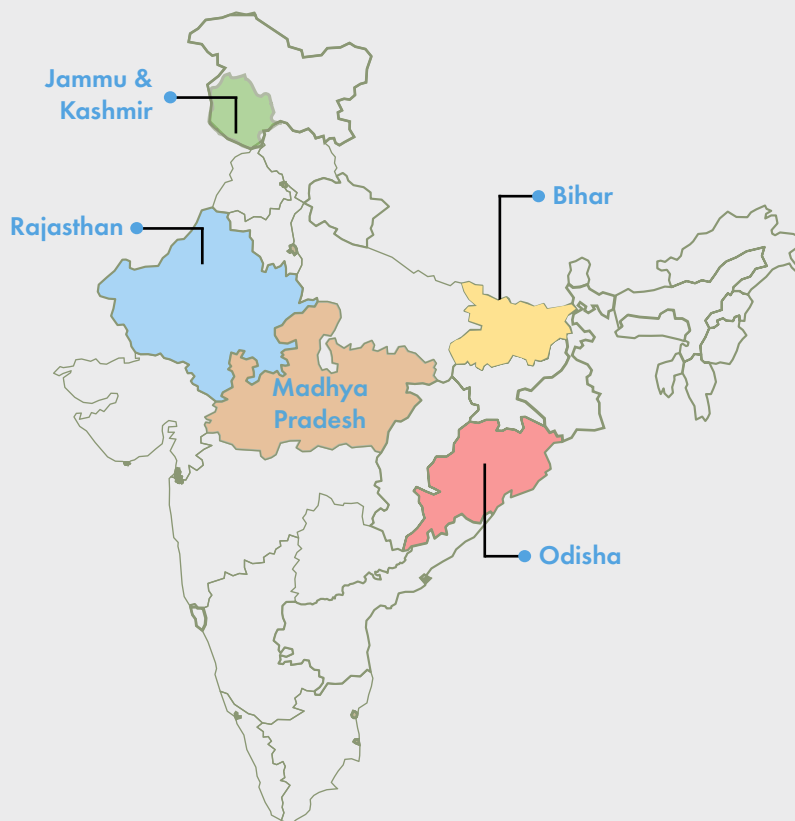


Two Countries, One Health Vision **NIPI IV**



NEWSLETTER
July–September 2024



Both countries share a common vision of attaining its National Health Policy and Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and utilizing the gain achieved through NIPI.

Norway and India share a common vision and remain committed to fostering collaborative efforts to solve priority health issues. In 2006, the two democracies started a health initiative called the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), with a vision for providing strategic, catalytic, and innovative support to India's National Health Mission.

During the past 17 years of its implementation, NIPI has envisaged a unique development cooperation model and an efficient mechanism for testing our innovative ideas in public health settings. NIPI has demonstrated the importance of aligning with national priorities and leveraging local expertise through a strong governance framework at the national and state levels using the health system approach.

With a vision to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, agreed to extend their cooperation with Phase IV of NIPI.

As a first step, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on July 1, 2024, between the Government of Norway and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, and supported states of Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir.



*Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between the Governments of Norway and India
for
NIPI Phase IV*



Following detailed consultations between MoHFW, Norway Embassy in Delhi and the supporting states, the following three objectives have been agreed for NIPI IV

NIPI IV: Objectives

1

INNOVATE



Demonstrate innovative approaches to strengthening the health system for Sexual, Reproductive, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health.

2

REPLICATE & SCALE



Provide technical assistance to scale up NIPI and NHM to demonstrate innovative practices in RMNCAH (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health) and to ensure institutionalization of state innovation hubs.

3

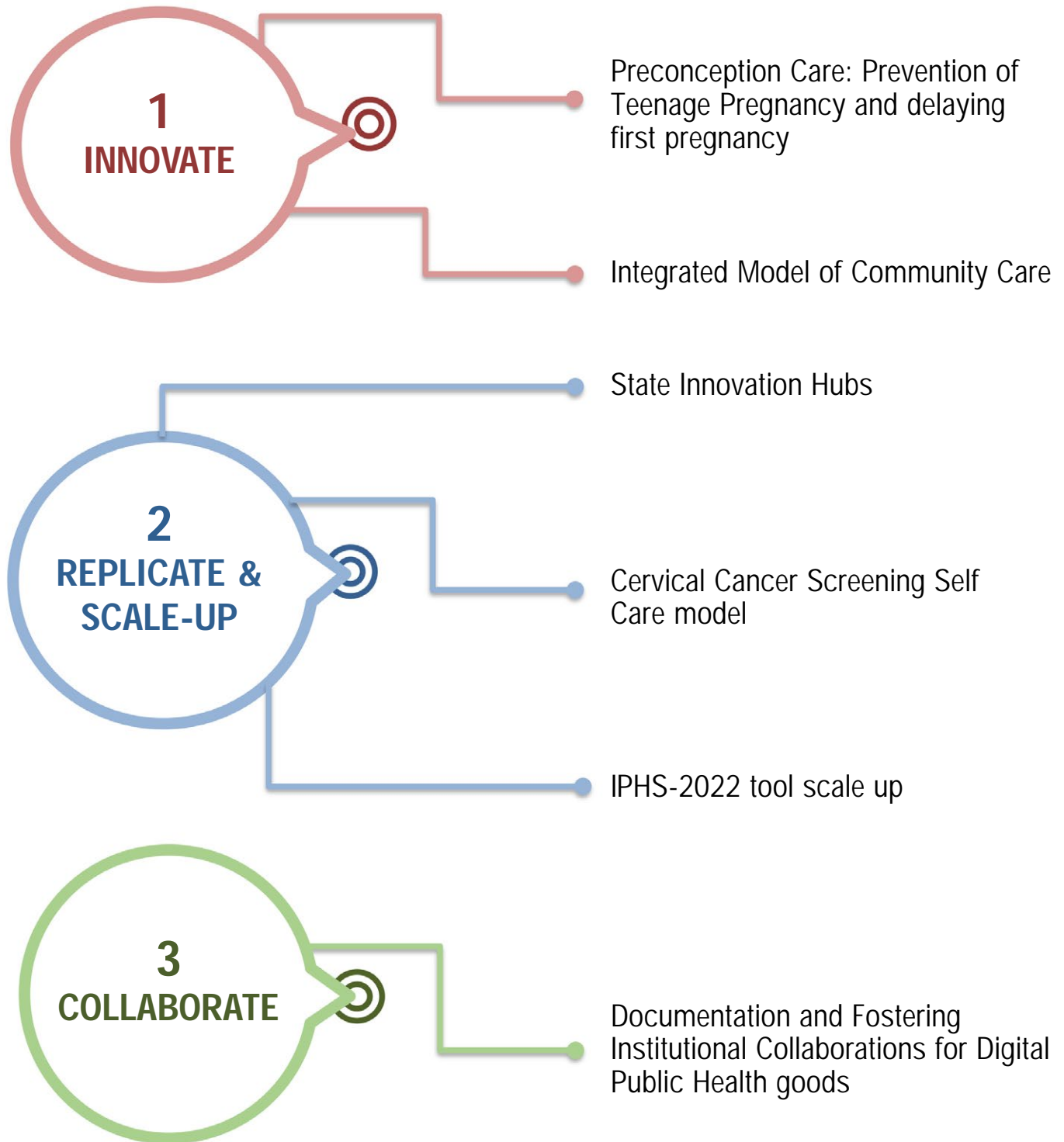
COLLABORATE



Foster institutional collaborations on Digital Public Health Goods in RMNCAH.

The overall goal of NIPI IV would contribute to SDG goals 3 (target 3.7) and 5 (target 5.6) on improving access, quality, and coverage of sexual and reproductive health and MNCH Health Care Services among the most vulnerable populations.

NIPI IV Work Areas



The purpose of the following pages in this communication piece is to highlight the key activities towards the agreed objectives of NIPI IV

INNOVATE



Her Excellency the Norwegian Ambassador Commends NIPI's Impactful Cervical Cancer Screening Program



Together, NHM Odisha and NIPI are transforming the landscape of Sexual and Reproductive Health, setting a benchmark for community-driven health initiatives.

Recognising the urgent need to innovate Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, the National Health Mission (NHM), and the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), Department of Odisha have implemented significant interventions. In collaboration with the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), NHM is piloting a community-led cervical cancer screening program in the urban slums of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. This initiative aims to improve access to healthcare for underserved populations, particularly women aged 30-65, by providing home-based self-sample HPV-DNA testing kits for early detection and timely treatment of cervical cancer.

On September 17, 2024, Her Excellency Ms. May-Elin Stener, the Norwegian Ambassador to India, led a high-level team to Odisha to witness the transformative impact of NIPI's collaboration with the H&FW Department and NHM. During her visit, she attended a meeting on the ongoing cervical cancer pilot in Bhubaneswar, which has been scaled up following the success of NIPI's Cuttack cervical cancer initiative.

The event highlighted the formal inauguration of the "Orientation Program on Community Mobilization for Cervical Cancer Screening" in Bhubaneswar, where community champions from the Cuttack pilot were recognised for their crucial roles. The Ambassador of Norway also felicitated Urban ASHAs and HPV-positive beneficiaries who successfully received treatment, emphasising the importance of community involvement in raising awareness and mobilizing women for screenings.

Later, Her Excellency participated in a Community Interaction Program in the urban slums, engaging with Mahila Aarogya Samiti (MAS) members to understand the community mobilisation process.

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REPLICATE



Together for Health: Review of IPHS Assessments from more than 5,000 Health Facilities, paving the Way for improvement.

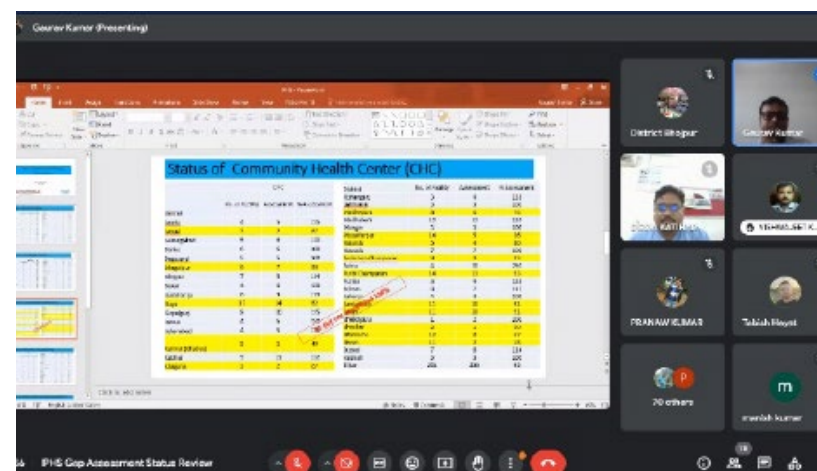
Strengthening Bihar's Health System: The Journey to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022

The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) are designed to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery across public facilities in India. The National Health Mission (NHM) has mandated that all states ensure at least 50% of their health facilities comply with these standards by the end of 2025. To monitor compliance, an Open Data Kit (ODK) tool was developed with technical support from the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) to facilitate gap assessments of healthcare facilities across India.

On August 1, 2024, a review-cum-planning meeting was held under the leadership of the State Program Officer for Health System Strengthening in Bihar, attended by officials from regional and district health societies. The meeting reviewed the progress of gap assessments, with 5,722 out of 11,151 public health facilities completing their evaluations.

The key takeaways from the meeting included the need for targeted action plans to address gaps in governance, drugs, diagnostics, service provision, human resources, and infrastructure. Additionally, district planning coordinators were encouraged to incorporate their work plans into the next District Health Action Plan (DHAP) to ensure alignment with IPHS-2022 compliance goals.

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Ensuring Effective Program Implementation: Decision Support Systems (DSS)

The Decision Support System (DSS) for Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) is an innovative android mobile application developed by Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) to support Frontline Workers (FLW) in making clinical decisions using IMNCI algorithms. It helps assess and treat common childhood illnesses in children under five. Initially introduced in the SAANs Abhiyan and Dastak Abhiyan in Madhya Pradesh, the DSS proved effective for primary caregivers in identifying high-risk children and ensuring referral opportunities are not missed. Recognising its potential, the state has initiated training for the 1,086 Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) medical officers on DSS to enhance their ability to assess children under five.

A one-day orientation was organized for RBSK medical officers, incorporating a dedicated session on the DSS within the training agenda. Of the 1,060 planned trainees, 1,046 medical officers participated in training conducted in 22 batches across 313 blocks in 51 districts. During the sessions, participants received hands-on training using case studies and installed the DSS application.

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The NIPI team successfully facilitated the training of 1,046 medical officers in 22 batches, covering 313 blocks in 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh.





**HBYC Program Review
Evaluated Progress across
23 Districts of Bihar.**

Strengthening Home-Based Child Care: Insights from the HBYC Program Review Meeting

Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Home Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) program has been promoting health and nutrition for young children since April 2018. The program has been implemented in 13 aspirational districts of Bihar since 2021, aiming to reduce child morbidity and mortality while supporting early childhood development. The State Health Society (SHS) Bihar, with support from the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), conducted a virtual review meeting to assess progress in these districts and the training status in 10 newly expanded districts of the state.

During the meeting, participants, including Additional Chief Medical Officers and District Program Managers, reviewed key activities such as Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) home visits, distribution of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) syrup and Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), identification and referral of sick children, and the adequacy of complementary feeding. The NIPI team facilitated data collection and analysis to support the review. The meeting successfully identified outcomes and strategies to enhance the implementation of the HBYC program, ensuring optimal growth and development for children in the State.

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NIPI: Empowering Health Facilities through Expert Mentorship for MusQan Certification.

Quality Care for Every Newborn: The MusQan Initiative in Odisha

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has launched the MusQan, a quality improvement initiative to enhance the quality of care in newborn facilities across India. This national program focuses on providing quality, child-friendly services aimed at reducing preventable morbidity and mortality among newborns and children. MusQan addresses key areas of child development—physical, mental, and social—through a multi-faceted strategy that targets improvements in Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs), postnatal wards, Pediatric Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs).

As part of the initiative, the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) supports selected health facilities in achieving certification. NIPI team members, alongside state mentoring teams, conduct thorough assessments using defined MusQan checklists to evaluate facility readiness. Through hands-on mentoring, they identify gaps in skills and infrastructure, providing tailored support to enhance service delivery. NIPI also supported the development of a comprehensive action plan and periodic monitoring to meet the established quality standards for newborn care.

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COLLABORATE

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NIPi IV, in the current phase under this objective, will ensure interested institutions and state NHMs start using digital public health goods in their systems, promoting collaboration with institutions and state NHMs. It will also support the National Health Mission in the supported states' documentation and research of various initiatives.

Under this objective, NIPi has successfully collaborated with the Inland University of Applied Sciences Research Council of Norway, funding innovative and rapid diagnosis testing in India for reducing AMR. NIPi's will support policy advocacy with key stakeholders and decision-makers in India.

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More details will be provided in a later newsletter.



Assessing the Impact of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

India is on a path to achieving Universal Health Care (UHC) by 2030. In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the government aims to operationalize 3,444 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) earlier known as Health & Wellness Centers, to strengthen Primary Health Care. Currently, 2,410 AAMs are functional across all 20 districts of the region, contributing significantly to the health infrastructure.

The National Health Mission (NHM) of J&K, with support from the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), conducted a comprehensive assessment of 135 AAMs, including 90 Sub Centers and 45 Urban PHCs / UPHCs, across 45 blocks across all 20 districts of J&K. To facilitate data collection, ten teams were formed, comprising members from the Directorate of Health, NHM, and NIPI. Using an Open Data Kit (ODK) application developed by NIPI, teams were trained to ensure effective data gathering and analysis. NIPI has developed a comprehensive report based on the findings of the assessment and shared it with NHM J&K.

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National Health Mission with technical support from Norway India Partnership Initiative assessed 135 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) to enhance health services in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.





**Norway India Partnership
Initiative: Shaping the
Vision for a Healthier
Rajasthan, 2047.**

VIKSIT RAJASTHAN 2047

The state of Rajasthan has embarked on an ambitious mission to create a comprehensive vision document, Viksit Rajasthan 2047, aimed at transforming the state's health sector by the centenary of India's Independence in 2047. The document outlines sectoral policies, programs, and macrolevel goals that will steer Rajasthan toward a robust and resilient healthcare system.

To lead this initiative, a drafting committee and thematic groups were convened under the chairpersonship of the Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM). The committee conducted a thorough situational analysis of the available infrastructure, human resources, drugs, diagnostics, and ongoing programs in the state's health sector, culminating in the creation of the Viksit Rajasthan document.

The vision document places significant emphasis on the operationalization of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) services and strengthening the health system. It outlines strategies to improve outreach, boost program delivery efficiency, and leverage digital platforms to streamline healthcare services across the state.

One of the most ambitious goals outlined in the document is to increase the average life expectancy in Rajasthan from the current 69 years to 84 years by 2047. Additionally, the document highlights the state's strategic thrust areas, the government's vision, and the macro-level goals Rajasthan aims to achieve over the next two decades. It also recognizes the private sector's incremental role in contributing to the state's healthcare progress.

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A health initiative between Government of India and Government of Norway, the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) aims to innovate and scale up quality continuum of care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in India

CONTACT US



www.nipi-cure.org



+91 11 40755900



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