



## BUDGET BRIEFS

Vol 13/Issue 3

# Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Gol, 2021-22

### Integrated Child

**Development Services** is Government of India's (Gol's) flagship programme aimed at providing basic education, health, and nutrition services for early childhood development. It has now been combined with POSHAN Abhiyaan to form Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0.

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, this brief uses government data to analyse:

- Required funds, allocations, and releases;
- Changes in coverage and service delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Human resources; and
- Malnutrition status.

### Cost share and implementation:

For the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), funds are shared equally between Gol and state governments. For other components, funds are shared in a 60:40 ratio, except for salaries which are shared in a 25:75 ratio. For states in the North Eastern Region (NER) and Himalayan states, the ratio is 90:10.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**₹ 24,435 cr**

Gol allocations for Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in FY 2021-22

**₹ 20,105 cr**

Gol allocations for Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 in FY 2021-22

### SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

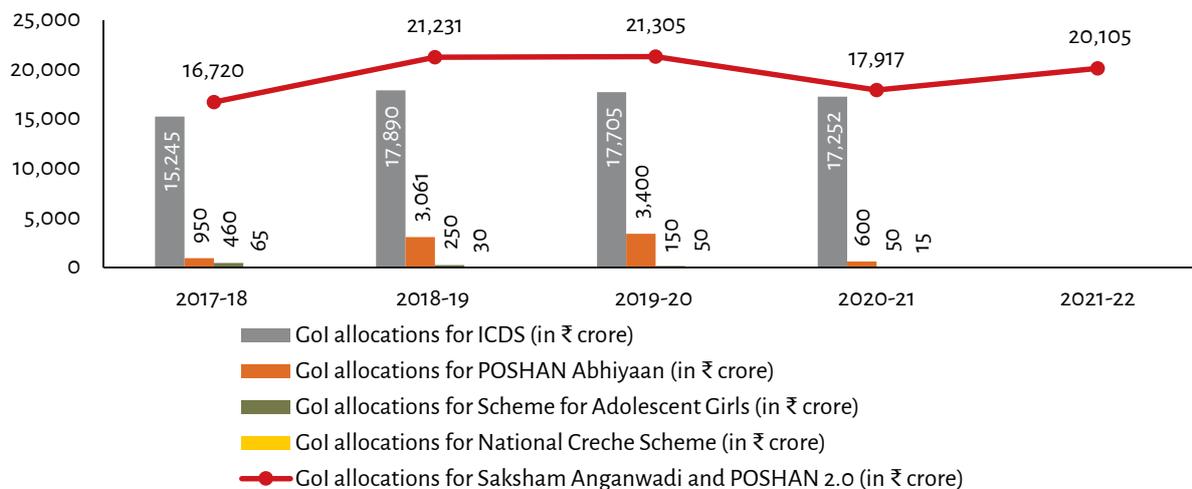
- In Budget 2021-22, Gol announced the launch of Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, combining several schemes including ICDS, POSHAN (Prime Minister's Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and the National Creche Scheme. For Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, allocations stood at ₹20,105 crore. This is lower than Budget Estimates (BEs) in FY 2020-21 for the erstwhile ICDS which stood at ₹20,532 crore.
- SNP is the largest component of ICDS. Despite closure of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, provision of SNP continued with a focus on Take Home Ration and Ready-to-Eat meals. Consequently, fund releases for SNP were 3 per cent higher in FY 2020-21 till December than the same period in the previous year.
- The ICDS-General component which is responsible for salaries, honorarium, infrastructure, and Pre-School Education was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gol releases for the component decreased by 14 per cent between December 2019 and December 2020.
- Many states showed slow progress on reducing malnutrition. The fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) in 2019-20 found that, compared to the previous round in 2015-16, stunting among children under five years of age increased in 13 out of 22 states and Union Territories (UTs) for which data are available. Similarly, wasting increased in 12 states and UTs.

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is Government of India's (Gol's) flagship programme aimed at providing basic education, health, and nutrition services for early childhood development.
- In Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, Gol restructured ICDS and POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan into Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0. This consists of the following sub-schemes:
  - The erstwhile ICDS;
  - POSHAN Abhiyaan;
  - Scheme for Adolescent Girls; and
  - National Creche Scheme.
- **Details of the new scheme are still awaited. This brief thus focusses on the erstwhile ICDS.**
- The objectives of the scheme are to:
  - Improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years;
  - Lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical, and social development of children;
  - Reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition, and school dropouts;
  - Achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation among the various departments to promote child development; and
  - Enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.
- These objectives are met through a package of six services. These are: Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP); Non-formal Pre-School Education (PSE); Nutrition and health education; Immunisation; Health check-ups; and Referral Services.
- The first three services are provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), and the remaining three are delivered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). Convergence across ministries is viewed as critical, and is built in with Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) as the main platform for all services provided across ministries.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the public system. Consequently, the scheme's plans, targets, outputs, and outcomes were impacted in FY 2020-21.

## ALLOCATIONS

- For FY 2021-22 Budget Estimates (BEs), Gol allocated ₹24,435 crore to MWCD - a 16 per cent increase from the previous financial year's Revised Estimates (REs). This, however, was 19 per cent lower than FY 2020-21 BEs.
- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease in expenditures across ministries. Till December 2020, 49 per cent of MWCD's initial allocations had been spent.
- ICDS was the largest scheme run by MWCD, accounting for 68 per cent of its allocations in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21. In FY 2020-21 REs, ₹17,252 crore was allocated to ICDS. This was 3 per cent lower than REs for FY 2019-20 which stood at ₹17,705 crore.
- In FY 2021-22 BEs, ₹20,105 crore was allocated to Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0. This was lower than the sum of its components in the previous year's BEs, which stood at ₹24,557 crore. Furthermore, these are 2 per cent or ₹427 crore lower than even the allocations for the erstwhile ICDS in FY 2020-21 BEs.

## ₹20,105 CRORE ALLOCATED TO SAKSHAM ANGANWADI AND POSHAN 2.0 IN 2021-22



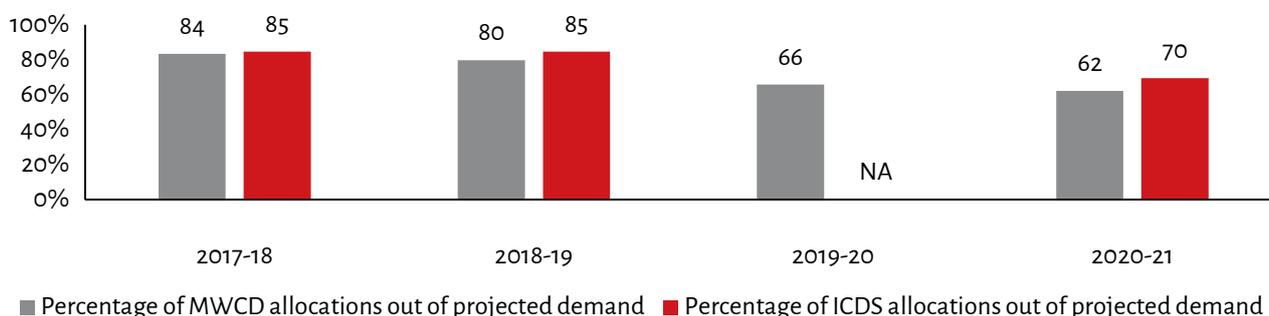
**Source:** Union Expenditure Budget, Volume 2, MWCD, FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-22. Available online at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in>. Last accessed on 1 February 2021.

**Note:** (1) Figures are in crores of Rupees and are Revised Estimates (REs), except for FY 2021-22 which are Budget Estimates (BEs). (2) Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 was launched in FY 2021-22, and amounts for FY 2017-18 to FY 2020-21 are for the sum of allocations for ICDS, POSHAN Abhiyaan, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and the National Creche Scheme.

### Projected Demand

- Even prior to the expenditure reduction due to the pandemic, actual budgetary allocations to MWCD had failed to keep up with the Ministry's projected demand. In FY 2019-20, MWCD had projected ₹39,722 crore for all schemes. REs, however, stood at ₹26,185 crore or 66 per cent of the projected demand. In FY 2020-21, the proportion of funds allocated out of projected demand decreased further to 62 per cent of the demand by MWCD.
- The trend has been similar for ICDS. The proportion of ICDS allocations out of projected demand was at or over 80 per cent in FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19, and stood at 70 per cent (₹7,558 crore less) than projected demand in FY 2020-21 REs.

### ALLOCATIONS FOR ICDS IN 2020-21 WERE ₹7,558 CRORE LESS THAN PROJECTED DEMAND



**Source:** (1) Projected demand from 304<sup>th</sup> Rajya Sabha committee report: Demand for Grants FY 2018-19 (Demand No. 98) of MWCD, dated 9 March 2018. Available online at: [https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/Committee\\_site/Committee\\_File/ReportFile/16/98/304\\_2018\\_9\\_15.pdf](https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/Committee_site/Committee_File/ReportFile/16/98/304_2018_9_15.pdf). Last accessed on 16 December 2020. (2) Projected demand from 314<sup>th</sup> Rajya Sabha committee report: Demand for Grants FY 2020-21 (Demand No. 100) of MWCD, dated 6 March 2020. Available online at: [https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/Committee\\_site/Committee\\_File/ReportFile/16/123/314\\_2020\\_3\\_14.pdf](https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/Committee_site/Committee_File/ReportFile/16/123/314_2020_3_14.pdf). Last accessed on 16 December 2020. (3) REs are from Union Expenditure Budget, Volume 2, MWCD, FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21. Available online at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in>. Last accessed on 1 February 2021.

**Note:** (1) Data on ICDS projected demand not available for FY 2019-20. (2) Figures for allocations are REs.

# TRENDS IN COMPONENT-WISE RELEASES

## Annual Programme Implementation Plans (APIPs)

- Since 2012, approved budgets under ICDS are based on state-wise plans known as Annual Programme Implementation Plans (APIPs). These APIPs are to be prepared following a decentralised planning process wherein blocks, districts, and other key stakeholders are meant to be consulted before finalisation. The plans are then submitted to Gol for approval.
- The ICDS budget consists of two main components: a) SNP; and b) ICDS-General (ICDS-G).
  - **SNP:** Under SNP, Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) are provided to children aged three to six years for 300 days based on their malnutrition levels, and Take Home Ration (THR) are provided to children aged six months to three years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and adolescent girls.

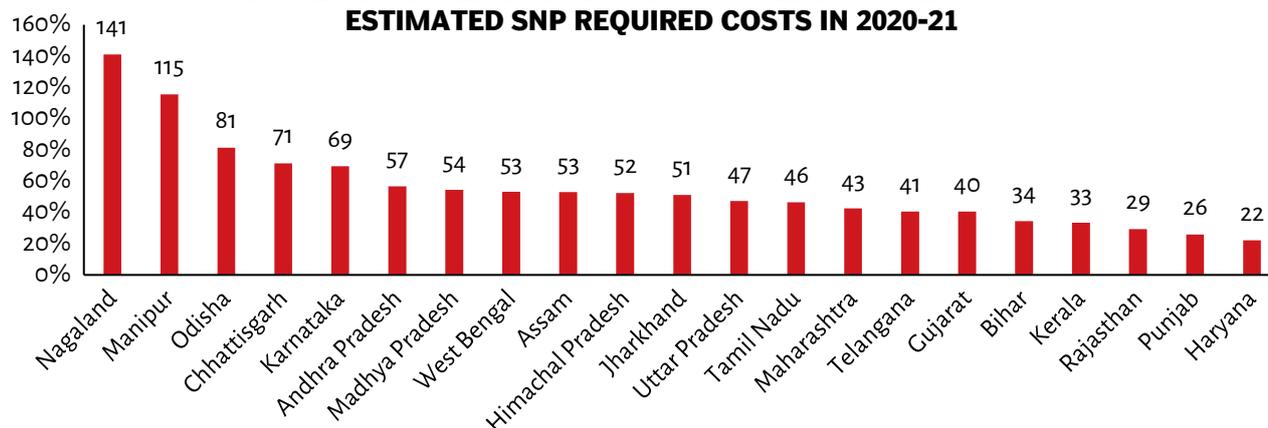
In September 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal for the revision of cost norms with annual cost indexation for SNP. As per these revised norms, per day costs of SNP are ₹8 for children, ₹9.50 for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls; and ₹12 for severely malnourished children. No changes have been made to these norms since 2017. However, many states provide additional funds for SNP, over and above the minimum norms.

- **ICDS-G:** Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) are local women volunteers responsible for the implementation of the programme. Expenditure on the ICDS-G component includes spending on salary for mid-level managers, officials, and other staff, honoraria for AWWs and AWHs, rent in case the AWC is running in the AWW's/AWH's house or other rented buildings, expenses on medical and PSE kits for three to six year old children, uniforms, administrative costs, transport costs, etc.

## Gaps between Estimated Funds Required and Allocations for SNP

- Between FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, total Gol approvals for SNP increased by 8 per cent from ₹9,368 crore to ₹10,106 crore. However, these remained below the estimated funds required for supplying SNP. It had accounted for the largest share of the total Gol approved budget for ICDS over time. In FY 2020-21, it comprised 49 per cent of the Gol share of approvals, up from 47 per cent in FY 2019-20.
- In this brief, the estimated required funds were arrived at by multiplying the estimated target population at 'full coverage' i.e. 100 per cent of the estimated target population, by the Gol defined unit cost. The size of the target population in 2020 for each intervention has been estimated by using the natural growth rate to update population figures year-on-year, state-wise. Birth rates have been used from Sample Registration System (SRS) 2019 to estimate the number of pregnant women, part of the target population.
- Information on state shares of approvals was unavailable at the time of writing. Thus, for each state, the total approved budget for SNP has been estimated assuming that the state contributed its entire share as well. These estimated figures have been considered as a proportion of the required costs. This method, however, does not account for states adding extra funds over and above their share. Further, it does not include states extending SNP services, such as Karnataka providing HCM to pregnant and lactating women.
- In FY 2020-21, at full coverage, it was estimated that ₹40,974 crore was required to fund SNP. Total approved budgets (using both Gol and state shares), however, stood at ₹19,036 crore. This was 47 per cent of the required costs.
- There were variations across states. NER states such as Nagaland and Manipur had allocated more than the estimated requirements. In contrast, the proportion of total approved budgets were less than half the required funds in Uttar Pradesh (47 per cent), Tamil Nadu (46 per cent), Maharashtra (43 per cent), Telangana (41 per cent), Gujarat (40 per cent), Bihar (34 per cent), Kerala (33 per cent), Rajasthan (29 per cent), Punjab (26 per cent), and Haryana (22 per cent).

### TOTAL APPROVED BUDGETS ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 47% OF ESTIMATED SNP REQUIRED COSTS IN 2020-21



■ Percentage of SNP approved budgets (Gol and state share) out of total estimated required costs in 2020-21

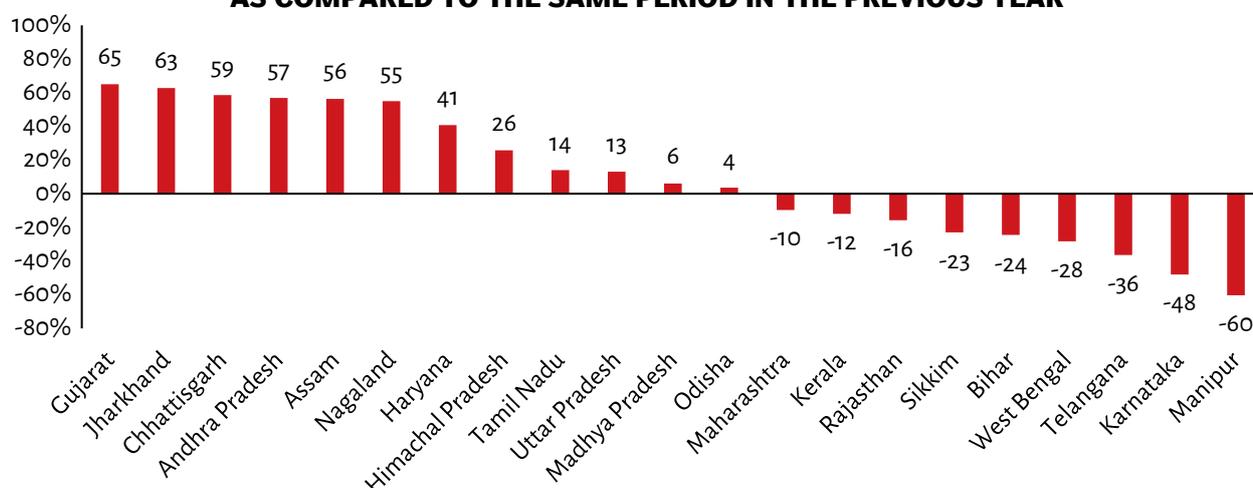
**Source:** (1) Population figures from 2011 Census and updated year-on-year using annual natural growth rates from Sample Registration System Bulletins (SRS). Available online at: <http://censusindia.gov.in/>. Last accessed on 16 December 2020. (2) SNP unit costs, 2020-21, Gol approved budgets and state share from the FY 2020-21 APIP. Available online at: [https://icds-wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/APIP\\_2020-21.pdf](https://icds-wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/APIP_2020-21.pdf). Last accessed on 16 December 2020.

**Note:** (1) Natural Growth Rate for 2014 was unavailable, so it was estimated by averaging the Natural Growth Rate of previous year (2013) and the subsequent year (2015). Natural Growth Rate 2019 was unavailable and thus, 2018 figures have been used instead. (2) The number of 0-6 month old children and 6-12 month old children was obtained by dividing the number of 0-1 year old children by two.

### Gol releases for SNP

- To understand the impact of COVID-19 on release of funds for SNP, data on releases have been analysed in two ways. First, a comparison has been undertaken of the total quantum of funds released by Gol between April and December 2020 versus the same period in the previous fiscal year. Second, since approved budgets increased in FY 2020-21, the proportion of Gol releases out of Gol approved budgets has also been examined.
- In FY 2020-21, ₹6,625 crore had been released till December, 3 per cent higher than the same period in the previous year. There were, however, state differences. Twelve states and UTs received fewer funds compared to the same period in the previous year. The decline was more than 25 per cent for states such as West Bengal (28 per cent), Telangana (36 per cent), Karnataka (48 per cent), and Manipur (60 per cent).

### 3% INCREASE IN SNP RELEASES IN 2020-21 FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER AS COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

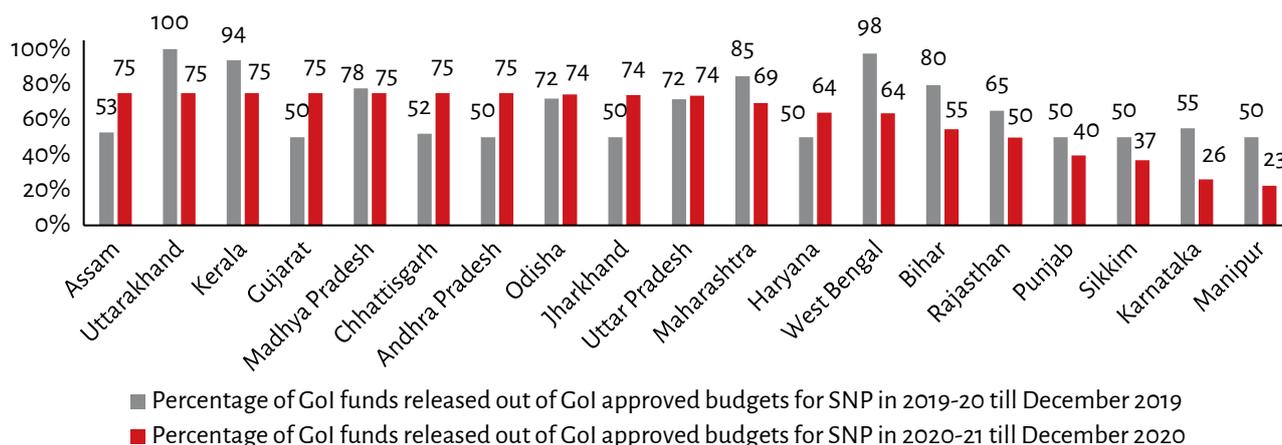


■ Quantum change in SNP releases during April to December in 2019-20 and 2020-21

**Source:** SNP releases for 2019-20 and 2020-21 from ICDS website. Available online at: <https://icds-wcd.nic.in/finance.aspx>. Last accessed on 14 January 2021.

- As a proportion of approved budget, however, Gol releases remained marginally lower than the same period in the previous year. For instance, while Gol had released 68 per cent of its share for SNP in FY 2019-20 (till December), it released 66 per cent in FY 2020-21 (till December).
- For 16 states and UTs, Gol had released 75 per cent of its share by December 2020, including Assam, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh. The share of Gol releases out of Gol approved budgets in FY 2020-21 till December was more than 10 percentage points higher than in FY 2019-20 (till December) in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Haryana.

### GOI RELEASED 68% OF ITS SHARE FOR SNP IN 2019-20 TILL DECEMBER, AND 66% IN 2020-21 TILL DECEMBER

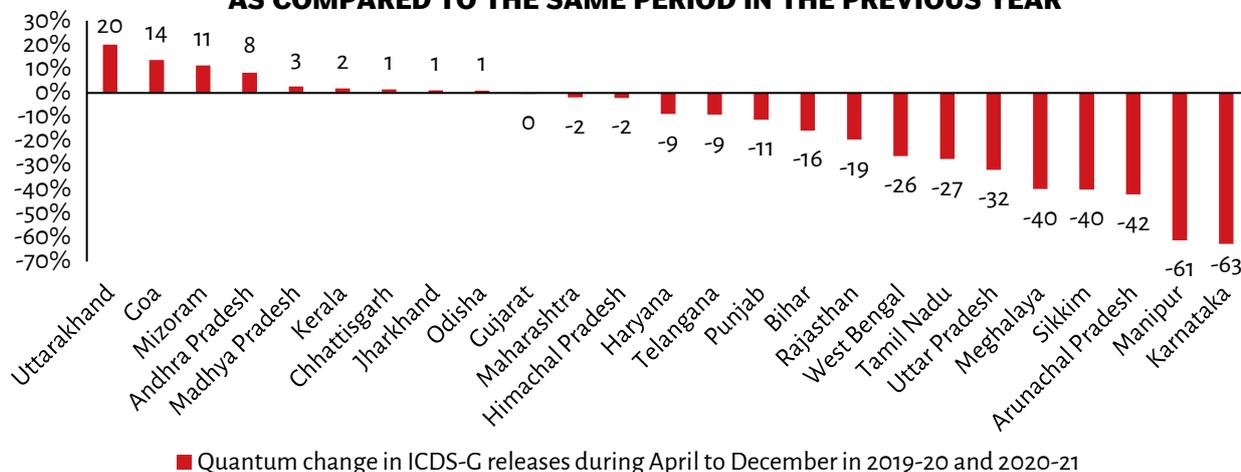


**Source:** (1) Approvals from ICDS APIP FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21. Available online at: <https://icds-wcd.nic.in/finance.aspx>. (2) SNP releases for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 from ICDS website. Available online at: <https://icds-wcd.nic.in/finance.aspx>. Last accessed on 14 January 2021.

### Gol releases for ICDS-G

- Unlike SNP, funds released for ICDS-G declined by 14 per cent on average.
- There were, however, state differences. In FY 2020-21 till December, 23 states and UTs received less funds compared to the same period in the previous year. States with the highest decline were Karnataka (63 per cent), Manipur (61 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (42 per cent), Sikkim (40 per cent), Meghalaya (40 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (32 per cent).

### 14% DECLINE IN ICDS-G RELEASES IN 2020-21 FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER AS COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR



**Source:** (1) Approvals from ICDS APIP 2019-20 and 2020-21. Available online at: <https://icds-wcd.nic.in/finance.aspx>. (2) SNP releases for 2019-20 and 2020-21 from ICDS website. Available online at: <https://icds-wcd.nic.in/finance.aspx>. Last accessed on 14 January 2021.

- As a proportion of Gol's approved share, Gol had released 62 per cent of its share for ICDS-G till December 2020 compared to 75 per cent till December 2019.

### State-wise Expenditures

- At the time of publication, updated data on ICDS expenditures were not publicly available. A Right to Information (RTI) query filed in November 2020, was transferred to state governments and UTs as Gol does not maintain complete state-wise and component-wise data.
- The latest figures available are for FY 2018-19, and data on expenditures are only available for Gol's share of releases. In FY 2018-19, across India, ₹8,456 crore or 100 per cent of Gol's releases for SNP, and ₹6,695 crore or 87 per cent of Gol's releases for ICDS-G had been spent.

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SERVICE DELIVERY OF SNP

- On 18 March 2020, the Supreme Court of India noted that non-supply of nutritional food to children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers may lead to large-scale malnourishment, leaving them more vulnerable to COVID-19. The court directed all states to ensure that schemes providing nutritional food are not adversely affected.
- Duly, states responded in various ways. In FY 2020-21, the closure of AWCs meant that while THR was provided even during the lockdown period across most states (in some cases delivered to homes), HCM was replaced by either grain or pre-packaged food. Some states such as Bihar adopted multiple alternatives, including cash transfers and providing dry ration. More examples are given below:

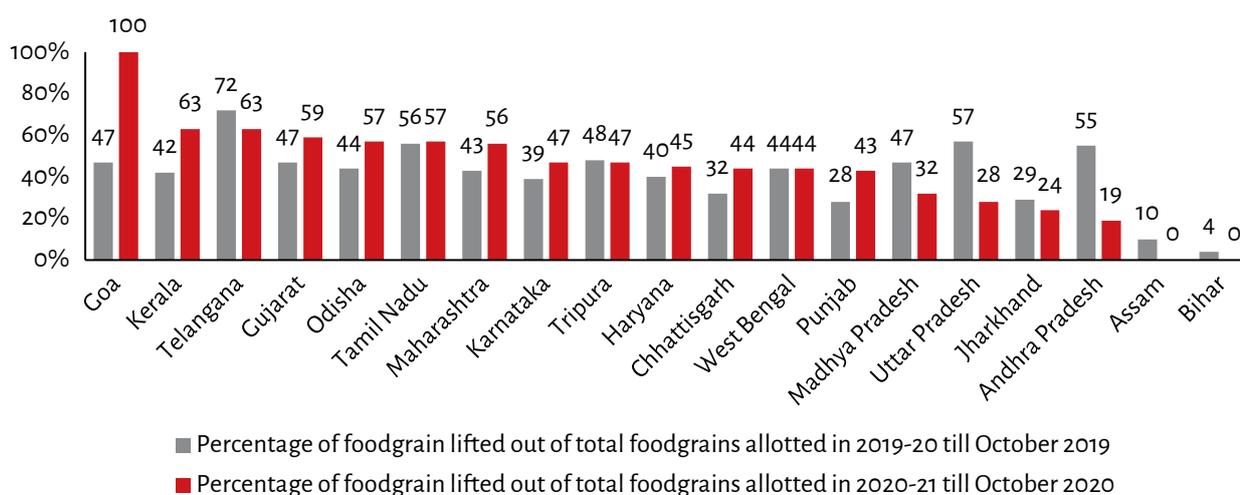
State	Provisions made for eligible beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	THR provided to all eligible beneficiaries.
Bihar	THR and food items provided in lieu of HCM if the supply had been purchased. Cash provided instead of HCM in cases where food supply had not been bought.
	Provision of dry ration including rice, dal, jaggery, and milk powder to children 3-6 years of age in lieu of HCM.
	Cash provided via Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) instead of THR for children aged 6 months to 5 years, pregnant women and lactating women.
Chhattisgarh	Provision of Ready-to-Eat (RTE) packets to children aged 3-6 years old including extra provision for malnourished children in lieu of HCM.
	In addition to existing THR, RTE packaged food provided to pregnant women as an alternative to HCM.
	Dry ration provided as an alternative to HCM under Chhattisgarh Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan.
Jharkhand	THR provided to all beneficiaries including for 3-6 year olds and malnourished children in lieu of HCM.
Madhya Pradesh	THR provided to all beneficiaries including for 3-6 year old and malnourished children in lieu of HCM. Underweight and malnourished children given additional THR.
Maharashtra	Distribution of home cooked food, in the form of THR, including children aged 6 months to 6 years, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls.
Odisha	Ration and eggs provided for morning snacks and HCM for preschool children aged 3-6 years.
	THR provided to children aged 3 months to 3 years and pregnant and lactating women. Dry ration (rice, pulses, oil, condiments, salt, etc.) in lieu of HCM for preschool children aged 3-6 years. Eggs or its substitutes delivered to homes weekly.
Rajasthan	THR provided to children aged 3-6 years in lieu of HCM, and additional THR to severely underweight children.
Uttar Pradesh	THR for children aged 3 months to 6 years, pregnant and lactating women, and out-of-school adolescent girls.
West Bengal	Supplementary Nutrition including 2 kgs rice, 2 kgs potatoes, and 300 grams <i>masur dal</i> provided, irrespective of beneficiary age and category.

- On 13 January 2021, the Supreme Court of India directed GoI, MWCD, and all states and UTs to reopen AWCs situated outside containment zones on or before 31 January 2021. The decision of not opening AWCs was to be taken only after receiving directions to that effect from their respective State Disaster Management Authority.

### Foodgrains Allotted for SNP

- For SNP, foodgrains i.e. wheat or rice are allotted to states and UTs, which can be lifted as per state needs. This is carried out under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), and the Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP). These are lifted from the Food Corporation of India at the same subsidised rates as meant for the Public Distribution System.
- Several states can draw their allocation via the Decentralised Procurement System wherein the state governments purchase grain locally. GoI covers these expenses as per approved costing norms. Some states operating like this are Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. Therefore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these states may not have depended solely on allotment through WBNP.
- In FY 2019-20, 74 per cent of the total amount of foodgrains allotted to states were lifted by them. In FY 2020-21, despite increased requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, total lifting under WBNP remained the same as in FY 2019-20 at 43 per cent.
- There were state-wise variations. Of the total amount allotted, the amount lifted during April to October was relatively higher in FY 2020-21 for Goa, Kerala, Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, and Punjab, compared to FY 2019-20. In fact, for Goa, the entire amount allotted was lifted by October 2020, as compared to 47 per cent by October 2019.
- On the other hand, for states such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Bihar, a lower amount was lifted in FY 2020-21. Uttar Pradesh, for instance, lifted only 28 per cent of its total allotted foodgrains till October 2020 compared to 57 per cent till October 2019. Again, for Andhra Pradesh, 19 per cent of the total allotted amount was lifted in FY 2020-21, compared to 55 per cent in FY 2019-20.

### ASSAM AND BIHAR DID NOT LIFT ANY OF THEIR ALLOTTED FOODGRAINS TILL OCTOBER 2020

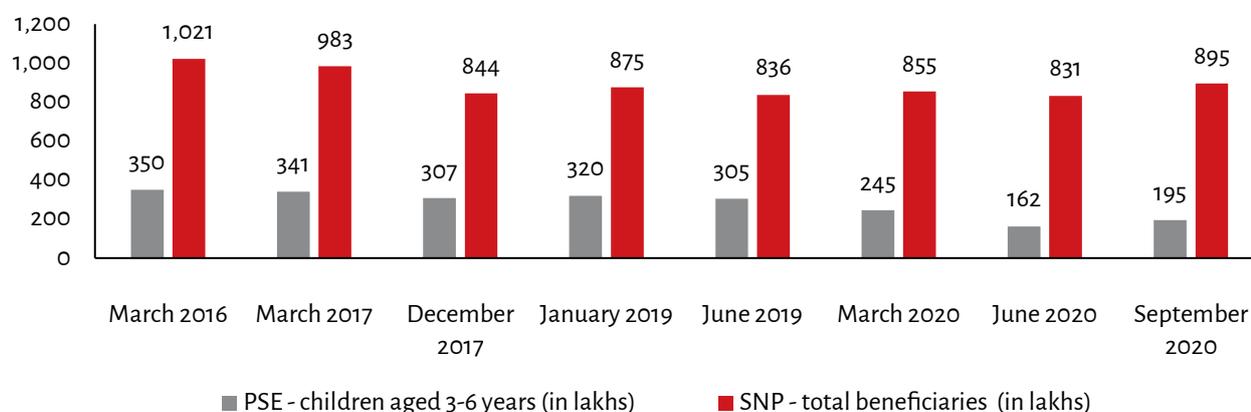


Source: (1) Foodgrains allotted in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Available online at: <https://fci.gov.in/sales.php?view=36>. (2) Foodgrains lifted in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Available online at: <https://dfpd.gov.in/food-grain-bulletin.htm>. Last accessed on 15 November 2020.

## COVERAGE

- The number of eligible people availing SNP services has been decreasing over the years. Between March 2016 and March 2020, beneficiaries receiving SNP fell by 16 per cent from 1,021 lakh to 855 lakh. During the same period, the number of children aged three to six years receiving PSE declined by 30 per cent from 350 lakh to 245 lakh.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent closure of AWCs impacted PSE beneficiaries more than SNP beneficiaries who were still provided THR services in several states. Between March 2020 and June 2020, the number of SNP beneficiaries fell marginally by 3 per cent. The number of PSE beneficiaries, however, declined by 34 per cent.
- Following the lockdown, there has been an increase in people availing both services. Between June 2020 and September 2020, SNP beneficiaries increased from 831 lakh to 895 lakh, and PSE from 162 lakh to 195 lakh.

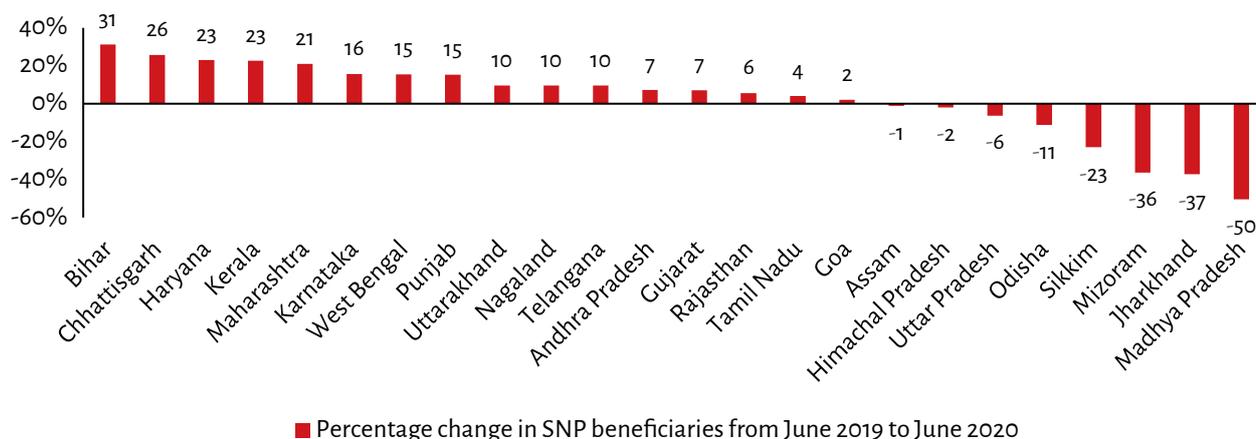
### THE NUMBER OF SNP AND PSE BENEFICIARIES HAS BEEN DECLINING SINCE 2016



**Source:** (1) Beneficiaries in March 2015 to December 2017 from Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2440 answered on 9 March 2018. Available online at <http://164.100.24.220/loksabhaquestions/annex/14/AU2440.pdf>. Last accessed on 14 January 2021. (2) Beneficiaries in January 2019 from RTI response by MWCD dated 24 January 2019. (3) Beneficiaries in June 2019 from RTI response by MWCD dated 24 January 2020. (4) Beneficiaries in March 2020 from Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2204 answered on 23 September 2020. Available online at: <http://164.100.24.220/loksabhaquestions/annex/174/AU2204.pdf>. Last accessed on 14 January 2021. (5) Beneficiaries in June 2020 and September 2020 from RTI response by MWCD dated 6 January 2021.

- A state-wise comparison of June 2019 (prior to the pandemic) and June 2020 (the month when lockdown ended) found that states with the largest decline in the number of SNP beneficiaries were Madhya Pradesh (50 per cent), Jharkhand (37 per cent), Mizoram (36 per cent), Sikkim (23 per cent), and Odisha (11 per cent). On the other hand, the number of SNP beneficiaries increased in Bihar (31 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (26 per cent).
- Across India, the number of children availing PSE decreased by 47 per cent during the same period. In fact, this figure dropped by 100 per cent for 13 states and UTs.

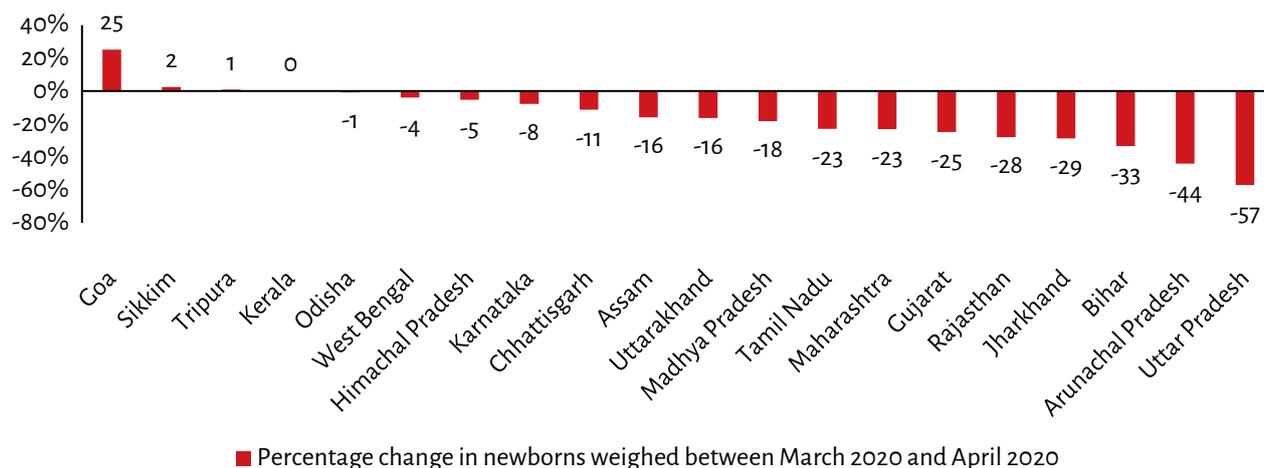
## OVER 15% DECLINE IN SNP BENEFICIARIES IN 8 STATES FROM JUNE 2019 TO JUNE 2020



**Source:** (1) Beneficiaries in June 2019 from RTI response by MWCD dated 24 January 2020. (2) Beneficiaries in June 2020 and September 2020 from RTI response by MWCD dated 6 January 2021.

- Services other than SNP and PSE were also affected by the nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include the percentage of newborns weighed and the number of Village, Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) held.
- For instance, between February and March 2020, the number of newborns weighed declined by 1 per cent. This figure, however, declined by a further 27 per cent by April 2020.
- The decline was highest in Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Bihar. In contrast, the number of newborns weighed increased in Goa, Sikkim, and Tripura during the same period.

## THE NUMBER OF NEWBORNS WEIGHED DECLINED IN 31 STATES AND UTs BETWEEN MARCH AND APRIL 2020

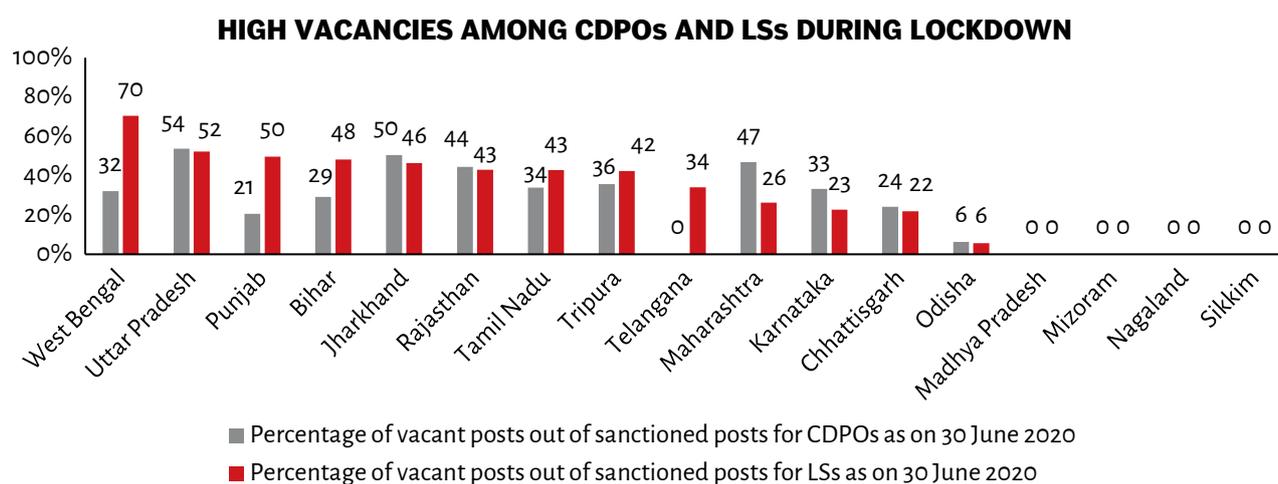


**Source:** Health Management Information System, FY 2020-21. Status as on 25 December 2020. Available online at: [https://nrhm-mis.nic.in/hmisreports/frmstandard\\_reports.aspx](https://nrhm-mis.nic.in/hmisreports/frmstandard_reports.aspx). Last accessed on 14 January 2021.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Vacancies

- There are several sanctioned posts vacant for Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and Lady Supervisors (LSs). This has been the case in previous years, and has continued during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The percentage of sanctioned posts vacant for CDPOs and LSs remained high at or over 28 per cent as on 31 March 2020, and continued during and post lockdown. The percentage of vacancies for AWWs and AWHs were below 10 per cent throughout, and did not vary much over time.
- At the end of the lockdown, as on 30 June 2020, 29 per cent of sanctioned positions for CDPOs and 32 per cent of sanctioned positions for LSs were vacant across the country. CDPO vacancies were high in Uttar Pradesh (54 per cent), Jharkhand (50 per cent), and Rajasthan (44 per cent).
- In addition to high CDPO vacancies, more than 40 per cent of LS posts were vacant in West Bengal (70 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (52 per cent), and Punjab (50 per cent). In contrast, there were no CDPO or LS vacancies in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim as on 30 June 2020.

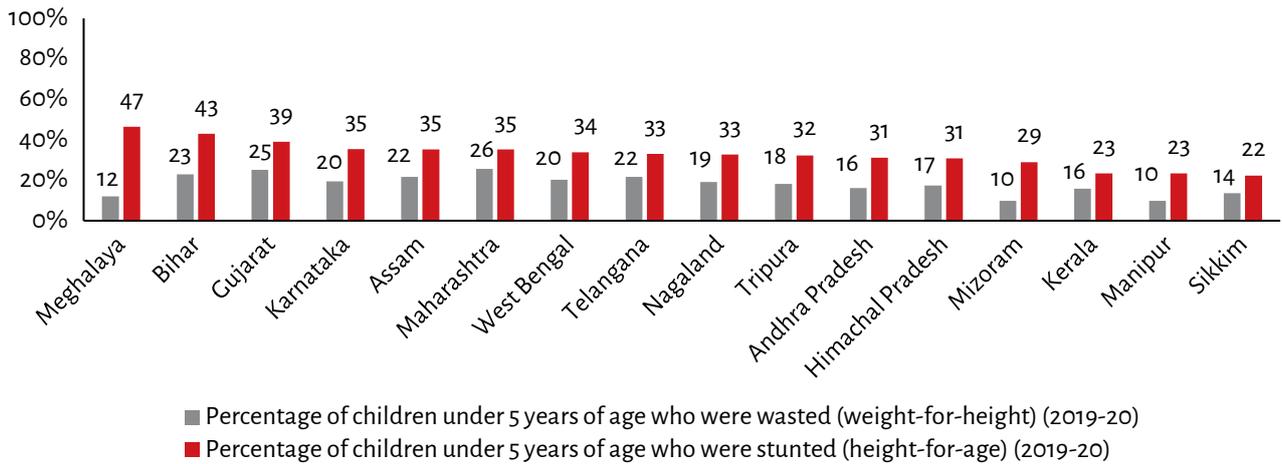


Source: RTI response from MWCD dated 6 January 2021.

## OUTCOMES

- A key aim of the scheme is to improve the nutritional outcomes of children. There are multiple indicators that reflect nutritional status, two of which are discussed below: stunting or low height-for-age, and wasting or low weight-for-height. While stunting is an indicator of long-term nutritional status, changes in wasting reflect in the short-term.
- Data on malnutrition and related indicators are available for 22 states and UTs from the fifth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) in 2019-20.
- In 2019-20, the percentage of children under five years of age who were stunted (height-for-age) was over 33 per cent in eight states and UTs. The proportions were highest in Meghalaya, Bihar, and Gujarat, and lowest in Sikkim, Manipur, and Kerala.
- Similarly, the percentage of children under five years of age who were wasted (weight-for-height) (2019-20) was over 20 per cent in seven states and UTs. This figure was highest in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Bihar, and lowest in Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram.

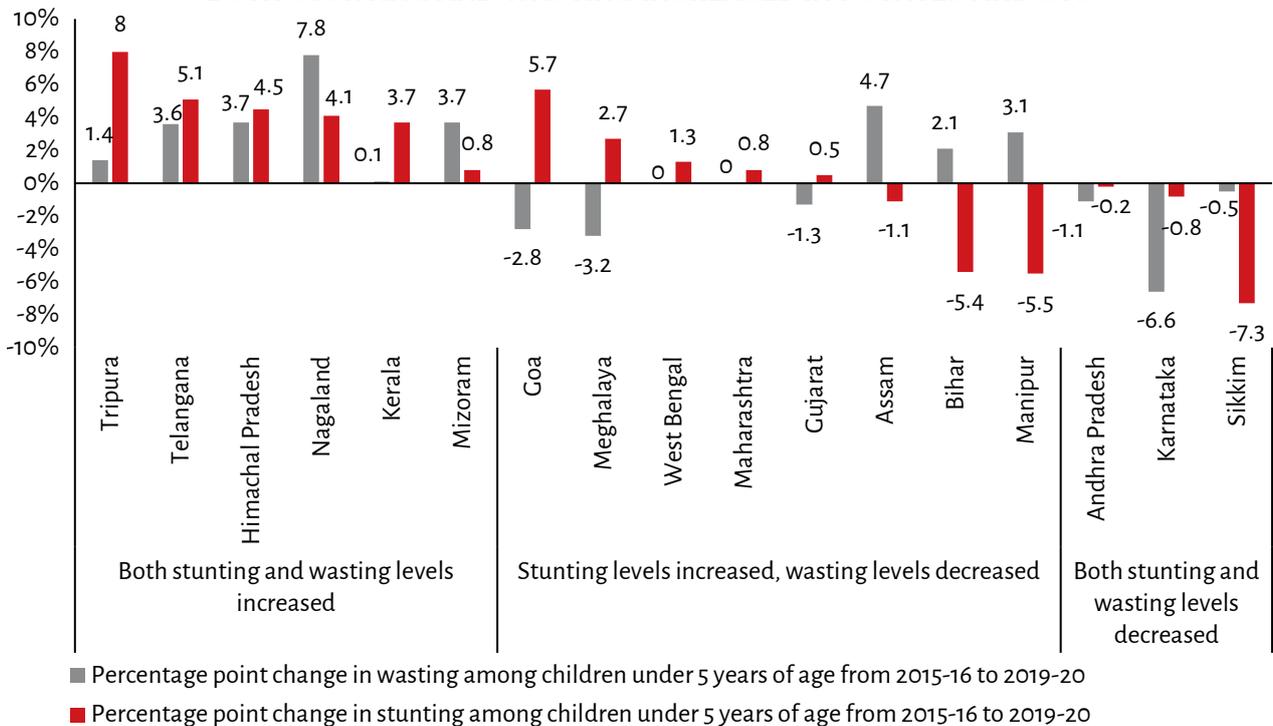
## OVER ONE-THIRD CHILDREN WERE STUNTED IN 8 STATES AND UTs IN 2019-20



Source: NFHS-5 state factsheets, phase 1. Available online at: [http://rchiips.org/NFHS/NFHS-5\\_FCTS/NFHS-5%20State%20Factsheet%20Compendium\\_Phase-I.pdf](http://rchiips.org/NFHS/NFHS-5_FCTS/NFHS-5%20State%20Factsheet%20Compendium_Phase-I.pdf). Last accessed on 16 December 2020.

- A comparison between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-20) shows that stunting among children under five years of age increased in 13 out of 22 states and UTs for which data are available. The highest increases were in Tripura, Goa, and Telangana. Similarly, wasting increased in 12 states and UTs. The highest increase was in Nagaland.
- Some states also struggle with a high dual burden of both wasting and stunting. For instance, in Tripura, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh the percentage of children under five years of age who were both stunted and wasted increased between 2015-16 and 2019-20. On the other hand, the percentage of children stunted and those wasted fell in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Sikkim.

## BOTH STUNTING AND WASTING INCREASED IN 7 STATES AND UTs



Source: NFHS-5 state factsheets, phase 1. Available online at: [http://rchiips.org/NFHS/NFHS-5\\_FCTS/NFHS-5%20State%20Factsheet%20Compendium\\_Phase-I.pdf](http://rchiips.org/NFHS/NFHS-5_FCTS/NFHS-5%20State%20Factsheet%20Compendium_Phase-I.pdf). Last accessed on 16 December 2020.