



Addressing Trafficking

through Effective Prevention
and Reintegration

An Endline Evaluation, June 2024

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Acknowledgements

The niiti team is deeply thankful to the children and youth from West Bengal and Jharkhand who enriched the study by offering their life stories, opinions, challenges, and ambitions. We are also grateful to all the partner organisations in West Bengal and Jharkhand for their valuable inputs and feedback.

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Executive Summary



In the last 4 years:
1870 children rescued by 17 organisations
150 youth rescued by 8 organisations

Since 2013, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Foundation has been supporting 35 partner organisations working under the domain of child protection in West Bengal and Jharkhand, under the learning grant provided by Oak Foundation. The goal of the programme is to support the well-being of survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking by improving practices among partner organisations.

The third phase of the learning grant commenced in 2021. Titled '*Addressing Trafficking through Effective Prevention and Reintegration*' this phase was focused on:



Enhancing capacity of civil society organisations to respond effectively to the needs of survivors

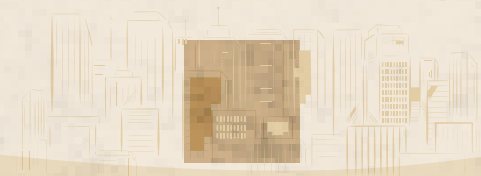


Strengthening community networks to protect children



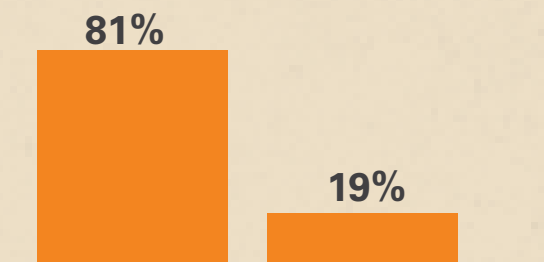
Building transformative capacities of children and youth to challenge harmful social norms

This endline evaluation was undertaken by niiti Consulting to evaluate the third phase of the project and assess the extent to which the objectives of the third phase were fulfilled.



Outreach of Endline Evaluation

127 children and young people engaged with 7 NGOs



81% (103) were girls
19% (24) were boys
70% between 12-17 years

23 NGO partners surveyed



10 based in Jharkhand



13 based in West Bengal

Findings at a glance

Improved Institutional Practices



22 out of 23 organisations have a standard clause requiring the other party to commit to safeguarding practices



100% organisations have an annual training plan (up from 90% in the baseline), and held trainings for their employees in the last 2 years





Tools to build skills and knowledge



91% organisations utilised tools provided by Tdh during the course of the programme (up from 72% in the baseline).

The BECOME toolkit was the most popular tool, followed by the You Create to youCreate.



Building knowledge and awareness among the CYP

While female CYPs were the target audience, male CYPs were also included in the program.

- ▶ Over half of the female CYPs learned about gender, child labour, and child abuse, but only 44% learned about child marriage
- ▶ At 62%, Kabaddi for empowerment sessions were the primary means used to sensitise the female CYPs, followed by YouCreate sessions and social action events
- ▶ Female CYPs showed greater improvement and interest in topics, compared to the male counterparts
- ▶ 87% of the CYPs received leadership training, which made 1/3rd of this group very confident in engaging with authority figures

Established Community Level Safety Nets



20 organisations engage with many stakeholders, including community leaders, government functionaries, male and female family members



How functional are these safety nets? According to the partner organisations, 1739 cases of child rights violations were reported or referred to the authorities by community members, project staff, DCPUs and CYPs



Organisations addressed cases of child marriage, rescue and rehabilitation in 129 village panchayats

// The project laid emphasis on setting up of Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPCs) that meet on a periodic basis, which led to increased vigil at the village level. //

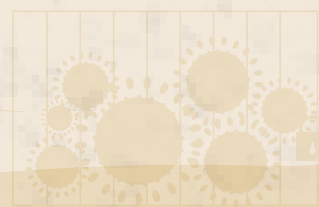


Comfort levels of CYPs in seeking support and knowledge

- ▶ Over 2/3rd of the female CYPs felt safer, closer to family and friends, learned about community groups, spaces, and practices for information and support since joining their NGO programmes
- ▶ For majority of the female CYPs, support came from their mother (81%)
- ▶ More female CYPs sought support than their male counterparts from community leaders, police, and teachers

Building resilience in CYP at risk

- ▶ 810 CYPs had been engaged with 23 NGOs in the endline, improving their critical thinking and problem solving skills
- ▶ Female CYPs displayed better understanding of access to education and sports compared to their male counterparts
- ▶ More male CYPs thought that girls could get married before 21, that only boys should go to school, and women should not work
- ▶ Female CYPs exhibited strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills: including verifying accuracy of information and considering consequences before acting



Fulfilment of OECD-DAC Criteria



RELEVANCE

The programme has been extremely relevant for the communities targeted and the NGO partners, especially given the geographical area. The tools developed during the project helped the CYPs articulate their problems on one hand, and understand gender norms, sexual abuse, boundaries and safety nets on the other.



COHERENCE

The project's phased approach over a decade, with one phase flowing smoothly into the next contributes to its coherence. The long-term nature of the project also enabled many partner organisations to reorganise their systems and train their staff despite attrition.



EFFICIENCY

The scope of financial evaluation was outside the scope of the study, but the informal discussions revealed that project budget was reasonable for piloting partners, but meagre for non-piloting ones.



EFFECTIVENESS

While the success levels of the NGO partners have not been uniform, all of them have successfully moved the needle towards the positive, and have addressed over 42 cases of unsafe migration, rescue and rehabilitation utilising the partners, and tools provided by Tdh.



IMPACT

1870 cases of child rights violation and distress were addressed. The CYPs have also learnt to be strong communicators, and reach out to the support systems when in danger or doubt. Several issues starting from going back to school, increasing awareness about child rights, child abuse both sexual and otherwise, child labour, child marriage, safety net, effective ChildLine number, responsive police, active Child Welfare Committee, DLSA were addressed by the partner NGOs to various extents.

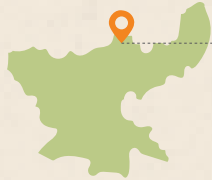


SUSTAINABILITY

The project's sustainability has been ensured through provision of tools, involvement of relevant stakeholders including government and non-government entities, and through creation of CYP role models who can inspire others in the future.

Most Significant Change

Most Significant Change exercise was undertaken in 2 specific partner locations:



In Koderma District, Jharkhand, 'Going to School' was recognised by the CYPs as the Most Significant Change achieved through the work done by Samarpan.



In North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, 'Confidence Building' emerged as the Most Significant change, as recognised by the CYPs, as a result of BUP's interventions.

Recommendations



Awareness building on negative aspects of digital space, including ills of social media and cyber-bullying



Active Engagement of Boys through a structured methodology to increase their participation and sensitivity



Capacity Building of adolescent CYPs through vocational skill training



Activism to prevent substance abuse which can reduce a number of linked issues, like domestic violence and child abuse



Reduce participation of CYPs in mob rallies, and religious rallies, which would reduce their vulnerability




Teach self defence techniques that can be used by the CYPs





01

Introduction



Since 2013, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Foundation has been supporting 35 partner organisations working under the domain of child protection in West Bengal & Jharkhand, under the learning grant provided by Oak Foundation. Through this programme, Tdh seeks to support the overall wellbeing of survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking by developing a shared understanding and improving planning practices among the partner organizations. This has been done through strategic and sustainable interventions focusing on mental health, livelihood, rehabilitation, reintegration, and meaningful connections with primary and secondary stakeholders.

The third phase of the learning grant, commenced in 2021 titled, '*Addressing Trafficking through Effective Prevention and Reintegration*' across West Bengal and Jharkhand aimed at enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations to respond effectively to the needs of survivors for effective reintegration, strengthen community networks to protect children from unsafe migration, support reintegration of survivors of exploitation and trafficking, build transformative capacities of children and young people to challenge harmful social norms that perpetuate violence and stigma against survivors.

The endline evaluation was undertaken by niiti Consulting, to evaluate the third phase of the project and assess the extent to which the given objectives of the third phase (including bolstering the capabilities of the partner organizations and strengthening community networks to safeguard children) have been met.



Context of the project

The states of Jharkhand and West Bengal are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, due to the reportedly high number of families facing socio-economic deprivations, high incidence of inter-country migration, and porosity of borders. West Bengal shares a border with Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan and is considered an epicentre of trafficking.

The reasons for trafficking are varied, according to data from the National Crime Record Bureau. In West Bengal, the two most common purposes of trafficking are sexual exploitation for prostitution and forced marriage, whereas in Jharkhand, forced labour and domestic servitude are the leading causes. State specific reports indicate most victims are trafficked by their own relatives, neighbours, and friends who take advantage of the impoverishment and lack of social support faced by the people.

Despite various interventions such as the Child Welfare Committee, Childline by the government's Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and Central Advisory Committee (CAB), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012, involvement of District Legal Services Authority, several risks make the children vulnerable to trafficking or re-trafficking, including economic compulsions, unavailability of suitable

work, inadequate reintegration methods, etc. School plays a significant role in safeguarding children from various harms, but due to several reasons (including lack of interest, financial constraint, engagement in domestic activities, distance to school), a lot of children dropout of school instead. West Bengal and Jharkhand both have dropout rates above the national average (with Jharkhand's dropout rate standing at 16.6% and more than 10 districts in West Bengal having a drop out rate above 15%).

Child protection system in India is currently geared towards response, rather than prevention. This focus is not just cost-intensive, but it also does not prevent harm and recurrence of crimes against children. Moreover, survivors often tend to be marginalised and ostracized within the general populace. This lack of adequate policy response and services to address the psychological trauma of survivors makes successful reintegration and rehabilitation challenging, especially since children form a particularly vulnerable group. Reintegration, thus, becomes a dynamic process that requires multi-dimensional intervention to address the needs of the survivors.

According to NCRB 2019, the total reported cases of missing children stand at 16027 in West Bengal, and 972 in Jharkhand.



Project Journey, Evolution and Activity

The project evolved organically over a decade, in each phase of which people were put first and organisational uncertainty was minimised in the area of child and youth protection. 3 phases were chronologically designed for its execution at various levels - Tdh, partner organisations, CYP and community. Partners involved were broadly classified into piloting¹ and non-piloting. While the former participated in all 3 phases, the latter participated in only the first 2 phases.

Phase 1: November 2013 - May 2016

24 NGOs reached, 13 in West Bengal and 11 in Jharkhand

In phase 1, the objective was to enhance the capacity of the NGO partners to respond to the psycho-social needs of the survivors and develop livelihood plans based on their needs and aspirations. Towards this extent, tools like BECOME, COLORS, Community Resource Map, etc. were developed

Phase 2: November 2016 - May 2021

37 NGOs reached, 21 in West Bengal and 16 in Jharkhand

In phase 2, the focus was also on supporting advocacy and sensitization at the community level, and building monitoring and documentation of best practices. In phase 2, www.empowerplus.co.in got developed as a digital resource directory, and the Seed Initiative was established as a survivor, child and youth driven initiative.

Phase 3: January 2022 - June 2024

30 NGOs reached, 16 in West Bengal and 14 in Jharkhand

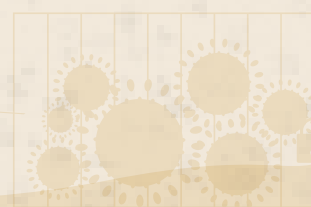
The objective in this phase was to understand how many child and youth survivors have acquired psycho-social resistance, and the extent of formal and informal child protection activities. In this phase, an inter-agency resource pool was formed to ensure dissemination of knowledge and practices, and 14 collectives of at-risk CYPs were formed.

1. Piloting partners are those organisations who opted additionally to work on gender norm change elements through child and youth leadership building efforts (outcome 3) and decided to pilot Tdh developed methodologies to mitigate negative norms. The remaining are referred to as non-piloting partners.



Partners for the Programme

Tdh supports a spectrum of organisations in the child protection domain in West Bengal and Jharkhand. This is to strengthen the organisations' practices of working with survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation through meaningful interventions on mental health, livelihood, rehabilitation and reintegration involving primary and secondary stakeholders. The following table (devised initially for the Baseline Study in 2021) maps the partners' interventions across the key focus areas.



► **Interventions of Partner Organizations on the Continuum of Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation & Reintegration**

Partners	Prevention	Rescue & Justice Facilitation	Rehabilitation	Reintegration
BUP				
SLARTC				
Prajak				
KJS				
BAPU				
Sanlaap				
GGBK				
MSS				
BT				
KSS				
NL				
EdF				
KS				
SPMUS				
SPAN				
Samadhan				
Sahiya				
ASS				
JLKP				
JF				
Lahanti				
Samarpan				
HOPE				
VS				
LGSS				
PEA				
SATHEE				
RASTA				
LPK				

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building & awareness Strengthening PRI/VLCPC Short Stay home Childline Rescue Liasoning with CP institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership, training, academics Healing, recovery and life skills through DMT Counseling and psycho-social support Facilitating access to required services i.e. physical/mental health, education, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkage with relevant schemes and programme Linkage with livelihood opportunities Skill training/ vocational course Legal-counseling, aid & compensation |
|--|---|---|

Rationale of the Study

The third phase of the Oak Foundation Learning Grant, which commenced in January 2021 concluded in June 2024. The endline evaluation was conducted during April and May 2024 to assess the impact of the interventions on different stakeholders and the extent to which the project has met its targeted objectives in the period 2021-mid 2024.

This marks the end of the third phase of this project, which was aimed at enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations to effectively prevent and respond to the needs of the survivors through knowledge transfer and training. Through this evaluation, Tdh is seeking to understand the larger lessons that have emerged from this engagement with different civil society organisations, community and stakeholders as well.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the endline evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the project by the metrics established by the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and impact. The key objectives of the study are:

Assess the project's progress relative to the specified outcome and output indicators and provide comparative results with the baseline study.

Evaluate the impact on the lives of the survivors, children and youth at risk of unsafe migration, including changes in knowledge, attitude, and practices of other stakeholders through program interventions.

Assess evaluation parameters such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact, and sustainability of the project interventions at the level of the partners, community actors, and children.

Assess the project's modality including the effectiveness of the district level resource pool, community of practices, partnership with local government, and individual partners' incorporation of project learnings for sustainability.

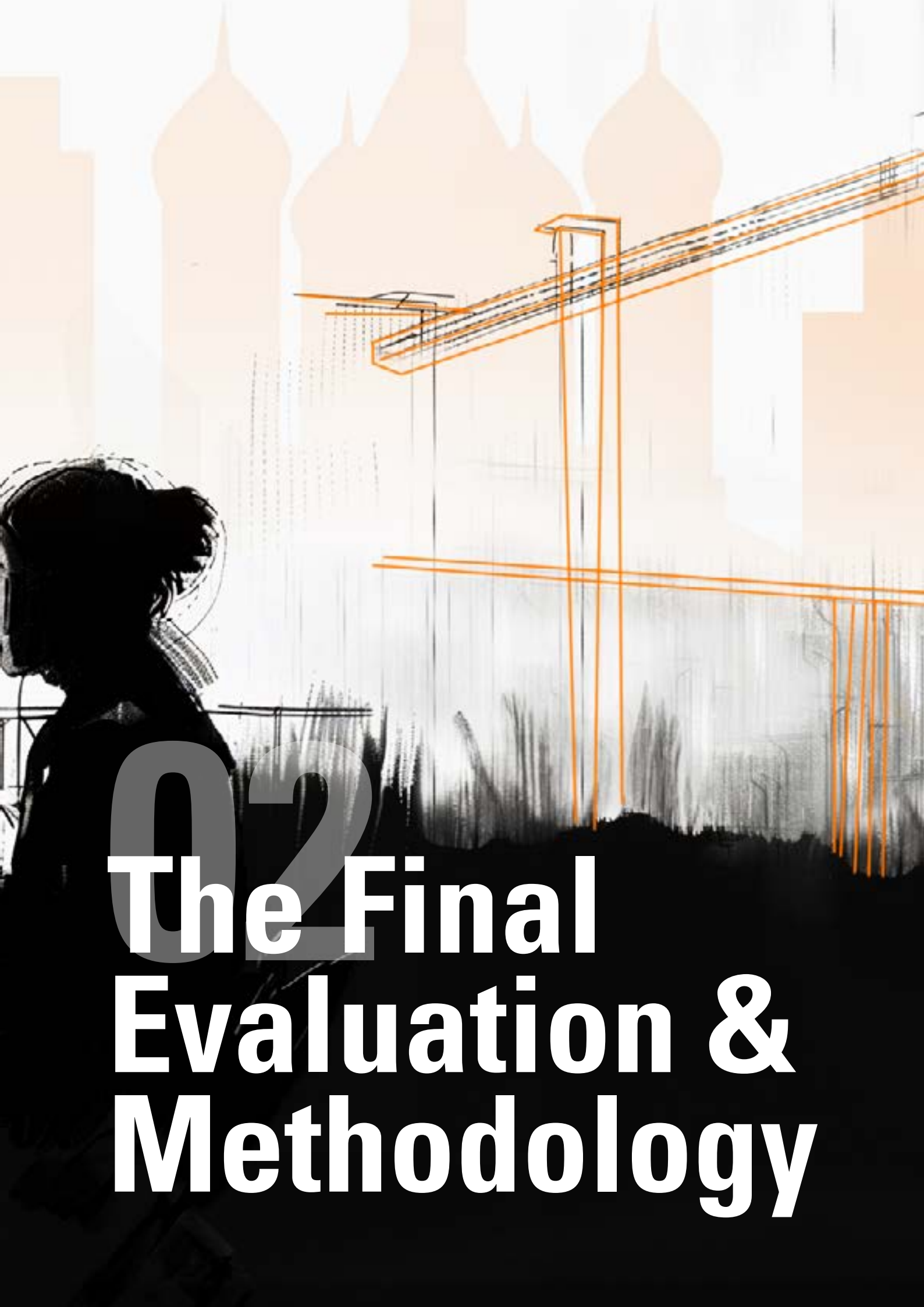
Generate actionable recommendations for relevant government organizations, donors, and external audiences to support lasting benefits for the target communities and to design similar projects in the future.

Identify and understand most significant changes that may be brought into the lives of the children, young people, and CSOs by the project intervention.

Describe the key learning, good practices, area of improvement, challenges, and solution encountered during implementation.







02 The Final Evaluation & Methodology

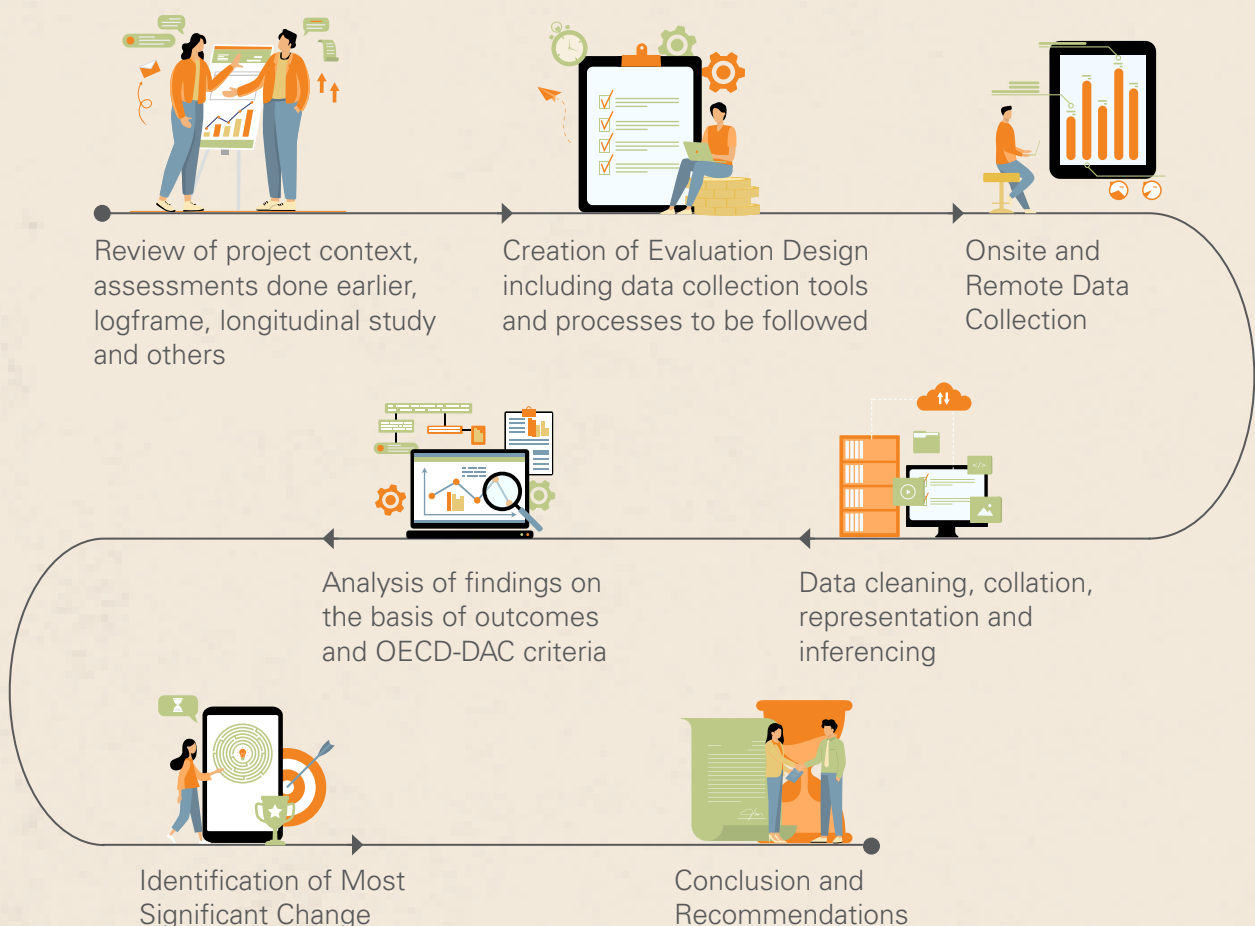


Research Design

The endline evaluation assesses the programme using a mixed method research design of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The quantitative analysis is descriptive, focusing on pre-defined indicators of the project, presenting a comparative analysis against the baseline. The qualitative analysis comprises of Most Significant Change (MSC) technique and utilizes a thematic analysis of FGDs and KIs with key stakeholders. Furthermore, the qualitative approach employs a participatory consultative process, engaging with different stakeholders and assessing the effects on project partners, community members, children, and youth.

The study also assesses the project outcomes and impact based on the criterion set by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Snapshot of Methodology



Approach

The approach of the evaluation has been to involve participatory methods to undertake both qualitative and quantitative data collection. The tools used, especially in the CYP survey emphasised on triangulation of information obtained from the remote survey in which partners provided numbers achieved for indicators developed for project assessment.

Target Population, Sample Size and Data Collection Method

The target population of study included several key stakeholders including children and youth at risk, parents, child and youth leaders, community leaders, and representatives of civil society organisations in West Bengal and Jharkhand. Officials from Panchayati Raj institutions, District Child Protection Officer/District Social Welfare Officer/District Collector, Anganwadi and ASHA Workers, and Village Level Child Protection Committees were also interviewed.

The quantitative data collection method included semi-structured interviews & self-assessment forms given to partner organisations as well as to CYPs. Qualitative data collection methods used included focus group discussions and key informant interviews with the stakeholders, with a focus on understanding stories of change.

The Most Significant Change exercise being an indepth and resource intensive exercise, was prudently conducted in only 2 locations, one in each state where the Tdh project team had observed a significant change. The two locations identified were Koderma in Jharkhand where child labour involved in the mica mines has been successfully stopped and in Bongaon region of North 24 Paraganas in West Bengal where a significant number of survivors of trafficking were reintegrated in society on one hand and incidences of child marriage have stopped substantially on the other.



Data Collection & Data Analysis

Data collection occurred between 10th April 2024 and 22nd May 2024 in West Bengal and Jharkhand. The details of this is represented in the following table

Location		Name of Organisation	Piloting/Non - piloting	Key Informant Interview (KII)	
				No. of KII	No. of Participants
West Bengal	Gaighata	BUP	Piloting	3	4
	Berhampore & Samserganj	SPMUS	Piloting	3	8
	Berhampore Nowda Raninagar 2 Bhagabangola 1 Domkal	BAPU	Non-Piloting	2	3
Jharkhand	Bero	HOPE	Piloting	2	2
	Sundarpahari	Sathee	Piloting	1	1
	Domchanch	Samarpan	Piloting	1	1
	Baragian Lem, Slum Area	Samadhan	Non-Piloting	4	4





Focused Group Discussion (FGDs)		Children's Survey	Most Significant Change	Partner Survey (Remote)
No. of FGDs	No. of Participants			
4	17	20	17	13 organisations
4	41	26		
4	25	19 ²		
4	20	28		10 organisations
3	19	17		
3	23	17	15	
2	27	The survey was not conducted because the organization's area of focus did not align with the survey's objectives		

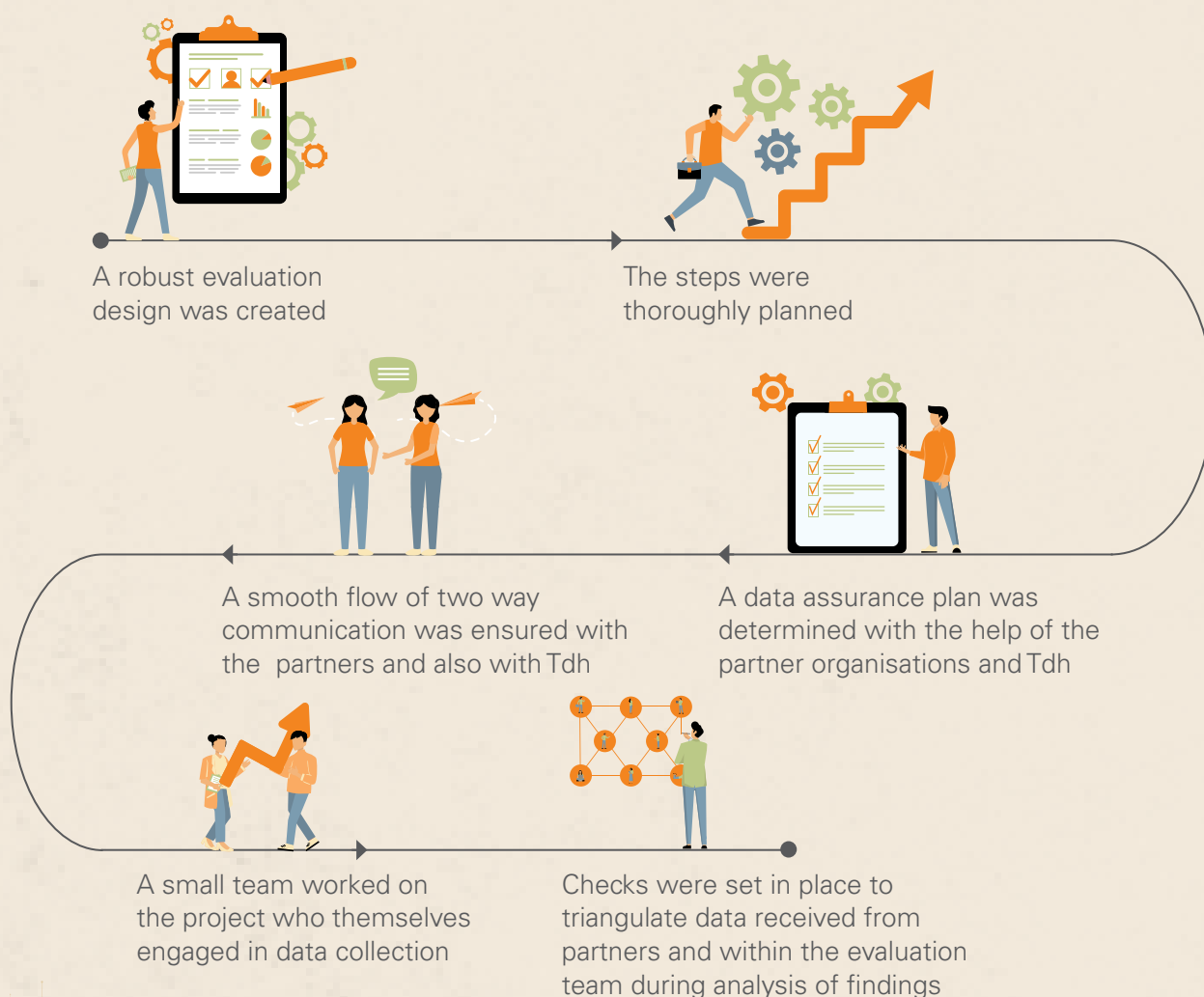
2. BAPU being a non-piloting partner was not expected to work with CYP, hence the numbers here are low.

Analysis for quantitative data was done using standard methods of descriptive statistics. Qualitative data was analysed using Methods of Narrative Analysis that rely on narration of stories by different stakeholders especially those targeted. This was combined suitably with the Grounded Theory that relies on analysis of data to connect the quantitative revelations with the qualitative ones. The study further undertook an episodal Most Significant Change Analysis based on recurring themes

across the stories collected and gauged the attribution of the partner organisation or the project design to bring about this change. Another objective analysis of the project was undertaken using the OECD-DAC criteria. The ultimate goal of all kinds of method used in the study has been to throw light on the broader learning questions determined on the basis of the needs identified that lie at the foundation of the project.

Quality Control

Some steps were undertaken to ensure quality at every stage of the evaluation. These can be summarised as follows-



Ethical Consideration and Confidentiality

1

Informed consent was taken from participants before their participation in the study, and the participants were allowed to withdraw their consent at any point. The respondents were informed about how their responses and study findings could be used.

2

The choices of the participants were recorded and maintained with their testimony and relevant media.

3

If a participant required the testimony to be anonymous or confidential, the commitment was clearly recorded, and the data was anonymized with a false name and with identifying details removed.

4

Any serious protection concern or cases of children or families in high risk were recorded and reported to Tdh during the survey.

Limitations

As is the case of most social sector projects, reliance on NGO partners for identification of targets/responders during data collection is high. To obviate this to a significant extent, several stratas of respondents were determined and criteria was suggested to further ensure that data was collected from the right mix of respondents.







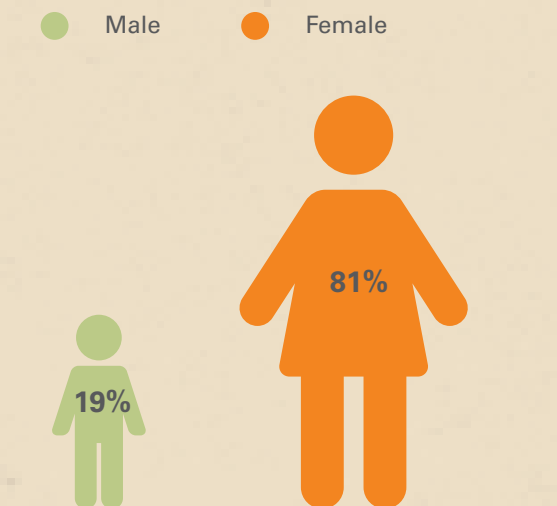
03 Findings from the ground

Demographics

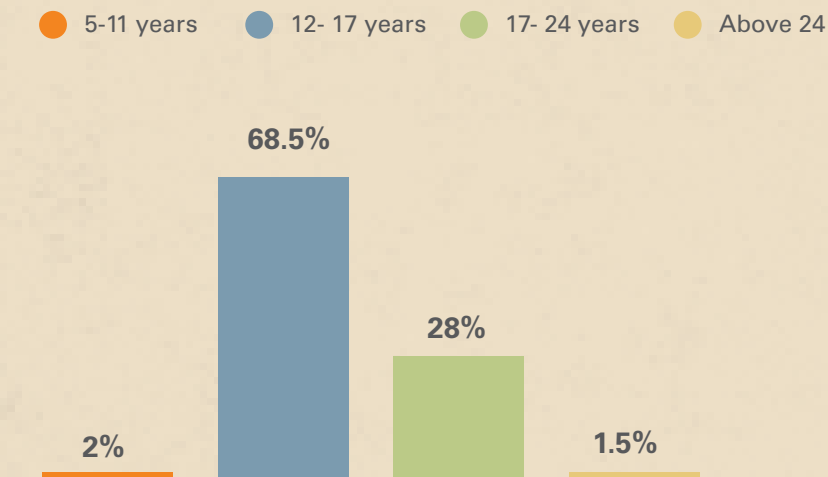
Children's Survey

As a part of the endline evaluation, 127 children and young people (CYP) engaged with 7 NGOs were surveyed to understand the impact of the project. 81% (103) were girls and 19% (24) were boys. The female-centric approach was intentional, and boys were involved in the research to understand how gendered perspectives and roles have been influenced by the project. 70% of the CYPs who participated in the survey were 12-17 years, since the focus was on adolescents and young adults. 69% of the CYP were Hindu, 29% Muslim and 1% Christian. 78% of those included were associated with the NGO partner for more than 1 year.

► Gender distribution of CYPs



► Age distribution of CYPs

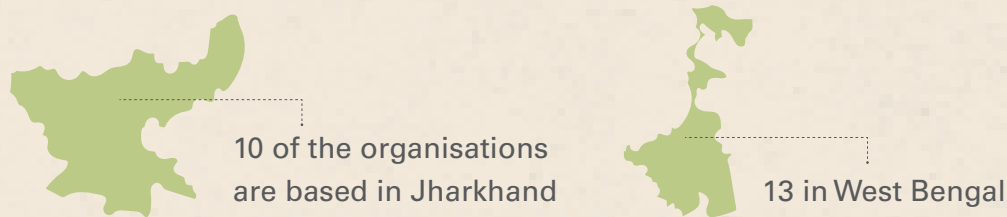


Partner Organizations' Survey

23 NGOs³ participated in the endline evaluation: these were among the 29 organisations that were a part of the baseline study.



15 out of these NGOs were in a piloting partnership.



The survey results have been analysed based on the key indicators for the third phase of the programme, to understand the developments under each category better. 15 of these organisations have less than 50 staff employees, whereas 2 have more than 100 employees.

Improved Institutionalized Practices

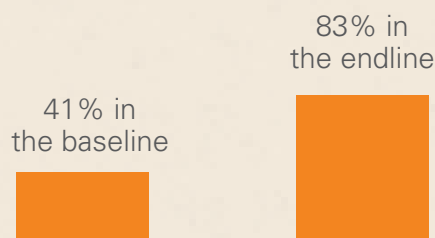
Indicator: Improved Institutionalized practices in partner organizations contributed to strengthened systems to prevent and protect Children and Young People at risk of or affected by unsafe migration and assist sustainable reintegration of survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

3. 6 organisations who had participated in the Baseline Study thus were now network partners and thus were not committed to the outcomes identified directly.

Institutional Practices and Structure of NGOs that affect their work with CYPs

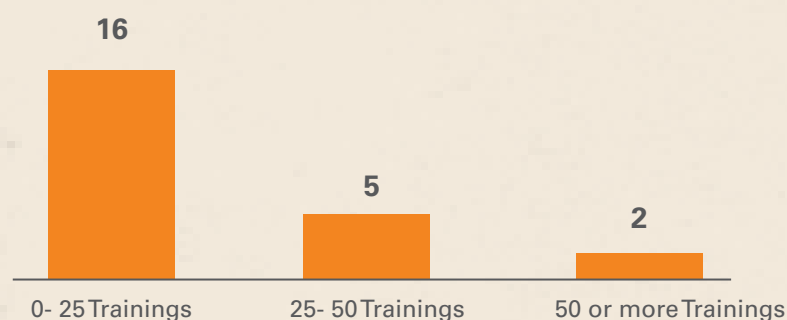
In comparison to the baseline, the number of organizations that maintain a child protection policy signed by all board members has held steady.

The percentage of organisations that have displayed the child protection policy in their offices and sites has doubled: going from 41% in the baseline to 83% in the endline.



22 out of the 23 (95.6%) organisations have included a standard clause requiring the other party to commit to the Child Safeguarding policies, an improvement over the 83% organisations in the baseline. 100% of the organisations in the endline (compared to 97% in the baseline) proactively ensure that consent is taken from child/parent before involving them in an activity.

100% of the NGOs (compared to 90% in the baseline) had an annual training plan and 91% had held trainings for their employees in the last 2 years on topics like child protection policy, various tools like BECOME Tool, Empower Plus, etc. The number of trainings held by the organisations is depicted in the table below:



Most of the organisations use several tools shared as a part of the project. The BECOME toolkit was found to be the most popular: with 15 organisations utilizing the same, followed by Empower Plus toolkit being used by 9 organisations. YouCreate was another tool from which some organisations benefitted significantly. IEC materials, Child Safeguarding Tool, MHPSS, and Kabaddi for Protection were also used in different combinations by the partner organisations. Many of these tools are being suitably used in other projects being run by some partners as well.





CYP's organizing Gram Sabha Demo Session

The training needs of the staff are assessed periodically by 91 % of the organisations (compared to 72% in the baseline). A majority of the organisations utilised the tools provided by Tdh during the course of the program: only 2 organisations⁴ did not have any frontline workers who were using the tools developed during this project in other projects.

Since the tools were meant to build skills, knowledge, improve well-being of the CYP, these were tracked during the evaluation.



When it came to well-being, it was found that 78% of organisations have tools in place to measure the well-being of the CYPs, and monitored this periodically (the period varying between once a month to once in six months, both at 26%).



70% of the organisations also measured change in wellbeing pillars and ENGAGE Skills (including trust building, problem solving, collaboration, communication, responsibility, creative thinking). Most of these 16 partner organisations revealed that they measure changes in these metrics once in six months, or once a year.

4. This information was obtained in response to the question in the remote survey - "How many frontline workers use tools and guidelines shared during the project in more than 1 project." Vedic Society and LGSS reported nil

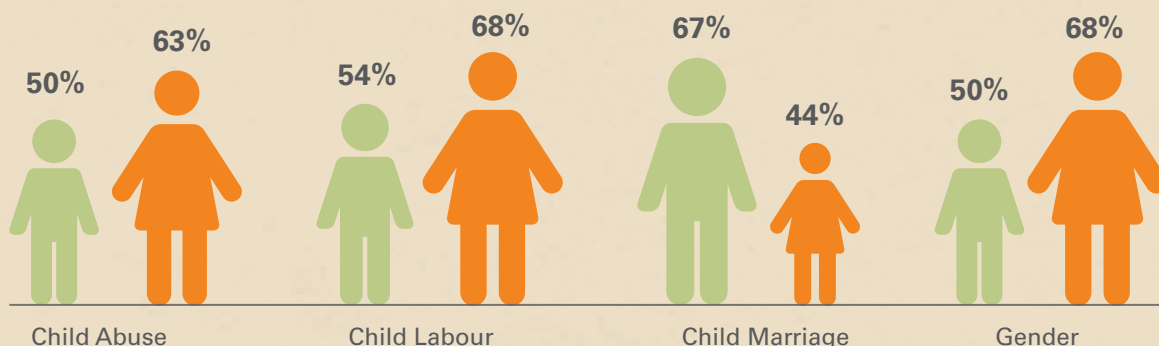
More than 85% of the organisations continued to maintain written records and have documented the decision-making process throughout the project period.



The evaluators felt that it was important to identify the topics that were taught to the children through NGO partners, to help one understand the extent of knowledge imparted to children and their preparedness about protecting themselves. It was found that all the topics taught by the NGOs broadly covered areas such as child abuse, child labor, child marriage, and gender. While female CYPs were the target audience for three of these topics, emphasis was also given to make male CYPs aware about issues like child marriage. Social action events, art sessions, and kabaddi sessions were means used for sensitising CYP on the topics mentioned above. In fact, kabaddi sessions played a key role in sensitising female CYP.

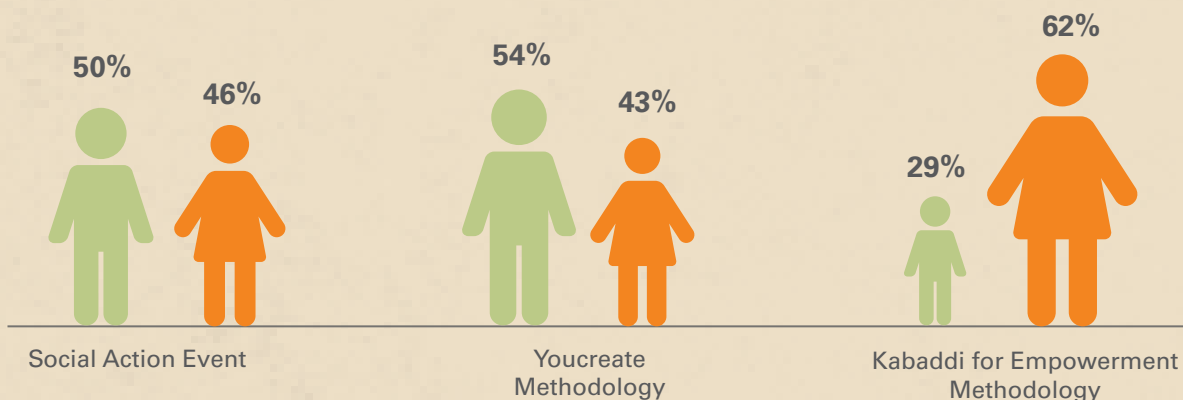
► Topics/ Themes covered

● Male ● Female



► Means used to sensitise CYP

● Male ● Female



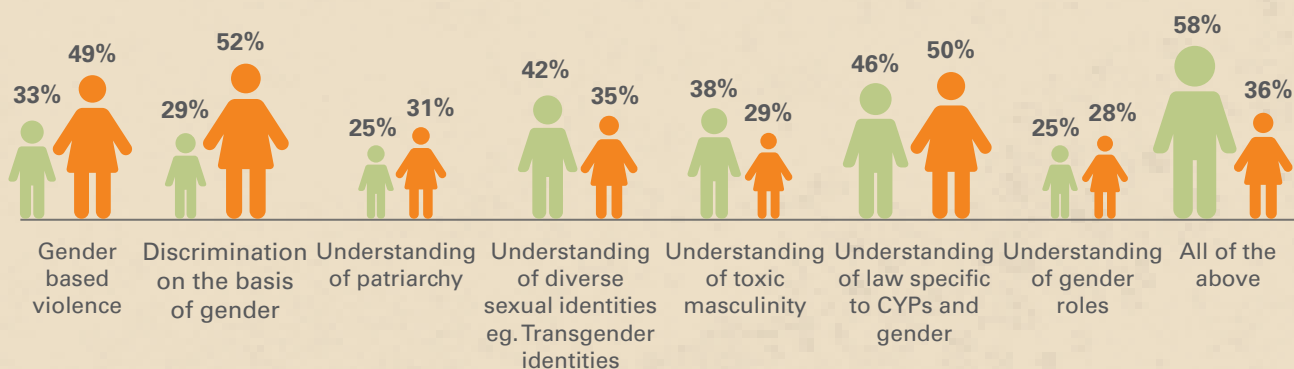


Paintings done by targeted CYP reflecting their emotions regarding child marriage

The project covered a range of topics, including gender roles, sexual and gender identity, gender-based violence and discrimination etc. Data and field visits revealed that female CYPs showed greater improvement and interest in the topics compared to the male counterparts. This indicates that while significant progress has been made, engagement of male CYPs⁵ can be increased through additional focus and tailored strategies.

► Topics learnt by children after coming to the NGO

● Male ● Female



5. It must be noted that the kabaddi methodology is only for girls, which is complemented by gender sessions. Gender sessions are attended by both boys and girls. Thus it is possible that boys participated in these sessions.

Leadership training is recognised as an important component of skills of CYPs, by the CYPs themselves. The survey conducted for CYPs show that among the respondents, 46% CYPs had received comprehensive leadership training through the NGOs, and 42% received partial training. Among the former group, 34% were very confident in engaging with authority figures, while another 11% reported that they could manage to talk if required and only 1% claimed they would not be able to talk. However, 13% did not receive this training at all. This could be attributed to factors such as short term association (less than 1 year) of CYPs with the NGOs, and the inclusion of non-piloting partners. It nonetheless, indicates the need for further focus on training initiatives so as to ensure that none of the children are left behind.

Established Community Level Safety Nets

Indicator: Community level safety nets are established and functional to protect Children and Youth in Migration (CYIM) and support reintegration of the victims of unsafe migration/exploitation/ trafficking in 70 Gram Panchayats of 12 districts.

What forms the Safety Net of CYPs and whether they are functional

The presence of safety nets and community support was a key objective of the third phase. Some indicators show significant improvement in this sphere.



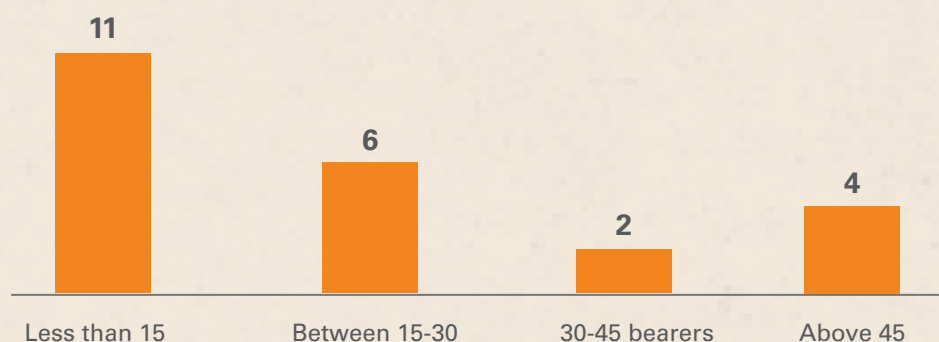
91% of the organisations in the endline have the appropriate mechanism to document the profiles of survivors as well as their needs and have a documented protocol with a list of all relevant service providers readily available.

// In the last 4 years, 1870 children have been rescued by 17 organisations. An average of 72% of the rescued children have been able to raise safeguarding concerns to the authorities.

150 youth (18-22 years) were rescued by 8 organisations, with 80% of the rescued youth being able to raise safeguarding concerns. //

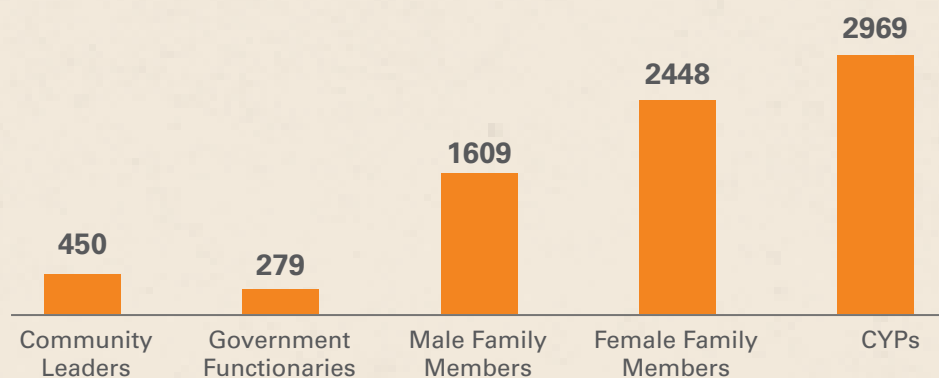
It is well understood that to establish a more robust safety net, duty bearers have to be included as a part of the child's safety net by the partner organisations. All organisations have onboarded duty bearers to enable safety nets for CYiMs. The field visit revealed that several organisations have involved a few duty bearers in their organisational events as guests, speakers, advisors to their NGOs or members of VLCPC depending on what position they hold so that they can prevent child right violation or expedite processes related to the same. The numbers are shared in the table below:

Number of duty bearers onboarded



Most of the organisations engage with a number of different stakeholders. 20 organisations shared that they engaged with many stakeholders to address harmful gender-based practices and to ensure a more holistic safety net.

Stakeholders engaged by organisations



It has been observed that all the organisations reportedly engaged with more female family members than the male members.

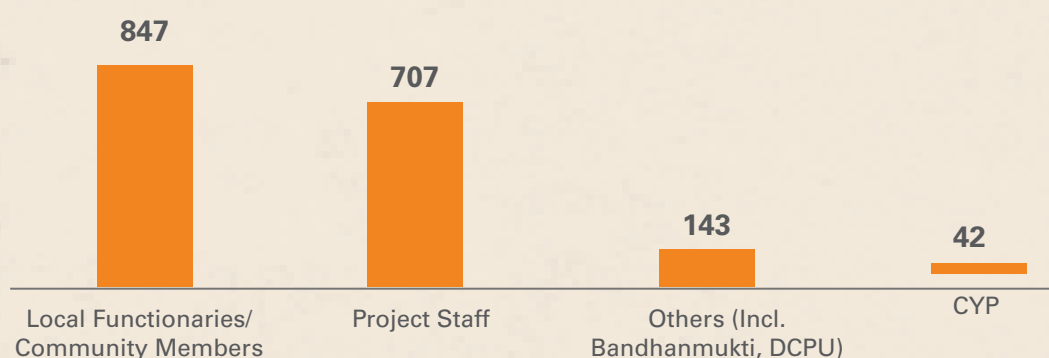
A good measure to understand whether safety nets were functional was to look at the number of cases of child right violation⁶ reported or referred to the appropriate authority by different people. Hereafter is a table of the number of cases reported by a few specific stakeholders.

6. The in person visits showed that these were mostly around child marriage in West Bengal and child labour, not going to school etc in Jharkhand. Instances of domestic violence, trafficking, sexual abuse were also reported but these numbers were far lesser than those mentioned



CYP Leaders practising on how to organize rally on social issues

Number of cases reported by stakeholders

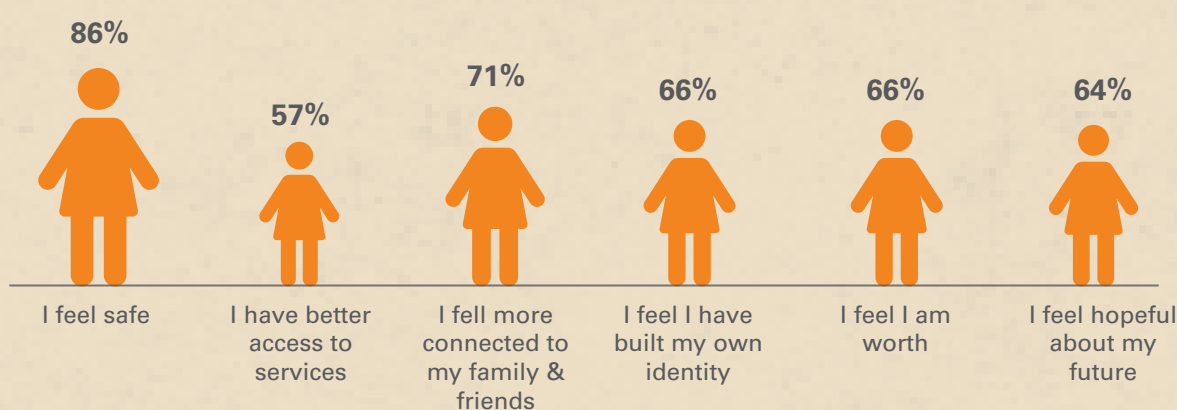


In the endline, 17 organisations have identified interventions with local institutions to strengthen their response to the protection needs of vulnerable CYPs, an increase from the 14 organisations who did so in the baseline. The 23 organisations also shared that the community level safety net has addressed cases of child marriage or rescue and rehabilitation in 129 gram (village) panchayats⁷. The project laid emphasis on facilitating the formation and strengthening of Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLPCs) and conduct their meeting on a periodic basis. This definitely increased vigil at the village level.

7. Local level institutions in India

During discussions with VLCPC members and project team in the field, it was found that people were initially reluctant to become members of this committee since they saw no monetary gains in this nor did they enjoy any additional power. On the otherhand, if they complained about any violation of child right, their relationship with several villagers became bitter. Thus, forming this committee and ensuring periodic meetings was a tall order. This however became successful in some areas where the NGO partner succeeded in sensitizing the duty bearers like the Pradhan, ASHA worker or Anganwadi worker. Thus, the lesson learnt was that effective and sustained effort to sensitise the villagers including the local duty bearers on issues around child rights violation and with examples of how it has been handled well in other geographies with similar demographics is necessary to ensure that people eagerly become members and function effectively in the committee.

► What have the female CYPs gained after joining NGO

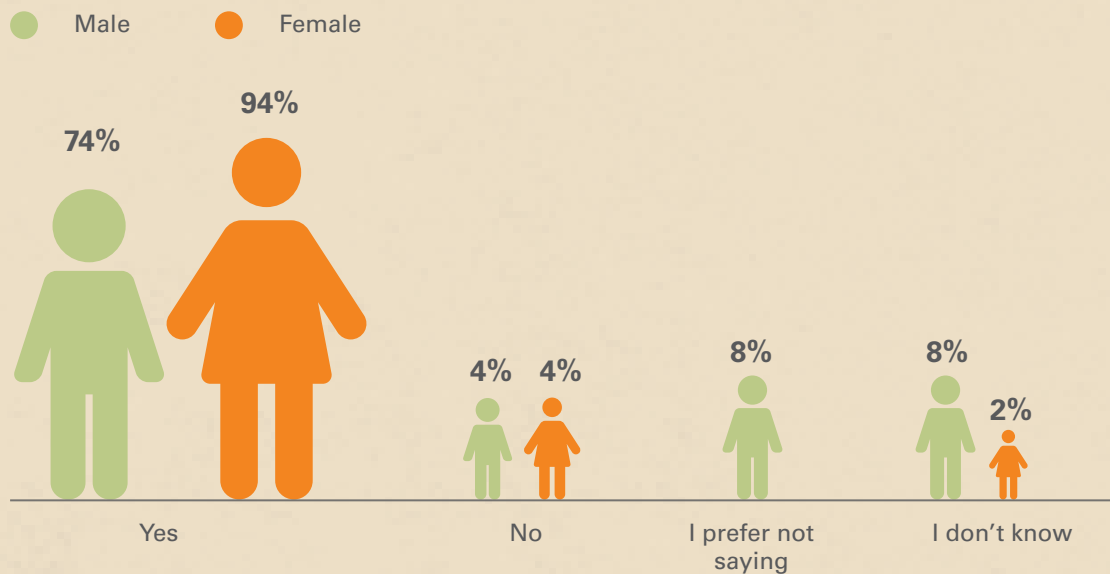


In the CYP survey conducted, 86% of the female CYPs reported feeling safer, 71% claimed feeling closer to their family and friends, and 66% were able to build their own identity and felt worthy, while feeling hopeful about their future, after joining their respective NGOs. Discussions with the CYPs revealed that their engagement with the NGO made them more aware, sensitive and confident. These together made them feel safer. This shows the great extent of the positive impact created by the NGOs on the female CYPs.

Comfort Level of CYPs in seeking support, knowledge, and comfort

The study shows that 87% of the female CYPs were aware of where they could seek information and support if they felt upset, anxious or stressed. The key people that the CYPs reported seeking support from included parents, NGO staff, siblings, ward leaders, and Gram Pradhan. Only 3% of the CYPs mentioned they would not confide in anyone if they felt upset, indicating that a vast majority are comfortable in a supportive environment, and possess a high level of awareness. This is further supported by the fact that 94% of female and 79% of male CYPs are aware of community groups, spaces, and practices that offer protection to themselves and their families. Discussions with CYPs revealed that their primary reliance and source of information is what they get from NGO field staff who interact with them frequently. This is an indicator that the NGOs' mental health and psychosocial support resource dissemination is impactful.

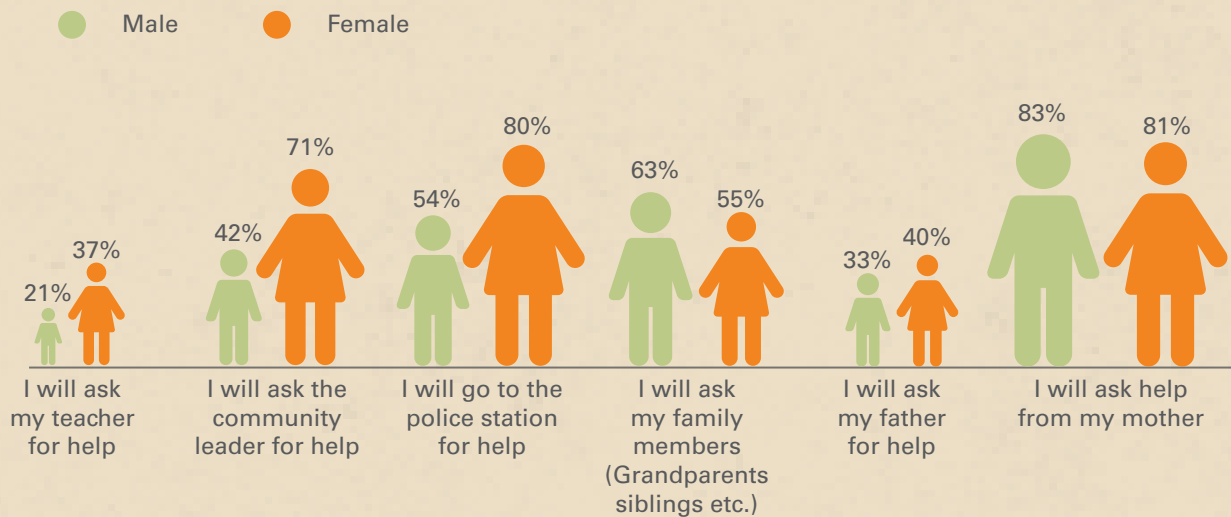
► Awareness of groups, spaces or practices run by members of the community which protect, look after or help the children or their family



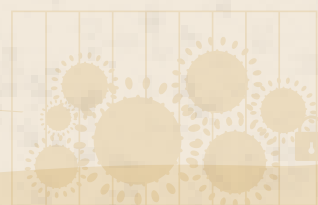
Safety Nets used/preferred by CYPs

The project has attempted through a variety of interventions to set up safety nets for CYPs. These have been manifested through sensitisation of parents, teachers, community members, police and other duty bearers at the local level. The CYP survey shows that the mothers have been the first place of comfort and protection always. However, there are others who have also evolved to become a part of the safety net because of continuous awareness and sensitisation initiatives. For a majority of the female CYP, the support came from community leaders (71% of females over 42% of the males), police (80% of females' vs 54% of males), and teachers (37% over 21%).

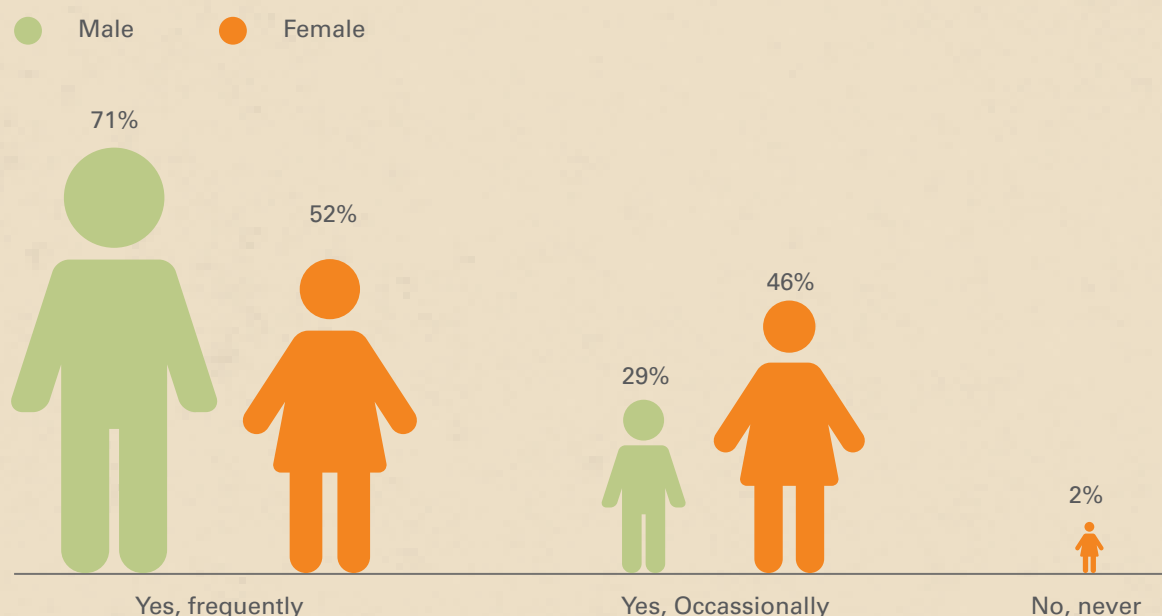
► CYPs response to how they will react when in a situation that is harmful for them



The safety and knowledge have resulted in higher level of engagement from the CYP. The survey found that the female CYPs engage in community discussions and activities at a higher level than their male counterparts: with 71% of the females participating frequently in comparison to 52% of the males. Further encouragement of male CYPs could yield positive results.



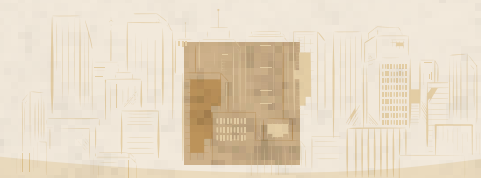
► **Participation in discussion and activities at community level**



Building resilience in CYP at risk

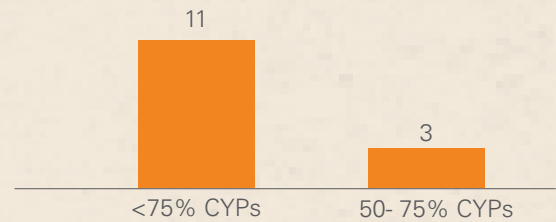
Indicator: Children and Young People at risk of or affected by unsafe migration are resilient to challenge harmful social norms that perpetuate violence and stigma against the survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

Through this indicator, we seek to find out how CYPs have been equipped to challenge societal norms and structures to build safer lives and secure futures for themselves. Both CYP and the partner organisations were surveyed to understand to which extent the CYP's skills and empowerment have extended.



In 19 of the 23 organisations, CYPs have emerged as role models for their peers, by overcoming significant challenges in their past. These challenges have been around lack of several psycho-social issues such as inability to talk confidently, lack of information, subjected to abuse, lack of understanding about predominantly accepted norms in their social set up. The remote survey with NGO partners point out that out of these 19, 15 organisations had fewer than 25 CYP role models, while 4 had between 25-50 CYP role models.

In 11 of the organisations, more than 75% CYPs showed improved critical thinking and problem solving, and in 3 organisations, 50-75% CYPs showed improvement in the same sphere.

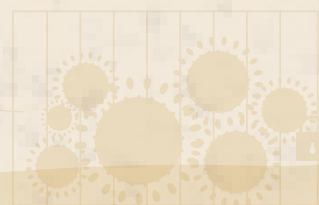


In the endline, 810 CYPs had been engaged with 23 NGOs, with the aim of improving their critical thinking and problem solving abilities, compared to 567 in the baseline, with 29 NGOs.

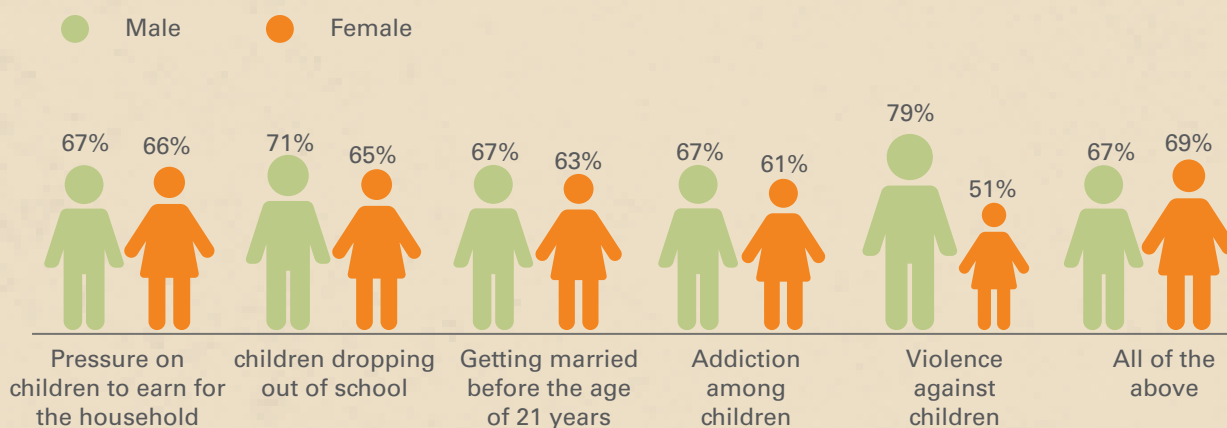


The CYPs displayed good understanding about importance, gender norms and stereotypes around topics relating to household chores & children's access to education & sports. In the latter category, female CYPs displayed better understanding of access to education and sports (with 79% of the girls scoring in the high score range, compared to only 67% of the boys).

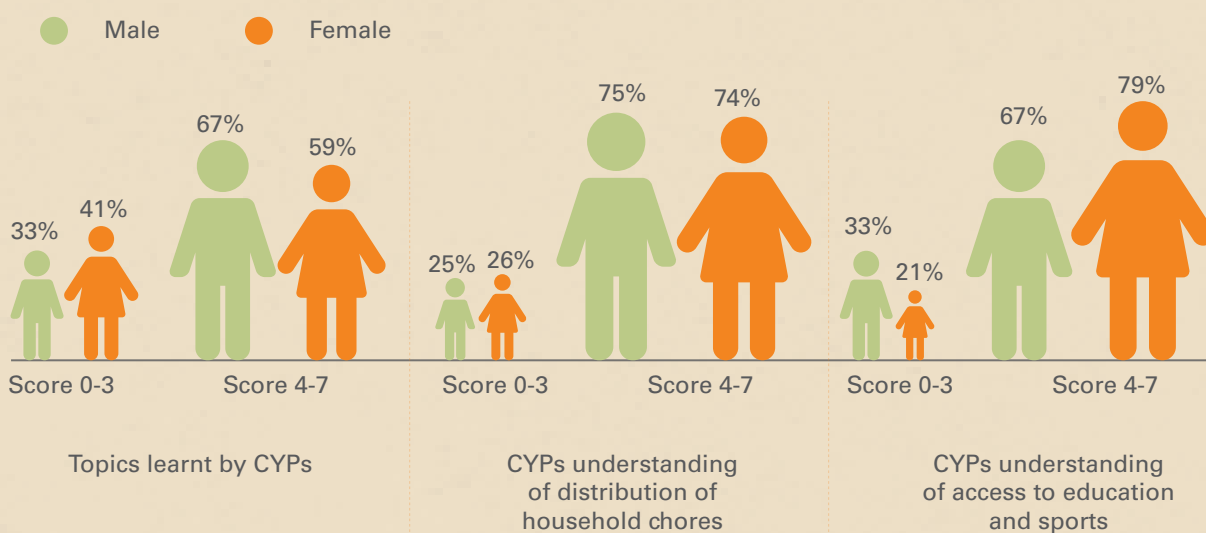
There were some gendered differences in the individual questions posited under each category during the survey. While most of the boys and girls agreed about sharing responsibility for food shopping, domestic chores, preventing child labour, allowing girls to play outdoors, etc., there were stark differences in a few others. More male CYPs felt that one could get married before 21 years, that only boys should go to school, and that women should not go out to work. This is an indicator that there are some gender biases still present and could be addressed through increased focus on these topics, especially among the male participants.



► Practices that are harmful for children



► CYPs understanding on various topics that have been taught



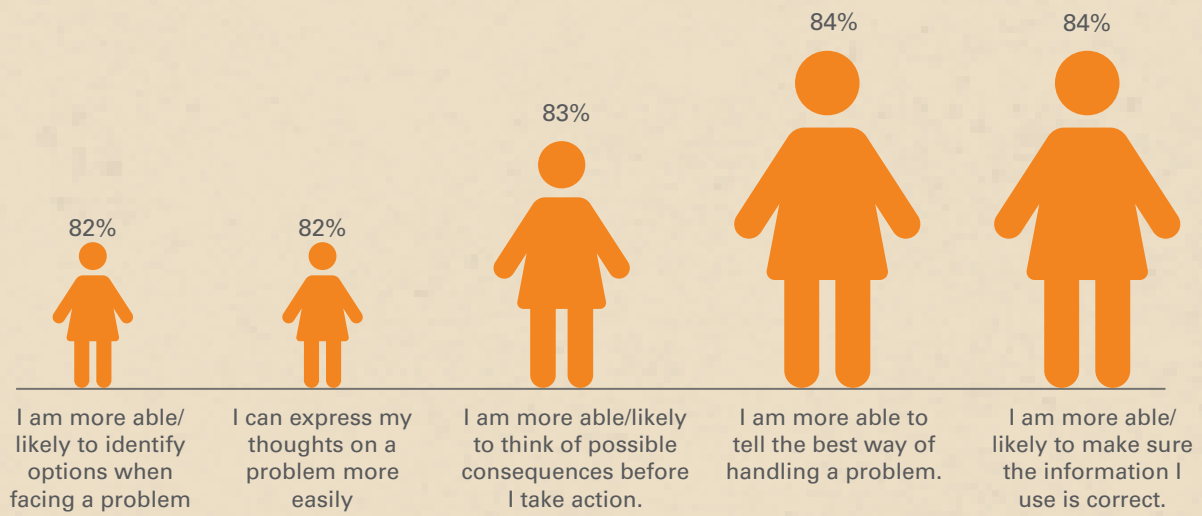
Both male and female CYPs display a good understanding of practices that are harmful for children, with over 2/3rd of the CYP identifying violence, addiction, early marriage, school dropout, and child labour as harmful issues.

The work done by the NGOs has had significant impact on the girls' confidence and self-worth. 96% of the female CYPs and 100% of the male felt completely or somewhat confident about achieving their goals. 99% of the female CYPs and 96% of the males felt that their opinions were valued as well.

Furthermore, the female CYPs also exhibited strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills, with 84% opining that they would verify accuracy of information, 82% felt able about expressing their thoughts on an issue with ease, and 83% confided that they would consider consequences before acting.

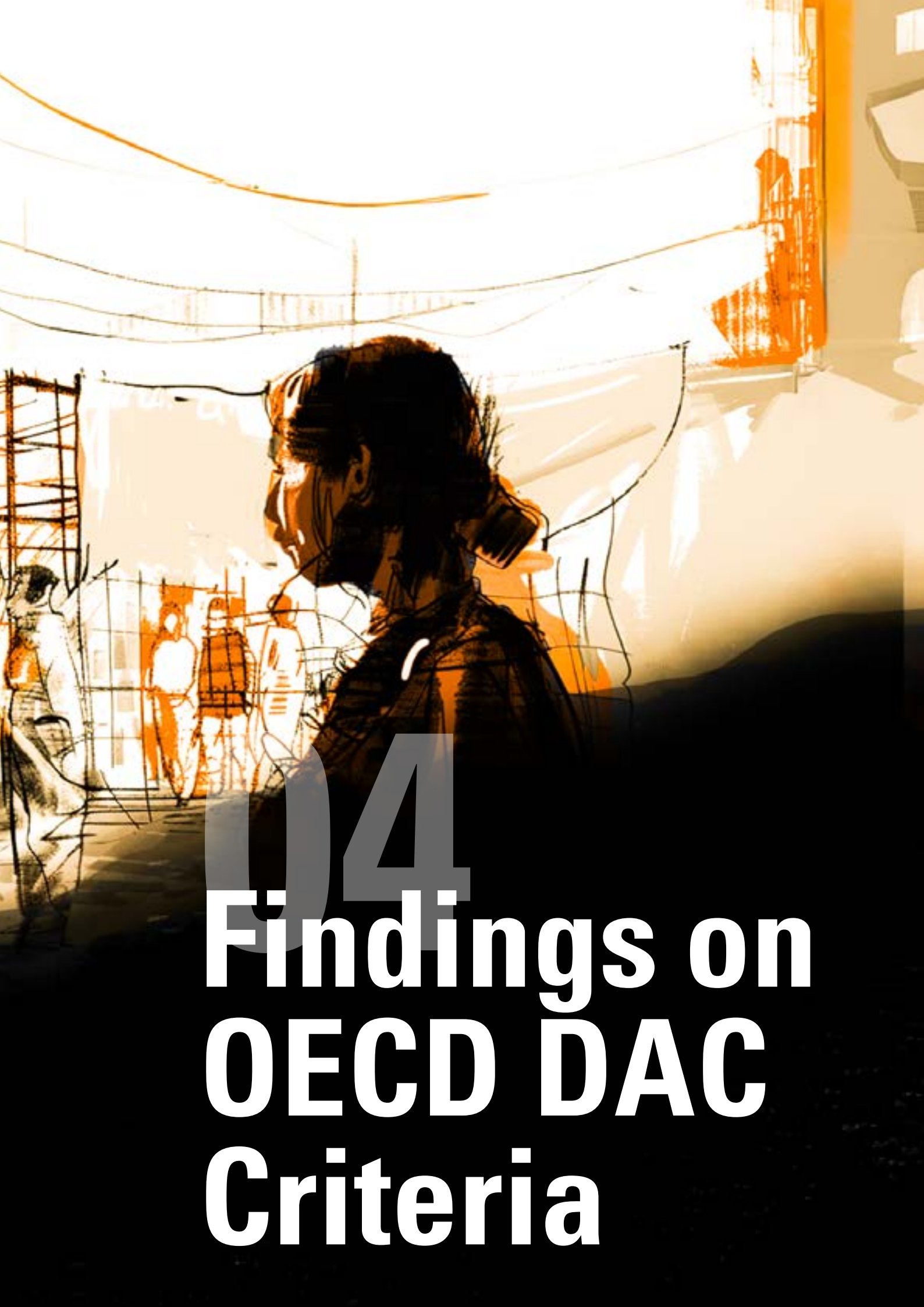


► What have the female CYPs gained after joining NGO



CYP's learning about community safety net





04 Findings on OECD DAC Criteria



Relevance

The project has been extremely relevant for the communities targeted and the NGO partners. The issues handled by the field animators and the project staff are usually very sensitive.

Coherence

A coherent planning exercise⁸ was undertaken by Tdh to implement the project especially for the piloting partners. The phased approach of the project over a decade made outcomes and outputs of one phase flow smoothly into the next as inputs. The long-term nature of the project also enabled many partner organisations to reorganise their systems and train their staff despite attrition.

***“Counselling has helped us build bridges with children who were earlier labeled stubborn. Parents of these children are happy that they have overcome mobile phone addiction and have started thinking about a career. The happiness of these guardians in turn motivates us.*”**

**- Project team member,
Koderma**

8. There are several issues that needed addressing in developing this project. For eg, the POSCO person, the tools, the legal person at Police station, VLCPC, CYP sensitisation, use of playway and reflection methods. The project filled up missing pieces in a large jigsaw puzzle to facilitate smooth functioning of systems at various levels so that the ultimate objective of prevention and rescue could be achieved better. This requires thorough planning that ensures coherency in approach.

Efficiency

The scope of financial evaluation of the project was outside the scope of this study. But informal discussions and interaction revealed that the project budget was reasonable for the piloting partners while it was meagre for the non-piloting ones. However, since these partners were intensely involved in the work they do, they carried out many activities with the CYPs that had not been mandated. Thus, at a glance, the project looked efficient.



The cards are really helpful to make the children understand various aspects of safety. Otherwise they would feel shy. We have improvised the cards further and localised it using common parlance

- Project team member, BAPU, Murshidabad



Effectiveness

The project was very demanding in terms of the outputs and outcomes it aimed to achieve. Rescue operations at any time of the day, at the instance of a sudden call, is not an easy task. Further, working endlessly with parents, community members and other stakeholders like Gram Pradhan (Head of Village Panchayat), ASHA workers (Health Workers) and Anganwadi workers (ICDS workers) with stereotypical mindsets was a tall order to fulfil. While the level of success among NGO partners was not uniform, all of them had successfully managed to move the needle. 42 cases of unsafe migration/rescue/rehabilitation were addressed by community level safety nets.

The project was effective in building the capacities of partner organisations through trainings and tools. But how far these organisations could utilize these depended

on their receptivity and creativity. As mentioned earlier, partners ensured that these were used in other projects if found applicable.

Many CYPs have also evolved to become youth leaders and have learnt to use these tools to conduct sessions with children. When CYPs were asked about issues they were found to relate it quickly to activities they had done around it. This exemplified the popularity of the tools among them.

The project entailed liaison with district level functionaries to expedite processes such as rescue, rehabilitation, penalisation. While all partners had built rapport, some were able to use systems better than others because of the one-to-one relationship the NGO leaders had with those in authority. A more systemic approach can be developed around this in future.

The creation of a District Resource Pool also proved to be effective. This comprises of various organisations offering different kinds of services to the children for faster case referral and rehabilitation support. Under the project, the improved coordination and collaboration between the organisations that were a part of this district resource pool helped fast track the response and management of case support services.

Many NGO partners collaborated with one another to complement their strengths to rescue a child in another's geographical area. But undercurrents of competition were felt among some organisations who worked in the same focus area and the same geography.

The project also created a Safeguarding Community of Practice. This comprises of a group of safeguarding focal points from different local organisations. Continued training and engagement with this group during the project helped them embed the safeguarding mechanisms into their organisational structure and practices. Discussions of case scenarios helped the organisations improve their contextual and localised understanding of the complex terminologies, processes, policies, etc under this domain.



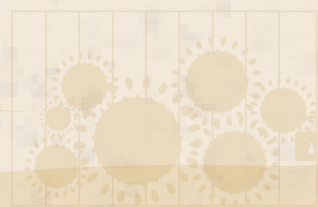
Nukkad Natak Performance on Child Marriag

Impact

1870 cases have been cumulatively reported by 17 organisations on child rights violation and CYPs in distress were heard. 41 cases have been raised to relevant authorities for further action in the last year. This itself speaks about the success of the project. Several issues starting from going back to school, increasing awareness about child rights, child abuse both sexual and otherwise, child labour, child marriage, safety net, effective ChildLine number, responsive police, active Child Welfare Committee, DLSA were addressed by the partner NGOs to various extents. The CYPs in case of the piloting partners learnt to a large extent how to articulate their thoughts, raise their concerns, understand perspectives, and be less stubborn, even during adolescence.

Some other significant impacts of the project were as follows:

- ▶ Some of the elements from this project have been adopted and included by the partner organisations to design new interventions and secure funding from other donors
- ▶ The work on media advocacy with the government on the role of media in ethical reporting on child rights issues, led to the development of a structured module for mass communication and journalism students by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The module has been adopted by Sister Nivedita University
- ▶ The series of consultation conducted with WBCPCR and Jharkhand State Child Protection Society to promote gender responsive approach in child protection led to increased sensitivity of the government stakeholders and media towards the intersectionality in gender and child protection. This has resulted in a significant shift in discourse on child protection concerns and has led to inclusion of gender identities, beyond the binary
- ▶ The program has also resulted in the creation of a child and youth lead alliance, called Child and Youth Alliance to Promote Participation, in West Bengal and Jharkhand to present participation rights of children in different forums and structures



“When field staff of several NGOs grieved and regretted having not been able to locate one missing girl or punish one particular abuser, despite the fact that they were successful with more than 100 cases, the impact of the project became evident. The extent to which the project had been able to sensitise the project team is a key indicator of success of the project.

Further it was heartening to see newly married young women responsibly fulfilling the requirement of the POSCO representative and attending to cases during late evening or even at night, while she had her own set of challenges in her new home to overcome.

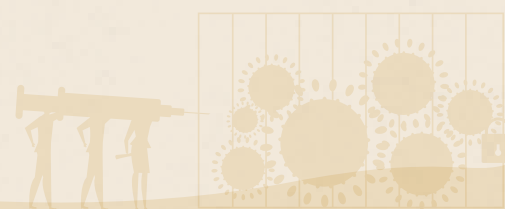
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Some of the higher level impacts that the project created was to get many of the NGO partners connected to resolve cases of trafficking and reintegration and in helping them build a healthy relationship with district level authorities through creation of several networking opportunities.

Further, the training opportunities provided by the project where third party expert agencies were invited to deliver, increased the level of exposure of many NGO partners and their staff manifold and gave them an opportunity to learn as an organisation.

The project increased agency of CYP who felt more aware, sensitive and able in handle adverse situations in their own lives and that of CYPs in their surrounding. However, the influence on the community especially with regard to patriarchal and religious norms that exist was still minimal.

With regard to the overall goal, the project has exemplified a systemic approach to enable NGOs working in the area of unsafe migration, trafficking, child rights violation and reintegration. This space is full of complexity that arise from deprivation and social norms on one hand and influence of authorities with power and money on the other. The project has enabled organisations to develop procedures and use tools to sensitise the CYP who are at risk to bring in a long term awareness and attitudinal change in their communities. These if sustained over a long term can reduce deprivation, challenge social norms and pose a threat to authorities of power and wealth who fuel these wrongs.



Sustainability

The sustainability of the project has been ensured by Tdh through a variety of interceptions



The provision of tools to the NGO partners and gradual sensitisation of NGO staff about the tools and building systems for sharing learnings and acting upon cases keeping all kinds of legalities in mind is likely to sustain the impact of the project beyond its implementation period.



The involvement of other stakeholders from the village level like VLCPC, Gram Panchayat, Anganwadi to Block level ones like BLCPC (wherever they existed), Police, ASHA and District Level authorities like DLSA and CWC, Childline, is also likely to continue beyond the project. These safety nets are likely to mitigate risks arising from culmination of the project.



In as many as 15 organisations, children and young people have emerged as inspiring role models for their peers for showcasing their ability to overcome the challenges of their past.



The awareness created and the sensitisation achieved through conduct of activities and sports led to huge differences in the lives of the children like sending many children back to school, bridging relationships within family members, reducing child labour and child marriages, building confidence, critical thinking and problem solving skills are just some of the achievements of the project that are likely to perpetuate for a long term. The systemic changes, mentioned under the impact section, shall ensure sustained efforts towards gender sensitive service delivery and effective reporting of incidents in media following the best interest of children and youth.

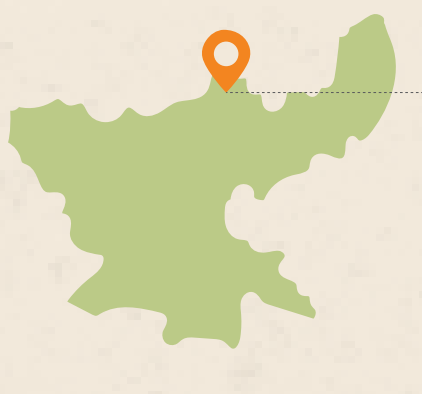




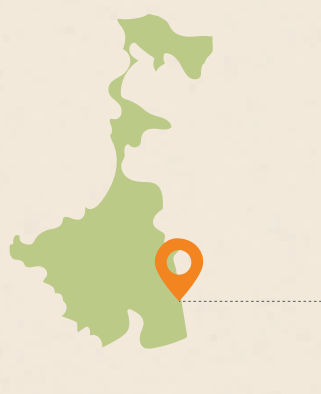


05 Most Significant Change

The Most Significant Change exercise was undertaken in 2 specific partner locations.



Koderma District, Jharkhand
where NGO partner Samarpan worked



North 24 Paraganas District, West Bengal
where NGO partner Barasat Unnayan Parishad worked

The intent of the exercise was to help the CYP identify for themselves what was the most significant change that they saw in themselves and whether it could be attributed to the work done by the partner NGO.

The case of CYPs in Bongaon, North 24 Paraganas in West Bengal

In case of West Bengal, FGDs with the project staff, parents and children helped us in identifying certain domains of change. These included:



Increase in
Mobility



Ability to speak up
against a wrong



Ability to articulate in front of
an outsider especially with a
person with authority or power



To believe in
aspirations



To become
gender sensitive



Ability to
support parents



Ability to lead
and motivate



CYP's engage in Role Play Activity

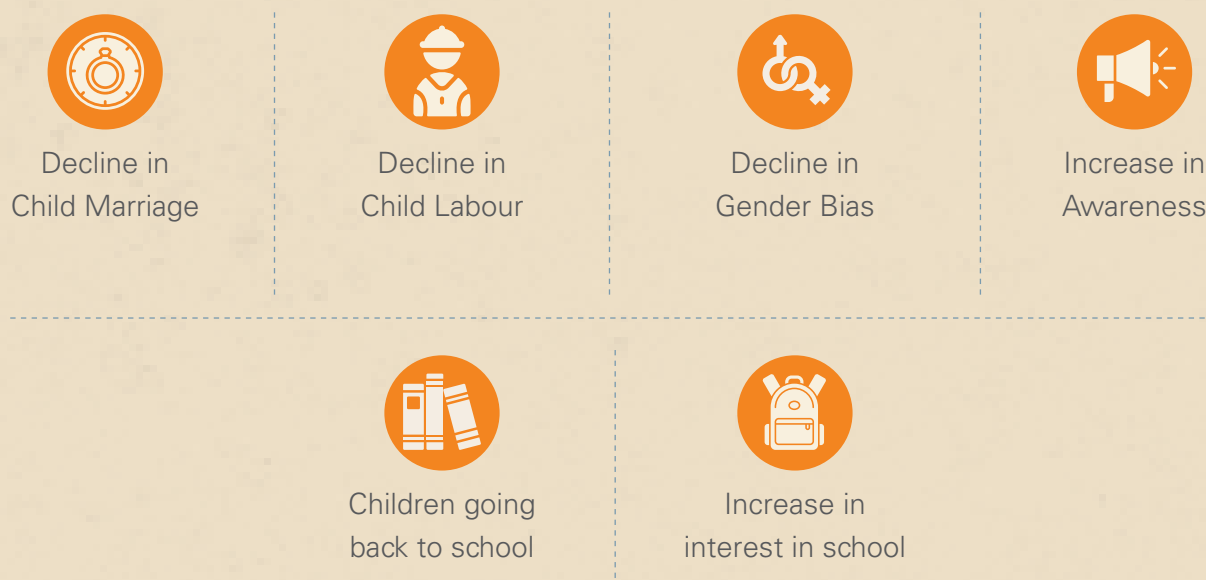
When probed further to understand what led to the above changes, CYPs (both boys and girls) could identify that their confidence and courage had increased due to awareness and sensitisation. The field motivators definitely played a key role in this. Discussions with the field motivators revealed that the use of structured tools (especially YouCreate) helped them in organising their own thoughts and sensitised them about deeper issues and challenges the CYPs were facing. Thus, they started extending support to resolve those greater issues. In the process the CYPs also got involved with them. This in turn made the CYPs more receptive to the awareness that the field motivators were trying to generate. Over time, they also became sensitive about it and extended help to others in the community or brought siblings and friends who they thought could benefit from the association.

In the geographies visited in North 24 Paraganas, all stakeholders said that BUP was the only organisation that they had interacted with and that no other “didi/dada” had ever approached them or spoke to them on any social issue.

“Confidence Building was the Most Significant Change among the CYPs in North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal”

The case of CYPs in Koderma, Jharkhand

In case of Jharkhand, FGDs were conducted with CYPs that led them to identify the following domains of change in their lives



The CYPs were asked to share stories around the changes, and weigh them to identify which was the most important change. Increase in Awareness got a score of 10 upon 10, followed by Children going to School. It was found that earlier, parents discouraged children from going to school because they felt the activity lacked any prospects of improving their future. Instead they would encourage children to get inside abandoned mica mines and get mica that they would sell on the roadside to earn money and feed the family for the day. Acquiring this skill was valued more by parents than education in school.

Through continued community engagement, extensive use of the BECOME tool, and provision of basic food necessities promoted through backyard kitchen garden by the Anganwadi, the parents could be convinced about sending the children to school. The school was also sensitised to include the children. This in turn reduced child labour to a significant extent in the area.

“Going to School was the Most Significant Change achieved by them, according to the CYPs in Koderma, Jharkhand.”

The area, being a remote tribal one, was not influenced by other NGOs. Thus, this change can be attributed to the work done by Samarpan readily.



CYP's learning about child rights using the UNCRC Card Game

06 Challenges & Lessons Learned

The NGO partners have faced enormous challenges in increasing awareness among CYPs around child rights, preventing child marriage, child labor, sexual abuse and in breaking social and gender stereotypes, including introducing girls to Kabaddi as an outdoor sport. Engaging the CYPs through activities and specialized tools eased the process of awareness building and sensitisation.

Involvement of stakeholders, especially those who have their perspectives developed, is a crucial part of harmonious reporting and further action, but this remains a challenge in most geographies. Active involvement of VLCPC members, including meetings and initiation of activities, was lacking because members feared isolation in their own villages. In districts where the CWC is responsive and responsible, this problem is lesser in extent

Some of the crucial needs met by the project include

- ▶ Provision of a trained POSCO support person
- ▶ Localisation of tools by NGO partners for sustaining learning and use within the organisation beyond this project
- ▶ Provision of a paralegal in some police stations
- ▶ Creation of a Youth Council in some villages





Reflection Circles with CYP Girls after Kabaddi Session

Some of the lessons learnt from the best practices observed include

- ▶ Continuous involvement of ASHA and Anganwadi workers makes these touchpoints stronger
- ▶ Making the CWC office a comfortable physical place makes it less agonising for everyone visiting it
- ▶ Following a 360-degree approach towards safety nets for children is necessary
- ▶ Activity based sensitisation works best where uncomfortable topics like sexual abuse, domestic violence can be taught subtly overtime

Partner management and handholding has been a key aspect of this project. This has been done effectively by Tdh through rapport building, development of tools, understanding of NGO specific needs and issues and helping them resolve such issues, capacity building of NGO partners and expansion of NGO networks. However, the budget for the NGO Partners, especially that of non piloting ones has been very tight. Some of these partners could participate in the project more actively if their resources permitted them to do so. The project could also look into some other aspects of society that have a key influence on issues around unsafe migration, trafficking and abuse that have been mentioned below.

07 Recommendations

While the project successfully brought about transformative changes in CYPs and NGO partners, some probing areas for future remain to further address some of the root causes of violation of child rights. These are being enumerated below:



Awareness Building on Negative Aspects of Digital Space

Vulnerability can be reduced in children by raising awareness about ills of mobile addiction, social media and cyber-bullying.



Active Engagement of Boys

Boys can be changed through a structured methodology that would increase their participation and sensitivity around safety concerns, gender norms, stereotypes and further violation of rights could add fillip to the project.



Activism to Prevent Substance Abuse

Raising awareness amongst the community about substance abuse could lead to reduction in access to substance and stop sale of substance in village residential areas. These can reduce a number of linked issues including domestic violence and child abuse.



Promote Selective Participation

Participation of CYPs in mob rallies, religious rallies that involve movement from one place to another increases their vulnerability. The community needs to be made aware about this, so they could maintain heightened awareness during such activities.





Promoting self-defence

Simple practices of Self Defence can be taught to CYPs and practised collectively when they meet NGO representatives periodically.

A few suggestions for Tdh at an organisational level are as below -

- ▶ It is strongly recommended that best practices emerging from the experience of different NGO partners be put together and shared as an afterlog of the project with the NGO partners
- ▶ To ensure further spread of learnings, more NGOs working in the space who were not a part of the project, could be included
- ▶ In addition, to spread the learning amongst other organisations working around similar issues in other geographies of the country, Tdh could actively participate at national level platforms in order to share the model developed and the learnings



Inter - district kabaddi competition

08 Annexures

[Annex 1: Evaluation Matrix](#)

[Annex 2: Data Tables](#)

[Annex 3: Data Collection Tools](#)

Glossary

AHTU	Anti Human Trafficking Unit
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BAPU	Bhabna Association for People's Upliftment
BDO	Block Development Officer
BEEO	Block Education Extension Officer
BLCPC	Block Level Child Protection Committee
BMOH	Block Medical Officer for Health
BRC	Block Resource Center
BSF	Border Security Force
BUP	Barasat Unnayan Prostuti
BWO	Block Welfare Officer
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CLSN	Community Level Safety Net
CMOH	Chief Medical Officer of Health
CO	Circle Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CYiM	Children and Youth in Migration
CYP	Children and Young People
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPO	District Child Protection Officer
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
DCRT	Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking
DEO	District Education Office
DLSA	District Legal Service Authority
DSWO	District Social Welfare Office
KJS	Kajla Jankalyan Samiti
LEO	Labor Enforcement officer
LRD	Labor Resource Department
LS	Lady Supervisor
MSS	Malda Sahyogita Samiti
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PEA	Pragati Educational Academy
PLV	Para Legal Volunteers
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institutions

SATHEE	Society for Advancement of Tribal Health, Education and Environment
SC	Scheduled Caste
SCPCR	State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
SDO	Sub Divisional Officer
SECC	Socio Economic Caste Census
SLARTC	Socio-Legal Aid Research and Training Centre
SMC	School Management Committee
SPAN	Society for People's Awareness
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal
ST	Scheduled Tribe
VLCP	Village Level Child Protection Committee
WB-SRLM	West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission

