

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Our mission is to help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children living in poverty have the capacity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their communities. We promote societies whose individuals and institutes participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.



OUR WORK

ChildFund's Goals for Children and Youth at Every Age



AGES 0-5

Infants and young children are healthy and secure.

ChildFund ensures children start their lives in conditions that provide safety, nutrition and stimulation from responsive, loving caregivers.



AGES 6-14

Children are educated and confident.

ChildFund helps children build a foundation for lifelong learning and supports their safe transition through adolescence.



AGES 15-24

Youth are skilled and involved.

ChildFund empowers young people with life skills, higher education and vocational training so they can find safe and sustainable employment, make

healthy choices and contribute meaningfully within their families and communities.



FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S DESK



As I reflect back to the year that was, I think of what an extraordinary time it has been. It was a year that tested our strength and resilience, found us working with new vigour and determination to fulfil our mission of helping all children reach their potential. It was a year of multiple achievements and partnerships, and of new paths forged. With the help of our many supporters, I am both proud and humbled to say that we additionally impacted about 0.6 million lives taking our reach to nearly 3 million children and young people.

This was also the year we began working on the Development Impact Bond, and I am immensely proud to say that ChildFund India is pioneering this ground-breaking model for the entire ChildFund Network. We are well on our way to proving that when it comes to children, we will continue to lead and innovate. Another initiative I'm pleased to share about is 'Khilta Bachpan', an innovative campaign we are initiating in the coming year to introduce and promote art education as a means to support our young minds, in identified schools across the country, 'Engage, Express, Empower'.

A fundamental promise of our Destination 2020 strategy is to leave no child behind. No child should suffer the confines of poverty or remain destitute in the wake of a crisis. Yet, children, especially girls, are among those most vulnerable to being left behind. In a year of visible solidarity, growing civic engagement, and vital youth engagement, the ChildFund family has rallied to protect children's equality and rights, from basic education and health, freedom from exploitation and violence, to income security and a life of dignity.

Together with our many partners and supporters in every part of India, and indeed the world, ChildFund will continue to deliver for children on both the premise and promise of our agenda and our goals, seeking equality for all. I thank you all for commitment and generosity.

Here's to continued success in the coming year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neelam". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Neelam Makhijani

For over 6 decades, ChildFund India has been working with underprivileged children, youth and families from the most remote, backward and hard-to-reach areas, with a vision of “an India where children lead a dignified life and achieve their full potential”. We are reaching nearly 3 million children, youth, and their families, from 3200 communities in 85 districts across 15 states in India, through our long and short-term programs, investing nearly 10 million USD/ Rs. 70 crore a year.

KEEPING CHILDREN HEALTHY AND NOURISHED

We implement **52** health and **nutrition** projects in **54** districts of **14** states, benefitting **2.3** million lives.

ChildFund India's health program focuses on providing adequate nutrition, promoting safe motherhood, protection against life-threatening childhood illnesses, promoting better sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and empowering community to ensure universal access to health.

We implement 52 health and nutrition projects in 54 districts of 14 states, benefitting 2.3 million lives.

The **SNEH** (Sustainable Health, Nutrition and Education) program in Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh improves nutrition in children by focusing on the first 1,000 days of their life. Maternal health and nutrition is addressed during pregnancy through an increased use of locally available nutritious food, promoting good practices like adequate rest, wage compensation for undernourished mothers, and accessing government health services for health check-ups, vaccination, and management of common childhood illnesses. Through our interventions over 2000 malnourished children less than 5 years and nearly 1000 pregnant and lactating women have been brought to normal level. The project was successful in transforming 70% of children with malnutrition into normal category.

The **Mentoring Mothers for a Healthy Nation** program improved the health and nutritional status of 10,000 infants, young children and mothers in 60 villages of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. It helps mothers take the lead to practice, share and promote local nutrition solutions. The program provides holistic benefits -- basic care, nutrition, health, stimulation and early learning, and protection and system strengthening for sustainability. It establishes and strengthens mother's committees, engages with ASHA, Anganwadis and ANMs, which improves the efficacy of systems and process. The program also promotes kitchen gardens, supports local women's leadership, conducts baseline surveys and develops community based monitoring systems.



The **Lalan Palan** project promotes care of 1000 children below the age of 6 years and their mothers in Kaushambi district of UP by educating and supporting mothers to practice good childcare and by strengthening village based health services. As a result, institutional deliveries increased from 38.1% in 2009 to 75.3%, 97% women registered for antenatal care and a significantly lower number (9%) new-borns reported low birth weight compared to 21% in non-intervention villages.

Our **Urban Health Initiatives** in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Mysore and Chennai engage community volunteers to promote institutional deliveries, complete immunization, enhance health seeking behaviours and capacities of women and adolescent girls. The major achievement of this project is the reactivation of 56

ward committees for better engagement of local communities in implementing this intervention. The project has identified 240 potential urban ASHA workers as per the health mission guidelines and supported the health department for quality service delivery, 212 mothers' committees have been formed and have started taking ownership for sanitation, building awareness of good practices among pregnant women, health check-up of children, immunization etc.

We support 565 government **Model and Vibrant Anganwadi (pre-school) centres** in 5 States, boosting children's health and nutrition, resulting in achieving age appropriate developmental milestones for 100,000 children aged 3- 6 years. We work with 700 mothers' committees and 500 ASHA workers. This program offers a combination of home and centre based approaches. Home-based interventions include home-visits by trained community mobilizers who educate parents on child health care through positive parenting strategies including building parents' understanding on early child stimulation practices along with health and nutrition messaging. Further, centre based activities include mapping infrastructure of Anganwadis, building skills and handholding of Anganwadi workers, providing as well as mobilizing resources to enable a centre to meet parameters defined under the ICDS and beyond. This includes facilities such as solar panels, LCD projector and digital education materials.

The **Garima project** has improved the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) status of 3000 young people, through trainings, counselling and referral support provided by 250 peer educators

As a result of our work institutional deliveries increased from 38.1% in 2009 to 75.3%, 97% women registered for antenatal care and a significantly lower number (9%) new-borns reported low birth weight compared to 21% in non-intervention villages.

As a result of the RANI project, by the end of 2018 more than 60 % adolescents have normal haemoglobin level as compared to only 30 % in the beginning.

and government village health workers in 17 locations in 9 states. In order to reach out to adolescents more effectively, 'peers education' approach at the community/village level was adopted. Under this program we have established 34 adolescent health centres (named JIGYASA Centres) for adolescent-friendly health services and organized 98 service days creating safe spaces for young people to discuss SRH issues. The program engaged parents and families with 12 days sessions to increase knowledge and understanding around social norms that increase the risk of unsafe sex and its negative health impact.

Our **RANI** (Reduction in Anaemia through Normative Innovations) project reaches nearly 5000 adolescent girls in Madhya Pradesh

and Jharkhand and has considerably reduced the incidence of anaemia. It has supported 200 nutrition gardens, provided information on locally-available, affordable nutrition, provided blood transfusion and iron tablets to 2000 moderately and severely anaemic adolescent girls. The major achievement of the project is that by the end of 2018 more than 60 % adolescents have normal haemoglobin level as compared to only 30 % in the beginning.

The **SWASH++** (School Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health) program worked with children, parents, teachers and school management committees to help nearly 80,000 children in 140 schools access safe drinking water, sanitation, health and hygiene through behaviour change communication.

Our **Water ATMs** dispense safe water in 30 villages in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Jharkhand. This automated community-owned and operated water purification initiative has helped mitigate water-borne diseases among more than 1,50,000 adults and children.

The **Link Worker Scheme** is an HIV/AIDS prevention program implemented in 2000 villages, encompassing 8 districts in Telengana and 12 districts in Andhra Pradesh. ChildFund India is the lead agency for this program supported by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). The goal of the program is to reach out to High Risk Groups (HRGs) and vulnerable men & women in rural areas with information, knowledge & skills on HIV/STI prevention and risk reduction. This project is being implemented since 2009. It has reached over 3,00,000 target population through integrated centres for diagnosis, counselling and treatment; condom outlet boxes in villages; sensitization and engagement with panchayat raj institutions and self-help groups; and establishment of village information centres. The program has developed 211 model villages, with high quality services and visible impact.

Other similar interventions are being implemented in 2 districts of Telengana reaching over 4000 people with an aim to create awareness and prevention of STI/HIV/AIDS specifically among female sex workers and men having sex with men. Another project works with children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in 84 urban slums of Vijayawada and Kakinada districts of Andhra Pradesh. The project interventions are counselling, awareness generation, treatment adherence, nutrition supplementation, education support for children and livelihood promotion for care givers. Nearly 2000 affected and infected children are receiving nutrition supplements, and 231 children are on Anti-Retroviral Therapy services.

ON THE WAY TO A HEALTHY CHILDHOOD

Rakesh was born in July 2016. His parents belong to a small tribal village in Jhabua District, Madhya Pradesh. They are farmers, and also work as seasonal labourers for other farmers. When his parents are away, a grandparent looks after the boy.

Under our SNEH project, screening is conducted to determine nutrition levels of children in the project villages. At one such screening, our team identified Rakesh among children who were malnourished. Rakesh, who was then just 28 months old, was suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). He weighed only 6.5 kilos.

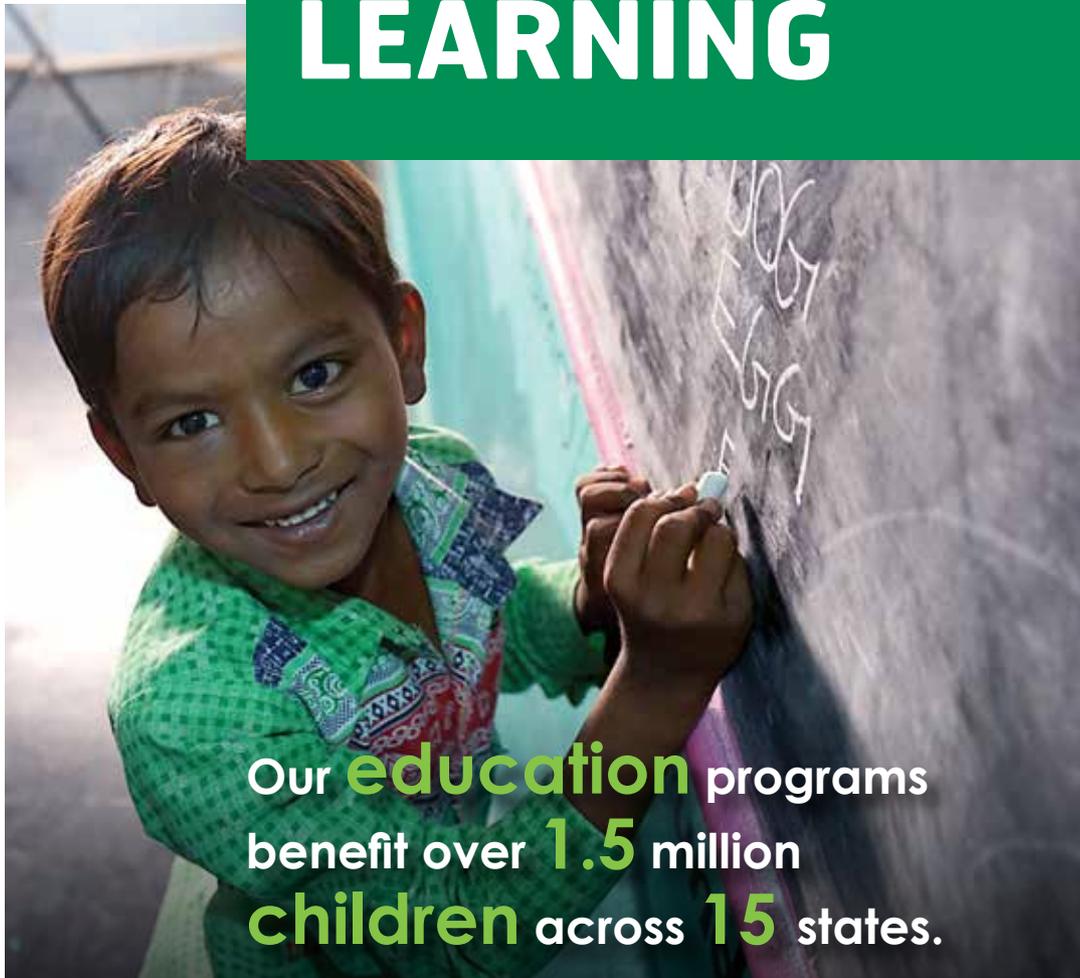
To address malnutrition in the project area, a community based orientation on maternal and child health was conducted for the local mothers' committee.

They were trained to prepare nutritious food items from locally available resources, for which Positive Deviance plus (PD+) Hearth sessions were conducted. Post PD + Hearth sessions, an average weight gain of 100 to 200 grams was observed in the beneficiaries in three months – from August to December 2017.

The project also developed a community based tool to monitor improvement. Motivated by the project team, Rakesh's mother actively participated in the project activities, which led to significant behavioural change in her. As a result, Rakesh's health improved tremendously within 6 months and from red category, he has now moved to green category which means nourished. Post intervention, Rakesh's weight increased to 8 kilos. At 3 years, Rakesh is now a healthy child, achieving age-appropriate milestones.



KEEPING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL AND LEARNING



Our **education** programs benefit over **1.5 million children** across **15** states.

ChildFund India works in remote villages and complex urban communities, directly and through local partners, to ensure children are able to reap the benefits of education.

- We promote school readiness of children in early years.
- We enrol out-of-school children, promote retention and help them finish school.
- We support government schools, communities and the education system in making the Right to Education Act a reality, making schools safe and pedagogy child sensitive, context based, multilingual and active.
- We ensure children achieve age appropriate learning outcomes as stipulated by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- We ensure communities and parents are invested in their children's education.
- We facilitate community advocacy and support communities in engaging with the governance of Early Childhood Development centres.

Our education programs benefit over 1.5 million children across 15 states.

Buniyaad – The Foundation is an early childhood development model operational in four villages of Chhattisgarh. It focuses on achieving age appropriate developmental milestones (physical, cognitive, language, socio-emotional and creative) among 500 children aged 0 to 3 years, by engaging with parents, siblings and other caregivers and frontline child development workers.

Our **Model and Vibrant 'Anganwadi' (pre-school) centres** increased access to quality early childhood care and education services for 100,000 children in the age group 3-6 years through 19 centres in 9 districts of 5 States. We have been able to train more

than 500 teachers to consistently apply stimulating teaching-learning methodologies. The interventions resulted in increased enrolment of children in schools, as well as improvements in children's health and nutrition.

Our **Safe and Stimulating Anganwadi (SASA)** project was able to provide a better quality of care to nearly 1500 children aged 0-6 years. The project objective was to develop/implement a comprehensive and holistic set of "child-friendly" guidelines within two pilot Anganwadis in the slums of Delhi. The major achievements of the project are, increase in quality of care at Anganwadi centre from 10 % to 58 %, enhanced knowledge of parents about their parenting role from 10 % to 70 % and improved communication between parents and Anganwadi workers. Data also showed increased parental awareness about aspects of child safety.

ChildFund India assisted the **Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED)**, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, in conducting a project on "Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)". We carried out a study in Jharkhand and supported the pilot. This study intends to help produce a better curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Development in India. A total of 1500 respondents were surveyed, including children in the age group of 3-6 years, covering six blocks in Palamu (Rural) area and five wards in Ranchi (urban) area, respectively.

Under our **Anandshala** project to promote reading improvement, we have established Child Learning centres in 13 government schools in Alwar district in Rajasthan to facilitate learning among 3000 children. Subsequently, there has been a 30 % increase in reading ability and significant improvement in other areas too such as reading habits, attendance, etc.

'**iSTAR** – Improving Success through Academic Readiness' project addressed the learning needs of 200 children aged 3 – 5 years,

and improved the school readiness of over 100 children aged 6-14 years in 4 villages in Odisha. The project helped in sending 77 children back to school, established Libraries and Reading Corners at the child friendly educational centres that are equipped with age appropriate teaching and learning materials and trained teachers.

The **Literate India** project has enabled 1500 children in 20 schools of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to achieve age appropriate learning. The retention rate in schools where the project was implemented increased by 40%, and some of our project schools were declared model schools by the government education department. The schools improved on Right to Education compliance and the learning levels of the children have gone up by around 60%. The project was also able to establish strong networks at community, district and state level for ensuring community engagement for effective implementation of Right to Education.

Apart from the above, under our **Reading for Leading** program, our SMART schools provide digital classroom experience in selected government schools in Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh reaching around 3000 students. We have also set-up well-equipped solarized libraries in 200 government schools across our operational areas. Additionally, our unique Mobile Libraries in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Karnataka take books to thousands of children in the age group of 6-14 years, motivating them to read better.

Our **Building Basic Skills** program helps nearly 20,000 children in 200 schools across 30 districts of 14 states. It supports the literacy

Our SMART schools provide a digital classroom experience at identified schools in Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

and numeracy skills of children through a multilingual context based approach, promotes positive relationships and facilitates children's social and emotional life skills. Despite being a recent intervention, it has started showing some significant achievements. In some states where the model was implemented there has been a 5-8% increase in the enrolment of the children in the age appropriate classrooms. Retention of children in these grades has gone up 10-11%. Also, around 20% of government school teachers in the project schools have started to use scientific methodologies for teaching-learning. The percentage of parents reporting increased confidence in storytelling and supporting literacy activities at home has increased in the range of 10 -30 %, in different locations.



Our **Community Based Learning Centres** (CBLCs) in three villages of Udaipur District in Rajasthan improved the literacy skills of nearly 600 children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. The project strives to reintegrate children into formal education with CBLCs serving as an alternative basic education facility for children within their own communities. Nearly 200 drop-out students were re-enrolled in schools and 71 children from CBLCs were enrolled for the first time in two schools. Looking at the success, the project initiated its second phase under the name **PACE (Promoting Access and Continuity to Education)** expanding its interventions to 5 more villages in Rajasthan covering approximately 1000 children by setting up new centres, managed and monitored by the community members, equipped with age and grade appropriate learning materials and properly trained instructors who take care of the learning and developmental needs of the tribal children.

Along with these interventions, we have also promoted **art education** to benefit over 5000 children. We invested in empowering children to participate meaningfully in their development and be catalysts of change by encouraging them to organize themselves in groups in schools and communities. Each group has its administrative structure with democratically elected members having specific roles and responsibilities. More than 250 child clubs have been organized across our target villages.

Our **Support classes** have contributed to the academic achievements of around 15000 children in more than 650 villages in 30 districts of 11 States in the last year.

With an aim to provide education support in the form of materials and **scholarships** for children to continue their education when financial reasons become barriers, around 1500 children were enabled to continue their education and transition smoothly into higher levels of education without dropping out.

SANDHYA LEARNS TO READ, GAINS CONFIDENCE

Sandhyarani, 12, belongs to a landless family living below the poverty line. Her father Babuli works as a driver and mother Sabita is a housewife. Her parents find it difficult to afford education for their children and are not able to provide any educational guidance at home either.

The school that Sandhyarani attends has classes only till grade 8. There are only 2 teachers to support 169 children. They also manage other responsibilities, including monitoring mid-day meals, school sanitation, office records, etc. Because they are spread so thin, the children's education has suffered. This has resulted in more than 69% children being unable to achieve class appropriate learning. Sandhya was one of them and her slow learning developed a sense of inadequacy and insecurity in her.

With the support of the local partner, ChildFund began to implement its Building Basic Skills initiative in the school, starting by enrolling 30 children with learning difficulties, including Sandhya. They also involved parents, school teachers, the School Management Committee and line departments. They started off with the story-telling method of teaching and gradually introduced library and print rich methods. Besides these, Sandhya was involved in drawing pictures, paper crafts and working with low cost TLMs. Slowly, Sandhya began to perform better and gained confidence. She is now able to read and narrate 12 stories, and is able to read texts in Odia as well as English.

As her reading and writing abilities improve, Sandhya has a new aim. "The teaching approach is very different and interesting," Sandhya says. "My literacy and numeracy skills are improving. I love coming to school now, and when I grow up I want to become a doctor and serve poor people."



KEEPING YOUTH ENGAGED AND GAINFULLY EMPLOYED



Recognizing that improving the quality of life of youth is critical in contributing towards poverty reduction, our livelihood and skill enhancement program is designed to help young people and their families achieve a minimum standard of living, provide skill development and placement support, empower youth collectives and promote youth engagement and leadership development.

Through our livelihood and skill enhancement initiatives we benefit nearly 1 million people.

In Delhi's Bhagwanpura slum our **Building Better Future for Youth through Skills Development** project has trained 140 youth in welding and motor driving, providing access to gainful employment as well as entrepreneurship. Apart from these two courses, the students were also trained in soft skills, self-defence and basic computer functions. Through placement support, 70% of welding students and 60% of motor driving students have been gainfully placed in various organizations.

In the same area, under our **YUVA [Youth United 4 Voluntary Action]** initiative, nearly 500 more youth were trained in courses such as Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), garment making, and CRS trade. Customised need-based programs such as language and communication skills, positive thinking skills, personality development, management skills, behavioral skills, including job and employability skills, were also initiated for specific age groups.

Through our **livelihood and skill enhancement initiatives we benefit nearly 1 million people.**

Daksh, our youth livelihood and empowerment project in selected villages in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh has trained nearly 1000 youth in basic computer operation, retail, hospitality, and agriculture. Out of them 323 trained youth have been placed in different sectors earning an average income of Rs. 12,000 while others are in process of placements and other necessary pre-placement preparations.



Our **LEEP** (Livelihood and Economic Enhancement of Poor) project is implemented in 54 districts across 15 states. Implemented with the help of 55 NGO partners, it reaches 70,000 families. It focuses on elevating their status by providing micro-finance and micro-businesses through self-help groups (SHG). 5,500 SHGs have been formed with 75,000 women members. Key management activities are conducted, including business identification, planning, capacity building of members on entrepreneurship and networking. The federations are linked with top national financial institutions for the promotion, financing and further development of their micro, small and medium enterprises sector. The repayment rate is estimated to be between 20% and 100% while the total revolving fund loan available with the partners is estimated to be between Rs. 240 million and Rs. 270 million.

Our **Poverty to Prosperity** (P2P) project in Jhabua, Dhar and Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh enabled 1000 women to become entrepreneurs with skills, infrastructure and knowledge. Starting off with one chicken shed and 100 chickens, each woman is earning close to Rs. 4000 a month. 800 of them opened bank accounts in

their names and are operating them. To support these 1000 entrepreneurs, "Sramadha Adiwasi Mahila Murgi Paalan Producer Company Private Limited" has been established.

The **RET-URN 2** project in three districts of Tamil Nadu helped repatriate 195 Sri Lankan refugee families with sufficient skills and knowledge. 374 youth received training on entrepreneurship, career development, life and leadership skills.

Swabalamban is a project running in 12 selected villages in 3 districts of Karnataka, in order to help youth and women adapt to the changing demands of the labour market. Over 100 youth have benefitted through Youth Resource Centres and Youth Clubs, leadership and vocational skill trainings. Sports kits were provided to 600 youth, and 300 youth have been trained in civic management.

Our goal is to empower youth to become next generation leaders, spokespersons for the unheard and be meaningfully involved in the betterment of their communities and society. Through our **Youth-led** projects, we are building the capacity of and creating sustained partnerships with young people, especially deprived, excluded or vulnerable youth, who are often not reached by conventional youth development programs, to contribute to community, country and global development. Close to 750 youth collectives have been formed in our operational areas with over 15,000 members. Out of these, almost 50 youth collectives are registered and 134 have their own bank accounts. Youth collectives are very active in addressing the issues of child survival in their respective areas and some of the youth collectives have established strong networks with the government.

Our LEEP project has enabled the formation of 5500 Self Help Groups, comprising 75,000 women members. It focuses on elevating their status through micro-finance and micro-businesses.

TAKING CHARGE OF HER LIFE

Mamta is one of the 1000 young tribal women who have been trained and transformed into entrepreneurs under ChildFund India's "Poverty to Prosperity" project supported by the Citi Foundation's 'India Innovation Grant Program' (IIGP).

The project worked with women aged 18 to 30 years from low income communities in 46 villages across Jhabua, Dhar and Alirajpur districts in Madhya Pradesh. The literacy level of these women is very low, only 30% of them are literate. These tribal women seasonally migrate to other locations to work as daily-wage labourers.

They were trained in basic poultry management, leadership, financial planning and marketing, and supported with poultry sheds, chickens, etc. to start their own business. Mamta has emerged as an independent and confident business woman, who actively participates in taking financial decisions for her family. In fact, she has become a role model for other women of her community.

Till a year ago, she was struggling to make ends meet. After becoming part of the 'Poverty to Prosperity' project, she not only earns an additional income of Rs. 5000 every month through her poultry business, she is also on the board of directors leading the producer company formed under the project to support the businesses of other beneficiaries. Eventually, Mamta wants to establish her own hatchery unit to breed and supply chickens through the producer company and enable other women to benefit and set up enterprises.



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION



Children across all ages suffer violence, exploitation and abuse every day. Those in the poorest communities are especially vulnerable — and, because of their poverty, less resilient. Often children in violent or abusive environments are unable to exercise their other important rights — to food, shelter, adequate health services, education — which further impairs their development and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. We work to build stronger communities and institutions so that children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. We aim to end violence against children, ensuring more children in India live in conditions that enable optimum development at every stage of their lives.

Our Building Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms program aims to strengthen violence prevention systems in communities in 250 villages, impacting more than 10,000 children. It empowers children, parents and caregivers on child rights, educates them on child protection schemes and policies; organizes them in groups and platforms for their participation in strengthening child protection systems in communities. The program also builds

capacities of panchayats, village child protection committees and other village leaders to enable them to effectively promote the rights of children.

In the last few years, in Firozabad town alone – which is home to the glass and bangle making industry of India involving 50,000 children in home based child labour – our **project Disha** has prevented thousands of children from being forced into labour or extricated them and enrolled them in school. We have formed 30 children's clubs and 25 youth clubs, registered as a federation called Pragati Yuva Trust, who support the project with its objectives. We provide entrepreneurship skills to youngsters to help them with alternative livelihoods. 103 women self-help groups have been registered as a federation called "Sangam Lok Sangh", to increase their capacity to earn and save and connect them with various social and economic security schemes at state and central level. Besides, efforts are undertaken to capacitate block and district level officers on legal provisions under JJ Act for coordinated actions. 12 Child Protection Forums have been formed to strengthen the community level child protection mechanisms. Resultantly, there is a considerable decrease in children's working hours and school absenteeism. The

We combat child trafficking and have helped close to 17,000 inhabitants in 15 villages, resulting in enrolling in school more than 1000 dropout children at-risk of trafficking.

youth federation members are taking up social issues with the local authorities.

Our **UnMukt** project is being implemented in 50 villages of Deoghar and Palamau districts in Jharkhand. This multi-stakeholder project aims to prevent early marriage, impacting 2000 girls between 12 to 18 years. The project adopted a rights based approach and built capacities of communities and local authorities on laws and policies on child marriage. In particular, the project organized and trained girls to play football. The teams are now playing and winning district and state level tournaments. One girl has also been selected to compete in the national under-14 football tournament. In a short span, the project secured a written

undertaking from parents that they will not marry their girls before they reach 18 years of age. More than 130 planned early marriages were prevented with the support of panchayats, community and administration. Scholarships and other education support and building separate toilets in schools helped enroll 92 drop-out girls while 57 children were rescued from child labour. Recognizing the achievements, Jharkhand State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights commissioned ChildFund to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on child marriage.

Khilta Bachpan is a new campaign on art and childhood going to be initiated in 60 government schools in low income communities of Delhi, while simultaneously, expanding to over 2000 schools across the country. It introduces art in education to promote socio-emotional development of children aged 6-18 years. The project promotes performing and creative arts to channelize children's abundant energies positively and creatively and make them learn coping strategies, inculcating aesthetic values and appreciation for diverse cultures.

Our **Combating Child Trafficking through Sustainable Livelihood Development** project aims to empower socially and economically backward populace in Jhadol and Kotra blocks of Udaipur district, Rajasthan, thereby reducing their vulnerability to child trafficking. The multi-sectoral project impacts an estimated 17,000 inhabitants in 15 villages, resulting in enrolling in school more than 1000 dropout children at-risk of trafficking. The project generates awareness against child labour and trafficking through local art forms, mass campaigns, training panchayat members; informs and connects people with social security schemes and strengthens village child protection mechanisms. Besides, community development forums or child protection squads are vigilant and escalate incidents to concerned authorities. Child rights club members visit families and inform teachers if children do not attend schools regularly. Additionally, farmers are trained and financially supported to do multi-cropping, sell their produce at bigger markets, start kitchen gardens and adopt organic practices.

ChildFund India collaborated with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, a mandated apex body, to produce a handbook on '**Ending Violence against Children**'. The handbook will consist of three volumes including 1) Situation analysis of childhood violence in India 2) De-mystification and unpacking of laws related to protection of children 3) User handbook of procedures related to key stakeholders mandated for protection and combating childhood violence. The endeavour is to assist all the stakeholders to understand the law and the roles they play in monitoring law enforcement agencies.

Our **Mukti** project reduced children's vulnerability in brickfields in Rajarhat and Bhangar blocks of North and South 24 Pargana districts of West Bengal. The project impacts 220 children of migrant brick-kiln labourers. The project has increased children's access to health, nutrition and education by increasing their access to public health and immunization services. Education centres run in the communities have helped children build their literacy and numeracy skills.

TEENAGE GIRLS BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE

Raniya is a 16-year-old girl living in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. Her father is a daily wage labour and seasonal farmer with a very low income.

Deoghar has a large incidence of early marriage. Raniya's home was no exception. Raniya was 15 and studying in 10th grade when her parents began arranging her marriage. Raniya has always been an active volunteer in ChildFund India's program since 2006. She is a member of the local Adolescent Girls' club and also participated in life-skill training and peer educator training.

When she heard that her parents were fixing her marriage, she not only opposed it but also sought help from her club mates. The members visited her house and counselled her parents but could not persuade them.

Undeterred, the club members arranged for an awareness campaign through street plays based on the ill effects of early marriage and Raniya played the protagonist. The club members also reached out to the panchayat (local village level governing body), had them counsel the family and prevented the marriage.

Raniya is now enrolled in 11th standard. She is a member of local girls' football team, has taken vocational training and wants to become an entrepreneur. She also teaches younger children in her village, and actively campaigns against early marriage.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE DURING EMERGENCIES



Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) is one of the priority programs of ChildFund India. The aim of this intervention is to enhance the resilience of children and their communities by building disaster risk reduction capacities in the most vulnerable and disaster prone areas. The program also strengthens Panchayati Raj Institutions' (PRIs) capacities towards disaster risk reduction and protection for children. The program is operational in 45 villages across Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States and reaches to nearly 50,000 population including 19,245 children. Following are key accomplishments of the CCDRR program:

- 6,948 children and adults leading community level risk assessments, risk reduction planning and its implementation in the target villages.
- 632 children are part of community level preparedness and response mechanisms including village disaster management committees, task forces and child protection committees.

- Children in five Panchayats of Kendrapara, Odisha have influenced PRIs for the incorporation of high priority risks into Panchayat Development Plans and allocated resources to address the risks.

ChildFund India implements school safety intervention as part of CCDRR program to ensure safe learning environment for children. Under this initiative, children undertake hazard hunt process to identify potential risks, prioritise the identified risks, prepare safety plan including an action plan to reduce the identified risks. The action plan is presented to the School Management Committee and incorporated into the school development plan for implementation. A total of 4,854 school children and 450 teachers directly participated in the school safety program across 83 schools in three states.

ChildFund responded to the floods in Bihar triggered by torrential rains in August 2017. It provided humanitarian assistance to vulnerable children and communities of Forbesganj Block in Araria District. The assistance benefitted 2,000 households /10,000 people across the 10 worst affected villages in the block. The key interventions included distribution of emergency family kits, education kits for children, psycho-social first aid through Child Centred Spaces and emergency WASH interventions.

RECOGNITION AND ENGAGEMENT

We are seen as a leading voice in the area of child development and our work to protect and nurture children has been recognized and appreciated at various platforms. Through the year, we spearheaded conversations and discussions, engaging experts, partners, government and corporations.



“Art and Childhood” at TEDxDelhiSalon: On 13th September 2017 at Constitution Club of India in New Delhi, ChildFund India in partnership with TEDxDelhi and Minds Ignited brought together change makers, contrarians and activators to discuss ideas on the theme of “Art and Childhood”. This event was an exploration of ideas in the field of child development from the perspectives of artists, pioneers, change makers, ideators and children who have harnessed the power of art to break the boundaries that were holding them from progressing. ChildFund India CEO, Ms. Neelam Makhijani, spoke at this prestigious event.

WE ARE A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR CHILD RIGHTS



In association with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, ChildFund India developed a ready reckoner on the 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act'. We are now in the process of developing standard operating procedures to help law enforcement agencies adequately and appropriately deal with crime and violence against children.

- We are also working with child rights protection commissions at the state level in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Jharkhand. NCPCR chairperson, Ms. Stuti Kacker, has sent out a letter appreciating our efforts and that of our partner Nature in organizing a child protection convention in Andhra Pradesh.
- In Jharkhand, our work to help develop SOPs for state government officers on child and early marriages positioned us as a key advocate for child protection in the state. We also developed SOPs to aid in implementation of the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006'.
- We have signed a MoU for 2018-2021 with the Ministry of Education in Karnataka to improve school quality in 12 schools, to start with.
- Our teams are members of State Health Mission and State Health Committees. We are also members of District Health Societies.

WE PROMOTE AND HIGHLIGHT CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



On 12th June, 2018, AmCham's CSR Committee organized a day-long 'AmCham Signature Series: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem' in New Delhi bringing together key stakeholders of the Companies Act — policymakers, corporations, NGOs, social and developmental impact agencies – for cross-sector panel discussions that identified and addressed challenges, opportunities and avenues for capacity building in CSR. Ms. Neelam Makhijani (left) was one of the panellists in the session titled 'Processes and Opportunities in Capacity Building: A Look at Challenges and Opportunities NGOs Can Harness', along with Ms. Pritha Venkatachalam, Partner, Bridgespan and Mr. Deepak Prabhu Matti, Global Head, Outreach (Employee Volunteering Program), Cognizant. The frank discussion brought to light many misconceptions in the CSR ecosystem.



Earlier this year, on 22nd Feb. 2018, Ms. Neelam Makhijani participated in a Panel Discussion on “Scaling-up quality education initiatives in CSR through collaborations” at the Deccan CSR Summit 2018 in Hyderabad, Telengana. The summit aimed to understand the possibilities of development through CSR in the states by bringing together companies, NGOs, Government, Social Enterprises and Advisory Firms to share and learn best practices and discuss opportunities for collaborations.

ChildFund India speaks at AVPN India Summit

ChildFund India was one of the speakers at AVPN India Summit 2017 held in Mumbai on 14th September 2017. The session in which ChildFund participated was titled ‘From education to employment: insights into work-readiness’. This session focused on



Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services has been awarded the 4th India CSR Impact Award for supporting ChildFund India's SNEH Project. The project won best CSR Project Award in the Healthcare category for its innovative approach towards providing nutritional support for infants. SNEH (Sustainable Nutrition Education and Health) project was initiated in 2015 and has since reached out to thousands of beneficiaries in 33 villages of the Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh.

the ways in which impact investors and venture philanthropists can work to tackle these inequalities and accelerate the race to full employability for graduates in both blue-collar and white-collar skills environments through innovations in skilling and workforce readiness.



We acknowledge our partners, supporters and donors who make all that we do possible. In 2017-18, many government departments, corporation and institutions came forward to strengthen our work. We are immensely grateful to all of you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT

- » Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ and ChildFund Deutschland (Germany)
- » Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services
- » Citi Foundation / United World wide
- » Dr Ambedkar University
- » Tupadahalli Energy/ ACCIONA
- » Bernard van Leer Foundation
- » Fullerton India Pvt Ltd
- » Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd
- » Fluor Daniel India Pvt Ltd
- » Kavli Foundation – Barnfonden
- » Jindal Stainless Limited Foundation
- » Barnfonden (ChildFund Sweden)
- » ChildFund Australia and Australian Government
- » National AIDS Control Organisation and State AIDS control Society, Andhra Pradesh
- » National AIDS Control Organisation and State AIDS control Society, Telangana



WE BELIEVE...

Each of us has the power to help children thrive and when you support children, you improve the world and yourself. We create opportunities for people and institutions to positively impact children's lives and futures.

COUNTRY OFFICE

22, Museum Road, Bangalore 560 001,
Karnataka, India
Tel: 91-80-2558 7157, Fax: 91-80-2559 4271

REGISTERED OFFICE

2nd and 3rd Floor, B section, 26, Okhla Phase-III
New Delhi-110020, India
Tel: 91-11-40521827

Email: office@childfundindia.org
indiaoffice@childfund.org
Website: www.ChildFundIndia.org