

5. National Health Mission

Introduction

The National Health Mission (NHM), launched in 2005, is India's flagship healthcare initiative aimed at providing affordable and accessible healthcare services to all citizens, particularly those in rural areas.

Over the past decade, the NHM has played a pivotal role in transforming India's healthcare landscape, making significant strides in improving maternal and child health, reducing the burden of communicable diseases, and strengthening the country's health infrastructure.

Objectives of the National Health Mission

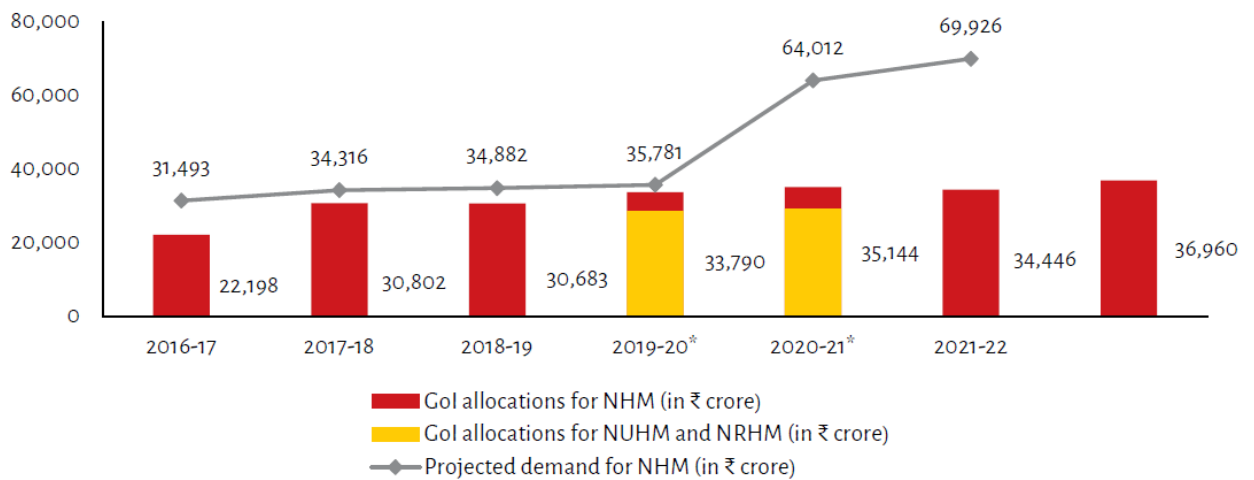
The NHM is guided by a set of comprehensive objectives that align with the broader goals of India's healthcare system:

1. **Reduced Mortality and Morbidity:** To reduce the infant mortality rate (IMR), maternal mortality rate (MMR), and morbidity from communicable diseases.
2. **Improved Access to Equitable Healthcare:** To expand access to quality healthcare services, particularly for vulnerable populations and those in underserved areas.
3. **Strengthened Health Infrastructure:** To strengthen the health infrastructure, including hospitals, primary health centres, and sub-centers, to ensure adequate healthcare facilities across the country.
4. **Enhanced Community Engagement:** To promote community engagement in healthcare initiatives and empower communities to take charge of their health.

Financial Outlay for the National Health Mission

The NHM has received significant financial support from the Government of India, with a cumulative outlay of over ₹20 lakh crore (US\$250 billion) from 2014 to 2023. This substantial investment has enabled the implementation of various programs and initiatives under the NHM.

GOI ALLOCATIONS FOR NHM INCREASED BY 7% FROM 2021-22 TO 2022-23



Progress in Service Delivery under the National Health Mission

The NHM has made remarkable progress in expanding and improving the delivery of healthcare services across India:

1. **Expanded Immunization Coverage:** Immunization coverage has increased significantly, with over 90% of children fully vaccinated against seven life-saving vaccines.
2. **Improved Maternal and Child Health Services:** Maternal and child health services have been strengthened, leading to a reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates.
3. **Enhanced Communicable Disease Control:** Prevention and control of communicable diseases have been prioritised, reducing the burden of diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.
4. **Strengthened Primary Healthcare:** Primary healthcare facilities have been revitalized and equipped to provide comprehensive care at the community level.

Key Deliverables of the National Health Mission

The NHM has delivered several key achievements that have transformed India's healthcare landscape:

1. **Establishment of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs):** Over 1.6 Lakh AB-HWCs have been established across India, providing comprehensive primary healthcare services to uncovered areas.
2. **Introduction of New Vaccines:** New vaccines, such as rotavirus vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, have been introduced into the routine immunization program.

3. **Expanded Access to Free Diagnostics:** Free diagnostic services for various ailments have been expanded, enabling early detection and treatment.
4. **Increased Use of Telemedicine:** Telemedicine services have been integrated into the healthcare system, improving access to specialist care in remote areas.

Conclusion

- The National Health Mission has been a resounding success in transforming India's healthcare landscape, making significant strides in improving health outcomes, strengthening the country's health infrastructure, and expanding access to quality healthcare services.
- As the NHM continues to evolve, it is poised to further advance India's healthcare goals, ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens.