

CHILD PROTECTION

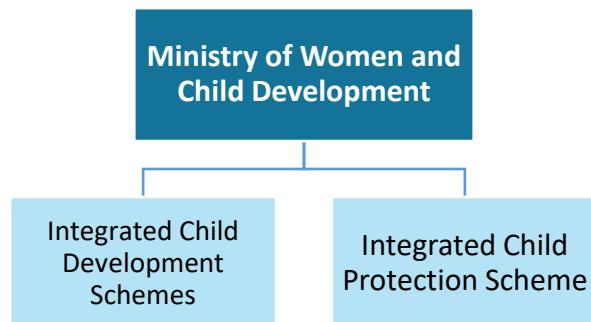
Every child has the right to live free from violence, exploitation, and abuse.

WHAT	WHY	HOW
Children need to be protected from all physical, social, emotional, psychological, and sexual harm arising from violations of personal liberty, dignity & health, diseases, sociopolitical conflicts, resource scarcities, environmental challenges, and other forms of social ills rendering them vulnerable.	Children lack the physical, psychological, and material capacities necessary for safe, independent, and meaningful living.	Creation of institutions and systems that mitigate the risk of potential harm by identifying their sources and responding to the same.

TO-BE-NOTED

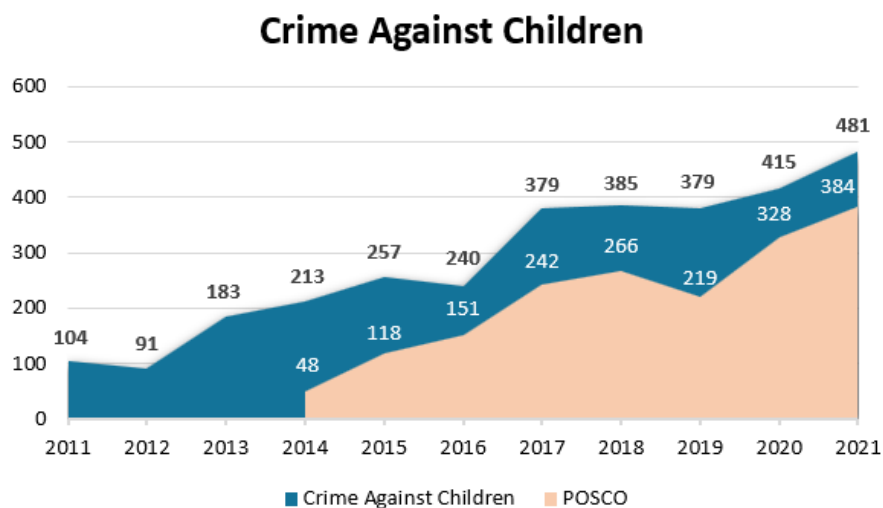
- The Government of India recognizes vulnerable children as Children in Difficult Circumstances (CIDC).
- The total children population in India is 48 crores. 40% of the total children population (approximately 19.2 crores) is identified as CIDC.
- 10 out of 17 SDGs and specifically, 28 out of 169 sub goals of SDGs have a direct influence on CIDC.
- According to Census 2011 as reported by National Crime Records Bureau, Meghalaya's actual children population is 13.8 lakhs.¹

The central scheme is running two primary schemes for child welfare. Meghalaya, as a special category state, sponsors only 10% of the total costs of the program. The remaining 90% is borne by the central government. One of the primary objectives of both schemes is to enhance capacities at all levels including those of administrators, service providers, local government bodies and state government departments.



¹https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII_2021Volume%201.pdf

Crime against children is a major concern in Meghalaya and they reflect a rising trend. Children are particularly at risk of sexual offences, murder, kidnapping and abduction, grievous hurt, procurement, human trafficking, and cybercrimes. According to the data from 2011 to 2021 reported by the National Crime Records Bureau, Meghalaya has a high rate of sexual offences against children. The following illustration reveals all reported crimes against children and crimes registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act.



The child development indicators in Meghalaya do not reflect encouraging figures either. The worsening of or marginal developments in child development indicators from NFHS – 4 to NFHS – 5 gives evidence for a weak public health mechanism pertaining to child health. The following table gives insight into the aforementioned:

Indicators	NFHS – 5 (2019-20)	NFHS – 4 (2015-16)
Infant and Child Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)		
Neonatal Mortality Rate (NNMR)	19.8	18.3
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	32.3	29.9
Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR)	40.0	39.6
Nutritional Status of Children (%)		
Total children aged 6-23 months receiving adequate diet	29.8	23.5
Under-five children who are stunted (height-for-age)	46.6	43.8
Under-five children who are wasted (weight-for-height)	12.1	15.3
Under-five children who are severely wasted (weight-for-height)	4.7	6.5
Under-five children who are underweight	26.6	28.9
Under-five children who are overweight	4.0	3.9

The expected change pathway of the capacity building session on child protection:

