

IMPACT REPORT 2016-17



Overview of

Overview of India







Languages

22 major languages, including Hindi (41%), Bengali (8%), Telugu (7%), Marathi (7%), Tamil (6%), Urdu (5%), Gujarati (5%), Kannada (4%), Malayalam (3%), Oriya (3%), Punjabi (3%), Assamese (1%), Maithili (1%), and Other, including Sindhi, Sanskrit (6%)

Under-five Mortality Rate: 43 per 1,000 live births. India ranks 53 in the world.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2015: 0.624 (ranked 131 out of 188, indicating medium human development).

Brief History of ChildFund in India

ChildFund came to India: 1951

Number of enrolled children (FY17): 46,013

Number of participants (FY17): 2,388,019

ChildFund formerly known as Christian Children's Fund (CCF), which began its journey named as China's Children Fund in 1938, started its work in India in 1951 by supporting an orphanage located in Alwaye Settlement School in Kerala and in subsequent years, the support extended to many more schools and orphanages.

The operations in India were then overseen by the CCF office in Hong Kong. With the emergence of new projects in southern India, the first field office of ChildFund was established in India in the year 1966 in Bangalore, Karnataka. Similarly, another field office was established in the year 1972 in Delhi to provide program support and oversight to projects in the northern regions of India.

Brief History of ChildFund (cont.)

One of the major milestones in the history of ChildFund in India is its support to the birth and growth of a local entity – registered locally as a society under the name of 'ChildFund India' in 1984, long before many international organizations even started thinking about promoting a local counterpart. The objective of promoting this entity was to have a strong local organization which could eventually run child-focused programs in the country with local management and governance. Currently both, international and local entities are functioning properly.

In 1997, the Bangalore field office was designated as national office (now called as Country office) for managing unified India program and the Delhi office was converted as program office, which is also the registered office of ChildFund India.

In 2006, ChildFund in India brought about a change in its programmatic structure by taking up projects through direct implementation mode and designated them as Area offices. With its Area offices as well as through its local NGO partners, the organization is working in 14 States and 2 Union Territories covering a population of over 2 million including children, youth and families in around 60 districts and nearly 2000 villages. Also, in order to decentralize the monitoring of field and program operation, ChildFund India categorized its operating areas into three zones and established zonal offices in Bangalore (for south zone), Bhubaneswar (for east zone) and in Delhi (for north zone).

In 2009, ChildFund changed its name from Christian Children's Fund to ChildFund International to position itself as a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-religious and equal opportunity organization.

In 2017, ChildFund India successfully designed its country strategy - Destination 2020 and its Program Models for next 15 years.



India - Geographies of Operation

14 States and 2 Un-**Territories** ion (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry)



Brief Program Overview



ChildFund India conducted a major strategic planning process to review its initiatives and to align its program interventions with the global strategy, while taking national priorities and recommendations from area strategic plan. In FY17, ChildFund India designed its Country Strategy 2020 introducing a guideline for an accountable, sustainable and result-oriented 'for the children' development organization. It also launched its new Funding and Program models in its operational areas to implement on pilot basis.

The Fiscal Year 2017 was significant for ChildFund India in terms of its reach and achieving its objectives. ChildFund India assisted nearly 2.4 million beneficiaries (direct and indirect) in its intervention areas through its programs, which includes 14,610 children in the age group 0-5 years, 90,899 children in the age group 6-14 years, 67,682 youths in the age group 15-24 years, their families and their communities at large.

Here is brief overview of the programs under each life stage during the FY 2017,

In 2017, ChildFund India finalized the program models for Life stage 1, which are 1) Positive Deviance plus and 2) Vibrant Early Childhood Development centers. Both models are being piloted by 8 local partners in their areas across the country.

During the year, more than 261 PD hearth / Nutritional sessions were conducted and 1775 mothers and caretakers were oriented on how to deal with malnutrition issues by using locally available nutritious resources while inculcating healthy and hygienic practices in their lives. As a result, 125 children shifted from severely malnourished condition to normal and 501 children shifted from moderately malnourished condition to normal. LS1 program also focuses on maternal and child care hence, ensures provision of proper ANC, natal and post natal services to pregnant women and lactating mothers. In 2016-17, there was a remarkable increase in the number of institutional deliveries in targeted areas, which is above 90% compared to national average 78.9%.

Besides this, two crosscutting program models, 1) School WASH ++ and 2) Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), were also rolled out with the local partners.

ChildFund India made significant impact through its special projects under WASH and Nutrition for AIDS/HIV infected and affected children, and also established new partnerships by initiating new urban slum projects as part of program expansion.

Under Life stage 2, the primary focus was on providing quality education to the children and improving their learning skills through various programs. Through long-term partnerships with 55 local grassroots organizations, ChildFund India's education projects reach over 1.5 million children in 2000 government schools, across 14 states and 2 union territories of India.

ChildFund India strategically developed program models augment national schemes and programs in order to achieve elementary education targets defined under the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). We work to help children acquire age appropriate learning and im-

Brief Program Overview (cont.)

prove their enrolment and retention in schools. The organization's longstanding field presence in rural India has given its keen insight into the barriers affecting children's ability to attain basic skills, and encouraging results to overcome them.

In 2017, ChildFund India finalized the following program models for Life stage 2,

- Go to school: This intervention is focused primarily on children in the age group of 6 -14 years who have either dropped out or were never enrolled in schools. The core objective is to bring all children into the fold of the school education, ensure their regularity, continuity and enhanced learning achievement in schools till grade VIII.
- Building Basic Skills: Through this model ChildFund India promotes early literacy and numeracy skills and skills of comprehension, description and analysis among children in 6-10 year age group, who fail to acquire these according to their age. The model also promotes a culture of reading, towards which it promotes a print rich environment libraries in the target locations.
- Safe and Effective schools: ChildFund is an agency that has safety of children high on its agenda. It strives to promote the schools that it collaborates with to be a place of safety and are effective.

Under Life stage 3, the programs focus on addressing issues related to youth, such as higher education, life skills education, civic engagement, skill development, entrepreneurship and employment. During the year, 2542 youth successfully underwent 202 different skills trainings. Out of which, 611 youth got placed in various organizations/ companies and 814 youth were supported by ChildFund India in starting their own businesses/ start-ups and become young entrepreneurs.

Through our signature programs we create space for young people to open up and take the right decision for their future career through our profiling exercise and counseling support. We provide incubation support to the young entrepreneurs by means of entrepreneurship development training, help in developing business plan, linkages with potential employers and market collaborators and financial institutions to leverage resources which are essential to start up business. These trained youth and families become literate with minimum financial literacy and business calculations.

Youth are widely seen as a key player in the development of the nation globally. ChildFund India builds true partnership with youth to strengthen their leadership qualities which further forms and acts as strong network to work for social change. We train youth collectives on life skills, youth participation and create platforms for participating in larger forums. These skills help youth collectives to create resiliency, coping and decision making process.

Our initiatives promote youth engagement and leadership development to bridge the knowledge gap and community empowerment. Empowered and capacitated youth subsequently engage, provide and seek information by creating a mechanism and work towards strengthening local governance. They bring youth issues at larger forums, raise collective voice for youth and community at large and strive to bring change.

In FY17, ChildFund India also initiated a project to strengthen local capacity for Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction in selected villages in Odisha State. The objective of this two-year project is 'vulnerable children, are better able to cope with shocks induced by natural hazards and everyday risks' while the key results essentially focus on increased capacities of children, communities and schools towards resilience, comprehensive school safety planning, disaster risk reduction, protection, and education for children before and after a disaster.

2017 Program Achievements



Healthy and Secure Infants

ChildFund India's Life stage 1 programs ensure underserved children, youth and families have access to quality health and adequate nutrition, parents and caregivers are educated about their role in preserving maternal and child health, and help youth gain life skills, practice healthy behavior, form positive relationships, access essential services, and live a life free from sexual exploitation and abuse.

This is achieved through the following:

In its 'early years' program, ChildFund focuses on a) Home based stimulation, positive parenting, health & nutrition interventions; and b) High quality pre-school education. It intervenes through following actions:

- Behaviour change communication at individual, family and community level.
- Home based care including visits, counseling and follow-ups with caregivers.
- Early identification of undernourished pregnant and lactating women, as well as children to combat severe to moderate under nutrition.
- Convergence and partnership with government's various Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development programs.
- Strengthening the community based system, engaging Panchayati Raj Institution (Village level governing body) and other committees existing at the community level.
- Engaging and sensitizing gate keepers especially male members for maternal and child care.

Annually, our health programs benefit over 2 million people. We are working with over 2,000 Early Childhood Development Centres (Anganwadis) across the country, reaching more than 1,50,000 mothers and primary caregivers. Total 12,780 primary caregivers and 2019 service providers have been trained on child care practices. To date, ChildFund India has been able to improve the lives of approx. 1,00,000 children in the age group of 0 to 5 years, 2,40,000 children aged 6-14 years and 2,40,000 children aged 15-24 years through its health related interventions. As a result of 364 Positive Deviant Hearth sessions organized by us, 11,776 malnourished children reached normal indicators as per follow-up surveys. An additional 29,017 children shifted from moderate malnourishment to normal.

Following are some of the major achievements:

• A registration drive by our team in Daltonganj secured birth certificates for 98% of newly born children in target villages of Jharkhand, whereas before the intervention less than 10% of children possessed certification.

- Across a number of projects, ChildFund's health activities increased skilled and assisted births by 37.2%, ensuring new-borns were delivered into a safe and secure environment.
- The organization also helped lower the rate of low birth-weight amongst infants across our target communities by 11%.
- Positive deviance training through health activities has led to 97% of women in target village enrolling in antenatal care.
- ChildFund has provided support for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in 2,000 Anganwadis and 2,000 primary schools, and has delivered training in WASH and sexual and reproductive health to over 21,000 children across India.

Educated and Confident Children



ChildFund India envisions children, between the age group of 6 to 14 years, from the most deprived, excluded and vulnerable communities, live in conditions that are safe, enable their optimum development and help realize their full potential in life. ChildFund India programs under Life Stage 2 are designed to:

- Achieve improved equitable access to schools by removing social, economic, health and infrastructural barriers for children.
- Strengthen school education system that fosters quality, equitable and inclusive learning opportunities.
- Enhance basic literacy, numeracy and life skills in children for achieving age appropriate learning outcomes.

And the major indicators for the above are as follows:

- Deprived, excluded and vulnerable children & adolescents have the capacity to improve their lives.
- Children & adolescents, adults, parents and leaders bring lasting and positive change in their communities.
- Societies value, protect and support the rights of children.

Following are some of the major achievements:

• ChildFund India's 'Reading Improvement program' benefits 2,00,000 children in 1500 villages across 14 states across the country annually. In 2017, the program has further grown and incorporated scientifically designed methodologies.

- The flagship Building Basic Skills Program, led to a 32% increase in grade appropriate reading comprehension across seven villages in Alwar District, Rajasthan, after only eight months of implementation.
- Building Basic Skills Program also represents an important pillar of the ISTAR project in Odisha, which focuses on early childhood education. After one year, the project led to a 22% increase in comprehension of the alphabet and 28% increase in comprehension of basic words.
- Within one year, 46% of children attending Community Based Learning Centers (CBLC) in Udaipur district have demonstrated improved learning outcomes.
- CBLCs have also supported relentless advocacy efforts in three villages within Udaipur District on access to education. These efforts resulted in the recruitment of one teacher by the District Authority, who will teach in Rupani village, thus providing vitally needed educational support to the community.
- BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) is an innovative concept towards bringing qualitative improvement in education, through developing child-friendly, learning and fun based physical environment in schools by building enabling infrastructure.
- Developed Standard operating Procedure for Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights towards implementation of 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006'.
- Empanelment of ChildFund India, Bangalore as Technical Resource Group (TRG) by Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (AP–SCPCR).
- ChildFund India collaborated with KSCPCR (Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights) for releasing Child Rights and Protection IEC Materials for larger awareness and impact.



Skilled and Involved Youth

ChildFund India systematically identifies employment opportunities, skill sets in demand, and provides vocational training to youth, placement assistance, incubation support to young business start-ups, and ensures retention to employment by equipping youth with necessary knowledge and life skills. We also create space for youth to open up and take the right decision for their future career through our profiling exercise and counselling support.

To prevent distress out migration, we promote alternative employment for youth in their communities.

Youth are empowered through life skill training as cross cutting – we provide periodic life skill training to sizable youths through youth clubs and peer leaders which helps in decision making, leadership development, negotiation skills, and relationship management ability.

Through our interventions we provide youth and families financial literacy to access bank linkages, guide them in developing business plan which helps youth/families apply for credits for interventions. We skill youth in various trades and help them with placement and career guidance, as per government mandate.

ChildFund's livelihood programs empower women and youth to contribute towards positive change in their communities. ChildFund works with over 600 women Self Help Groups, 916 Youth and Adolescent collectives across 14 states and 2 UTs in India.

DAKSH- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (An initiative to build Skills and Abilities to ensure gainful employment)

DAKSH Centres are operational across India to build skills and improve employability skills among potential youths from the deprived, excluded and vulnerable families. DAKSH centre provides market based skills to ensure placements and career progression. In fiscal year 2017, ChildFund India supported with skill development training to 2542 youth in different market based and farm based trades such as Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Apparel making, Driving, Retail, Hospitality, Mason, ITes, Beautician, ITI trades, and healthcare, etc. After receiving the training, youth and families have received better earning opportunities that have resulted in significant increase in family income. ChildFund India has partnered with different agencies, educational institutions and potential recruiters through local partners for these trainings and placements.

YUVA Project – a path for youth empowerment

The word YUVA stands for Youth United 4 Voluntary Action, which is an initiative by ChildFund India for empowerment of 150 youths, ages between 18 – 24 years, from the slums of Bhagwanpura area in Delhi. The project works towards building skills of youths who have dropped out of school and are in search of jobs. ChildFund India through its regular signature program supports children and youth for their fourfold development which includes skill development, employments, life skill development, civic engagements, etc. YUVA specially focuses on market driven skill development and incubation support to the trained youth to get employment opportunities.

YUVA has a fully equipped set up to train the youth in various trades based on market and their interest. YUVA ensures regular campus placement drives for the trained youth and till now it has organized various such drives with different companies and agencies providing employment to the trained youth.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISH MARKET LINKAGES

Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development upholds potential to create self-employment opportunities is different underserved regions. Entrepreneurship Development is one of the signature programs of ChildFund India that includes Entrepreneurship development training, financial literacy, detailed business plan preparation, leverage resource and access to market, etc. Through this initiative youth and deprived, excluded and vulnerable families have acquired skills to become entrepreneurs, understanding of business framework and key elements of business development process & planning, and market survey. In fiscal year 2017, it has supported 814 families and youth to get trained in EDP, and now they have initiated their own start-ups in different trades such as agriculture, mushroom cultivation, animal husbandry, and handicrafts.

DISHA – Pathways towards Sustainable Livelihoods and Dignified life

Firozabad city in the state of Uttar Pradesh is known for its bangle and glass making industry, as well as for children's involvement in it. As most of the families are involved in bangle making and other low income activities, they are compelled to send their children to work in order to supplement the household income. With an objective to eliminate child labour from this bangle making industry by improving the overall socio-economic condition of 'at risk' families, ChildFund India with support from ChildFund Deutschland, started Disha Children's Program in selected slums of Firozabad.

As a part of the initiative, Disha, in collaboration with SOCEO, is implementing "Sustainable Livelihood Development Program" (SLDP), in Firozabad. The entrepreneurship oriented activities and trainings under SLDP are aimed at providing a window of opportunity to obtain sustainable income to economically and socially marginalized youth and other community members in the project area.

Major celebration Points from the fiscal year 2017

- 795 youths were supported with financial literacy through periodic financial literacy camps at village level which helped them develop habit of savings. Daltonganj Area team trained 1028 youth in opening bank accounts, govt. schemes and about availing benefits from financial institutions.
- Significant youth members got placed after receiving vocational training in Bangalore zone and Bhubaneswar zone. However, many courses are still continuing as well as the placement process is going on.
- Trained 75 youth club members from across the country in videography who learnt to develop script, basics of cinematography, editing, etc. and are now making films on various social issues to support their advocacy efforts.
- 1000 youth from Bangalore zone and 500 youth from Bhubaneswar zone received life skill training on decision making, leadership and coping mechanism.
- As part of its sustainable livelihood project to combat child trafficking in Udaipur, ChildFund India conducted outreach activity to raise awareness about child trafficking among 20,000 villagers, including 10,000 children. This project facilitated the formation of 135 Vigilance Squads (who saved 20 children from being trafficked), trained 136 police personnel in child protection, and provided life skills training to 375 rural youth, enhancing income of 50% of participants.
- 230 advocacy meeting by the youth groups initiated discussions on various topics amongst various stakeholders such as financial institution/ Banks, corporate companies, SMC members, village development committee, etc.



Youth and Civic Engagement



Youth collectives are one of the main pillars under ChildFund India's Life Stage 3 program. They are strong forces involved in social movements and their active engagement with the community is crucial for social change. Collective participation is a process of involving young people in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change. It essentially means their involvement in planning and making decisions that affect themselves and the community. In this direction, ChildFund India has initiated an assessment of collectives.

Bhubaneswar zone of ChildFund India piloted this assessment with 294 youth collectives comprising of 7169 youth members. The indexing exercise focused on categorizing youth collectives according to their performance. The performance has been measured against set parameters. These parameters define the quality of youth collectives under four levels of empowerment defined by ChildFund. Each level has a list of parameters where rating is on a point scale of 10 for each parameter. A 360 degree assessment of youth collectives has been carried out under each level individually and holistically.

Youth Collectives Empowerment	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Total
Level 1	16	117	77	84	294
Level 2	10	46	64	174	294
Level 3	7	36	17	234	294
Level 4	3	32	25	234	294

This table shows number of youth collectives in each empowerment level,

Youth Collectives Empowerment Lev- els of 294 YC's	Grade A &B in each level	Percentage
Level 1	133	46%
Level 2	56	19%
Level 3	43	15%
Level 4	35	12%

Grades A&B are regarded as the well performing grades, as the collectives that fall under this category are considered to be moving to a higher level than their current levels.

Future actions for indexing and grading of collectives – the way forward

This pilot exercise on indexing and grading of youth collectives has paved way to measure our interventions around youth participation and civic engagement through the major platform of

collectivization of youth in the communities where we serve. This tool will be strengthened further and refined based on the findings and cross verification of the scores, which will be consolidated along with feedback.

Youth Participation in Gram Sabha for Policy integration

As we know Panchayati Raj provides enormous possibilities of making local governance needbased, accountable and transparent. This platform can be enriched with active participation by youth for innovation, fresh mind's perspective, energy, insights and creativity for forming youth/ child friendly policies by the local government. For inclusive governance, our initiative intends greater participation of youth collectives in identifying, analyzing and presenting local issues and advocating the charter of demands in the presence of Gram Sabha as on this basis the policy and village level micro plan can be developed.

On the same lines, our Local Partners facilitated our youth collectives to raise Child Marriage related issues and participate in Gram Sabha for policy integration. This year Bhubaneswar zone performed this exercise with 711 youths from 11 local partners whereas Delhi zone performed this with 45 youth clubs who prepared youth and child charter of demands which were handed over to Panchayat Head for processing. The charter of demands covered issues like early marriage, girl child education, child labour, community development issues, youth distress-out migration, registration of marriages, student- teacher ratio as per RTE mandates, etc. Our LPs are strongly involved in backward and forward linkages to support the same.

EMPOWER Project - Pilot

The word "EMPOWER" fends empowering community through a process of strengthening Local Governance. This project has been conceptualized to strengthen local governance systems through its ambitions and efforts. Further, empowering the children and youth to understand and address local issues. ChildFund India has taken this project on pilot basis and with success this will be replicated in other areas. As a pilot, three best locations to implement this project were selected, which are CTD – West Bengal, Jhabua Area – Madhya Pradesh and RASS – Andhra Pradesh. The project was for 6 months.

On completion of this project, the major outcomes that resulted were – democratic and participatory plans from Gram panchayats and Child protection community based committees.

The result from the baseline study in three project locations gives a better idea about both community and panchayat with regards to micro level decentralized planning and involvement of youth. The PRI leaders from the model panchayats have been trained on community development concepts, tools, techniques for micro planning exercise in the context of youth and child friendly development. The youth leaders from these locations were oriented on govt. schemes to benefit children and youth and Panchayats helped them to contribute in village level decision making process. These youth were trained on micro planning process with complete tool box and now they are facilitating the village level micro plans and shared their charter of demands in front of gram sabhas.

The local partners, CTD and RASS, have strengthened the village level child protection committees keeping child protection standard and mandates in mind through which they will influence integration of local child protection issues with in the governance system, so that they can be addressed.

Child Protection

Child Protection is an integral part of ChildFund India's program strategies and processes. We place special emphasis on child protection to prevent abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation against children in India and all over the world. We focus on identifying areas of risks and vulnerabilities of children across our intervention areas throughout all life stages to ensure protection of children.

Under the initiative **"Combating Trafficking by addressing root causes"** in Udaipur district of Rajasthan, we have been able to intervene in 9 cases of child trafficking. We have enrolled 52 children



from migrating families in schools and have also facilitated linkage of 8 families with the "Palanhaar Yojana" a scheme targeted for children in need of care & protection.

A constructive engagement and close work with ChildLine (1098 toll-free helpline no.) and constant work with child welfare committees was instrumental in garnering support and delivering these results. We have facilitated formation of 8 community forums at panchayat (village level governing body) level around the issue of unsafe migration and trafficking. There are 21 children's clubs in Govt. schools which are also playing an effective role of a vigil mechanism and awareness creation.

Community awareness and working of strengthening economic conditions of these families have been instrumental programming areas. Communities have been trained on economic upliftment skills on basic entrepreneurship, agro pastoral processes and market opportunity trainings. A farmer club has also been established and linked with a Dairy for milk collection. Families have also been linked to socio economic benefit schemes and pensions.

Under **UNMUKT** project being implemented in selected villages in the state of Jharkhand, we have been able to rescue 57 children who were forced into labor. We were also able to prevent 108 cases of child marriage with effective stakeholder engagement and enforcement through duty bearers. 91 children have been mainstreamed into schools in our operational area and actions have been taken against 3 cases of child trafficking.

Building capacities and working closely with village & block level structures under "Integrated Child



Protection Scheme" were also instrumental in the success of these interventions. The child marriage prohibition officer and officials from the Dept. of women & child development also played a vital role along with the project team in prevention of these child marriages. Awareness on the issue of early marriage was taken up through various awareness processes including usage of tools like radio jingles, IEC materials and integrating the components in meetings with community based organizations, children collectives and adolescent girl's collectives.

A study on community based child protection mechanism in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh has been completed in collaboration with the dept. of communication of Jagannath International Management School, New Delhi. The study focused on objectives around assessing capacities of primary role holders, understanding formal and informal community centered child protection systems, identifying positive practices of responsiveness and understanding barriers. The study has yielded areas which seek concrete recommendations to the state for strengthening child protection systems.

Participation of children in the whole process was an innovative approach while undertaking the study in a safe environment. The findings of the study will be used for engaging with key stakeholders for placing recommendations and sharing of findings.

Another example where ChildFund India has created and strengthened a movement towards protection of child rights is "DISHA" an initiative being implemented in Firozabad District of Uttar Pradesh which focuses on addressing issues related to children engaged in home-based labor.



Launch of Child Friendly Accountability Framework

Over 150 representatives from government, civil society, national and international NGOs, UN bodies, academia, the private sector, children and youth came together at a consultation hosted by ChildFund India in New Delhi on February 8 and 9, 2017. Panelists and speakers showcased best practices from the ground, shared experiences, and provided inputs to develop the way forward. The child-friendly accountability framework developed by the ChildFund Alliance was also introduced.

ChildFund Alliance members in India - ChildFund India, CCF Canada and EDUCO -- jointly launched a national level initiative establishing Child-Friendly Accountability Framework in India, through which children are being encouraged to engage to monitor the progress of

the Sustainable Development Goals. The Framework outlines strategies and tools for children to participate in examining the progress, in the national efforts, to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children.

ChildFund Alliance announced that it will pilot the child-friendly accountability framework in select locations, collect inputs from key stakeholders in different sectors and develop a tool for effective participation of children in ensuring their protection from abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence, in schools and communities.



Innovation

1. Introduction of New Funding Model (NFM):

ChildFund India has introduced the New Funding Model (NFM) with an objective to ensure "**Performance based funding**" in the organization. With this NFM, ChildFund India also derived the Project Design Document on the basis of "Themes" but the life stage is cross cutting in the entire thematic proposal. Aspects it focuses on,

- 1. The major themes that were framed in the NFM during the year were;
 - Health & Sanitation
 - Education
 - Livelihood
 - Child Protection
 - DRR
 - Donor relations
- 2. Quality Engagement with Local Partner Handholding support
- 3. Monitoring and Evaluation
- 4. Categorization of the Local Partners' strength and programming.

2. Introduction of New Program Models:

ChildFund India strives to create social impact by focusing on Evidence-based cohesive program models with integration of Child protection and Disaster Risk Reduction that are designed and implemented in the needy and deserving communities in India.

In the last six decades, ChildFund India has been able to create significant positive impact in the lives of millions of children belonging to marginalized communities in India. The main focus has re-

mained child development and protection. Child-Fund India has shifted its focus from family support programs to child centered community development. Community empowerment became an integral part in the program since then.

In 2014, ChildFund India started focusing on aligning its program interventions with ChildFund's Life Stage-wise Theory of Change and pathways. After a robust process of twelve months, the program team was able to finalize comprehensive 15 year program strategies for all three life stages.



ChildFund India has consolidated its program models around pathways that are close to the center and the investment of its efforts and resources on these pathways will be more prominent in years to come. All the life stage program models are designed to strengthen the interventions around these pathways.

Here are the Program models for each Life stage,



Program Offers	Desired Outcomes	Key Interventions
	Life Stage one	
 Positive deviance plus Positive parenting and neighborhood engage- ment Transforming Pre Schools as vibrant ECD centers Nutrition and household food security Back to School Program Girl's Going To School Safe & Effective School Building Basic Skills Enabling & Effective Child Protection Systems 	 Improved parenting skills Minimum standards of ECD centers Level of school readiness of young children Reduced malnutrition and childhood illnesses Increased food security of resource poor families Life Stage two Improved knowledge and confidence of children Child centered teaching and learning models adopted in schools Active engagement of community in child protection actions Improved positive relationships and interactions between parents and children Community leadership in promoting right to education 	 Training, skill development, demonstrations and modeling Promoting community structures, processes and engagement Networking and advocacy Research and sharing information Training, skill development, demonstrations and modeling Promoting community structures, processes and engagement Networking and advocacy (RTE) Research and sharing information Facilitating the formation or strengthening community based CP systems Strengthen Peer support programs
		 Promoting innovative Child Cen- tered teaching and learning
	Life Stage Three	
 E3P- Employment, entre- preneurship and Empow- erment Peer education for im- proved access to SRH information and educa- tion Families matter program – FMP (promote positive parenting practice with adolescents) Youth led projects - YLP 	 Improved parenting skills Youth leadership in civic works and advocacy Positive relationships and level of interactions between youth and parents/adults Youth engagement in gainful live- lihoods Youth demonstrating employable skills Youth engagement as peer lead- ers for SRH information and edu- cation 	 Training, skill development, demonstrations and modeling Promoting youth led community structures, processes and en- gagement Youth led networking and advo- cacy Youth led research and sharing information Promoting youth led civic activi- ties including emergency re- sponse, DRR

Programs—Agriculture



Agriculture is a major means of livelihood & subsistence in most of our project areas. To make an impact on the overall productivity and household income, it is necessary to improve technical knowledge, awareness about new practices and establish linkages with technical agencies and experts. Some of the major activities are providing technical inputs in coordination with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Government departments and other expert agencies on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), Zero based natural farming, medicinal farming, use of organic FYM & pest management and outreach of the program in different crops also. The primary interventions we have implemented in the areas are as follows –

- Adoption of appropriate agriculture practices and increased cultivation of commercial crops.
- Collective marketing for commercial produce to get fair returns (common interest groups (CIGs).
- Increased access to government funds to conserve soil and water for agriculture.
- Construction of soil and water structures through MGNREGA.
- Capacitating youth for Entrepreneurship and Agro-based business.
- Engaging family, farmers groups and CBO leaders on Agro-based business.
- Promotion of high value crops and Linkages with livelihood service providers for accessing the services.

Mushroom cultivation for livelihood

Through its local partners Chetna Vikas and Parivar Vikas, ChildFund is providing livelihood support to the youth by provinding hard-skill training on mushroom production so that they can start their own mushroom production business in anticipation of earning 5000 rupees per month. The training was given to 40 youth from Saraiyahat & Madhupur. 5 youths have started 50 beds which would bring them an income of Rs 4000 after 45 days. Mushroom production has proved to be successful during all the entrepreneurial trainings. Chetna Vikas and Parivar Vikas also plan to market the products produced by the youth.

Poultry Farming

ChildFund India has successfully implemented Poultry rearing initiative in Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh with 60 BPL (Below Poverty Line) and tribal families. This initiative has yielded positive outcomes and has brought significant positive change in the lives of women and their families. Further, in Alirajpur, Dhar and Jhabua district, ChildFund India is successively undertaking a project on Poultry farming for creating 1000 Tribal Women Entrepreneurs under the name of Poverty to

Prosperity project with support from Citi Foundation, by providing entrepreneurial training, chicks and sheds to the beneficiaries. The project will also establish Producer's Company to support the beneficiaries further.

Models established on agribusiness

As an example of in-depth agribusiness intervention, in the last 2 years alone, ChildFund has supported over 200 families with technical knowhow for production of vegetables like brinjal, tomato, coriander, mushroom cultivation and other leafy vegetables through improved agricultural

practices like drip irrigation plants, line sowing, organic farming, composting, line sowing and SRI technique etc.in the area of Kalahandi District of Odisha. This has demonstrated significant increase in production among the small farmers groups (SFGs) resulting increase in their income level. The interventions have shown significant growth in earning level - Rs. 4000 to 10000 per month for each individual/family.

ChildFund is also supporting the beneficiaries with Market led extension, Credit Linkage, Agri-Entrepreneurship, Farmers Producers Organization and hybrid seed production in the operational area.



In one of our operational areas, one of our local partners KARRTYBYA has formed Small Farmers

Group for individual and collective support from other potential market actors and players. 200 enrolled families have been provided technical support on vegetable production through improved agricultural practices like drip irrigation, organic farming, compost manure, line sowing, and SRI etc.

Two drip irrigation model plants have been established in Kalahandi district with ChildFund India's support for enrolled families which has extended the family income to Rs 8000 – 10000 per month through the promotion of vegetable cultivation.



ChildFund India has also supported 40 farmer families in the villages of Dharmagarh block in Odisha with paddy and vegetable seeds. The farmers just had to prepare the bed and they were given technical training on line sowing, weed management and were provided good quality rice variety which is 145 days crop and was harvested in December. They have adopted the method of Line sowing and maintained the line spacing of 15x20 cm. This is being piloted in 40 acres land through 40 marginalized farm families. The estimated yield this year will be around 10 – 12 quintal per acre which will meet their annual rice consumption and some surplus will be sold in market. Out of 40 farmers 20 farmers have been covered by Crop Insurance scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (National Agriculture Development scheme).

Partnerships



Collaboration is one of the most important aspects of an NGO's functioning. Through its programs, ChildFund endeavours to alleviate poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and bring about behavioural change to eradicate social iniquities being practiced. ChildFund has been appreciably successful in establishing relations with relevant stakeholders including the communities it works with, district, state and national government bodies, academic institutions, media, funding agencies and corporates to strengthen child protection systems in order to prevent violence against children and protect them from abuse, neglect and harm. Our model is built on the principle of partnership – sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices to create dynamic working relationships that help us achieve maximum impact and reach while sustaining the work for the long term.

The major funders supporting our grant projects during the FY17 include Corporates such as Jindal Stainless Limited, Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd., Copal Amba / Moody's Analytics, Fluor Daniel, Citi-foundation etc., Government supported projects were – Link Workers Schemes by Telengana and Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society/ National AIDS Control Society, PSUs such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and ChildFund Alliance countries – ChildFund Germany, ChildFund Sweden and ChildFund Australia.

Brief update on our grant projects -

1. Poverty to Prosperity, supported by Citi Foundation:

The project aims to equip 1000 women, between the age of 18-30, from BPL (Below Poverty Line) families in 33 villages of Jhabua, Dhar and Alirajpur Districts in Madhya Pradesh with entrepreneurship, leadership and financial inclusion skills required for creating an alternate source of livelihood. The project will also establish Producer's Company to support the beneficiaries further.



Key achievements:

- 500 women were identified, mobilized and provided with poultry management training. 8 training centers have been established in eight strategic locations.
- 40 Poultry Farming Groups' have been formed in 33 targeted villages. Construction of Poultry sheds for more than 500 women beneficiaries have been completed and supplied with poultry chicks.
- A project launch event was organized on 19th May 2017 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jhabua. About 700 tribal women from three districts namely Jhabua, Dhar and Alirajpur participated in the event. Out of which, 2 shared their experiences so far and aspirations.

2. Youth Livelihood and Empowerment Project:

The project is being implemented in two locations namely, Daltonganj Area of Jharkhand State and Jhabua Area of Madhya Pradesh. A total of 1050 youths, who are in the age groups of 18-24 years from marginalized and economically backward families, will get direct benefits from this project. The training of first batch has been successfully completed in both the locations. 126 youths were trained in three different trades-basic computers, customer sales retails and hospitality including Life Skills Training.



The second batch of training covering more than 120 youths will be completed in August 2017.

3. Link Workers Scheme (LWS) in Andhra Pradesh and Telengana:

The Link Workers Scheme Projects are supported by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society separately and National AIDS Control Society for implementation of the projects in 8 districts of Telangana State and 12 districts of Andhra Pradesh (AP) State. There are also two Targeted Interventions (Tis) in Karimnagar District at two locations in the State of Telangana which was approved from 1st April 2017. The approved duration of the projects are from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

In both AP and Telangana, the projects cover 2000 villages of 20 districts catering to the requirements and issues of High Risk Groups, Migrants, Truckers, vulnerable population, People Living with HIV/AIDs and providing Ante-Natal Care cases while spreading awareness among village populations on HIV through Information, Education and Communication materials.

Key achievements:

- 100% HRG population contacted through one to one session and provided information about the services available.
- 51% of vulnerable population, trucker, migrant and Tuberculosis were contacted and provided information on HIV/AIDS through one to one session. They were also provided with free condoms, and explained about safe sex methods.

4. SNEH (Sustainable Nutrition Education and Health) Project – Phase II:

The project is being implemented in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh with the support of Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services since 2015. SNEH Project has ensured good coordination in 33 villages between the local grassroots level government health service providers for immunization, counselling, Ante-natal, post-natal care, home visits, nu-

trition supplements by Anganwadi workers (AWW) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM).

Under this project, ChildFund India is providing comprehensive maternal and child healthcare support to mothers and children during their first critical 1,000 day period, which includes monitoring throughout the pregnancy period, ensuring that pregnant mothers attend all three recommended antenatal check-ups, institutional delivery planning support, early identification of potential issues and subsequent referrals to receive appropriate treatment, community-based



health sessions to capacitate caregivers.

With a focus on Behavioral Change Communication, group meetings have been organised at village level with pregnant women, lactating mothers and stakeholders meeting at Anganwadi Center with AWW/ ANMs/ Panchayati Raj Institute members.

Key achievements:

More than 300 mothers and pregnant women have learnt best practices such as colostrum feeding, formation of mothers' committees and participation of mothers in Village Health and Nutrition Day sessions.

5. I-Star [Improving Success Through Academic Readiness]:

The I-Star Project is supported by Jindal Stainless Steel since July 2016 and is being implemented in Dangadi Block, Jajpur, Orissa. The goal is to enable access to quality learning and development opportunities for at-risk children with a focus on early childhood education and early grade reading. The project has already produced some remarkable results.

Through a variety of activities, I-STAR has improved early childhood care and education in our four target villages (Baligotha, Trijanga, Kantipur and Kiapada) by deepening ChildFund India's understanding of community needs, raising awareness level of community members on Early Childhood Care and Education issues, augmenting the participation of children in ECCE programs, developing children's capacity to read, and providing vital educational materials.

Key achievements:

- 4 new model centers running, all of which have been freshly painted in more child-friendly colors and themes.
- Provided over 200 educational materials to each center, including books, play materials, chairs and desks. These materials have been delivered in a manner that is sensitive to the unique contextual needs of each child.
- There has been 20% increase in attendance amongst children.
- As per the baseline, only 60% of children could read basic words, whilst only 75% could read the alphabet. Now over 88% of children can read basic words whilst 97% can read alphabet.

6. Mobile Library - Reading on Wheels:

The objective of this Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (**ONGC**) supported project is to improve literacy skills of the most marginalized and deprived children in the agegroup of 6-14 years, from 4-5 primary & middle government schools in 4-5 villages of Bokaro District, Jharkhand State and encouraging them to become life-long readers

During leisure time of children or library period in schools, project staff members distribute books among the children; they even support them in reading when required so that they are able to understand the story better and carry on with reading the books. The Librarian and Community Mo-



bilizer through these books are trying to generate interest in them to read more books and thereby inculcating the reading habit in the school going children.

Key achievements:

• Mobile Library with child friendly branding in place.

- Mobile Library is well-equipped with age appropriate books produced by Pratham Books & Eklavya Publications.
- 13 reading clubs have been formed comprising of children from four schools located in the villages of Mahal, Parvatpur, Telgaria and Machatar. The aim of this activity is to promote group study in the evening at a common place in the community. The children from these clubs are very happy to read books in groups. These groups are monitored by our Community Mobilizer.

7. Literate India:

The objective of this project is to ensure deprived, excluded and vulnerable children aged 6-14 in selected government schools in two States achieve age appropriate learning outcomes. This is being implemented in 10 villages in Kotra block of Udaipur District, Rajasthan and 10 villages in Bargad block of Chitrakoot District, Uttar Pradesh. The project has established 20 well equipped child learning centres. 600 teaching-learning materials have been developed which includes story, poem books, charts, posters, cards, counting kit, place value kit etc. and were given to each CLC (Child Learning Centre). These materials help the project team to create a fearless teaching-learning environment and make the centre an active and attractive space within the school system.

Trained Education facilitators facilitate learning activities to teach languages and mathematics and are collecting local / traditional stories to develop a book in local language. The project team has developed a relation of faith and trust with teachers which accrue in increased participation of teachers in classroom activities and supporting facilitators.

Key achievements:

- 20 Child Learning Centres have been established, which are equipped with books and teaching learning materials.
- 20 Education Facilitators have been trained.
- Empanelled external agency, Bodh Siksha Samiti-Jaipur, by ChildFund to conduct pre-training baseline evaluation for teachers to understand teachers' knowledge, attitude and practice followed by teachers training.
- 20 reading circles have been formed and regular reading activities are being conducted in the circle.
- School Management Committee members have been trained on RTE, Leadership and created awareness on their roles and responsibilities.

8. Reading Improvement Program:

This project is supported by Fullerton India Credit Company Limited (FICCL) to enhance literacy levels of children in the age group of 6 to 13 years from Rajasthan.

Key achievements:

- A project launch event was organized in the month of January 2017.
- 13 "Anandshala" Child Learning Centres have been created in schools in Alwar & Khairtal.





- 13 Anandshalas have been equipped with age appropriate books, teaching learning materials, book racks, and banners.
- 62 Parents' meetings as well as meetings with SMC members & teachers were conducted.
- 7 'Bal Melas' were organized in Alwar area.

9. Lalan Palan:

The objective of this project is to improve nutrition level of infants & young children living in under privileged communities. The program is being implemented in six villages of Kausambi District, Uttar Pradesh through a local partner.

Key achievements:

- Solar Generator installed at Community Health Centre and medical equipment provided to deal with high risk pregnancy.
- Two Anganwadi centres were constructed and handed over to the district authority.
- Six hand pumps installed and 87 toilets constructed.
- Bal Swathya Committee formed and trained on kangaroo care. They actively engage in awareness activities.
- 12 Health camps and 11 PD plus sessions organized to educate mothers on preparing nutritious food from locally available raw food materials, and positive parenting.
- About 88 Pregnant women were identified and registered with Govt Services. 21 Newlyweds' ceremony was celebrated in 6 villages and 12 meetings with grandmothers and other caregivers conducted to sensitize on importance of maternal, infant and young child feeding practices and immediate consultation of qualified personnel at the time of illness of their child seeking behaviour and practices.
- Woollen cloths and essential neo-natal kits were provided to 153 children & families. Iron rich food provided to 39 Pregnant and 163 Lactating mothers.

10. UNMUKT- Mind without fear:

The goal of this project is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The object is to reduce the incidence of forced and early marriage of adolescent (12-18 years) girls by 40% in 50 villages.

This project is being implemented in selected districts of Jharkhand State- Deoghar and Palamu (Daltonganj) covering 3500 children (including 2000 adolescent girls and 1500 adolescent boys), 1000 adults from 5000 Families, 60 Child Protection Functionaries of Government and 5 Panchayatiraj Institutions and 4, 00,000 people through mass media campaigns and advocacy.



Under the project, adolescent girls are taught football to empower them, help them overcome their inhibitions and raise their voice.

Inter group football tournament was held and 18 Adolescent Girls' Group teams participated from 25 project villages. Ten matches were successfully played. The football tournament has

helped in increasing the self- confidence of the girls so that they can be empowered and can take the lead in protesting against early marriage.

Key achievements:

- 1 gender sensitization workshop organized with an aim of sensitizing the boys on gender discrimination issues. Total 57 participants participated from 25 villages. The boys seemed to be actively participating in the workshop and also came up with their own views on stopping early marriages and took a pledge on helping in stopping the early marriage.
- 1 block level inter group football tournament was held for providing the opportunity to adolescent girls to develop solidarity with one another through peer groups, take collective action and participate more in making decisions that affect them including health and prevention of early marriage.
- Inter and intra group debate competitions were organized covering the themes: Early Marriage, Child labour, Social problems, gender discrimination and domestic violence.

11. Strengthening local capacity for Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR):

This project is being implemented in 20 villages covering 5 Gram Panchayats in Mahakalpara Block of Kendrapara District in Odisha State benefitting 16,297 population including 6,518 children. This project aims to enhance the resilience of children and their communities by building disaster risk reduction capacities in 20 most vulnerable villages. The objective of this two-year project is 'vulnerable children, are better able to cope with shocks induced by natural hazards and everyday risks' while the key results (three outcomes and nine outputs) essentially focus on increased capacities of children, communities and schools towards resilience, comprehensive school safety planning, Disaster Risk Reduction, protection, and education for children before and after a disaster. The project has adopted a unique approach of bringing children's participation and leadership in the project. They play lead role in all the activities being implemented both at community and school level including they play lead role in the identification of risks to capacity building and risk reduction planning. So far, they have demonstrated their capacities in various state and national level platforms and communicated their capacities to contribute as an active participant in the whole process. The following are key achievements of the project:

Key Achievements:

- Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments have been completed in all 20 villages involving 998 people including 532 children.
- Formation of village level disaster response task forces established in all villages with a representation of 731 (369 children + 362 adults) and trained in different skills such as Early Warning Dissemination, Search/Rescue/Evacuation, First Aid, and Psychosocial.
- Formation and strengthening of Children Groups, Child Protection Committees and Village Disaster Management Committees in 20 village with representation of 3,601 people including 3,402 children.
- Village level response capacity has been strengthened with support of task force kits and first aid kits to be used in case of a disaster.
- 23 Schools have undergone Child Led Risk Assessments. A total of 651 people participated including 599 school children.
- School Risk Reduction / School Safety Plans have been formulated with the findings from risk

assessments and shared with Teachers and School Management Committees.

- Formation of school disaster response task forces completed involving 631 people including 583 school children and trained in Search/Rescue/Evacuation and First Aid techniques to deal with school level emergencies.
- Mock / evacuation drills have been organised in all 23 schools with technical experts by involving 817 children and teachers.
- 54 Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and children have been trained on the provisions of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) a national flagship program on CP.
- Sensitisation sessions to 71 PRI members on mainstreaming Chid Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) into PRI planning and its resourcing.
- Sensitisation sessions to 35 PRI members on understanding social safety schemes for CCDRR integration.

Grant Projects supported by ChildFund Alliance Countries:

During FY17, the major Donors and support providers from ChildFund Alliance countries were – ChildFund Deutschland, Barnfonden and ChildFund Australia.

The major grant projects and key accomplishments are mentioned as below:

1. UDAAN Project:

"Udaan" is a ChildFund India innovation to empower and motivate youth especially girls from poor and marginalized families to access higher education and pursue careers of their own choice. This project supports Higher Education of Girls at Udaipur, Jhabua, Daltonganj and Kalahandi locations supported by ChildFund Deutschland.

The major project achievements include:

- 135 students have been provided with scholarship support to pursue various professional and vocational courses like Bachelor of Education, General Nursing, Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery course, Post-Graduation Diploma in computer science, etc.
- 3376 youths were provided with career guidance and counselling.



• 1793 youths were trained on life skills.

2. RET-URN II Project:

This project is implemented in selected Sri Lankan refugee camps in three districts namely, Thiruchirapalli, Thiruvanamalai and Thiruvallur of TamilNadu with support from ChildFund Australia. The goal of the project is to support the Sri Lankan Refugees have access to information, documentation and reintegration services which would augment their return to Sri Lanka.

During FY17, five information hub centres were established across the three districts. The project team has continued to strengthen good relationships with the camp representatives and government officials. Because of the virtual meetings held at the Hub Centres, the refugees have been

receiving required information related to jobs, education and property rights procedures at Sri Lanka. The project team has also identified 43 youths including 21 voluntary repatriates for whom required Life Skill and entrepreneurship training are being planned. 7 Sri Lankan Refugee families have been successfully repatriated from India to their motherland.

3. Community Based Learning Centre:

This is a two-year project supported by Barnfonden/ Kavli Foundation since April 2016. This is being implemented in three villages namely Kodarmal, Khadra and Rupani of Kotada Block in Udaipur District. The goal of the project is to restore the educational rights to 600 out of school children in the age group of 6 – 14 years and improve their literacy skills (reading, writing and basic mathematical skills).

Key achievements:

- 3 CBLCs have been equipped with age-appropriate books and child friendly interior.
- 203 children (out of 210 enrolled children at CBLC) have regularly attended the CBLCs.
- 71% (90 out of 126) drop-out students have been re-enrolled in two schools.
- 83% (combining accomplished and emerging categories) of the children are able to recognize numbers and solve basic math problems.
- Child friendly mobile toilets (1 at each CBLC) have been installed, which are very useful for all children especially for the girls.

4. Library Initiative:

ChildFund India has set-up Libraries in two government schools, one in Karel and another one in Naya Khola Village of Jhadol Block in Udaipur District. This was a short term project supported by Wedmanska Foundation of Sweden in association with Barnfonden. The objective of the project was to promote literacy and encourage reading as a fun activity among 300 - 500 children and set-up demonstrable model of library in school - with proper management system, participation and engagement of children, teachers and community in running library spaces.



Key achievements:

- 2 libraries equipped with age-appropriate books, teaching learning materials, and sports materials established.
- Libraries have child-friendly interiors.
- Libraries have been handed over to schools.
- 64% of children were issued books from the library.
- 40% of the children have improved their reading skills and habits.
- School Management Committees and teachers are oriented on Library management.

5. Mukti Project (Brickfield):

This project is supported by ChildFund Deutschland, implemented in the State of West Bengal through a local partner "Towards Future". The objective of the project is to foster educational and other rights of migrant children of the families working in brickfields at Kolkata and their native locations.

It is also important to mention that seasonality and complexity of job-related migration hampers the attainment of uninterrupted education for these children in the source locations. Hence it is important to find solutions that prevent the children from seasonal migration and to support them to continue with quality formal education.

Key achievements:

- Assessment was conducted to understand project's performance by the technical partner-SOCEO.
- The parents and guardians of children have been sensitized about health, education and also about various government schemes.
- The children have shown notable improvement, in both language and numeric skills, after being taught for only a period of approximately 5-6 months.

6. Combating Child Trafficking through Sustainable Livelihood Development (BMZ Phase II) Project:

The project is funded by BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany and ChildFund Deutschland for Combating Child Trafficking through Sustainable Livelihood Development in Udaipur district. The project is implemented in 15 selected villages of Jhadol and Kotada Blocks of Udaipur district in Rajasthan.

Key achievements:

- Situation assessment was conducted by the technical partner-SOCEO.
- 8 Community Development Forums (CDFs) have been formed covering all the Gram Panchayats (GP) including our intervention villages. These CDF members were oriented on their roles and responsibilities.
- 7children were rescued by one of the CDF members from being trafficked to the cotton fields which the parents were not aware off.
- 8 farmers' clubs are formed and eight meetings have been held.
- 13 youth clubs formed covering intervention villages. 46 community meetings have been conducted on social security schemes.
- Participated in School Management Committees meetings in 8 schools. The meetings were focused on safeguarding child rights and child protection centric and importance of education of theirs as well as others children.
- 45 slogan writing on walls on prevention of child trafficking and education in 15 villages.
- 7 "Basic Entrepreneurship Trainings" covering 324 members were organized.
- 1 Advanced Training on Agro-Pastoral Entrepreneurship Development Training for 30 members was organized. Agro tools were procured to equip farmers who have participated in agro-pastoral trainings.

Success Stories

From Fish Vendor to Engineer



Santosh with his wife & parents

Santosh still participates in activities with the child federation that helped him succeed

Santosh stands proudly with his newly purchased car

"A dream doesn't become reality by magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work," says Santosh, a unit planner at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Odisha. "Not only am I well-placed in life with a decent salary, but I have also laid the foundation of success for my family and community. But I must express my gratitude to ChildFund India and its local partner, who helped me keep my dream alive. They instilled in me vision, self-belief, the spirit of hard work, determination and dedication. If it were not for them, my father would still be a fish vendor, and I would have been doing the same ... the social prestige that I get in my village as an engineer would not have been there either, and our caste derision would have continued. But ChildFund changed my life."

Santosh and his family belonged to a low-income community, and his father toiled hard as a fish vendor. Santosh was a good student but faced many obstacles. Despite his parents' wish to support his studies, he was forced to help his father with work.

One evening in 1996, Santosh's family attended a village meeting organized by one of ChildFund India's local partner organizations. The volunteers shared ChildFund's philosophy to support children's education. His mother saw an opportunity, and Santosh was enrolled in ChildFund India's program.

After the creation of a child federation in the village, most of the beneficiary families comprehended the efforts of ChildFund.

Though his parents no longer had to worry for Santosh's education, they were still under immense pressure due to the impending marriage of his sisters. With a meager income, it was very difficult for them to save the required amount for their marriage. At this crucial juncture, ChildFund India supported his father's business with one-time financial assistance. With this, the family was able to ward off poverty to some extent and continue to educate Santosh. This financial support also motivated Santosh to do his best and strengthen his family's financial position.

Santosh became a peer motivator and played a prominent role in spreading the message of child rights in his village, stressing their development and education and imparting life-skills education. He led the child club and organized events and programs in the village with support from the local partner.

Success Stories (continued)

From Fish Vendor to Engineer (Conti.)



Santosh & his parents



Santosh with the plants at his job at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

They visited many households and talked to parents where children had dropped out of school or were not enrolled.

The efforts paid off, as all the children in the village started to go to school. Adolescent girls began studying further in colleges. The community began to monitor the quality of education in the school and the functioning of the Anganwadi.

Eager to fulfill his dream of becoming an engineer, Santosh passed matriculation (10th grade) with flying colors. ChildFund India provided financial support to enable him to pursue further technical studies. With monthly scholarship support, Santosh enrolled at the regional ITI (Industrial Training Institute) and passed with first division.

Deciding to finance his studies further, Santosh joined the Coca-Cola Company as a fitter. After working there for nine months and saving enough, he joined a college in Bhubaneswar to pursue a science course using a scholarship from the government. Upon completion, Coca-Cola again offered him a job with a higher remuneration. Simultaneously, he joined a diploma course at an Institute of Science and Technology. He studied hard during the day and worked at night. Upon gaining the diploma in 2013, he joined Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as a trainee engineer.

"To be a champion, you have to learn to handle stress and pressure," Santosh says. "But if you've prepared mentally and physically, you don't have to worry. This I have learned from the life-skills education provided by ChildFund."

Having witnessed Santosh's success, his neighbor says, "We motivate our children by quoting his example." Two children are following in Santosh's footsteps. One of them, Manas, is working at Co-ca-Cola. And another, Abinas, has secured a post-matriculation scholarship to study for a diploma in engineering at Bhubaneswar.

Santosh often visits his village and involves himself in the child federation that helped him in his journey.

Success Stories (continued)

Sudharathna, the Gifted One



Sudharathna's artwork is displayed at Mangaljyoti School, where she volunteers as an art teacher & motivational speaker for disabled students.

Sudharathna, an extraordinarily talented 40-year-old woman, hails from Mangalore in southern India. She is an artist who paints beautiful paintings using her hands, but not like the way most of us do. Sudharathna was born with spastic cerebral palsy, the most common type of developmental disorder, which can make muscle movement difficult or even impossible.

Sudharathna had a tough childhood. She struggled with mobility issues and speech problems. She needed assistance from others for every small thing. Until she was enrolled in ChildFund's program at age 12, she was mostly bedridden. Her father worked as a cook at a couple of houses to support his wife and three children. With such limited income – and a lack of awareness about Sudharathna's condition – it was very hard for her parents to provide her with the medical attention she needed.

Sudharathna has one elder brother and a younger sister. Her brother is married and has a son, who is in school. Her sister is also married and living with her husband. Sudharathna is unmarried. She lost her father to old age just one year ago and is now living with her brother and mother.

She came in contact with Mangalajyothi Integrated School and ChildFund India in 1985, when ChildFund started a program with a local partner organization focusing on children with various types of disabilities. Through ChildFund's program, she received various therapies on a regular basis, such as speech and physiotherapy, regular family and individual counseling, and equipment such as a wheelchair and orthotics knee shoes that helped her function independently. This improved her mental as well as her physical health by helping her develop a positive approach towards life.

Sudharathna had a very generous supporter from the U.S. who encouraged her and sent her direct financial gifts twice a year. Through the program, she received almost everything necessary for her overall development: education, nutritious food, regular medical checkups and more.

While studying in eighth grade, Sudharathna learned about painting as a form of therapy. That's when her hidden talent was unveiled. With her physical condition, drawing seemed like an impossible challenge – but she not only learned it, she excelled in it. The art teacher who discovered her talent guided and encouraged her, and ChildFund supported Sudharathna by providing her with painting materials as well as various trainings to help her pursue her art.

Success Stories (continued)

Sudharathna, the Gifted One (Conti.)



Some of Sudharathna's awards displayed at her home

Sudharathna in action, working on a new painting.

ChildFund supported Sudharathna until she completed 10th grade, at which time she discontinued her education due to health and mobility issues. But she continued learning in spite of the odds. After completing 10th grade with honors, she took a computer course and learned how to type in English and Kannada, a local language.

ChildFund still helps Sudharathna by providing her with painting materials, and she teaches painting to children at Mangalajyothi School. Sudharathna doesn't charge any fees for this. She earns money by holding exhibitions and selling her paintings – work for which she earns 50,000 to 75,000 rupees a year. Apart from painting, she also writes poems and participates in skits and cultural programs.

Sudharathna's paintings have been displayed at many exhibitions held at various institutes, colleges and organizations in and around Mangalore. Over the years, she has received several awards for her work, including the State Award from the chief minister of Karnataka on World Disabled Day for her excellence in the field of painting. Her house is filled with those awards: More than 25 organizations have honored Sudharathna for her special talent. Major publications like Indian Express, Times of India, and Udayavani have published articles about her, and many television channels have produced and broadcasted interviews and programs on her achievements.

"I'll be forever grateful to ChildFund," Sudharathna says. "ChildFund has played a very big role in bringing out my talent. It is only because of ChildFund that I have reached this position and am what I am today. It has made me capable enough to show the world that anyone can be talented; disability is not a barrier to talent. I want this for every child."

Sudharathna has dedicated her whole life to painting, teaching art and helping children in need of special attention who are going through the same pain she once went through. She has become a role model and an inspiration for others. Her volunteer work is her way of thanking ChildFund India and the local partner organization in continuing to support children facing unique challenges.

Sudharathna, a formerly supported child born with spastic cerebral palsy, is now a successful artist. She credits ChildFund with helping her discover and refine her talent.





Ch ldFund

Country Office -

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

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

E-mail - office@childfundindia.org, indiaoffice@childfund.org

Website - <u>www.ChildFundIndia.org</u>