EKAM
FOUNDATION
HEALTHY CHILD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO HAVE A HEALTHY START IN LIFE, AND EVERY MOTHER SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE DURING PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH."

We are Ekam Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, that has been working tirelessly to improve maternal and child health and to foster a sustainable society. Inspired by the vision of our founder Dr. Sailakshmi Balijepalli, a non-practising paediatrician and recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar award from the President of India, **we have been working to reduce maternal and child mortality rates in India since the year 2009.**

- Dr. Sailakshmi Balijepalli

Our journey began with an alarming realization

5.2 million children die every year before reaching their 5th birthday

Our Challenges

Inadequate infrastructure, poor access to medical facilities and medical supplies

Shortage of 2 million nurses

Delayed diagnosis

Dysfunctional healthcare committtees at village level

Poor knowledge, attitude, behavioural practices & skills among healthcare workers at facility and community.

Lack of motivation among healthcare staff and community

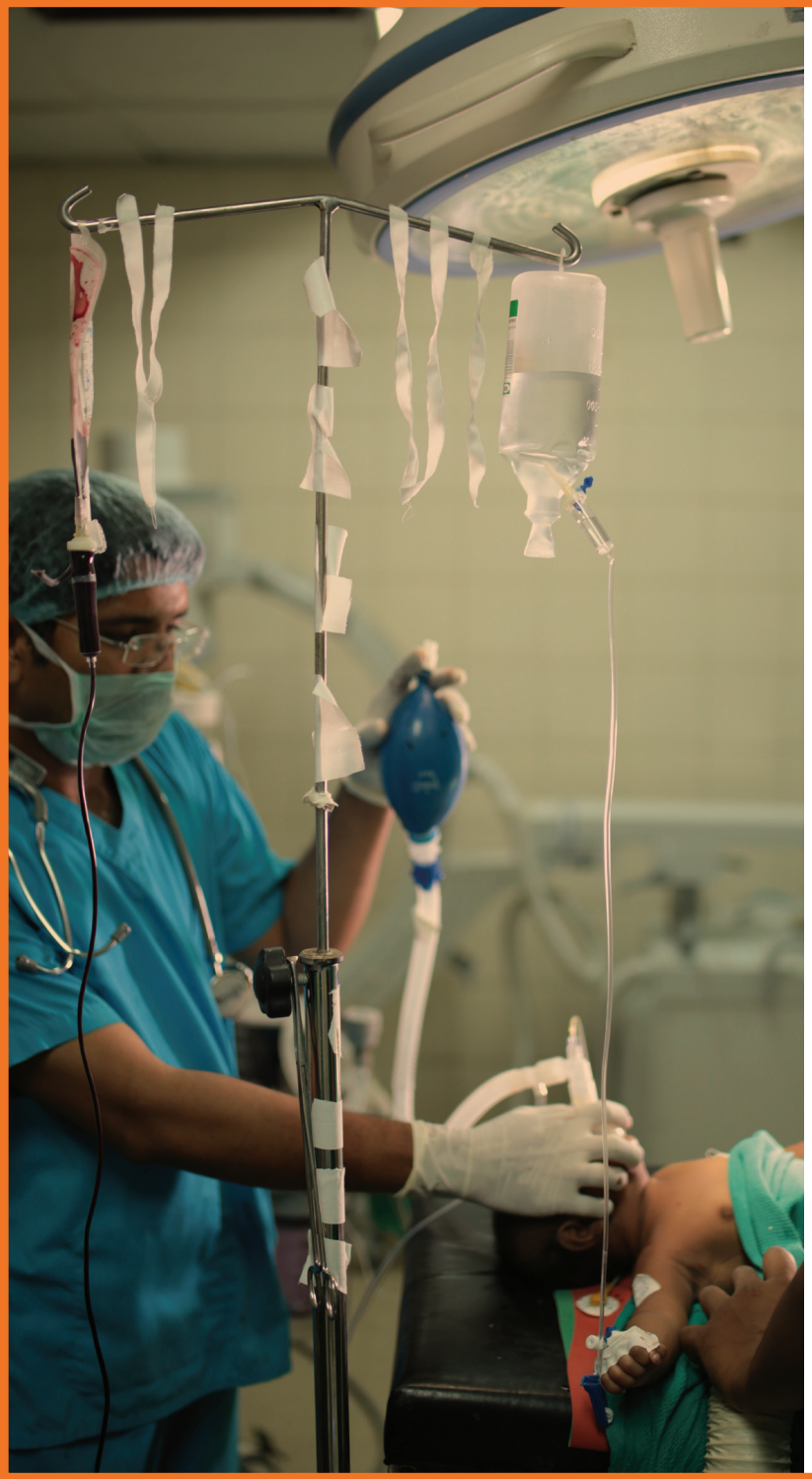
We believe no child should be deprived of health care due to financial or other constraints

Our Solution

Provide life-saving medical support to children

Upgrade vital services in the health care ecosystem

Strengthen Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practices of health care workers at facility and community



Our first breakthrough

In 2008, Ekam began supporting Government hospitals in childcare on a Public-Private Partnership model. As its pilot project, Ekam partnered with the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children (ICH) to upgrade its facilities. Following the success of the pilot project, Ekam was entrusted with the responsibility to recruit and train nurses and provide equipment maintenance for Sick Newborn Care Units in Tamil Nadu. Our support in this regard, from 2010 - 2017, has brought down the neonatal mortality rate in Tamil Nadu from 21% in 2010 to 16% in 2017.

Sustainable Well Being Initiative (SWBI)

We believe that maternal and child health are directly linked to the well-being of the community. Our health-centric community improvement initiatives focus on the dynamic relationship between health, socioeconomic conditions, and environmental resources. We take a holistic approach to healthcare by investing in nutrition, sanitation, clean water, education, and livelihood initiatives. These activities are a proven form of preventive care and contribute to lower infant and maternal mortality rates.

Preventive Health

Environment

Livelihood

Awareness, empowerment, and engagement.

Our Work

Early identification and diagnosis of disease among children to reduce preventable deaths.

Facilitate secondary and tertiary care for children who are unable to afford further treatment.

Support Sick Newborn Care Units with manpower and equipment maintenance.

Upgrade government healthcare facilities.

Train and build capacities of healthcare workers and community health volunteers.

Train and create a pool of Mentor nurses at facilities.

Train adolescents on reproductive health and behaviour change management.

AYUSH training.

Livelihood training to ensure financial security.

Improve sanitation and solid waste management in rural areas.

Ensure healthcare governance at communities.

Transforming health sub-centres as wellness centres.

Conduct healthcare assessment studies.

Our impact

- 212 mentor nurses trained on Obstetric, Neonatal & Paediatric Care in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh.
- 14,000 children treated with life saving support in Tamil Nadu.
- Strengthened child care units at government hospitals with equipment worth INR 60,000,000 (USD 833,310)
- Provided preventive maintenance support for all the equipment in all 64 SNCUs in Tamil Nadu. The uptime rose from %16 to %98.4 from 2018-2012; similar service provided to 18 SNCUs in Chhattisgarh and uptime rose to %98.
- 8,73,551 babies lives touched through recruitment of 3097 nurses, recruited in 99 SNCUs, 297 NBSUs, 741 PHCs in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh (2020-2010)

Response to COVID -19

During the pandemic, Ekam has been working the Tamil Nadu State Government and its partners (UNICEF, Eicher Foundation, Cognizant Foundation, United Way Mumbai and Give Foundation USA) to ensure RMNCH+A services during COVID-19 by:

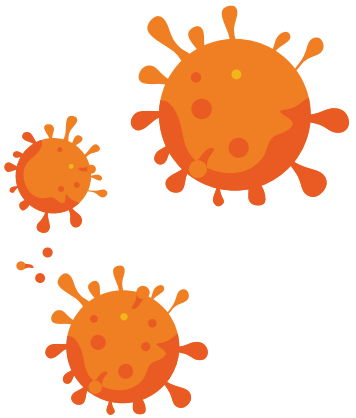
Supplying emergency kits, ventilators, medical equipment, safety kits to hospitals and healthcare workers.

Piloting a Postnatal Care initiative to monitor postnatal follow-up visits by mothers.

Building capacities of healthcare workers on safe and efficient maternal and child care practices during COVID-19.

Training self-help group women on creating awareness and monitoring maternal and child care outcomes in their communities.

Empowering community health volunteers with RMNCH+A best practices.



Our Presence

India – Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand

Global – USA, Canada, UK

Our Partners

UNICEF India (Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh Office)
National Health Mission (Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh Office)
Cognizant Foundation
BOSCH
Give India
United Way Mumbai
Eicher
TVS-SST

Cognizant Foundation

unicef for every child

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन
(2005–2012)

EICHER

United Way
United Way Mumbai

give INDIA
India's largest & most trusted donation platform

BOSCH

TVS

Together we progress

Our bold ambition builds on decades of experience of bringing healthcare professionals, governments, communities, civil society, businesses and donors together to achieve lasting change in the lives of mothers and infants.

We believe this is the only way that we can inspire real progress and breakthroughs in the sphere of maternal and child health.

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