



**India Primary Health Care  
Support Initiative**



# The India Primary Health Care Support Initiative

The India Primary Health Care Support Initiative (IPSI), based in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, was established in July 2020. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Initiative aims to strengthen primary health care systems in select states of India. The India Primary Health Care Support Initiative is in partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS) and works in collaboration with the National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC), Government of India.

## Why primary health care?

IPSI is based on the philosophy that strong primary health care systems are foundational for achieving universal health coverage. India has a long-standing commitment to comprehensive primary health care. The National Health Mission, and the government's new flagship health program, Ayushman Bharat (particularly the Health and Wellness Center component), represent important efforts to strengthen state primary health care systems. The high dual burden of non-communicable and communicable diseases, population aging, and rapid urbanization have made it even more critical to strengthen primary health care systems. Furthermore, the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has highlighted the important role of primary health care services and strategies for containing infectious disease epidemics. IPSI seeks to create a supportive ecosystem in select states for improving the primary health care system by promoting sound policies, improved government management and technical capacity, and better coordination among various stakeholders. This Initiative will also conceptualize and pilot new PHC service delivery models, and integrating PHC with hospital care in the context of the national PM-JAY insurance program.

## The IPSI approach

The Initiative will focus on "three pillars" to strengthen comprehensive primary health care in select states of India.

1. Implementation research for better performing primary health care systems
2. Learning for more effective primary health care programs: This will be accomplished by
  - (a) conducting trainings;
  - (b) organizing learning exchanges with exemplar primary health care models within India and abroad;
  - (c) create a national comprehensive primary health care learning network.
3. Evidence based primary health care policy

## Consortium of partner organizations

IPSI activities will be undertaken in partnership with a range of institutions operating in the primary health care space. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS Delhi) is the national partner of the IPSI secretariat. Within states, IPSI activities will be carried out through a consortium of national- and state-level academic institutions.

### JHU Faculty: Department of International Health

Krishna D. Rao, Associate Professor & Project director IPSI  
David Peters, Professor  
Sara Bennett, Professor  
Olakunle Alonge, Assistant Professor

### AIIMS Delhi Faculty:

Dr. Anand Krishnan, Professor  
Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Professor  
Dr. Baridalyne Nongkynrih, Professor  
Dr. Sumit Malhotra, Assistant Professor  
Dr Mohan Bairwa, Assistant Professor