

BIHAR

Bihar has the second highest adolescent (10–19 years) population in the country, with a share of 9.24 per cent (Census, 2011).

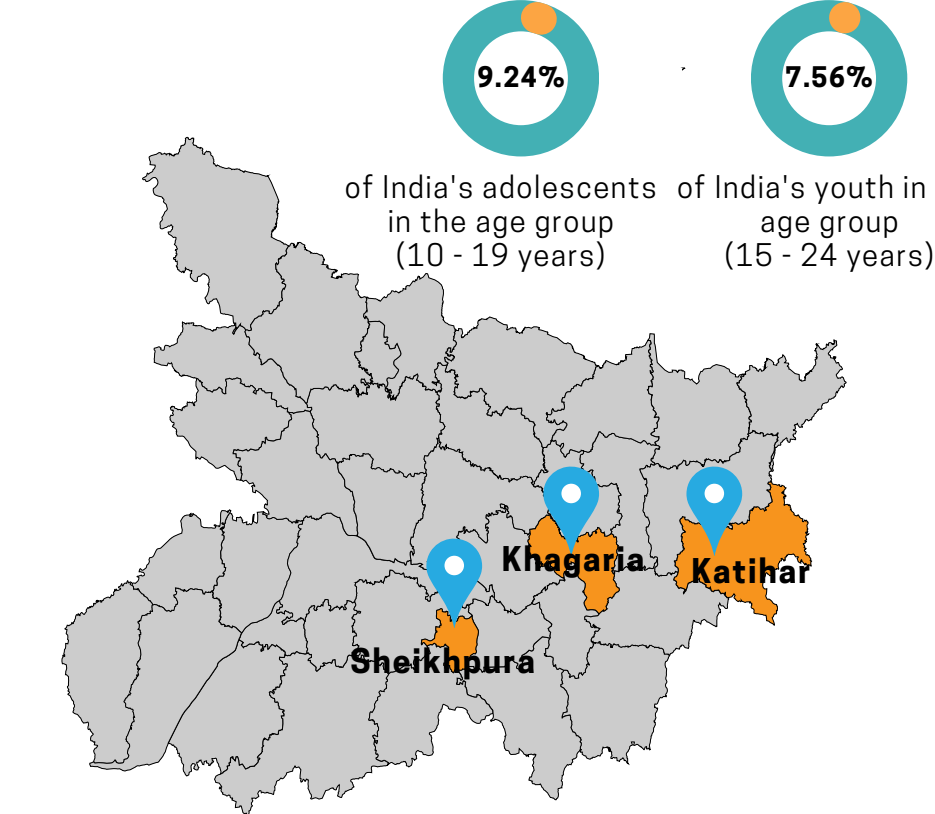
An increase in the youth population (10–24 years) in Bihar, highlights that the benefits of demographic dividend can be truly realized in the state if adequate investments are made.

Bihar has shown significant progress in health indicators, including a steady decline in fertility and mortality rates. However, the state faces several major challenges including:

- Lack of access to family planning services
- Prevalence of harmful practices like child marriage
- Lack of maternal health services

UNFPA has been working in Bihar for more than a decade, collaborating with state departments to address these issues and promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The state office supports government programs with the goal of accelerating progress through knowledge management, innovation, and partnerships.

Priority Districts: Katihar, Khagaria and Sheikhpura
Bihar, encompassing 9.03% of India's population, holds the position of the third most populous state.



UNFPA’s mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled, ensuring rights and choices for all.

Our work is guided by the principles of a human-rights-based approach set in place by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), gender empowerment and equality, and the imperative that no one is left behind.

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10th COUNTRY PROGRAMME BIHAR 2023-2027



The 10th country programme envisions an India where every woman and young person, including those from the most vulnerable groups, enjoys gender equality, fully realizes sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and fully contributes to sustainable development

In Bihar, the new country programme will galvanize efforts to accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results of UNFPA by:

- Ending preventable maternal deaths
- Ending unmet need for family planning
- Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, including in humanitarian situations



Thematic Focus



Strengthen health systems to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, with a focus on vulnerable groups

Advocate to improve the quality of maternal health services, especially for vulnerable groups



Implement government programmes focussed on adolescent reproductive health. Build capacities of marginalized youth and link them with opportunities



Strengthen policies and institutional capacities to address discriminatory social norms and harmful practices



Strengthen response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and ensure effective implementation of women-related laws by engaging with policymakers



Strengthen demographic intelligence for evidence-based policy development

Programmes and Interventions

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Strengthen health systems to deliver comprehensive rights-based sexual and reproductive health services.
- Enhance the implementation of national initiatives such as Mission LaQshya and SUMAN to ensure quality, dignified, and assured care, particularly for marginalized women.
- Provide technical support for the roll-out of the Midwifery Programme in the state.
- Lead the Family Planning 2030 Forum and initiate advocacy and policy dialogues on rights-based approaches to reduce the unmet need for family planning.
- Support the introduction of newer contraceptives, ensure quality assurance, knowledge-sharing, and expand the range of choices to meet the needs of women and young people.

Adolescent and Youth

- Link youth and adolescents, particularly girls, with skills and opportunities to raise awareness about their right to bodily autonomy, leadership, and participation.
- Promote positive masculinity and healthy practices among young people.
- Provide technical assistance to the Health and Education Departments for implementing large-scale government programs such as the Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) and the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP).
- Advocate for addressing the reproductive health needs of young people and facilitate convergence between the Adolescent Health and Family Planning programmes.
- Engage with policymakers to ensure increased investments in health of youth and promote their participation in decision-making.
- Support the Department of Minority Welfare and Bihar State Madrasa Education Board in implementing the Adolescence Education Programme-Taalim-i-Naubalighan.
- Build capacities of youth collectives to initiate local actions against GBV, child marriage, harmful practices, and negative gender and social norms.

Gender and Human Rights

Capacity Building and Gender Sensitization

- Provide support to the Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC) for effective implementation of women-centric laws such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act.
- Support the strengthening of 'One Stop Centres' (OSCs).
- Strengthen the health sector's response to GBV by building the capacities of health department officials.
- Build capacities of relevant authorities and judicial systems on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT Act).
- Engage with policymakers and provide support to the state in strengthening gender transformative approaches in policy development and programming.

Women Friendly Gram Panchayat (WFGP)

- Advocate and build capacities of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members to ensure establishment of Women Friendly Gram Panchayats.
- Provide technical support to the Department of Panchayati Raj to train and sensitize PRI members on gender-transformative Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Development of Underserved Settlements and Communities

- Work towards sustainable and inclusive urbanization to reduce gender and health vulnerabilities in slums of Patna.
- Create awareness around health and gender-based issues, to mobilize women and youth collectives in the slums of Patna.

Population Dynamics

- Strengthen the use of demographic intelligence and population data for policies, plans and programmes to harness the demographic dividend.
- Advance the ICPD Programme of Action and achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- Support evidence generation and research on prevalent patriarchal social norms and harmful practices.
- Build capacities of policymakers and advocate for appropriate policies at state level.

Bihar Ambitions by 2027

4,300 maternal deaths averted
Reduce maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 118 to 84 per 100,000 live births

Increase mCPR from 44.4% to 48.5%
1.9 million additional users of modern methods of family planning

1 million additional women have access to family planning
Reduce unmet need of family planning from 13.6% to 8.6%

54,000 teenage pregnancies averted
Reduce the proportion of adolescent pregnancy from 11% to 7%

1 million less women facing spousal violence
Reduce the proportion of women facing spousal violence from 40% to 35.8%

100,000 child marriages prevented
Reduce the proportion of women married before 18 from 40.8% to 35.8%

Reduced number of girls missing at birth
Increased sex ratio at birth from 908 to 916

Nodal Government Departments

- Department of Health
- State Health Society Bihar
- Department of Minority Welfare
- Bihar State Madrasa Education Board
- Women and Child Development Corporation
- Department of Education
- State Council of Educational Research and Training
- Patna Municipal Corporation
- Department of Panchayati Raj
- Bihar State Aids Control Society
- SC and ST Welfare Department

