

State Action Plan to Protect Children - 2018 Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest states with a population of 72.6 million (Census 2011) and among them 21.09 percent are scheduled tribe and 15.62% are scheduled castes. Forty two percent of the total population in Madhya Pradesh are children (0-18 years). Children in the state are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation particularly sexual abuse including rape, child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, abandonment and neglect and corporal punishment. As per the 2011 census, there are 7, 00,239 child workers (5-14 years) in the state. Madhya Pradesh is ranked second in the country for crimes committed against children. The State contributed over 12.85 percent (13,746) against the total number of crimes against children in the country (106,958). State records the highest number of rape cases (2,467) committed against children during 2016¹. Number of cases registered under POCSO Act were 4717 in 2016². About 8464 children in conflict with law were apprehended in the year 2016³. According to NFHS 4, the incidence of child marriage is 32.4% and 7.30 percent of the adolescent girls are pregnant or mothers (NFHS-4) in the state.

The state is rapidly urbanising and problems and issues of urbanization impact children adversely. 27.6 percent of state's population live in urban areas.⁴ MP has the 4th highest number of children (0-6years) living in slums (15%). Issues of marginalised children in the urban areas of the state include living in overcrowded spaces, in unhealthy environment, injuries, high morbidity and inadequate access to healthcare, traffic accidents, poor quality education, high levels of violence, including sexual violence, against children from marginalised sections like children living on the street, child labourers, girls both within the family and in public spaces, forced evictions and homelessness, substance abuse, trafficking for labour and sexual purposes, and lack of spaces for child participation in any decision making and governance institutions.

The government has formulated and is implementing several policies and flagships for the care, protection and empowerment of children and adolescents. They include Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Victim Compensation Scheme, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Ladli Laxmi Yojana, Rashtriya Kishori Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Kishori Balika Yojana (SABLA) and others. Yet there are many gaps in their implementation and reach to children and adolescents.

In order to address these vulnerabilities and gaps, a State Plan of Action has been developed to strengthen the care and protection of children. The said action plan was in consonance to the Key Recommendations emerging from Regional Conferences on Juvenile Justice and Capacity Building held at Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur and finally in the State Conference held on 29th July 2017 at Bhopal. The State Action Plan, was developed through multi-stakeholder consultations in all the regions of the state, and presented in the 4th Western Regional Conference held by the Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee in Indore on 21st July 2018. Subsequently multi-stakeholders have reviewed the same and the current plan is finalised, and approved by the Madhya Pradesh High Court Juvenile Justice Committee. Key actions to be undertaken by different stakeholders, with timeline is presented below:

¹ Crime in India, The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 2015

² Ibid.

³ NCRB 2016 Report

⁴ National Census 2011

Key Action to be Taken	Achievement Timeline	Lead Responsibility	In Coordination with	Timeline for Review
<p>1. Planned composite Infrastructure:- With the objective of ease of services and effective monitoring, it is proposed to develop planned composite infrastructure in four major cities of the state on a pilot basis. This would include CWC, JJB, and Child Care Institutions for children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection (with appropriate segregation as per the Act). In addition the composite complex may also include old age home, as per need. The facility would ensure standards beyond the minimum standards prescribed by the act. It will also have appropriate referral services and linkages to educational and skill development programmes.</p>	December 2020	Women & Child Development Dept. (DWCD)	Juvenile Justice Secretariat, Department of Social Justice	Quarterly basis
<p>2. Child-friendly police stations, with resources:- The designated SJPU in every district headquarters shall be equipped with trained and sensitive police personnel; at least one police of the rank of SI/ASI shall be dedicated to deal with children's cases (POCSO and JJ). Every police station shall have a trained CWPO. Children, whether victims or offenders shall be treated sensitively as per provision of JJ Act 2015 and POCSO Act 2012. All police stations shall have access to adequate resources (permanent advance for contingency) to meet the immediate needs of children (clothes, food, basic medical treatment, transportation etc.) who access the police station, to be recouped from the ICPS funds from the respective DCPUs. All the police stations shall have dedicated child friendly spaces/room</p>	<p>December 2019</p> <p>March 2022 <i>(it will be completed in 3 phases: March 2020/2021/2022)</i></p>	<p>Department of Home (Police)</p> <p>DWCD</p>	UNICEF (for capacity building)	Quarterly
<p>3. Development of Child Protection Workforce Child Protection essentially requires dedicated, devote and equipped functionaries and experts in all the districts across all the concerned</p>	June 2020	DWCD	Depts of Labour, Edu, Health, Social Justice	Quarterly

Key Action to be Taken	Achievement Timeline	Lead Responsibility	In Coordination with	Timeline for Review
<p>departments. Towards this, state shall appoint dedicated District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs) across all the districts and all the positions shall be filled in the DCPUs, CCIs and all the JJ/POCSO structures and mechanisms (Judges, CWC, JJB, legal aid lawyers, public prosecutors, SJPU/CWPOs, and Counsellors, etc.). Appropriate Terms of Reference (TORs) and job descriptions shall be developed for all the functionaries and JJ structures mentioned above, with clear line of accountability.</p> <p>The state shall also carry out extensive Training Needs Assessment (INA) for the functionaries, including police personnel and JJ structures; based on the same, appropriate capacity building modules and training plan shall be developed to strengthen the JJ system. This may be implemented on a timely basis. The state shall also develop a comprehensive Human Resource Manual (recruitment, induction, emoluments, training, performance appraisal, growth prospects, etc.) which provides details of all the HR related matters.</p> <p>A resource pool of experts on various issues of child protection including cyber safety shall be developed.</p> <p>Syllabus and curricula for pre-service police training shall be reviewed and child rights/protection modules shall be strengthened. Faculty at the police academies and training schools shall be strengthened in the area of child rights/protection. After commencement in the service, officials must have undergone orientation and refresher courses on child rights and child protection.</p>			<p>Police (CID, Cyber, CAW, Training)</p> <p>MPSJA MPSLSA</p> <p>UNICEF and under supervision of JJC Secretariat</p>	
<p>4. Adolescent Empowerment Programme: The state shall roll out an adolescent empowerment programme, with particular focus on ending child marriage and preventing child sexual abuse in the state. The state shall develop a 'Budgeted State Plan of Action' and all the districts shall also develop</p>	December 2019	DWCD	<p>Health Dept Edu Dept RDPR dept Tribal welfare Social Justice Police (CAW, Cyber, CID)</p>	Quarterly

Key Action to be Taken	Achievement Timeline	Lead Responsibility	In Coordination with	Timeline for Review
<p>a 'Budgeted District Plan of Action' on need basis to address child marriage and prevent child sexual abuse, including online safety. The state shall effectively implement the same as a multi-departmental programme, jointly by Departments of WCD, Education, Public Health and Family Welfare, Social Justice, Labour, RDPR, and Tribal Welfare. Different flagships of the government, including BBBP, Laddilaxmi, safe city for children, RKSK (Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram), LadoAbhiyan, KishoriBalikaYojana(Sabla) and others shall converge to this objective. Various institutional programmes of the government including SIRD, SRLM, and Skill Mission shall also cater to the objectives of ending child marriage in the state in various ways.</p>			UNICEF CSOs	
<p>5. Communication Campaign to prevent Child Sexual Abuse:</p> <p>The state shall roll out an extensive awareness campaign program for children at the school and community setting on prevention of child sexual abuse (the components of campaign could include Child Rights, Sexual Abuse, Child marriage & Cyber Crime). Awareness campaign for adolescents and young people on cyber crimes (develop curriculum/module for schools and colleges, ToTs for teachers and parents)</p> <p>Based on the campaign, appropriate follow up shall be done, particularly filing of FIRs in case of reporting of abuse and provide effective legal aid and psycho-social support as appropriate.</p> <p>The State Police shall also carry out extensive campaign to trace missing children in the State</p>	December 2019	DWCD, Education Dept. and MP Police Cyber Cell	UNICEF (to create resource materials/modules) RDPR SIRD SRLM CSOs SRLM	Quarterly

<p>6. Development of SOPs: The state shall develop appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the effective functioning of CWC, JJB, S.J.P.U, DCPU and CCI. The SOPs shall be operationalized by the state, and its compliance monitored and reported by the Inspection Committees/District Judge/District Magistrate as appropriate on quarterly basis.</p>	December 2019	DWCD & MP Police	HC-JJC , SJA & UNICEF	Quarterly
<p>7. Setting up and strengthening District, Block and Ward Child Protection Committees: As mandated under the ICPS guidelines, the state shall set up Child Protection Committees at District, Block and Ward levels, across all districts. The Committees shall have a TOR of their roles and responsibilities. Appropriate modules and Master Trainers ought to be developed, to roll out the capacity building. The Committees shall be trained with skills to review and address child protection concerns. The District Collector shall ensure that the Committees are functional and carrying out their regular meetings on quarterly basis.</p>	June 2020	DWCD,	UNICEF CSOs	Quarterly
<p>8. Standards of Care and linkage to services in CCIs: There are 120 child care institutions in the state. The state shall ensure that all the child care institutions meet standards of care as per the JJ Act 2015, both infrastructural and behavioral. The state shall support CCIs with infrastructural gaps with appropriate grants. All the CCIs shall also strictly adhere to the ‘Child Protection Policy’, which shall be developed by the state. The state shall also ensure that CCIs develop effective linkages with educational, vocational and medical services, as per the need of the children residing in the institutions. The District Inspection Committees across all districts shall report the compliance on a quarterly basis.</p>	June 2020	DWCD	HC- JJC Depts of Tech. Edn. (State Skill Development Mission), Education, & Health and UNICEF	Quarterly
<p>9. Resource pool of counsellors and psychosocial experts Under the broad framework of Child Protection Workforce Development and to provide effective rehabilitative and preventive care for children, the state shall develop a cadre psycho-social experts. They may be drawn from among private practitioners and functionaries</p>	December 2019	DWCD Depts of Health & Edu	UNICEF NIMHANS	Quarterly

<p>of DCPU, Childline, CCIs, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) clinics and others. The substantive content of the training may include online safety measures. All the districts of the state shall have a pool of effective counselling experts to provide service for children in various settings, as per need.</p>				
<p>10. De-Addiction Centres for children and Homes for specially abled children Children’s addiction/misuse of substances has been reported as a major concern from all the regions of the state. Further, there are a sizable number of children who are specially abled in the state. Hence the state shall establish child-centered de-addiction centers in all the divisions, and Special Education Centres(for children with various kinds of challenges, including mentally challenged children)</p>	December 2020	Dept of Social Justice, Finance, Health, Education (RSK)& DWCD	HC-JJC	Quarterly
<p>11. Enactment of the Madhya Pradesh JJ Rules, 2016 JJ Act 2015 came into being on 15th January, 2016. As per section 110 of JJ Act 2015, state governments are empowered to make state-specific rules to carry out the purposes of the JJ Act 2015. “The state government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules carry out the purposes of the Act...” So far, state of Madhya Pradesh has been implementing the JJ Act 2015 in conjunction with Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016. In order make the JJ Act more contextual and effective, the state shall draft MP State JJ Rules within the overall framework of Act, through a multi-stakeholder consultative process. It shall form an Expert Drafting Committee, which shall prepare the rules and the same, after appropriate review process, shall be approved by the government.</p>	December 2019	DWCD Depts of Law	HC-JJC MP SJA MP SLSA & UNICEF	Quarterly
<p>12. Child Protection Policy The state shall develop a comprehensive child protection policy, which would become the protocol for the conduct and behavior of all institutions and functionaries, where children reside or spend large part of their time, which include schools, hostels, ashram schools, CCIs, SJPU and NGO run homes, etc. The functionaries who deal with children directly</p>	December 2019	DWCD Depts of Edu, Labour Health Tribal Affairs, Social Justice	UNICEF CSOs	Quarterly

<p>shall undertake to abide by the policy. The policy shall be reviewed and approved by the State in consultation with HC- JJC</p>				
<p>13. Juvenile Justice Fund The state shall set up Juvenile Justice Fund, as mandated by sec 105 of JJ Act 2015, for the purpose of ‘welfare and rehabilitation of the children dealt with under this Act’ (more details rule 83 of JJ Model Rules 2016).</p>	<p>March 2019</p>	<p>Dept of Finance & DWCD</p>	<p>HC-JJC</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>14. Child Protection Management Information System (CP-MIS) An effective and comprehensive MIS on child protection (CP-MIS) shall be developed and rolled out by the state. The MIS shall include information on all parameters related to the effective implementation of Juvenile Justice and ICPS. The MIS would be regularly updated by multi-stakeholders under JJ Act, including police. The MIS shall provide an effective Dashboard for monitoring by concerned district and state level authorities and the HC- JJC. The concerned authorities shall agree on and effect actions, including policy decisions based the data provided by the MIS.</p>	<p>December 2019</p>	<p>DWCD NIC (To be developed nationally by MWCD with technical support from NIC)</p>	<p>HC-JJC UNICEF</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>

<p>15. Alternative Care Programme: The state shall develop/strengthen and roll out alternative care programme for children in need of care and protection and in conflict with law, to ensure that children get effective family care support. It is critical for the state to reduce institutional care and enhance family based care. Towards this, existing foster care, sponsorship (rehabilitative and preventive), and after care shall be strengthened, with enhanced funding and effective monitoring. The state shall also develop a guideline for alternative care - sponsorship, foster care and after care</p>	June 2020	DWCD		Quarterly
<p>16. Review/Coordination Meetings In order ensure effective implementation and timely monitoring of JJ Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, PCMA 2006, CALPRA 1986 and IT Act (Sec. 67- child pornography) and other policies related to children and their timely monitoring, the following Committees shall meet regularly and take effective action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Child Protection Committee - District Child Protection Committee - Block Child Protection Committee <p>The reports of such meetings shall be shared with HC-JJC and District Court, as appropriate.</p>	December 2019	DWCD HC- JJC, District Magistrate District Courts	DCPU, SJPU, CWC, JJB, CCIs, All relevant government agencies and institutions in the district	Quarterly

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