



INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Department of Social Welfare
Government of Assam



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**Department of Social Welfare
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FOREWORD

Child Protection means providing a child-friendly and protective environment to a child in the home, school, community and society at large. It means providing a safety net to the vulnerable children and those who need special care and protection. It should be realized that a child's right is to be protected and is the prerequisite before every other rights. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is an umbrella scheme which caters to the overall protection and development of a child. The scheme provides support and rehabilitation services; open shelters for children in need of care in urban and semi-urban areas; family-based non-institutional care through Sponsorship, Foster Care, Adoption and After Care. Institutional services – Shelter Homes, Children's Home, Observation Homes, Special Homes, specialized services for children with special needs are also part of child care and protection.

It makes me happy to introduce the FAQ on Integrated Child Protection Scheme. I am hopeful that this FAQ will help in facilitating the functioning of statutory bodies like Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and Special Juvenile Police Units in understanding problems relating to children in need of care and protection.

In the end I would like to thank UNICEF, Assam for their continuous support and valuable suggestions in preparing this FAQ.



Shri H.K. Sharma, IAS
The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam
Social Welfare Department





MESSAGE

The development of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)** is an important step forward to promote a protective environment for children as envisaged in this National Flagship Scheme. The constitution of the State Child Protection Society (SCPS) and the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam, has set the foundation for the effective implementation of the Scheme in the State.

ICPS is aimed at bringing much-needed convergence across various sectors in the Government as well as society at large to ensure that all children come under the 'protective umbrella' of the State and the community. Ensuring the protection of all children requires concerted commitment and co-ordination among various stakeholders, especially those who are involved with the statutory bodies under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 and Amendment Act 2006 and various structures as mapped out in the Scheme.

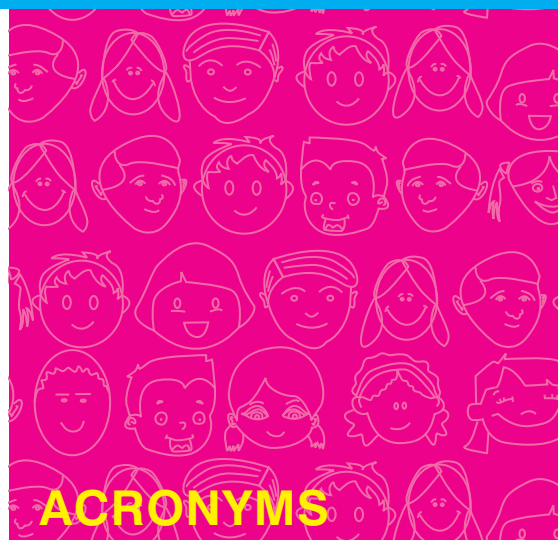
This document is primarily intended to be used as a ready reckoner and quick reference tool for those who are directly responsible for the effective implementation of ICPS in Assam. In addition, this reader-friendly version of ICPS is also intended to generate increased awareness on the provisions of the scheme among civil society, so that all those who are concerned about children and their protection can call upon the State to implement the provisions.

We sincerely hope that the publication of this FAQ will usher in informed participation of all stakeholders to achieve the objective of strengthened child protection systems that will contribute to the protection of all children in Assam against abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect, and help them enjoy their right to a fulfilling childhood.



Jeroo Master
Chief, Field Office
UNICEF Assam





ACA	Adoption Co-ordinating Agency	JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	MIS	Management Information System
BCPC	Block-level Child Protection Committee	NCLP	National Child Labour Project
BDO	Block Development Officer	NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Co-operation & Child Development
CARA	Central Adoption Resource Agency	NOC	No Objection Certificate
CBRC	Cradle Baby Reception Centre	PAP	Prospective Adoptive Parents
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
CIF	Childline India Foundation	SAA	Specialized Adoption Agency
CPSU	Central Project Support Unit	SAAC	State Adoption Advisory Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization	SARA	State Adoption Resource Agency
CWC	Child Welfare Committee	SCPC	State Child Protection Committee
DCPC	District Child Protection Committee	SCPS	State Child Protection Society
DCPS	District Child Protection Society	SFCAC	Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions	SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
FBNIC	Family-based Non-Institutional Care	SPSU	State Project Support Unit
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services	TOT	Training of Trainers
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme	ULB	Urban Local Body
IEC	Information Education & Communication	UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
IPC	Indian Penal Code	VCPC	Village-level Child Protection Committee
JJ	Juvenile Justice		



FOREWORD

MESSAGE

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Do Children have Rights?

Yes, children do have rights like adults. Human rights are for all people, including children, regardless of their age. However, children need extra protection and guidance from adults, and they have special rights of their own. Children's rights are also human rights, and they are laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

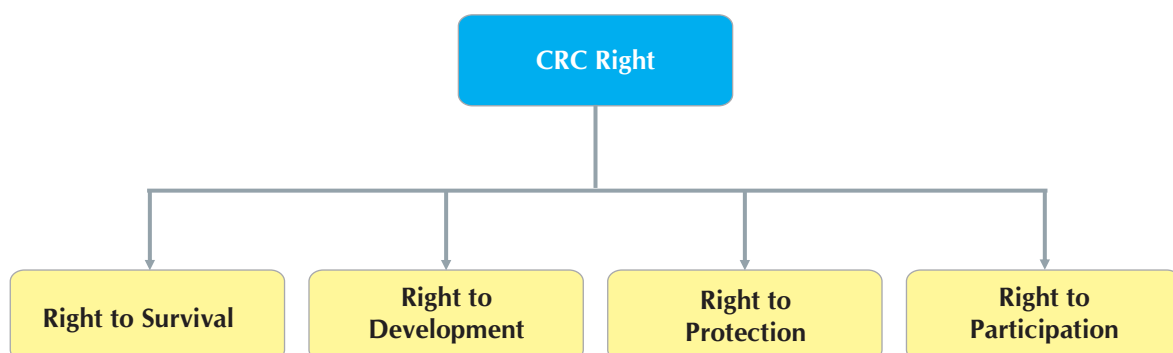
What is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)?

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years. The Convention establishes that States Parties must ensure that all children, without discrimination in any form:

- Benefit from special protection measures and assistance;
- Have access to services such as education and health care;
- Can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential;
- Grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding;
- Are informed about and participate in, achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

What are the Rights articulated in the UNCRC?

The UNCRC lays emphasis on four types of rights which are equally important, interrelated and interdependent. They are:





What does Child Protection mean?

Child Protection refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child/early marriage.

Children need special protection in circumstances such as emergency and armed conflict, in case of disability etc.

What are the major Child Protection concerns in India?

Some of the important Child Protection concerns include:

- Child Labour
- Child/Early Marriage
- Child Trafficking for various purposes
- Child Abuse – Physical, Sexual, Emotional Abuse, and Neglect
- Sexual Exploitation
- Children without Parental Care, including Orphan Children and Children in Institutions
- Children Affected by AIDS
- Children in Conflict with the Law
- Female Foeticide and Infanticide
- Children with Disabilities

Does the UNCRC guarantee the Right to Protection?

Yes. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which India is a signatory, guarantees every child's right to protection. A number of Articles in the Convention refer to the Right to Protection.

These include:

- Article 6 – Survival and development
- Article 19 – Protection from all forms of violence
- Article 23 – Children with disabilities
- Article 32 – Child labour
- Article 34 – Sexual exploitation
- Article 35 – Abduction, sale and trafficking
- Article 36 – Other forms of exploitation

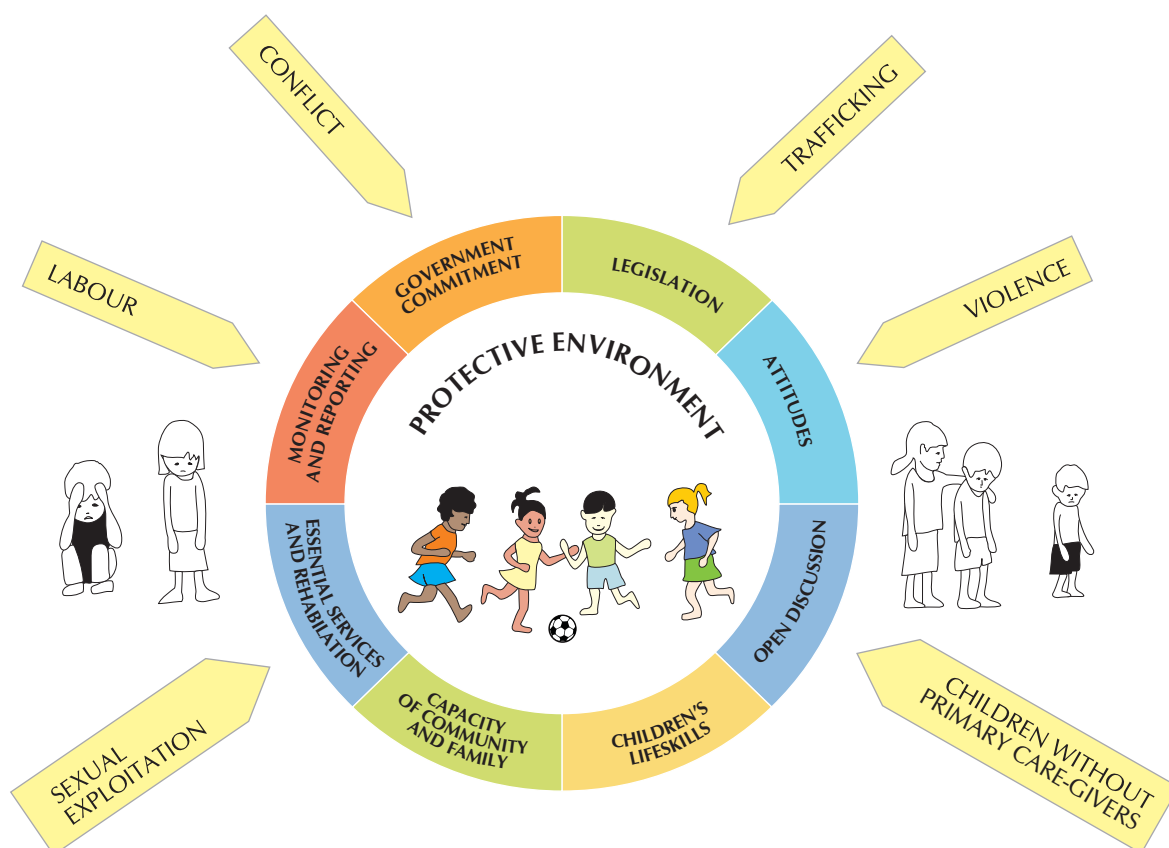


ARTICLE 19 (PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE) OF THE UNCRC IS AN OVERARCHING ARTICLE AND APPLIES TO ALL CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

What is the Protective Environment Framework?

UNICEF advocates and supports the creation of a **Protective Environment** for children in partnership with governments, national and international partners including the private sector, and civil society. Building a protective environment for children that will help prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation involves eight essential components which can operate independently or collectively:

- Work on changing attitudes, customs, behaviours and practices
- Advocating for and promoting a Policy Environment that promotes the Protection of Children and demonstrates the Government's commitment to Child Protection
- Progressive Child Protection legislation
- Promoting an open discussion of Child Protection in the media and civil society
- Enhancing capacities of families, communities and professionals who interact with children
- Building children's life-skills, knowledge, and participation and self-expression skills
- Setting up effective monitoring systems for recording and for informed response
- Ensuring services for victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect





Does the Indian Constitution guarantee Protection of Children?

Yes. The Constitution of India provides certain rights to children in India. Some of the relevant Articles include:

- Right to equality (**Article 14**)
- Right against discrimination (**Article 15**)
- Right to life and personal liberty (**Article 21**)
- Right to free and compulsory elementary education to all children of the age 6-14 year age group (**Article 21 A**)
- Right to be protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour (**Article 23**)
- Right to be protected from any employment in any factory or mine or engaged in any hazardous employment till the age of 14 years (**Article 24**)

The Constitution of India also bestows certain responsibilities on the State. These include:

- Make special provisions for women and children (**Article 15 (3)**).
- Protect the interest of minorities (**Article 29**).
- Ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused, and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter employment or vocations unsuited to their age or strength; (**Article 39 (e)**).
- Ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity, and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. (**Article 39 (f)**).
- Promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. (**Article 46**).
- Raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of people and to improve public health (**Article 47**).

Are there any specific Laws to ensure Protection of Children?

Yes. Following are some of the important legislations relating to Child Protection:

- The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986
- The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956



- The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment 2006
- The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

Additionally, there are a host of other provisions under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which are relevant to ensure Protection of Children and punishment to those who violate children's right to protection.

What are the existing Child Protection mechanisms?

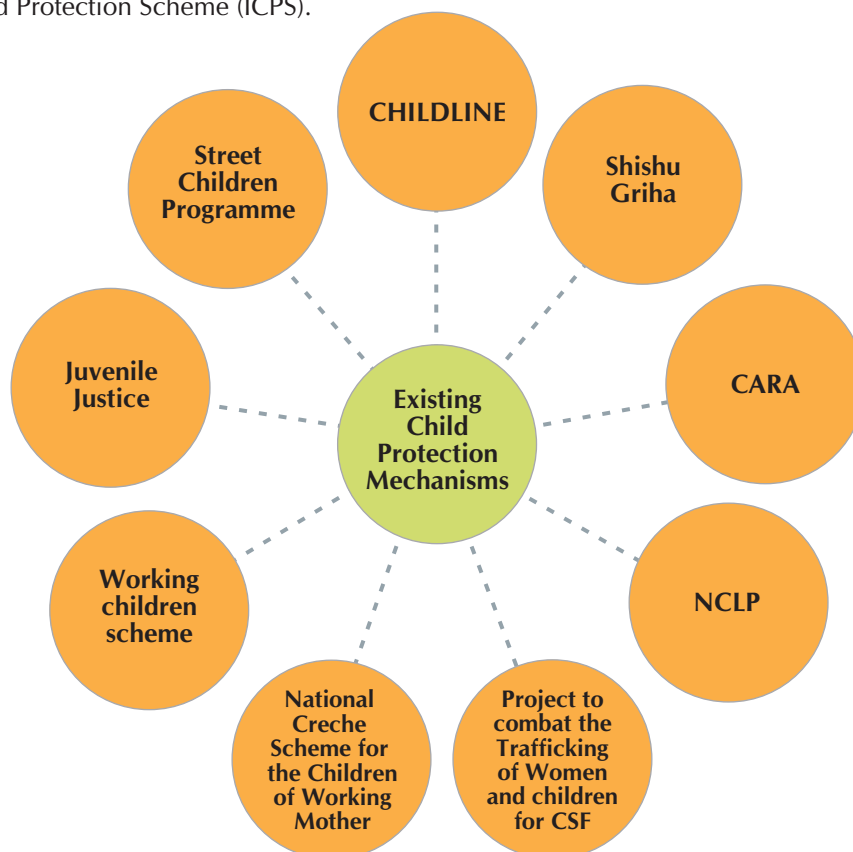
At present there are several schemes and programmes that promote Child Protection which are being implemented by the Government of India and the State Governments. These include:

- A programme for Juvenile Justice
- A scheme for street children
- The Shishu Griha scheme focusing on adoption
- The National Child Labour Project

Additionally, a number of other schemes address specific concerns and issues relating to Child Protection. These include:

- Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Schemes focusing on promotion of girls' education and delayed marriage
- Swadhar Scheme for destitute women
- Ujjawala Scheme for prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking

The following diagram portrays the different Child Protection programmes that were in place before the launch of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

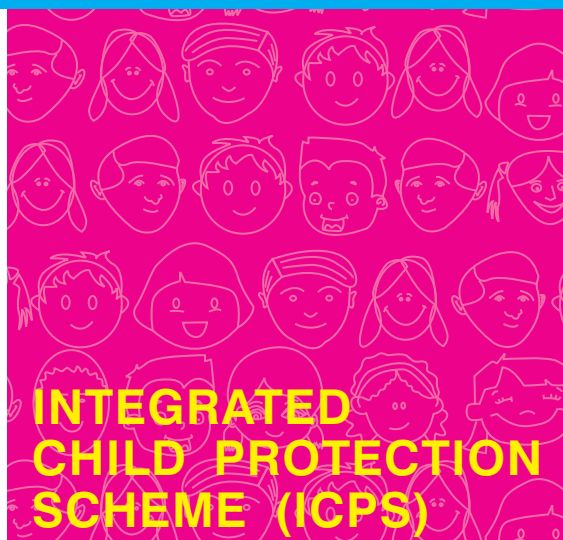


What are the schemes that are merged under ICPS?

ICPS has been launched by merging the components of three of the existing Schemes relating to Child Protection:

- A Programme for Juvenile Justice;
- An Integrated Programme for Street Children (including Childline Services);
- Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Griha) for children to promote in-country adoption.





What is ICPS?

ICPS or the Integrated Child Protection Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, implemented in partnership with the State Governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

What is the aim of ICPS?

ICPS aims to establish a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children, based on the cardinal principles of “Protection of Child Rights” and the “Best Interest of the Child”.

What are the objectives of ICPS?

- To institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures;
- To enhance capacities at all levels;
- To create a database and knowledge base for Child Protection services;
- To strengthen Child Protection at family and community level;
- To ensure appropriate inter-sectoral response at all levels;
- To raise public awareness.

What are the Guiding Principles of ICPS?

- Child Protection is a primary responsibility of the family and other stakeholders;
- A loving and caring family is the best place for the child;
- Privacy and confidentiality;
- Non-stigmatization and non-discrimination;
- Prevention and reduction of vulnerabilities;
- Institutionalization of children is the last resort;
- Child centered planning and implementation;
- Technical excellence, Code of Conduct;
- Flexible programming, responding to local individualized needs;
- Good governance, accountability and responsibility.

What is the focus of ICPS?

ICPS will focus on the following activities:

- Mapping needs and services for children and families at risk;

- Preparing Child Protection plans at all levels – state, district, block and village;
- Strengthening service delivery mechanisms and improving the quality of services provided;
- Promoting and strengthening non-institutional family-based care programme;
- Developing capacity of service providers;
- Strengthening knowledge base, awareness and advocacy;
- Establishing an integrated, live, web-based database on children;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Building partnerships for Child Protection at all levels and strengthening linkages with other bodies and institutions.

Who will benefit from ICPS?

The scheme will target the following categories of children:



What are the expected outcomes of ICPS?

It is expected that through the effective implementation of ICPS:

- Children living in vulnerable situations will have access to Child Protection services by means of greater awareness at the family and community level;
- Children in institutional care will have better standards of care and quality services;
- An increasing number of abandoned children will be placed in family-based non-institutional/alternative care such as adoption or foster care, rather than languishing in institutions.



STATUTORY BODIES

What are the Statutory mechanisms to be established?

The statutory mechanisms, as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Amendment Act 2006, are as follows:

- Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)
- Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)

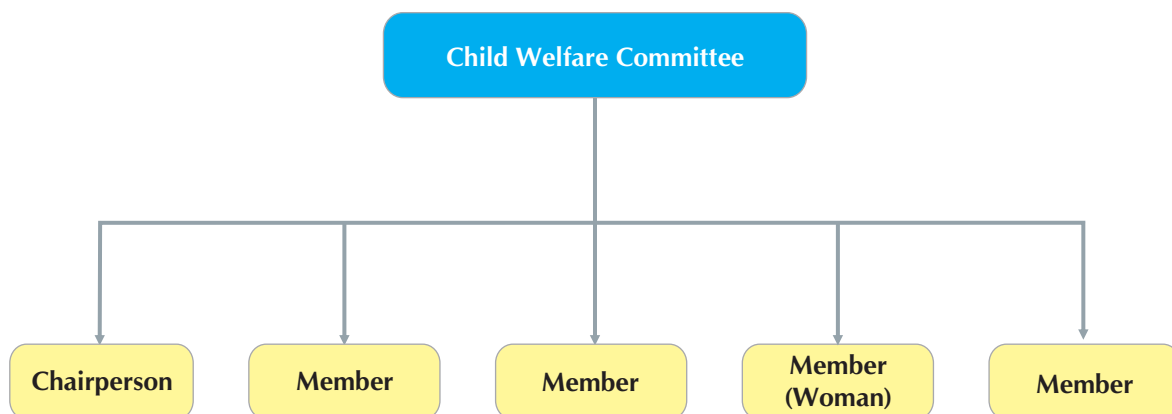
Every district will have a CWC, a JJB, and an SJPU.

Depending on the size of the district, population, and number of children, one or more of these can be established in a district.

What is the role of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)?

Child Welfare Committees (CWC) are to be set up in every district as per the provisions of the JJ Amendment Act 2006, as the competent authority to deal with children who are in need of care and protection, and provide for their proper care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation.

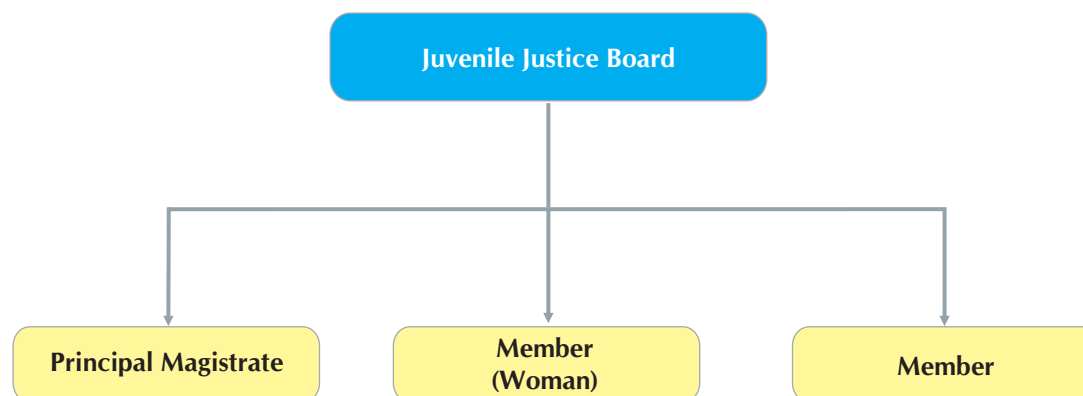
What is the composition of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)?



What is the role of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)?

Juvenile Justice Boards are to be set up by the State Government in every district as per provisions of the JJ Amendment Act 2006, as the competent authority to deal with matters relating to children in conflict with law.

What is the composition of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)?



Do the Police have a role to play in the Juvenile Justice (JJ) System?

Yes, the Police have a crucial role to play in the JJ System as they form the first point of contact with the child. Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs) are to be set up to handle matters concerned with children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.

The SJPU shall consist of a Juvenile or Child Welfare Officer of the rank of Police Inspector and two paid Social Workers having experience in working with children of which one shall be a woman. Every police station shall designate one officer as the 'Juvenile' or 'Child Welfare Officer' who has the aptitude, appropriate training and orientation to deal appropriately with children.

How do the Social Workers contribute to the functioning of the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)?

The member of the SJPU who is a Social Worker can be called by the 'Juvenile' or 'Child Welfare Officer' of the police station as soon as a child in need of care and protection or a child in conflict with law is produced before them.

The primary role of the Social Worker is to provide emotional support by making the child feel comfortable, create a child-friendly environment and collect the child's background and history without making him/her feel intimidated. The Social Worker is expected to network or coordinate with NGOs working in the field of Child Protection so that the child can be temporarily placed in the institution before being produced before the competent authority, or until restoration to the family.

What are the specific responsibilities of the 'Juvenile' or 'Child Welfare Officer'?

The 'Juvenile' or 'Child Welfare Officer' works in close coordination with the CWC and the JJB of the concerned district. He/she has crucial responsibilities such as:

- Producing the child/juvenile before the CWC/JJB
- Assisting the CWCs and JJBs at various levels
- Giving a report on the case / preparing the Social Background Report
- Conducting enquiries
- Escorting children for tracing and repatriation
- Escorting children to hospital for medical investigations and age verification
- Recording evidence and giving the final No Objection Certificate (NOC) and recommendations



How can the Police become 'child friendly'?

The Police can become 'child friendly' by adhering to the following practices when dealing with children:

- Should not handcuff or fetter the child;
- Should not send the child to a police lock-up or jail;
- Provide food, basic amenities to the child during the period of apprehension;
- Using child-sensitive terminologies such as – 'apprehension' instead of 'arrest'; 'inquiry' and not 'trial'; child in conflict with law and not 'criminal', accused or delinquent;
- Avoid terms such as - warrant, police custody, jail, etc

Does ICPS provide any assistance to these Statutory bodies?

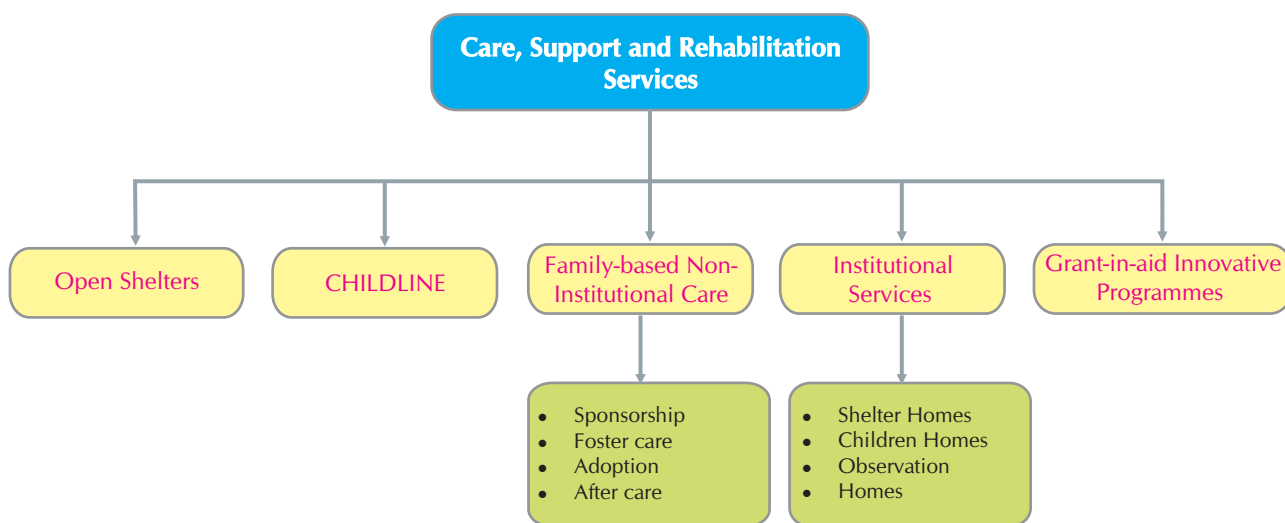
ICPS provides adequate infrastructure and financial support to facilitate the effective functioning of the CWCs and JJBs in every district. In the absence of a Children's Home or Observation Home in the district for the CWC and JJB to hold their sittings, the Scheme provides funds for constructing or renting a suitable premise for this purpose.

ICPS also has provision to meet the salary costs of the two Social Workers who are to be deputed by the District Child Protection Society (DCPS) to the SJPU as and when necessary, in order to facilitate the functioning of the Unit.



What are the services provided by ICPS?

The various programme components targeted towards children in difficult circumstances are depicted in the diagram below:



OPEN SHELTERS

Who can avail services of the Open Shelter?

Open Shelter is a 24 X 7 programme to cater to all children in need of care and protection, particularly children who are into begging, picking rags, working children, small vendors, street performers, orphaned, deserted, trafficked and run-away children, children of migrant population or any other vulnerable groups of children.

How does the Open Shelter function?

An Open Shelter can be established either by NGOs or the State Government to provide a safe environment for vulnerable children, to protect them from the dangers of street life. It is like a Drop in Shelter where there are provisions to fulfil the basic needs of children including health care, quality education, vocational training, counselling and life skill education.

A unit for 25 children can be set up round-the-clock accessibility but not aimed at providing permanent residential facility. ICPS facilitates setting up of such Open Shelters in urban areas in locations where there is a majority of such vulnerable children so that they are provided space and can be weaned away from street life and enabled to lead a dignified and productive life.

CHILDLINE

What is CHILDLINE?

CHILDLINE is a 24 hour Emergency Phone Outreach Service for children in need of care and protection, and links them to long-term services for rehabilitation. Any child who is in need of immediate care and protection, or an adult on his/her behalf, can dial the national toll free number **1098** for quick rescue and emergency outreach services.

With the objective of creating a Protective Environment for children throughout the country, ICPS envisages the expansion of the CHILDLINE service to all districts/cities.

How does CHILDLINE reach out to children?

CHILDLINE responds to the emergency phone calls received on the national toll free number **1098** and rescues the child with the help of allied departments such as the Police, local administration, Railways etc.

The CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) is the central nodal agency for setting up and monitoring the CHILDLINE service. The City/District-level Advisory Board comprising senior-level functionaries of the allied Government Departments in the city/district review and assess the functioning of CHILDLINE in the city or district.

Collaborative organizations are NGOs that function as the Call Centre for CHILDLINE. They work round-the-clock, responding to calls received on the 1098 emergency service.

NEEDS-BASED & INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS

Is there any provision for needs-based/innovative interventions?

Yes, there are provisions for supporting needs-based/innovative intervention programmes such as those implemented for children of prisoners, children of women in prostitution, post disaster rehabilitation work etc.

The State Child Protection Society (SCPS) has the provision for a general grant-in-aid for the State to support these interventions.



FAMILY-BASED NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE

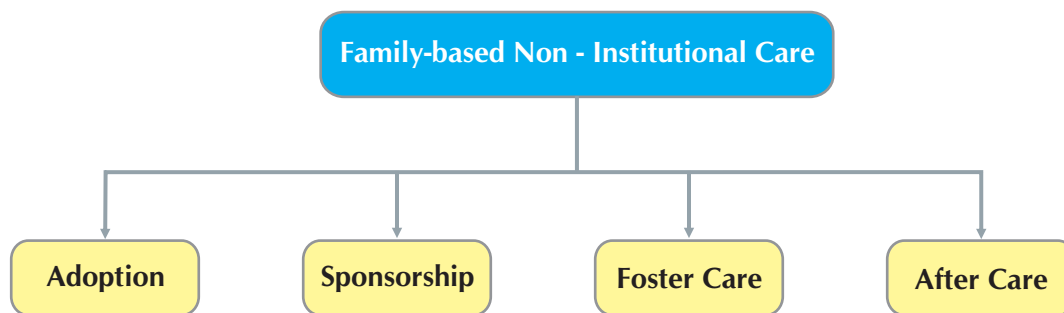
What is meant by Family-based Non-Institutional Care (FBNIC)?

FBNIC services are services and programmes available for children without a biological family as a result of which they are abandoned, orphaned or surrendered for any other reason.

Instead of placing these children in long-term institutional care, they can be provided with an alternative care service wherein they are placed in a family, thus giving them the opportunity to live and grow up in a loving and nurturing environment.

What are the various types of FBNIC Programmes?

The different types of Family-based Non-Institutional Care Programmes are as follows:



ADOPTION

What is Adoption?

Adoption is a process through which a child who is permanently separated from biological parents because her/his parents have died, or have abandoned or surrendered her/him, becomes a legitimate child of a new set of parent(s) referred to as adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to this relationship. The primary aim of adoption is to provide a child who cannot be cared for by his biological parents with a permanent substitute family.

What are the Guiding Principles for Adoption?

Adoption will be governed by the following principles:

- Best interest of the child is paramount;
- All attempts should be made to find a suitable Indian family within the district, state or country, and the child shall be offered for inter-country adoption only when such attempts have not succeeded;
- Institutions shall submit all details about children available for adoption to the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) with supporting documents;
- No birth mother/parent(s) should be forced/coerced to give up their child for monetary or any other consideration;
- The entire adoption process should be completed in the shortest possible time;
- Agencies involved in adoption process should adhere to ethical Code of Conduct.

What is Pre-adoption Foster Care?

Pre-adoption foster care is a temporary arrangement for children who are to be ultimately given for adoption as outlined in Sec 42 (1) of the JJ Act 2000. Such children can be placed with the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) until the legal process of adoption is completed, based on an order given by the concerned Child Welfare Committee.

What is the role of the Adoption Coordinating Agency (ACA)?

The primary responsibility of ACA is to facilitate and promote the cause of in-country adoption and popularize the concept of un-related adoption in Indian society.

The ACA shall function under the supervision of SARA and be set up in a State or in cities in which there are one or more adoption agencies. ICPS provides financial assistance to the ACA for executing its programmes and activities. ACA need not be “recognized” in States where SARA is established as they share the same roles and responsibilities.

Which agency is responsible for placing children in adoption?

The Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA), a voluntary organization registered under the JJ Act 2000 by the State Government, is responsible for facilitating the adoption process. The SAA shall work under the supervision of SARA and the DCPS, and follow the guidelines for adoption issued by the State Government or the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA). ICPS has budgetary provision for the establishment of a SAA in each district for a unit of 10 children.

What are the specific responsibilities of the Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)?

The responsibilities of the SAA can be categorized into (a) Child-related and (b) PAP-related roles:

Child-related Role	Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP)-related Role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission /registration of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of PAPs and reporting the same to DCPS and SARA;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report the arrival of a child to the CWC / DCPS and SARA; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report the registration of PAPs to the DCPS and SARA;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an online database of all children admitted; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an online database of PAPs registered with the current status of their application;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre and Post adoption counseling to children and matching of the child with PAP; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counsel biological parents/unwed mother surrendering the child; pre and post adoption counselling to all PAPs;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare Child Study Report and other documents / assist CWC with the enquiry; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out Home Study Report and match the child with PAPs;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate placement of the child either in adoption or in pre adoption foster care; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate placement of the child in pre-adoption foster care;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Court process for adoption or placement of a child; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Court procedures for adoption or placement of a child;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post adoption follow-up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post adoption follow -up.



What is the Cradle Baby Reception Centre?

ICPS envisages the setting up of the a CBRC in every district to receive abandoned babies and look after them with due care and affection until they are given in adoption. The DCPS shall nominate a SAA as the CBRC in the district which will be linked to Cradle Points that are set up in the Primary Health Centres, Hospitals /Nursing Homes, Swadhar Homes and also in the office of the DCPS. The CBRC shall have all provisions for proper medical treatment and fulfilment of all the basic needs of the child and also ensure that efforts are taken to place the child in a family.

SPONSORSHIP

What is Sponsorship?

Sponsorship Programme is a pilot initiative of the Government of India under the ICPS to provide support services to families at risk. It is the provision of supplementary financial support to such families to meet the educational, medical, nutritional and other needs of children in order to improve the quality of their lives.

Who will benefit from the Sponsorship Programme?

The Sponsorship Programme is targeted to two categories of children:

- Rehabilitative measure: Children in institutions who can be restored to families (de-institutionalization)
- Preventive measure: Children in conditions of extreme deprivation in families with income not exceeding Rs.12,000 per year. The objective is to reduce the vulnerability of these children and prevent them from being placed in institutions.

FOSTER CARE

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is an arrangement in which a child lives, usually on a temporary basis, with an extended or unrelated family member. This arrangement is for those children whose parents are unable to care for them due to sickness or any other crisis. The aim is to eventually unite the child with his/her family when the family circumstances improve and also to prevent institutionalisation of the child on such grounds.

What is the role of the Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC)?

The SFCAC shall be constituted in every district to review and sanction sponsorship (for preventive measures only) and manage the Foster Care fund. The SFCAC shall meet every month to review and process the applications placed before the Committee.

What is the Funding Pattern of the Sponsorship and Foster Care Programme?

ICPS has allocated Rs. 5 lakhs as the Sponsorship and Foster Care Fund for every district. A Sponsorship amount of Rs. 500/- and a Foster Care assistance of Rs. 750/- is allotted per child per month. State Governments are encouraged to provide additional grants based on the need.

AFTER CARE

What do we mean by After Care?

The ICPS supported After Care Programme is designed for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Those children, who, upon leaving institutional care have no family or any other means of support, will benefit from this Programme.

An After Care Programme is necessary as most of the children in institutional care have nowhere to go once they reach the age of 18 years, or after their discharge from the institution. The purpose of the programme is to prepare children to sustain themselves during the transition from the institution to an independent life.

What are the different services that can be provided in an After Care Programme?

Any of the following services can be offered to the child for a period of three years after leaving the institution:

- Group homes
- Linkages to vocational training
- Employment counseling
- Needs-based education
- Education stipend
- Loans for entrepreneurial services
- Provision of basic needs such as food, clothing, bedding, etc

What is the role of DCPS in implementing the After Care Programme?

The DCPS shall identify suitable voluntary organizations or NGOs that can provide After Care Programmes. The DCPS shall release grants up to a maximum of Rs. 2,000/- per child per month to the NGO implementing the After Care Programme to meet the basic needs of the child/youth including food, clothing, health care and shelter; age appropriate and needs-based education and vocational training; stipend; and any other requirements.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION – THE LAST RESORT

Why do children need institutional care?

Institutionalization, though the last resort for children, cannot be done away with totally as there are some children who have no families, or for whom the family is an unsafe place, require institutional services to provide for their care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation.

Why is institutionalization considered as the last resort?

International and national instruments and legislations repeatedly articulate a clear message that institutionalization of children should be considered as the last resort, and that too for a minimum possible duration. The Guiding Principles of ICPS also convey the same message i.e. the urgent need to shift the focus of interventions from an over-reliance on institutionalization of children and move towards more family-based and community-based alternatives of care.

It is the right of every child to grow up in a loving and caring family, and children are best cared for in a family. It is in the best interest of children who do not have a family due to reasons of being abandoned, orphaned or surrendered, that they are placed in family based alternative care programmes such as Adoption or Foster Care as early as possible.



What are the provisions under ICPS for Institutional Care?

ICPS provides adequate funds for the maintenance of existing children's institutions, upgradation of facilities, and also for the construction of new homes in districts where there is a need.

ICPS also ensures that minimum standards of care and protection prescribed in the JJ Act 2000 and Central Rules, focussing on the holistic development of children are adhered to in the institutions.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE & PROTECTION

What are Shelter Homes?

Shelter Homes are established to provide temporary residential care for children without parental care, run-away or migrant children. The State Government shall recognise voluntary organisations to set up these homes with day and night shelter facilities, in every district or group of districts, and ICPS shall provide financial assistance to facilitate the establishment of such homes.

What are Children's Homes?

Children's Homes shall be set up in every district or group of districts by the State Government either by itself or in agreement with voluntary organisations, to receive children who are in need of residential care and protection during the pendency of any inquiry and subsequently for their long-term care and rehabilitation.

These homes shall serve as a home-away-from-home and provide comprehensive child care facilities to children to ensure their comprehensive development and plan for their reintegration and rehabilitation into mainstream society.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW

What are Observation Homes?

Observation Homes are established for the temporary reception of children in conflict with law during the pendency of their inquiry before the Juvenile Justice Boards. The State Government shall set up these homes in each district or group of districts with financial support from ICPS.

What are Special Homes?

Special Homes are set up for the reception and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law as per the JJ Act 2000. On completion of inquiry, if the JJB is of the opinion that the child needs to be placed in an institution, an order is passed for placing the child in a Special Home for his rehabilitation. Placement of children in these homes is restricted to a period of three years as per the JJ Act 2000, and the State Government is required to set up Special Homes in a district or group of districts either by itself or under an agreement with a voluntary organisation.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

What facilities are available for children with special needs?

ICPS provides an additional component to institutions having children with special needs, and encourages the State Government to either integrate the programme for children with special needs into its existing institutions, or support the setting up of specialized homes for such children. A separate home for such children shall be set up only in situations where there are a large number of children with special needs in a district or group of districts.

Children who are either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, those who are victims of drug abuse, and those with either physical or mental disability are some of the children identified as children with special needs. These children are in need of specialized care and services to meet their health, nutrition, education and other basic needs as well as emotional well-being.





What are the provisions for capacity building under ICPS?

Training of ICPS professionals is one of the activities to be undertaken on a priority basis, as comprehensive services need to be provided to children in difficult circumstances. Hence, the newly-appointed ICPS functionaries and the existing human resources at all levels will be trained and sensitized to provide child-friendly services.

Who is responsible for training the ICPS professionals?

The National Institution of Public Co-operation & Child Development (NIPCCD) and its four Regional Centres is the nodal organization for training and capacity-building at the national and regional levels. NIPCCD will be responsible for developing training modules, organizing Training of Trainers (TOTs) as well as conducting regional-level trainings. The SCPS and SARA will have the nodal responsibility of organizing trainings at the State and district levels, and will establish strong linkages with relevant institutions and agencies in this regard.



What is the purpose of advocacy?

Advocacy is an important component of ICPS as the focus is all about changing the mindset of people across all segments of society, including families and communities, and getting them to better understand terms such as 'Child Rights' and 'Child Protection'.

More importantly, most people are unaware of the various Child Protection related schemes/programmes implemented by the Central and State Governments.

In addition, certain child abusive practices such as child/early marriage, child labour, female foeticide/ infanticide are still prevalent in the community.

ICPS has budgetary provision for the State and District Child Protection Societies to undertake advocacy and communication activities relating to all aspects of Child Protection.



CHILD TRACKING SYSTEM

How will the child tracking system function?

The Child Tracking System will be set up by the Central Project Support Unit (CPSU) under ICPS at the National level. The CPSU will develop uniform data entry mechanisms and procedures to enable centralized coordination through the effective use of web-enabled software specifically developed for this purpose.

At the State-level, the SPSU and SCPS, with support of DCPS, will set up and manage this Child Tracking System.

The system will have two components – the web-enabled Child Protection Management Information System (MIS) and the website for Missing Children.

What is the web-enabled Child Protection Management Information System (MIS)?

The web-enabled Child Protection Management Information System is database which has information relating to services available for children in difficult circumstances across the country. Information on location and contact details of all police stations, child care institutions, hospitals, primary health care systems, paediatricians, members of CWCs, JJBs, CHILDLINE services etc. will be available online.

Database of all children in both institutional and non-institutional care will also be compiled by the DCPS and form part of the MIS.

The ultimate goal is to develop a comprehensive, integrated, live database for children in need of care and protection in India. This would be a pilot initiative of the ICPS in selected States and then gradually expanded to the entire country.

What is the website for Missing Children?

ICPS envisages setting up of a National website on Missing Children with linkages to SCPS and DCPS which shall form a part of the Child Protection data management system.

Such a website would generate a systematic and centralized mechanism for tracking a large number of children who either run away from home, or are missing for various reasons, and thus facilitate their recovery and rehabilitation.





What are the ICPS structures at State-level responsible for implementation of the Scheme?

ICPS proposes to set up the following structures at the State-level each with its own responsibility and functions:

- **State Child Protection Society (SCPS)** – the fundamental unit and the nodal body in the State for implementation of the scheme;
- **State Project Support Unit (SPSU)** – a unit to support SCPS in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes;
- **State Child Protection Committee (SCPC)** – for monitoring and maintaining liaison with SCPS;
- **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)** – to coordinate, monitor and develop the work of Adoption programme;
- **State Adoption Advisory Committee (SAAC)** - to promote, implement, supervise and monitor family-based non-institutional programmes for children.



What are the functions of SCPS?

S.No	Functions of State Child Protection Society (SCPS)
1.	Formulate the State Child Protection Policy and State Plan of Action;
2.	Ensure effective implementation, supervision and monitoring of ICPS and other Child Protection schemes/programmes and institutions at the State level;
3.	Set up the District Child Protection Societies (DCPS), ensure proper fund flow for all the schemes and monitor their functioning;
4.	Ensure effective implementation of all legislations pertaining to children and also ensure compulsory registration of all children's institutions under the JJ Act 2000;
5.	Network with all allied government departments and voluntary organizations;
6.	Conduct research related to children and capacity-building of all ICPS professionals;
7.	Prepare IEC materials and create a State-level database on children.

What are the functions of SARA?

SARA is the nodal agency in the State to coordinate, monitor and develop the adoption programme. The specific functions of SARA are:

- Facilitate setting up of the Adoption Co-ordinating Agencies (ACAs), and the specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs), supervise their functioning, ensure coordination between them and maintain a comprehensive list of the agencies;
- Promote in-country and inter-country adoption in coordination with the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) and ensure that all adoptions are legalized;
- Maintain a centralized (state-specific) web-based database of adoptable children and the prospective adoptive parents with the help of DCPS;
- Capacity-building of all staff and sensitization of all agencies and allied systems;
- Advocacy, disseminating of IEC materials and periodic reporting to CARA on implementation of the Adoption programme.

What is the SPSU and its role in ICPS implementation?

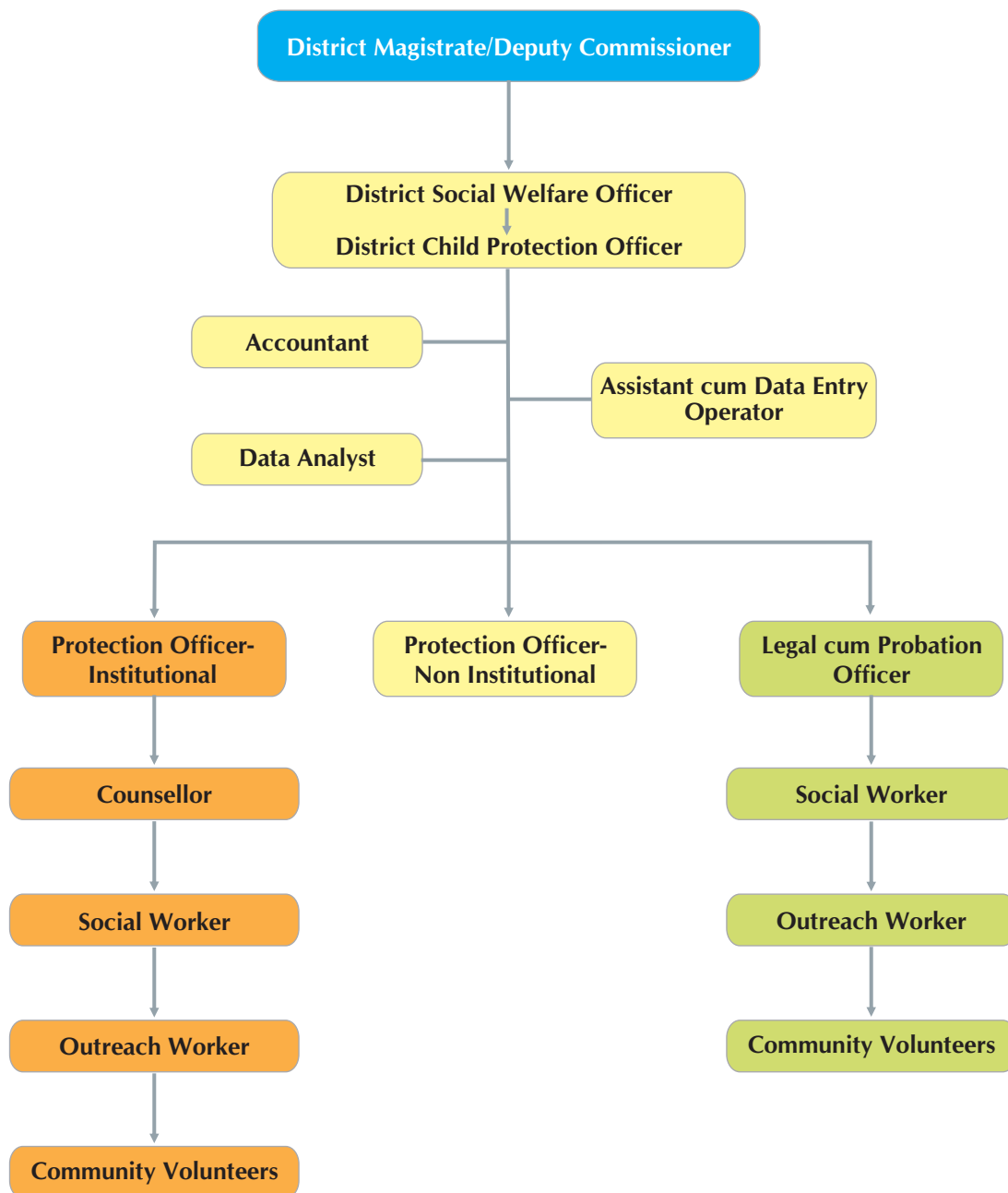
The SPSU ensures effective implementation of ICPS in the State and will report directly to the Central Project Support Unit (CPSU) at the National level. The SPSU will be operational only during the initial implementation of the Scheme in the State, and will undertake the following activities:

- Develop the Plan of Action for implementation of ICPS in the State;
- Facilitate setting up of required structures under ICPS;
- Collect and compile information on status of Child Protection in the State;
- Co-ordinate training, sensitization and capacity building;
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of ICPS in the State.



STRUCTURES AT DISTRICT-LEVEL

What is the structure of the District Child Protection Society (DCPS)?



What is the infrastructure at the District-level?

District Child Protection Society (DCPS): Is the fundamental unit in the district for implementation of ICPS, and is responsible to coordinate all Child Protection activities in the district;

- District Child Protection Committee (DCPC);
- Block-level Child Protection Committee (BCPC);
- Village-level Child Protection Committee (VCPC).

What are the functions of DCPS?

S.No	Functions of District Child Protection Society (DCPS)
1.	Undertake needs assessment, mapping of services and support implementation of non-institutional programmes;
2.	Coordinate and implement all Child Rights and Children Protection activities at district level;
3.	Set up the District, Block and Village level Child Protection Committees for effective implementation of the programme;
4.	Facilitate effective implementation of all Child Protection legislations, schemes, adhering to the National or State Rules and guidelines;
5.	Network and coordinate with all government allied departments and voluntary organizations at the district level;
6.	Capacity building of all professionals working under the Child Protection system and liaise with the State Child Protection Society (SCPS), State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) and DCPSs of other districts;
7.	Maintain a database of all children availing services at the district level and provide secretarial support to the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC).

What are the functions of the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC)?

The DCPC is responsible for supervising and monitoring the activities of the DCPS and the overall implementation of ICPS at the district level. It shall consist of representatives members from allied government departments such as health, education, labour, housing, judiciary, home, railways; members of local bodies such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), as well as representatives of voluntary organizations and civil society.

What are the functions of the Block-level Child Protection Committee (BCPC)?

A Child Protection Committee is set up in every block (ward in a city) to recommend and monitor the implementation of Child Protection services at the block level. The Block level elected representative shall be the Chairperson of the Committee and the Block Development Officer (BDO) shall be the Member Secretary. It shall also have members of the DCPS, an ICDS functionary, representatives of education and health departments, the Chairperson of the Village-level Child Protection Committee, civil society representatives and community members.

What are the functions of the Village-level Child Protection Committee (VCPC)?

The VCPC is set up in every village to recommend and monitor the implementation of Child Protection services at the village level. The Head of the Gram Panchayat, a village-level elected representative, will be the Chairperson of the Committee. It shall also consist of two child representatives, a member of the DCPS, anganwadi workers, school teachers, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), as well as respected village members and civil society representatives.



How will ICPS Implementation be monitored?

At the National-level, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is responsible for monitoring and supervising the implementation of ICPS in the States.

At the State-level, the Secretary, Department of Social Welfare is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Scheme and will also conduct an Annual Review. The State Child Protection Committee (SCPC) and members of other allied government departments will also be involved in the monitoring process and State-specific indicators will be developed for this purpose.

At the District level, the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) will be responsible to monitor the implementation of the Scheme based on district-specific indicators. Members from allied government department such as health, education, labour, railways, judiciary, etc as well as from the local bodies such as the PRIs and ULB, civil society, etc. will be part of this exercise.



What is the role of the Government in implementing ICPS?

The Ministry of Women and Development, Government of India, is the key player and has the primary responsibility for the development and funding of the Scheme. Ninety per cent (90%) of the funds for North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir will be from the Centre and only 10 per cent is the State's contribution.

The responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations is to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme by speedy devolution and utilization of funds. The Government shall attract the best professional talent and strengthen public-private partnership. ICPS proposes to hire the services of professionals for most of the posts on a contractual basis.



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