



Save the Children

WE ARE
BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

FROM PANDEMIC
TO PREPAREDNESS



FROM PANDEMIC TO PREPAREDNESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Executive Summary	07
02	Chairperson's Note, CEO'S Note	14
03	Leading The Way	18
04	Tiding Over The Biggest Humanitarian Challenge	24
05	Mission Back To School	34
06	The Right Start	44
07	Fighting The Shadow Pandemic	52
08	Preparing Communities To Withstand	60
09	Children Deserve To Be Heard	70
10	Building Children's Agency	74
11	Creating Evidence For Change	82
12	Changing For Children	86
13	Financial Highlights	90
14	Abbreviations	110



01 FROM PANDEMIC TO PREPAREDNESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



As India celebrates Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, enters into 'Amritkaal' and makes efforts to take its rightful position in the new world emerging post COVID-19, we deeply appreciate the consistent and successful efforts of the Government of India to uphold the rights of the children of India. COVID -19 brought about sights and sounds of despair, grief and loss that we are still trying to move on from. But it also brought lessons and propelled us to change in profound ways.

Save the Children (also known as Bal Raksha Bharat) is an organisation that has always believed in amplifying the efforts of all enablers to safeguard children and their rights. With the shortages for oxygen, hospital beds, ambulances and medical aid that rose with the COVID-19 second wave, we had to move almost immediately to the unfamiliar territory of a medical response to work alongside the Government in stemming the emergency.

Simultaneously, the advances made in child rights over decades were challenged with risks of child labour, trafficking and abuse growing. All work done to uplift girls over the years seemed to reverse and a digital divide grew between the haves and the have nots. The pandemic brought pandemonium, and the development and service sectors grappled to cope.

From government and frontline individuals to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), all united for the cause of resisting damage

**OVER 3 LAKH
CHILDREN
WERE REACHED
DIRECTLY
THROUGH SAVE
THE CHILDREN'S
COVID-19
AND OTHER
HUMANITARIAN
SUPPORT
AND RELIEF
MECHANISMS.**



as much as possible. As we put aside personal losses and grief to fight the clock and deliver a medical response at scale, we also started thinking about what we needed to change as an organisation to be able to deliver effective, impactful solutions not only for this turbulent time but also, to build back better. The end goal was preparedness and resilience, for the children and communities we serve and for the organisation.

Expanding and collaborating to deliver a medical response

Save the Children's COVID-19 response reflected a global and national commitment to rally forces. The Government of India undertook several economic and social welfare measures to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, especially to the vulnerable population. Working alongside the Government, CSOs and communities in India, we also learnt from counterparts in other parts of the world as we stepped up to support the overwhelmed public health system. From oxygen concentrators to oxygen plants, paediatric units and COVID care kits, we covered the gamut of services needed. As we reached out for support, influencers like Huma Qureshi, Sanjana Sanghi and Nandana Sen helped amplify the call. From district administrations to central ministries, we assisted the government's initiatives to support children and communities at large.

Redefining the education paradigm

As we witnessed one of the longest school closures in the world, it became more and more evident that many children, especially girls, may never return to learning. Girls were not only at risk of dropping out from the education system, but were at risk of being forced into early marriage, child labour or trafficking. Save the Children engaged with government bodies, CSOs, influencers and the general public with #100DaysOfAction, a nationwide campaign to ensure learning continuity for all children, especially girls.

As children's learning took a blow, affecting the potential of children for years to come, Save the Children re-examined what preparedness means and created learning ecosystems that could survive adversity. Focusing on early education and school readiness, to build a strong foundation for learning, we



facilitated parents and caregivers to become part of the child's environment with whatever tools they had at hand. This led to the formation of Gulmohar - a play-based, home-learning module that aided parents to support children's learning at home, ensuring that children are always prepared to return to school, despite interruptions.

Enabling communities to withstand adversity

As an economic crisis followed on the heels of the medical emergency, it was imperative to diversify livelihoods within families to secure them. Skilling became a focal point, especially for girls, women, adolescents and especially vulnerable children. The programmes concentrated on giving dignified employment opportunities to adolescents, often by breaking deep-set behavioural, cultural and social norms to ensure a healthy transition into adulthood. Over 1400 youth and adolescents were offered soft skills and vocational training to enhance employability. Other programmatic interventions looked at the specific challenges of Children in Street Situations (CiSS) and vulnerable households and helped by providing them access to legal identities and linking them to social protection schemes. In collaboration with government bodies, we ensured that more than 2500 CiSS were provided with legal IDs and 5000 families were linked to social protection schemes.

Protecting psychosocial well-being of children

Children were the silent victims of the pandemic. Locked in, isolated and barred from their natural proclivity to play and interact, many faced the brunt of economic tension at home or held on hard as they tried to continue their education or keep themselves safe from labour and abuse. The impact was magnified for girls and CiSS for whom survival, learning and protection often hung like a question. Save the Children facilitated mental well-being and psychosocial first-aid in collaboration with statutory child protection bodies like State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs). From helplines to counselling, the need of the hour was to protect the mental health of India's youngest.

**OVER 1 LAKH
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EDUCATION
INTERVENTIONS
AND INNOVATIONS.**





Preparing a generation for better health

Preparedness and resilience were the guiding principles for our work in health and nutrition as well. Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) became an area of priority as focus shifted to the prevention of disease in the light of COVID-19 and other preventable diseases like pneumonia and diarrhoea. The national rollout of the pneumococcal vaccine by the Government was a much appreciated intervention, critical to pneumonia prevention. Maternal and Newborn Child Health (MNCH) moved front and centre as we worked in close collaboration with the government to improve nutritional outcomes among pregnant and new mothers and infants.

Putting strength behind implementation

We strengthened our direct implementation on the ground and grew from a team of 500 to a strength of 1,737. Today, we stand better prepared to directly deliver programmes on ground at scale, gradually moving closer to being an organisation 'for and with children'.

Pausing to learn and grow

The year brought wisdom that, as an organisation committed to be prepared for the future, we needed to be on a path of continuous learning. This manifested in the Knowledge and Learning Exchange Week (KLEW) 2021 where we reflected on how failure leads to learnings. but intelligently. It was the beginning of conversation, exchanges and a flow of learning that makes us stronger every day.

It was a year of metamorphosis indeed. Although the pandemic impacted us, Save the Children, with support from children, community, Government, supporters and our own people, emerged as a wiser, more resilient and more impactful organisation.



2021-22 IN NUMBERS



Number of Children reached

14,77,762



Number of Children
reached through
**Humanitarian
response**

(including COVID-19)

3,78,568

18

Number of
States/UTs
covered

Total
donations
collected
**INR
277 crore**



FROM PANDEMIC TO PREPAREDNESS

BIG STRIDES

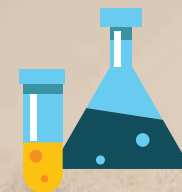


Supreme Court took cognisance of NCPCR's SOP 2.0 for Care and Protection of CiSS

Girls' safety clubs in
Telangana expanded
to 2000 colleges
in the state, in
collaboration with
Telangana police

Collaboration with
Rajasthan SCPCR
institutionalised
UMMEED helpline
for mental and
psychosocial care for
children in distress

Over 37,000 parents
using Gulmohar
at home for early
learning support to
their children



First ever Pneumonia skill labs set up in collaboration with government of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for enhancing skills among government health workers on pneumonia management



02 CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



Save the Children, along with other actors committed to children's development, is here to complement the efforts of the government for the welfare and development of children in India.



Dear friends

Another year in service of the nation! Save the Children in India (also known as Bal Raksha Bharat) has always believed that the true development of India lies in the development of its children. Our focused engagement with the children from the most vulnerable and marginalised households manifests our belief.

As we celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', I take the opportunity to thank all the frontline workers,

child rights actors and enablers for children and their rights in India and worldwide, who came together in the most difficult of times to contribute towards what we call our accomplishment. We have been able to touch over 10 lakh children's lives in the country.

I also applaud the incredible initiatives taken by the government to realise the goal of a 'Suposhit Bharat' under the POSHAN Abhiyan with a balanced and perfect amalgamation of technology, convergence, and community

involvement. The three new missions- Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya, launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) defines the Government's renewed commitment to empower women and children of India. The Aspirational District initiative which is an important step towards the holistic development of our children leads the way for transformation.

Save the Children, along with other actors committed to children's development, is here to complement the efforts of the government for the welfare and development of children in India. If we have to achieve the dream of a developed India by 2047, then it is imperative that we do not rest till 'every last child' is educated, healthy and safe- for with them we secure the future of the country.

While responding to COVID-19, the second wave was perhaps the most intense, trying and yet the biggest moment for us. We responded swiftly, comprehensively and meaningfully in strengthening existing systems and initiated long term development collaborations with Governments at various levels while working on short term goals of ensuring survival, which remained challenged at all points.

I am proud to say that when most people stayed indoors for the fear of

the virus, hundreds of our frontline workers, together with other responders from Governments, CSOs and communities, were out there putting children and their causes above all.

Our programmatic interventions ensured that children continued to learn and that community and local actors stood up for children and their protection needs. In this report, you will read about the formidable accomplishments we have made in the fields of Early Childhood Education, Nutrition, Health and Wellness, School Safety, psycho social first aid to children in distress, preparing community-level child protection workforces, increasing vaccine coverage among adults and children and drawing attention to children on the fringes, including CiSS and COVID orphans.

I am honoured and privileged to say that, having faced one of the toughest times, we are ready to climb any mountain to ensure the survival, learning and protection of children. I take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders -each of you out there who believed in us and continued supporting us in our endeavours tirelessly.

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson

02 CEO's NOTE



When physical distancing became the norm, we devised mechanisms to not only stay connected but also enable communities to lead and manage change.



Dear friends

'Paraspar Sahyog', the unified commitment and strength demonstrated by Save the Children (also known as Bal Raksha Bharat) and its stakeholders during one of the most unprecedented crises is what defines and propels us. Looking back, we remember the year gone by with our hearts filled with pride.

The year that saw the pandemic peak, also saw the triumph of will and determination over adversities faced by systems, children and communities at large. Our organisation and people put aside their personal crises and losses for

the children of India - who became the biggest victims of the second wave of COVID-19 in more ways than one.

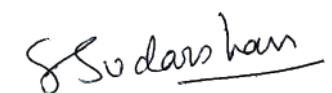
Putting all our capacities, knowledge and experience to test, we stretched ourselves to deliver a medical response for the very first time. This was only possible through deep collaboration with key stakeholders. Save the Children partnered with district administrations, government representatives, other CSOs, influencers and active citizens who rallied for the cause of children, to support close to 700 healthcare facilities across 19 states in India with oxygen supply and medical equipment. With fears of a third wave looming, we prepared response systems for children by establishing 31 COVID-19 care units, 13 child-friendly paediatric units and three oxygen plants.

While strengthening systems,, we also contributed by helping vaccinate 2 million people, setting up psychosocial helplines, creating educational innovations, expanding digital centres for COVID response and activating Multi-Activity Centres to bring early learning closer to children. We did this to safeguard children and their interests during the biggest humanitarian challenge we have seen. The school safety programmes designed by us were adopted by dozens of Government schools. Cyber safety clubs and WASH activities in schools also

looked at restoring normalcy for children by bringing them back to education safely. All these programmatic wins were delivered while we continued being first responders to multiple humanitarian crises, from the pandemic to cyclones that put some states like West Bengal in double jeopardy.

When physical distancing became the norm, we devised mechanisms to not only stay connected but also enable communities to lead and manage change. From community COVID management to home-based learning, the community, parents and caregivers owned the cause of children, their safety, their education and their healthcare during the COVID-19 second wave. The journey certainly left children, communities and us as an organisation feeling empowered to face adversity. Our annual reflection is incomplete without acknowledging the and trust of our donors who expanded generosity and joined us in our endeavours on ground. It is all of you out there as our stakeholders and well-wishers who make us what we are - 'Bal Rakshaks' - and uphold our commitment towards every last child.

Thank you



Sudarshan
CEO

03 LEADING THE WAY

Governing Council



Deepak Kapoor

Chairperson of the Governing Council



Rajiv Kapur

Treasurer of the Governing Council



Harpal Singh



Mirai Chatterjee



Swaroop Sampat Rawal



Dr. S.Y. Quraishi



Rashi Dhir



Vasvi Bharat Ram



Stuti Narain Kacker



Muzaffar Ali

Senior Leadership Team

SUDARSHAN SUCHI

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICE



An experienced civil society leader, Sudarshan Suchi brings rich local and global experience from the corporate world, academics and development. An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, and Institute of Development Studies, Sussex (UK), he is an authority in participatory practices for empowering communities to lead transformation. His ability to conceptualise development-based programmes and business models is inspiring. Prior to joining Save the Children, Sudarshan was Secretary General at SOS Children's Villages of India. He currently also serves on the Board of Udyogini (NGO) and the Academic Council of IIHMR's Rural Management Programme. A self-professed and self-trained farmer, he has co-founded Udayan Centre for Collaborative Learning – a grassroots NGO in Central India.

Anindit Roy Chowdhury

CHIEF PROGRAMME OFFICER



Anindit champions design of robust programmes at Save the Children to address the needs of India's most marginalised children. He is an expert on Programme Development and Implementation, Grant Administration, Policy Advocacy and Fundraising through strategic partnerships. Prior to Save the Children, he worked as Programme Manager (Global), Gender Justice and Human Rights at C&A Foundation. He earlier served as Director, South Asia, in International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). An MSc in Management of NGOs from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK, Anindit has also worked with UN Women, UN International Organisation for Migration, and International Youth Foundation.

Senior Leadership Team

SANGEETA NARULA
DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES



An HR professional with over two decades of experience in multicultural environments, Sangeeta oversees talent acquisition, retention and employee nurturing in the organisation. She provides strategic and functional leadership while guiding and supporting the Business Partner teams in the development and implementation of appropriate human resource strategies and policies for organisational effectiveness. She drives the strategy and implementation for organisation-level restructuring, and has also played a vital role in establishing a 'People Strategy' in line with the organisational strategy. Sangeeta also worked with the British High Commission, where she worked as in Human Resources and Corporate Services departments.



YASMIN RIAZ
DIRECTOR RESOURCE
MOBILISATION



Associated with the social sector since 2011, Yasmin is responsible for marketing and fundraising activities, encompassing Corporate, Institutional and Individual Giving verticals. She is known for her fundraising achievements in the development sector, where she has mentored and developed many leaders and has implemented many pioneering initiatives. She has played a pivotal role in executing effective strategies to enhance revenue growth and profitability. With vast experience as a Corporate Sales and Marketing professional, with successful stints across Software Education, Travel and Tourism and Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sectors, she is proficient in crisis communications, Public Relations (PR), marketing and brand management. In her previous roles, Yasmin has driven strategy, fundraising, marketing, brand, PR and crisis communications at SOS Children's Villages and worked with two of the biggest names in BFSI sector- Max New York Life Insurance and Future Generali Life Insurance Company.

Senior Leadership Team

SUBHASHISH NEOGI
DIRECTOR - FINANCE,
ADMIN & IT



Subhashish brings 25 years of experience in various fields of Finance and Accounts, including Financial Accounts, Banking and Treasury, Internal Auditing, Cost Accounting, Inventory and Asset Management, Direct and Indirect Taxation, Company Secretarial and Legal matters. His strength lies in conceptualising and implementing new-age compliance management and accounting solutions, that help monitor regulatory and internal compliances and operational efficiency. A Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, Company Secretary and an LLB, Subhashish has been associated with various prominent companies, including Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), Tata Steel Ltd, Reliance Communications Ltd, Ecolab Inc, Jamshedpur Continuous Annealing and Processing Company Private Limited among others. He is an alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and St. Xavier's School, Bokaro Steel City.



NAMRATA JAITLI
DIRECTOR - POLICY AND
PROGRAMME IMPACT



With 28 years of rich experience in managing diverse social development programmes, through empowering, evidence and advocacy, Namrata leads the Policy and Programme Impact division. She oversees a portfolio of evidence generation, policy analysis, and strategic relationship with civil society and government and strengthen Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL). In her previous roles as Head of Programmes at Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), India, she has handled end-to-end management of grant-making programmes for corporate clients and individual donors. She was also associated with PRIA (Society for Participatory Research in Asia) in diverse portfolios. Namrata holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from Jamia Milia Islamia.

Senior Leadership Team

SANTANU CHAKRABORTY
DIRECTOR - PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION



A champion for child rights and humanitarian response, Santanu leads programme implementation at Save the Children including evaluation, technical support, multi-sectoral programme development and humanitarian response across various themes. He is exceptional at securing access, undertaking longer-term association with CSOs and developing evidence-based strategies on various issues affecting the lives of marginalised children and their families in some of the most challenging contexts. He is enthusiastic about bringing lasting changes in the lives of the less privileged and their communities by ensuring equal access to social, gender, economic and civil rights delivered through a high performance and values-based organisation, innovative programming and partnerships. He comes with long experience of working with multiple bilateral and multilateral organisations in different capacities.



04 TIDING OVER THE BIGGEST HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE

Standing by communities, children and systems when they needed most

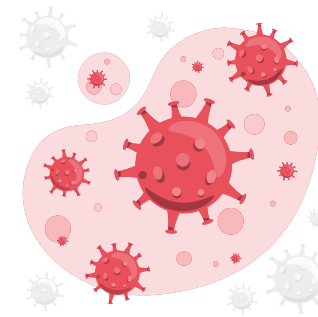
A breath of life to a newborn

On 14 May 2021, as the country was reeling under the battle with COVID-19, Nanni, a 30-year-old daily wage labourer and mother of six was grappling with labour pain in the Gang Wada village of Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. She was blessed with a baby boy. But oddly, the baby didn't cry. The prolonged labour had forced amniotic fluid into the newborn's lungs and he was struggling to breathe. As the birth attendant at the Maternal and Child Health Center in Tonk district sprang to action, she found the newborn had developed birth Asphyxia. The newborn needed oxygen. The oxygen concentrator provided by



Save the Children (supported by the Phillips Foundation and Philips India), under the ongoing association to support the health facility as part of the integrated management of childhood pneumonia,

offered the fragile baby the breath of life. He was one of the 15 babies at the Centre who received critical oxygen support at a time of emergency through equipment supported by Save the Children.



COVID-19 was more than a virus that disrupted the supply of oxygen and hospital beds. It was the collective grieving and trauma faced by millions. It unleashed the fear of an uncertain future on thousands of children. For the first time, Save the Children, an organisation that has always held steady with its strong humanitarian support, had to introspect.

All familiar frameworks had fallen apart. The unknown terrain of a medical response and the extent of the humanitarian catastrophe meant new battles at every front - lost lives, lost livelihoods, lost learning, lost child safety and so much more. The pandemic exposed children to disruption to their education, healthcare, protection and overall well-being, including social interaction with friends, peers, family members, teachers and caregivers. The frontline workers put personal crises aside to fight these battles and respond to the call of duty.

The emergency forced Save the Children to pivot to new responses at lightning speed.

Stepping up to a medical response

Support interventions covered

9,229 Villages in **121** Districts Across **19** States



Over **14 Lakh** Children and **40 Lakh** People

reached through covid support and relief mechanisms

3 Public Health Facilities were supported oxygen plants,

31 With covid care units,

13 With paediatric covid centres

1827 Oxygen Concentrators Were delivered



678

Public hospitals supported with required medical equipment and supplies

Supported govt. Medical health facilities in administration of over

20 LAKH covid vaccination doses to adolescents and adults



From pandemic to preparedness

Stepping up to a medical response

Working against the clock, Save the Children dived in to support the health facilities deliver the medical response that was needed, reinventing itself as an organisation along the way.

Oxygen plants, oxygen concentrators, support to public health centres, medical equipment, COVID Care kits, hygiene kits, food baskets, education support, livelihood support, the list kept growing along with incremental need to increase vaccination coverage. The organisation worked closely with the Government to deliver solutions, rallying resources and people to help heal a nation at a scale that no one could have imagined.

As the country was struck by shortage in oxygen supply, Save the Children channelled resources towards delivering 1,827 oxygen concentrators to public hospitals across the country to serve low-resourced communities. To ensure sustainable sources of oxygen, the organisation collaborated with the government to install oxygen plants in a few public hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Delhi. Pushing

further, 200 hospitals were supported with critical medical equipment to treat COVID patients.

The pandemic was a situation no one had envisioned. Experts predicted that subsequent waves would impact children as the progression of virus remained unpredictable. Medical research institutions and bodies advised that public health facilities in India needed to prepare for specialised paediatric care. Recognising that children needed to not just recover but heal, Save the Children rallied with partners, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) groups, government bodies and voluntary organisations to open dedicated



**OVER 87 THOUSAND
FAMILIES WERE
PROVIDED FOOD KITS FOR AT LEAST
3 MONTHS**



paediatric units in public health facilities. Replete with colourful walls, child friendly spaces and design, these paediatric wards brought a ray of sunshine to children recovering from COVID by offering the psychosocial stimulation they needed. The first of these centres was inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra in presence of the then Dy. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar, on 21 May 2021, and was followed by 8 more across the country.

Buffering economic shock to families

Simultaneously, Save the Children rushed essential support to families in distress. Over 87,000 food and relief kits and 736 livelihood support kits were shared with families facing economic hardships due to the pandemic. Families were also linked with Government's employment schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Vulnerable households covered under the ongoing programmes were also supported with one time cash transfers.

Relief mechanisms were also designed for addressing other emerging challenges. In a bid to resist the learning gap from widening, over 29,000 education kits were shared for children to continue learning at home. Save the Children extended support to over 1,100,000 children in India.

Partnering to push change

A global commitment for a global crisis

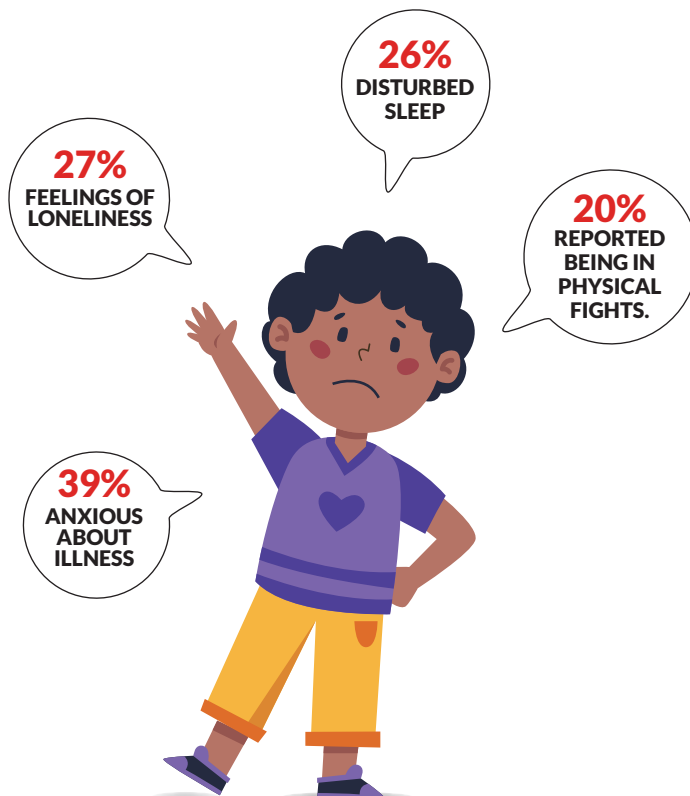
The pandemic illuminated the power of collective response in raising support for children and their families. The combined blow of COVID-19 and environmental disasters like Cyclone Yaas had put children in double jeopardy. To reduce the effect of multiple vulnerabilities faced by children, Save the Children mobilised responses and provided support to local administration and disaster management authorities for immediate response with an all-inclusive approach.



INR 25.8 CRORE MOBILISED THROUGH A GLOBAL POOL FUND FOR COVID-19 AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



**5 LAKH
POPULATION COVERED
2.8 LAKH CHILDREN
REACHED**



RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT III SUPPORTED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL IN 2021 AND PUBLISHED IN 2022 REVEALED THAT MOST CHILDREN (39%) WERE ANXIOUS ABOUT ILLNESS, SEPARATION OF A LOVED ONE OR FEAR OF DISEASE. FEELINGS OF LONELINESS (27%) AND DISTURBED SLEEP (26%) WERE ALSO REPORTED. ONE-FIFTH (20%) OF THE CHILDREN ALSO REPORTED BEING IN PHYSICAL FIGHTS.

Over 100 million additional children worldwide were pushed into poverty and adversity by the crises unleashed by the pandemic, (Preventing a Lost Decade, UNICEF, 2021). Save the Children raised a global call, pointing out that COVID was more than a health emergency. It was an educational and

psychosocial threat to children. The global counterparts supported evidence generation, building stakeholder capacity and creating frameworks for risk communication and community engagement to demystify COVID care and vaccination. Save the Children facilitated sharing of local insights to a global audience

to share learning and strengthen responses across the world. The result was more effective strategies and programme design that were delivered at lightning speed.

Huma's call for 'Breath of Life'

Actress Huma Qureshi joined Save the Children's 'Breath of Life' campaign to help set up a 30-bed paediatric ward, with paediatric and neonatal intensive care units (ICU), in Tilak Nagar Hospital, New Delhi. This ward was specially designed for children with play areas and vibrant wall paintings. Huma joined the team from Save the Children and the hospital staff to see it come alive. The partnership also supported 100 oxygen beds at the same hospital in collaboration with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation.

"At Tilak Nagar Colony Hospital in Delhi, I witnessed first-hand how hard work and earnest intentions do bear fruit. **My 'Breath of Life' mission with Save the Children has received massive support and empowered us to set up a 100-bed COVID facility in the city I proudly call my home.** A big thank you to everyone who contributed and stood up for the people in their hour of need,"

Huma said during her visit to the facility.



“These children, most of whom have lost one or both parents, their homes and essentially their lifelines, stand exposed to many forms of exploitation, including trafficking, child labour and child marriage. **They need help now more than ever before, which is why I decided to partner with Save the Children to start this campaign for their protection.** I wanted to focus my efforts in my home state of West Bengal because the crisis is particularly huge there”

Nandana said during a visit to West Bengal.

Nandana stands for West Bengal's fight with Yaas and COVID

In West Bengal, Nandana Sen, Child Protection Ambassador, Save the Children, added strength to the 'Save Support Secure' initiative to help children who have been left orphaned or abandoned due to the pandemic or Cyclone Yaas. The initiative mobilised support for children in the 24 Parganas intervention areas, providing them with a safe living environment, food security, access to education, healthcare and psychosocial support.

Amplifying children's truth

Building interventions basis evidence
Save the Children has always amplified the voices and concerns of



the communities it serves. Digging deeper to understand the reasons behind vaccine hesitancy, the organisation partnered with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL) to conduct a study on vaccine hesitancy across the 5 states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The study findings have some insightful recommendations and suggestions for improved community mobilisation and response.

Despite 80% of the population being aware of the vaccine for children, their fears over safety and long-term suitability made them hesitate. The study also showed that while poor and illiterate people were aware (over 76%) of the vaccination for children, they didn't know how to register for it.

“Our strategy is to strengthen Covid-19 vaccination delivery and ensure that most vulnerable populations have access

to evidence-based information on Covid-19 vaccination to demystify the misinformation and myths and improve vaccination uptake,” said

Dr Antaryami Dash,

Acting Dy. Director, Health and Nutrition,
Save the Children, India.



Moving people closer to Covid-19 jabs

As vaccines rolled out, it became crucial to stem the spread of the pandemic by vaccinating at scale. Many studies and experts realised that vaccine hesitancy, especially among the less-informed, was becoming an obstacle to public health.

Drawing evidence from the vaccine-hesitancy study by Save the Children and Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Save the Children launched massive online and offline campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy and bring communities under the coverage of Government's nationwide vaccination campaign.



Joining forces with Meta (then Facebook), Save the Children used behavioural science to launch a campaign, #SurakshaKaTika, with nudges on Facebook and Instagram. The campaign reached out to over 55 million people in India, reducing the barriers to vaccine acceptance. This initiative contributed to a positive shift in people's attitudes towards vaccination and reduced concerns over side effects.

Tactics included contextual video and static ads featuring a clear call to action, facts and simple messages, delivered by effective 'messengers', including children, influencers and medical professionals. Save the Children supported the government of India's COVID vaccination campaign and 'Har Ghar Dastak' in all its operational locations.

Innovating to build value

Repurposing to meet needs

Necessity breeds invention. Save The Children's COVID-19 response turned to technology to cross the chasm created by the pandemic and offer the support that was needed.

In partnership with Nokia, under the Smartpur Project, Save the Children had set up

digital centres, in the villages of Dungarpur, Rajasthan. During COVID-19, these centres were envisioned as one-stop shops for the community, creating access to learning, finance, social security and healthcare. Through the pandemic, in collaboration with the Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC), these Smartpur centres were repurposed to deliver COVID-care services and medicines. Each centre

served 3 to 5 villages around it, offering teleconsultation, health status screening, referral, counselling, health talk and links to health facilities.

Bridging gaps with technology

Technology was harnessed in multiple ways to meet critical needs through the pandemic. Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS) proved to be extremely effective in sharing information on



**SAVE THE CHILDREN
SUPPORTED THE
GOVERNMENT'S COVID
VACCINATION DRIVE WITH
ON-GROUND MOBILISATION
ACROSS 7 STATES,
COVERING 3 LAKH
ADOLESCENTS AND 13
LAKH ADULTS**



COVID-19 awareness, adaptation, mitigation and vaccination. While COVID VANI in Odisha supported parents and frontline workers with COVID-19 appropriate messaging to be relayed further to the community, the communities in Bihar accessed COVID-19 related information via a missed call. The IVRS system in Nashik, in collaboration with Nashik Municipal Corporation, followed up on home isolation cases. With different modus operandi, the IVRS systems were a one-stop-shop for all COVID-19

needs for the community.

Tele calling services supported community-level COVID-19 management groups in Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. They empowered community youth groups to access and relay information on the availability of oxygen beds, medicines, nearest COVID care facilities and isolation to manage both scarcity and the unnecessary rush at health facilities. The apex institute of the Government of India - NITI Aayog acknowledged the support provided by Save the

Children team in aspirational districts in tele counselling services to families in COVID prone rural areas.

Challenges force transformation. As Save the Children stepped up in real time to find solutions to emerging needs, the organisation was also compelled to look within and reinvent. The pandemic may have been trial by fire, but it also led to the emergence of a more innovative, more resilient and more prepared organisation.

05 MISSION BACK TO SCHOOL

Stemming the learning slide with home-based learning

Bringing an 8-year-old back to learning

8-year-old Pushplata Kunkal, from West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, was an active, cheerful child with a healthy curiosity. Her behaviour changed when schools shut down during the pandemic as she couldn't study or interact with other children. She became aggressive and wilful. Her father, Arun Singh Kunkal, is a labourer while her mother, Drupati Kunkal, is an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker. Despite the dual income, they couldn't make ends meet or afford a smartphone. It angered Pushpalata that her friends could continue with their studies online while she could not.

Save the Children had just launched the Back to Basics project, around this time. It offered quality foundational learning at home to maintain learning continuity and prepare children for the transition back to school.

Academic Support Fellow (ASF), Onami Kumari Gope, started visiting the area around Pushpalata's home and started conducting Early Literacy and Math (ELM) activities for children. Pushpalata would stand and watch. One day, Onami asked her to join in. Despite being in Class 2, Pushpalata could barely identify a single

alphabet. Her parents were shocked and saw what Pushpalata had lost in the absence of regular classes. Being illiterate, they pinned their hopes on the ASF who went on to explain ELM to them through Gulmohar, a collection of short, easy-to-follow videos for home use. "Despite being illiterate, Drupati took a keen interest in Pushplata's studies. She took personal care to teach her daughter and develop her learning skills," said Onami.

Gradually, Drupati saved enough for a smartphone and used Save the Children's Gulmohar videos to help Pushplata learn. Now that schools have reopened, Pushplata has reunited with her friends, better prepared for the academic journey ahead.





Prior to the pandemic, the Government, civil society and academia had joined hands to make a concerted effort to bridge learning gaps and take India closer to Sustainable Development Goals. In a heartening move, the National Educational Policy 2020 (NEP) illuminated the importance of Foundational Learning, advocating a revamp across the country on the long-standing evidence that the maximum neural connections in a child's brain are made by the age of six years and therefore early learning has a bearing on cognitive, physical and socio-emotional well-being through life.

These gains were affected as COVID-19 swept across the country like a tidal wave. Globally, over 320 million children (UNESCO, 2020) were forced out of school due to lockdowns, many never to return. Laptops and smartphones were unaffordable for a vast majority of homes, upending education.

The pandemic had a particularly harsh fallout on early learning. The developmental needs of a

child between 3-6 years are multi-fold, involving aspects like nutrition, health, safety, care and play based education. These needs are met by the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) system and delivered through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). As the pandemic hit, Anganwadi workers became core to the delivery of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns on precautions like masks and hand hygiene during the COVID-19 response.

While this was a crucial task, it diverted them away from their core job and Early Childhood Education (ECE) was affected.

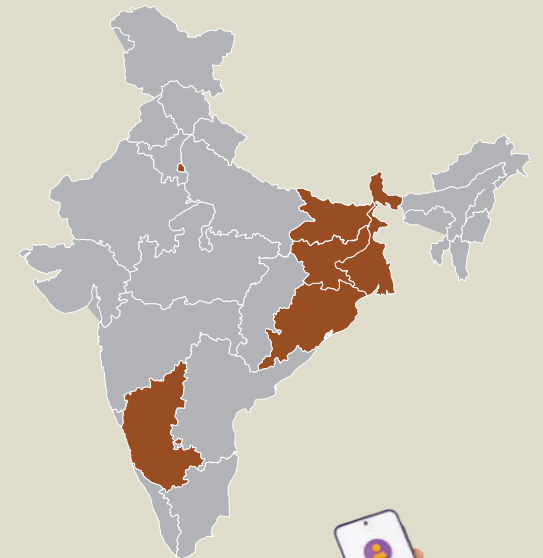
The gender gap in education worsened with the pandemic, putting girls at extreme risk of never returning to school. With schools closed and the digital divide widening, girls were left with a higher proportion of housework, the probability of early marriage and early child-bearing and the threat of abuse.

Save the Children's educational response through the pandemic focused on the most vulnerable groups. To ensure children have access to safe and quality learning, we worked with the government to support the implementation of ICDS, NEP 2020 (Early Childhood Care and Education, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy), flagship schemes like Samagra Shiksha (improving learning levels) and ensure a safe school environment for children with a special focus on girls.



35,000

children reached in Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Delhi, West Bengal, and Jharkhand through Gulmohar learning modules



30,000

teachers trained to support learning continuity for children (effective use of online resources, content for home-based learning, mental health and psychosocial care during COVID-19).



Over

37,000

 parents enabled to practice ELM at home

Over

45,000

 Self-Learning Kits for learning continuity shared in West Bengal, Delhi, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, UP and Odisha



Ensured learning continuity for over

88,000

 children post the pandemic

A cadre of

60 ECCE

 professionals was trained under Save the Children's institutional partnership with Jamia Millia Islamia University



Protecting and promoting foundational learning at scale

When home became school

Save the Children moved rapidly to stem the learning loss by ensuring that learning continued at home. School readiness could be protected by enabling parents and caregivers with the tools and skills needed to help children continue learning at home. The widespread adoption of smartphones made mobile technology the most accessible platform to deliver these tools. Designed for simplicity and efficacy, Save the Children developed the Gulmohar module, an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Curriculum Framework, for children in the age group of 3-8 years, making it easy for parents to help their children develop the skills necessary for school. The framework was customised to a disaster situation with easy-to-follow audio-visual guides that turned commonly found household items into learning aids. The module also advocates for storytelling as a powerful and accessible path to learning with multi-fold psychological and educational benefits.

Gulmohar was launched in 2020 and the focus through 2021 has been to take it to scale in collaboration with key government departments and academia in intervention states.

Partnering to safeguard learning

Ensuring learning continuity in Jharkhand

To protect and ensure learning continuity for the most marginalised children

of Jharkhand through the pandemic and beyond, Save the Children entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC). Communication packages raised awareness on the need for learning continuity. Technical support helped build teacher capacity and ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour through the lockdowns and when children returned to school. Recorded stories became a powerful mode of learning and were broadcast on All India Radio and FM



channels. 5 radio channels in Jharkhand and 1 in Bihar broadcast 30 stories as part of their educational programme.

As part of the MoU, the audio-visual content of the Gulmohar modules added a welcome resource for pre-school learners on the DIGI-School App. Technical support by Save the Children on JEPC's online platforms also helped train teachers for a safe transition back to school, with a focus on children's learning and psychosocial well-being.

Building disaster-resilient communities for adolescents and children

The damage done by the pandemic was compounded by environmental disasters like Cyclone Yaas. Save the

Children believed it was imperative to create risk-resilient communities for children and adolescents so that their education and developmental needs continue to be met. In partnership with the National Institution of Disaster Management (NIDM), and the Government of India, Save the Children helped train government officials, administrative institutions and civil society practitioners on building capacity among adolescents on basic concepts of disaster risk management and increasing the involvement of young people in disaster risk management activities.

1224 officials attended the training sessions to the benefit of the communities they serve.



THREE MOBILE LEARNING CENTRES/ MOBILE ANGANWADIS WERE INAUGURATED BY THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SAKALA, KARNATAKA, B. C. NAGESH, IN OCTOBER 2021. THE INITIATIVE WAS TARGETED TOWARDS MIGRANT FAMILIES AND WASTE-PICKING COMMUNITIES

The programme reinforced the joint resolve to build disaster-resilient communities that protect children and their rights in emergencies, leading to the signing of an MoU between the NIDM, Gol and Save the Children India.

Partnering to push the discourse on girls' education

To build the scope for girls' education, Save the Children signed an MoU with Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi. The combined strengths of the two organisations resonated in a webinar and campaigning to drive public narratives on the rights of all children, to receive an equal education, irrespective of gender.

Creating a gender-equal educational environment in Rajasthan

Save the Children envisions a welcoming, gender-equal environment in educational institutions around the

country. To make this vision a reality, the organisation has entered into a 4 years MoU with Rajasthan Council of School Education (RCSE). The partnership focuses on enhancing learning outcomes and easing the transition from elementary to secondary school by creating enabling, gender-sensitive classrooms. Using a 'hub-and-spoke' model, Save the Children worked

closely with the government-run Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) to drive and implement strategies for the holistic education and development of girls, delivering education, life-skills training, teacher training, career counselling and more. The best practices from the work accomplished will be replicated in 196 elementary and secondary schools across the state



'ANGANWADI ON WHEELS', A SIMILAR INITIATIVE BY DELHI GOVERNMENT, REACHED OUT TO STREET CHILDREN IN THE CITY. DY. CHIEF MINISTER, MANISH SISODIA, INAUGURATED THE ANGANWADI ON WHEELS ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD ON 11 OCTOBER 2021



and 49 KGBVs across seven districts of Rajasthan.

Convener of voices

100 Days of Action

In a global call that rang out across the world, Save the Children spoke up for the girls of India, awakening people to the reality that many girls

would never return to school after the pandemic and that it was imperative for their needs to be placed front and centre. While learning continuity was at the pivot of the ask, the campaign elucidated how it could not be separated from psychosocial well-being, financial support, health, nutrition, safe schools, increased union and state budgets and timely vaccination. Organisations and people from

all across rallied to amplify the demands so that the voices resonated across the country. Films, digital media, online events and PR moved forward in a coordinated push to make sure the voices were heard. The petition of support was signed by over 1 lakh people.

Studying what it takes to universalise early education

In a bid to set in motion evidence-based narratives and strategies, Save the Children commissioned a study with the Centre for Budget and Governance (CBGA) on the 'Cost of Universalising Early Childhood Education in India'. It is the first-ever attempt to estimate the cost of universalisation of ECE services in India for children in the 3-6 years age group. The study shares findings on the average cost per child per year and makes informed recommendations on the necessary budget allocations. The study is a valuable body


[Click here to read the report](#)

of evidence that can feed into partnerships with the Government and can inform narratives in public discourse around the cost of early education.

Innovating to create access through the lockdowns

Mobile learning centres bring learning closer to children

Through school closures, Save the Children's primary focus was to create educational opportunities for children. Innovations in the form of Mobile Learning centres, in



collaboration with other CSO's and key departments, helped create this access for waste-picking community, CiSS and other vulnerable children. They created a bridge to learning and a path to return to school.

Mobile learning buses or carts were equipped with storybooks, learning kits, sitting mats and IEC material on messaging related to COVID-19 for children, teachers and the community. Volunteers took these mobile libraries to children's doorsteps, creating opportunities for learning and peer interaction. They supported learning continuity and the transition back to formal school.

From strategic interventions at scale to ensuring children's voices and needs are heard and met, Save the Children continues to work with the government to ensure learning continuity in a post-pandemic scenario.

CRITICAL DONORS

Bvlgari, HDFC, H&M foundation

TOTAL FUNDS UTILISED

Approx. INR **34** Crore



06 THE RIGHT START

Addressing hunger, health and other fallouts of the pandemic

Siblings make the journey from malnourishment to good health

30-year-old Doddi Deepthi, lives with her husband and four children in Shanthi Nagar, a settlement for Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Telangana's Mulugu district. They are 8 km away from the nearest village. The lockdowns stopped her husband and her from working as daily labourers. Her family could not manage a full meal on most days. Two of her children, Doddi Reena and Doddi Ravi, were identified as Moderate-Autely Malnourished (MAM). Lack of knowledge and access to health services forced mothers in the settlement to consult self-proclaimed healers. "My children fell sick frequently. They suffered coughs and fevers. I consulted the local healer but they did

not get well," said Deepthi. Save the Children has been working with IDP population, providing access to food security schemes, promoting education and supporting adults with skill development. The team linked Deepthi's family to the nearest AWC, making the family eligible for take-home rations and food kits of rice, oil, chikki, Horlicks bottles, sugar and spices. The family also received medical support from the PHC. An Anganwadi worker visited them every fortnight to follow up on routine immunisations, nutritious food intake, hygiene and other essential healthcare services. Ravi and Reena are both healthy now. The worst is behind them.



The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21 shows that 35.5% children in India are stunted, 32.1% are underweight and 19.3% are wasted while 7.7% children are severely wasted. However, the data released from MWCD shows that more than 33 lakh children in India are malnourished, with more than half severely malnourished. In the last quarter of 2021, there were 17.76 lakh Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children and 15.46 lakh MAM children in the country.

Enhancing the coverage of government's 'POSHAN Abhiyan' to address the needs of malnourished children and collaborating with their parents and caregivers to ensure their health and nutritional well-being is at the core of Save the Children's work in the area of healthcare. The organisation looks at child health holistically, extending its efforts from nutrition and WASH to the reduction of child mortality due to preventable causes like pneumonia and diarrhoea. Last year, over 7.2 lakh children benefited from the organisation's work on improving children's health.

Scaling up efforts to ensure children's nutritional well-being

Poshan Maah 2021: demonstrating the commitment to nutrition

National Nutrition Month/ Rashtriya Poshan Maah is the Government of India's flagship activity under POSHAN Abhiyan and Jan Aandolan. As the fourth Rashtriya Poshan

Maah unfolded in September, 2021, Save the Children amplified its efforts to reach over 23,000 people across intervention geographies. In Gaya, Bihar, Save the Children collaborated with the District Health Administration and ICDS for community outreach and awareness generation activities, using mobile vans, counselling, interactive sessions and art activities. The month-long campaign raised awareness on nutrition among pregnant women, young children and adolescents.

Realising the importance of men's engagement in child development, the Save the Children team prioritised the involvement of men and fathers and organised counselling and orientation sessions for them. Kitchen gardening and affordable dietary diversity were promoted through AWCs at all intervention locations. Mothers were made aware of the need for nutrition during pregnancy, the importance of breast-feeding and how these had favourable impact on child health. Children

were screened for growth indicators. Special awareness drives for nutrition literacy were also conducted in Delhi's urban slums.

In Gumla, Jharkhand, Anganwadi workers were engaged in a month-long awareness drive to create shared knowledge on nutrition to the benefit of the children in their care.

The Jan Jagruti Rally in Pune and Poshan Rath in Bihar and Jharkhand, inaugurated by district ICDS, created

APPROACHES

COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT, FAMILY COUNSELLING, CHILD SCREENING, NUTRITION LITERACY, CHILD CARE INITIATIVES

53K CHILDREN (0-18 YEARS) WERE LINKED TO ONE OR MORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND NUTRITION INDICATORS





Vaccine Access Centre). Both these illnesses are preventable. Children from marginalised communities are most likely to succumb to them.

COVID-19 illuminated how handwashing with soap is the first line of defence against preventable deaths. Working to contain the spread of COVID-19 in India over the past year, Save the Children launched the Essential Health and Hygiene Interventions Programme to supplement government priorities and promote hand washing and hygiene. Through various interventions and projects, Save the Children reached over 12,000 teachers and

frontline workers in the four states of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Maharashtra. They were taught innovative ways to interact with communities and promote the habit of handwashing.

Rapid Emergency Training Solution (RETS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platforms supported the programme by guiding people in hotspot districts on how to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The combination of technology platforms and effective tools for demonstration and interpersonal communication significantly enhanced the practice of Handwashing with Water and Soap (HWWS) in these districts.

**THE PROGRAMME
TRAINED 12,474
ASHA/AWW/SCHOOL
TEACHERS AS 'AGENTS
OF CHANGE' TO
DELIVER MESSAGES
TO HOUSEHOLDS**



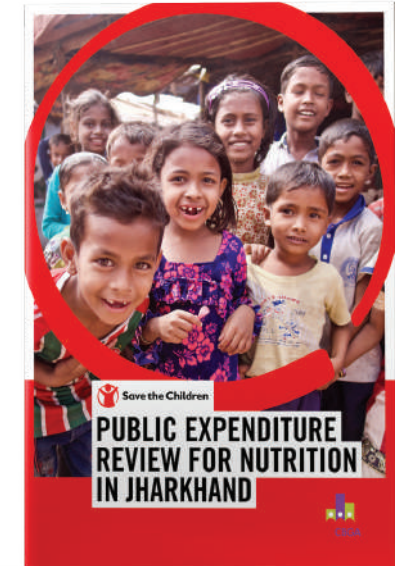
**OVER 35,000
COMMUNITY
HOUSEHOLDS
WERE EQUIPPED
WITH FUNCTIONAL
HANDWASHING
UNITS OVER THE PAST
YEAR**



Making needs on health and nutrition heard

*Collaborating and advocating
for increased spends on
nutrition*

The 'Public Expenditure Review for Nutrition in Jharkhand' conducted in one of its underperforming districts, West Singhbhum, formed the basis for evidence-based collaboration with the Government to augment efforts towards improving nutritional indicators. The



[Click here to read the report](#)

study analyses undernutrition, interventions, and budget in the context of local needs in Jharkhand.

Additionally, the report looks at expenditure on nutrition interventions, adequacy of the nutrition budget and identifies factors and bottlenecks affecting the utilisation of funds.

*Translating collective
commitment into reforms*

With household incomes seeing an alarming drop through the pandemic, maternity benefits became crucial to help mothers get the nutritious food necessary for their health. It





was important for support to be extended to every pregnant woman in the country, through the pandemic and beyond. Save the Children added weight to the concerted efforts towards extending the maternity benefits under 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY) to cover second pregnancies.

As a result of sustained efforts and collaboration, the maternity benefit which was hitherto only available to beneficiaries for the first living child was revamped in the Union budget 2022-23 and included as a sub-scheme under Mission Shakti with a monetary benefit of INR 6000 provided to mothers for the second child, if the second child is a girl.

Innovating for last mile delivery

A breath of hope in the fight against pneumonia

Project Vishwaas was launched in 2019 as a two-year innovative pilot to bring high-quality pneumonia care to approximately 90,000 under-five children across 45 urban wards in Rajasthan and two rural blocks in Uttar

THREE PNEUMONIA SKILL LABS (ONE IN TONK, RAJASTHAN AND TWO IN BAHRAICH, UTTAR PRADESH) WERE SET UP. THESE ARE STRUCTURED SKILL STATIONS WITH THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF IMPARTING COMPETENCY IN PNEUMONIA MANAGEMENT TO ANM, STAFF NURSES, LADY HEALTH VISITORS, MEDICAL OFFICERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH OFFICER (CHO), NURSING SUPERVISORS, TEACHERS AND TRAINERS



Pradesh, the states with the highest burden of pneumonia. The pilot, concluded successfully in 2021, focused on the upgradation of infrastructure and capacity along the healthcare chain to aid pneumonia prevention, detection, treatment and management. Simultaneously, the mobile health tool on social and behaviour change communication, M-Health, educated and drove change in communities and among frontline workers so that timely and appropriate treatment could be sought and delivered. The project pushed the use of technology to revamp the MIS systems for accurate

data management. This in turn generates evidence for advocacy, increased resources and improved delivery. Project Vishwaas reached close to 5 lakh people, directly benefiting the lives of close to 90,000 young children and 1,000 health workers.

CRITICAL DONORS

Unilever, Philips foundation, Mondelez India, RIST

TOTAL FUNDS UTILISED

Approx. INR **35** Crore

M-HEALTH TOOL INTRODUCED TO **170 ASHA WORKERS** AND AUXILIARY NURSE AND MIDWIVES (ANMS) DURING THE PILOT



07 FIGHTING THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

Creating community led safety nets around children



Collective support for 3 siblings who lost parents to COVID-19

While the second wave of COVID-19 coursed through the country, Kartik, a tea-garden worker in Jorhat, Assam, lost a battle against cancer. His 3 children, Pushpa (18), Sona (14) and Kamal (10) rallied around their mother, Junita, in support, only to lose her to COVID-19 soon after. The children had no one but an elderly grandmother, Namita Devi to turn to. Pleas to relatives to step up and help the children fell on deaf ears, even when Sona tested positive for the coronavirus. With the father's meagre savings spent on his medical treatment, the children were left without care and financial means. Pushpa's dreams of studying medicine crashed brutally as she tried to tutor other children to support her siblings.

Considering the risk these children were at, Save the Children and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) reached out to the

local stakeholders to ensure their protection through a community-based mechanism. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members made sure that the children's needs were met while Save the Children continued to offer psychosocial support.

Save the Children works to empower children and communities in the tea plantations of Assam, addressing abuse and exploitation of children through enhanced awareness among boys and girls and strengthened community engagement. The organisation engages and sensitises tea-producing companies and owners of large plantations, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Unions and Associations to protect child rights, while working with local administration bodies to put effective child protection mechanisms in place.

** Photo for representative purpose only*

***all names have been changed to protect identities*



Children were the invisible victims of the pandemic. Their lives changed in profound ways. Many were orphaned, others silently slipped into child labour, trafficking and other forms of abuse. Unseen by the world, children quietly suffered exploitation. When money and food became scarce, young girls who should have stayed in school were married away. COVID-19 was a violent blow to child safety and the worst part was that it was noiseless.

Save the Children, with its mission to create a childhood of possibilities for every child, had to push every boundary to strengthen the existing Government child protection mechanisms. Despite decades of path breaking work in child protection, addressing children's mental health and psychosocial needs along with their need for physical safety was a new domain of action.

Moreover, as the pandemic barred interaction, the need to create remote support and community-based mechanisms to prevent abuse and violence against children became urgent. Predators moved to online spaces, which the community and children were unfamiliar with, necessitating the need for education and digital vigilance.

Extending critical psychosocial support to children across the country

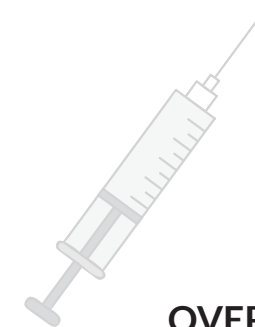
Helplines across the country alleviate distress

Tuning in to the silent mental trauma that children were experiencing, it was critical

to be able to offer support. Save the Children used mobile technology, IVRS systems, tele calling, mental health helplines, continuous collaboration with State and District Administrations, statutory bodies like CWCs, SCPCRs, local child protection bodies, organisations like Childline and community members to be able to extend a hand to children in need. Save the



Photo: Vicky Roy



OVER 1,500 CHILDREN ORPHANED DUE TO COVID-19 WERE TRACED AND LINKED TO INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR SUPPORT AND CUSTODY



Children provided assistance and psychosocial first aid across Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

Ummeed: the helpline that became a lifeline

As the pandemic entered a second year, it left children without the support of peers, teachers, extended family and community members. For some children, the pandemic brought deeper stressors in the form of abuse, forced marriage or forced labour. As trauma and anxiety among children rose, Save the Children responded to children's increasing mental health concerns by launching Ummeed, a dedicated helpline in partnership with the Rajasthan SCPCR.

Ummeed allowed children and parents to seek counselling for mental health support from the safety of their homes by dialling a specific number. In addition, parents and children could report child protection issues like abuse or offences related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act which were then escalated to the state Child Rights Commission, Government of Rajasthan for action.

The helpline, with 12 dedicated counsellors on call, was soon receiving over 80 calls a day, mostly from parents of adolescents. Children in distress reached out to share worries about the unaffordability of digital education and tuition amid school closures. The helpline also received calls from parents seeking support for handling behavioural signs observed in children, including aggression, irritability and digital addiction.

THE HELPLINE RESPONDED TO OVER 5,000 CALLS FOR HELP AND ESCALATED 70 CASES OF CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.



Collaborating to enhance child protection

Strengthening local systems for child protection

A rise in child abandonment, trafficking and abuse is the fallout of any humanitarian crisis. COVID-19 was no different. Compounding the threat were the social media posts on orphaned children available for adoption, which put them further at risk.

In addition to advocating for safe and institutional reporting of children in vulnerable situations, Save the Children initiated on-ground programming in 57 districts across 12 states and 2 UTs, aiming to strengthen and support existing child protection mechanisms. Outreach programmes and surveillance mechanisms were put in place so that orphaned or children who had lost a prime caregiver and were vulnerable did not fall prey to human trafficking. Save the Children collaborated closely with DCPUs, CWCs and other Government nodal bodies, supporting them with training, outreach, surveillance and awareness building. At the community level, close

interaction with community groups, children's groups and Childline ensured that timely alarm and referrals were made for cases that needed attention.

Last year, eastern India reeled under economic distress caused by the double emergency of Cyclone Yaas and COVID-19. It saw a significant rise in child labour, especially among families of daily wage workers. Existing programmes and platforms in the hotspots intensified awareness campaigns with local Child Protection Committees and children's groups to combat this.

Creating a community-level child protection workforce

In a bid to create safety nets for children, Save the Children focused on creating community cadres for the protection of children living within their own families and communities by creating a trained child protection workforce in every community. Save the Children found solutions by working with Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) and engaging with all duty bearers (under the Juvenile Justice Act), community representatives and children to push children's rights and safety as a joint responsibility. These child

protection workers within the community identify children at risk and escalate these cases for action to appropriate authorities, including the DCPU. These workforces were activated during COVID-19 to address issues of care and protection during the pandemic.

The effort of several years bore fruit in Jharkhand and West Bengal with Save the Children being approved as an assessment centre for offering customised qualification for community-level child protection

workforces with certification by CACHE - a technical and vocational awarding organisation in the UK.

Speaking up to strengthen child protection policy

Non-paper recommendations for strengthening the JJ Act

Save the Children presented a non-paper to the Ministry of Women and Child Development for strengthening the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act). The

recommendations included shifting of implementation power to the District Magistrate and ambiguity to be removed in sentences where the minimum sentence was not defined. Two of these recommendations including greater role of District Magistrates and ambiguity around the minimum age was addressed in the amended act.

#WorkNoChildsBusiness - a collective call against child labour

Save the Children joined a global alliance to free children and youth from child

labour and to let them enjoy their right to education and a childhood. The alliance identified five sectors with a high incidence of child labour: garment, textiles and footwear, gold and mining, natural stones, cocoa and the informal sector including domestic and agricultural work. The alliance joined forces with communities, schools, governments, civil society organisations, trade unions and private actors, bringing sustainable solutions to children and their families.

**IN DELHI, RAJASTHAN
AND MAHARASHTRA
HELPED
RESCUE **5,000**
CHILDREN
FROM THE GARMENT
INDUSTRY AND
SEND THEM BACK TO
SCHOOL.**



Save the children runs child labour awareness campaigns

Save the Children has been working in communities to prevent child labour and bring more children into the fold of education. Recognising the increased risk to children in the wake of the pandemic, Save the Children organised community-level campaigns in Rajasthan.

Collaborating with the District Administration of Banswara, Department of Labour and Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, the organisation launched the '30 Days Child Labour-Free' campaign to reach 998 villages of Banswara, Rajasthan. The messaging reached out to shopkeepers, factory owners and the local community, co-opting the public into taking an oath that no child will be engaged in labour.





Innovating to show that child protection must also mean child-friendly

Creating child-friendly police stations

While justice for children is imperative, the spaces of justice can be overwhelming for children, especially those who have already experienced trauma.

In order to create an environment that would enable children to report cases and crimes without fear. Save the Children supported the judicial system to create child-friendly corners in 10 police stations in Dibrugarh and Jorhat, Assam as per NCPCR guidelines.

This was followed through by training on 'Child Friendly Policing' for frontline police officers.

It was a first-of-its-kind initiative to introduce child-sensitivity into the justice system. Seeing the initiative, the District Judge, Dibrugarh requested for similar child-friendly spaces with the court to comfort and ease vulnerable children who came into the court for various issues. The spaces created by Save the Children were inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Justice of Assam on 28th August, 2021.

Child friendly corners and training of frontline police officers on child-friendly policing in the best interest of the child is as per the mandate of The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the

Child (UNCRC) and the JJ Act. These spaces are especially helpful for victims under POCSO Act who need to attend court hearings as they do not further aggravate trauma.

Each of these measures is an incremental move towards a more child-friendly enforcement and judicial system and contributes to a larger vision of a society which works cohesively to protect its children.

CRITICAL DONORS

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, SC Italy, SC US

TOTAL FUNDS UTILISED

Above INR **37**
Crore



Photo: Vicky Roy

08 PREPARING COMMUNITIES TO WITHSTAND

Resilient communities build stronger children

From child labourer to entrepreneur

Sumati Halder, 25, from Garia, Kolkata, was forced to drop out of school and work in a leather factory. She hated the work and the long, gruelling hours at the factory. The adverse circumstances also turned her into a recluse.

One day she was introduced to an alumni member of the New Horizons project whose life had turned for the better after doing a course on Beauty and Wellness. Save the Children selected Sumati after an interview and after

securing her mother's consent. After the training, she started working in a beauty salon for a monthly salary of INR 4,500. When the pandemic struck, all her family members lost their jobs. They struggled to get one square meal. Immediately after the lockdown was lifted, Sumati took a loan and started a small business using her beautician skills with the home services app, Urban Company. Her business picked up with consistency and hard work, and she began earning INR 20,000 per month.





Aspiring to empower country's youth and to build India as the skill capital of the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 15 July 2015, launched the National Skills Development (NSD) Mission of India. Seen as the world's largest initiative to create employable human power in a single country, the campaign, managed by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) of India under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, envisions training over 30 crore people in different skills by 2022. Progressively, the third phase of the flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0), was launched in January 2021 to benefit over eight lakh candidates in the age-group 15–45 years, with a specific focus on youth within this group. Implemented through a streamlined institutional mechanism, the NSD Mission not only consolidated and coordinated skilling efforts, but also created convergence across sectors to achieve skilling at scale. This convergence with the Government gave wings to Save the Children's efforts

to skill up youth for access to dignified livelihood. Save the Children aspires to contribute to this bold mission by empowering India's 253 million adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years through skill development. Save the Children keeps its eye on long-term impact, hoping to alleviate intergenerational poverty by providing knowledge, tools, and soft and technical skills that would enable young people to engage in sustainable livelihoods.

Scaling up to bring vulnerable children into safety nets

Programmatic push leads to strengthening processes and interventions for CiSS

As the vulnerabilities of CiSS multiplied through the pandemic, so did Save the Children's efforts to support these children through programmes, engagement with Government and public awareness through campaigns. Many street-connected children were outside all safety mechanisms. With



no legal identity or access to social security, they were left invisible, unnamed and without hope.

Through years of programmatic collaboration with NCPCR to identify street-connected children in 11 Indian cities and link them to social protection schemes, Save the Children consolidated

the efforts of various actors towards policy change.

In 2020, NCPCR released the SOP 2.0 for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations to create convergence among the various functionaries, institutions/agencies, Government of India schemes and policies and

ensure a holistic approach to providing care, protection and restoration of CiSS.

Last year, to strengthen the processes and interventions regarding CiSS, the Supreme Court instructed State Governments to implement SOP 2.0 and submit status reports on the rehabilitation of CiSS in accordance with



the SOP. The move had a far-reaching impact. The implementation of SOP 2.0 will help in the rescue and rehabilitation of lakhs of children connected to streets by linking them and their families to various social protection schemes of the government.

This win was followed by the launch of the Baal Swaraj portal by NCPDR for online tracking and real-time monitoring of children in need of care and protection. The portal has two functions: COVID Care and CiSS. The COVID Care link caters to children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise

25,000 STREET CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH LEGAL IDS AND **5,000 CHILDREN** LINKED WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES ACROSS MUMBAI, PUNE, NASHIK, AGRA AND HYDERABAD IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CISS PROJECT. THE PROJECT REACHED MORE THAN **2,28,000 CHILDREN** WITH LEGAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. AROUND **90,000 CHILDREN** HAVE BEEN LINKED WITH SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES IN PHASE I IMPLEMENTED ACROSS 10 CITIES IN INDIA



post March 2020 and provides the various stages of rescue and rehabilitation of street children.

Supporting policy change for CiSS in Delhi: SAMPARC

Working closely with the Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi, Save the Children supported Delhi Government's efforts in formulating Sustainable Approach for Multi-faceted Progress Aimed at Reclaiming Childhood (SAMPARC), a policy that defines CiSS. This policy recognises children who have run away from their families and are living on the streets, or children who work on the street and go back to a family after work, as street children. This important recognition helps targeting efforts towards them better.



Recognising Save the Children's efforts to strengthen autonomous bodies under JJ Act, this policy empowers CWCs to take legal action against parents who make their children beg, with criminal or commercial intent. It also directs district administrations to identify such children who have turned 18, train them, and induct them into the government's civil defence volunteer's force.

Linking families to livelihoods

Dwindling employment through the lockdowns adversely affected children

and their families. Restoring livelihoods became the need of the hour. Save the Children supported the Government's initiatives to stem the economic emergency for households across all intervention states with special emphasis on the eastern states where families faced the double jeopardy of COVID-19 and recurrent cyclones.

Upskilling and reskilling became central to the effort to diversify incomes within households and build a base of economic stability. A crucial component was creating

bridges that linked households to existing job creation schemes like MGNREGA. Many were also provided livelihood kits to help tide over the crisis and find new pathways to generating an income. Through these interventions, over 2,000 households were supported with income generation activity.

Preparing adolescents for economic independence

Recognising the need for young people and adolescents to transition into adulthood with the hope of financial accomplishment and independence, Save the Children initiated COVID-19 adaptive Nano enterprises for livelihood recovery.





4,020 Girls

in Bihar were supported with life-skill training under Sashakt Kishori Programme



2,008 Girls

received financial literacy training

More than
4,000 Girls
got vocational training



259 youth groups

were formed to enable collective action and peer support



Challenging age-old gender barriers around access to livelihood opportunities, the Sashakt Kishori programme in Bihar, has supported the empowerment of young girls with vocational skills, life-skill training, collective social action, financial literacy, improved employability and access to formal and informal education. Community awareness programmes and links to employment opportunities alongside vocational training have built an enabling ecosystem that supports the transition of these young girls into financially capable adults.

In Delhi, Save the Children launched a project to empower adolescents and young adults in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) through skill building and training. The initiative seeks secured employment for youth through appropriate training courses. It is designed to ensure completion of training to enable youth to transition to employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.

Unpacking and addressing poverty and inclusion through partnerships

Preparing children for Urban Futures

As India transitions to an urban economy, it is estimated that 583 million people will be living in urban areas by 2030 (Population 2030, United Nations, 2015) with close to a third living on the street or in slums and shelters. It is therefore important to ensure

children's needs are taken into account as urban development is planned.

Save the Children's urban resilience programme in West Bengal and Bihar is working towards building children's participation around local governance and city planning. This will create a platform that allows children to raise concerns and work together on local actions for cleaner, safer surroundings in close collaboration with the local administrators, municipal corporations and Government departments.

Children's participation in planning will ensure that their issues are recognised at policy levels.

The MoU on 'The Significance of Educating Children on Urban Planning Initiative,' with Cities Forum was one such joint initiative that has helped design, develop and deliver modules for basic education and awareness on Urban Planning to children in different age groups.

Committing to empower girls through education

Save the Children entered

into a partnership with J-PAL to design Random Control Trials to influence key social protection programmes and improve girls' education, reduce child marriage and increase the maternity benefits programme in India. Through the evidence generated, it will become easier to finding joint solutions for girls in vulnerable situations.

Partnering to push gender equality

Similarly, Save the Children India and Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF), have entered into a technical partnership on Gender Equality, with special focus on



adolescent girls, youth and young women.

Joining hands to create climate-resilient communities

With a partnership with WWF India, Save the Children has worked towards preventive measures on climate change by co-creating programmes on child rights and environment education, water conservation and child rights, green jobs and entrepreneurship, resilience and climate change adaptation.

Making voices heard

Climate Change and Children in India: Awareness and Participation - 2021

Save the Children released a report 'Climate Change and Children in India: Awareness and Participation' is an attempt to understand and analyse children's levels of awareness and how they might take a more participatory role in understanding, preparing and mitigating this looming risk.

Livelihood scoping for creating programmatic grounds

The 'Feasibility Assessment of Livelihood Situation and Opportunities', a research study supported by Nokia, created evidence-based



programmatic grounds for the Smartpur project. This was envisioned as a gender-sensitive livelihoods approach to address the structural barriers in rural communities in four districts across Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Assam. The study understood the livelihood portfolio and opportunities across traditional and emerging sectors in the target 60 villages in the districts of Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Dungarpur (Rajasthan), Nashik (Maharashtra) and Dhemaji (Assam). It helped in realising the skill sets, gaps and aspirations of the community with regard to potential opportunities for livelihoods for women and young people. The insights and recommendations will help Save the Children support the Government's skill development initiative.

Innovating to break the poverty cycle

Innovation fuels hope and livelihoods for youth

In its commitment to create roads to livelihood for young people, Save the Children pilot tested innovative models of skill building. The youth-led approach with Youth Innovative Action Lab (YIAL), used a 'Hub and Spoke Model' to support the Government in building the skill set of young people across Bihar and Delhi. The innovations will benefit 25,000 youth over the next three years. The programme promotes the designing of livelihoods by youth themselves, keeping the local context in mind, to generate solutions that are both viable and sustainable.



09 CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE HEARD

Towards child friendly governance

Children are 40% of India's population. That's why Save the Children believes in enabling change not only for them but with them. Our engagement with children on ground and long sustained relationship of working with the Government help us amplify children's voices on platforms that matter.

Save the Children takes pride in being part of the development ecosystem for children in India and works closely with Government to develop and strengthen policy and programme-based solutions to bring sustainable change in the lives of marginalised and vulnerable children. We drive strong

evidence-based and child-led engagement with Government to support and complement key policies and programmes related to children. Through our work, we give children representation and a significant space to be heard.

Non-paper recommendations for strengthening the JJ Act

Save the Children presented a non-paper to the MWCD for strengthening the JJ Act. The recommendations included shifting of implementation power to the District Magistrate and ambiguity to be removed in sentences where the minimum sentence was not defined. (Read more on page 56)





Photo: Vicky Roy

Supporting access to care and protection for street connected children

Further to our continued commitment for CiSS, we collaborated with the NCPCR, a statutory body for protection of children's rights in India, to support development of SOP 2.0 for these children with specific vulnerabilities. Ensuring a holistic, multi-agency response towards the identity, care and support of these children, the Supreme Court took cognisance of the SOP 2.0 and instructed the states to follow the steps

outlined in the SOP for safe rehabilitation.

(Read more on page 63)

Supporting PM Cares for Children

Save the Children, along with other CSOs, had emphasised the need for welfare measures for children affected by COVID-19. In a heartening move, the Prime Minister of India launched PM Cares for Children to support the rehabilitation and education of children who lost both

parents or legal guardians to COVID-19. The scheme ensured a monthly stipend to each child, from the age of 18-years, and a lump sum amount of INR 10 lakh at the age of 23, along with an annual scholarship and financial support for daily needs.

India's rollout of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

In the midst of the pandemic, the Government of India successfully included and rolled out the Pneumococcal

Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) as part of the routine immunisation programme. As pneumonia is the leading cause of mortality among under five children, Save the Children, as part of the consortium of child rights actors, supported its rollout. This is a big win for the nation and its children.

Enhanced budgetary allocation for child and maternal welfare

Sustained engagement, along with other child rights actors, saw gains in the form of enhanced budgetary allocations towards the PMMVY and Mission Vatsalya Schemes. With this, maternity benefits were extended to a second pregnancy and children were allowed to be supported through Non-Institutional Care under Private Aided Sponsorship (Read more on page 49)

Engagement with the government has helped and enabled every child survive and thrive, Save the Children draws heart from these wins and gathers strength for the journey forward.



10 BUILDING CHILDREN'S AGENCY

Children for children

Naman Sonapar is a young environment and climate campaigner. He is the founder of 'Hari Koshish' a platform aiming towards a brighter and better future. He is a part of 'Nine is Mine' children's network and a young campaigner with Save the Children.

As a part of his association with Save the Children he has actively participated and amplified climate action through the Generation Hope campaign. He has not only taken the campaign to the ground by activating the Generation Hope campaign in

his school but also engaged with child champions in Delhi through workshop and interactions.

Together with our child champions he planned a programme visit to their areas of residence and organised clean-up drive in Govindpuri Slums in South Delhi. He collected 19 bags of garbage waste and emphasised how plastic waste affects all of us.

This one joint action has led to sustained effort by other child champions who continue to work in their own groups on local issues, including climate action and access to education.

As a young campaigner with Save the Children, Naman continues to use his platform to host talks, engage with other change-makers and actively participate in our campaigns.

In his recent achievement, Naman was invited to represent the youth perspective at COP27 side event where he emphasised child rights and climate action and shared insights from his participation in our campaign.

In his words, each step counts and every change has to start somewhere.



Save the Children believes that children must be active stakeholders and must have a voice in decisions that impact their present and future. Children should not be just passive recipients of whatever is given to them. They are holders of rights as enshrined in the UNCRC.

Children, if meaningfully engaged with, can play a pivotal role in building the nation and impact social change. Through its campaign efforts, Save the Children has been amplifying children's voices and demands by leveraging media and on-ground spaces, mobilising young people, building strategic and cause driven relationships with influencers and leveraging platforms for influencing public discourse.

**YOUNG
CAMPAIGNERS
PILOT ACTIVATED
YOUTH GROUPS IN
8 COLLEGES
ACROSS 4 CITIES,
ENGAGING NEARLY
1,000 YOUNG
PEOPLE**



Save the Children creates a safe space for children's participation irrespective of their social standing to inspire collective belief and action towards change for children.

*Young Campaigners as
Advocates for Children*

To engage with children and youth in schools and colleges

and enable them to become active voices for all children, Save the Children kicked off the Young Campaigners initiative. The platform harnesses the individual and collective potential of youth and invites them to ideate, speak up, act and build a community of change-makers leading the cause of children.

From education to climate action and digital safety, the cadre of young campaigners have been taking lead on the issues concerning children.

*Dream Accelerator:
Catalysing leadership, igniting
change*

Dream Accelerator is our flagship initiative to make children aware of their rights, acquire leadership skills through a training framework, devise solutions for local problems and lead changes themselves to catalyse a larger transformation. These children have been associated with Save the Children programmes over years and have demonstrated leadership and influencing qualities to bring and scale up changes for children.

With this initiative, Save the Children empowers children by actively building the

**OVER 1,500
CHILDREN
AND 9,700
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
HAVE BEEN
REACHED THROUGH
INTERVENTIONS LED
BY CHILDREN**



**14 MICRO
PROJECTS
HAVE BEEN
IMPLEMENTED BY
CHILDREN ACROSS
13 STATES**



capacity of Child Champions and advocates of child rights across the country. We seek to empower children to negotiate with local (panchayat and district), state and/or national governance on issues concerning the infrastructure need for children, especially girls, and contribute towards furthering child rights (survival, learning and protection).



#AllyUpForHer: Garnering public support for safety and education of girls

Save the Children's long-standing commitment to girls needed rethinking during the pandemic. COVID-19 brought a distinct set of risks to young girls. Forced out of school by the lockdowns, many of them faced the risk of early marriage, were burdened with housework or faced abuse and sexual exploitation. It was imperative to rally for girls. In a global call that rang out across media, digital platforms and on-ground community activations, Save the Children beseeched the public to #AllyUpForHer.

The 100-day long campaign drew attention and action to the issues faced by girls. It started with a petition that was endorsed by number of celebrities, influencers, politicians and CSOs. As more supporters joined in, the campaign grew to reach 1 lakh people who pledged their support by signing the petition for low-tech and no-tech solutions for girls' issues.

India to host SCCWC in 2023

In the second edition of Street Children Cricket World Cup (SCCWC) to be held in 2023, 26 teams from 17 countries will play

#ALLYUPFORHER DIGITAL CAMPAIGN THAT WAS LAUNCHED PRIMARILY FOR GIRLS' SAFETY WON SEVERAL AWARDS AND ACCOLADES INCLUDING **GOLD IN THE 'BEST NOT FOR PROFIT' CAMPAIGN** AT ET BRAND EQUITY SHARK AWARDS 2021, **BRONZE** AT EXCHANGE4MEDIA'S INDIAN CONTENT MARKETING AWARDS, **GOLD** AT AFAQS DIGIES' 21 FOR BEST VIRAL VIDEO AND BEST CSR CAMPAIGN AND **BRONZE** AT AFAQS FOXGLOVE' 21 AWARDS



in the Street-20 format, to remove many of the barriers to participation faced by CiSS. In addition to cricket, the young people will also participate in a festival of art and a child-friendly congress, all designed to speak up for the rights of street connected children around the world.

This innovative concept uses the power of sport to give CiSS, a voice, raise awareness and tackle the widespread stigma that they face. It aims to inspire countries, governments, and communities to protect, respect, and support CiSS worldwide.

As part of Save the Children's abiding commitment to street connected children and their identity, the event will have a central focus on 'identity' and the access to essential services.

This comes after the inaugural event in London/Cambridge 2019, where eight teams competed, and Team India South emerged victorious after beating host England in a highly competitive final. The winners will return in 2023 to defend their title. The second edition of the SCCWC will take place in India before the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023



Disclaimer:
Photo taken in
pre-COVID times



in Chennai and New Delhi in partnership with Street Child United.

Public figures stand up for the cause of children

As Save the Children continued to speak up for children through the challenges of the pandemic, public figures joined in to amplify the voice. Digital platforms played a vital role in making this voice widely audible, in support of children affected by COVID-19.

Dia Mirza, artist ambassador for Save the Children, continued to draw attention

to children's agenda through the pandemic. She highlighted issues of CiSS, the link between the climate crisis and child rights and was one the leading champions for #AllyUpForHer, our campaign to ensure learning continuity for all children especially girls.

Huma Qureshi joined the 'Breath of Life' campaign to raise resources for critical medical aid needed by newborns and their families through the COVID-19 second wave in Delhi.

In West Bengal, where families were reeling under

the double disasters of Cyclone Yaas and COVID-19, **Nandana Sen**, ambassador for child protection with Save the Children, spoke out on every platform to help garner support for the cause and raise funds to support close to 200 girls.

Actress **Sanjana Sanghi**, joined hands with Save the Children as the youth champion for education. The actress supported the campaign to seek support for humanitarian initiatives during the pandemic through the #ProtectAMillion campaign and for continuation of education, especially for girls, through #AllyUpForHer.



Building partnerships, amplifying the solution-led agenda

Save the Children believes that collaboration is central to raising a powerful, united voice on the child rights agenda. From children and communities to political leaders and policy makers, opinion leaders and public figures, youth-led networks and coalitions, media, business and the public at large, Save the Children works in partnership to deliver for children.

Partnerships have been the path to success of our priority campaigns for the year -

#AllyUpForHer, Generation Hope and Be Digi Smart.

Some of our key partners include – **Breakthrough**, **Girl Rising**, **Let me Breathe**, **MASH Project Foundation Nine** is

Mine. Safecity, **Sayfty**, **Right to Education Forum**, **Yuvaah**, **Yuwaah**, **Youth Ki Awaaz**, **United Nations Volunteers**.



11 CREATING EVIDENCE FOR CHANGE

Championing change for girls

Lucy Sharma is a Child Champion for Save the Children. She stands for children's rights. While growing up, she often wished she were a boy. Then she realised that being a girl was no less and that she could be anything she chose to be. When she was selected to play the World Cup in London during SCCWC 2019, people in her community expressed doubts and tried to hold her back. Her parents supported her. She knew that her choices would prove either her right or her community's. So, she chose to follow her dream.

Through the pandemic, she experienced setbacks, like many other girls. Her studies suffered as school went online. Her father had no work. He had the only phone in the family, but often there was no money to recharge it. She attended classes when she could. She saw that many girls around her were left to do housework.

Lucy's wish is that no girl be bound by others' expectations and that she be allowed to explore her potential. She wants her life to be an example.

Save the Children has stood by her through her journey for enabling children, especially girls, get their right.'



Save the Children's presence on the ground for years has made it a hub of knowledge and evidence related to children and their rights and issues in India. Solutions to problems concerning children need to be tested, piloted, prototyped and proved.

With the impact of the pandemic, Save the Children embarked on two critical pieces of research that illuminated children's needs and the possible paths forward while also looking at programme evaluation exercises.

TRAC 2022: Building towards the rights and agency of children

Save the Children's efforts to include children's voices and perspectives in recommendations for policy broke new ground with the announcement of the first The Rights and Agency Of Children in India (TRAC) Report in 2021. Envisioned as an evidence tool, this is the first report that aims to present the status of child rights in India by generating and synthesising evidence across multiple themes on a periodic basis. It reflects on the realisation of child rights in the country, reporting progress made on the four broad pillars of UNCRC- survival, development, protection and

participation. It has special focus on children who face specific vulnerabilities such as CiSS, children living in CCLs, children with special needs, girl children, children from economically and socially vulnerable communities and more. It shares developments on laws and policy, budgetary allocations and public investment made on child specific programmes.

Each year, the report will focus on one specific issue related to child rights. Most importantly, it includes the voices of children on issues that concern them most and the change that they would like to see in the future. By amplifying these voices, Save the Children bridges a crucial gap in the discourse on childhood.



WINGS 2022: Analysing the impact of the pandemic on adolescent girls

In 2014, Save the Children launched its seminal report, World of India's Girls (WINGS) and has since been sharing evidence on issues that influence the lives of young girls, such as inequity despite economic growth, safety in public spaces and more.

In early 2022, the third edition of the WINGS report cast a light on the challenges faced by adolescent girls during and after the pandemic. It recommended immediate and long-term measures to address risks that surround adolescent girls in the aftermath of the pandemic.



[Click here to read the report](#)



12 CHANGING FOR CHILDREN



GOALPOST 2024



Health and Nutrition

- Improve equitable access to essential nutrition interventions for children, women and adolescents
- Improve access and quality of essential Maternal New born Child and Adolescent Health interventions
- Provide equitable, affordable & sustainable access to WASH services



Education

- Improve school readiness skills among children as a result of responsive caregiving and play based learning opportunities at home and center
- Ensure equitable access to quality and safe learning environment in school
- Ensuring '0' days loss in education for Children



Child Protection

- Prevent and address abuse and exploitation of children forced into labour, trafficking and marriage through empowered and engaged children, community and child protection workforce
- Improve access to community level psychosocial support for children and communities affected by stress and trauma



Poverty and Inclusion

- Enhance social and economic capabilities among adolescents, youth and families to ensure overall wellbeing and pathways to income generation
- Enhance resilience towards frequent and protracted climate and disaster risks among children, families and communities
- Improve the agency of street connected children, by ensuring life of dignity and participation in governance processes
- Improve access and utilization of select social protection schemes by strengthening 'child sensitivity' in the design, implementation and utilization of these schemes



COVID-19 left us with lessons and a new resolve to create a childhood of possibilities for every child, Save the Children put strategic and structural changes in place to become a more prepared, more efficacious and more resilient organisation.

Programme-led strategic focus for 2022-24

Over the next three years, Save the Children is set to catalyse **inclusive and equitable development for at least four million of the most deprived children** in 12 states and 3 UTs and work with the government to positively impact the lives of many more.

Programmatic efforts across the four themes of intervention, education, health and nutrition, poverty and inclusion and child protection, also pivoted to where work was needed most.

Education: improving school readiness through early learning

In a post-pandemic world, Save

SAVE THE CHILDREN IS SET TO CATALYSE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR AT LEAST **FOUR MILLION** OF THE MOST DEPRIVED CHILDREN IN **12 STATES** AND **3 UTs**



the Children's effort will be to bridge learning losses and build school readiness. With the understanding that learning must never stop, the focus in educational interventions will be to create learning ecosystems that include both school and home. By skilling parents to engage playfully with children and help them learn, Save the Children hopes to boost foundational learning for a generation of children growing up.

Health and Nutrition: reducing undernutrition

With the pandemic came the understanding that health and nutrition need to be seen through both a disease-prevention and a life-cycle

lens. In this respect, Save the Children's efforts going forward will focus on WASH and maternal and newborn child health as the building blocks of good health through childhood and through life.

Child Protection: ending abuse and exploitation

Witness to the trauma that children experienced over the last two years, Save the Children's is focusing its efforts on providing psychosocial first-aid to children who have experienced trauma. Helplines and counselling go hand in hand with simultaneous efforts and advocacy to create child-sensitive judicial systems.

Poverty and Inclusion: enhancing access to livelihoods through skilling

Bringing economic stability and resilience to families has become imperative to ensure children's well-being through any adversity. Save the Children puts skilling at the centre of its efforts to create livelihood opportunities for young people.



Transforming into a learning organisation: KLEW 2021

As Save the Children grows in number and strength, it also commits to continuous learning. It believes that it is critical to engage in the process of learning and collective reflections, not only limited to taking stock of organisational successes and impacts but also identifying emerging bottlenecks and barriers, acknowledging failures and focusing on areas of improvement.

In light of this, the theme of Knowledge Learning and Exchange Week (KLEW) 2021, an annual learning event, was 'Failing Intelligently: Towards Becoming a Learning Organisation'. The objective was to create a safe space in the organisation to discuss failures and setbacks, capture, share and reflect on the lessons learnt and synthesise the learnings and recommendations.

Participants from cross-functional teams reflected on Save the Children's Theory of Change, i.e., build partnerships,

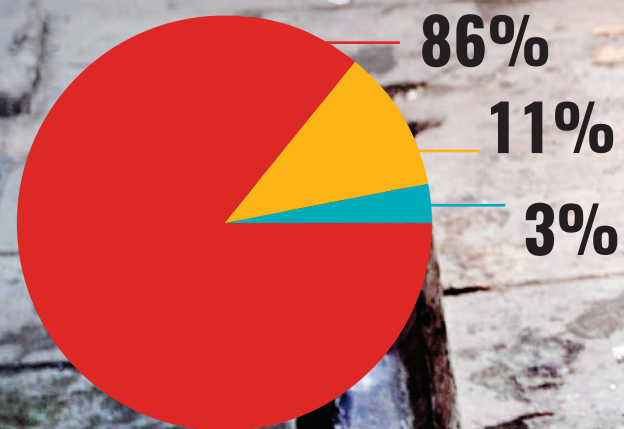
be the innovator, be the voice and achieving results at scale, along with other areas of work like integrated programming, evidence-based programming, strengthening humanitarian response, reaching the most marginalised children and communities, gender equality in programmes and operations, technology for development and cross-functional collaboration. Insights from child champions were also sought on how to deepen our engagement with children and communities.

Becoming fit-for-purpose: strengthening our programme implementation

Save the Children transformed into an efficient, locally sustainable operation by strengthening the programming efforts on ground to support the work of the government.

With a robust implementation team in place, the organisation could boldly rethink and drive strategy and programme with might. Save the Children is now resilient, capable and truly future-ready.

13 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Programme implementation expenditure

Activities for raising funds

Administrative and other costs

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARD OF BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **BAL RAKSHA BHARAT** ("the Entity") which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the Accounting Standards and other accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Entity as at March 31, 2022 and its excess of income over expenditure and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the ICAI together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the ICAI's Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence obtained by us is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

The Entity's management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Entity in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the ICAI, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.

This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of the Entity and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Ush

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Governing Board is also responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal financial control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



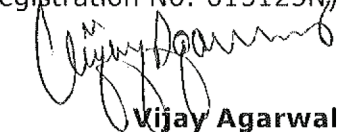
Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

For DELOITTE HASKINS & SELLS

Chartered Accountants
(Firm Registration No: 015125N)

Vijay Agarwal
(Partner)

(Membership No: 094468)
(UDIN- 22094468AQJTEQ8272)

Place: Gurgaon

Date : 30th August 2022



Bal Raksha Bharat
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	Schedule No.	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2021
Sources of Funds			
Corpus fund	1	11,400	11,400
Restricted fund	2	83,17,62,032	49,78,22,073
Endowment fund	3	21,69,75,000	21,69,75,000
Empathy fund	4	6,00,00,000	-
General fund	5	50,45,17,532	38,77,07,283
Special purpose fund	6	10,00,00,000	10,00,00,000
		<u>1,71,32,65,964</u>	<u>1,20,25,15,756</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment	7		
Gross block		6,37,66,244	6,86,13,485
Less: Accumulated depreciation/amortisation		4,52,46,490	5,01,85,780
Net block		1,85,19,754	1,84,27,705
Capital Work in Progress		27,98,162	23,60,358
		<u>2,13,17,916</u>	<u>2,07,88,063</u>
Current assets, loans and advances	8		
Cash and bank balances		1,71,06,87,148	1,26,32,42,455
Loans and advances		18,43,30,730	8,91,18,418
Grant debtors		2,44,85,529	2,30,94,829
Stock in hand		1,18,99,017	23,05,051
		<u>1,93,14,02,424</u>	<u>1,37,77,60,753</u>
Less: Current liabilities and provisions	9		
Current liabilities		18,18,56,293	14,39,16,386
Provisions		5,75,98,083	5,21,16,674
		<u>23,94,54,376</u>	<u>19,60,33,060</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,69,19,48,048</u>	<u>1,18,17,27,693</u>
		<u>1,71,32,65,964</u>	<u>1,20,25,15,756</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants

Vijay Agarwal
Partner
Place: Gurgaon

For Bal Raksha Bharat

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: London, United Kingdom

Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: Gurgaon

Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Saas-Fee, Switzerland

Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: Gurgaon

Date: 30th August 2022

Date: 25th August 2022

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FCRA Registration Number:
231660869
All donations are exempt
under 80G of I.T.Act (1961)



Bal Raksha Bharat
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 31 March 2022
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	Schedule No.	For the period ended 31 March 2022	For the year ended 31 March 2021
Income			
Restricted income (grants/donations)		1,90,51,81,943	1,16,44,61,636
Unrestricted income (grants/donations)		68,02,43,216	74,63,66,415
Grants received in kind (refer note no 8 of schedule 13)		77,00,931	3,95,42,665
Other income	10	18,46,70,954	14,51,53,097
		<u>2,77,77,97,044</u>	<u>2,09,55,23,813</u>
Expenditure			
Programme implementation expenditure	11	2,21,95,45,974	1,49,39,95,881
Activities for raising funds	12	29,45,58,259	30,71,55,390
Administrative and other costs	13	8,68,82,562	9,36,85,765
		<u>2,60,09,86,795</u>	<u>1,89,48,37,036</u>
Excess of income over expenditure / (Expenditure over income)		<u>17,68,10,249</u>	<u>20,06,86,777</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants

Vijay Agarwal
Partner
Place: Gurgaon

For Bal Raksha Bharat

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: London, United Kingdom

Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: Gurgaon

Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Saas-Fee, Switzerland

Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: Gurgaon

Date: 30th August 2022

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Bal Raksha Bharat
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Cash Flow Statement for the period ended 31 March 2022
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule No.	For the period ended 31 March 2022	For the year ended 31 March 2021	
<u>Cash flow from operating activities</u>			
Grants/Donations received	3,01,04,27,595	1,99,57,04,227	
Corpus fund received	-	400	
Miscellaneous receipts	7,83,629	7,07,847	
Payment for expenses			
Programme Expense	(2,30,94,47,932)	(1,45,63,60,178)	
Fundraising and other expenses	(25,16,62,523)	(28,80,73,515)	
Salary and allowances	(6,84,61,444)	(6,35,91,471)	
Income taxes (paid)/refund	(32,203)	28,56,272	
Net cash flow from operating activities	38,16,07,123	19,12,43,581	
<u>Cash flow from investing activities</u>			
Purchase of fixed assets	(70,50,750)	(26,77,348)	
Proceeds from sale/disposal of fixed assets	2,38,093	9,84,499	
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Placed	(1,63,48,77,380)	(4,45,71,18,633)	
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Matured	1,28,11,37,950	4,14,02,64,354	
Interest Received from bank deposits	7,26,50,219	6,46,51,108	
Net cash flow from investing activities	(28,79,01,868)	(25,38,96,019)	
<u>Cash flow from financing activities</u>			
Net cash flow from financing activities	-	-	
Net increase / (decrease) cash and cash equivalents	9,37,05,255	(6,26,52,437)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	18,23,16,955	24,49,69,395	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	27,60,22,210	18,23,16,957	
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents with the balance sheet:			
Cash and bank balances	8	1,71,06,87,148	1,26,32,42,455
Less: Bank balances not considered as cash and cash equivalents as defined in AS 3 cash flow statements:			
In fixed deposits original maturity more than 3 months	1,43,46,64,938	1,08,09,25,500	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	27,60,22,210	18,23,16,955	

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts

14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants
Vijay Agarwal
Partner
Place: Gurgaon

For Bal Raksha Bharat
Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: London, United Kingdom
Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: Gurgaon

Date: 25th August 2022

Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Saas-Fee, Switzerland
Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: Gurgaon

Date: 30th August 2022



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Bal Raksha Bharat
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Schedules forming part of the accounts
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2021
Schedule 1: Corpus fund		
Opening balance	11,400	11,000
Additions during the year	-	400
Closing balance	11,400	11,400
Schedule 2: Restricted fund Liability		
Opening balance	49,78,22,073	51,77,49,592
Add: Grants received during the year	2,31,71,78,584	1,22,50,17,787
Less: Write back of restricted fund liability (refer note 16 of Schedule 14)	(5,45,091)	(1,88,54,287)
Less: Revenue grants recognised in the income and expenditure account	(1,90,51,81,943)	(1,16,44,61,636)
Less: Amount transferred to Endowment Fund	-	(1,37,41,480)
Less: Indirect Cost recovery earned transferred to General Fund	(10,39,00,413)	(7,12,53,646)
Add: Unutilised Balance of Endowment Fund Interest Income for the year	19,03,293	72,92,978
Grant debtors (grossed up)	2,44,85,529	1,60,72,765
Closing balance	83,17,62,032	49,78,22,073
Schedule 3: Endowment fund (refer note 6 of Schedule 14)		
Opening balance	21,69,75,000	18,66,10,936
Add: Transferred from Restricted fund	-	1,37,41,480
Add: Transferred from General Fund	-	1,66,22,584
Closing balance	21,69,75,000	21,69,75,000
Schedule 3A: Endowment fund interest		
Interest earned on endowment fund during the year	1,07,83,238	1,38,20,132
Less: Funds disbursed to early child development (ECD) center during the year	(88,79,945)	(65,27,154)
Balance transferred to restricted fund	19,03,293	72,92,978
Schedule 4: Empathy fund (refer note 7 of Schedule 14)		
Opening balance	-	-
Add: Funds transferred from General fund	6,00,00,000	-
Closing balance	6,00,00,000	-
Schedule 5: General fund		
Opening balance	38,77,07,283	20,36,43,090
Add: Excess of income over expenditure / (expenditure over income)	17,68,10,249	20,06,86,777
Less: Amount transferred to Endowment fund	-	(1,66,22,584)
Less: Amount transferred to Empathy fund	(6,00,00,000)	-
Closing balance	50,45,17,532	38,77,07,283
Schedule 6: Special purpose fund		
Opening balance	10,00,00,000	10,00,00,000
Add: Transfer from general fund	-	-
Closing balance	10,00,00,000	10,00,00,000



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Bal Raksha Bharat
 (registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
 Schedules forming part of the accounts
 (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule 7: Property, Plant and Equipment
 (Refer note no 2 of Schedule 14)

Category		Gross Block				Depreciation/Amortisation				Net Block	
		As at 31 March 2021	Additions during the year	Deletions during the year	Write off	As at 31 Mar 2022	Upto 31 March 2021	Depreciation / amortisation expense for the year	Eliminated on Write off of assets	Upto 31 Mar 2022	As at 31 Mar 2022
Furniture & Fixture	Current Year	58,34,130	32,542	-	82,332	57,74,210	36,94,096	3,86,646	56,467	40,24,278	17,59,085
	Previous Year	62,31,267	3,47	29,313	8,18,891	56,34,180	39,12,711	2,01,320	42,862	6,93,123	22,86,536
Software	Current Year	1,07,36,841	6,79,262	-	79,83,954	14,32,249	97,80,026	4,65,815	-	79,83,611	10,75,019
	Previous Year	1,07,30,850	15,091	-	1,07,30,841	91,55,477	6,27,349	-	-	97,80,026	15,68,171
Computers	Current Year	2,17,09,591	56,92,849	28,38,453	3,63,135	2,41,91,747	1,77,59,155	22,87,706	27,65,097	2,51,880	1,76,29,384
	Previous Year	2,32,45,938	2,40,687	5,28,403	17,56,634	2,17,09,591	1,23,32,722	25,69,293	1,51,235	10,82,637	71,51,563
Vehicle	Current Year	27,21,446	-	-	25	27,21,391	20,92,707	1,62,300	-	22,55,507	4,66,084
	Previous Year	31,38,349	-	4,36,633	-	27,11,616	22,73,102	3,26,789	1,07,184	26,92,707	8,83,147
Equipments	Current Year	86,15,718	2,08,214	23,685	1,36,283	86,69,654	43,93,708	5,97,106	15,013	1,14,219	48,42,643
	Previous Year	98,54,884	736	8,40,817	7,43,125	86,35,718	43,71,345	7,39,921	3,39,638	43,93,708	54,34,339
Leasehold Improvements	Current Year	1,30,04,591	-	-	18,298	1,39,86,293	1,24,66,028	27,59,214	-	18,298	1,47,06,051
	Previous Year	1,30,54,571	60,003	-	1,09,987	1,30,04,591	1,03,31,254	23,44,756	-	1,09,982	1,24,66,028
Total Current year		6,56,13,496	66,12,946	28,62,038	85,98,130	6,37,66,244	5,01,85,280	63,69,288	27,80,199	84,28,403	4,52,46,188
Total Previous year		7,13,56,281	3,18,096	16,35,165	34,25,136	6,36,13,853	4,74,98,611	69,09,680	12,43,130	29,67,351	5,01,85,280
Capital Work in Progress (including capital advances)	Current Year	23,60,358	4,37,804	-	-	27,98,162	-	-	-	27,98,162	23,60,358
Previous Year		23,60,358	-	-	-	23,60,358	-	-	-	-	23,60,358



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Bal Raksha Bharat
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 Schedules forming part of the accounts
 (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule 8: Current assets, loans and advances

Cash and bank balances:			
Cash in hand	4,245		4,245
Balances with bank			
- on current account	2,35,02,905		18,23,12,710
- on deposit account	1,20,10,59,443		85,85,25,500
- on saving account	25,25,15,060		-
Balances with financial institution			
- on deposit account	23,36,05,495		22,24,00,000
	1,71,06,87,148		1,26,32,42,455

Loans and advances

(Unsecured and considered good unless otherwise stated)

Advances recoverable in cash or kind or for value to be received	13,41,74,581	4,09,88,861	4,00,95,979
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(8,84,526)	13,32,90,055	(8,92,882)
Security deposits	88,99,839		88,99,642
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(10,92,939)	78,06,900	(11,39,316)
Staff advances			3,89,236
Tax deducted at source			1,37,96,626
Interest accrued on fixed deposits			2,72,68,039
	18,43,30,730		8,91,18,418

Grant Debtors

Grant debtors	3,44,89,190		2,30,94,829
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(1,00,03,661)		-
	2,44,85,529		2,30,94,829

Stock in Hand

Stock in hand	1,18,99,017		23,05,051
	1,18,99,017		23,05,051

Schedule 9: Current liabilities and provisions

Current liabilities			
Sundry creditors and payables	15,68,86,685		12,86,86,799
Other liabilities	2,49,69,608		1,52,29,587
	18,18,56,293		14,39,16,386
Provisions			
Gratuity	5,75,98,083		5,21,16,674
	5,75,98,083		5,21,16,674

Schedule 10: Other income

Interest income from fixed deposits	7,25,26,804		5,15,30,277
Write back of restricted fund liability (refer note 16 of Schedule 14)	5,45,091		1,88,54,287
Indirect Cost Recovered (ICR) from Grants	10,39,00,413		7,12,53,646
Miscellaneous income	76,98,646		35,14,887
	18,46,70,954		14,51,53,097



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Bal Raksha Bharat
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Schedules forming part of the accounts
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule 11 - Programme Implementation Expenditure

	For the period ended 31 March 2022	For the year ended 31 March 2021
Thematic Intervention		
Education	33,97,39,916	29,66,09,151
Protection	37,56,75,579	33,67,10,723
Disaster response and disaster risk resilience	1,13,66,77,454	54,13,15,861
Health and nutrition	35,14,26,655	29,33,96,295
Other grant related expenditure	1,60,26,370	2,59,63,851
Total	2,21,95,45,974	1,49,39,95,881

Schedule 12 - Activities for Raising Funds

	For the period ended 31 March 2022	For the year ended 31 March 2021
Salary and allowances	4,97,65,946	4,69,91,122
Travel and accommodation	5,21,235	2,10,338
Rent	11,06,918	23,05,594
Repairs and maintenance	2,68,047	1,45,362
Legal and professional	13,25,270	27,51,301
Conference and meetings	1,27,936	16,658
Agency fee/commission	9,72,22,232	6,70,81,332
Telemarketing expenses	3,73,32,604	4,77,28,468
Advertisement	6,12,27,523	8,97,03,371
Bank Charges	78,748	80,506
Communication expenses	47,57,470	58,42,192
Other operational expenses	4,08,24,330	4,42,99,146
Total	29,45,58,259	30,71,55,390

Schedule 13 - Administrative and Other Costs

	For the period ended 31 March 2022	For the year ended 31 March 2021
Salary and allowances	2,95,85,615	3,20,68,630
Travel and accommodation	70,469	1,27,509
Rent	12,11,083	22,30,981
Repairs and maintenance	2,59,312	1,73,851
Legal and professional	41,09,135	46,54,570
Conference and meetings	1,50,063	66,632
Bank Charges	36,772	62,465
Communication expenses	8,76,260	10,48,458
Other operational expenses	4,43,14,565	4,63,42,989
Depreciation and amortisation	62,69,289	69,09,680
Total	8,68,82,562	9,36,85,765

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Bal Raksha Bharat

(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Schedules forming part of the accounts

Schedule 14 - Notes to accounts



1. Organization Status

Bal Raksha Bharat is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 vide registration certificate no. S / 51101 / 2004 dated 27 December 2004. The main object of the Society is to work towards the promotion and enhancement of the quality of Children's life and inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

The Society has been granted registration under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide registration number AAAAB5052CE20214 dated 28 May 2021. The registration granted has a validity of 5 years from Assessment year 22-23 to 26-27.

The Society has been granted registration under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, vide registration number AAAAB5052CF20214 dated 28 May 2021. The registration granted has a validity of 5 years from Assessment Year 22-23 to 26-27.

Further, the Society has been registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 for carrying out activities of social nature with registration no. 231660869, vide letter no. II / 21022 / 83(0028) / 2008-FCRA-II dated 23 April 2008 which was renewed for a period of 5 years starting from 1st November 2016 till 31st October 2021. The application for renewal of FCRA Registration Certificate was filed on April 22, 2021 vide MHA File No 8300942021. The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the validity of FCRA registration certificate from time to time vide Public Notices no. II/21022/23(22)/2020-FCRA-III, Dated 29 September 2021, II/21022/23(22)/2020-FCRA-III, Dated 31 December 2021, II/21022/23(22)/2020-FCRA-III, Dated 24 March 2022, II/21022/23(22)/2020-FCRA-III, Dated 22 June 2022 which is valid up to 30th September 2022.

2. Significant accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation of financial statements

As per Appendix I to the Applicability of Accounting Standards to Non-corporate Entities (as on February 1, 2022), the Society is a Level IV entity- Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) Accordingly, the Society has complied with the Accounting Standards as applicable to a Level IV entity. The Society is not required to present the Related Party Disclosures, Segment reporting, Discontinuing Operations disclosures and Impairment of Assets as required under the relevant Accounting Standards. Further, the Society has availed an exemption in respect of the Accounting Standard 15 (revised) on 'Employee Benefits' and Accounting Standard 19 'Leases'. The Society has presented Cash flow statements to meet its internal requirements.

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared under the historical cost convention on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the applicable accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") in India.

In the Income and Expenditure account, expenses are reported according to following functional classifications: (1) Programme Implementation Expenditure; (2) Activities for Raising Funds and (3) Administrative and Other Costs.



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**Bal Raksha Bharat***(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)***Schedules forming part of the accounts****Schedule 14 – Notes to accounts****b. Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Indian GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Any revision to accounting estimates is recognized prospectively in current and future periods. Contingencies are recorded when it is probable that a liability will be incurred, and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. The cost of Property, Plant and Equipment includes taxes, duties, freight and other incidental expenditure related to acquisition and installation.

Property, Plant and Equipment procured out of Grants are charged off as program expenditure against the said grants as per terms & conditions set out in the Grant Agreements. However, to reflect a true & fair view of the assets owned by the Society and to exercise physical and financial control over them, those are capitalized at a nominal value of Re 1. Assets which are fully depreciated but are not disposed off, are retained at a nominal value of Re 1 till disposal for the purpose of exercising effective controls over them.

Capital Work in Progress of Rs 2,798,162 includes Capital advance, of Rs 2,360,358 which was added during the previous year.

d. Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on pro-rata basis to the period of use on the written down value method using the following rates:

Property, Plant and Equipment	Rates of depreciation used
Furniture and fixtures	18.10%
Computer	40.00%
Equipment	13.91%
Vehicles	25.89%

Leasehold improvements are being amortized over the remaining term of the lease agreement or the useful life of the assets, whichever is shorter.

Licensed software are being amortized as per period for which license is valid.

The rates reflect the estimated economic useful life of the assets as estimated by the management.



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e. The Society's obligations towards various employee benefits have been recognized as follows:

Short term employee benefits

All employee benefits payable wholly within twelve months of rendering service are classified as short-term employee benefits. Benefits such as salaries, allowances, are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the period in which the employee renders the related services.

Post -employment benefits

Defined contribution plans: The Society's provident fund is a defined contribution plan where the contribution paid/ payable under the scheme is recognised as an expense in the period in which the employee renders the related service. The Society's contributions are deposited with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Defined benefit plans: In respect of gratuity, the liability is determined based on actuarial valuation using the Projected Unit Credit Method as at the balance sheet date, which recognises each period of service as giving rise to additional unit of employee benefit entitlement and measures each unit separately to build up the final obligation.

The obligation is measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows. The discount rates used for determining the present value of the obligation under defined benefit plan is based on market yields on Government securities as at the balance sheet date.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the Income and Expenditure Account. Gains or losses on the curtailment or settlement of any defined benefit plan are recognised when the curtailment or settlement occurs.

f. Leases

The Society has taken various premises on operating lease. Lease payments under operating lease are recognized as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account on a Straight line basis over the lease term.

g. Income Recognition

Restricted Income is recognized in Income and Expenditure account to the extent of expenditure incurred from Restricted Funds. Unrestricted and Other income is recognized on receipt basis. Interest income is recognized on Accrual basis.

**h. Cash Flow Statement**

Cash flows are reported using the direct method. The cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities of the Society are segregated based on the available information.

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Schedule 14 – Notes to accounts


Save the Children
Bal Raksha Bharat

i. Cash and cash equivalents (for purposes of Cash Flow Statement)

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits with banks and financial institutions. Cash equivalents are short-term balances (with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition), highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

3. Foreign Contributions

Grants and donations remitted from foreign sources are received in INR converted value directly credited to FCRA Bank Account in State Bank of India.

4. Corpus fund

Corpus fund relates to funds contributed by the founder members at incorporation and fees received on admission of an Institutional Member in the Society.

During the previous year, admission fees of Rs 400 were received from the Governing Council Members.

5. Restricted fund

- a) Restricted Funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors. The cost of administration of such funds is charged against the specific fund in line with donor agreements or allocated based on usage of common facilities.

The society has presented Restricted Fund Liability and Restricted Fund Asset separately.

- b) The unutilized portion of foreign currency unrestricted fund income generated out of indirect cost recovery on foreign grants, individual giving donations received from foreign sources and interest earned on foreign contributions being unrestricted in nature have been transferred to General Fund.

6. Endowment fund

The Endowment fund had an opening balance of Rs. 216,975,000 for funding the operation of a Centre for Early Childhood Development (ECD). This grant was funded by Save the Children, United Kingdom in August 2009. The Endowment Fund agreement has got amended in April, 2021 to expand its scope for childhood development programme and such other projects as the Society may determine from time to time. The revised agreement allows the Society to run pre-service programme of high quality (Master of Arts-ECD) to produce a cadre of early childhood development professionals. Also, the revised agreement allows to extend technical assistance to state/central government institutions in the domain of ECD. As per the amended grant agreement, the income arising out of the fund balance would be used to administer or support the operations of childhood development programmes in India.



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Schedule 14 – Notes to accounts


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7. Empathy Fund

Empathy Fund is a fund which will be dedicated to providing critical resource relief for the full-time staff on roll of the organization, especially focusing on those who are at the lower end of compensation bands and can get distraught due to any unanticipated expenditure happening due to a critical situation / opportunity which also has long term consequences. An Empathy fund of Rs 6,00,00,000 has been set aside by the Trustees/management of the Society during the year vide Board Resolution adopted. The Society has earmarked Fixed Deposits (FD) from pool of FD and the interest income from the fund shall primarily be utilized to meet the aforesaid purpose. Also, for year one, additional amount of Rs 30,00,000 is allocated for utilization. Unspent interest amount year on year shall be added back to the Empathy Fund.

The General Council may allow the management to lift the designation whenever it wishes and reallocate the funds to some other designated purpose.

8. General Fund

General funds are unrestricted funds which have not been designated for any specific purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the management in furtherance of the general objectives of the society.

9. Special Purpose Fund

Special purpose funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees/management of society for specific purposes or to meet specific future commitments. Unlike restricted funds, these designations are self-imposed and are not legally binding. The General Council may allow the management to lift the designation whenever it wishes and reallocate the funds to some other designated purpose

10. Programme implementation Expenditure

The Society spends its funds in programs across India in the following areas:

Education – Helping children reach school and stay there through various programmes in the areas of elementary education and early childhood care and education.

Protection – Helping and protecting children pushed into child labour, abuse, neglect, exploitation, physical danger and violence.

Disaster Response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – Responding immediately to families affected by Natural disasters with food aid, water, essential items, and rehabilitation of affected families. Increase preparedness of children and families for emergency situations in the aftermath of natural disasters through child centered and community-based approaches.

Health and Nutrition – Helping children through programmes in the areas of Child Survival, Newborn Health, Maternal Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene.

The Society works directly and through other partner agencies to which it disburses grants and accordingly expenditure incurred by the Society during the year includes such disbursement of grants in accordance with the agreements with them.



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Schedule 14 – Notes to accounts

Post completion of the grant independent audit of the expenditure incurred is conducted through external audit agencies based on which final settlement / accounting is done, which has been relied upon by the statutory auditors.

During the year, the Society received various Grants in Kind for humanitarian responses from donors. The value of the gifts in kind, aggregating to Rs. 7,700,931 (previous year Rs. 39,542,665) during the year, has been disclosed under Grants received in kind and a corresponding amount has been included under Programme expenses in the Income and Expenditure Account.

11. Legal and professional charges include Auditors' remuneration:

	Year ended 31 March 2022 (Rs.)	Year ended 31 March 2021 (Rs.)
Audit fees	1,400,000	1,300,000
Other services	300,000	300,000
Service tax/GST	306,000	288,000
Total	2,006,000	1,888,000

12. Employee Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The employee provident fund scheme is a defined contribution plan. A sum of Rs. 25,272,069 (previous year Rs. 24,169,441) has been recognized in the Income and Expenditure Account.

13. Defined benefit plans

With effect from April 1, 2021, an amended Gratuity policy has been adopted by the Society which is aligned to the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 by virtue of which

- All regular staff member are entitled for Payment of Gratuity on rendition of 5 years of continuous service with the Society. However, 5 years of continuous service is not mandatory in the case where the termination is due to death or disablement.
- All regular staff who join the Society on or after April 1, 2021, shall be covered under the new Gratuity policy, wherein a 5-year vesting period will apply for them to be eligible for Gratuity.
- The regular staff who joined prior to April 1, 2021 and who have completed 1 year but have not completed 5 years, the Society will honor its commitment made in the respective contracts/appointment letters, to pay gratuity as ex-gratia, in case they exit before completion of 5 years (for every successful year of service completed).



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Schedule 14 – Notes to accounts

Gratuity is payable to all eligible employees of the Society on resignation, retirement, death or permanent disablement, in terms of the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act. The liability for gratuity, as determined by actuarial valuation as on 31st March 2022 is Rs. 57,598,083 (previous year Rs. 52,116,674).
The expenditure for gratuity as determined by actuarial valuation for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 14,807,050 (previous year Rs. 16,866,465).

Particulars	For the year ended 31 st March 2022	For the year ended 31 st March 2021
Discount Rate	6.75% per annum	6.50% per annum
Annual salary escalation rate	7.00% per annum	7.00% per annum
Mortality	IALM 2012-14	IALM 2012-14
Withdrawal Rate	14.00% per annum	15.00% per annum

14. Save the Children Fund, UK ('SC UK') transferred its operations in India to Bal Raksha Bharat with effect from 1 April 2008 as an initiative of the International Save the Children Alliance, of which both SC UK and Bal Raksha Bharat are members. As per the terms and conditions of the transfer, all assets of SC UK (with historical cost of Rs. 39,917,422) were transferred free of cost to Bal Raksha Bharat. In accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in this regard, Bal Raksha Bharat has recognized these assets in its books of account at nominal value.

15. Allocation of Common Costs

For the purpose of financial statements of the society, Common costs are allocated on net basis to all departments on the basis of their usage of the services and estimates as considered appropriate by the management and have been adjusted to the natural heads of respective expenses. The nature of common cost are salaries and allowances of Support functions, fundraising expenses, rent, repair and maintenance, travel and accommodation, legal and professional charges, conference and meeting, training expenses, communication, bank charges and other operational charges.

16. The society has written back restricted fund liability pertaining to Financial Year 2016-17 of Rs. 545,091 since there had been no claim from the concerned donors to date. The written back amount has been included in Other income (Refer Schedule 2 and 10). During the previous year, society has written back restricted fund liability pertaining to FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 of Rs. 18,854,287.

17. During the previous Financial Year, the society has reviewed the balances outstanding in foreign contribution (FC) related accounts and Non-FC related accounts and determined that:

- TDS deducted from FC account and Non-FC account has been refunded as consolidated income tax refund amount which has been remitted by the Income Tax Authorities to the Non-FC account of the Society.
- Security Deposit paid in earlier years from the FC account has been refunded in subsequent years to the Non-FC account of the Society.
- Expenses accrued to the Non-FC books of accounts were paid from FC account on account of clerical oversight or on account of availability of funds related reasons.
- Expenses accrued in to the FC accounts were paid from Non-FC account of the Society on account of clerical oversight.

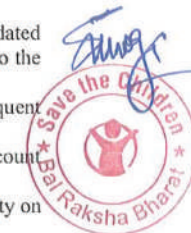


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While adjustments to rectify the above shall not have any impact on the consolidated financial statements, the Society is in the process of intimating the proposed adjustments to the appropriate authorities.

18. Contingent liabilities and provisions

The Society makes a provision when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event where the outflow of economic resources is probable and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

A disclosure is made for a contingent liability when there is a:

- Possible obligation, the existence of which will be confirmed by the occurrence/non-occurrence of one or more uncertain events, not fully within the control of the Society.
- Present obligation, where it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations, or
- Present obligation, where a reliable estimate cannot be made.

Where there is a present obligation in respect of which the likelihood of outflow of resources is remote, no provision or disclosure is made.

As on March 31, 2022 (& as at 31st March 2021) there is no contingent liability against any pending litigation.

19. The figures for the previous year have been regrouped/ rearranged wherever considered necessary to confirm to the current year's classification.

For Bal Raksha Bharat

Deepak Kapoor

Chairperson

Place: London, United Kingdom


Rajiv Kapur

Treasurer

Place: Saas-Fee, Switzerland


Sudarshan Suchi

Chief Executive Officer

Place: Gurgaon


Subhashish Neogi

Director-Finance

Place: Gurgaon

Date: 25th August 2022**National Support Office:****Save the Children,
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14 ABBREVIATIONS

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife
ASF	Academic Support Fellow
AWW	Anwaganwadi Worker
BFSI	Banking, Financial Services and Insurance
CBGA	Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability
CCI	Child Care Institutions
CHC	Community Health Centre
CHO	Community Health Officer
CiSS	Children in Street Situations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
Dy.	Deputy
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early childhood education
ELM	Early Literacy and Math
FPO	Farmers Producer Organisation
Govt.	Government
HWWS	Handwashing with soap
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
ID	Identity Document
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
IVRS	Interactive Voice Response System
JEPC	Jharkhand Education Project Council
JJ Act	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

KLEW	Knowledge Learning and Exchange Week
MAC	Multi Activity Centre
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning
MFF	Martha Farrell Foundation
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDE	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NEP	National Education Policy
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NIDM	National Institute of Disaster Management
NSD	National Skill Development
NSDC	National Skill Development Corporation
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PMKVY	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
PMMVY	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
POCSO	Protection of Children from of Sexual Offences
PR	Public Relations
RCSCE	Rajasthan Council of Secondary Education
RETS	Rapid Emergency Training Solution
SAIL	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
SAM	Severely Acute Malnourished
SAMPARC	Sustainable Approach for Multi-faceted Progress Aimed at Reclaiming Childhood
SCCWC	Street Child Cricket World Cup
SCPCR	State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SOP	Standard operating procedure
TRAC	The Rights and Agency Of Children in India
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health
WINGS	World of India's Girls
XISS	Xavier Institute of Social Service



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CSR Registration Number

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