

- **Orphaned, Abandoned, Exploited and Neglected children without adequate family care:** Non-Institutional services such as—

- Adoption:

- ✓ Strengthening of the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)
- ✓ State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARA) in all States
- ✓ Specialised Adoption Agencies in each district

Central Authority to promote and regulate in-country and inter-country adoption of children.

State level Resource Centre to coordinate, monitor, and develop the adoption programme in the State.

Child care institution providing protection for orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children.

- Sponsorship (Rs 500/- per month/per child) and Foster care (Rs 750/- per month/per child) for preventive and rehabilitative purposes.

SPONSORSHIP and FOSTER CARE FUND available with every DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY - on a pilot basis

- **For any other Vulnerable child: preventive, statutory, care and rehabilitation services including** general Grant - in - Aid for need based/Innovative interventions on a pilot basis.

To cater to State specific needs related to vulnerable children

OTHER FEATURES

- **Building a cadre of skilled child protection personnel: Child Protection Divisions in National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) and its four Regional Centres** to create a core group of master

To create professionally trained a cadre of personnel to deliver services for children in difficult circumstances

trainers in child protection and provide orientation for all child protection personnel in States. The responsibility of training In the States, has been given to the State Child Protection Society, State Adoption Resource Agency and District Child Protection Society.

- **After Care:** Hand holding and transitional care service for children once they leave a home, to facilitate reintegration into Families, Communities and Society.

To help children emerging from institutions to restart life in mainstream society

- **Advocacy, Public Education and Communication:** To change mindsets at all levels through campaigns, IEC material; developing a comprehensive communication and education strategy for child rights and protection, using all means of mass media including, but not limited to, electronic and print media.

To promote awareness about issues, interventions available and change mind sets thereby

- **Research and Documentation:** Documenting best practices; developing a comprehensive information base regarding existing and potential areas of threat to the safety of children so as to facilitate the formulation of effective intervention strategies.

To assess causes and nature of Child protection issues and study emerging issues

- **Child Tracking System:** A Web-enabled Child Protection Management Information System on all children accessing services and a missing children's website.

To address the acute shortage of accurate data pertaining to Child Protection issues

- **Convergence between all stakeholders and services for children:** Is one of the most important aspects of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme and the Scheme creates a space wherein statutory bodies under the JJ Act (CWCs & JJBs), Central and State Departments of Women and Child Development, Police, Judiciary, Civil Society, media etc. can all work together to create a safe environment for children.

ICPS envisages a strong partnership and integrated effort between all stakeholders impacting the lives of children towards a future where there would be a minimal number or no children in need of care and protection.

MONITORING MECHANISM

- Dedicated structures for Monitoring at the **Central, State, District, Block and Village** levels: Standardised formats and evidence based monitoring at every level.

LEVEL	STRUCTURE
Central	Ministry of Women and Child Development
State	State Child Protection Committee (SCPC) headed by the State Secretary dealing with ICPS
District	District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) headed by the chairperson Zila Parishad and Co-chaired by District Magistrate
Block	Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC) headed by the elected representative; Block Development Officer as the Member Secretary
Village	Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) headed by the head of the Gram Panchayat



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BUILDING A SAFETY NET FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA



THE INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME



Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India

www.wcd.nic.in



मां स्वामिनी की ओर
Towards a new dawn

INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with the primary aim of establishing a safety net of dedicated and quality personnel, structures and services for Child Protection across the country, was approved for implementation on the 26th of February, 2009.

The Scheme translates into programmes, the vision of a secure environment for all children, as envisaged in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, wherein their rights are ensured so that they can develop to their full potential.

The **Objective** of the Scheme is *“to provide a safe environment for the development and well being of children in difficult circumstances. It seeks to reduce vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation and separation of children from their families...”*

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

ICPS is based on Guiding Principles such as:

- **Child Protection is a primary responsibility of family** – supported by community, civil society and government.
- **Strengthening of the family** – because a loving and caring family is the best place for the child to develop in.
- **Institutionalisation of children is the last resort** – focus on Family and Community based care and Non-Institutional care, for children in difficult circumstances.
- **Child Centred planning and implementation** – protection of the best interests of the child.
- **Partnership** – between Government and civil society organizations for protection.
- **Convergence** – of efforts of all stakeholders.
- **Non-stigmatisation and Non-discrimination** – of all children regardless of age, occupation, gender and background.
- **Services provided by skilled and professional staff** – adhering to an ethical and professional code of conduct.
- **Transparent management and decision making** – good governance, accountability and responsibility, at all levels.

While addressing gaps in existing Child Protection Programmes through new initiatives and enhanced financial allocation, ICPS has also brought erstwhile Child Welfare Schemes under one umbrella such as:

- The **'Programme for Juvenile Justice'** providing different kinds of Homes for children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law.
- An **'Integrated Programme for Street Children'** which aimed to facilitate the withdrawal of children from life on the street through interventions such as **Drop-in Centres and Childline Services**.
- The **Scheme of Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh)** to Promote In-country Adoption.

TARGET GROUP

- **Children in need of Care and Protection (CNCP)** as defined by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
- **Children in conflict with law (CICL)**
- **Children in contact with law** – as a victim, witness
- **Any other vulnerable child (including but not limited to):** children of migrant families, children of socially marginalized groups, exploited/trafficked/drug-affected children, children of prisoners/women in prostitution and children affected/infected with HIV/AIDS.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- State Governments /UT Administrations
- National Institute For Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
- Childline India Foundation (CIF)
- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)

SERVICE DELIVERY STRUCTURES

- The Scheme establishes/supports dedicated Service Delivery Structures at the **Central, Regional, State and District levels:**

LEVEL	STRUCTURE	FUNCTIONS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO)
CENTRAL	Central Project Support Unit (CPSU)	The mission directorate - a technical support unit responsible for facilitation of scheme implementation across the country, especially fund disbursement, the child tracking system and impact assessment.
	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)	Child protection unit - to spearhead research and capacity building, including creating a cadre of child protection personnel.
	Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)	Implements international commitments related to rights, safeguards and procedures involving children who are orphaned, abandoned or surrendered.
STATE	Childline India Foundation (CIF)	Coordinates and facilitates childline services through nodal, collaborative and support organisations.
	State Project Support Unit (SPSU)	Technical support unit to facilitate implementation of the scheme including training, updating State level information on status of child protection structures and their functioning.
	State Child Protection Society (SCPS)	The implementing arm of the State Governments /UT Administration at the State level.
DISTRICT	State Adoption Resource Centre (SARA)	To promote and regulate adoption in the State.
	District Child Protection Society (DCPS)	The implementing arm of the State Governments/UT Administration at the district level.
	Child Welfare Committees (CWC) & Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB)	To adjudicate over all matters related to children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

ICPS aims to not only create an environment for protection for all children but also recognizes that some children, who are in very difficult circumstances, need special attention and support. Accordingly, interventions within the Scheme focus on:

- **Children in need of Care and Protection and Children in Conflict with Law (as identified by the JJ Act):** Institutional Services—Observation Homes, Special Homes, Children Homes, Shelter Homes
For the care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children separated from families
- **For Children with special needs such as those affected by HIV/AIDS or disability:** Special units within existing homes or separate units with provision for additional staff and services to provide care.
To cater to the additional needs of children who need special care
- **For Children in crisis and adults seeking help for such children:** Childline is a 24 hour toll free telephone helpline – 1098. Childline services are to be extended in a phased manner over the entire country through Childline India Foundation (CIF).
To reach out to children in crisis and thereby prevent harm
- **Children living on the streets, working children, children forced into begging or any other child in need (in urban and semi-urban areas):** Open shelters – 24 hour crisis management centre and community based 'safe space', with provision for night shelter for 25 children in each unit – providing a range of activities from bridge education and vocational training, to counseling.
Provide access to safety and services to vulnerable children and communities