

# Title: Children's Eye Center (CEC): A Progressive Model for Comprehensive Pediatric Eyecare



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## CONTEXT

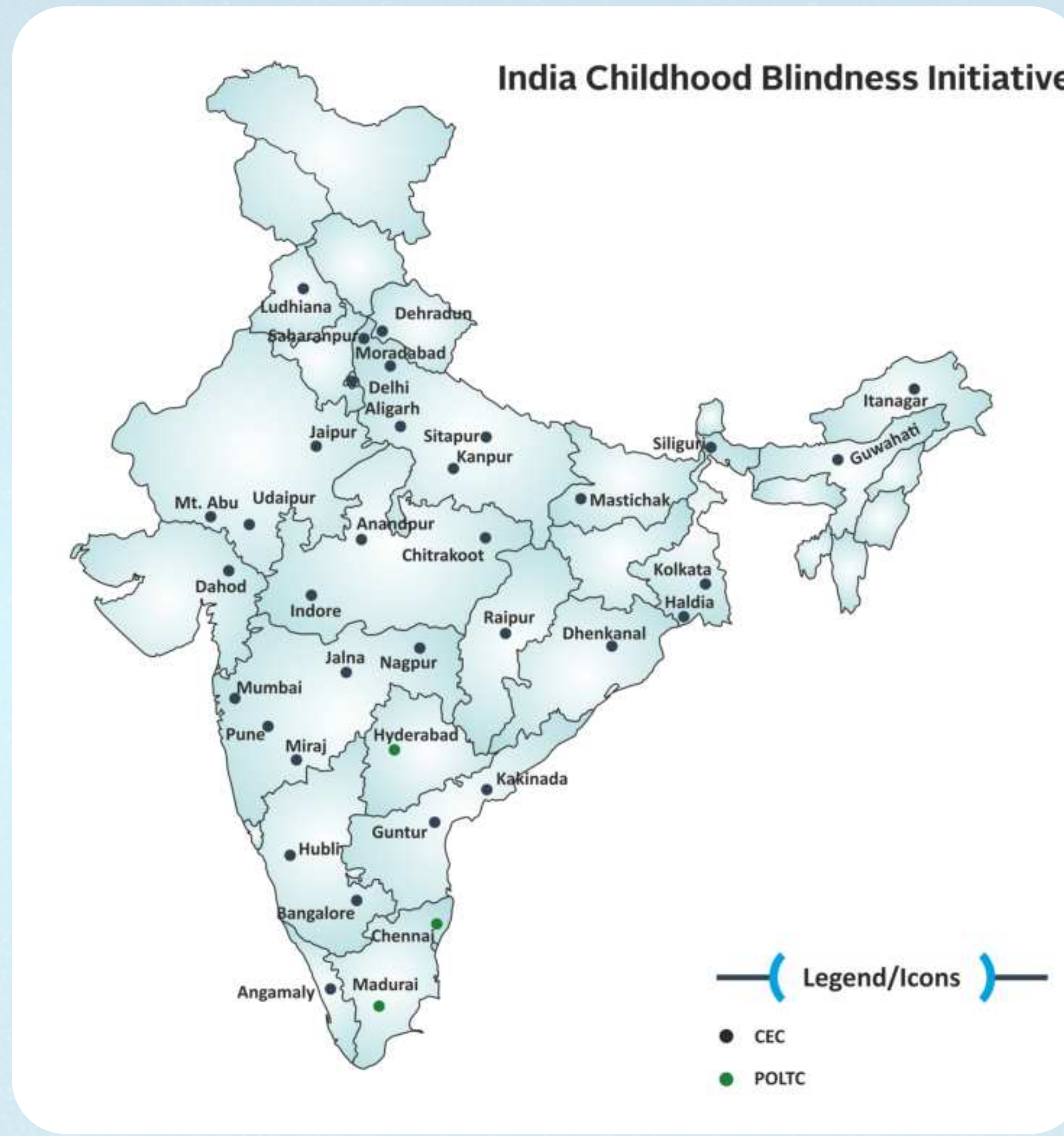
India carries a heavy burden of childhood visual impairment, with approximately **300,000 blind children** and millions at risk from preventable conditions like uncorrected refractive errors. **Access to pediatric eye care is particularly limited in rural areas**, with only about 30% of affected children receiving appropriate services. **WHO guidelines indicate India needs 140 Children's Eye Centers** to address these challenges (1 CEC per 10 million population). This gap results in considerable economic strain on families and society with long-term impact on lives.

## INTERVENTION / METHOD

Launched in 2002, the **India Childhood Blindness Initiative** introduced the concept of **pediatric eyecare teams** and prioritized workforce development. The program established three **POLTCs**, advanced **child-friendly infrastructure**, and **equipped hospitals** to better diagnose and treat children. **Quality systems** and **strong governance** were put in place to ensure sustainability of CECs. Additionally, a robust **network of vision centers** and **community outreach** created effective **referral pathways**, improving access to both primary and specialized eyecare for children.



## OUTCOMES / RESULTS



**35 INDIA**  
Children's Eye Centers

**World's Largest Children's Eye Center (CEC) Network**  
in any given Country

Benefitting **OVER 1.2 MILLION CHILDREN** Annually

Introduced **Pediatric Eye Care Teams** to treat children

Established **3 Pediatric Ophthalmology Learning & Training Centers (POLTC)** to train HR for delivering children's eye care

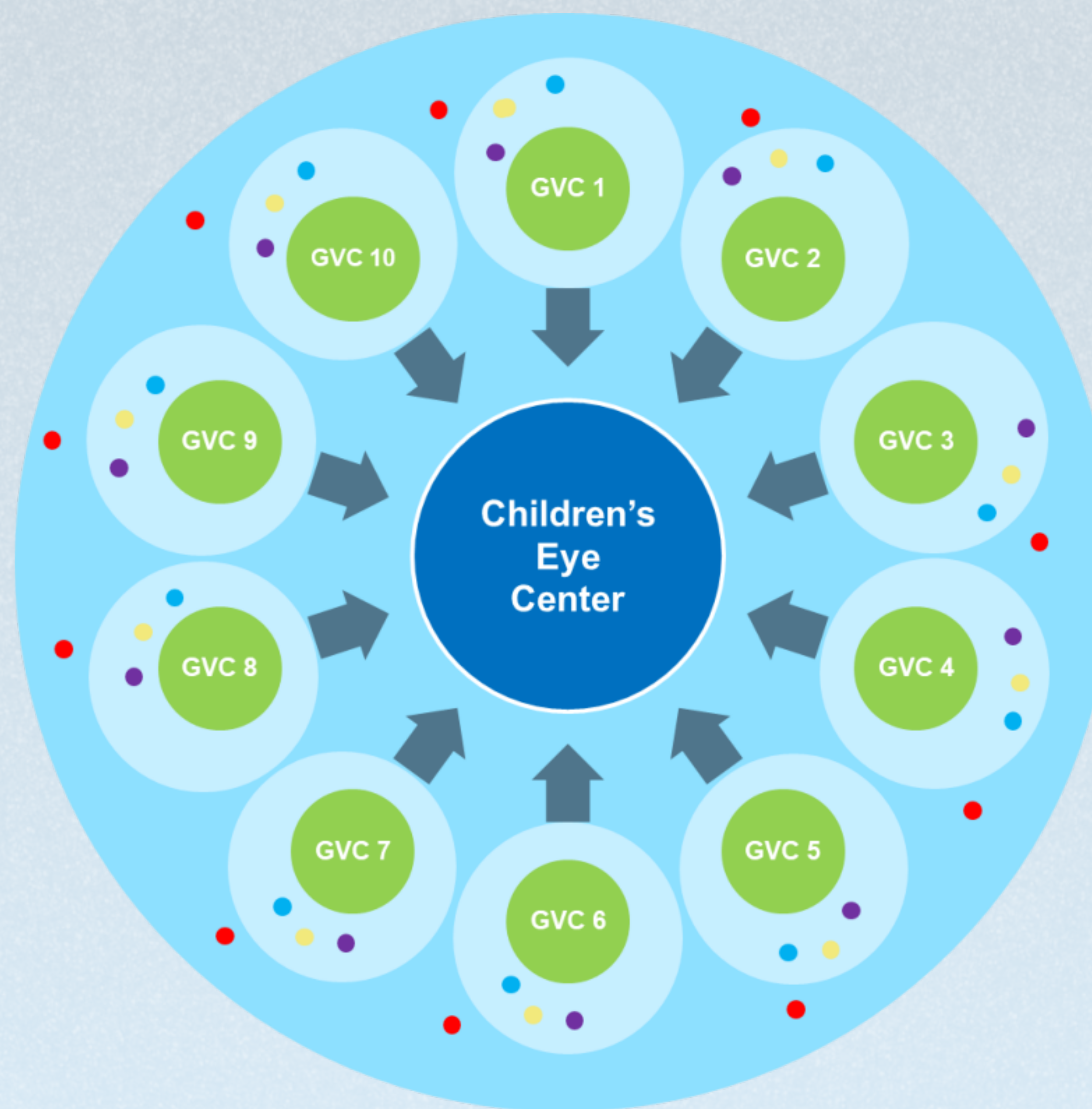
**Then (2000)**  
1 CEC per  
100 Million Population

**Now (2025)**  
1 CEC per  
20 Million Population

**08 NEPAL**  
Children's Eye Centers

**01 INDONESIA**  
Children's Eye Center

## SUSTAINABLE COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S EYE CENTER MODEL



● Community Camps  
 ● School Screening  
 ● D2D Screening  
 ● Anganwadi Screening

CEC Service Catchment  
 GVC Primary Catchment

## CONCLUSION

Orbis' CEC model under its India Childhood Blindness Initiative shows that a comprehensive, collaborative approach—combining workforce development, child-friendly infrastructure, and strong referral networks—can effectively tackle childhood visual impairment. This model has greatly expanded access to quality pediatric eyecare, established new standards for sustainability, and proven replicable in India, Nepal, and Indonesia. Its success highlights the power of early intervention and equity in reducing preventable blindness & visual impairment, and improving lifelong outcomes for children.



### Key Insights

1. CECs have significantly **improved access to pediatric eyecare services**, bridging the gap in availability and equity for children in need.
2. By prioritizing **early detection and intervention**, the initiative has enabled **timely diagnosis and treatment of childhood visual impairments**, reducing the risk of preventable blindness & visual impairment, and improving long-term outcomes for affected children.
3. **Capacity building and community linkages** developed through training local healthcare providers and raising community awareness has fostered a sustainable and replicable model.

DISCLOSURE: We have no financial disclosure.