



MIRACLE
FOUNDATION
-INDIA-



Expediting Restoration & Reintegration of Children

Concept note by Miracle Foundation India

BACKGROUND

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) reiterates and confirms the knowledge and research findings concerning children and child development that the children's development in a nurturing family environment is the most fundamental need and right (Article 5). Approximately 2.7 million children between the ages of 0 and 17 years are estimated to be living in residential care globally, or 120 children per 100,000. It is theorised that over 80% of these children are not fully orphaned and have at least one living parent or relatives / extended family members.

In many cases, these family members could care for their children if given the right support. Child-centred restoration & reintegration is multi-layered and begins with assessing both the root causes of separation and the current circumstances of the family. Family restoration is not a one-time event. It requires extensive collaboration to determine if it is in the child's best interests, identifying and facilitating appropriate family-strengthening services, preparing the child and family, supervising pre-placement communication and visits to encourage reconnection, and offering regular post-placement follow-up support. This is the purview of a systematic family-based care case management process.

India is an important country of influence for the success of this emerging global movement on transitioning from institutionalised care to family-based & alternative care. There is political will, given that the principles of best interest, family responsibility, reunification and institutionalised care as a measure of last resort have been the fundamental principles of care and protection of children in the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) of Children Act 2015.



THE NEED FOR CASE MANAGEMENT

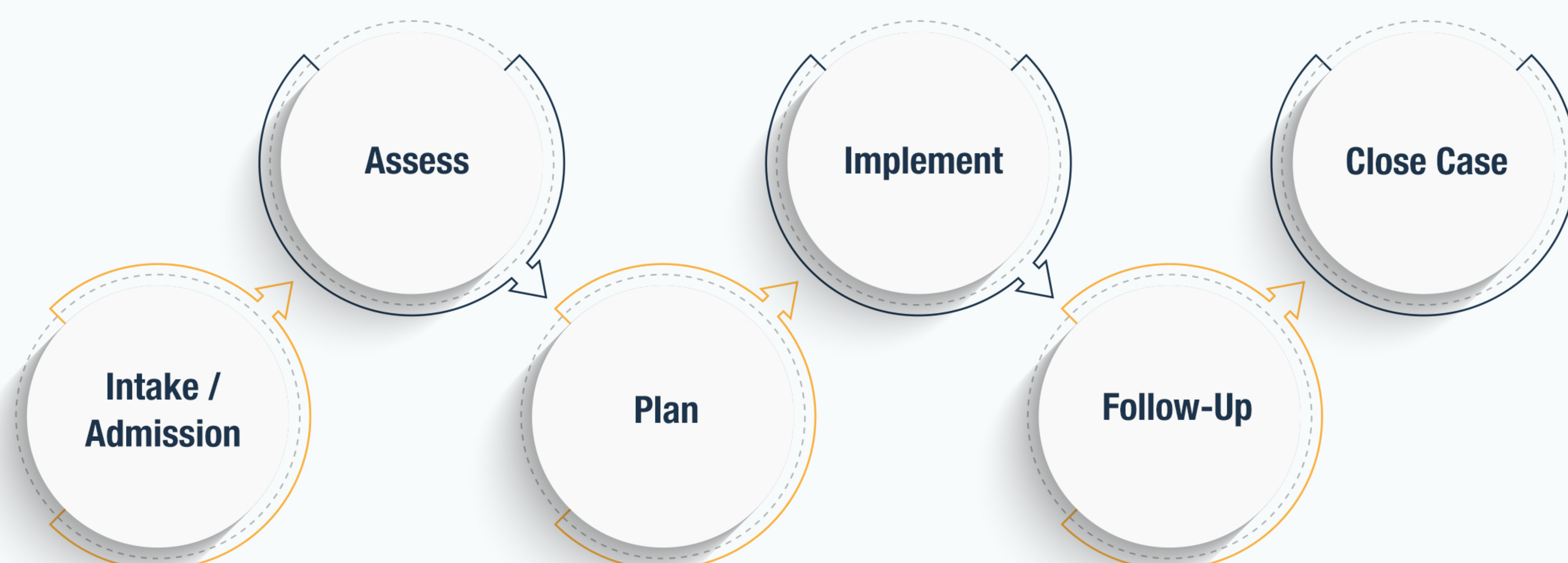
During the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across states in India were mandated by the district authorities to return to their biological or extended families, keeping the health and safety interest of these children in mind.

The latest estimate of the total number of registered CCIs in the country is 7,466 housing 2,56,369 children. In both the instances, i.e for children who were returned to families without a chance of proper assessment, preparation, and those children who were left in CCIs, there is a need to expedite the case management process for successful and sustainable permanent placement of these children with families.

A movement to ensure that every child lives sustainably in a safe and nurturing family calls for a collaborative approach in bringing about systemic change in a state's child care and protection systems. The needle can move if all the key stakeholders in the child care and protection system are enlightened on the importance of family-based care and well equipped with technical knowledge, skills, practices in the sphere of case management. This calls for strengthening the capacity of child protection machinery both government as well as child care institutions (CCIs)

Miracle India's History with Case Management

Miracle Foundation India is committed towards its mission for supporting orphans and vulnerable children to have a better quality of life while bringing about systemic and sustainable change that reduces the need for child care institutions (CCIs). Miracle India's work has evolved to ensure that every child has an opportunity to grow up in a family, to become a healthy, happy, income-producing person and experience a true sense of belonging. To achieve this, Miracle India's core initiatives include providing highly specialized training and resources for social workers, caregivers and government officials that make decisions impacting millions of vulnerable children. The shift from institutional to family-based care is done systematically following the case management process and tools in keeping with the principle of the best interest of the child.



COVID-19 Challenges and solutions of Case Management

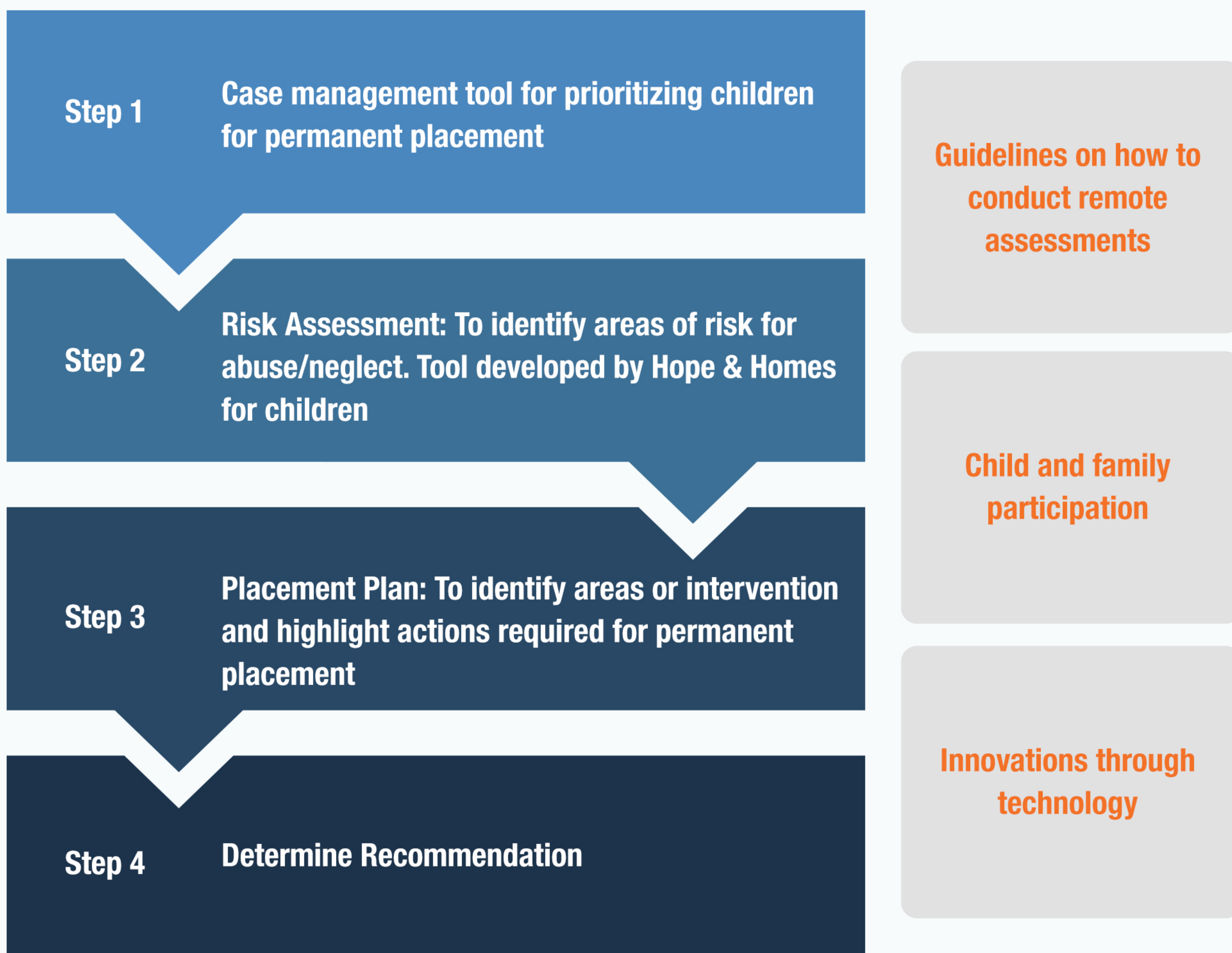


What solutions did Miracle give for Case Management?

In March 2020, COVID 19 pandemic situation 272 children from 8 Miracle mentored CCI's were sent back home. At this time, Miracle India particularly focused on expediting the case management process with the objective to:

- Ensure every child placed with family is safe, healthy; protected from risk, thriving
- Design permanency & follow up plan for low-risk placements in coordination with the local government - to avoid readmission of children back to CCI.

EXPEDITED CASE MANAGEMENT PROCESS



Miracle Foundation India considers the Case Management process as a proven tested model to work on permanency placement of children in families



Methodology & Approach to Project Implementation

The fuel propellant for this program will be the interactive and tested, robust curriculum routed in the why and how of the case management process for children within the purview of care and protection.

The essence of the curriculum purview includes – case management principles, plan, child & family assessment tools, role of case manager, multi-disciplinary teams (MDT), child focused decision making, implementation of case plan, follow-up & evaluation, case closure.

In consultation with UNICEF and the State department, among the sphere of participants, the government officials will include: Officials from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) – District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Protection Officer – Institutional Care (IC), Protection Officer – NIC (Non-Institutional Care), Social Workers, Counsellors, Legal cum Probation Officers, Outreach Workers.

To scale up and sustain the initiative across the state, the targeted trained DCPU officials will play a primary role to follow up on the application of this case management training with CCIs across the districts. Miracle India trainers will provide time-bound mentoring and handholding support to the DCPU officials.

Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

In keeping with the objectives of the initiative/project, a monitoring & evaluation framework will be prepared to comprise due process and performance indicators. Amp Impact, an impact measurement solution will be leveraged to report progress based on the performance indicators outlined under the results matrix in order to measure impact and assess quality of interventions delivered.



Expected Results

The initiative/project will primarily be driven towards the following result areas:

- Enhancement in the capacities of targeted government officials working in the sphere of child care and protection at the state and district level in standards of systematic case management.
- Evidence based reporting of the application of this training as respective DCPU officials build capacity of CCIs in their districts.

Get more information on how Miracle foundation works in detail by signing up for our newsletter.

To learn more visit <https://miraclefoundationindia.in> or get in touch with us to make donations

