



# Child Protection in India

*Supporting Vulnerable Children without Family Care*

CHILDREN FIRST



Protecting children is at the heart of UNICEF's global mission. In India, it is estimated that 1.5 million children live in residential care institutions. Many complex factors have resulted in such a high number of kids living in residential care including poverty, conflict, civil strife, climate change and poorly designed policies in regards to child protection.

Kids in these settings often miss out on the things that come with loving family care, including the opportunity to develop emotional and social skills essential for development and well-being.

In many cases, institutions are privately run and poorly regulated. An inadequate care environment can leave children extremely vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation and physical violence.

Knowing that residential care is sometimes the only option for some children, **UNICEF is implementing an innovative three-year program that supports the needs of an estimated 200,000 kids across several states in India; protecting them from violence and neglect while transforming services and empowering children's development.**

Specifically, the program will:

- **Enforce standards of care:** UNICEF will support the establishment of a system to monitor and enforce standards of care, targeting residential care institutions in Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- **Strengthen the child protection workforce:** UNICEF will promote child-centered case management and develop trainings to ensure that child protection actors have the knowledge, skills and expertise to provide quality support for children without family care.
- **Provide services for vulnerable families:** Support services will be provided to vulnerable families across 50 districts to ensure that at-risk children are able to stay with their families, if possible.
- **Model alternatives:** To learn more about alternative child care experiences, including community-based care, UNICEF will develop a model in three states, document findings, and scale-up successful models to benefit even more children.

**This critical program will ensure that thousands of children in India who have been left without family care can be given a second chance to grow in loving, stable, nurturing and protective environments.**

For more information or to make a gift, please contact: Werner Orellana, [worellana@unicefusa.org](mailto:worellana@unicefusa.org) or 917-720-1321