India: Integrating health, nutrition, early learning and responsive care in home visiting programme

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Good Health
- Adolescent health programme (WIFS, RSKK)
- Antenatal & Intrapartum care (SUMAN), Mother Child Tracking system
- Facility Based Newborn Care
- Home Based Newborn & Young Child Care
- RBSK: Screening for 4 Ds (defects, diseases, delays, disabilities)
- District Early Intervention Centres
- Mother’s Absolute Affection
- Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre
- ECD/Integrated call centre

Nutrition
- Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services
  - Anganwadi services scheme
  - National Nutrition Mission- Poshan Abhiyaan 2.0
  - PM Matru Vandana Yojana (maternity benefit scheme)
- Anaemia Free India

Early education
- National Education Policy, 2020 (covers 3-18 years)
- Samagra Shiskha Abhiyaan

Responsive caregiving
- Maternity Benefit Act, (26 weeks paid leave)
- National Crèche Scheme
- DISHA centres for special education
- SAMARTH

Safety & Security
- Mission Vatsalya
- Child Protection Services including Childline (Integrated Child Protection Scheme)
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- Swacch Bharat Mission (WASH)

LIFECOURSE APPROACH
- Maternity Benefit Act, (26 weeks paid leave)
- National Crèche Scheme
- DISHA centres for special education
- SAMARTH

Project Care 2
- Benign care for young children
- Breastfeeding
- Maternal health care
- Nutrition

Parent guide: Journey of the First 1000 days
- Mother & Child Protection Card

Nurturing care through Multisectoral Approach
INDIA’S HOME VISITING PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE

Joint initiative of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women & Child Development

**Postnatal period (0-6 weeks)**
- 6-7 Home visits

**Infancy & early childhood (6 weeks- 24 months)**
- 1.5 ; 2.5 ; 3.5 months
- 9th month
- 15-18 month
- Immunization contacts (at community-based Village Health & Nutrition Day)
- 0,3,7,14,21,28,42 days
- Structured home visits at start of 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th and 15th month

**UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF ALL NEWBORNS & YOUNG CHILDREN (0-15 MONTHS)**
Interventions included under Home visit programme for young children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUTRITION</th>
<th>Exclusive breastfeeding</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Adequate complementary feeding</td>
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<td>IFA supplementation</td>
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<td>Promote use of fortified food</td>
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<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>Full immunization</td>
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<td>Growth chart plotting</td>
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<td>Appropriate use of ORS</td>
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<td>Early care seeking during sickness</td>
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<td>CHILD DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>Age-appropriate play and communication</td>
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<td>Screening for development milestones</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Appropriate hand washing practices</td>
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Key components of HBYC

- Training microplan
- Role clarity; Joint planning for services & AAA convergence
- Availability of commodities (ORS, IFA, antibiotics)
- Timely payment transfer to ASHA
- On the job mentoring & supportive supervision
- IEC, tools (MCP card, handbook) for communication
- Formats checklists, monitoring, data analysis

AAA: ASHA, ANM, AWW
PROGRESS MADE UNDER HBYC PROGRAMME SINCE ROLL OUT (in April 2018)

1 MILLION ASHA AT COMMUNITY LEVEL (+ASHA FACILITATORS, ANM & AWW)

HOME VISITING PROGRAM INITIATED IN 517 DISTRICTS

228,000 FRONTLINE WORKERS (ASHA/ASHA FACILITATORS /ANM) TRAINED

NEARLY 3 MILLION CHILDREN REACHED (TILL SEPT 2020)
Facilitating factors: Building on existing platform of decade old new-born care home visit programme
Well established eco-system for training & supporting ASHAs; system in place for timely and direct transfer of incentives
Well established supply chain; digital platforms being used increasingly
Tools for communication: MCP card, posters, job aid

Challenges: Capacity building of a large workforce
ECD a relatively new component in the home visit programmes, especially responsive caregiving, play and communication
Quality of home visit, parent-worker interaction and monitoring of quality
COVID 19 pandemic slowed progress due to competing priorities

Way forward: Child centric approach required to ensure all available services reach an index child
More family & community engagement for nurturing care
Linkages with screening programme (RBSK) can be improved
Improved linkages with services for ‘at risk’ and affected children
Setting up ECD call centre/Integrated call centre
Resource material for HBYC

- Competency based trainings, builds on competencies acquired earlier during HBNC
- Early Childhood Development given additional focus under HBYC

Guidelines- CH :: National Health Mission (nhm.gov.in)
Handbook for ASHA on Home Based Care for Young Child-English.pdf (nhsrcindia.org)
MCP_Card_English_version.pdf (nhm.gov.in)