



INDIA'S NEXT CHILD HEALTH FRONTIER

From Survive to Thrive, and Transform Health and Human Potential #ForEveryChild

Over the past decade, India has made remarkable gains in child survival. However, this success has created a new challenge: a rapidly growing cohort of **high-risk survivors** vulnerable to birth defects, neurodevelopmental disorders, and disabilities.

Current systems for early identification remain fragmented. **Phase I** of this partnership addresses these gaps by strengthening institutional capacity and establishing integrated models for early identification and care.



Key Achievements: Phase I

1. Institutional Mechanisms

Established Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in TN, Kerala, Karnataka, and AP. These serve as technical hubs for policy advisory, guidelines, and capacity building and mentoring.

2. Standardized Frameworks

Developed clinical, referral, and operational protocols to ensure consistency across service delivery platforms.



3. Connected Care Models

Implemented district-level models linking community screening, facility-based treatment, and rehabilitation services.



4. Family-Centred Care

Positioned families as central stakeholders. Established parent support networks to enhance caregiver engagement and peer support.



5. Multi-Stakeholder Ecosystem

Launched Inclusive Impact for Early Years (IIE), India's first business coalition for i-ECD, mobilizing private sector and civil society.



6. National Capacity

Large-scale training of professionals and leveraging platforms like the World Health Summit to position Disability-Inclusive ECD as a priority.





System-Level Achievements



20K frontline workers delivering services
50K paediatricians trained



2200 Anganwadi centers deliver nurturing care



Centres of Excellence

State-anchored Centres of Excellence operationalised



Standardised SOPs and protocols developed and adopted



District-level care models piloted



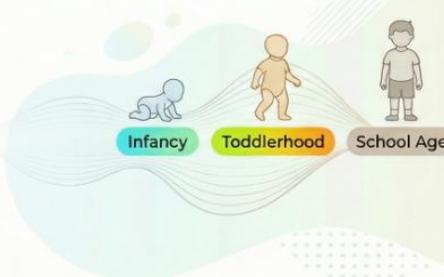
114E multi-stakeholder business coalition established

A Breakthrough in Early Detection

Gains in early identification and referral

PREVIOUS REFERRAL AGE (Months)

NEW REFERRAL AGE (Months)



Early detection now occurs when brain plasticity is highest, leading to stronger lifelong outcomes.

Conclusion

Phase I of the UNICEF–Divi's Foundation partnership represents a strategic shift in India's child health paradigm. By strengthening institutional platforms, standardising technical frameworks, and mobilising the private sector, we have laid the foundation for a sustainable, scalable, and inclusive system for early identification and management of neurodevelopmental disorders.