts.
- ❑ Panchmahal & Vadodara continue to be on-target.



Administrative

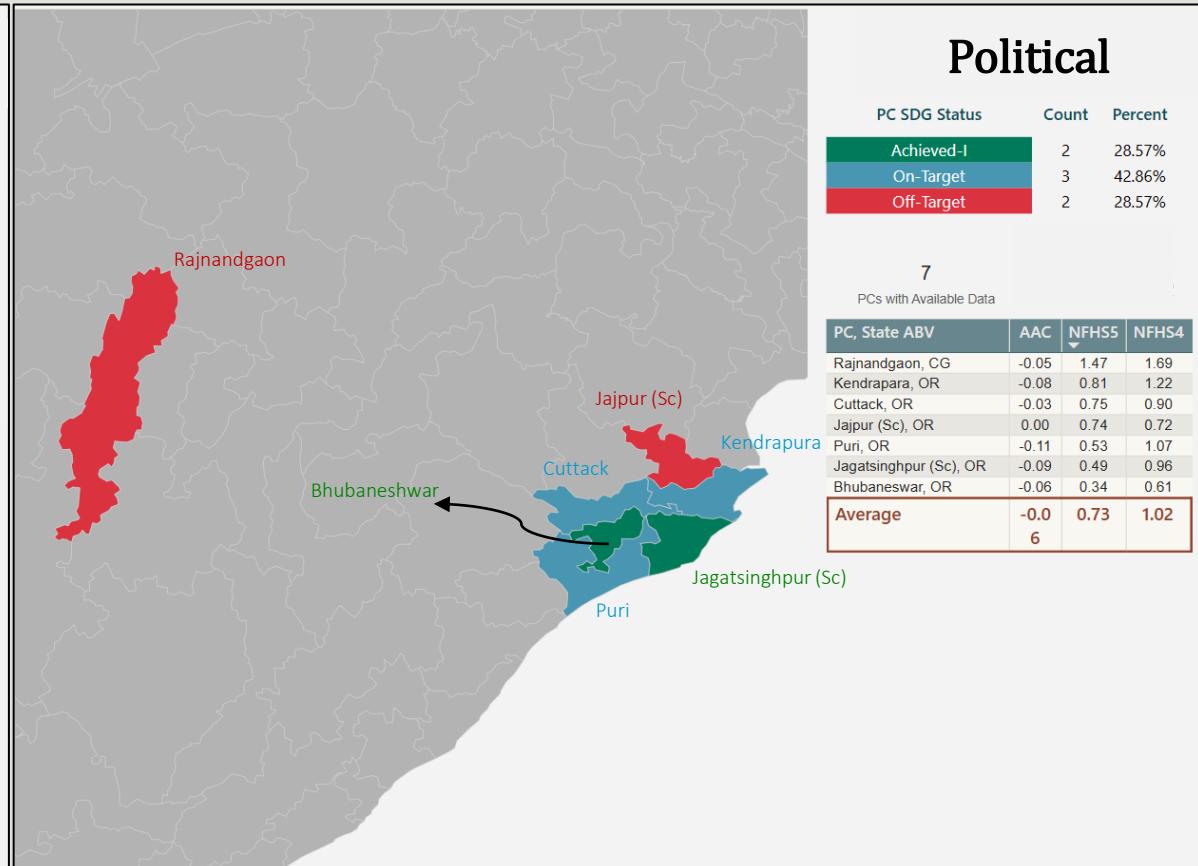
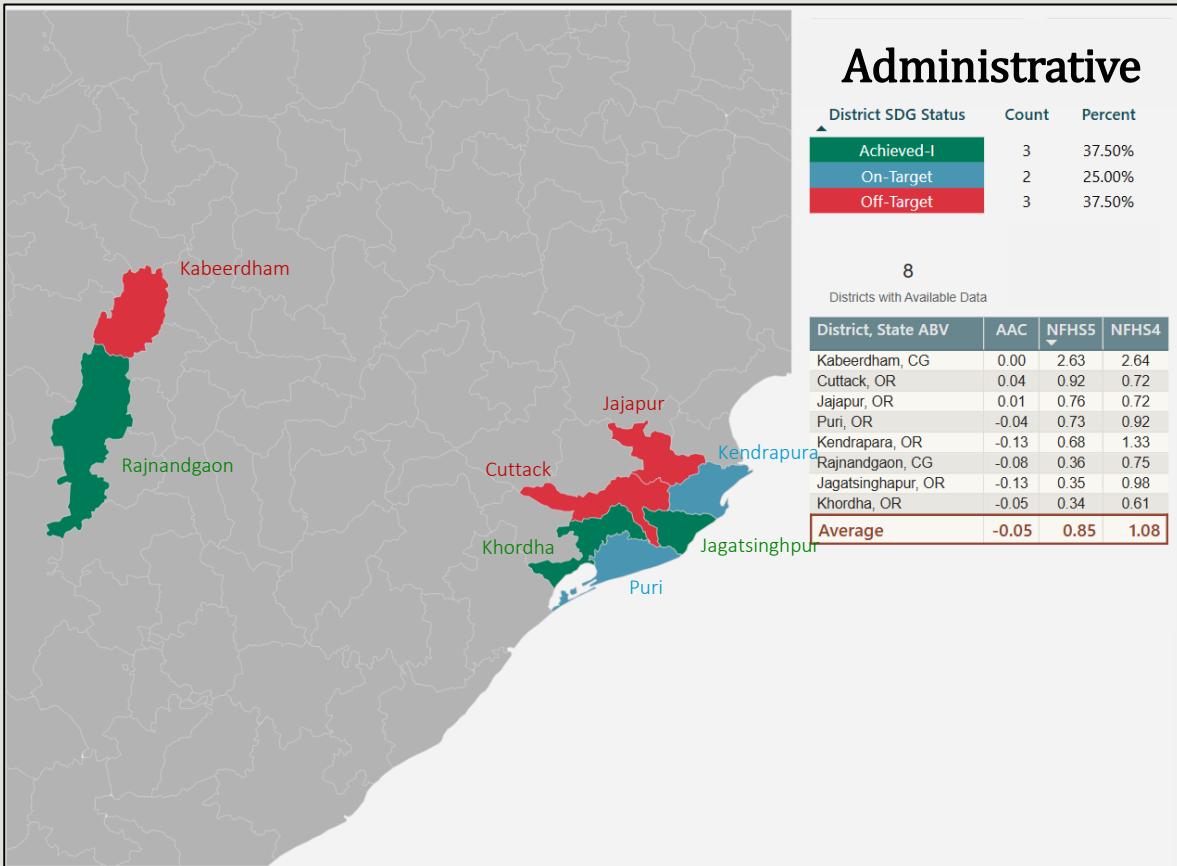


Political



Teenage Sexual Violence

- Kabeerdham has to be the focal point in Rajnandgaon constituency.
- Jajpur (Sc) is neglected & need policy amendments for teenagers to feel safer.
- Cuttack constituency which surrounds most of the Bhubaneswar is on-target now as there has been great progress in Khordha region.

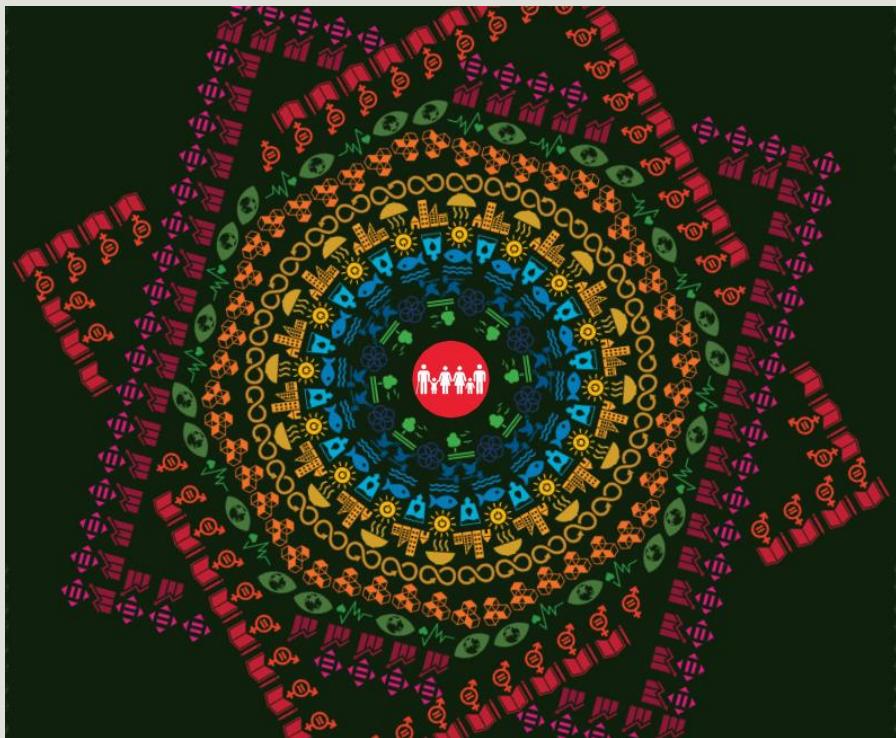


Conclusion

- This research aims to empower both Members of Parliament (MPs) and their constituents by making SDG indicators visible at the Parliamentary Constituency (PC) level for better accountability and governance.
- The discordance in the populations and geographic boundaries that are served by districts and constituencies and the inefficiencies they bring to development governance make a compelling case for establishing a national commission to systematically explore and develop a strategy for harmonizing these two critical policy units.
- In addition, there is a **delimitation** scheduled for reconstituting the number and geometry of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in 2026 and it would be timely to consider possibilities of establishing this commission.
- Recent years have seen India's elected officials engage publicly and more consistently in articulating and shaping policy agendas. Creating a **robust constituency-level data surveillance and monitoring system** on the health and well-being of their population can bring the necessary political synergy and accountability needed to **accomplish the SDGs**.



Thank you



References:

1. Kim R, Swaminathan A, Kumar R, et al. Estimating the burden of child malnutrition across parliamentary constituencies in India: a methodological comparison. 2019;7:100375. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100375>. Supplementary Material: <https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S2352827318303732-mmc1.docx>
2. Community Created Maps of India. <https://projects.datameet.org/maps/>
3. Empirical Evidence for Parliamentary Constituency Estimates. https://geographicinsights.iq.harvard.edu/files/geographicinsights2/files/robust_parliamentary_constituency_estimates_geographic_data_science_approaches.pdf
4. Subramanian SV, Ambade M, Kumar A, et al. Progress on sustainable development goal indicators in 707 districts of India: a quantitative mid-line assessment using the National Family Health Surveys, 2016 and 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lansea.2023.100155>. Geographic Insights using Power BI – district level. <https://geographicinsights.iq.harvard.edu/District-SDG-Progress>
5. Subramanian SV, Amar Patnaik, Rockli Kim, et al. Call for action: presenting constituency-level data on population, health and socioeconomic wellbeing related to 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for India. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lansea.2024.100358>. Geographic Insights using Power BI – constituency level. <https://geographicinsights.iq.harvard.edu/PC-SDG-Progress>

- Budha Sree Mandapaka