

INTERNSHIP REPORT



IPA

International
Pediatric
Association

Every Child • Every Age • Everywhere

Reaching Every Child



2023-2025

International Pediatric Association (IPA) is a 113-year-old global organization representing over a million pediatricians saving lives and improving the health of more than a billion children. IPA represents pediatricians from over 150 countries in over 165 member societies, enabling them to work together to improve the physical, mental and social health and wellbeing of all children, from birth through adolescence. IPA advocates globally, nationally and locally for high quality, evidence-based and child-centred pediatric care. We work in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, FIGO, COINN and others and provide global leadership on emerging child health issues through our work with leading global health players.

Dr Naveen Thacker serves as the President for the term 2023-2025. The overarching theme for the term is "**Reaching Every Child**", emphasizing our commitment to ensuring comprehensive care for children across all locations and stages of development. Our goal is to establish functional member societies in every country and to connect one million pediatricians through a single click. IPA Digital Academy and office automation is in the implementation phase to take this agenda forward. The [IPA Call to Action & Commitments](#) launched during the 30th IPA Congress, places special focus on the entire life course, from childbirth to late adolescence, while also addressing cross-cutting areas such as Immunization, Environment & Climate Change, Early Child Development, Humanitarian efforts, and the well-being of children in crisis settings.

IPA's Vision

Every child will be accorded the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and the opportunity to grow, develop, and fulfil to his or her human potential. The IPA will serve as an unceasing voice for children's health, development, and potential through advocacy, education, and action.

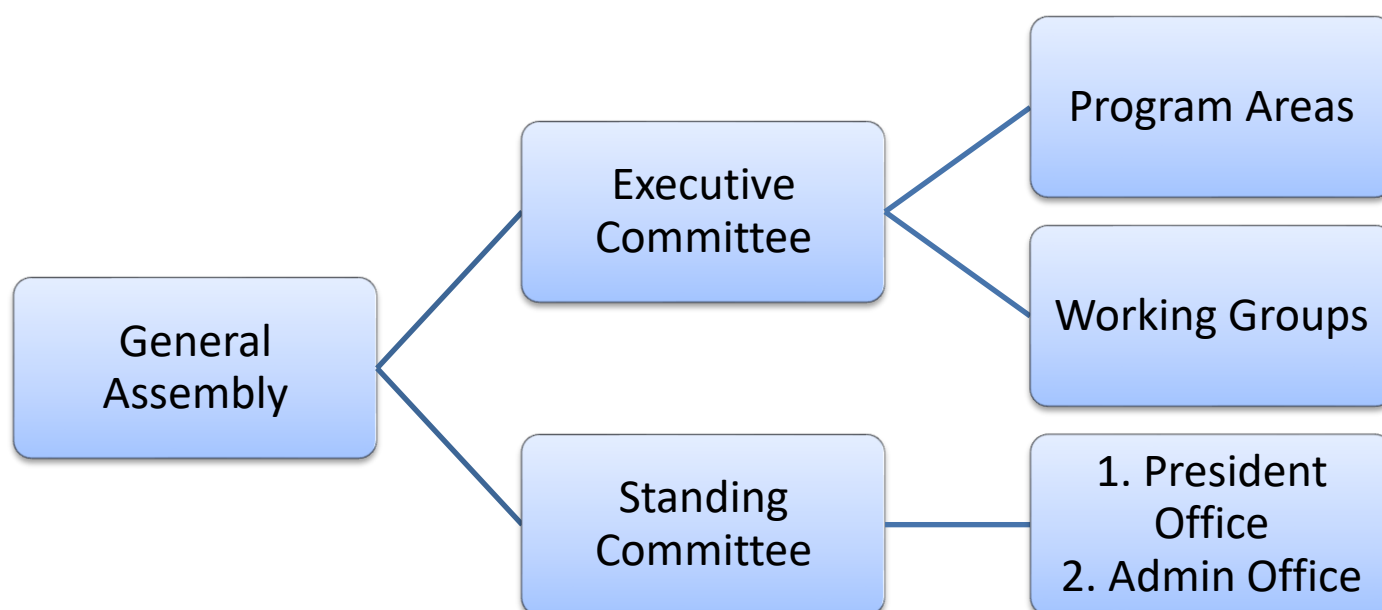
IPA's Mission

Pediatricians, working with other partners, will be leaders in promoting physical, mental, and social health for all children, and in realizing the highest standards of health for newborns, children, and adolescents in all countries of the world. The IPA will work with professional associations and all others willing to add their strengths to advocacy, education, and programming on behalf of children.

OBJECTIVES OF INTERNSHIP

- ❖ To contribute to ongoing projects within IPA program areas such as immunization, Nutrition and breastfeeding, NCD & Mental Health gaining practical experience in program management and advocacy.
- ❖ To gain insights into international collaboration and partnerships, particularly through IPA's engagements with organizations like UNICEF and initiatives like the Global HPV Consortium, supporting efforts to improve child health outcomes globally.
- ❖ To assist in organizing and executing educational events, workshops, or webinars aimed at capacity building and knowledge dissemination among pediatric healthcare professionals worldwide.
- ❖ To collaborate with IPA committees and working groups, contributing to the development of guidelines, publications, and educational resources on topics such as QI & Patient Safety, Childhood Cancer, or vaccine trust.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF IPA



- ❖ **General Assembly:** Composed of representatives from member societies, the General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of IPA.
- ❖ **Executive Committee:** Responsible for the day-to-day operations and strategic direction of IPA. Includes roles such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary-General.
- ❖ **Standing Committees:** Committees focusing on specific areas such as finance, governance, and strategic planning, supporting the Executive Committee.
- ❖ **IPA Admin Office:**
Manages day-to-day operations, administrative tasks, and logistical support for IPA activities.
Supports communication and coordination among committees, member societies, and external stakeholders.
- ❖ **IPA President Office:**
 1. Supports the President in strategic decision-making, external representation, and communication.
 2. Manages the President's schedule, official correspondence, and interactions with stakeholders.
 3. Coordinates with the Secretariat and other committees to implement the President's directives and initiatives.
- ❖ **Program Area Committees:** Responsible for overseeing specific program areas like immunization, infectious diseases, and adolescent health.
- ❖ **Working Groups:** Task-oriented groups within program areas, addressing specific issues or projects.

IPA Strategic Priorities

In 2021, following a two-decade interval, a thorough and inclusive process of Strategic Planning was conducted. This comprehensive endeavour encompassed an organizational assessment, SWOT analysis, Member Societies Satisfaction Survey and interviews with the Presidents of similar organizations. Six Strategic Priorities were identified, focusing on advocating for children's well-being at every stage of life, strengthening and empowering pediatric workforce and pediatric societies, fostering collaboration with similar healthcare professional organizations and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion in the IPA leadership.

In May 2023, after a gap of 20 years, a retreat for the IPA Standing Committee was organized in Athens, Greece. A carefully crafted work plan was devised to align seamlessly with the identified six Strategic Priorities serving as a solid foundation for driving the activities in the future.



IPA Program Areas

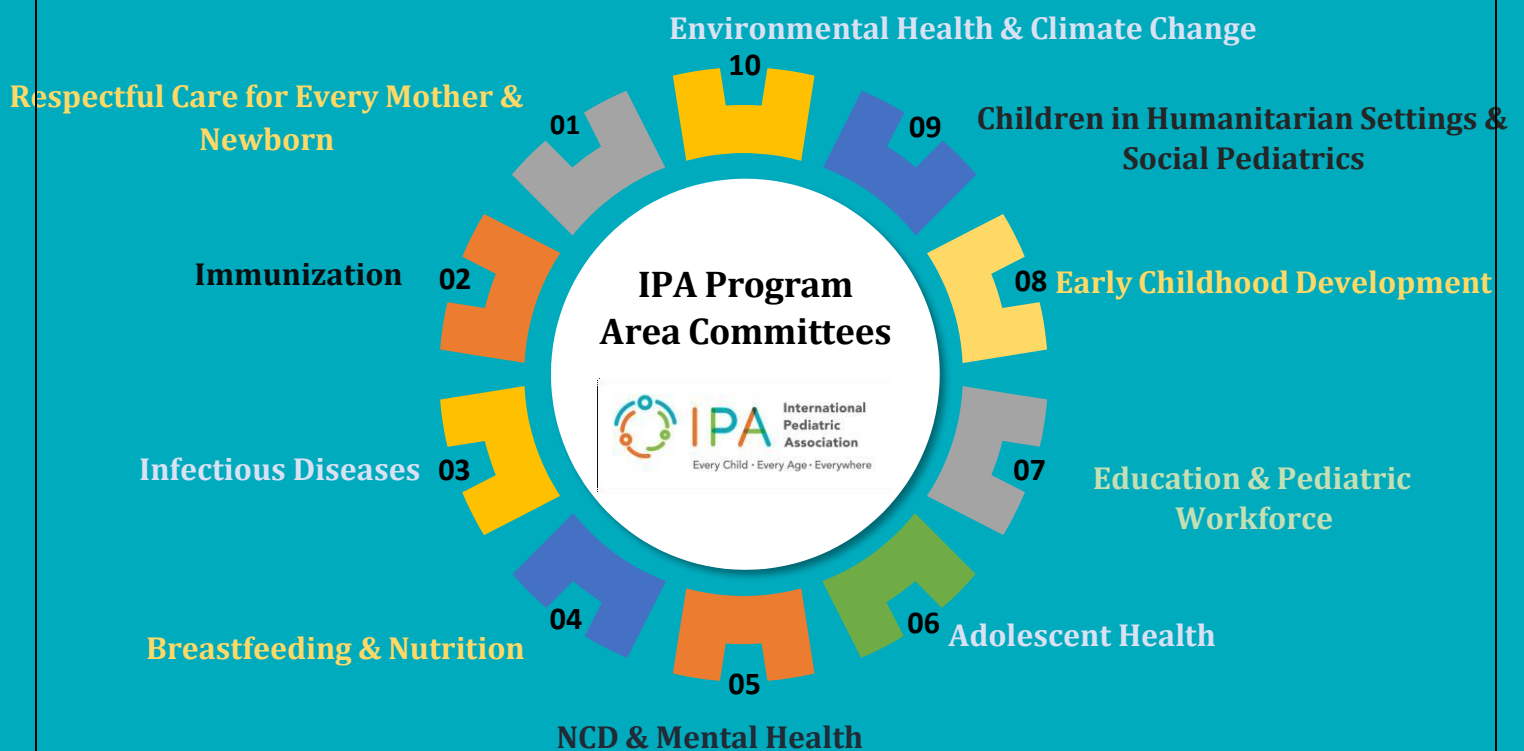
2023-2025

IPA places a primary focus on children's health and acknowledges the significance of addressing various program areas that cater to all age groups. These program areas have been an integral part of IPA since 2000 and have continually evolved to address global child health concerns. Acting as critical action and education components, they aim to tackle emerging issues in child health and well-being.

For the term 2023-2025, IPA has established 10 program area committees and 17 working groups, each dedicated to specific focus areas like immunization, infectious diseases, nutrition, non-communicable diseases, adolescent health, environmental health, and more. These program areas serve as platforms for renowned experts from across the globe to contribute their vast knowledge and experience, united in their mission to bring about positive transformations in the health of every child. Moreover, they play a crucial role in assisting national societies in meeting the needs of children effectively.

The primary objective of these program areas is to enhance the healthcare provided to every child by focusing on capacity building, advocacy, dissemination, educational support, and research within their respective areas of expertise. Additionally, they serve as consulting bodies to the Executive and Standing Committees of the IPA, providing recommendations for programs, policy statements, and other actions related to their respective fields.

In general, the program areas engage in various activities, such as organizing hands-on training programs and workshops during Congress or regional meetings. They also develop online courses related to their specific areas, conduct both basic and implementation research, and publish articles and guidelines. Additionally, they collaborate with global agencies, utilizing their domain expertise and global reach to benefit children worldwide.



IPA Program Area Committees

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|---|---|
| ☐ Polio | ☐ School Age Children |
| ☐ Tuberculosis | ☐ Measles Rubella |
| ☐ HIV | ☐ Essential Medicines |
| ☐ Food Safety | ☐ COVID-19 |
| ☐ Rare Disease | ☐ Under 5 Children |
| ☐ Childhood Cancer | ☐ Young Pediatricians |
| ☐ Sickle Cell Disease | ☐ Children & Disabilities |
| ☐ Primary Care Pediatricians | ☐ Neglected Tropical Diseases |
| ☐ Antimicrobial Resistance | ☐ Quality Improvement & Patient Safety |

IPA Program Area Working Groups

IPA Projects

1. Vaccine Trust Project

In December 2018, the International Pediatric Association (IPA) initiated the Vaccine Hesitancy Project Phase I, supported by an academic grant from Sanofi Pasteur and Serum Institute of India. The project included two International Training of Trainers workshops in Delhi (14-16 Dec'18) and Panama (16-17 Mar'19), aiming to create Master Trainers for conducting workshops on Vaccine Hesitancy in their countries. In Phase II, the project was shifted to a virtual format due to the COVID pandemic and was renamed as 'Vaccine Trust Project. The online Vaccine Trust Course enhances communication and advocacy skills of healthcare workers promoting vaccines and immunization and is available in seven different languages - English, Spanish, and Russian, Turkish, Portuguese, French, and Arabic. In February 2023, an International Training of Trainers Workshop was held in Gujarat, India during IPA Congress 2023.

2. National Forum on Adolescent Health & Wellbeing

IPA in collaboration with the National Pediatric Societies, is initiating national-level convenings in priority countries for the PMNCH [Global Forum for Adolescents/1.8 Billion Young People for Change](#) in August or September. The purpose of this forum is to bring together national-level HCP associations, key adolescent and youth groups, and other partners to discuss the state of adolescent health and well-being in your country and to identify key gaps and opportunities for sustainable improvements in the well-being of adolescents.

3. Project with Alana, Brazil

IPA Committee on Environmental Health and Climate Change is working with Alana, a non-governmental organization based in Brazil and one of the leaders of a [local movement in Brazil](#) called Health and Nature Network. They work to promote the reciprocal relationship between humans and nature and its benefits to our health and the health of the Earth. In partnership with the Brazilian Society of Pediatrics they [published a guideline](#) that aims to inspire families, pediatricians and educators about the importance of children and adolescents living in the midst of nature to health and well-being and they also produced a [tool kit](#) for doctors to apply with families and patients that suggests to children and adolescents to incorporate more nature in their

routines. The Committee is working with them to create a similar document as an important tool for advocacy.

The Health and Nature Brazil Network, established in 2020, brings together experts in nature conservation, healthcare, and complementary approaches. They promote human health, nature conservation, and well-being through research, seminars, and nature-based interventions. Their focus includes access to nature, conserved areas, and quality open spaces for health promotion.

4. Vaccines to Vaccination, IPA-GSK Project

With funding from GSK, IPA is conducting specialized training for healthcare professionals in Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, and South Asia. The training focuses on programmatic aspects of vaccine introduction, aiming to achieve higher vaccination coverage and reach zero dose children.

The workshops will be conducted in Kenya (Anglophone Africa), Morocco (Francophone Africa) and Dubai (South Asia). For each workshop, five priority countries will be invited from the region with 5 health care professionals per country which include Head of Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) or delegate, Head of Vaccine supply chain or delegate, WHO country representative, UNICEF country representative and President of Pediatric Association in the country. Each workshop will consist of interactive sessions, presentations, group discussions and case studies. The IPA scientific committee will provide guidance and support throughout the workshops.

5. The Global HPV Consortium

IPA is a technical and advocacy partner in the Sabin-led Global HPV Consortium, a movement to prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection and eliminate cervical cancer as a public health concern.

The Consortium seeks to drive momentum, action and financing toward efforts to prevent infection from human papilloma virus (HPV) and the elimination of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers. IPA plays a major role in shaping the Consortium's Multi-Year Impact and Activation Plan.

KEY LEARNINGS

- i. **Global Health Impact:** Working closely with IPA's initiatives in immunization, infectious diseases, and adolescent health, I witnessed firsthand the significant impact of global health interventions on improving children's well-being worldwide.
- ii. **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Learning about advocacy strategies and policy development within IPA underscored the critical role of advocacy in influencing policies that support child health and rights globally.
- iii. **Communication and Outreach:** Enhancing my communication skills through interactions with diverse stakeholders enabled me to effectively convey complex healthcare issues and solutions to varied audiences.
- iv. **Leadership Development:** Taking on responsibilities within committees and projects within IPA fostered my leadership skills and provided opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- v. **Position Paper:** I acquired valuable skills in writing position papers and reviewing academic papers, which are crucial for advancing evidence-based practices and advocating for children's health globally.

