'Vulnerability Mapping' is an innovative activity / action project undertaken by Kudumbashree, aiming at women empowerment. Vulnerabilities which directly or indirectly affect women and children in a particular locality is identified and addressed through this project.

The project was implemented in two phases (in 2016 - 17, and in 2017 - 18). Based on the information received during the first phase, new improved formats are prepared for the second phase. Reports are formulated based on various activities like primary data collection, secondary data collection, institutional analysis, focus group discussions, subject based discussions and the data collection on the atrocities against women and children. Projects are framed based on these reports and are submitted to Local Self government for financial sanction. On receipt of work order from Panchayats, projects are implemented. Through this intervention and continuous follow up, the rate of the vulnerabilities
that women face in various sectors are reduced.

‘Crime mapping’ was the first project that Kudumbashree undertook, which led to the present activity of ‘vulnerability mapping’. ‘Crime mapping’ activity was conceived at first in Mararikulam Panchayath of Alappuzha district of Kerala. ‘Crime Mapping’ activity was framed and implemented to address the atrocities against women. This marked the start of our action to identify and reduce vulnerabilities against women.

Following that, during 2013-2014, as part of the ‘Nirbhaya’ Prorgramme, ‘Crime Mapping’ was carried out in the other 72 Panchayaths of Kerala. 59,714 Kudumbashree members participated in this activity.

It is as the continuation of the ‘Crime Mapping’, we decided to start ‘Vulnerability Mapping’ during the financial year 2016-17. At first, 2 panchayaths each were selected from all districts across the state and ‘vulnerability mapping’ was carried out in these 28 panchayaths.

10 facilitators were selected in each panchayat and they were given intensive training. They visited various institutions, houses, public places, carried out studies and discussions and completed the ‘vulnerability mapping’ activity. Then they came up with solutions to the problems in the jurisdiction of each Local Self Government Institution (LSGI). The findings of the study was presented to the Local Self Government Institutions. Kudumbashree CDS of each panchayat presented the project to get financial support from LSGI s under the Women Component Plan.

Following that, during the financial year 2017-18, it was decided to scale up ‘vulnerability mapping’ to 10 panchayaths of each district (there are 14 districts in Kerala) and within 6 months this study was completed in all the selected 140 panchayaths. The team identified the situations / places / circumstances within each local body where women and children are vulnerable.

Thereafter, as detailed above, the team submitted report and projects to the LSGIs to address these vulnerabilities. Rs 77 crores was allotted for the projects mentioned in the study report by all 140 LSGI s together (during the financial year 2017 - 18).

Now, we are planning to scale up ‘vulnerability mapping’ to more areas, in convergence with local governments. All the knowledge and feedback received during the first two phases will be used to improvise the program. The aim is to reduce the factors that lead to vulnerability of women and children in our society, through the collective effort of Kudumbashree and LSGI s.