

HEAR their future, TODAY!

Joint Partnership to extend Health Services for Vulnerable children

Community outreach | Paediatric Screening | Corrective Surgery | Public Health Education



International Center for Child and Public Health (ICPH) -

Medical Intervention Team (MIT) - PSG Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (PSG IMS & R)

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'Creating a world that is truly fit for children does not imply simply the absence of war. It means having the confidence that our children would not die of preventable diseases such as measles or malaria. It means having access to clean water and proper sanitation. It means having primary schools nearby that educate children and it means giving ALL children, whether differently abled or children with special needs, an opportunity to grow & thrive. It means changing the world with children, ensuring their right to participate, and that their views are heard and considered. **It means building a world fit for children, where every child can grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity**'.

Why inequities in health have to be disrupted in childhood? Inequities in health and development are a central concern of the healthcare professionals across the world, and very relevant for us in India. The World Health Organization states that one of the most efficient ways of 'closing the gap' in health inequities within a population is to address the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Current research further shows that children and families who are vulnerable because of their social and material circumstances, shoulder a disproportionate burden of disease and poverty. They are also more likely to confront both social and structural challenges in accessing healthcare services.

A unique partnership to advance health of the most vulnerable children: A unique joint partnership has been established by three globally renowned institutions: The International Center for Child & Public Health (ICPH), Medical Intervention Team (MIT) from Germany, and P.S.G Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (PSGIMS&R) to advance this global dialogue and extend focused health services for vulnerable children.

The joint ACTION footprint: Cumulatively in its 3rd year, the partnership has successfully led:



- ✓ **Four International Exchanges** between Healthcare providers **from Germany and India.**
- ✓ **Trained over 100 frontline workers to advance early detection of Eye & ENT challenges**
- ✓ **Co-organized the Global Classroom Orationⁱⁱⁱ & an Interactive Knowledge Update with Post graduate Medical students.**
- ✓ **Delivered focussed screening services for children with hearing disability** including provision of bi-lateral hearing aids and batteries worth INR 1.79 crores as well as establishment of the screening infrastructure & equipment's at ICPH.
- ✓ **Covered 60,000 children through the screening programmes in 100 schools** for vision and ENT challenges across the Perur and Madukkarai Blocksⁱⁱ. 43 children in the first two years and 35 children in 2025-26 have joined the cohort of 78 children who now have received bi-lateral hearing aids with batteries for the whole year.
- ✓ **The MIT team gifted high quality equipment for screening of children in 2024 and 2025 worth Rs.36 lakhs to ICPH and PSG Hospitals.**
- ✓ **Advanced the coverage of the services for vulnerable children** with hearing disabilities through ICPH, Shanti Ashram, the District administration led by our Collector, like minded voluntary organizations working for children with disabilities and partner schools both Government & private.

The good work for children will be advanced in the next year too. This unique platform continues to bring at-risk children for expert care by the PSG IMS&R Hospital-ICPH-MIT teams who have worked successfully in serving the most vulnerable children.

We are grateful to our District Collector Shri. Pavan Kumar and his able predecessors Shri. Kranti Kumar & Dr. G. S. Sameeran, the District Administration, the DDH & his dedicated team, ICPH & Shanti Ashram's field team, our partners on ground and the partner schools for their support and wholehearted cooperation.

A word about the partners:

Medical Intervention Team (MIT) from Germany represented by a distinguished group of doctors. Known for their medical outreach in Myanmar, they have been honoured for their humanitarian work in the war affected Ukraine as well. **The team is led by Dr.Barun Sarkar. He is a lecturer at the German Paracelsus Schools. Alongside his successful** medical practice, he also participates in Emergency Service at Frankfurt with Dr. Christian Otterstedde. He is also part of the Faculty team for the Specialist training and serves as a Research Associate at the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Heidelberg for Prof. Dr. Hagen Weidauer.

MIT's first team visit to India was hosted by the International Center for Child & Public Health (ICPH) led by Dr.Kezevino Aram, Founder – President of ICPH, a global public health expert and PSG Hospitals led by Dr.J.S.Bhuvanewaran, Director, PSG Hospitals, a renowned Cardiologist & an internationally experienced health administrator.

This visit was to explore professional and fraternal collaborations here in the city with the International Center for Child & Public Health (ICPH) & the PSG Institute for Medical Sciences and Research. Since the first visit in March, 2022, the partnership has strengthened by consecutive visits by both teams and collaborative projects for children with the focus on the most vulnerable children.



ⁱICPH Concept Note / Quote under reference : UNICEF/ ICPH archives ⁱⁱICPH Service footprint 2022-23 & 2023-24 ⁱⁱⁱGlobal Classroom Oration 2023