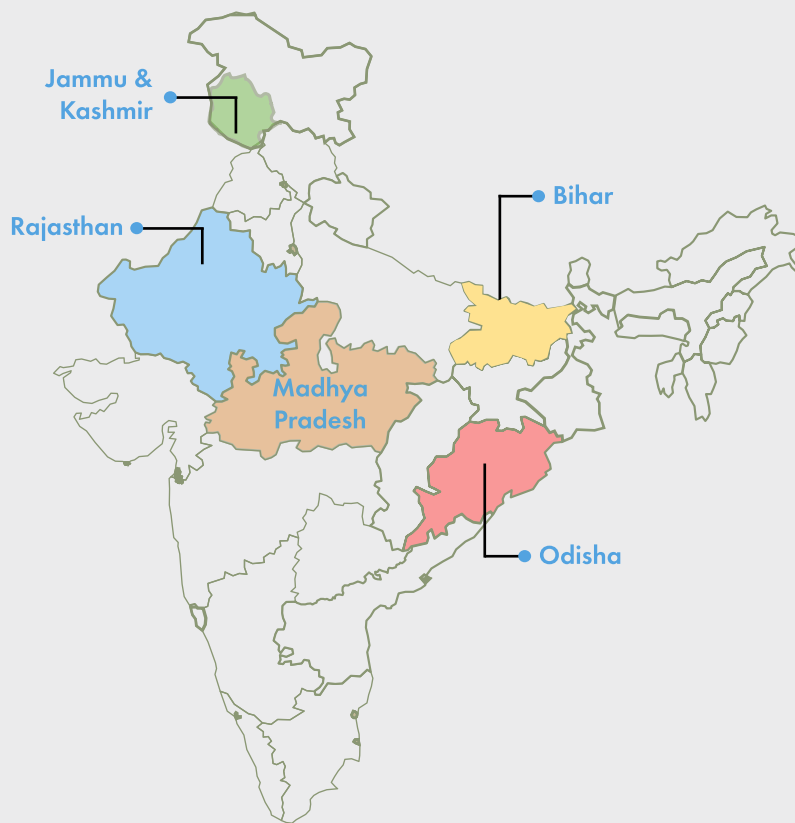


Two Countries, One Health Vision

NIPI IV





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 stand committed to fostering collaborative efforts for solving priority health issues. In 2006, the two democracies started a health initiative called 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 model of development cooperation and an efficient mechanism of testing our 'innovative ideas in public health settings'. NIPI has demonstrated the importance of aligning with national priorities, leveraging local expertise through a strong governance framework at national and state level using the health system approach.

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

As a first step, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 1st July 2024 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, Government of Norway 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
NIPPI 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 for Health System Strengthening in Sexual, Reproductive, New-born, Child and Adolescent health

2

REPLICATE & SCALE



Provide technical assistance in scale up of NIPI and NHM demonstrated innovative practices in RMNCAH and to ensure institutionalization of state innovation hubs

3

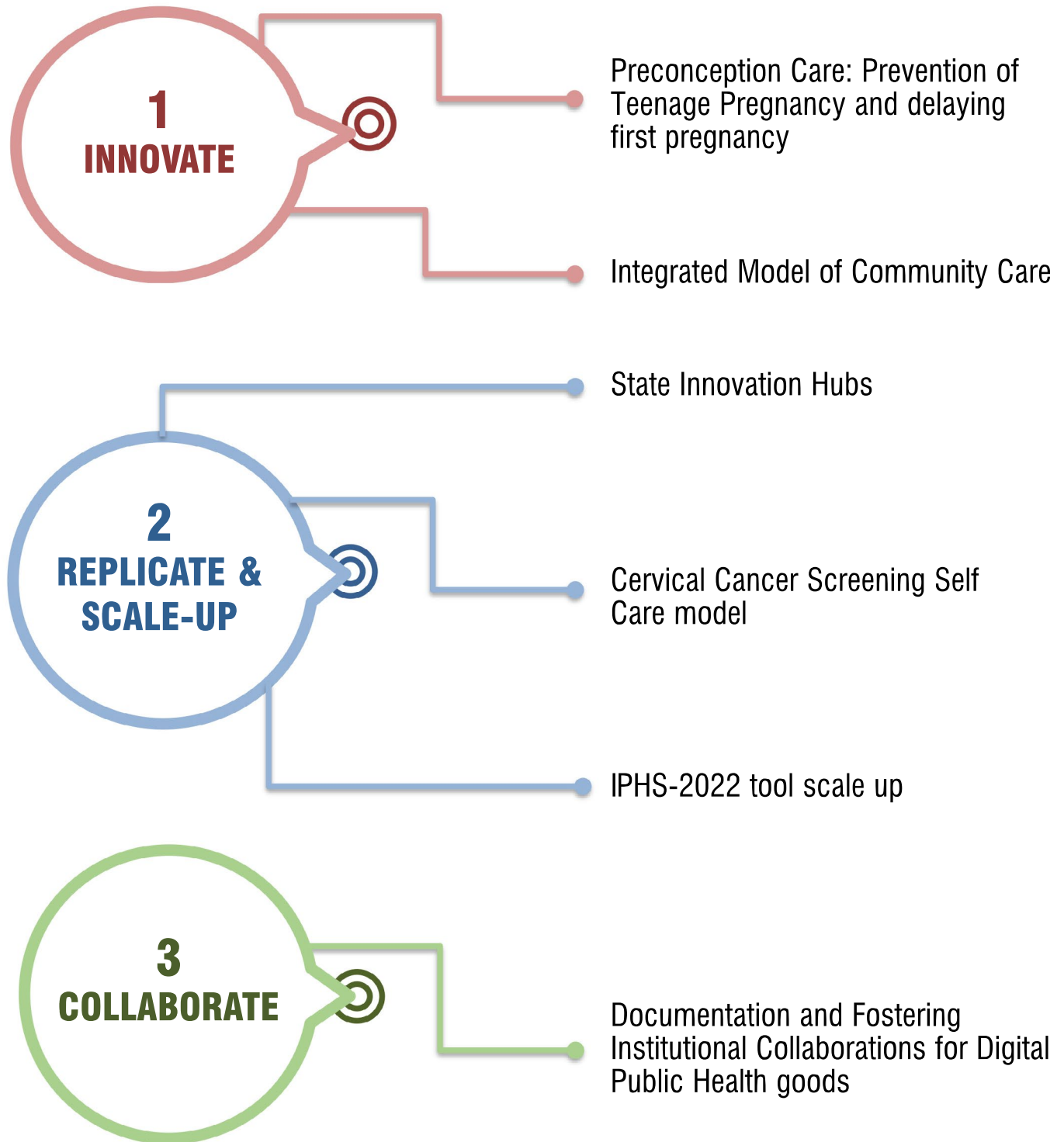
COLLABORATE



Foster Institutional collaborations on Digital Public Health Goods in RMNCAH

The overall goal of NIPI IV would contribute towards SDG goal 3 (target 3.7) and 5 (target 5.6) on improving access, quality and coverage of Sexual Reproductive Health and MNCH Health Care Services amongst most vulnerable population.

NIPI IV Work Areas



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

INNOVATE

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



Recognizing the urgent need to innovate for 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 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 recognized for their crucial roles. Ambassador of Norway also felicitated Urban ASHAs and HPV-positive beneficiaries who successfully received treatment, emphasizing 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 mobilization process.

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



REPLICATE



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

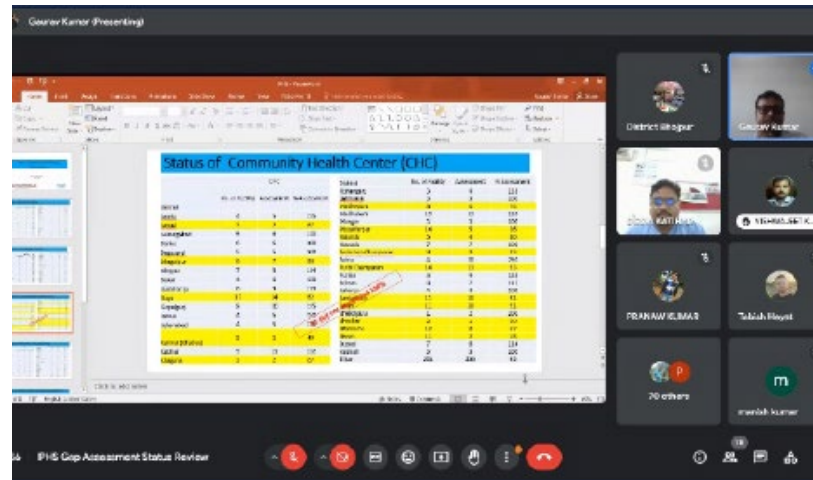
The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) are designed to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery across public facilities in India. The National Health Mission (NHM) has mandated that all states ensure at least 50% of their health facilities comply with these standards by the end of 2025. To monitor compliance, an Open Data Kit (ODK) tool developed with technical support from the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), for facilitating 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 having completed 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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Together for Health: Review of IPHS Assessments from more than 5,000 Health Facilities, paving the Way for improvement.



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) for taking clinical decisions using IMNCI algorithms. It helps assess and treat common childhood illnesses in children under five years of age. 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. Recognizing its potential, the state has initiated training for the 1,086 Rashtya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) medical officers on DSS to enhance their ability for assessing under five children.

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.





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. Aimed at reducing child morbidity and mortality while supporting Early Childhood Development, the program has been implemented in 13 aspirational districts of Bihar since 2021. 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 HBYC program, ensuring optimal growth and development for children in the State.

[READ MORE](#)

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





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 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 comprehensive action plan and periodic monitoring for meeting the established quality standards for newborn care.

[READ MORE](#)

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



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 its systems, promoting collaboration with institutions and state NHMs. It will also support National Health Mission in the supported states documentation and research of various initiatives.

Under this objective NIPI has successfully collaborated with Inland University of Applied Sciences Research Council of Norway funding for innovative and rapid diagnosis testing in India for reduction in AMR. NIPI's role will be supporting policy advocacy with key stakeholder and decision-makers in India. More details will be provided in later newsletter.

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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 for strengthening 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 for ensuring effective data gathering and analysis. NIPI has developed a comprehensive report based on the findings of the assessment and shared with NHM J&K.

[READ MORE](#)

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 macro-level goals that will steer Rajasthan toward a robust and resilient healthcare system.

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

The vision document places significant emphasis on the operationalization of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) services, coupled with health system strengthening. 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 set forth 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, Government's Vision, and the Macro-Level Goals that Rajasthan aims to achieve over the next two decades. It also recognizes the incremental role that the private sector will play 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

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