



INDIA

IIHS — Establishing high-quality childcare for working mothers in India



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Informally employed women in India often return to work just two months after childbirth. IIHS wants to make sure their children receive safe, sustainable daytime care from the start.

With funding from the Julius Baer Foundation, this project led by IIHS aims to build a childcare ecosystem for mothers working informally in key sectors of India's economy. It will initially pilot creation and maintenance of day care for the children of domestic workers and construction workers.

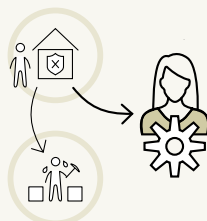
They are frequently migrant labourers whose lack of formal employment contracts often adversely impacts their children, resulting for example in malnutrition. Building on collaboration between local government, developers, community organisations, unions, entrepreneurs and vulnerable women workers themselves, the project will establish sixteen day care facilities for children six months to six years that ensure their safety, security and nutritional well-being. At the same time, this will allow the mothers to re-join the workforce knowing their children will be well taken care of.

Quick facts

- Ahmedabad and Jaipur, India
- Project support: 2023–2025
- Grant amount: CHF 100,000 per year
- Building consensus and collaboration among businesses, workers' rights groups and unions in support of high-quality childcare for disadvantaged working women in India.
- Goal: Create sustainable childcare solutions for the children of informal workers.

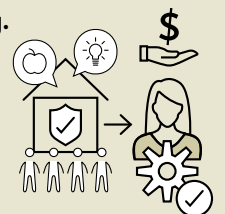
From insufficient childcare ...

The children of informally employed women in India are often either left at home with siblings or poorly looked after in precarious work settings, including construction sites and even landfills.



... to day care that fosters well-being.

With newly established day cares, IIHS seeks to provide the children of informal workers with daytime care that ensures proper nutrition, stimulation and early childhood learning. And the mothers can return to work and earn a living.





“We are waiting for an organisation to come and help us set up a day care facility for the children of the workers; we are ready to invest, but we need help managing the day care, the advantages are enormous; I no longer have to worry about the children’s safety, and I also feel good about doing something good for the children at my workplace.”

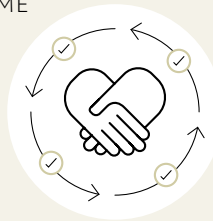
Head of construction company

OUTPUT



The project seeks to operationalise **16 new day cares serving 3,000 children of informal workers.**

OUTCOME



A working model of quality **child-care** across India with private companies, unions and workers collaborating together.

HIGHLIGHT



Several models of day cares have been assessed – including enabling factors, operational details, key activities and stakeholder roles – to identify the best format to **promote children’s health and education.**

A better work–life balance for all families

- According to the World Inequality Report 2022, India is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with the top 10% of the population holding 57% of the country’s total income.
- This inequality is also heavily gendered, with women’s total labour income share measuring just 18%, one of the lowest in the world.
- The children of the poor in India particularly suffer the harms of this inequality. Studies show that malnutrition is especially high among the children of informal migrant workers.
- One reason is that government childcare schemes in India are not in tune with the needs of informal workers. For example, schemes are available for kids ages three and up, while informal women workers need help with children as small as infants.
- The supported activities of IIHS by the Julius Baer Foundation aim at directly addressing this childcare gap on behalf of informal women workers.
- After piloting several day care facilities for low-income women workers and identifying best practices, the project will strive to inform corresponding Indian policy and scale up its approach in order to meet the childcare needs of more underserved families.

About IIHS

IIHS is a national education institution committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of settlements in India. Since 2008, IIHS has earned a reputation for quality high-impact teaching, research, capacity building and interdisciplinary practice in the areas of land, housing, sustainability, sanitation, planning, employment, social protection and more.



More information about IIHS and its work in India: iihs.co.in

Do you feel inspired by the IIHS project and would like to support it?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love an exchange.



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Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the grant Foundation of Bank Julius Baer is focused on reducing wealth inequality. It convenes leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supports projects around the globe where the privileged and disadvantaged work together towards a world of equal opportunities.

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