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BUDGET BRIEFS

ICDS, GOI 2012-13

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was launched in 1975 in 33 blocks of the country. The scheme was universalised in 2005 following a Supreme Court order.

Using government data, this brief reports on ICDS performance along the following parameters:

- Trends in budgetary allocations and expenditures,
- Trends in physical coverage and human resource capacity, and
- Outcomes (percentage of malnourished children).

Cost Share: ICDS is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/ Union Territories administrations. Until FY 2005-06, Government of India (GOI) provided **100%** financial assistance for inputs other than supplementary nutrition which was funded entirely through state budgets. In FY 2009-10, GOI modified the ICDS funding pattern. Supplementary nutrition is now funded through a **50:50** ratio except for north-eastern states which have a **90:10** ratio. For all other components GOI provides **90%** of the budget.

Complete data on state share for ICDS is not publicly available through GOI sources.

Highlights

1	GOI allocation for Women and Child Development in FY 2012-13 (in crores)	₹18,584
2	Allocations for ICDS in FY 2012-13 (in crores)	₹15,850

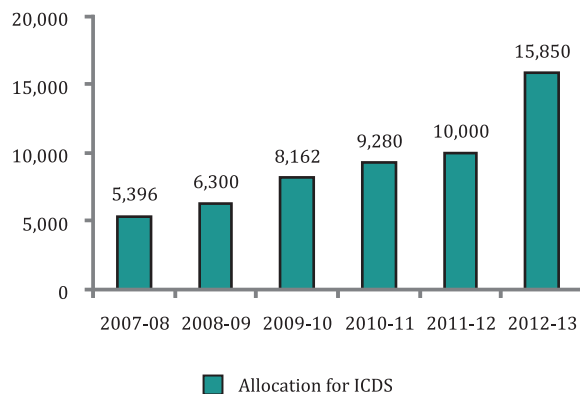
Summary and Analysis

- In FY 2012-13, GOI allocations for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) have increased by **58%** from the previous year.
- As on November 2011, **95%** of sanctioned Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and mini AWCs were operational across India.
- 22%** of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) posts were vacant as on March 2010. The number of vacancies has decreased significantly to **6%** for AWWs and **9%** for AWHs by November 2011.
- There are significant inter-state variations. Rajasthan had a low vacancy for both AWWs and AWHs. In contrast, in Haryana, **30%** posts for AWWs and **32%** for AWHs were vacant.
- Across India, there were **30** children per AWW as on November 2011. This is an improvement from March 2010, when the Ministry reported **33** children per AWW.
- Administrative staff for ICDS are in short supply. As on November 2011, across India **29%** of sanctioned ICDS supervisor posts were vacant. Further, **30%** of posts for Child Development Project Officers – the key implementers at the block level – were vacant.

Trends in Central Government Allocations and Expenditures

- Launched in 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was targeted at children from below poverty line (BPL) households. In 2005, following a Supreme Court order, the programme was extended to the entire country. ₹15,850 crores have been allocated to ICDS in FY 2012-13, a 58 percent increase from the previous year.
- ICDS is the largest programme run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and accounts for 85 percent of its allocated budget.

₹15,850 crores allocated to ICDS in FY 2012-13.

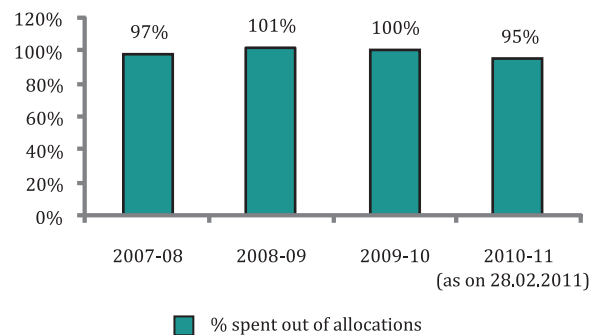


Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development, Annual Report 2010-11. Available online at: <http://wcd.nic.in/publication/ar201011e.pdf> and www.indiabudget.nic.in. All figures are in crores of rupees. All figures are revised estimates except for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13, which are budget estimates.

- ICDS is designed to provide basic education and health services to children below 6 years of age as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a package of services comprising: a) provision of non-formal pre-school education, b) nutrition and health education, and c) supplementary nutrition. Other services like immunisation, health check-ups and referral services come under the purview of the National Rural Health Mission.

- Pre-school education, nutrition and health education are provided through the ICDS (general), while Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is a separate component of ICDS.

Over 95% of allocations were spent between FY 2007-08 and FY 2010-11.



Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development, Annual Report 2010-11. Figures for 2010-11 are up to 28.02.2011.

- Expenditure performance:** GOI expenditure on ICDS as a proportion of allocations has remained consistently high. Over 95 percent of GOI allocations were spent between FY 2007-08 and FY 2010-11.
- Data on individual state contributions to ICDS and SNP is not publicly available through GOI sources and hence could not be analysed in this brief.

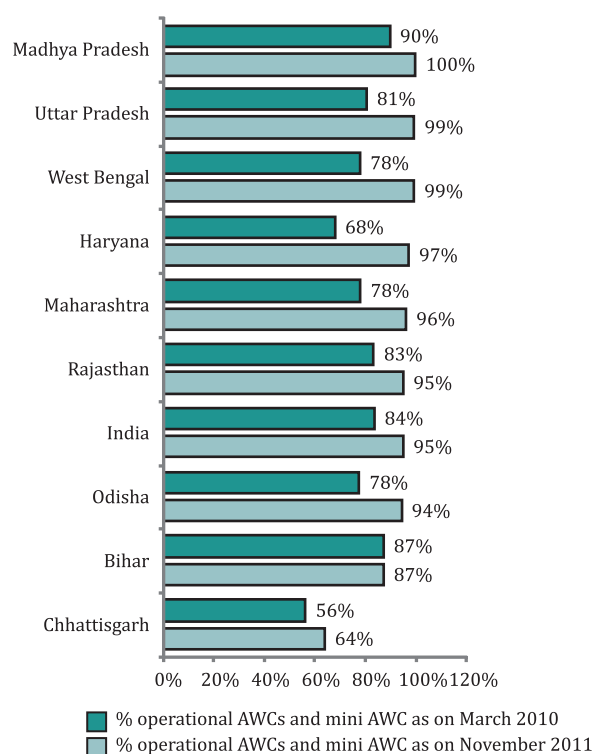
Coverage

Anganwadi Centre (AWC)

- The AWC is the main unit of service delivery under the ICDS scheme. According to the norms, there should be 1 AWC for every 800 people, with a minimum requirement of 400.
- Since FY 2005-06, there has been a 73 percent increase in the number of AWCs/mini AWCs operating in India. As of November 2011, there were 12.96 lakh AWCs/mini AWCs operational in India, which is 95 percent of the sanctioned number.

- However, there are wide inter-state variations in the number of operational AWCs/mini AWCs vis-à-vis project targets or sanctioned AWCs, suggesting delays in construction of centres in some states.

Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have fulfilled their AWC/mini AWC requirements.



Source: Data obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in. Note: Figures are as on November 2011.

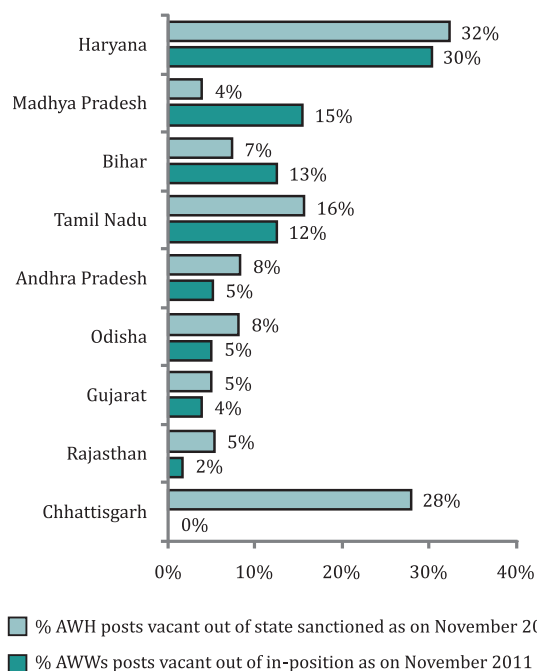
- **100 percent** of sanctioned AWCs were operational in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand by March 2010.
- Between March 2010 and November 2011, Madhya Pradesh had also operationalised all its sanctioned AWCs.
- **99 percent** of sanctioned AWCs were operationalised in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, a significant improvement of **21** and **18** percentage points during this period.

- In contrast, only **64** percent of sanctioned AWCs/mini AWCs were operational in Chhattisgarh as on November 2011.

Anganwadi Workers

- The ICDS team comprises of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), Supervisors, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and District Programme Officers (DPOs).
- AWWs are women volunteers selected from the local community. Their roles and responsibilities include organising supplementary nutrition feeding for children and nursing mothers, non-formal pre-school activities and mobilising community participation in issues related to education and nutrition of women and children.
- As on March 2010, there was a vacancy of **22** percent in the number of AWWs and AWHs. The number of vacancies has decreased significantly. As on November 2011, there was a vacancy of only **6** percent for AWWs and **9** percent for AWHs.
- Here too, there are inter-state differences. As on November 2011, there were no vacant AWW posts in Chhattisgarh. However, **28** percent of sanctioned posts for AWHs were vacant. Rajasthan and Gujarat had low vacancies for both AWWs and AWHs.
- In contrast, **12** and **16** percent of sanctioned positions for AWWs and AWHs, respectively had not been filled in Tamil Nadu.
- Interestingly, Haryana which had the highest increase of **29** percentage points, in building the sanctioned number of AWCs, has a large manpower shortfall. As on November 2011, **30** and **32** percent of sanctioned positions for AWWs and AWHs were vacant.

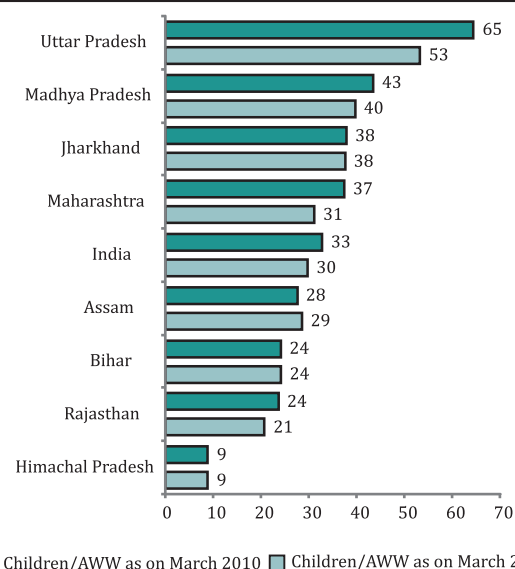
Chhattisgarh filled its AWW positions but had a large vacancy in AWH posts.



Source: Data obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in. Note: Figures are as on November 2011.

- One indicator on which requirement of AWWs across states can be gauged is the number of children per AWW.
- Across India, there were 30 children per AWW as on March 2011. This is an improvement from March 2010, when the Ministry reported 33 children per AWW.

There are 53 children per AWW in Uttar Pradesh as on March 2011, down from 65 as on March 2010.



Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1106, answered on 05 August 2011, available online at <http://164.100.47.132/annexture/lsg15/8/au1106.htm> and RTI filed by Accountability Initiative, scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in. Note: Figures are as on March 2010 and March 2011.

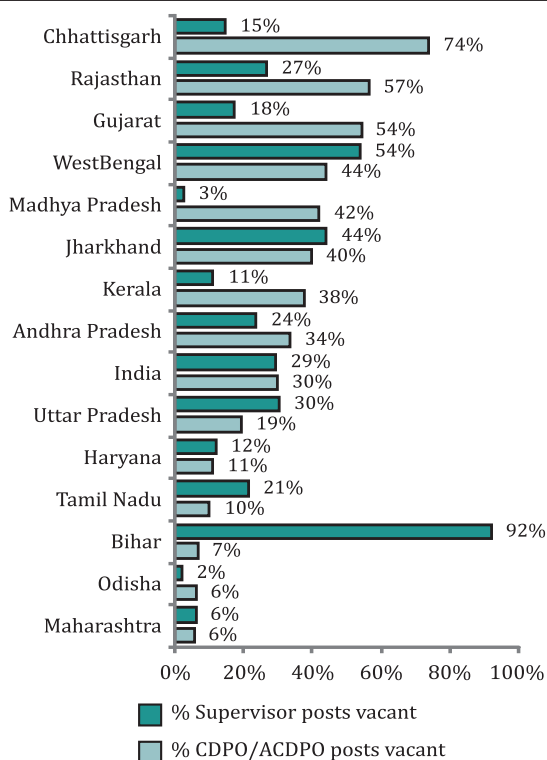
- Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have fewer children per AWW than most states in India.
- Uttar Pradesh which had a very high density of children per AWW at 65 in March 2010, improved significantly to 53 children per AWW as on March 2011. The number of children per AWW declined in Madhya Pradesh from 43 to 40.

Administrative Staff

- A significant number of administrative staff positions also have not been filled. At the block level, the CDPO is in charge of running ICDS Projects. In addition, there are supervisors to monitor AWC functioning. By design, there ought to be 1 supervisor in place for every 25 AWCs.
- In India, as on November 2011, 29 percent of supervisor posts and 30 percent of CDPO/ACDPO posts were vacant.
- States such as Maharashtra and Odisha have nearly filled their supervisor and CDPO/ACDPO positions. Jharkhand and West Bengal on the other hand, had a high number of vacancies for both.

- Bihar had a 92 percent shortfall with respect to supervisors. However it did better in terms of CDPOs/ACDPOs, with only a 7 percent shortfall. Chhattisgarh, in contrast, does better with respect to supervisors than with CDPOs/ACDPOs.

92% of supervisor posts were vacant in Bihar as on November 2011.

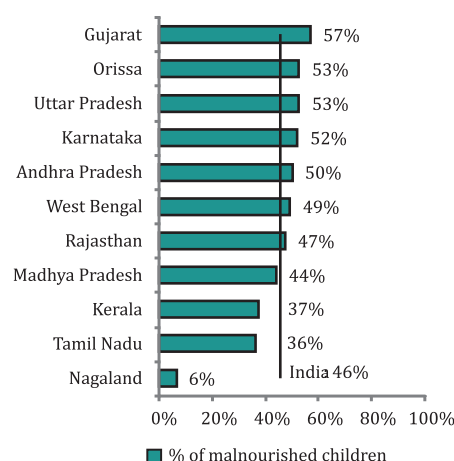


Source: Data obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in. Note: Figures are as on November 2011.

Performance

- This section is based on the previous edition of the ICDS brief Vol 3 Issue 3 pp 7 as there is no updated data on the number of malnourished children.
- Despite 35 years of ICDS, malnourishment rates in India are extremely high. As of December 2009, on average 46 percent of children under the ICDS programme suffered from various degrees of malnutrition ranging from mild to severe. This is comparable with data from the third round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS III), which reported that 45 percent of children below the age of 3 were stunted, while 40 percent were underweight.

46% of India's children are malnourished.



Source: State wise details of Classification of Nutritional Status of children under ICDS scheme as on 31st December 2009. Available online at: <http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/nutstatus311209.pdf>. Note: this includes different grades of malnutrition from moderate to severe.

- While Nagaland and Mizoram report 6 and 27 percent of children under the ICDS programme as malnourished by various degrees, in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Gujarat over 50 percent of the children were classified as malnourished.
- ICDS results are based on the Gomez Classification using weight-for-age as an indicator of malnourishment. A comparison of the prevalence of malnutrition among children under the ICDS programme with NFHS III figures for underweight children reveals some startling results.
- For instance, Uttarakhand reports 96 percent of its child population under ICDS as malnourished. However, according to NFHS III, 32 percent of children under the age of 3 were underweight and 40 percent were stunted in the state. Similarly the proportion of underweight children in Nagaland and Tamil Nadu was 24 and 26 percent respectively.
- On the other hand, while ICDS reports that 57 and 53 percent of children in Orissa and Gujarat were malnourished, NFHS III places the figures of underweight children at 41 and 40 percent respectively.

This section offers some practical leads to accessing detailed information on the union government's nutrition budget. However, reader patience and persistence is advised as a lot of this information tends to be dense and hidden amongst reams of data.

Data Sources	Useful Tips
Union Budget, Expenditure Vol. 2 www.indiabudget.nic.in	This volume provides total ministry-wise and department-wise allocations as well as disaggregated data according to sectors and schemes from 1998-99. The data has both revised and budget estimates and should be calculated according to the Major-Head and Sub Major-Head. For Integrated Child Development Services, the head is 2235.
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services http://wcd.nic.in/icdsdatatables.htm <i>Accessed on 21st February 2012.</i>	Has physical, human and financial data from 2005-06 till 2009-10. However, data has not been updated for all the components. For financial information, data does not include state share for allocation and release.
State wise details of Classification of Nutritional Status of children under ICDS scheme http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/nutstatus311209.pdf . <i>Accessed on 1st March 2012.</i>	Data is available up to December 2009.
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Annual Report 2010-11 http://wcd.nic.in/publication/ar201011e.pdf <i>Accessed on 5th March 2012.</i>	Data on allocations, release, expenditure as well as number of AWCs and beneficiaries.
Data obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development by Accountability Initiative. Available at: www.accountabilityindia.in	Has data on Anganwadi workers, Anganwadi centres, number of beneficiaries under supplementary nutrition and children receiving pre-school education, state-wise position of supervisor, Anganwadi workers, Anganwadi helpers and CDPOs/ACDPOs. Data is till November 2011.

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