

## Leveraging Private Sector and NGOs to strengthen Anganwadis – Khushi Anganwadi Initiative, Rajasthan

'KHUSHI' is a partnership between Government of Rajasthan and Hindustan Zinc, aimed at improving the functioning and outcome of Anganwadis in Rajasthan. The program began in the year 2016 and covered 3117 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across 5 Districts of Rajasthan [Udaipur – 1345 AWCs, Rajsamand – 504 AWCs, Chittorgarh – 574 AWCs, Bhilwara – 504 AWCs & Ajmer – 190 AWCs]. The program directly impacted lives of more than 1,00,000 children in the foundational developmental age of 0-6 years. Hindustan Zinc's Implementing Partners for KHUSHI were – Gramin Avam Samajik Vikas Sanstha (Ajmer District), CARE India (Bhilwara & Chittorgarh Districts), Jatan Sansthan (Rajsamand District) and Seva Mandir (Udaipur District).

The 5 major components of 'KHUSHI' intervention were – Supplementary nutrition, Preschool education, Health & hygiene, Community engagement and Infrastructure improvement. Khushi Program has relied heavily on rapid learning, innovation, collaboration and agility of response as the design principles behind the implementation model.

### Key Interventions:

	FOCUS AREA	BEST PRACTICE
1	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensive and regular screening of SAM children</li> <li>Organising CMAM camps (community management of acute malnourishment)</li> </ul>
2	Nutrition	Setting up kitchen gardens across AWCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised more than 14,000 recipe trials with mothers using THR as the main ingredient, to teach mothers how THR could be converted into a delicious meal while taking care of protein and fat deficiency in their diets. These recipes gained popularity and saw steady rise in the consumption of THR across households and improvement in the health status of women and children</li> <li>Training of AW helpers and workers in preparation of nutritious meals</li> </ul>
3	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 5000 AW staff trained every year</li> <li>'kabad se jugaad' initiatives to help AWWs prepare their own learning material. Use of Constructivism as a technique.</li> <li>Introduction of preschool assessment mechanisms at AWCs</li> <li>Recognition of AWWs in the monthly newsletters</li> </ul>
4	Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project was very successful in generating community participation due to regular meetings, nukkad nataks, etc.</li> <li>Simple and attractive 4-page magazine distributed to every AWC every month – with regular columns on education, health, nutrition and featuring one Anganwadi-of-the-month at the District level.</li> </ul>

### Impact of 'Khushi Programme' over 5 years:

	<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>
1	Children's attendance	Attendance at AWCs increased from 43% in 2016 to 65% in 2020
2	Health	Out of 2000 severely malnourished children identified in 2019, over 78% had moved out of SAM within last one year.
3	Nutrition	More than 1800 kitchen gardens developed and sustained through which local seasonal vegetables were grown and used to add nutritive value of hot meals at AWCs & food at home
4	Children's learning levels	Improved learning outcomes in 57% of assessed children in physical, social, language, creative and cognitive skills.
5	Community involvement	Over Rs 2.5 crores (in cash & kind) of funds raised at AWCs through community contributions; nearly 97,000 community meetings held in 5 years.
6	Infrastructure improvement	314 AWCs converted into Nand Ghars, state-of-the-art infrastructure. The Nand Ghars provide a child safe and friendly learning environment with amenities like safe drinking water, uninterrupted supply of solar power, digital learning facilities, etc.
7	Policy impact	Inclusion of SAM as a medical condition for which free ambulance service could be availed for treatment purpose. Regular engagement with district & state ICDS for updates, deliberation & dissemination of best practices which can be scaled up at other Anganwadis.

**Source:** <https://csrrajasthangov.in/project/khushi+anganwadi+program.html>