

On the 5th and 6th February 2023, Former US secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited SEWA and interacted with 1000s of poor grassroots members of SEWA.

Sec. Clinton has been a close friend of SEWA's founder Elaben Bhatt and considered Elaben her personal Hero. Starting with her very first visit to SEWA 30 years ago, she has visited SEWA several times and interacted with poor women workers from various trades - the members of SEWA.

On her recent visit, Sec Clinton visited late Shri Elaben's home on the 5th February to pay her a tribute, unveiled a plaque in tribute of Sri Elaben at the Victoria garden - a place from where Shri Elaben had started SEWA movement by holding first meeting with group of women workers there, that holds a great significance for SEWA and later interacted with over hundreds of poor women workers from various trades like construction, street vending, waste recycling, Home-based work etc.



Remembering Elaben at this occasion, Sec. Clinton said that she had promised Elaben that she would come to celebrate SEWA's 50th anniversary and is here to keep her promise. Hearing the slogans of "Every ben is Elaben", she said that this is a very powerful thought and each of us should strive to understand and internalize it as we are enjoying the rights that Elaben has worked all her life for and it's our duty now to fulfil all the responsibilities that comes with these rights.

She said that " I have had the privilege of working with Elaben and SEWA for nearly 30 years. But we are thinking of next 50 years... and I hope that when SEWA celebrates its 100th Anniversary, my daughter and her daughter would be here to share the joy!!"



On the 6th of February, wearing a Hansiba kurta and trousers, Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a 3.5 hours long trip to the salt pans in the Little Rann of Kutch near Kuda village in Surrendranagar district of Gujarat

In the desert, braving the harsh sun, she walked along with SEWA's poor salt-pan worker Vilasben Pravinbhai to understand the salt-making process, the impact of solar pumps in salt-making and also visited her make-shift hut and dark black-tea prepared by Vilasben.

Following the salt-making process, Sec Clinton interacted with over 500 poor women workers from various districts in Gujarat as well as various states in India. She heard how climate change has been adversely impacting the lives and livelihoods of these women but also how these women were adopting innovative tech-based solutions to address the same with support of SEWA.

Understanding the disproportionate impact of climate change on poor women workers, Sec Clinton announced a USD 50 million Global Climate Resilience Fund (GCRF) for women to fight the Climate Change.

She said that "Climate Change poses an additional challenge to women workers and the GCRF launched by Clinton Global Initiative (a foundation established by her husband Former US President Bill Clinton) along with SEWA, American Indian Foundation and other organisations will help tackle this challenge.

Following this announcement, Sec Clinton relished the earth meal home-cooked by SEWA's grassroots sisters and travelled to SEWA's district Association office in Dhangadhra, where she visited SEWA's Agribusiness Enterprise RUDI's processing centre and also interacted with SEWA's 12 young generation Climate Entrepreneurs.

She discussed these young entrepreneurs about what motivated them to do the good work they are doing, what were their aspirations for the future and what were the challenges that they are facing. The young climate entrepreneurs also showed their innovative solutions that they are producing at their home and selling to small and marginal farmers at affordable prices - thereby helping them switch to sustainable and organic farming, while earning a decent and dignified livelihood for themselves.



Former US secretary of State Hillary Clinton pays tribute to SEWA's Founder Ela Bhatt and announces a 50 million USD Global Climate Resilience Fund for women to fight Climate Change.