

WHP PROJECTS IN BIHAR

Providing Sustainable Solutions on Scale

Bihar, India's most densely populated state¹, has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years. But it remains one of the poorest states in the country. In Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report 2021, highest number of malnourished people were reported in Bihar. The state also ranked at the bottom in various other categories, including percentage of population deprived of maternal health, percentage of population deprived of years of schooling, school attendance, and percentage of population deprived of cooking fuel and electricity².

Over the last one and a half decade, World Health Partners (WHP) has been working closely with Bihar Government in improving health outcomes in the state. WHP's key focus areas in Bihar includes supporting the state's efforts in eliminating TB, expanding the coverage of family planning services; and promotion of tele-health consultations through an entrepreneurship model. Recently, WHP has also rolled-out tele-education services for rural schools and livelihood programmes.

Public Private Service Agency (PPSA)

The Government of Bihar has mandated WHP as a Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) to implement TB services in eight districts (Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Gaya, Katihar, Munger, Nalanda, Patna and Saharsa) of the state under the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP). These eight districts are divided into two clusters - having four districts each and covering 36 million population approximately. The Bihar PPSA project began on June 1, 2020 and has led to 101,409 notifications till May 2023. It includes 55% males and 45% females. UDST and HIV/DM testing has been done for 63,807 and 95,674 patients respectively. Under the project, cumulatively 3,464 providers have been engaged across eight districts, among which 1,538 are qualified providers, 281 chemists, 132 laboratories and 1,513 informal providers.



PPSA model provides end-to-end management of TB from diagnosis to treatment completion

The PPSA model replicates on a much larger scale the design of the Public Private Interface Agency (PPIA) project, which WHP had implemented earlier with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in Bihar.

Family Planning



Providing accurate information and a range of contraceptives offers result in informed decision making

WHP is supporting the Government of Bihar in reducing the State's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (from 3 to 2.1 by 2025) through female sterilization and No-scalpel vasectomy (NSV). The programme functions in a public-private partnership mode at public health centers (PHCs), the first level of rural care and health infrastructural facilities, with professional sterilization expertise from WHP. Outreach activities in catchment areas helps WHP in attracting potential clients.

Family planning services constituted WHP's core activity in Bihar since the beginning of its operations a decade and a half ago. Since February 2020, WHP has organised 918 camps and conducted a total of 14,253 sterilizations in select blocks of Vaishali, Gaya, Katihar, Muzaffarpur, Motihari (East Champaran), and Siwan, with the support of respective District Health Societies (DHS). The model's comprehensive bouquet of services (beneficiary counseling and screening, lab investigation, pre-operative investigation, female sterilization and NSV, post-operative counseling, and post-operative medicine) has potential for expansion across the entire state

1. <https://www.indiacensus.net/density.php>

2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/bihar-poor-nfh-survey-mpi-niti-aayog-7643708/>

Entrepreneurship Model: Sky Health Centres



A patient consulting with a city-based doctor through video conferencing

WHP's Sky Health Entrepreneur Network is helping rural and remote population to seek health advice from qualified city doctors. This pioneering initiative uses special technology and software, and local providers as a means to facilitate patient consultation. Since 2009, WHP has established a network of 1,846 rural entrepreneurs in 13 districts of Bihar. Till June 30, 2023, a total of 117,125 doctor consultations have been done in Bihar. Sky Health Network is an entrepreneur-driven initiative that is benefitting both local providers and people to access health care advice within walkable distance. The Entrepreneurs' Network has been one of the highlights of WHP's operations so far. It has gone through many phases and is now poised to enter a new phase that underlines achieving long-term sustainability without external support.

Bringing City Standard of Education to Interior Schools

WHP is imparting quality online education to children in private non-formal schools in rural areas of Bihar to bridge the existing learning gap due to factors like lack of quality teachers and learning materials. It has developed an in-house digital application to connect city-based teachers with rural pupils in real-time in real class rooms through large television sets and support equipment. The classes are being conducted on a schedule similar to what regular city schools follow and, barring the physical absence of the teacher, all interactions are as in a regular classroom.

Currently, the digital classroom initiative has been launched in four districts and 10 schools having 1,560 students have enrolled for the classes.

WHP's plan is to use the inclusive schooling provision that the central government has created through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), which does not require students to attend recognised schools but whose graduation is held at par with the benchmark Central Board of Secondary Education. NIOS has many employment-focused courses, the latest of which is for military recruitment through the Agniveer model.



Digital classrooms enabling rural schools to connect with city-based teachers

World Health Partners (WHP) is a non-profit Indian society that sets up programs to bring sustainable healthcare within easy access to underserved and vulnerable communities. It innovatively harnesses already available resources more efficiently by using evidence-based management and technological solutions. WHP is best known for its programs focused on early detection and treatment of tuberculosis in urban and rural settings supported by community-based activities to ensure prevention. The organization uses all available resources - both in the public and private sectors to ensure that people living in any part of the country will have access to high-quality treatment.

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