

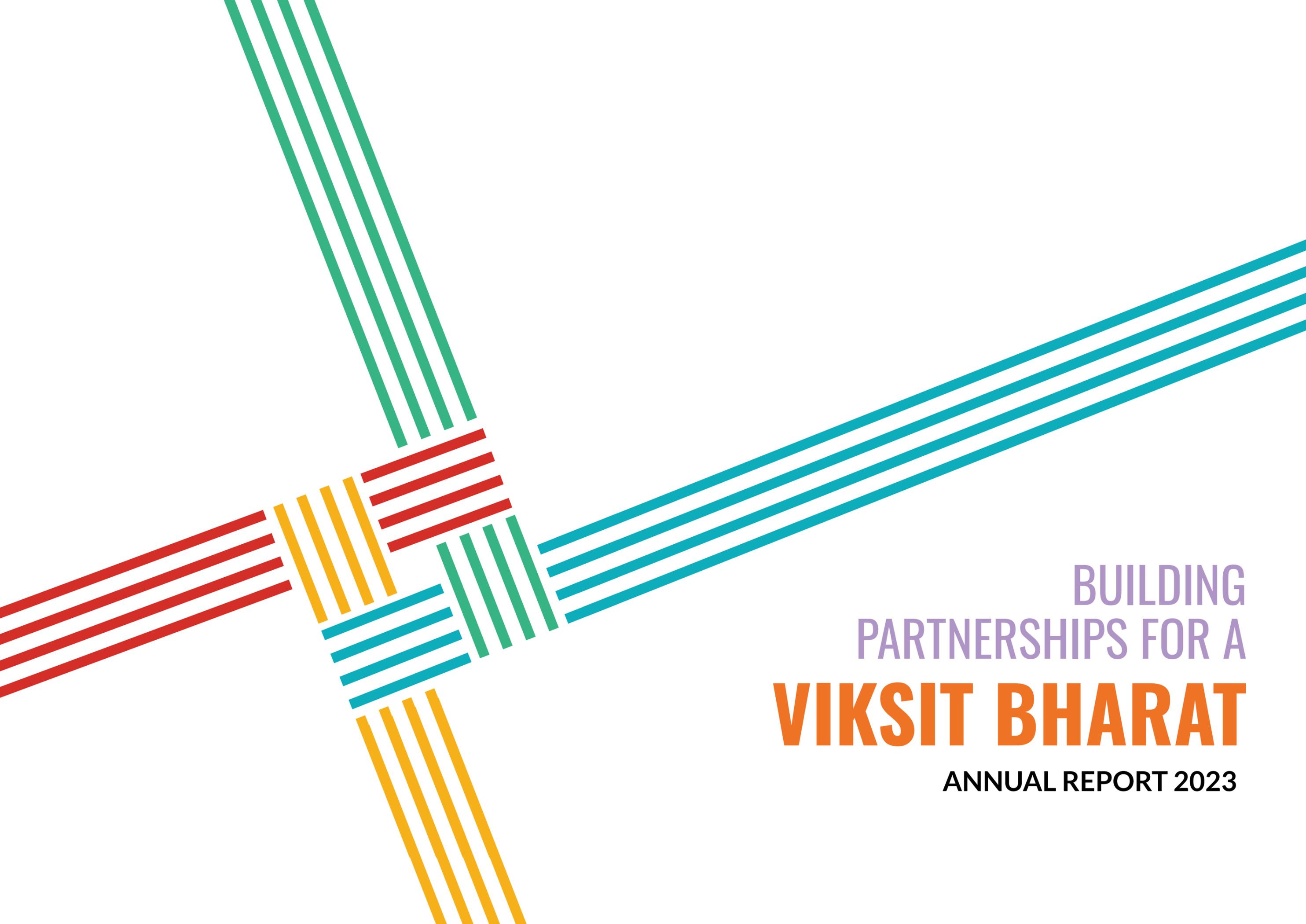


**Bal  
Raksha  
Bharat**

Also known as **Save the Children**

**BUILDING  
PARTNERSHIPS FOR A  
VIKSIT  
BHARAT**

**Annual Report 2023**



BUILDING  
PARTNERSHIPS FOR A  
**VIKSIT BHARAT**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW

As India commemorates the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and enters the transformative phase of 'Amritkaal,' positioning itself in the evolving global landscape in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wish to express our profound gratitude for the resolute and effective initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, led by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, in advocating for the rights of our nation's children.

Registered as Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, we currently have operations in 15 Indian states & 3 Union Territories working in close collaboration with the government to ensure a promising beginning for the lives of children. Since 2008, we have directly impacted the lives of over 10 million children, with more than 50 percent of them being girls.

Bal Raksha Bharat is committed to driving positive social change through partnerships and collaborations. The diverse range of domains we are

involved in, from education and healthcare to addressing child poverty and responding to humanitarian crises, is crucial for the well-being of children and communities. Additionally, our focus on areas like WASH, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction highlights a holistic approach to addressing the needs and challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

Our annual report serves as an essential tool for showcasing the body of our work and demonstrate our dedication to the cause.

Our engagements and partnerships with the government form the very foundation of our approach and theory of transformation. As a preferred collaborator, we enthusiastically aspire to cooperate with the Government and various stakeholders to tackle issues affecting children and their comprehensive development. Our initiatives are evidence based and propelled by the active involvement of children, aligning seamlessly with government policies and programs.

Over the course of the past 15 years, Bal Raksha Bharat has cultivated a harmonious and constructive relationship with the Government of India. We have engaged with every tier of governance, from the national level to state and local governments, as well as their respective agencies, to address critical challenges that impact children. This partnership involves both influencing and actively working on crucial child rights policies, offering technical expertise, and creating platforms for children's participation.

## AMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES: CATEGORIES OF SUPPORT

Bal Raksha Bharat has always recognized the power of partnerships and collaborations in addressing complex social and humanitarian challenges. This year, we have made great strides in cultivating and leveraging these relationships to maximize our impact. Our collaboration with the government include:

- Offering technical assistance for the government's child-focused policies and programs, drawing from on-the-ground program implementation, replicable and inventive program strategies, and research based on evidence.
- Serving as designated members of diverse committees, advisory boards, and technical groups established by the government.
- Engaging in substantial discussions with the government to identify avenues for enhancing support to children while working within the current policy and program framework.
- Formalizing a collaborative association with the government, potentially through agreements like Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or Statements of Intent (Sol).

## STRENGTHENING OUR ECOSYSTEM

We have deepened our partnerships with a diverse range of organizations, including other NGOs, academic institutions, and the corporate sector. Our collaborations have transcended sectors and allowed us to create a more robust and inclusive ecosystem for our programs and initiatives, resulting in innovative and holistic solutions. We have collaboratively addressed issues related to education, health & nutrition, poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction and more. These collaborations have enabled us to reach a wider audience and making a more significant difference in the communities we serve.

Partnerships have also unlocked new funding sources, ensuring the sustainability of

our programs and helping us make a lasting impact.

Our commitment to transparency, open communication, shared values, adaptability, and flexibility in our partnerships is a sound approach to address the challenges and opportunities in the social development landscape. These principles are indeed essential for the successful implementation of any organization's mission. Bal Raksha Bharat will continue to foster these relationships with the goal of creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

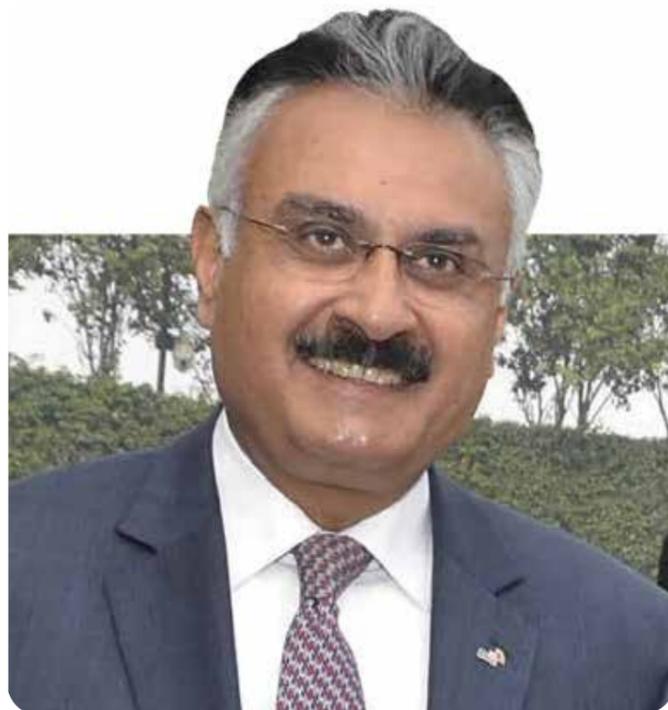
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, and all those who have supported our mission. Together, we can achieve lasting change and make a brighter future a reality for all.



# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



**Our Gratitude to all our partners, supporters, and collaborators who have walked this journey with us. Your contributions are invaluable, and they are a driving force behind our mission to protect and advance our common interest of the wellbeing of every child in India.**



**Dear Friends  
of Bal Raksha Bharat,**

It is with great pleasure and pride that I share with you the 2022-23 Annual Report of Bal Raksha Bharat. This year's report is a testament to the incredible journey we have undertaken in the past year, one marked by partnerships that have propelled us to achieve remarkable milestones.

In a world marked by complexity and change, partnerships have emerged as the cornerstone of our progress and success. These collaborations have enabled us to achieve much more than we could ever hope to achieve alone. As we reflect on the year gone by, it is clear that the power of unity, shared purpose, and collective effort has driven our accomplishments to new heights.

## A Year of Transformation

The past year has witnessed transformative changes, both in our approach and ways of working and in the lives of those we serve. These changes are the result of the unwavering dedication and commitment of our team and the invaluable contributions of our partners.

This year's report details the key partnerships we've established, nurtured, and leveraged throughout the year. These partnerships extend across various sectors, from governmental and non-governmental to corporate partnerships and in the community – a convergence of stakeholders with a single purpose of building back better and bigger for nation building. They have allowed us to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and bring about tangible change in the lives of countless individuals.

## Our Accomplishments in Review

Among the notable achievements highlighted in

this report are the successful launch of educational initiatives that aimed to strengthen the system, collaborative health & nutrition programs that improved health outcomes in communities, and the implementation of projects aimed at building resilience of the community and breaking inter-generational poverty. These achievements are a testament to the transformative potential of effective partnerships.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders - members, donors, partners and our staff - for their unwavering support. Your commitment to our mission has been the driving force behind our accomplishments. It is your belief in our cause that continues to inspire and motivate us to do more.

## Looking Forward with Hope

As we turn the page to a new year, we do so with hope and determination. Our mission to create positive change, support communities, and improve lives remains unwavering. We will continue to seek out and nurture partnerships that align

with our values and goals, knowing that it is through these collaborations that we can collectively create a better future.

This report offers a glimpse into our journey - one that would not have been possible without the invaluable partnerships we have built. As we celebrate our achievements, let us also recommit ourselves to the work that lies ahead, recognizing that, together, we have the power to create lasting and positive change in the world.

Thank you for your trust, your support, and your shared vision for a brighter and more equitable future.

**With gratitude,**

**Deepak Kapoor**  
Chairperson

# CEO'S NOTE



Our dedicated team, donors and partners have been unwavering in their commitment to bring in hope, dignity and a brighter future for children and communities.



## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the year 2022-23, it is impossible not to be deeply moved by the remarkable journey we've traveled together at Bal Raksha Bharat. This annual report offers us an opportunity to celebrate our collective accomplishments, to express our heartfelt gratitude, and to set our sights on the path ahead.

Our dedicated team and partners have been unwavering in their commitment to our work that spans a multitude of sectors - from Education, Health & Nutrition to Child Protection & Poverty Alleviation. But regardless of the issue at hand, our common purpose remains the same: to bring hope, dignity, and a brighter future to children and communities in need.

## IMPACT BEYOND MEASURE

In 2023, our impact has been nothing short of extraordinary. We have witnessed children taking their first steps toward a brighter future, families breaking the cycle of poverty, communities coming together for positive change, and ecosystems rejuvenating. These transformations aren't just statistics; they are lives changed, hopes restored, and futures reimaged.

## PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROPEL US FORWARD

None of this would be possible without the incredible network of partners, donors and supporters who stand beside us. Your belief in our mission, your tireless dedication, and your unwavering support have propelled us forward in our quest to make the world a better place.

Our partnerships, both old and new, have been a source

of strength and innovation. Together, we have harnessed the power of collaboration to address complex challenges and to create sustainable, scalable solutions. The synergy of our efforts has led to outcomes that would have been unattainable on our own.

## CHALLENGES MET WITH RESILIENCE

Our journey has not been without its share of challenges, since the world was still grappling with the after effects of the Pandemic. However, in the face of adversity, our team's spirit of resilience has shone brightly. We have not only adapted to change but have embraced it as an opportunity to learn, grow, and improve our approach.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

As we move into another year, our vision remains clear: to be a catalyst for positive change, a beacon of hope, and a source of inspiration. We will continue

to work tirelessly to create a world where every child can access quality education, where healthcare is a right, not a privilege, where communities flourish, and where our planet thrives.

With the continued support of our remarkable community, I am confident that we will achieve greater heights. Together, we can inspire progress and transform more lives than ever before. Thank you for your unwavering support, your trust, and your belief in our mission. Together, we are changing the world, one life at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**Sudarshan Suchi**  
CEO, Bal Raksha Bharat

# LEADING THE WAY

## Governing Council



**Deepak Kapoor**  
Chairperson of the  
Governing Council



**Rajiv Kapur**  
Treasurer of the  
Governing Council

## Member Governing Council



**Swaroop Sampat  
Rawal**



**Dr. S.Y. Quraishi**



**Stuti Narain  
Kacker**



**Vasvi Bharat Ram**



**Muzaffar Ali**



**Rohit Bhasin**



**Susan Thomas**



**Mirai Chatterjee**  
(Till August 2022)



**Harpal Singh**  
(Till November 2022)

## 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 cofounded Udayan Centre for Collaborative Learning – a grassroots NGO in Central India.

**Anindit Roy Chowdhury**  
CHIEF PROGRAMME  
OFFICER  
(Till January 2023)



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  
RESOURCE  
(Till March 2023)



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. Yasmin led SOS Children's Villages of India for eight years, and has worked with two of the biggest names in the BFSI sector - Max New York Life Insurance and Future Generali Life Insurance Company.

## Senior Leadership Team

**SUBHASHISH NEOGI**  
DIRECTOR - FINANCE,  
ADMIN, IT & LEGAL



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

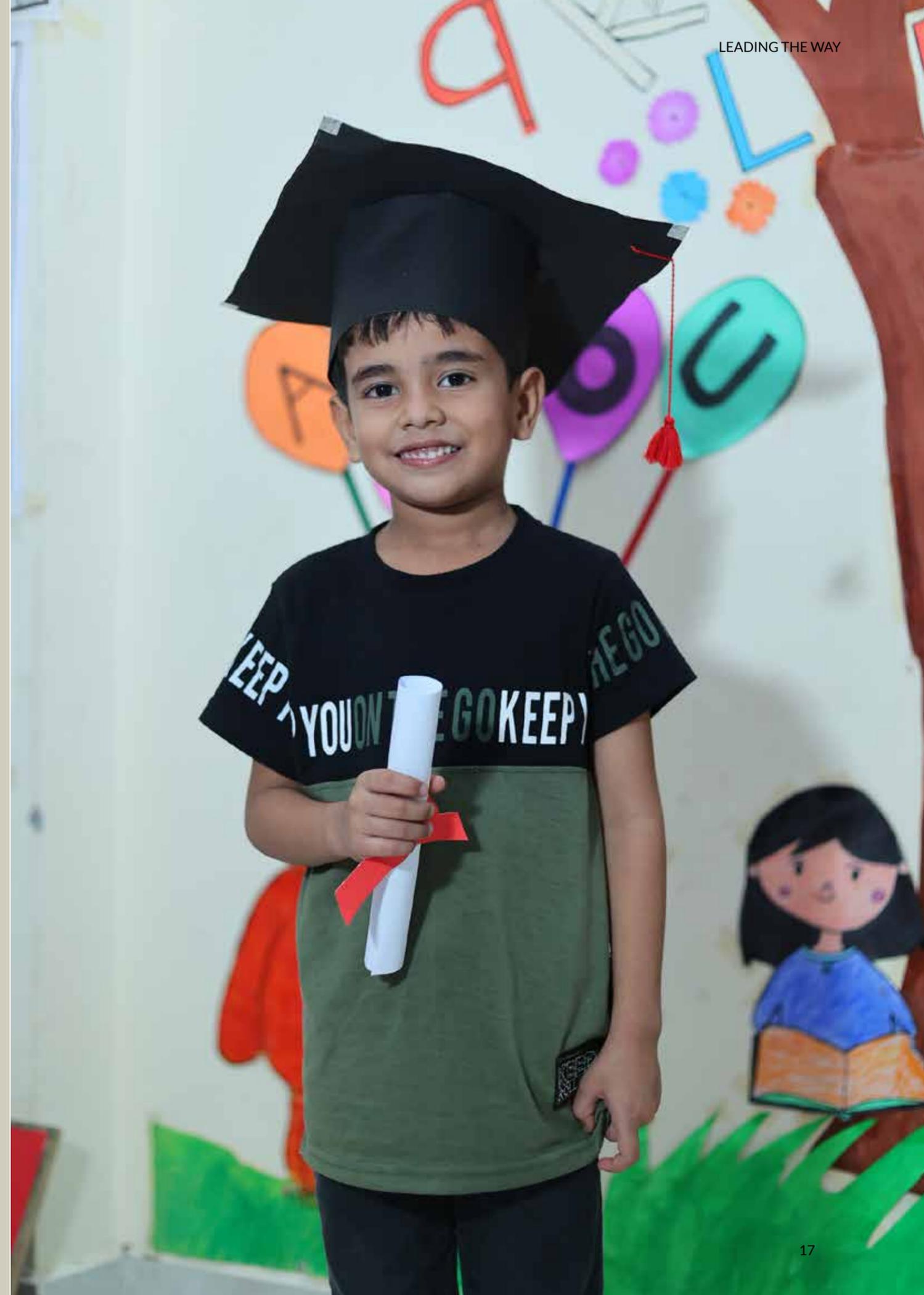
**SANTANU CHAKRABORTY**  
DIRECTOR-PROGRAMME  
IMPLEMENTATION



Santanu, a champion for child rights and humanitarian response, is leading program implementation at Bal Raksha Bharat including evaluation, and technical support, multi-sectoral program development & humanitarian response for almost two decades across various themes. He demonstrates the capacity to secure access, undertake longer-term association with CSOs and develop evidence-based strategies on various issues affecting the lives of most marginalized 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 their equal access to social, gender, economic and civil rights delivered through a high-performance & values-based organisation, innovative programming and partnerships for scale.

He comes with decade long experience of working with multiple bilateral and multilateral organisations like SOS Children's Villages of India, Institute of Health Management Research, CARE India, Sightsavers International, UNICEF, Cairn India in different capacities.



# 2022-23 UPDATE BIG IDEAS



## UNDER NUTRITION

**62.7%** children aged 0-18 years in our programme locations who received one or more essential nutrition interventions  
**N:30414 D:48543**



## ECCE

**91.3%** children of our intervention areas in the age group of 36-59 month are regularly brought to Anganwadi Centers  
**N:50423 D:55237**



## ENDING ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

**84.9%** children in our intervention areas removed from harmful work (back in school, special training and skill building)  
**N:7146 D:8421**

**94.9%** functional Child Protection Committees in community  
**N:595 D:627**

**85.2%** of vulnerable household in our programme areas (having-children in labor, at risk to or in child marriage, and trafficking receiving access to social protection schemes)  
**N: 11803 D:13860**



## LIVELIHOOD AND SKILL-BUILDING

**54.4%** adolescents and youth have completed vocational and soft skill trainings  
**N:3567 D:6551**

**79.3%** of households are linked to income generation activity  
**NL713 D:899**

**75.6%** children and families in our programme areas have been linked with protection schemes  
**N:1323 D:1751**



## CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK RESILIENCE

**100.0%** institutions (schools, communities, local governance institutions) in rural/urban context adopt resilience education and action  
**N:167 D:167**

**75.6%** of children and families are linked with identified social protection schemes  
**N:1323 D:1751**



# 2022-23 UPDATE OTHER CORE AREAS



## MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH

**52%** children under the age of 5 years with childhood illnesses have been referred to a government health facility for treatment  
**N:1802 D:3468**



## WASH

**68.5%** children from our programme areas have been practicing handwashing with soap & water  
**N:188598 D:275435**



## SCHOOL EDUCATION

**76.9%** girls from our operational areas regularly attend school  
**N:216024 D:280964**

**10%** children of class 3, 5 and 8 scoring 5% above the national average in National Achievement Test (for Mathematics and Language)



## SAFE SCHOOLS

**94.2%** schools in our operational areas have a Safe School Plan  
**N:1686 D:1790**



## MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Standards to plan, establish and coordinate multi-sectoral responses to protect and improve children's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing have been established in four states



## CHILDREN IN CITIES

**66.2%** Children (0-18 years) of our operations areas living in Street Situation have been provided a legal identity  
**N: 1791 D:2707**

**72.2%** Children in Street Situation (0-18 years) linked to relevant social-protection  
**N:1972 D:2731 72.2%**

**100%** recommendations on girls safety shared with relevant authorities



## CHILD SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

**98.6%** adults received benefits of selected social protection programmes  
**N:1299 D:1317**

**81.3%** children in HHs that received benefits of selected social-protection programmes  
**N:2176 D:2677**



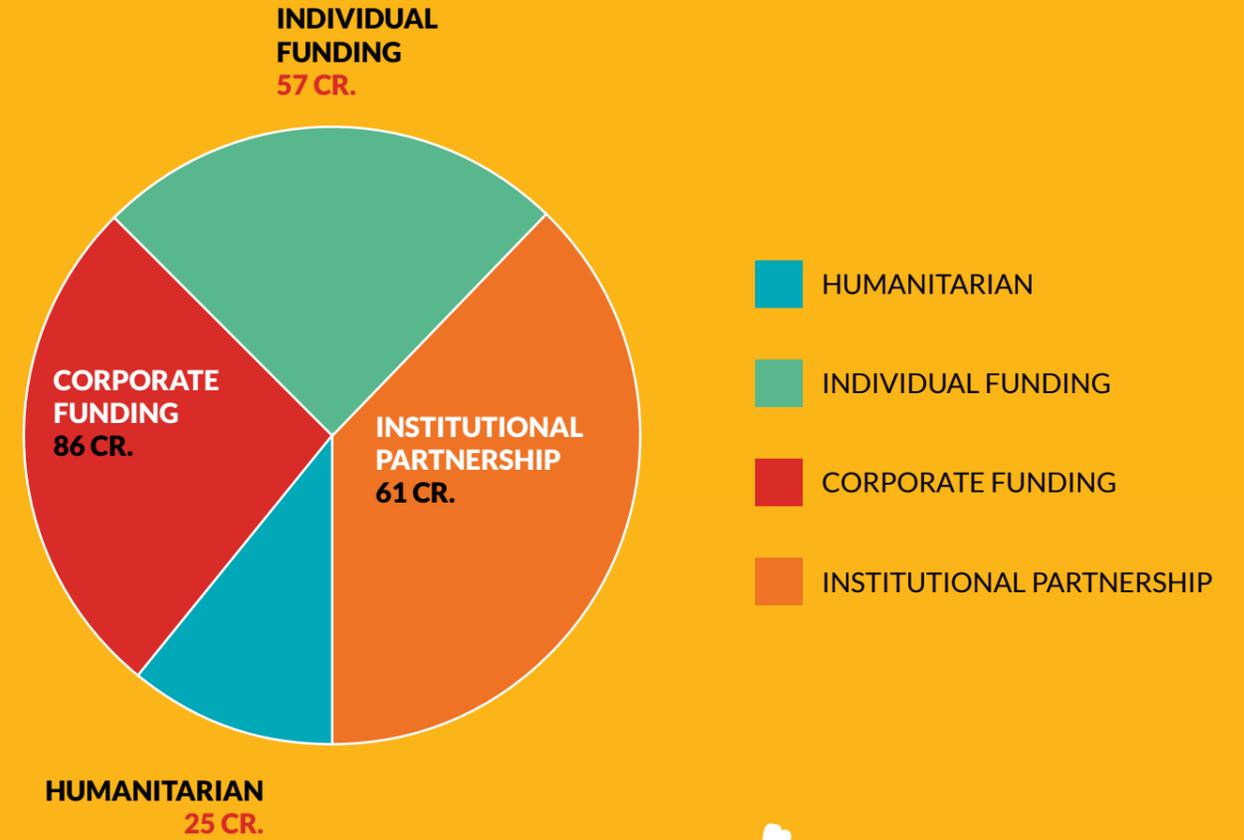
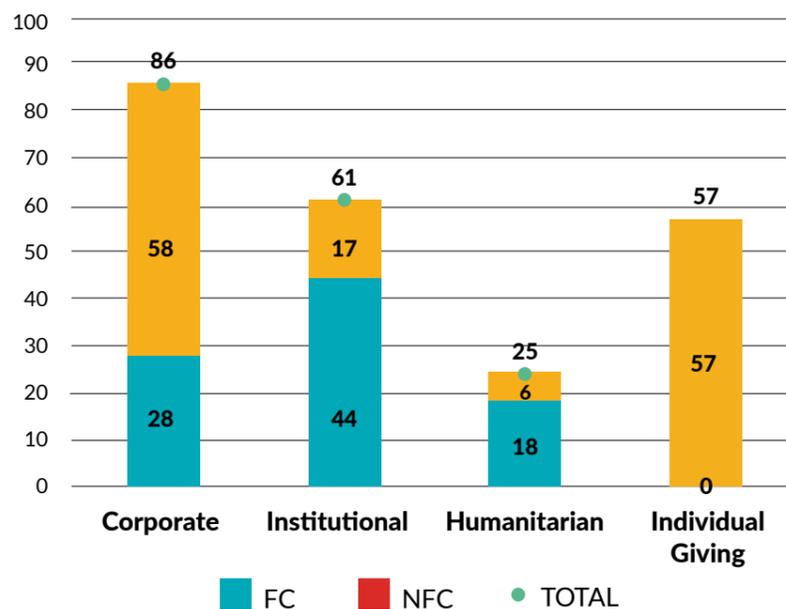
# RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: NAVIGATING FUNDING DYNAMICS AND BUSINESS MODEL INNOVATION IN A POST-COVID ERA

The post-Covid funding landscape experienced a modest deceleration, particularly in the realm of individual giving. In the fiscal year 2022-23, the Resource Mobilization team successfully raised Rs 229 crores, earmarking Rs 25 crores for humanitarian interventions. Notably, corporate funding demonstrated a robust growth of 19%, while institutional funding exhibited a 7% increase compared to the previous year, facilitated by the acquisition of key donors, including 14 new corporates contributing INR 24 crores.

Contrastingly, individual funding encountered a downturn of 22% due to various external challenges. In a strategic move to diversify the funding portfolio, an internal initiative, the Business Model Innovation project, has been initiated. The project aims to construct a new funding portfolio utilizing innovative mechanisms such as blended finance and results/outcome-based funding.

In the preliminary phase, a pro bono collaboration with the consulting firm Oliver Wyman was conducted. This exercise facilitated the formulation of the Business Model Innovation Strategy, considering the impact investing landscape in the Indian context. Following an organization-wide consultation, competency mapping, and visioning exercises, potential business models were identified to capitalize on emerging opportunities, including a comprehensive study of the legal aspects associated with setting up various structures.

Leveraging the expertise of Oliver Wyman, significant insights were garnered on three impactful investment instruments: the development of Impact Bonds/Social Impact Bonds, Pay for Success Grants, and Social Enterprise (fee-based models). Subsequently, collaborating with Dalberg Advisors, a high-level roadmap has been finalized to implement the selected business models, accompanied by the development of business cases with a focus on Return on Investment (ROI) for each of the three chosen models.



## OUR GRATITUDE TO

### Dear Donors and Friends of Bal Raksha Bharat,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and commitment to the mission of Bal Raksha Bharat. Your generosity has made a significant difference in the lives of countless children, helping us create a brighter and more hopeful future for them.

Your contributions have empowered us to continue our efforts in ensuring the well-being, education, and protection of vulnerable children. With your support, we've been able to implement vital programs, provide essential resources, and create a safe and nurturing environment for those who need it the most.

Thank you for being the driving force behind our mission. Your kindness and dedication are instrumental in building a society where every child can thrive. We look forward to continuing this journey together and making a lasting impact on the lives of children in need.

- Accenture
- ACTIVATE
- Acuity Knowledge Services (India) Private Limited
- APPI
- ARISA

- Atlas Export Enterprises (TESCO)
- Avaya
- Bollore Logistics India Private Limited
- C&A Foundation (Laudes Foundation)
- CBRE
- Child Rights And You (CRY)
- CISCO
- Colin and Roberta Moore
- CS Business Services (CSBS) India Private Limited (Mondelez)
- Disaster Relief Fund- Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- Discovery US
- Disney
- DLF Foundation
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ennovent India Advisors Private Limited
- Ericsson India Global Services Private Limited
- Future Genrali
- Gates - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Give India Foundation
- GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, Inc.
- GSK India Global Services Private Limited
- GSRD Foundation
- H&M Foundation
- HCL Foundation
- HDFC
- Hempel Foundation
- Herbalife

- HKL Baumaschinen GmbH
- Intel Foundation
- Ipsos Foundation
- K Corp Charitable Foundation
- King Baudouin Foundation (Sofina)
- Knorr-Bremse
- Kubota Agricultural Machinery India Pvt. Ltd.
- Larsen & Toubro Limited
- Lavazza
- LEGO Group
- Mars Wrigley Foundation
- Member pooled funding (SCI)
- MONDELEZ INDIA FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED.
- National Australia Bank Ltd
- NBC Fashion India Private Limited
- NOKIA
- NortonLifeLock (Symantec India)
- Oak Foundation
- Oracle Corporation
- Penguin Random House
- Procter & Gamble
- Prudential Technology and Services India Private Limited
- Pureplay Skin Sciences (India) private Limited
- PVH Corp
- Rural India Supporting Trust
- Santa Maria (Paulig Group)
- Save the Children Federation, Inc. SC US
- Save the Children Germany (BMZ, Otto/RTL Foundation)

- SC ARO
- SC Finland (CSSP)
- SC HK
- SC Italy
- SC Japan various donors/ general funds (Halvo)
- SC NL
- SC Switzerland various donors/general funds
- SC UK - Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC)
- SC UK (Lego Foundation)
- SC UK (Olam)
- SC US
- Sembcorp Energy India Ltd (Gagan Khosla)
- Shahi Exports Private Limited
- Sony Corporation
- Sony Pictures Networks Pvt. Ltd.
- SP Apparel (TESCO)
- SRF Foundation"

- Standard Chartered
- START Network
- Sun Foundation (Sun TV Network Pvt. Ltd.)
- Takeda
- TESCO
- The European Union (European Commission)
- UBS Foundation
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- Unilever plc
- VFS Global
- Vishal Mega Mart
- Welspun (TESCO)
- Wise UK through SC UK
- World Gold Council (India) Pvt. Ltd

# DRIVING PROGRESS TOGETHER: OUR COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

In our journey towards creating meaningful impact and fostering positive change, we recognize and deeply appreciate the significance of collaboration. Our biggest partners are not just organizations; they are key contributors to the shared vision of a better world. Together, we form a powerful alliance, combining our strengths, expertise, and resources to address the most pressing challenges that our communities face.

These partnerships extend beyond mere collaboration; they embody shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to collective growth. By working hand in hand with these valuable partners, we leverage a diversity of perspectives and skills, enriching our initiatives and ensuring a more comprehensive and sustainable impact.

Our biggest partners are more than stakeholders; they are champions of the causes we hold dear. Whether it's advocating for children's rights, promoting education, or addressing social and environmental issues, these

collaborations serve as a force multiplier, allowing us to reach greater heights and touch more lives.

Together, we celebrate victories, navigate challenges, and constantly innovate to find effective solutions. Our collective efforts demonstrate the profound impact that collaboration can have in creating positive change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our biggest partners for their unwavering support, dedication, and shared commitment to making a lasting difference in the world.

In unity, we stand stronger, and with our biggest partners by our side, we are confident in our ability to shape a brighter and more equitable future for all.

The year 2022 has been a testament to the strength of partnerships, collaborations, and the relentless pursuit of our mission at Bal Raksha Bharat.

Across this edition of our Annual Report, we will proudly navigate our associations and showcase our allies, collaborators, our supporters who have made us to be the organisation we are - dedicated to championing the rights and well-being of children in India.

## STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF COLLABORATION

Our commitment to children's wellbeing is deeply rooted in the understanding that no single entity can bring about enduring change in isolation. It is through collaboration with a myriad of stakeholders, from governments and non-profit organizations to individuals and communities, that we have achieved meaningful progress.

In 2022 we continued to strengthen the foundation of our collaborations, embracing the principles of shared responsibility and shared impact. Working with others has enabled us to amplify our efforts, reach communities, and drive progress where it is needed most.



## OUR MOST VALUED COLLABORATORS - CHILDREN

At Bal Raksha Bharat, we recognize that the most powerful agents of change and progress are the very individuals we serve – children. In our journey to uphold and champion child rights, children themselves are our most valued collaborators. Their unique perspectives, innate creativity, and unwavering spirit

shape the essence of our work, driving us to create a world that respects, protects, and nurtures every child.

We believe that children are not just recipients; they are active contributors to our initiatives. By genuinely listening to their voices, we gain insights that guide our programs, ensuring they are relevant, impactful, and reflective of the needs and aspirations of the children we serve. Which is why we empower children with knowledge, skills, and a sense of agency, recognizing that through knowledge and active participation, a child becomes an advocate for change, both for themselves and their communities.

Our programs are designed not just to meet immediate needs but to instill a belief in their ability to influence and shape their own destinies, fostering a generation of empowered champions for child rights.



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## THE CHILDREN'S COUNCIL (BAL PARISHAD) IS TESTIMONY TO THIS BELIEF

From serving the needs of children to being an organisation led by children, the Bal Parishad is a tool to institutionalize child participation in Bal Raksha Bharat.

To make ourselves available and accessible, a constituency of children was formed from different regions and backgrounds who could inform, participate in and support our strategy and programme.

As we move forward, our commitment to collaboration with children remains unwavering. They are not just beneficiaries of our efforts; they are our partners in building a future where every child's potential is realized and their rights are upheld. Together, with children at the forefront, we envision a world that celebrates their uniqueness and empowers them to become architects of positive change.

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS: A CORNERSTONE OF OUR WORK

The Government of India stands as a crucial partner in our mission. We firmly believe that government agencies have the ability to drive widespread systemic change, and their collaboration is indispensable in the realm of children's wellbeing. Over the years, we have cultivated partnerships with government bodies at various levels - from national to state and local.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was our collaboration with the Ministry of Education to align our education programs with the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020. This partnership positions us at the forefront of efforts to ensure quality education for every child in India, from the foundational years to advanced stages of learning. Through this alignment, we are striving to contribute to the NEP's goal of achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2025. This landmark initiative underlines our collective determination to create a stronger educational foundation for the nation's children.

## Outcome Envisaged



### For Children

- Learn democratic and legal ways of discussion, debate and representation
- Children's issues will be more visible and become part of community /CSO/Govt agenda
- Promote & hold duty bearers/other stakeholders accountable for their rights
- Learn and practice the skills of being responsible and active citizens



### For BRB

- Better understanding of real issues, expectations and feedback of children.
- Greater inspiration, insights, feedback and participation and support of children in the development and evaluation of its strategy, programs and policies- Child Rights Programming in true sense: From working for to working with children.
- Greater realization of the vision and value of Children's Right to Participation

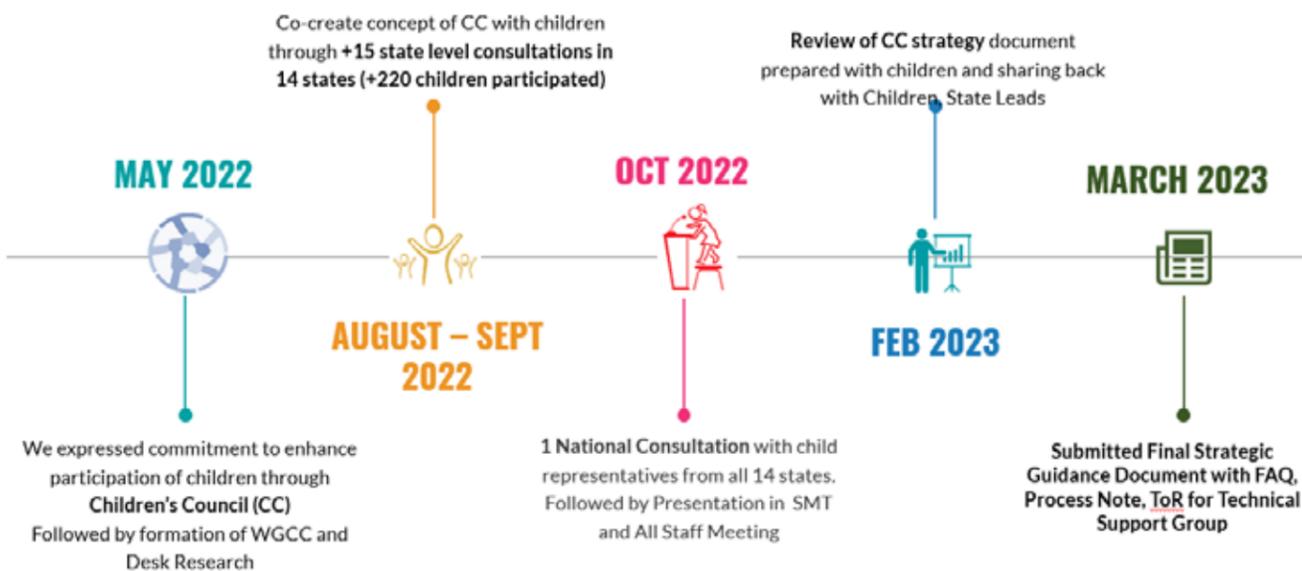


### For CSOs/Govt.

- Informed and responsible children contributing to nation building
- Learn what children want their world to be- devising child-friendly policies & programmes
- Making system and stakeholders sensitive and accountable to children.
- Nurturing democratic values and rule of law among children



### THE JOURNEY SO FAR: SMALL STEPS = BIG LEAPS



## NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS: AMPLIFYING IMPACT

Beyond government collaborations, we have deepened our engagement with numerous non-governmental organizations, each bringing their own unique expertise and resources to the table. Our alliances span a diverse range of areas, from child protection and healthcare to education and community development.

Through various partnerships we are working to create a safer environment for children, protecting them from harm and ensuring their well-being.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: THE HEART OF OUR INITIATIVES

At the heart of our work are the communities we serve. We recognize that communities are best equipped to understand the needs of their children. By collaborating with local leaders and residents, we create initiatives that respond directly to the unique challenges and aspirations of each community.

Through joint efforts with community leaders and local authorities, we have

been able to establish multi activity centers that cater to holistic wellbeing of children and adolescents, while also showing them a direction with sustainable livelihood options. Through our corporate partnerships we have collaborated to equip communities with digital and financial literacy; and entrepreneurial skills through which they have been able to break inter-generational poverty cycles – and all with the help of the community themselves. These initiatives stand as testament to the transformative potential of community-driven partnerships.

## CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY: BUSINESSES FOR CHANGE

Businesses and the private sector also have a crucial role to play in championing child rights and wellbeing. By adopting responsible business practices and investing in child-focused initiatives, corporations have made a significant difference in the lives of children. We were honored to collaborate with reputed corporates to develop mentorship programs for children from marginalized backgrounds. This program leveraged the skills and resources of employees to provide guidance and support

to these young individuals, helping them realize their full potential.

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

In the pursuit of progress, we have embraced innovative solutions and unconventional approaches. Our collaborations, for instance, have introduced digital learning resources to children in remote and underserved regions. This initiative has the potential to bridge educational gaps and increase access to quality learning materials for children who need it most.

## CHALLENGES MET AND LESSONS LEARNED

Our journey, like any journey of significance, has not been without its share of challenges. We've encountered hurdles related to resource allocation, cultural sensitivities, and the alignment of objectives. Yet, it is through these challenges that we have gained wisdom and insight. We've learned to navigate the complexities of collaborative work and to appreciate the diverse perspectives our partners bring to the table.

## LOOKING AHEAD: A FUTURE OF PROMISE

As we look ahead, we are filled with hope and determination. The partnerships we have cultivated and the progress we have made in 2022 serve as a powerful testament to what can be achieved when diverse stakeholders come together with a shared vision. The path to realizing children's wellbeing is long and challenging, but through partnership, we find the strength to persevere.

We are committed to continuing our work with unwavering dedication and a profound belief in the transformative power of collective effort. As we embrace the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, we stand confident in our ability to drive progress together - not just for the children we serve today but for the generations to come.

**Thank you to all our partners, supporters, and collaborators who have walked this journey with us. Your contributions are invaluable, and they are a driving force behind our mission to protect and advance the rights of every child in India.**



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

TO STRENGTHEN THE NUTRITIONAL AND HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND WOMEN, PREVENTING CHILDHOOD DISEASES AND IMPROVING WASH PRACTICES, WE WORK TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION SAKSHAM ANGANWADI, POSHAN 2.0 OF MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, RMNCH+A SERVICES OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, ALONG WITH SWACH BHARAT MISSION AND ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROGRAMMING OF NITI AAYOG.

- MoHFW has identified representation from Bal Raksha Bharat as **National Trainer for the revised IMNCI training** for govt. medical officers imparting at the National and Regional levels across the country for prevention and management of childhood illnesses, since March 2023
- **Bal Raksha Bharat is a member of Technical Advisory Committee** to strengthen the MAMI Care Pathway which will improve the nutrition outcomes of acute malnutrition in infants less than 6 months. This is a multi-centric RCT being undertaken by Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital with support from the MoHFW and UNICEF, for the period of 2023-25
- Bal Raksha Bharat contributed to the development of National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) for **Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMCs)**, by NHSRC, MoHFW in 2022
- **Bal Raksha Bharat is a member of Technical Advisory Committee** to strengthen urban referral mechanism for MNCH services in Bhopal, Indore & Pune constituted by **National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh and Pune Municipal Corporation** respectively, for the period of 2022-25

- **Statement of Intent (SOI) with NITI Aayog** (in two phases 2019 -21 and April 2021- 2023) to **improve early learning and nutritional indicators and support ICDS in 3 Aspirational Districts of Jharkhand and Bihar** (Gumla, West Singhbhum & Gaya). Recognizing our work on the ground in the first phase, the Sol has been further extended up till March 2023. In partnership with the local administration, we contributed to the promotion and use of local affordable diets

- and counselling for the nutritional recovery of malnourished children
- **Supporting MoHFW for Childhood Pneumonia and SAANS campaign:** We provided technical support for the SAANS campaign of the Government of India at the national and state level in 2019 and 2020. Our other contributions encompassed **two recommendations incorporated into National Pneumonia Management guidelines**
- **RMNCH coalition (Reproductive Maternal**

**Newborn Child Health) Secretariat, 2012,** MoHFW in 2012 constituted RMNCH coalition for improved reproductive maternal new-born and child health outcomes in India. We were appointed to hold the secretariat of this national coalition. While the revival of the RMNCH coalition in 2018, Bal Raksha Bharat was selected by MoHFW to convene the Urban Health working within the coalition. Bal Raksha Bharat contributed to and **supported MoHFW in the development of 'India Newborn Action Plan' INAP.**



**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT** BELIEVES THAT NO SINGLE ENTITY CAN BRING ABOUT AN ENDURING CHANGE. IT IS THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH A MYRIAD OF STAKEHOLDERS THAT **WE HAVE ACHIEVED MEANINGFUL PROGRESS BY FAR, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COLLABORATIONS,** EMBRACING THE PRINCIPLES OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND SHARED IMPACT.

## CHILD PROTECTION:

TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED FROM HARM, ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION (PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL) AND FROM BEING FORCED INTO LABOUR, TRAFFICKING AND MARRIAGE, WE WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION VATSALYA, STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE, STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS AND SUPPORTING PENCIL PORTAL OF MINISTRY FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT. WE HAVE WORKED WITH MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT; MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT, NATIONAL AND STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS; NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC COOPERATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (NIPCCD) MOHFW HAS IDENTIFIED REPRESENTATION FROM BAL RAKSHA BHARAT AS NATIONAL TRAINER FOR THE REVISED IMNCI TRAINING FOR GOVT. MEDICAL OFFICERS IMPARTING AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES, SINCE MARCH 2023.

- Our recommendations on the draft Guidelines for conducting Preliminary Assessment under Section 15 of JJ Act have been incorporated in the Guidelines issued by NCPDR in 2023
- Bal Raksha Bharat is contributing to the **National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct for the Readymade garment sector** as a member of the committee formed by the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- **Bal Raksha Bharat is selected as a member of the State Child Labour Commission, Bihar, in 2022** for the period of 2022-25.
- Presented a non-paper suggesting recommendations for strengthening the **Juvenile Justice Act 2021** to Ministry of Women and Child Development for strengthening the Juvenile Justice Act. The recommendations included shifting of implementation power to the District Magistrate and ambiguity be removed in sentences where the minimum sentence was not defined.
- Recognized by **Ministry for Labour and Employment** in 2017 for our contribution to the Standard Operating Procedure for Enforcement of the Child and Adolescent (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. We were also **nominated for Central Advisory Board (CAB) on child labour** set up under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act where we presented evidence-based policy recommendations on child labour in 2018.
- Collaborated with **NCPDR** to develop Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations (2016-17), The SOP 2.0 for Care and Protection of CISS was developed and Supreme Court mandated **States to implement SOP on CISS.** Additionally, we have partnered with UIDAI for organizing Aadhaar camps for children in street situations (in 10 cities, 2018-2020). **We are part of the technical committee providing technical to Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand on drafting State Policy for Children in Street Situations.**
- **Mental health and psychosocial support helpline UMMEED developed in collaboration and partnership with Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR)** in 2020-21 to respond to the well-being needs of children during COVID-19.

- Collaborated with **NIPCCD** for National & State Dissemination on Competency-based Training for ICPS Functionaries. A pilot programme, 'Competency-Based Training of Child Protection Workforce' was launched in 2014 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with West Bengal and Jharkhand.

**WE WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION VATSALYA, STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE, STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS AND SUPPORTING THE PENCIL PORTAL OF MINISTRY FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT.**



## POVERTY & INCLUSION:

TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CAPABILITIES OF ADOLESCENTS AND ENHANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE AMONG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, WE WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT SKILL SECTOR PROGRAM AT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL, ENSURE CHILD CENTRIC DISASTER & CLIMATE RISK ADAPTIVE PROCESSES, AND STRENGTHEN CHILD SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES. WE HAVE WORKED WITH MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP; MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE & FOREST CHANGE; NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN AFFAIRS (NIUA); NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSDC) OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT UNDER

SECTION 15 OF JJ ACT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY NCPCR IN 2023.

- Good practices on making social protection schemes and programmes child sensitive in **Palanhaar scheme** shared with **Government of Rajasthan**, the recommendation on parenting has been included
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** committed to focus on children in street situations as part of smart city initiatives, during Urban Roundtable organized with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), in 2019, with presentation of a joint paper and a charter of demands prepared
- **Signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for collaboration with Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube)** within National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in 2020.



WE HAVE WORKED WITH MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR), NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC COOPERATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (NIPCCD)



## CROSS-CUTTING AREAS:

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT ALSO WORKS ON CROSS-CUTTING AREAS TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE WORKED WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE, NITI AAYOG & NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (NIDM).

- Member of NITI's subgroup on Education, Child rights and Child protection and also a core member of NITI Aayog's committee on Integrated development for 3-6 years wherein we provide technical inputs in various child rights-based areas.
- Co-led the children's vertical for 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) process on child-centred SDGs (for HLPF 2020), initiated by NITI Aayog.
- Engaging with Ministry of Finance on an annual basis to submit evidence-based budgetary recommendations for children for Union Budget.
- COVID Response and support to government: Launched a pan-India COVID-19 response (1st and 2nd wave) across 19 States and 121 Districts including 24 Aspirational Districts where we closely worked and supported govt. initiatives and

linking the community and families with government schemes and entitlements. (Reached over 4 million people, including 1.3 million children, provided critical medical facilities, lifesaving medical equipment and supplies to public hospitals and health units across 19 states). We extended campaigns to address COVID vaccine hesitation in rural communities across intervention districts and mobilized community

- **Bal Raksha Bharat in G20 space:** Bal Raksha Bharat has played an active role during India's ongoing G20 presidency. BRB was among the select group of Civil Society Organizations that were invited to be a part of the Civil 20 engagement group. BRB contributed to the 'Working group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' of Civil 20. BRB's white paper on Women Economic Empowerment via

education got published in the thematic book of the C20 working group. We were also part of the Education & Digital Transformation Working Group of Civil20. Bal Raksha Bharat has actively contributed to the Y20 Working Group on 'Future of Work- Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills.



# EMBRACING THE FUNDAMENTALS



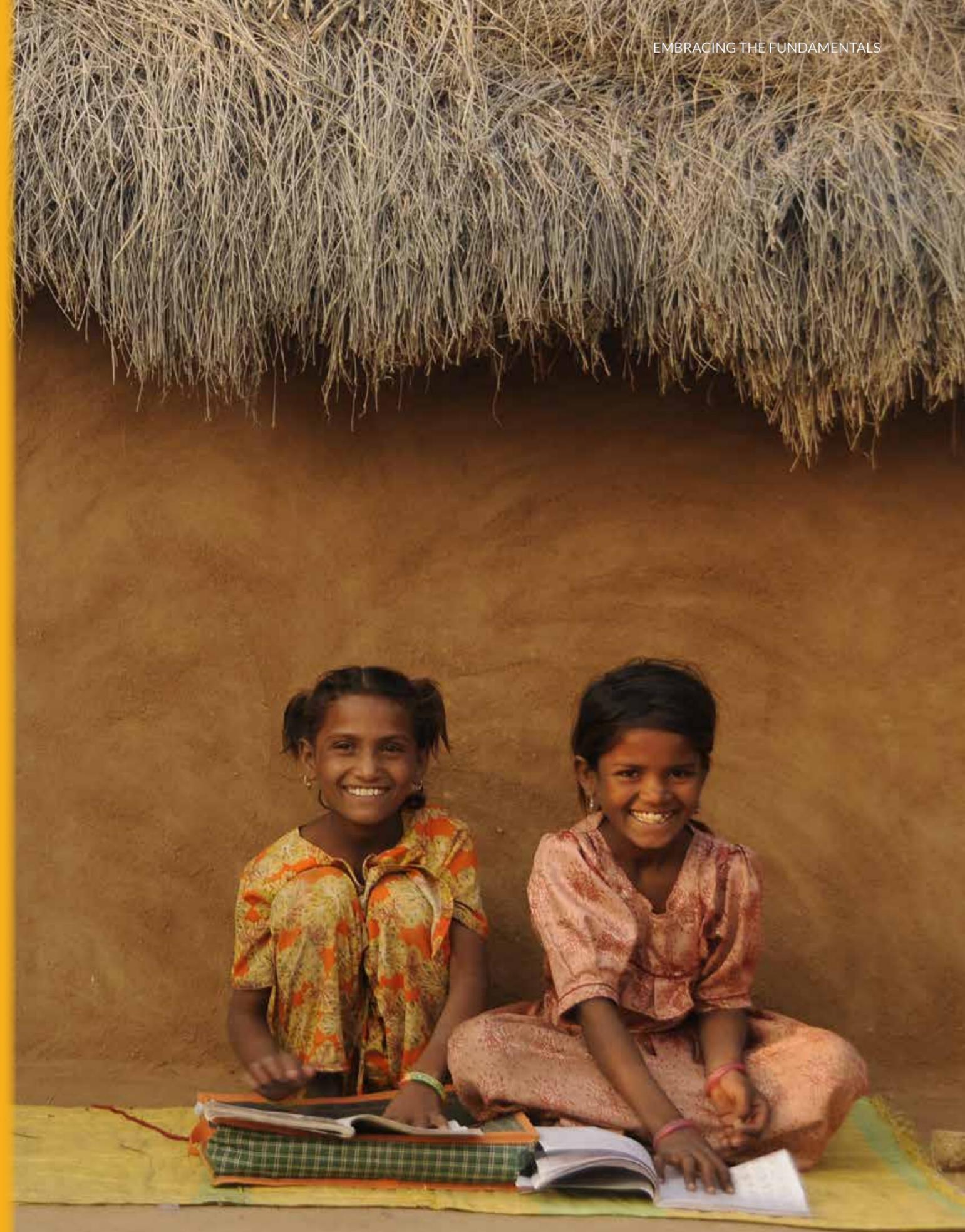
**Bal Raksha Bharat Back to Basics** project aims at improving quality and continuity in a child's experiences as they transition from early childhood care and education into the primary grade. A Child Rights Situational Analysis (CRSA) was the basis for the development of programme strategy, and five states were prioritized for Education Programming and Intervention. We established eight Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Resource Centres with two each in the states of Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand and Odisha. All the Resource Centres are established in the Government premises to ensure sustainability and exhibits the **collaboration between Bal Raksha Bharat and the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD)/ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** to improve the quality of early learning. The programme strategy also emphasized on continuation of innovative models such as

**Mobile Learning Centres** to reach out to most marginalized children living in urban slums and makeshift shelters.

ECCE Resource Centres were conceptualized as a safe child friendly space in the office premise of DWCD at district level or any other space provided by them to offer technical support to ICDS functionaries on different aspects of early learning. The locations for setting up the Resource Centres are strategically selected to ensure that the ICDS Supervisors/ Anganwadi Workers are able to frequently visit and effectively use the Resource Centre. The Resource Centres work as a reference and resource point for the ICDS Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers to enhance their knowledge and facilitation skill for early learning. It also facilitates interface between ECCE experts and supervisors for enhancing the technical capacity of supervisors in mentoring Anganwadi workers. The Resource Centre

is equipped with Teaching Learning Materials (which include materials for activity and play based learning), Story and Picture books, Activity books, materials for development of contextually appropriate Teaching Learning Materials, etc. Ultimately, the Resource Centre works to improve the quality of early learning.

When the ECCE Resource Centres were planned, smaller spaces were provided across many states which helped us to showcase what a model Anganwadi Centre should be like. However, as we continued with our work at the Resource Centres, larger spaces were provided with the intention that these Centres could strive towards providing training, wider use of materials, etc. In the beginning, the focus was on provision of handholding support to the already existing geographies, and slowly replicating similar model in the adjacent blocks/districts of the same states. This has





been done by developing an ecosystem where continuum in educational experiences of children is prioritised at state programme and policy level. All the relevant stakeholders in AWCs, schools, homes, and communities enable each child to start early and complete their foundation learning. Efforts have also been made to reach the most marginalised children (boys and girls) from diverse needs and backgrounds in AWCs, schools and communities.

Designed to have large scale impact, this programme covers 1237 Anganwadi Centers and 505 government primary schools in nine blocks across all the five states.

Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the Foundation Stage (launched in October 2022), the Resource Centres play a vital role in supporting the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s NIPUN Bharat mission. This mission aims to ensure that every child in the country achieves

foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) skills by the end of Grade 3. The Resource Centres are envisioned as key contributors to this mission, actively promoting the implementation of FLN goals through their training, resources, and capacity-building initiatives.

By establishing these Early Learning Resource Centres in collaboration with the government, the Back to Basics programme leverages existing infrastructure and resources to maximize impact. The centres serve as hubs for knowledge sharing, training, and effective early childhood practices, ultimately working towards the overarching goal of providing quality early learning opportunities for children across the intervention states.

By emphasising the importance of the formative period and focusing on strengthening existing systems rather than reinventing the wheels, we have been able to deliver an effective and impactful solution that prepares children holistically for primary schooling.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**

% children regularly attending Anganwadi Centres in post pandemic scenario

Target : 70%

YTD : 91%  
(N= 50423 / D= 55237)

## HENCE, WE GENERATED EVIDENCE ON ECE BUDGETING

Calculating the current government spending on this sector was not a straightforward exercise. Funds for ECE flow through a narrow range of schemes, so calculating how much is being spent required a careful perusal of Central and State government budget documents, and, to some extent, had to rely on approximations and assumptions.

We commissioned a study *“Cost of Universalising Early Childhood Education”* where the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) analysed the budget. From the analysis, it was seen that India had been spending about 0.1 per cent of its GDP on ECE. Considering that almost 38 per cent of India’s children aged 3-6 years do not receive any early childhood education, and that the existing services require qualitative upgrades, it is imperative that government spending on ECE increase. The study also concluded that to provide quality ECE services to the 38 per cent of children not

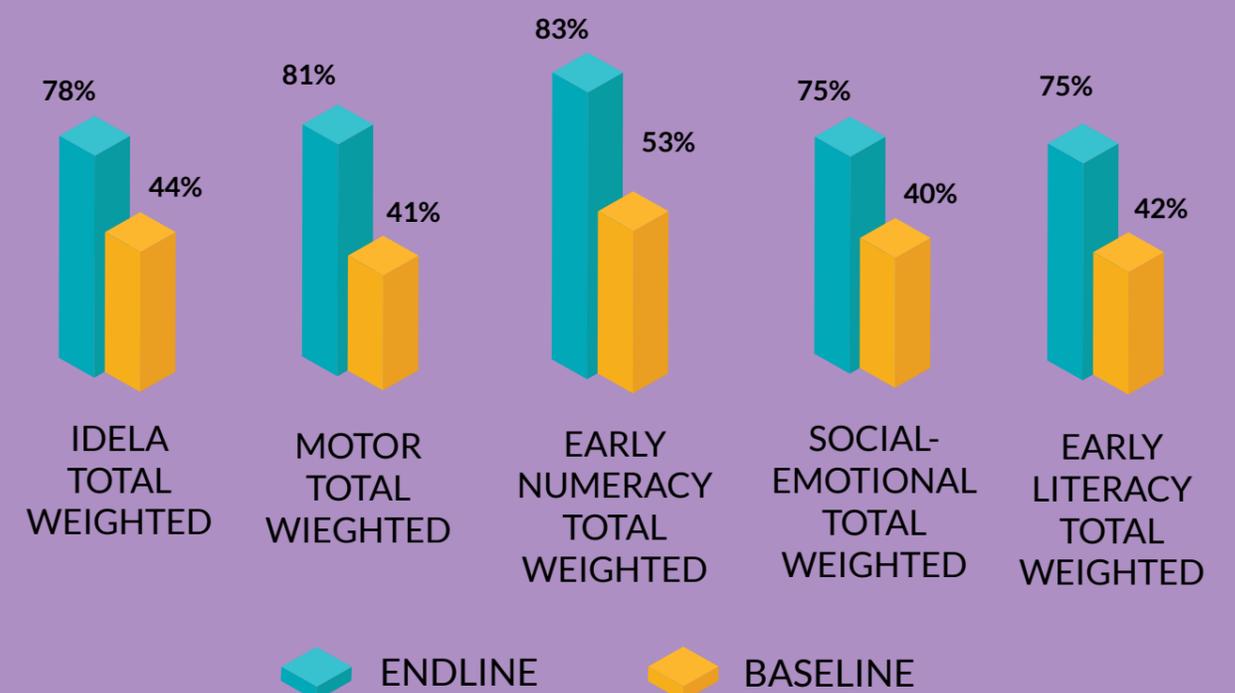
receiving any at the moment, the government needed to spend at least 0.5 per cent of GDP in addition to its current spending on ECE. When the Cost of Quality ECE for all Children in India was estimated, it was seen that to ensure quality education for all current beneficiaries (both government and others) as well as children not covered by any government ECE programme, there is a need to make a budgetary allocation to the tune of at least 1.5 – 2.2 per cent of the GDP.



**OUR BACK TO BASICS PROGRAMME HAS IMPACTED 60000+ CHILDREN FROM AGE GROUP OF 3 – 8 YEARS ACROSS 5 STATES.**

**TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME IDELA SCORES WERE CALCULATED THROUGH BASELINE AND END LINE ASSESSMENTS. RESULTS ARE SHOWN IN THE GRAPH:**

**IDELA SCORES - COMBINED**



## IMPACT STORY

# BRINGING BACK CHILDREN TO JOYFUL LEARNING- TARA DEVI'S TENACIOUS EFFORT IN REMOTE LOCATION OF JHARKHAND

Garai stands as one of the remote villages in the Kamdara block of Gumla, Jharkhand. Located 5 kilometers away from the block headquarters, the village is home to 820 residents, with the majority belonging to the Munda community. Primarily relying on agriculture as their main source of livelihood, the community faces seasonal fluctuations, prompting many to migrate to neighboring states in search of work after the sowing season.

*"We had never reflected on importance of parental care during early years of learning! But with continuous support from Anganwadi Didi and Bal Raksha Bharat, I have been able to make my son learn basic things at home. Now seeing him going to Anganwadi and taking interest in his learnings, make me feel proud",*

*says a mother in the village.*

The Anganwadi center, catering to 20 toddlers (eight boys and 12 girls) from the village, is situated at the heart of the community. Managed by Smt. Tara Sangam Devi, the center operates with the basic training she received during her job training and utilizes the materials at hand.

*"Unfortunately, parental involvement in their children's future is lacking, resulting in a lower attendance at the center compared to the number of enrolled pupils," she says.*

*"Ghare Man Na Lagat Rahe, Gharva Par Kheli Lagi Koi Khilounva Bhi Na Rahe"*  
(I didn't feel good at home, because there were no toys to play with)

*- a child attending the AWC.*



To enhance the quality of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for children, Bal Raksha Bharat collaborated with the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Department to bolster the capabilities of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and parents. Tara Devi, showing a strong commitment to boosting child attendance and making kindergarten learning engaging, actively participated in training sessions on various early childhood education concepts. With the support of the Academic Support Fellow (ASF) from Bal Raksha Bharat, she successfully kindled interest among parents in understanding the significance of engaging with their children at home.

Regular, well-coordinated home visits, facilitated by both Tara Devi and the ASF, resulted in a notable increase in toddler attendance at Tara Devi's Anganwadi Centre (AWC). In just a few months, the center, which initially focused primarily on health-related activities, transformed into a vibrant space where children not only received nutritious meals but also engaged in joyful learning.

Equipped with newfound skills, Tara Devi successfully brought wandering children back to the rural play school. Her consistent home visits, coupled with support from the ASF, boosted parents' confidence in actively participating in their children's

early education. Monthly parents' meetings organized by Tara Devi (AWW) emphasized the importance of parental involvement in ensuring the continuity of their children's learning and the significance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children aged 3-6 years.

Tara Devi's unwavering efforts were evident as parental interest in the center increased. She ensured the development of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) during parents' meetings, contributing to the availability of essential resources in the center. During her home visits, she actively encouraged community members and parents to visit the center, provide suggestions, and monitor the children's development, promoting community inclusion and engagement.

Tara Devi also organized an ECCE Day at her center, featuring various activities such as poem recitations, story-telling by children, birthday celebrations, dance, and children's songs. These initiatives have significantly contributed to the increased attendance of children in her center, fostering a more vibrant and engaged learning environment.

# BUILDING RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



## STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW



**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT PROGRAMMES ARE RAISING AWARENESS & PROMOTING POSITIVE HYGIENE PRACTICES**

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT WORKS CLOSELY WITH COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES ACROSS THE 15 STATES AND 3 UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA CATALYSING IMMEDIATE AND LASTING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND BRINGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE IN CAREGIVERS. OVER THE YEARS, BAL RAKSHA BHARAT HAS SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S CREDIBLE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT LASTING CHANGE IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN AND TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADOPTED AND COMMITTED BY IT.

Our ambition for Children is that all children survive, learn, and are protected. For the survival and nutritional well-being of our children and mothers, we work with our partners at national, regional, community, and household levels through a life-cycle approach and facilitate access to multi-sectoral interventions for families. We are committed to delivering holistic development and care for children, and thus, our Health & Nutrition (H&N) strategy is highly adaptive and contributes significantly to the overall well-being.

For optimal Health & Nutrition related outcomes in children, adolescents and mothers, we tested and piloted innovative models, the use of technology which are replicable within the existing health and ICDS system. Such interventions are highly effective and cost-efficient. Technical assistance and system strengthening are other approaches to strengthen and support the service delivery and strengthen the existing mechanism to address H&N-related issues in the community. As a part of our

strategy, partnering is at the core of our programming. All our programmes are based on establishing linkages between existing health, nutrition and sanitation programs, building resilience and income support efforts at the community level, and a robust behaviour change communication strategy.

Bal Raksha Bharat works in three modes – providing

technical assistance to national and sub-national (state, district and block level) governments, supporting quality improvements in service delivery in state and sub-state systems, and acting as a convener at the national and state levels to ensure that information, knowledge, learning, and resources are shared.

IN THE YEAR 2022-23, **BAL RAKSHA BHARAT** HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT AND DIRECT **IMPACT** ON THE LIVES OF AN IMPRESSIVE **3.3 LAKH CHILDREN** THROUGH OUR ESSENTIAL **HEALTH AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS** WHILE ALSO CONNECTING THEM WITH GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMS.

## UNDER NUTRITION



% children from 0-18 years received one or more essential nutrition interventions

Target : 90 %

**YTD : 63 %**  
(N=30414 / D=48543)



## MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

80% CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES SEEKING ADVICE OR TREATMENT FROM A HEALTH FACILITY OR PROVIDER  
N: 1802 D: 3468



## WASH

80% CHILDREN PRACTICING HANDWASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER  
N:188598 D:275435 68.5%

Bal Raksha Bharat's approach to health and nutrition programming and implementation is based on the following;

**System Strengthening:** Engage and support department and ICDS at national, state and district in strategic planning, implementation, capacity enhancement of FLWs, and handholding support to POSHAN Abhiyan and Jan Aandolan initiatives

**Targeted Interventions & evidence building:** Testing and piloting targeted and focused interventions, studies & research for malnutrition reduction with a focus on a local, affordable, nutritious diet and counselling

**Innovative, cost-effective, replicable models:** Presenting technology-enabled, cost-effective, innovative models to be incorporated into the existing system for improved and sustained nutritional outcomes in children & mothers

**Community Participation & Mobilization:** For effective behaviour change within the community, it is imperative to have community ownership and awareness. We mobilize the community and spread nutrition literacy using local influencers and existing platforms like VHSND and other village-level platforms.

## BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Building partnerships is one of the four theories of change of BRB. We have built strategic alliances with children, communities, Government, donors and peers to expand and amplify our expertise on child rights. Following are some examples of our long-term partnerships;

## NATIONAL & STATE LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

1. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. Women & Child Development
3. Food Safety and Standard Authority of India
4. Sol with NITI Aayog for Nutrition
5. MoU with Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission
6. MoU with Govt of Haryana
7. MoU with Pune Municipal Corporation
8. MoU with Sion Hospital, Mumbai

## TECHNICAL COLLABORATION & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. ICMR-National Institute on Nutrition (NIN)
2. IIT-Bombay
3. Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS)
4. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

## ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS: TRAINING EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
2. Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)

## OTHER PARTNERS & NETWORKS

1. Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges
2. Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI - India)
3. FHI 360 (Health)
4. RTI International (Health & Nutrition)
5. Coalition for Food & Nutrition Security
6. SEEDS India (Climate & Health)
7. UNICEF (Health & Nutrition)

## THE HYGIENE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COALITION

This coalition was made by Unilever and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to tackle the spread of COVID-19

Bal Raksha Bharat was one of the 20+ NGO partners delivering programmes in 9 countries during 2020-2021

In January 2022, HBCC2.0 was launched as a response to the omicron variant and to promote vaccine uptake in 4 countries

HBCC2 continued to focus on hygiene behavior change to improve personal & environmental hygiene and to

reduce the spread of COVID-19 through mass media, digital activities, interpersonal communication and an enabling environment for WASH

HBCC2.0 also supported vaccine uptake messaging

We strengthened the capacity of local authorities, relevant institutions and departments to deliver effective HBCC Programming in affected areas.



**80% CHILDREN** UNDER 5 WITH CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES **SEEKING ADVICE OR TREATMENT** FROM A HEALTH FACILITY OR PROVIDER.  
**N: 1802 D:3468 52.0%**



**80% CHILDREN** PRACTICING **HANDWASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER.**  
**N: 188598 D:275435 68.5%**

## EAT RIGHT PROGRAMME - IMPROVING THE HEALTH & NUTRITION STATUS OF CHILDREN WITH FOCUS ON SAFE & NUTRITIOUS FOOD

The 'Eat Right India' movement, a flagship initiative by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of our nation's people. This visionary program revolves around promoting safe, nutritious, and sustainable diets through a harmonized, multi-sectoral approach. Recognizing the pivotal role

of early food habits in shaping lifelong well-being, 'Eat Right India' strategically focuses on our youth. Understanding that dietary habits often take root early in life and are resistant to change, 'Eat Right India' has chosen to focus its efforts on the youth. Indeed, within the hallowed halls of schools, the seeds of healthy eating habits can be sown, fostering lifelong

well-being. In collaboration with Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd, Bal Raksha Bharat has undertaken a noble initiative to empower school children as agents of change, igniting an enduring transformation in their health and nutrition. Our primary objective was to elevate the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) towards healthy and nutritious food.

### IMPACTS ACHIEVED

- **Registration of Schools:** We've successfully registered all 200 schools (100%) on the FSSAI's Eat-Right portal, reinforcing and bolstering the existing infrastructure within schools, thereby enabling children to access healthier and more nutritious food options.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** 400 teachers (100%) have undergone comprehensive training as master trainers in FSSAI modules, guided by DIET faculty members and our dedicated project staff.
- **Health and Wellness Ambassadors:** These 400 trained teachers (100%), representing five intervention states, have received certification as Health and Wellness Ambassadors by FSSAI, highlighting their commitment to promoting well-being.
- **Sehat Clubs:** Across the targeted schools, 200 Sehat Clubs (100%) have been established, consisting of 3,467 democratically chosen children. These clubs have sensitised an impressive 34,327 children to date.
- **Integrated Training Program:** Our project team seamlessly integrated their training program with the DIET training calendar, ensuring a harmonious and effective educational approach.
- **Supporting the School Health Programs:** Our team has played a pivotal role in facilitating and supporting the organisation of health programs in schools. This included 147 health camps in intervention schools, screening 5,227 children. Of these, 406 children were identified, with 320 referred to health facilities for further treatment. Additionally, 14,766 children received Albendazole during National Deworming Day in the 200 intervention schools, with our project team's invaluable support. Furthermore, the project team facilitated the distribution of 64,654 Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets in these schools.
- **Community Engagement:** In the intervention schools, 1,825 School Management Committee (SMC) members have been capacitated regarding the significance of safe and nutritious food.
- **Waste Management:** We've equipped 200 schools with strategically placed dustbins and implemented effective waste disposal systems. In Maharashtra, where soap was previously unavailable, the team stepped in with support from SMC.
- **Technical Support for Kitchen Gardens:** Our team harnessed technical support from the renowned Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore, for training and procuring seeds, seedlings, and vermicompost, leading to the development of kitchen gardens.
- **Multilingual Outreach:** The team facilitated the translation of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials into Tamil and Marathi languages, broadening our reach.
- **Empowering Health and Wellness Ambassadors:** To empower our health and wellness ambassadors, we provided them with comprehensive training kits, fruit calendars, and activity books for conducting sessions in schools.
- **Recipe Demonstrations:** To raise awareness, 338 schools organised recipe demonstrations to sensitise teachers and parents.
- **Community-Level Nutrition Awareness Camps:** In 161 priority villages and 36 Anganwadi Centers, nutrition awareness camps were organised through collaboration with Gram Panchayats, Block Education Officers, and community influencers in rural project locations.
- **Child Advocacy Workshops:** In the states of Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, we organised workshops that focused on enhancing children's capacity to advocate for issues related to health, nutrition, and sanitation.



## HERE'S WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2022

1. We strengthened alternative care programs for children without parents or caretakers and children impacted by COVID-19 in 50 villages of Pune
2. Improved equitable access to essential health interventions with uptake of +2 million COVID-19 vaccine dosages by eligible beneficiaries in 9 states.
3. Optimized media space on COVID-19 Mental Wellbeing impact on marginalized children through RNA-3 findings garnering +80 media mentions/reports in India.
4. Highlighting the need to priorities mental well-being of children, building agency of children and collaborating with key stakeholders through TRAC in 5 states
5. Strengthened POSHAN Abhiyaan through policy engagement with MoHFW, NITI Aayog & DWCD, media sensitization and campaigning reaching 13k
6. Leading partner for MoHFW for SAANS Campaign (since 2019) for development of guidelines, building capacity of health officials, undertaking research, providing policy recommendations, & supporting social media campaign



**WASHATHON**  
**50,000 CHILDREN**  
**DEMONSTRATE**  
**HANDWASHING ON**  
**GLOBAL HANDWASHING**  
**DAY 2022**



**IMPACT STORY**

**A HEADMASTER'S DEDICATION TO PROMOTE NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING**

Nestled in the heart of Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu, India, Subbegundenpudur village is inhabited by a community predominantly engaged in daily wage labour, employed in nearby coconut farms, mills, and hotels. Commencing work as early as 6 am and concluding by 6 pm, these parents often prioritize their children's food intake less, relying on the free meals provided by the school. The children of this community attend the local rural (government) middle school that has about 185 students.

The assurance of children's healthy and nutritious meals for the remaining two daily servings remains uncertain. There have been instances where students from the school have experienced fainting spells during school hours, as reported by the Head Master. The concerned Head Master emphasized, "Hence, the responsibility for fostering our children's healthy eating patterns, growth, and development falls on us, in addition to our academic focus."

In this context, the school plays a pivotal role in shaping the nutritional well-being, healthy eating patterns, and overall growth of these children,



underscoring the critical importance of addressing nutritional needs within the educational setting.

Recognizing the needs of children in this and its neighbouring schools, Bal Raksha Bharat, in collaboration with partners Mondelez India Foods Pvt. Ltd, took the initiative to align them with the FSSAI 'Eat Right Programme.' This endeavour involved the implementation of an integrated project known as 'Eat Right Schools,' encompassing 22 schools and 17 villages in Anamalai Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu. The primary goal was to empower school children as catalysts for positive change, enhancing their health and nutrition status with a specific emphasis on Safe and

Nutritious Food.

A key focus of our efforts was directed toward fortifying the systems and structures necessary for delivering nutrition and promoting healthy lifestyle education and services for children.

Developing Nutri Gardens at school premises have remained one of our key initiatives. This has been done through incorporating healthy practices among teachers and students in schools where space, favourable soil and water are available.

Initially, there was reluctance from the school to cultivate a nutrition garden due to the absence of water supply in the designated area. Subsequently, a formal request

was presented to the project team for additional assistance in acquiring a piped connection. The team, recognizing the importance of the initiative, agreed and provided essential resources, including a 120ft PVC pipe, covering labour costs, a green net, vegetable and fruit seeds, organic manure, a watering pot, grape hoe, and lawn rake, collectively valued at around 20,000/-.

With collaborative efforts and support from the local panchayat, the school successfully secured a borewell connection to the well, ensuring a continuous water supply, 24X7. To facilitate ongoing care and maintenance of the garden, an Agriculture Group was established within the school. Presently, the children actively engage in the process, enjoying both educational and recreational aspects while cultivating nutritious food. This collective involvement has not only enhanced the children's connection to nature but has also contributed to

the improvement of their socializing and leadership skills.

"We started harvesting tomato, brinjal, radish and green leaves and using the organically grown vegetable for our children's Mid-Day Meal. When we include these vegetables in cooking in addition to our regular menu, our children get a balanced wholesome meal which ensured healthy children to focus on their studies"; mentioned an elated P. Thirunavukkarasu, Headmaster of the school. He further added; "I strongly believe that such small initiative will lead to life changing long lasting impact among the children and teachers".

"We have planned to expand our school kitchen garden area of cultivation by seeing its benefits and impact on our children's behaviour and eating pattern," said P.Thirunavukkarasu, Headmaster of Panchayat Union Middle School Subbegundenpudur, Coimbatore.

The Government of India's flagship initiative, POSHAN Abhiyaan, has been instrumental in advancing nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children under 6 years of age in a comprehensive manner. Launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan operates in mission mode to combat the challenge of malnutrition.

Empowering Communities have remained at the heart of Rashtriya Poshan Maah. In harmony with this aim, Bal Raksha Bharat is working in coordination with various stakeholders to ensure Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (Nutrition as well as Education), for school going kids through nutri-garden initiative to nourish young-minds to build the future.



# SECURING FUTURES: STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS



Child protection takes center stage in India, where countless children confront a multitude of challenges, including exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Safeguarding their rights and securing their well-being is not just a moral obligation but also a pivotal investment in our nation's future. Bal Raksha Bharat is dedicated to championing the welfare of children, ensuring their access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment. Our innovative programs, in collaboration with government authorities at different tiers, are dedicated to eradicating abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all manifestations of violence that children face.

In this auspicious era of the Amrit Kal, we, at Bal Raksha Bharat, are steadfast in our mission to eliminate child labor, child marriage, and all other forms of exploitation that children face. Our collaborative efforts with government systems at various levels exemplify our dedication to this cause.

We wholeheartedly acknowledge the importance of nurturing environments that empower children to flourish, ensuring their holistic well-being. Our comprehensive approach encompasses education, healthcare, and robust social support, equipping children with the tools they need to overcome challenges.

Through community partnerships, we cultivate a sense of belonging and safety, where every child's potential is celebrated and cherished. Together, we are shaping a future where every child grows up within a protective, nurturing, and resilient community.

Child protection work is a cross-cutting theme that intersects with various areas of development. Last year, here's how our work in child protection interconnected with other themes like education, social protection, cyber safety and urban programming:

## WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS

Since June 2019, we have been executing the 'Work: No Child's Business' project across the states of Bihar, Delhi, and Rajasthan. Our objective is to complement the Government's efforts in tackling child labor issues. In Delhi, our focus lies



on children in the garment industry within the East and South East Delhi districts. In Bihar, our efforts extend to children involved in domestic work, agricultural labor, and various other forms of employment across six districts: Araria, Gaya, East Champaran, Kishanganj, Nalanda, and Sitamarhi.

Our initiative aims to empower children, enabling them to pursue quality education and future employability in a supportive family and community environment. We strive to enhance enrollment and retention in quality formal education, incorporating bridge schooling when necessary. Additionally, we work towards improved access to youth employment.

In collaboration with the Government, we actively support the enforcement of relevant child-rights-based laws and the implementation of policies addressing child labor, education, youth economic empowerment, and social security.

Through this initiative, 3,318 children aged 6-14 have been successfully enrolled in formal schools. Additionally, 407 youth and adults in the 18-24 age group have joined various vocational training courses such as Beauty and Wellness, Retail and Sales, Hospitality, General Duty Assistant, Digital Marketing, Assistant Electrician, Hospital Front Desk Executive, and Food and Beverages.

In close collaboration with the District Child Protection Units (DCPU) in Delhi and Bihar, we are actively enhancing the capacities of Child Protection Committees. These capacity-building programs aim to empower communities to discuss and address issues related to child protection in their respective areas.

In 2021, we forged a collaboration with the Department of Labour, Government of Rajasthan, for a comprehensive joint campaign against child labor. This collaborative effort encompassed a 42-day anti-child labor campaign, the release of an anti-child labor song and research report, street plays addressing the issue, and the installation of hoardings advocating against child labor.

We were also able to link 932 persons with various govt. social protection schemes and services.

In Bihar, we carried out a Mobile Van Campaign against Child Labour across six intervention districts under Work: No Child's Business from 5th June to 12th June 2022 in partnership with Labour Resources Department aiming at sensitizing children, parents, community and duty bearers against child labour. More than 5000 people including children, parents and service providers joined campaign and pledged their support in changing social norms and practices against child labour.

## ENABLING ONLINE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Online child safety has garnered due attention in recent years with increasing access to Internet, especially in the post pandemic era. Efforts by the Indian Government to ensure online child safety have been commendable. Bal Raksha Bharat is implementing a project - 'Creating a safe and enabling experience for children online' in 30 intervention schools of Pune and Thiruvallur districts of Maharashtra and Tamilnadu respectively. 19552 (9618 boys and 9934 girls) children were reached across both the states and of which 7325 children were trained on 10-12 years online safety module and 12227 children were trained on 13-16 years online safety module. Children who were oriented on online safety started reporting to teachers and parents about the abuse they had faced. Apart from this, 322 Teachers and DIET Resource Persons from 80 intervention

schools of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were trained on online safety. Additionally, a pool of 576 Head Masters and 109 DIET officials from Pune District (from non-intervention schools) was also developed as Master Trainers on online safety. 1028 SMC members and 642 parents from across 80 schools of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were oriented on the standardized caregiver's module. Cyber Police Unit used the posters developed by Bal Raksha Bharat to spread awareness on online safety. The posters were installed in 21 strategic locations (15 Panchayat Bhawans, Cyber police station, Pune city, local police stations, local theatres, Railway Station, Bus Stations and at Nationalised banks in Haveli Block of Pune City) with support from Cyber Police Unit. Through these posters, around 59000 people were made aware of online safety.



### ENDING ABUSE & EXPLOTATION

% children removed from child labour & back in school, in special training & skill building

Target : 60 %

YTD : 85 %  
(N= 7146 /D = 8421)

## IMPACT STORY

# PRANCHAL'S TRIUMPH- A JOURNEY FROM CHALLENGES TO SUCCESS

In the face of adversity, Pranchal Gupta, a 19-year-old from Sangam Vihar, overcame obstacles with the help of WNCB: Work No Child Business and Bal Raksha Bharat. Facing educational barriers and limited employment prospects, Pranchal's story is one of resilience and triumph.

Pranchal's family relied on a modest income from her father's rented footwear shop, struggling to meet the needs of a six-member household. With responsibilities mounting, the COVID-19 pandemic added a new layer of difficulty as her father's business closed, exacerbating their financial strain when he fell ill. Pranchal, torn between assisting her family and pursuing her education, considered abandoning her studies due to the lack of job-oriented skills.

Bal Raksha Bharat's mobilization team identified Pranchal and, through WNCB support, guided her towards a brighter future. Recognizing her potential, she enrolled in a 2-month Retail Associate Course during comprehensive

career counseling. The training not only equipped her with essential skills but also addressed the emotional stress caused by her father's health through life skills training and psycho-social support.

Upon completing the course, Pranchal interviewed for a position at BATA India, in Gurugram, securing a position as a Sales Promoter with an annual salary of Rs 3,16,632 and a monthly salary of Rs 26,386, starting from December 2, 2021. Her dedication and hard work led



“To become financially independent and assist my father in reducing his pressure and responsibilities was all I desired. The fact that I am now not only able to support my family but also my sister's education and my own as well makes me very proud,”

says Pranchal



to a well-deserved promotion to the role of Sales Associate.

Pranchal's financial independence became a powerful tool. She not only supports her own education but

also contributes to her family's well-being. Proudly, she assists in financing her two younger sisters' education, alleviating her father's burden and fulfilling her dream of being a source of support for her family.

This young girl's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of education, vocational training, and psycho-social support, showcasing the triumph of determination over adversity.





# BUILDING BRIDGES: NAVIGATING POVERTY, INCLUSION, LIVELIHOODS, AND URBAN PROGRAMMING

## TOGETHER, WE'RE CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE WHERE EVERY CHILD CAN FLOURISH

In the mosaic of human development, the well-being of our children stands as a cornerstone, reflective of our collective commitment to shaping a compassionate and equitable society. As we embark on the journey of nurturing the next generation, it becomes paramount to delve into the intricate tapestry of **Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Holistic Child-Care.**

This chapter unfolds against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving world, one that demands a thoughtful, inclusive, and resilient approach to child-rearing. Inclusive communities recognize the diversity of children and families, embracing differences and

creating spaces that foster a sense of belonging for every child. Resilient communities, on the other hand, acknowledge the challenges that children may encounter and work

proactively to equip them with the tools necessary to navigate life's complexities.

Our exploration begins with an understanding that holistic



child-care transcends the confines of immediate families and extends to the broader community. By fostering inclusivity, we strive to build environments where every child, regardless of background, abilities, or circumstances, is not only accepted but celebrated for their unique identity.

In this chapter, we will delve into the multifaceted dimensions that Bal Raksha

Bharat takes to build inclusive communities, exploring strategies to dismantle barriers and create environments that promote diversity and equity. Simultaneously, our journey will showcase the pathways to resilience, acknowledging that challenges are inherent to life but need not define a child's trajectory.

This chapter aims to serve as a compass for all our partners - educators, caregivers,

community leaders, and policymakers, guiding them in the collaborative endeavor of creating nurturing ecosystems that enable every child to thrive. As we embark on this collective odyssey, let us weave a narrative that echoes the principles of inclusivity and resilience, ensuring that no child is left behind on the journey toward a brighter, more compassionate future.



## THE INTERSECTION OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Our commitment to child protection extends to every child, regardless of background, ability, or identity. Through inclusive practices, we seek to create environments that celebrate diversity, fostering a sense of belonging for every child. By addressing and dismantling barriers to inclusion, we pave the way for a more equitable and protective world for children of all backgrounds.

Our cross-cutting work acknowledges that sustainable livelihoods are integral to a child's overall well-being. By integrating child protection measures into livelihood programs, we aim to create opportunities that not only support families economically

but also ensure that children are protected from exploitation, child labor, and harmful work environments.

In pursuit of fostering holistic development and empowering individuals, we delve into the crucial intersection of equipping children and the youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to not only secure a sustainable livelihood but also to thrive in a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape. This section emphasises the pivotal role Bal Raksha Bharat plays by skill-building initiatives in shaping individuals into capable contributors to their communities and broader society.

Our cross-cutting work on child protection weaves seamlessly across various critical aspects, creating a comprehensive approach that addresses the complex challenges faced by children today.

### URBAN PROGRAMMING

In urban settings, children encounter unique challenges ranging from increased vulnerability to exploitation to limited access to essential services. Our child protection initiatives within urban programming aim to create safe spaces, both physically and digitally, fostering an environment where children can thrive amidst the fast-



paced and often demanding urban landscapes

**SMARTPUR model generated Rs 1.42 crore revenue through 160 centers at Panchayat level creating SMART villages in 5 states & reached 2.3 lakh individuals with banking, digital and health services with almost 25 crores transaction through banking service**

The project is operational in 250 Panchayats across 5 states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir).

Through this intervention, rural communities are able to improve their overall well-being by accessing services such as computer education, banking

transactions, applying for Govt. schemes, linkage to livelihoods opportunities and Telemedicine consultation through Smartpur Digital Centres. The project has reached out to 182, 712 individuals



### LIVELIHOOD

% children and families are linked with identified social protection schemes

Target : 60 %

YTD : 81 %  
(N=2176 / D=2677)

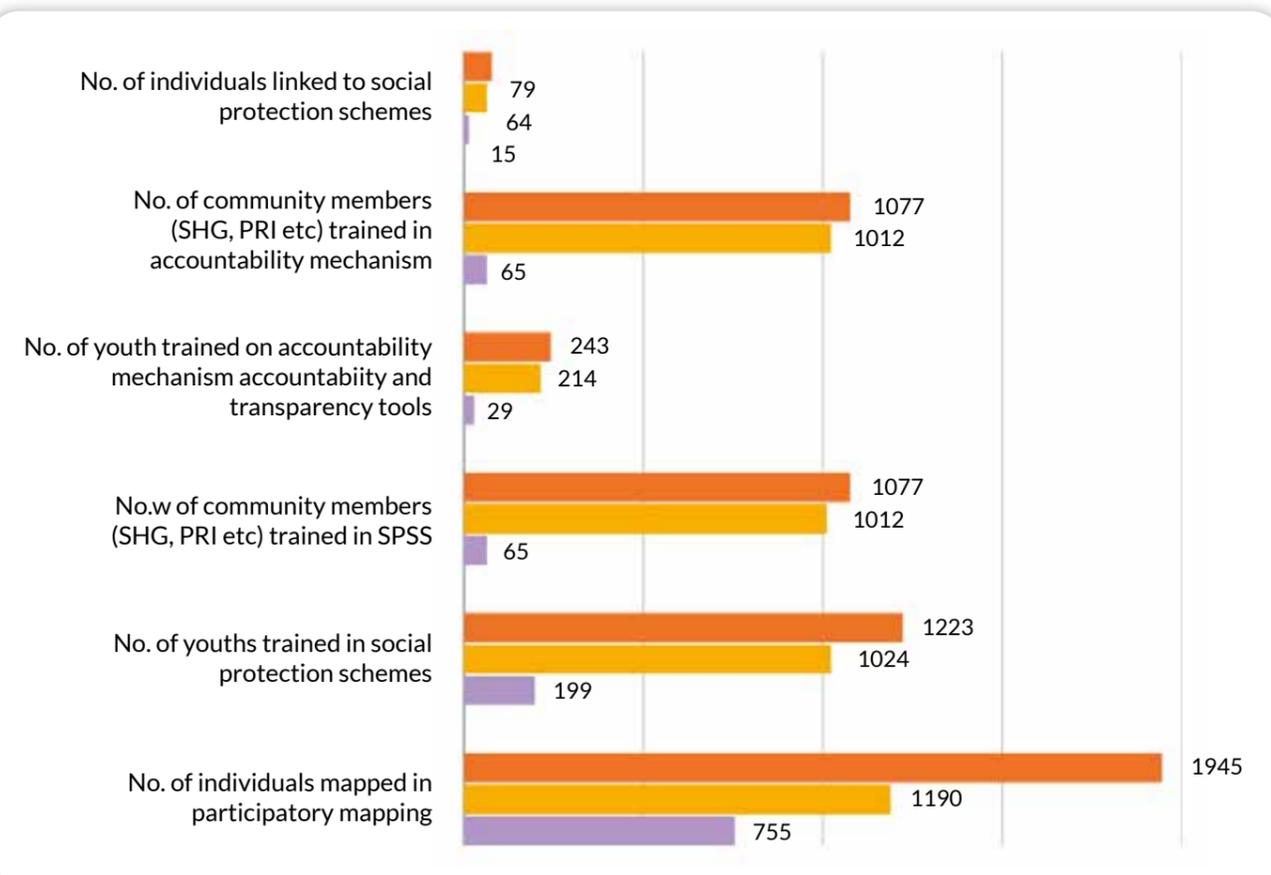
## INNOVATIVE RURAL & URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The 'Empowering Youth Collectives' initiative, known as Yuva Sashaktikaran, is actively underway in three districts of Bihar. Its primary goal is to empower youth collectives, with a specific focus on girls, addressing socio-economic exclusion and navigating challenges posed by COVID-19 and future crises. The initiative strives to enhance financial independence by

strengthening youth collectives, fostering livelihood initiatives, and facilitating access to government schemes. Over the past year, more than 19,000 youth have benefitted from this initiative, engaging in diverse opportunities such as beauty and wellness, garment work, and goat-rearing. The Gender and Power (GAP) Analysis, supported by youth facilitators, revealed

entrenched patriarchal norms as barriers hindering young women and girls from achieving economic independence. A Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) package, collaboratively developed with Youth Collectives (YCs), incorporates behaviorally informed nudges to encourage greater participation of girls and women in livelihood activities.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ON SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY -TILL FEBRUARY 2022



■ Nos.   
 ■ Female   
 ■ Male



**80% OF CISS (0-18 YEARS) HAVE LEGAL IDENTITY**  
**N: 1791 D: 2707 66.2%**



**70% OF CISS (0-18 YEARS) LINKED TO RELEVANT SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES**  
**N: 1972 D: 2731 72.2%**



**100% RECOMMENDATIONS ON GIRLS SAFETY SHARED TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES**

## PARTNERSHIPS

Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) Cities Forum

Our cross-cutting approach to child protection recognizes the interconnectedness of various factors influencing a child's life. By addressing urban challenges, climate impacts, fostering inclusivity, building resilience, and promoting sustainable livelihoods, we strive to create a protective web that allows every child to flourish and reach their full potential.

In summary, child protection work plays a vital role in various development themes by ensuring that children are safe, their rights are protected, and they have the opportunity to grow into capable, resilient, and skilled individuals who can actively contribute to their communities and society at large. It forms a crucial thread that weaves through diverse of development, creating a holistic approach to improving the well-being of children.



## IMPACT STORY

# ASHA: ILLUMINATING PATHS TO FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CHALLENGING GENDER NORMS

Asha, a 20-year-old resident of Khadpar in the East Lohanipur area of Patna city, Bihar, India, faced numerous challenges due to societal norms and gender biases, compelling her to discontinue her education in the 8th standard. As the youngest of seven siblings, Asha's father, Yogendra Ram, passed away at 45 due to prolonged illness. Despite facing adversity, Asha's mother, Sunita Devi, wished for her daughter to continue her studies like her siblings. Unfortunately, Asha dropped out due to bullying related to her unconventional choice of clothing – she preferred dressing like boys, refusing to conform to the typical school uniform for girls.

With no formal education, Asha found herself in the company of local youths, leading to substance addiction. Despite her family's efforts, she resisted giving up this habit. The community derogatorily labelled her as 'Launda,' signifying a misbehaving boy, reflecting the judgment she faced due to her appearance and addiction.



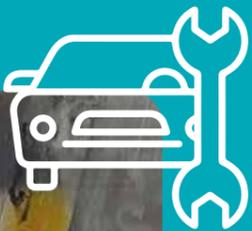
During a community survey conducted by the Youth Mobilizer under the Yuva Sashaktikaran initiative, Asha's mother expressed a desire for her daughter to join a youth group focused on skills training and financial empowerment. After persistent efforts, the team succeeded in convincing Asha to join the youth group. Through life skills training, she successfully overcame her addiction, marking a positive

turning point in her life.

The team also counselled Asha to pursue a vocational course for financial independence. Though hesitant, Asha agreed, with the condition that she could dress as she wished. Subsequently, she enrolled in an automobile repairing course in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and successfully completed her training, eagerly awaiting a suitable job placement.

Throughout this transformative journey, Asha expressed gratitude to the Save the Children team, emphasizing the importance of refraining from bullying based on appearance.

In her words, "None should be bullied for their appearance. Such stigmatization makes the person more marginalized from society; we must refrain from that."



## RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

To reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience of children, their families, and communities from and to adapt to the changing environment.

12000 students, their teachers and parents from 50 MCD and Delhi Government Schools were oriented on school safety, early warning, environment and climate education to be equipped as resilient communities.

Through its “Creation of Green Spaces within the Government Schools of Delhi” to empower children and educational service providers towards combating climate change and minimise damage to natural environment.

## CLIMATE CRISIS & RESILIENCE

Recognizing the profound impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, our efforts extend to shielding children from the immediate and long-term consequences of the climate crisis. By integrating child protection measures into climate adaptation strategies, we strive to build resilience, ensuring that children are not only protected from climate-related hazards but also equipped to actively participate in building sustainable solutions.

Building resilience is at the core of our child protection efforts. We understand that resilient children can better navigate adversities and challenges. Through targeted interventions, we empower children to develop the skills and mindset necessary to withstand and overcome various hardships, ensuring their well-being in the face of adversity.

Child protection during disasters includes risk reduction and emergency response, which are vital in the context of climate change and its associated risks.

## Ensuring meaningful participation of children through child hearings on climate change from 3,200 children across 14 states.

- Child Hearings with 3200+ children in 14 states in face to face workshops, interviews and consultations – findings included in the global Generation Hope report (Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir)
- Climate Canvas activated in 8 states of India – West Bengal, Assam, Kashmir, Delhi, Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana – one from Maharashtra has been sent to Indonesia for display at **G20**

### **National & State Government Partnerships:**

Municipal Corporations of Kolkata, Patna, Delhi  
Department of Education across states



## GREEN SPACE: TURNING DUMPING GARBAGE SITE INTO GREENERY

In the heart of dingy urban slums and congested cross-roads, opposite a school in Kolkata and Patna respectively community, there once lay a forgotten piece of land - a dumping ground for waste and discarded items. This neglected space not only posed environmental hazards but also reflected a dismal image of the neighborhood. The abandoned dumping ground, once an eyesore, had become a breeding ground for pollution and degradation. Residents living nearby complained about the unpleasant odors and the negative impact on their quality of life. The challenge was not only to clean up the mess but also to change the perception of the area and create a space that would benefit the entire community.

A passionate team of Bal Rakshaks (as we address ourselves at Bal Raksha Bharat), driven by a shared vision for a greener and healthier community, embarked on a transformative journey to turn this garbage site into thriving **Green Spaces**.

While the passion and dedication of local residents were pivotal, we could not have achieved this feat alone. Collaborating with

**THE SYNERGY BETWEEN COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EFFORTS AND GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT EXEMPLIFIED THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS IN REALIZING SHARED GOALS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY. THROUGH THIS COLLABORATION, WE NOT ONLY REVITALIZED A NEGLECTED SPACE BUT ALSO ESTABLISHED A LASTING MODEL FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY-GOVERNMENT ENDEAVORS, SHOWCASING THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH THAT ARISES WHEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS JOIN FORCES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.**

government bodies provided essential support in terms of resources, logistical assistance, and regulatory approvals. We collaborated with Ward level authorities, School authorities, health department functionaries, Community leaders/groups and functionaries of the Department of Solid Waste Management in the premise of the Urban Primary Health Centre of Kustia in Kolkata and in front of Dayanand Girls' & Boys' Schools in Patna.

The visionaries began by organizing community meetings to garner support and involvement. They collaborated with environmental experts, landscape architects, and local authorities to create a comprehensive plan for the transformation.

The plan included a **Cleanup Campaign, Landscaping and Design and Community Engagement**.

The project aimed to involve residents at every stage. Workshops, tree-planting events, and educational programs were organized to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among the community members.

As the cleanup progressed and the landscaping took shape, the once-dreary dumping ground began to evolve into a green haven and a place where children could come and play. The transformation captured the attention of local media, attracting positive coverage that further fueled community engagement.



**Green Space** has become a symbol of community resilience and environmental stewardship. Residents gather to enjoy the recreational amenities; children play in the newly installed playground. The air is cleaner, and the once-negative perception of the area has shifted to one of pride and unity.

The design has evolved in both the cities, through public participation with the engagement of government stakeholders and service providers, community groups, school authorities and community-based organizations. Enormous support could be harnessed from community groups, service providers, and ward Councilor. School authorities, Government bodies and Municipal Corporation. All the

stakeholders have played a critical role in acknowledging and accepting its design. Furthermore, it is economical and cost effective as it involves less resources, money and low-cost technology. The low-cost recycling waste materials were used which makes it more economical and environment friendly. The whole process took about 15 months with two months devoted to construction related work. It is environmentally friendly too as the waste recycling materials were used.

Turning a dumping ground into a green space was not just a physical transformation but a testament to the power of community collaboration and environmental consciousness. The success of the park has inspired neighboring

communities to undertake similar initiatives, fostering a greener and more sustainable future for our city.

This is a model that will sustain itself in the future as it is made on government/school/public property, and accessible to all. Local groups are formed to monitor and maintain this space. This includes children and other community groups that will oversee the site with local authorities' support. Local authority and the community are committed also towards taking care of it.

**Bal Raksha Bharat** is orienting community groups to ensure the regular and responsible use of the site by local residents and sustaining the green space by sharing responsibilities. This will contribute to its inclusivity and sustainability.



# BUILD BACK BETTER



## FOCUSING ON MITIGATING DISASTER RISK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

India faces significant exposure to a variety of disasters and climate events, often recurring and simultaneous, including earthquakes, floods, cyclones, landslides, and droughts. The comprehensive understanding of the repercussions of climate change and environmental deterioration on both girls and boys is still unfolding. Nevertheless, existing literature and reports indicate that children may experience heightened susceptibility to factors such as hunger, diseases

transmitted by vectors and bacteria, impediments to accessing education due to floods, landslides, and heavy rains, and an elevated risk of falling victim to issues like trafficking, child labor, child marriage, and gender-based violence.

Building resilience and adapting to climate change stand as focal points for Bal Raksha Bharat, with its programs dedicated to mitigating the consequences of recurrent and prolonged

climate and disaster risks.

The organization endeavors to enhance resilience among marginalized children, families, and communities, with a special focus on the empowerment of women and girls. Bal Raksha Bharat's humanitarian initiatives are motivated by the urgent need to preserve lives, shield children, alleviate distress, restore dignity, and facilitate the recovery process. In our commitment to 'Build Back Better,' we proactively



anticipate and respond to threats against children's fundamental rights to 'survive,' 'learn,' and 'be protected.'

Bal Raksha Bharat's humanitarian response is guided by the following priorities:

**Enhanced preparedness and response capabilities in humanitarian efforts across all levels, including national, state, and partner organizations**

- Prepare and continuously improve ability of response through preparedness and early action through Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPPs)

- Standardization and contextualization of NFI kits, and virtual pre-positioning of stocks

**Amplify the voices of children in crisis by establishing and strengthening networks**

- Stronger engagement with state governments on issues of children in crises through preparedness-based exercises (EPPS) and technical support
- Building a stronger network of NGOs and CSOs working in humanitarian sector and engaging them in child centric discussion through academic and non-academic platforms (through Inter Agency Groups)

**Create new knowledge and strengthen research on relevant humanitarian issues**

- Evidence based studies on responding to urban deprived children and communities - Institutionalizing the process through cross thematic collaboration for preparing a urban response strategy
- Be a thought leader in the humanitarian space: prepare position papers and facilitate network wide talks/webinars on Climate Change related Extreme Events, Localization, Humanitarian-Development -Peace nexus

## ASSAM FLOOD RESPONSE

Experiencing a 64 percent surplus in rainfall during May, Assam faced pre-monsoon flooding that persisted in waves throughout the entire monsoon season, impacting over 5.5 million individuals, including 1.5 million children. Bal Raksha Bharat initiated immediate response efforts in Nagaon and Darrang, providing relief camp supplies and play items for children.

Our operations expanded to include Dhemaji, Majuli, and Morigaon districts, and later extended to Hojai, Nalbari, Cachar, and Dima Hasao, offering targeted interventions in areas such as Child Protection, Education,

WASH, Health, Cash assistance, Livelihood, and Shelter/NFI.

The implementation of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) emerged as a crucial intervention, ensuring accountability to children through transparent communication in both programming and child safeguarding, delivering key thematic messages, and closing the feedback loop through guided group discussions. This response reached and supported more than 62,000 individuals.

## RESPONSE IN UTTAR PRADESH AND ODISHA

Floods occurred in Uttar Pradesh (Shravasti) and Odisha (Balasore and Kendrapara)

due to heavy rainfall and the overflow of water from upper catchment areas, impacting multiple districts. In response, we implemented the aforementioned interventions.

Until March 2023, we extended our assistance to over 57,000 individuals, encompassing approximately 28,000 children, through a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that addressed immediate survival needs and supported the affected population in rebuilding for a more resilient future. Throughout our humanitarian response journey, we maintained close collaboration with government entities at all levels, engaging with elected representatives, appointed officers, and peer organizations/networks in the intervention area.



## TOWARDS A LARGER COLLABORATION

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entities at all levels, engaging with elected representatives, appointed officers, and peer organizations/networks in the intervention area.

**Enhanced cooperation with SPHERE India and other essential partners engaged in humanitarian response could be leveraged to establish a strong emergency response, drawing insights from the findings of the COVID-19 Response Evaluation Study conducted on the 21st and 22nd of December.**

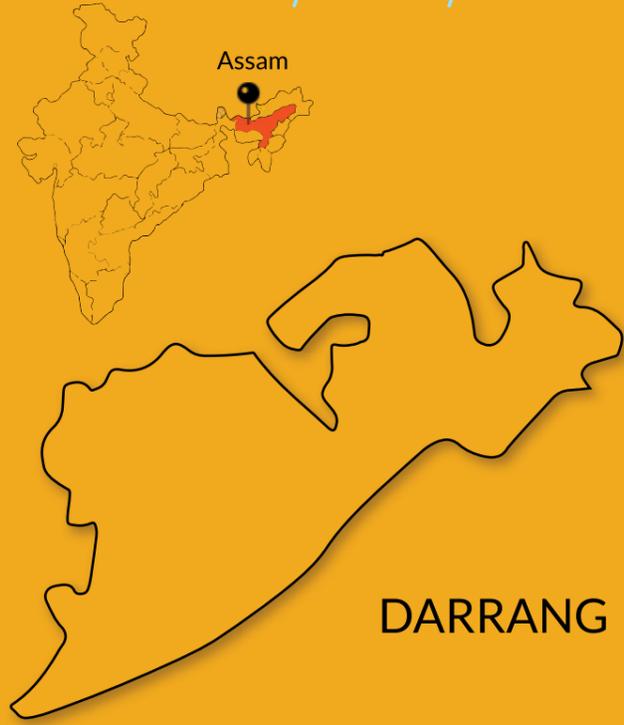
- In collaboration with @ Sphere\_India and other partners, Bal Raksha Bharat conducted a two-day 'Annual Lessons Learned Workshop' on December 21-22. This gathering brought together stakeholders engaged in humanitarian response from various regions of India, providing a platform

to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and collectively explore solutions, identifying areas for improvement.

- The event featured the unveiling of the Covid Response Evaluation Response and the recognition of government representatives for their contributions to the #Covid19 emergency response.
- This workshop has laid the foundation for increased collaboration and coordination among agencies, aiming to strengthen emergency responses during disasters and crises.
- Bal Raksha Bharat emphasized the importance of making responses more timely, sensitive, inclusive, and child-centric.

# IMPACT STORY

## HOPE AMID DESPAIR



DARRANG

“The support that we have received today, would provide clean drinking water to my family and would help us to keep away any water borne disease  
- said Nandita with a grin



**Nandita Saikia**, a 24-year-old mother of one-year-old Rahul (name changed), hails from Darrang district, Assam. When floodwaters inundated their humble hut in the middle of the night, Nandita was at a loss on how to protect her child. Within a few hours, Nandita, Rahul, her husband Ratan, and the entire family had to seek refuge in a relief camp, leaving behind all food items for the infant. In the following days, she had to rely on starchy foods for her child until government support for young kids arrived.

The relief camps were overcrowded, and little Rahul was fussy due to hunger. Nandita was concerned about her child’s nutrition, as well

as hygiene and sanitation, including her menstrual hygiene. The cramped conditions in the relief camps led to open defecation, increasing the risk of water contamination, especially when drinking water was scarce, and tube wells remained submerged for days. The floods not only destroyed whatever little people had but also cast uncertainty over the futures of children.

At the relief camp organized by Bal Raksha Bharat in Bogachola,

Assam, Nandita expressed relief at receiving the sanitation kit and other essential items that the family would have otherwise lost.

The impact of humanitarian support is substantial and multi-faceted during such disasters. Access to safe drinking water is crucial in preventing waterborne diseases, especially in post-disaster scenarios where water sources may be contaminated. Nutritional needs of children is vital for their growth and

development, especially during emergencies when regular food sources may be disrupted. In overcrowded conditions, where open defecation poses a risk of water contamination, sanitation kit and other equipment help mitigate health hazards and enhance overall hygiene in the camp, especially for women and girls who are most prone to infections and diseases.

Beyond the tangible items, the humanitarian support provides psychological relief to affected individuals like Nandita. Knowing that essential needs are being addressed, and there is support available, can alleviate stress and anxiety in the aftermath of a disaster.

**Preservation of Essential Items:** The relief camp

organized by Bal Raksha Bharat ensures the preservation of essential items that families might have otherwise lost. This helps in maintaining a semblance of normalcy and ensures that families have the necessary resources to rebuild their lives once the immediate crisis subsides.

**Community Collaboration and Coordination:** The support from organizations like Bal Raksha Bharat fosters collaboration and coordination within the community. By bringing together various stakeholders, including the government and peer organizations, it establishes a network that can work collectively to address the diverse needs arising from the disaster.

**Long-Term Resilience:** The holistic approach to humanitarian support, encompassing aspects such as child-centric responses, nutritional assistance, and hygiene provisions, contributes to the long-term resilience of affected communities. Building back better becomes possible when the focus extends beyond immediate relief to sustainable solutions that address the specific challenges faced by the community.

In summary, the impact of this humanitarian support extends beyond immediate relief, touching on health, nutrition, sanitation, psychological well-being, and long-term resilience, contributing to the overall recovery and rebuilding process in the aftermath of a disaster.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK ON ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Embarking on the journey of advocacy and government relations, our chapter unfolds the vibrant tapestry of impactful initiatives and strategic engagements. Delving into the highlights of our work, we highlight the pathways we've traversed to garner foster collaborative relationships with government entities. Join us as we explore the key milestones and accomplishments that have shaped our endeavors in championing meaningful partnerships.

**Strengthened POSHAN Abhiyaan through enhanced**

**policy engagement with MoHFW, NITI Aayog & DWCD, media sensitization & campaigning reaching 13,000 beneficiaries during Poshan Maah.**

Our Health and Nutrition (H&N) strategy acknowledge the importance of delivering 'common minimum interventions,' which entails promoting Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices and addressing maternal and adolescent nutrition in aspirational districts. This involves providing technical assistance and establishing a

platform for multi-sectoral convergence to tackle the intergenerational nature of undernutrition. In addition to our routine nutritional support in both rural and urban districts and states, Bal Raksha Bharat has leveraged national momentum to actively participate in campaigns and advocacy during World Breastfeeding Week (August) and National Poshan Maah (September). This proactive engagement has translated into policy discussions at the national level.



## FIRST-OF-A KIND RESEARCH TO ESTIMATE COST OF UNIVERSALIZING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN INDIA (3-6 YEARS)

The study "Cost of Universalising Early Childhood Education in India" commissioned by Bal Raksha Bharat and carried out by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) was launched on 20th September analysing the budget to calculate the fund flow and spending on early childhood education in India. This study is the first-ever

attempt to estimate the cost of universalization of ECE services in India for children in the 3-6 years' age group. The report was launched in the presence of Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Former Secretary, Ministry of Education, GoI; Prof. R. Kavita Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and Mr. Sudarshan Suchi, CEO, Bal Raksha Bharat.

The study also concludes that the total budget allocation should be in the range of 1.5 - 2.2 per cent of GDP to provide universal quality ECE services to all children in the 3 - 6 year age group **has been shared with Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education (Additional Secretary)**

## AUDIO-VISUAL MODULE GULMOHAR DEVELOPED FOR FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING AT HOME HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY STATE EDUCATION MINISTER OF JHARKHAND AND ADOPTED IN 2 DISTRICTS.

- Developed in collaboration with Jharkhand department of social welfare, women and child development in the two Aspirational districts, identified by NITI Aayog in Jharkhand - West Singhum and Gumla
- On 16th December 2022 State Level Consultation on Quality Early and Foundational Learning for Children of Jharkhand organized in Ranchi with State Government attended by Hon'ble Minister, Department of School Education & Literacy Development, Government of Jharkhand, District and Block Officials from Education Department and ICDS, Community Members and civil society organisation partners.
- This was followed by Launching of GULMOHAR-KAAL KI NEEV, the professionally recorded version of pool of activities on Early Childhood Developed which can help parents to keep children in age group 3-6 years engaged in learning at home on early literacy and numeracy skills. The programme curriculum has been developed by Bal Raksha Bharat in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development and Department of School Education & Literacy Development, Government of Jharkhand.
- Honourable Minister of Education, Shri Jagarnath Mahato, was the chief guest at the programme appreciated Bal Raksha Bharat for supporting the department and helping in ensuring quality education for children.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO UP AND JHARKHAND ON DRAFTING STATE POLICY FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS.

SC India is providing technical support to the UP and Jharkhand state government on drafting State Policy for Children in Street Situation. The first round of inputs has been provided to both the draft policies. The state government are drafting these policies as per the advice of the Honourable Supreme Court of India.

Building a collective voice and commitment to uphold 10 years of Child Rights Business Principle (CRBP) with UNICEF; on budgeting for children with expert organisations CBGA and HAQ; and on meaningful Child Participation with Joining Forces across 7 states.

### CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES (CRBP)

Developed by Save the Children, UNICEF, and the UN Global Compact- the Children's Rights and Business Principles laid out 10 principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace, and community to respect and support children's rights. However, despite decades of efforts and numerous initiatives to improve labor practices in

### STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT TO MAINSTREAM CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENDA ACROSS MULTIPLE PLATFORMS ON EDUCATION - EIE, GIRLS EMPOWERMENT - ADOLESCENT E-CONCLAVE ON ENDING VIOLENCE

apparel supply chains, child rights violations (in form of child labour) continue to be rampant in low-cost countries.

This year is the 10th year anniversary of Child Rights and Business Principles that was created by Save the Children, India (as it was known at that time), UNICEF and UN Global Compact (UNGC), but commemorating it is not going to be enough. We need to create functional and equitable collaboratives between businesses, civil society organisations, governments, and children themselves, that promote business practices that value and ensure child rights. It is critical that we all work in partnership in addressing the various nuances of child rights in business supply chains and processes. Also, businesses cannot be looked at as the source of the problem, and therefore making them responsible through dialogue,

capacity development and collaboration is the critical way forward.

### BUDGET ADVOCACY WITH CENTRE FOR BUDGET AND GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY (CBGA) AND HAQ

Save the Children has collaborated and built relationships with expert budget organisations working on budget for children CBGA and HAQ. A pre-budget consultation was organised to jointly discuss the key asks for children. A post budget consultation was also organised to review the Union Budget. This partnership strengthens our credibility on budget asks as well as builds a collective voice for children.

## INVITED AND ENGAGED IN THE NCPCR 'S 18TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS IN PRESENCE OF MINISTER AND SECRETARY MWCD.

Bal Raksha Bharat (the only CSO) was invited) for the 18th Foundation Day celebrations of The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) held at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi. Sudarshan, Namrata and me attended the event. Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani was the Chief Guest of the event and Secretary WCD, Shri Indevan Pandey were present during the celebrations. NCPCR had invited girl children from villages of 75 bordering districts of the country to make them Child Rights Ambassadors.

Union Minister, M/o WCD and M/o Minority Affairs Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani expressed her happiness to see participation of children from vibrant bordering districts of the country. She also highlighted that Women Led Development is a key priority for India's G20 presidency and emphasized the role of men in the empowerment and protection of women and girls in society. She also inaugurated launched "Child Rights Champions World" a dedicated feature on NCPCR's website on child rights literacy.

### TRAC 2023 – OUR FLAGSHIP REPORT

Highlighting the need to priorities mental well-being of children, building agency of children and collaborating with key stakeholders through TRAC in 5 states. In the lead up to TRAC report launch, states led on ground mobilisation of children and interface with the duty bearers handing over the Charter of Demands. Children participated in groups on the issues of agency of children and mental health. Activated priority states planning process for dissemination across five states (MP, Assam, UP, Bihar and Telangana)



# EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO LEAD INSPIRING CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

The empowerment of children has been a beacon, guiding our efforts to instill a strong sense of agency within each young participant. Through initiatives such as the “Be the Voice” campaign and the impactful contributions of child champions, we have not only celebrated their stories but also provided them with a

platform to shape narratives that transcend borders. The collaborative spirit evident in projects like Generation Hope has not only empowered children locally but has woven a tapestry of collective action on a global scale.

As we reflect on the year that was, it is evident that the seeds

of empowerment planted within the hearts of children have borne fruit. The successful engagement of children in decision-making processes, the amplification of their narratives, and the recognition of their agency represent not just milestones but a paradigm shift in the way we perceive and involve the younger generation.

## DREAM ACCELERATOR: WHERE CHILDREN ARE MEANINGFULLY ENGAGED TO BUILD & LEAD THEIR OWN CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS

Meaningful participation is a critical aspect of sustainable development and good governance. SDG target 16.7 ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making. The ‘Dream

Accelerator’ empowers changemakers to magnify impact. It furthers community driven engagement and keeps children’s voices in consideration during discourse on community development-social or infrastructural



## THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE WE COULD ACHIEVE:



### 52 TRAININGS

- 10 Virtual
- Trainings through video conferencing.
- 42 on ground trainings through participatory method.



### 6 MODULES

- Video modules
- that lead children into building their own campaigns.
- Rights, Power, Governance,
- Change, Critical Thinking and My Role



### 12 PROJECTS

- 12 Child/Youth Champions leading their own projects in 7 different locations reaching more than 1500+ children collectively.



### 624 HOURS

- Children engage with us through face to face trainings for 2 day’s session each day spanning for 6 hours for discussing different topics.



### 250 CHILDREN

- We have trained directly, engaging with them on a intensive programme allowing individual attention and space.



### 7 STATES

- Reaching a diverse set of states including: Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

Dream Accelerator renewed its second phase in 7 states with 12 new microprojects which has reached 1300 children in the first 8 months. Child and youth champions proposed a range of ideas from water, sanitation to climate action and gender being some of the key focus areas this year.

The video training module is now being replicated in other ongoing projects as a minimum requirement as children start engaging with us to ensure they understand the key topics like Power, Change, Critical Thinking etc. Several Micro-project holders are also part of the Children’s Council



## INFLUENCER ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring relevance of programmes, we continued engaging with key influencers and celebrities to amplify and spotlight the achievements of the programme. We also co-created campaigns and outreach with innovative content creators and micro-influencers for specific programme agenda.

Sanjana Sanghi, actress and L'oreal Ambassador brought together 12-15 aspiring women entrepreneurs in the space for interaction and skill upgrade with L'Oréal special trainer. The 15 young girls who joined the works are already working in a Salon and their own enterprise within community after having received training through a Bal Raksha Bharat skilling and vocational training programme.

Under the Work No Child's Business programme we partnered with the Instagram Digital Animators & Influencers - **Bohra Sisters**, widely



popular for their thoughtful stop motion animation. They created and promoted videos on Child Labour with a focus on education that garnered **24000 likes and 3lakh views on Instagram**

## EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMMING

At the core of our Campaigns approach lies a profound dedication to inclusivity, notably the inclusion of the most vital yet often marginalized voices - those of children. This initiative transcends the conventional boundaries of evidence creation by not only acknowledging but actively prioritizing the perspectives, experiences, and aspirations of the younger generation. We recognize that children are not passive subjects of research; they are active contributors to the narratives that define their world.

In this paradigm-shifting endeavor, we delve into

the dual commitment of orchestrating impactful onground actions to support the launch of our flagship reports while ensuring that children's voices stand resolute at the forefront of evidence creation. This synergy between unveiling comprehensive insights and embracing the authentic narratives of children amplifies the resonance of our efforts, fostering a more profound and lasting impact.

Leading up to our **Flagship Report launch - The Rights & Agency of Children - TRAC 2023**, states spearheaded on-the-ground mobilization of children, facilitating their engagement with duty bearers to present the **Charter of Demands**. Children actively participated in group discussions, focusing on matters concerning children's agency and mental health. This mobilization effort catalyzed the planning process in priority states for the report's dissemination across Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Telangana.

The national launch witnessed the active involvement of Children's Council members from our four regional hubs, namely **Anuradha, Nigebaan, Radha, and Vasundhara**. Notably, these same children have taken on leadership roles in conducting campaigns and spearheading micro-projects on the ground, exemplifying their continued commitment to driving positive change in their communities.

## PUBLIC MOBILIZATION FOR ONLINE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Collaborations with content creation platforms such as Yuvaa have been established to involve teachers, students, and the public in discussions regarding online safety. The BeDigiSmart Campaign, a joint creation with Yuvaa, is dedicated to engaging these stakeholders on the critical issue of online safety. Additionally, the BeDigiSmart campaign partnered with more than seven civil society organizations, collaborating with 110+ young champions. The collective efforts in narrative construction and digital engagement have successfully reached over 500,000 individuals.

## PUBLIC MOBILIZATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION - EMPOWER THE VOICE

*Children actively contribute to shaping the campaign's messaging and visual narrative. 500,000 individuals.*

In a commitment to fostering a cost-effective partnership for Climate Action, a common approach was adopted to

engage children and youth who exhibited active involvement in their communities and demonstrate passion for pertinent issues. This initiative is embodied in the Young Campaigners Programme, a collaborative effort with Let Me Breathe, UNV, and MASH Foundation. Together, they leveraged the voices and actions of young people through a combination of offline and online events, with some partners actively participating in COP 27.

A pivotal aspect of this partnership involved the Youth Ki Awaaz blog dedicated to Generation Hope. This platform, that serves as an outlet for insightful articles, was managed by our Young Campaigners, and sourced from both Young Campaigners and Child and Youth Champions across India. The blog provides

a space for them to share their work, challenges, and future plans for Climate Action, garnering over 9,000 views on the platform.

Further amplifying the impact, workshops have been conducted with young individuals to delve into the Climate agenda, co-creating an Activity Handbook launched on Earth Day 2023. This handbook serves as an accessible introduction to Climate Action. Additionally, a robust engagement strategy has been implemented, involving workshops and interactions with 455 Young Campaigners nationwide. These initiatives aim to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to champion Climate Action, influencing public opinion, and engaging stakeholders for the benefit of future generations.



## CONDUCTING CHILD HEARINGS

We engaged in **Child Hearings with more than 3,200 children across 14 states** through face-to-face workshops, interviews, and consultations. The insights gathered play a vital role in shaping the global Generation Hope report, encompassing states like Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Kashmir.

We also activated **Climate Canvas in 8 states of India, including West Bengal, Assam, Kashmir, Delhi, Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana.**

Notably, one canvas from Maharashtra was sent to Indonesia for display at the G20.

- Online public action on Environment Day led by Young Campaigners under **#MyPledge4Earth**, reaching an online audience of 2.6 lakhs.

### The Generation Hope

Campaign stands as a testament to the powerful impact of children's collaborative efforts. With a shared vision, children have actively participated in the creation of this campaign, infusing it with their unique perspectives and aspirations. This collaborative spirit extends beyond borders, as the Generation Hope campaign crafts a local-to-global message that resonates across 40 countries. In this collective endeavor, nations unite for a common cause, fostering a global movement marked by shared action and reporting. The campaign not only amplifies the voices of children but also exemplifies the strength that emerges when diverse

communities come together in pursuit of a brighter and more sustainable future.

## EMPOWERED CHILD CHAMPIONS IN ACTION

Empowered child champions take center stage in the **"Be the Voice"** initiative, where children's narratives drive the campaigning agenda. The campaign's content strategically focuses on individual children, emphasizing qualitative aspects that bring their stories to the forefront. To ensure authenticity and resonance, Child Reference Groups actively contribute to the visual and narrative language of the campaign, incorporating valuable inputs from children.

Internationally, the impact of these empowered child



champions transcends borders. In external-facing content, two children from India, **Krishna Kumar from Bihar and Sanya Kumari from Bihar, are prominently featured, showcasing the global relevance of their stories.** This inclusion extends to the Asia Regional Flipbook on climate change, where **Young Campaigner Ridhima Pandey from India contributes a foreword as a member of the Red Alert Youth Collective,** accompanied by a robust social

media amplification strategy.

Moreover, the **Generation Hope Global Report underscores the influential role of children in shaping the campaign's narrative.** Suhail and Mandeep, part of the Gen Hope Child Reference Group, play a crucial role. **Suhail's virtual participation at COP27, held in Egypt,** highlights the global impact of his involvement in the campaign. The report further integrates insights gathered from Climate Hearings held across 38 countries, engaging over 50,000 children, with a significant participation of 3,200+ children from India. This collaborative effort demonstrates the campaign's commitment to amplifying the voices and insights of children on a global scale.

As the year came to a close, the culmination was marked

by a resounding success in our commitment to fostering the active participation of children and empowering them with a robust sense of agency. The journey throughout the year was characterized by the unwavering dedication to placing children at the forefront, ensuring their voices are not only heard but also amplified. By actively involving children in various initiatives, from collaborative campaigns to global reports, we have witnessed a transformative shift in the dynamics of engagement.

The year's conclusion is a testament to the belief that active participation and empowerment of children are not just ideals but achievable realities, laying the groundwork for a future where every child's voice is not only valued but drives positive change.



# CHARTING BRILLIANCE: A YEAR OF RESILIENT BRAND SUCCESS

The past year has been a dynamic and transformative period for the team responsible for the Brand Team. We navigated through challenges, embraced opportunities, and achieved significant milestones that have shaped our brand identity and resonance.

We spearheaded several strategic initiatives aimed at reinforcing our brand positioning. From refining our messaging to aligning with current market trends, our team worked diligently to enhance the overall brand strategy. A comprehensive rebranding effort was undertaken to refresh our visual identity and narrative. This exercise, driven by meticulous research and creativity, has positioned our brand to better connect with our target audience and reflect our evolving values. We played a pivotal role in the success of key campaigns throughout the year. By crafting compelling and resonant campaigns, we not only achieved our objectives but also strengthened our brand presence in the market.

Some notable achievements from our Brand & External Engagement initiatives have



**Bal Raksha Bharat**

Also known as **Save the Children**

defined our organizational landscape over the last financial year. Throughout the year, we strategized and executed a range of digital campaigns to shine spotlight on children's issues, spread awareness and mobilize people to support and take action. The themes of children's education continuity in the aftermath of the pandemic, children in the age group of 0-6 years getting the right start, children's immunisation and nutrition best practices for infants were the prominent themes covered.

Recognizing the growing importance of a digital presence, the Brand Team focused on expanding and optimizing our digital footprint. This involved strategic content creation, engagement initiatives, and leveraging

social media platforms to connect with our audience. In a commitment to staying attuned to market dynamics, we actively conducted market research and gathered valuable feedback. This data-driven approach has been instrumental in refining our strategies and ensuring that our brand remains relevant and impactful. Throughout the year, we fostered meaningful partnerships and collaborations. These alliances not only expanded our reach but also contributed to a more diverse and impactful brand narrative. Ensuring internal alignment and understanding of our brand values was a priority. The team conducted internal workshops and training sessions to instill a shared vision and commitment to our brand identity among team members.

## AMIDST CHALLENGES, WE HAVE NAVIGATED AND TRIUMPHED, MARKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN VARIOUS KEY AREAS.



**8.5 crore people reached** through Social Media posts



**1.1 crore people engaged** through Social Media posts



Two large-scale campaigns supported by ad credits grant worth USD 255,000 by Meta, on the themes of Children's Covid Immunisation and Nutrition Best Practices for 6 months+ old children were implemented. **A total reach of 17.9 crore people** were recorded.



Through the ACTIVATE campaign on Children's Covid and Routine Immunisation, **10 lakh people were engaged** through new-age platforms such as JioSaavn and SonyLIV along with influencer appeals and campaigns on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

## REVITALIZING THE BRAND

A pivotal endeavour to redefine our identity and messaging was initiated in 2022. Substantial progress was made in the year, reflecting our commitment to staying relevant and resonating with our audience. **Our redesigned website** now offers an improved user experience

and better aligning with our organizational objectives.

**The launch of our flagship TRAC Report** was another major milestone, with extensive social media coverage amplifying its impact. The full-scale launch event not only disseminated critical information but also garnered significant attention and engagement.

**A robust Supporter Campaign** was launched, resulting in the acquisition of over 1300 new supporters. This initiative serves as the foundation for an engaging email journey, fostering a stronger connection with our growing supporter base.

## OUR DIGITAL CAMPAIGN SUCCESS MOMENTS

On Women’s Day, we celebrated the invaluable contributions of Women Frontline Social Workers. The campaign successfully brought forward their voices and highlighted the remarkable

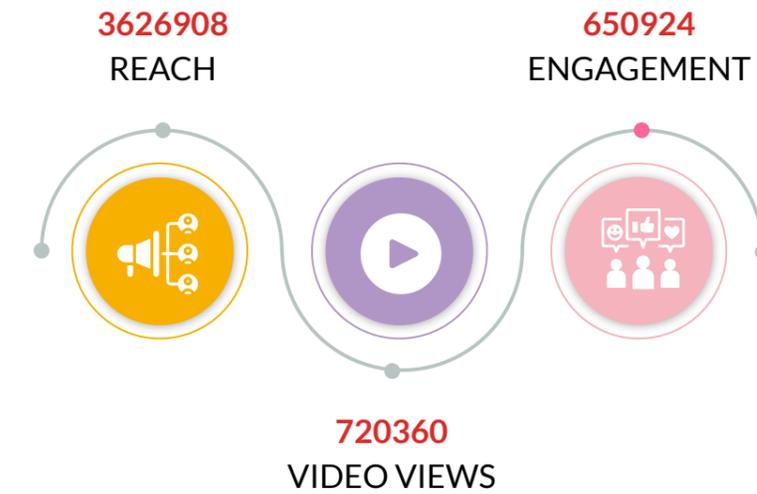
work they do, resonating with our commitment to inclusivity and empowerment.

**Tax-Saving Fundraising Campaign:** Recognizing the importance of strategic fundraising, we launched a campaign centered around the theme of tax-saving. This initiative not only generates vital funds but also aligns with the financial priorities of our supporters.

## DRTV FUNDRAISING FILMS

To enhance our fundraising efforts, we have initiated the creation of two Direct Response Television (DRTV) Fundraising Films. These films are poised to be powerful tools in conveying our mission and garnering support from a broader audience.

## NUMBERS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ON TRAC REPORT LAUNCH



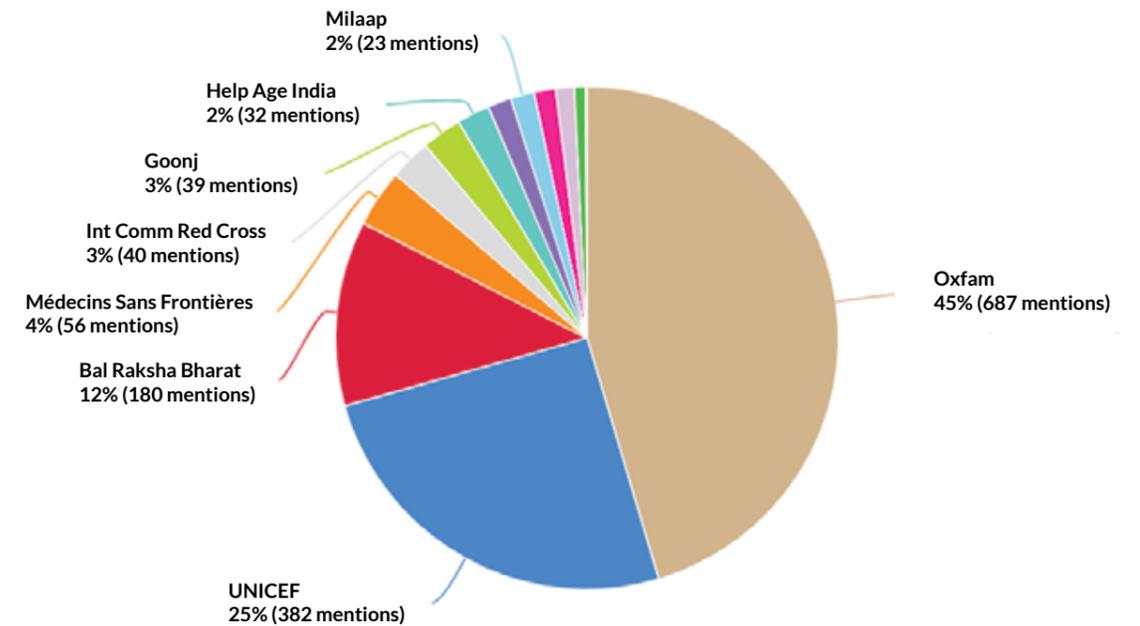
## SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS FOR 2022-23



Team	Indicator	April 2022 - March 2023	Ranking
Social Media	% Share of voice among 13 organisations	15%	3rd

\*Our rankings based on Social Media Share of Voice, primarily attributed to Oxfam getting a substantial volume of mentions through the year. This heightened visibility was largely driven by Oxfam being in the news, notably under government scrutiny, resulting in a significant number of mentions, albeit predominantly negative.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SHARE OF VOICE FOR Q4 OF 2022-23



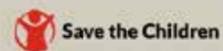
As we reflect on the achievements and experiences of the past year, we are energized and poised for continued innovation and growth for the organisation.

The lessons learned and successes achieved set a solid foundation for the team’s ongoing efforts to elevate and strengthen our brand in the coming year.

Together, we are not only overcoming challenges but also committed to creating positive partnerships that resonates with our mission and values.

# RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION: A SYNERGISTIC APPROACH TO EVIDENCE GENERATION

## THE RIGHTS & AGENCY OF CHILDREN - TRAC 2022



### TRAC 2022 THE RIGHTS & AGENCY OF CHILDREN

Spotlight on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being Amid COVID-19



In the pursuit of fostering a society that champions the rights and agency of children, our commitment to rigorous research and evidence generation stands at the forefront. This chapter delves into the comprehensive process

and methodologies employed in the creation of the **The Rights & Agency of Children - TRAC 2022** report, shedding light on the intricate journey of knowledge acquisition and analysis.

As cohorts of the Government in advancing the rights and well-being of children, our approach is also grounded in the belief that robust research is the cornerstone of informed and meaningful change. The TRAC 2022 report serves as

a testament to our dedication to amplifying the voices and experiences of children, ensuring their rights are actively protected.

Within the following pages, we will explore the intricacies of our research methodologies, the collaborative efforts undertaken to gather diverse perspectives, and the ethical considerations embedded in every phase of the research process. From the conceptualization of the research framework to the culmination of findings, this chapter serves as a guide to the journey undertaken to illuminate the rights and agency of children in the context of TRAC 2022.

Our hope is that this chapter not only provides insights into the meticulous processes involved but also underscores the significance of evidence-based advocacy in driving transformative change for the betterment of children in the country.

The TRAC Report is an annual commitment by Bal Raksha Bharat to provide evidence for effective programming solutions and policy initiatives on child welfare.

Each year, in addition to the prominence given to child rights issues in India from secondary and primary sources, the report focusses on one spotlight issue that requires immediate attention of stakeholders for its contextual and strategic relevance in the study year.

## TRAC 2022

For the year 2022 it focused on **Mental Health and Psychosocial Well Being amid Covid-19**, where NIMHANS led on the spotlight chapter. Following a mixed method study design, the primary data covered 4200 children across 5 states, and rests 10 states were covered by qualitative data collection.

In the presence of **Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Mission Director, Aspirational District Programme, NITI Aayog**, the report was launched on 24th January 2023 to celebrate the National Girl-Child Day.

Following the national launch, state dissemination took over across the 5 states – Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana. The dissemination events both at national and state level have been conducted in partnership

of other development agencies, government stakeholders, academicians, researchers, youth and child champions from **Children Council**.

Considering the scope of report and its periodicity (annual), report was prepared using both secondary as well as primary data. Primary data was used for chapter 2 that presents the voices of children. Voices of children will also be (in all consecutive reports) reflected in last chapter to bring out the change that children want to see. Data was also collected for chapter 4 that focuses on the voices from ground. Rest of the report was written, predominantly, on the basis of secondary literature. Few interviews were also be conducted with some key stakeholders.

Technical expertise played a pivotal role throughout the execution of our research,



guiding us at critical junctures to ensure the robustness and relevance of the process. Seeking guidance from technical experts was integral to key stages, ranging from the conceptualization of the report and its detailed chapter plan to the unveiling of topline findings and the finalization of the report's draft.

The selection of technical experts was a meticulous process, emphasizing diversity in institutional backgrounds. We engaged experts from various sectors, including government, civil society, and academia, bringing together a wealth of perspectives and experiences. Each expert, carefully chosen, contributed valuable insights and knowledge to enrich the project.

To ensure sustained and comprehensive support, 2-3 technical experts were collaboratively appointed, committing to a three-year duration for the project. This deliberate selection and extended engagement allowed for a deep and nuanced understanding of the research objectives, ensuring that the technical guidance received was not only timely but also aligned with the evolving needs of the project. In essence, the involvement of technical experts has been instrumental in upholding the quality and credibility of our research endeavours.

## THE FOLLOWING INDICATIVE LIST OUTLINES THE DIVERSE SOURCES OF MATERIAL THAT WERE REFERRED TO IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT:

### Budget Documents

**Published by Government:** Comprehensive analysis was derived from official budget documents released by the government, providing valuable insights into financial allocations and priorities.

### Annual Reports Published by Various Ministries:

Examination of annual reports from various ministries will contribute to a nuanced understanding of government initiatives, policies, and accomplishments in the context of child rights.

### Data/Survey Reports

**Published by Government:** Inclusion of data and survey reports from authoritative government sources such as the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), National Family Health Survey (NFHS), and Labor surveys will provide statistical evidence to substantiate key findings.

### SDG Index Published by Niti Aayog, GoI: Reference to the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index published by Niti Aayog, Government of India, will enable an assessment of the country's progress in relation to child rights within the broader context of sustainable development.

### Global Reports Published by Various International and Multilateral Organizations:

Utilization of global reports disseminated by diverse international and multilateral organizations will offer a comparative lens, enriching the report with a global perspective on critical child rights issues and key thematic areas.

**Research Reports and Journals:** In-depth analysis and scholarly insights were derived from research reports and academic journals, providing a foundation of rigorous and evidence-based information.

**Evaluation Reports of Government Programs:** A critical examination of evaluation reports of various government programs will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness and impact of initiatives related to child rights.

**Media Reports and Articles:** Insights from media reports and articles were incorporated, offering a real-time perspective on public discourse, awareness, and societal attitudes toward child rights issues.

### Good Practice Documentation Reports and Case Studies:



Documentation of good practices and case studies will serve as a source of inspiration, showcasing successful interventions and innovative approaches that can be emulated or adapted to enhance child rights outcomes.

**Research and Advocacy Reports Published by Child Rights Organizations and Other Entities:** A holistic approach was ensured through the inclusion of research and advocacy reports published by various child rights organizations and other entities. This will provide a comprehensive overview of current challenges, best practices, and areas that require focused attention.

By synthesizing information from these diverse sources, the report presented a thorough and nuanced perspective on the state of child rights. This inclusive approach ensured that the report was well-informed, contextually rich, and reflected a broad spectrum of viewpoints.

## TRAC 2023

For the year 2023, the report will focus on climate change. As per IPCC's sixth assessment report, "Climate change impacts and risks are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage. Vulnerability of ecosystems and people to climate change differs substantially among and within regions, driven by patterns of intersecting socio-economic development, unsustainable ocean and land use, inequity, marginalisation, historical and ongoing patterns of inequity such as colonialism, and governance." A study by Save the Children (2021) showed that nine in ten children are affected by extreme climatic events. The effect of such events affects drinking water availability, attendance in school and food security.

The protracted climate crisis can be witnessed in various regions of the country in the form of recurrent cyclonic events, floods, erratic rainfall,

intense droughts, heat waves, etc. Such a crisis not only displaces the population temporarily but have long-term effect in form of food and water scarcity, learning loss, large-scale migration and exposure to human trafficking and child labour. The long-term effects increase the potential risk of adversely affecting the child rights- survival, development, protection and participation, especially for children living in marginalised and vulnerable households. Even though there is a wide range of literature on the impact of climate change on children, child rights issues get diluted somewhere, so is the children's voices and agency. Hence, there is a lot of scope to understand how climate change affects child rights in India and what child participatory mitigation and adaptive strategies can help to fight this crisis. Therefore, TRAC 2023 will do a spotlight issue on "Intersectionality between climate change and child rights in India: Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience".

# REPORT OUTREACH: EVIDENCE TO ACTION



## ONLINE

131

- Unanimous download from website (94) and Research Gate (57 reads)
- Save the Children International
- Submission in DCPCR journal

## AT NATIONAL & STATE LEVEL

150



- JS MWCD, DWCD, DoH&FW, DoE, SCPS, Labour Commission, State Legal Service Authority, State Mental Health Authority
- Chairperson NCPCR, SCPCR
- Deputy Adviser (Education), Joint Advisor, ADP, NITI Aayog
- CSOs, CS Networks (ie Joining Forces, RTE Forum)
- UNICEF, UNCRC Member
- Academia- NIMHANS, AMITY University, National Law University

**CHILDREN'S CHARTER OF DEMANDS (PART OF TRAC) HAS BEEN SHARED WITH NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY CHILDREN IN JHARKHAND, KARNATAKA, BIHAR, UP, MP, ASSAM AND TELANGANA WITH SCPCR, STATE DEPARTMENT OF WCD, EDU, LABOUR COMMISSION AND HEALTH.**



# HUMAN RESOURCE: TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

In the intricate tapestry of organizational success, the chapters of Human Resources (HR) and Operations intertwine, forming the backbone of a resilient and cohesive entity. As we delve into this crucial section of our journey, marked by the mantra “TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER,” we embark on an exploration of the dynamic interplay between the human element

and the operational intricacies that propel our organization forward. This chapter serves as a testament to the understanding that strength lies not only in individual capabilities but, more significantly, in the harmonious collaboration of our human capital and the seamless execution of operational strategies. Within

these pages, we unravel the stories of teamwork, resilience, and strategic alignment that underscore our commitment to fostering a workplace culture where each individual’s potential is harnessed, and collective strength becomes our driving force.

Join us on this exploration of the HR and Operations realm, where the threads of



talent management, employee engagement, and operational excellence weave together to create a narrative of growth, efficiency, and shared triumphs. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER sets the tone for a chapter that celebrates the unity of purpose, the synergy of skills, and the collective determination to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## INITIATIVES

### SAVE THE CHILDREN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Save the Children has introduced its inaugural virtual university, an initiative aimed at providing top-notch learning opportunities for its staff. This online learning platform plays a crucial role in identifying and evaluating skill proficiencies to ensure the continual relevance of our workforce. It offers a personalized and easily accessible skilling experience, encompassing a mix of self-paced online courses, practical exercises, virtual live classes, and coaching to address skill gaps. This resource is conveniently available anytime, anywhere, and on any device. The platform has accelerated the development of a culture of self-motivated learners within our organization, surpassing our initial expectations. Additionally, it provides seamless access to

a wealth of valuable content, including an extensive library of technical courses, facilitating the upskilling of our team in modern tools and practices.

### SAFEGUARDING COURSES

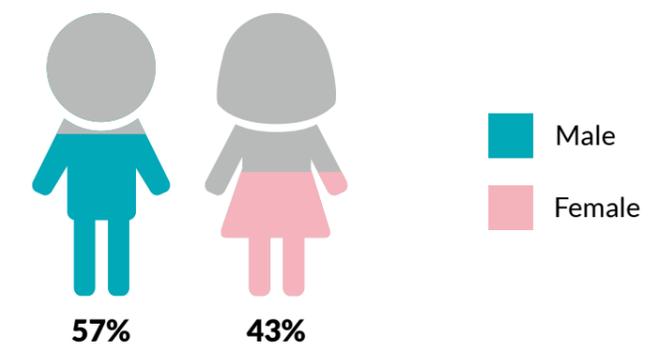
The concept behind the introduction of our multilingual online course on Child Safeguarding is to enhance comprehension and contribute to creating a secure environment within our organization. This training is designed to acquaint the participants with the fundamental principles of child safeguarding and equip them with the knowledge to ensure the safety of children in their interactions with Save the Children staff, partners, programs, and operations. The course delves into various child safeguarding topics, spanning from recognizing and preventing child abuse to implementing safer recruitment practices and responding to concerns. Geared towards field staff, this course is tailored to assist them in comprehending

and fulfilling Save the Children’s child safeguarding expectations. The activities incorporated aim to bolster the individual capabilities of staff members in safeguarding children.

### BIG JOBS ARE MADE SMALLER TOGETHER

Teams that are actively involved tend to be more productive. Collaborating within a team encourages employees to assume leadership responsibilities and witness their colleagues fulfilling their duties. To effectively perform and reach their objectives, consensus among team members is crucial before making decisions. Introducing team training is an unparalleled method of instilling the concept of continuous learning within an organization. A learning format that fosters interaction among team members contributes to embedding a culture of learning into everyday operations. Below are snapshots of some team-building exercises conducted nationwide.

### A GENDER LENS - JOIN THE MAJORITY, VOTE FOR EQUALITY



# CHILDREN & BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

## THE EPITOME OF PARTNERSHIP

In the vast tapestry of human relationships, certain partnerships emerge as extraordinary exemplars, transcending conventional notions and embodying the pinnacle of collaboration. These unions, often characterized by shared values, mutual respect, and a harmonious blend of strengths, stands as the epitome of partnership. In the pursuit of a brighter and more equitable future, children emerge as powerful agents of change, wielding the torch of hope and possibility. Central to this transformative journey is the partnership between children and Bal Raksha Bharat.

The partnership between children and Bal Raksha Bharat forms the epitome of collaborations aimed at creating a world where every child's potential is not just recognized but fully realized.

Bal Raksha Bharat, as a pioneering organization dedicated to the protection and well-being of children, stands as a guiding force in nurturing the agency of the younger generation. Through grassroots initiatives, Bal Raksha Bharat empowers children, ensuring that their rights are not only protected but amplified.

**AS THE 21ST CENTURY UNFOLDS, IT IS IN THIS PARTNERSHIP THAT GENERATION HOPE TAKES CENTRE STAGE.**

Generation Hope, often epitomized by the youth of today, embodies a transformative force that challenges the status quo, dismantles barriers, and envisions a world where collaboration, empathy, and sustainability reign supreme. It is a generation unafraid to tackle global challenges, from climate change to social inequality, armed with the belief that their actions can indeed shape a better tomorrow.

The resilience of Generation Hope, evident in the face of adversity and uncertainty, propels them forward, turning setbacks into stepping stones and challenges into opportunities for growth. It is a resilience that inspires, reminding us all that hope is not a passive sentiment but a dynamic force that propels us

to strive for progress, justice, and a more equitable world.

Bal Raksha Bharat and children collaborate on initiatives that promote sustainable practices, instilling an early awareness of environmental responsibility. The partnership emphasizes the importance of stewardship for the planet, ensuring that the children of today become the custodians of a sustainable tomorrow.

As we witness the emergence of young leaders, activists, and change-makers, it is crucial to recognize and nurture the agency of Generation Hope. Their voices, ideas, and dreams carry the potential to redefine the narrative of our shared humanity. Through education, mentorship, and the cultivation of a supportive environment, we can ensure that the flame of hope ignited by this generation continues to burn brightly,

illuminating the path for those who will follow.

Children represent the promise of a better future and embody the potential for positive change. Born into a world that witnessed rapid technological advancements, social interconnectedness, and global challenges, children are defined by their innate belief in the power of collective action. They carry the torch of optimism, challenging conventional norms, and forging pathways toward a more harmonious world.

Bal Raksha Bharat recognizes children not merely as recipients of care but as active stakeholders in their own development. The organization empowers them with knowledge, skills, and a sense of agency, enabling them to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.





Along with our stakeholders, we work collaboratively to foster holistic development for children. Beyond addressing immediate needs, our partnerships emphasize education as a catalyst for empowerment. Education becomes a tool not just for academic knowledge but for instilling values, critical thinking, and a sense of social responsibility.

Our commitment to creating a secure environment enables children to explore their potential without the shadows of vulnerability. The partnership extends beyond individual empowerment to building bridges across communities.

Bal Raksha Bharat facilitates collaborative efforts that bring children from diverse backgrounds together, fostering a sense of unity, understanding, and shared responsibility. Recognizing

the creativity inherent in every child, it is our endeavour to encourage expression through various forms, be it art, storytelling, or innovative solutions to challenges. This approach not only enriches the lives of children but also contributes to a more imaginative and inventive society.

In our exploration of Generation Hope, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of a future shaped by the collective spirit, resilience, and boundless

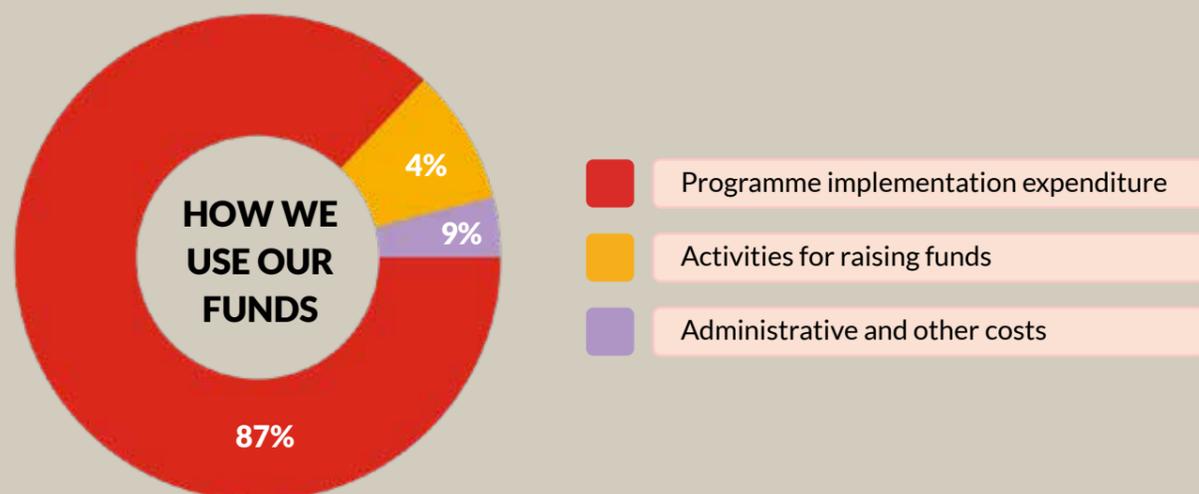
potential inherent in each member of this extraordinary cohort. As we reflect on the characteristics that define Generation Hope — optimism, inclusivity, innovation, and a commitment to positive change — it becomes clear that their influence transcends individual aspirations, reaching into the very fabric of societal evolution.

In the final analysis, Generation Hope is not merely a demographic label but a call to action — an invitation for individuals of all ages to join hands, learn from one another, and actively contribute to the co-creation of a future that reflects the values of compassion, equality, and sustainable progress.

As we progress on this exploration, let us carry forward the spirit of hope, embracing the responsibility to shape a legacy that future generations will look back upon with gratitude and admiration.



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Deloitte Haskins & Sells

**Chartered Accountants**  
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 DLF City Phase II,  
 Gurugram - 122 002,  
 Haryana, India

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GENERAL BODY 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 31 March 2023, 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 issued by the institute of Chartered Accountants of India ('ICAI') and other accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Entity as at 31 March 2023 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 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 these requirements and 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.

##### Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1(b) to the financial statements, which describes the effects of the refusal of renewal application under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, vide intimation dated 31 July 2023, on the financial statements. As stated therein, the Society is in the process of evaluating its future course of action on the FCRA registration based on legal advice and the scope, duration or outcome of the rejection and possible future actions is currently uncertain.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



## Deloitte Haskins & Sells

### 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.

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 General Body is 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 Entity'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

## Deloitte Haskins & Sells

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.

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's Registration No: 015125N)



*Alka Chadha*  
**Alka Chadha**  
Partner  
(Membership No. 93474)  
(UDIN: 23093474BGYFHV3436)

Place: Gurugram  
Date : 1 September, 2023





**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT**  
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**  
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule	As at 31 March 2023	As at 31 March 2022
<b>Sources of Funds</b>		
Corpus fund	11,400	11,400
Restricted fund	362,333,992	831,762,032
Endowment fund	216,975,000	216,975,000
Empathy fund	61,038,246	60,000,000
General fund	550,275,718	504,517,532
Special purpose fund	100,000,000	100,000,000
	<u>1,290,634,356</u>	<u>1,713,265,964</u>
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Gross block	84,789,481	63,766,244
Less: Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	53,991,540	45,246,490
Net block	30,797,941	18,519,754
Capital work in progress	-	2,798,162
	<u>30,797,941</u>	<u>21,317,916</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Other bank balances	560,185,981	810,179,749
	<u>560,185,981</u>	<u>810,179,749</u>
<b>Current assets, loans and advances</b>		
Cash and bank balances	933,968,756	900,507,399
Loans and advances	80,506,438	184,330,730
Grant debtors	30,858,929	24,485,529
Stock in hand	158,311	11,899,017
	<u>1,045,492,434</u>	<u>1,121,222,675</u>
<b>Less: Current liabilities and provisions</b>		
Current liabilities	286,988,716	181,856,293
Provisions	58,853,285	57,598,083
	<u>345,842,001</u>	<u>239,454,376</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>699,650,433</u>	<u>881,768,299</u>
	<u>1,290,634,356</u>	<u>1,713,265,964</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 15  
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

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

*Alka Chadha*  
Alka Chadha  
Partner

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

*Deepak Kapoor*  
Deepak Kapoor  
Chairperson

*Rajiv Kapur*  
Rajiv Kapur  
Treasurer

*Sudarshan Suchi*  
Sudarshan Suchi  
Chief Executive Officer

*Subhashish Neogi*  
Subhashish Neogi  
Director-Finance

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



Bal Raksha Bharat  
National Support Office  
1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No. 91,  
Sector - 44 Gurgaon  
(Haryana) - 122003

Registered Office:  
Bal Raksha Bharat  
D-61, 2nd floor,  
East of Kalesh,  
Near Sapna Cinema,  
New Delhi 110065

Tel: (+91) 124 4752000  
Fax: (+91) 124 475 2199  
info@savelthechildren.in  
www.balrakshabharat.org

Society Registration Number:  
S/51101/2004

All donations are exempt  
under 80G of I.T. Act (1961)

**Secure Childhood  
Secure Future**



**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT**  
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2023**  
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
<b>Income</b>		
Restricted income (grants/donations)	2,069,057,871	1,905,181,943
Unrestricted income (grants/donations)	550,052,615	680,243,216
Grants received in kind (Refer to Note 8 of Schedule 13)	-	7,700,931
Other income	224,020,467	184,670,954
	<u>2,843,130,953</u>	<u>2,777,797,044</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Programme implementation expenditure	2,437,736,691	2,219,545,974
Activities for raising funds	244,666,015	294,558,259
Administrative and other costs	114,970,061	86,882,563
	<u>2,797,372,767</u>	<u>2,600,986,796</u>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure / (Expenditure over income)</b>	<u>45,758,186</u>	<u>176,810,248</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 15

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

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

*Alka Chadha*  
Alka Chadha  
Partner

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

*Deepak Kapoor*  
Deepak Kapoor  
Chairperson

*Rajiv Kapur*  
Rajiv Kapur  
Treasurer

*Sudarshan Suchi*  
Sudarshan Suchi  
Chief Executive Officer

*Subhashish Neogi*  
Subhashish Neogi  
Director-Finance

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



Bal Raksha Bharat  
National Support Office  
1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No. 91,  
Sector - 44 Gurgaon  
(Haryana) - 122003

Registered Office:  
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East of Kalesh,  
Near Sapna Cinema,  
New Delhi 110065

Tel: (+91) 124 4752000  
Fax: (+91) 124 475 2199  
info@savelthechildren.in  
www.balrakshabharat.org

Society Registration Number:  
S/51101/2004

All donations are exempt  
under 80G of I.T. Act (1961)

**Secure Childhood  
Secure Future**



**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT**  
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)  
**Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2023**  
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Grants/Donations received	2,253,508,077	3,010,427,595
Miscellaneous receipts	-	783,629
Payment for expenses		
Programme expense	(2,178,704,651)	(2,309,447,932)
Fundraising and other expenses	(277,708,812)	(251,662,523)
Salary and allowances	(71,241,628)	(68,461,444)
Income taxes (paid)/refund	(938,750)	(32,203)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>(275,085,764)</b>	<b>381,607,123</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(19,950,049)	(7,050,750)
Proceeds from sale/disposal of property, plant and equipment	251,170	238,093
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Placed	(1,676,003,987)	(1,634,877,380)
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Matured	1,806,029,428	1,281,137,950
Interest received from bank deposits	78,252,236	72,650,219
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>188,578,798</b>	<b>(287,901,868)</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(86,506,966)</b>	<b>93,705,255</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	276,022,210	182,316,955
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	189,515,244	276,022,210
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents with the balance sheet:		
Cash and bank balances	1,494,154,737	1,710,687,148
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	1,304,639,493	1,434,664,938
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (Refer to Schedule 9)*</b>	<b>189,515,244</b>	<b>276,022,210</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts

15

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

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

*Alka Chadha*  
Alka Chadha  
Partner

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

*Deepak Kapoor*  
Deepak Kapoor  
Chairperson

*Rajiv Kapoor*  
Rajiv Kapoor  
Treasurer

*Sudanshu Suchi*  
Sudanshu Suchi  
Chief Executive Officer

*Subhashish Neogi*  
Subhashish Neogi  
Director-Finance

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 1 September 2023



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**Schedules forming part of the accounts**  
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Schedule 7: Property, plant and equipment \*  
(Refer to Note 2 of Schedule 15)

Additional 19-20: Disposal

Category		Gross Block				Depreciation/Amortisation				Net Block		
		At 31 March 2022	Additions during the year	Deletions during the year	Write off	At 31 March 2023	Up to 31 March 2023	Depreciation / amortisation expense for the year	Eliminated on (sale/disposal of assets)	Eliminated on write off of assets	Up to 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2023
Furniture & Fixtures	Current Year	5,774,210	297,188	19,874	21	5,992,606	4,034,275	665,842	69,629	-	4,429,288	1,363,817
	Previous Year	5,874,138	32,512	-	81,312	5,774,338	3,694,056	386,646	-	26,467	4,624,225	1,750,025
Software	Current Year	3,432,248	9,791,481	-	-	13,223,729	3,357,330	1,098,744	-	-	3,447,928	8,775,797
	Previous Year	19,725,561	679,342	-	7,987,354	7,417,549	9,789,026	465,815	-	-	7,888,631	2,337,219
Computers	Current Year	31,191,747	7,977,879	864,314	121,680	39,873,694	17,675,884	4,564,979	515,238	113,216	38,973,088	18,545,084
	Previous Year	21,762,558	3,077,848	3,818,452	262,228	24,191,747	12,779,155	2,767,705	3,745,097	371,886	17,029,864	7,111,863
Vehicle	Current Year	2,721,816	-	931,484	-	3,653,300	5,884,418	2,245,889	341,872	499,288	-	3,256,229
	Previous Year	3,668,854	1,098,427	339,424	14,614	5,112,715	4,843,643	1,076,721	256,753	6,646	5,676,975	4,637,766
Equipment	Current Year	8,625,718	204,224	23,403	158,381	8,648,168	4,292,708	197,106	15,012	113,219	4,863,043	1,772,411
	Previous Year	18,986,263	365,089	48,008	-	19,399,360	12,786,581	3,268,118	39,753	-	16,091,489	2,645,085
Leasehold Improvements	Current Year	19,004,591	-	-	18,798	19,023,389	12,456,023	2,339,114	-	18,291	14,706,951	4,299,342
	Previous Year	43,746,114	37,148,211	3,545,719	339,246	84,785,181	45,216,490	10,199,478	1,334,681	119,863	53,091,648	38,797,841
<b>Total Current year</b>	<b>64,613,486</b>	<b>6,612,046</b>	<b>2,863,038</b>	<b>8,519,136</b>	<b>83,766,744</b>	<b>38,185,789</b>	<b>6,265,287</b>	<b>2,789,108</b>	<b>8,429,468</b>	<b>48,246,092</b>	<b>28,319,754</b>	
<b>Total Previous year</b>	<b>2,340,158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,798,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,798,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,798,162</b>	

\* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)



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

	As at 31 March 2023	As at 31 March 2022
<b>Schedule 1: Corpus fund *</b>		
Opening balance	11,400	11,400
Additions during the year	-	-
Closing balance	11,400	11,400
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)		
<b>Schedule 2: Restricted fund Liability *</b>		
Opening balance	831,762,032	497,822,073
Add: Grants received during the year	1,703,455,462	2,317,178,584
Add: Grants debtors	29,017,417	24,485,529
Less: Grants received in earlier years transferred from restricted to unrestricted (Refer to Note 16 of Schedule 15)	(6,921,388)	(545,091)
Less: Revenue grants recognised in the income and expenditure account	(2,069,057,871)	(1,905,181,943)
Less: Indirect Cost recovery earned transferred to General Fund	(130,309,290)	(103,900,413)
Add: Unutilised Balance of Endowment Fund Interest Income for the year	4,387,630	1,903,293
Closing balance	362,333,992	831,762,032
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)		
<b>Schedule 3: Endowment fund (Refer to Note 6 of Schedule 15) *</b>		
Opening balance	216,975,000	216,975,000
Closing balance	216,975,000	216,975,000
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)		
<b>Schedule 3A: Endowment fund interest</b>		
Interest earned on endowment fund during the year	12,023,990	10,783,238
Less: Funds disbursed to early child development (ECD) center during the year	(7,635,260)	(8,879,045)
Balance transferred to restricted fund	4,388,730	1,904,193
<b>Schedule 4: Empathy fund (Refer to Note 7 of Schedule 15)</b>		
Opening balance	60,000,000	-
Add: Fund transferred from General Fund	-	60,000,000
Add: Unutilised Balance of Empathy fund Interest Income for the year	1,038,246	-
Closing balance	61,038,246	60,000,000
<b>Schedule 4A: Empathy fund interest</b>		
Interest earned on Empathy fund during the year	3,053,246	-
Less: Funds disbursed against Empathy fund	(2,015,000)	-
Balance transferred to Empathy fund	1,038,246	-
<b>Schedule 5: General fund *</b>		
Opening balance	504,517,532	387,707,283
Add: Excess of income over expenditure / (expenditure over income)	45,758,186	176,810,249
Less: Amount transferred to Empathy fund	-	(60,000,000)
Closing balance	550,275,718	504,517,532
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)		
<b>Schedule 6: Special purpose fund</b>		
Opening balance	100,000,000	100,000,000
Add: Transfer from general fund	-	-
Closing balance	100,000,000	100,000,000



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<b>Schedule 8: Non-Current assets</b>			
Other bank balances *			
-on deposit account with banks	560,185,981		675,472,160
-on deposit account with financial institution	-		134,707,289
	560,185,981		816,179,749
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Schedule 9: Current assets, loans and advances</b>			
<b>Cash and bank balances *</b>			
Cash in hand	245		4,245
Balances with bank			
- on current account	26,598,503		23,502,905
- on deposit account	404,988,157		525,587,283
- on saving account	162,916,496		252,515,060
Balances with financial institution			
- on deposit account	339,465,355		98,897,906
	933,968,756		900,507,399
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Loans and advances *</b>			
(Unsecured and considered good unless otherwise stated)			
Advances recoverable in cash or kind or for value to be received	47,770,851	134,174,581	
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(22,036,015)	(884,526)	133,290,055
Security deposits	9,513,581	8,899,839	
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(2,792,960)	(1,092,939)	7,806,900
Staff advances	253,679		389,236
Tax deducted at source	14,735,376		13,796,626
Interest accrued on fixed deposits	32,961,926		29,047,913
	80,506,438		184,330,730
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Grant debtors *</b>			
Grant debtors	37,406,737		34,489,190
Less: Provision for doubtful grant debtors	(6,547,808)		(10,003,661)
	30,858,929		24,485,529
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Stock in hand *</b>			
Stock in hand	158,311		11,899,017
	158,311		11,899,017
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Schedule 10: Current liabilities and provisions *</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Sundry creditors and payables			
Micro, small and medium enterprises	33,533,686		-
Other than micro, small and medium enterprises	214,009,702		156,885,683
Other liabilities	39,445,328		24,969,608
	286,988,716		181,856,293
<b>Provisions</b>			
Gratuity	58,853,284		57,598,083
	58,853,284		57,598,083
* (Refer to Note 1(b) of Schedule 15)			
<b>Schedule 11: Other income</b>			
Interest income from fixed deposits	76,740,370		72,526,804
Write back of restricted fund liability (Refer to Note 16 of Schedule 15)	4,921,388		545,091
Indirect Cost Recovered (ICR) from Grants	130,309,290		103,900,413
Miscellaneous income	10,049,419		7,698,646
	224,020,467		184,670,954



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	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
<b>Schedule 12 - Programme implementation expenditure</b>		
<b>Thematic Intervention</b>		
Education	1,020,026,136	339,739,916
Protection	616,677,963	375,675,579
Disaster response and disaster risk resilience	463,590,426	1,136,677,454
Health and nutrition	337,442,166	351,426,655
Other grant related expenditure	-	16,026,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,437,736,691</b>	<b>2,219,545,974</b>

**Schedule 13 - Activities for raising funds**

Salary and allowances	52,066,444	49,765,946
Travel and accommodation	1,539,819	521,235
Rent	2,116,318	1,106,918
Repairs and maintenance	347,871	268,047
Legal and professional	1,956,729	1,325,270
Conference and meetings	603,545	127,936
Agency fee/commission	61,647,556	97,222,232
Telemarketing expenses	33,604,645	37,332,604
Advertisement	48,429,542	61,227,523
Bank charges	186,850	78,748
Communication expenses	4,259,009	4,757,470
Other operational expenses	37,907,687	40,824,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,666,015</b>	<b>294,558,259</b>

**Schedule 14 - Administrative and other costs**

Salary and allowances	31,361,885	29,585,615
Travel and accommodation	1,507,049	70,469
Rent	2,751,214	1,211,083
Repairs and maintenance	380,294	259,312
Legal and professional	5,655,063	4,109,135
Conference and meetings	304,413	150,063
Bank charges	46,818	36,772
Communication expenses	831,877	876,260
Other operational expenses	61,931,972	44,314,565
Depreciation and amortisation	10,199,477	6,269,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,970,062</b>	<b>86,882,563</b>

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Schedules forming part of the accounts

Schedule 15 - Notes to accounts

**1. Organisation 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.

**1(a)** The Society had been registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA) 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 1 November 2016 till 31 October 2021. The application for renewal of FCRA Registration Certificate was filed on 22 April 2021 vide MHA File No 8300942021. The Ministry of Home Affairs had 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 was valid up to 31 July 2023.

The Society received an intimation on 31 July 2023 from the Ministry of Home Affairs indicating that the application for renewal attracts section 12(4)(a)(i) of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 ('FCRA 2010') and that renewal had been refused under section 16(1) read with Section 12(4)(a)(i) of FCRA 2010. Based on the assessment of Those Charged with Governance (TCWG) and legal advice obtained it has been assessed that the grounds for refusal of the application for renewal, do not have any legal merit including on grounds that the society has been duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an Implementing Agency for CSR Projects and has been awarded contracts for CSR projects by Companies, registered with Niti Aayog under the NGO Darpan, registered with the Provident Fund (PF) authorities and that the renewal application does not fall under the purview of section 12(4)(a)(i) of FCRA 2010.

The Society is in the process of evaluating its future course of action on the FCRA registration based on legal advice and the scope, duration or outcome of the rejection and possible future actions is currently uncertain.

**1(b)** Consequent to the refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010 post 31 July 2023, as indicated in Note 1(a) above, the Society has:

intimated all donors regarding the refusal of the renewal application and that accordingly, the grant agreements be held in suspension and hence, subsequent action will be subject to further review with the donors.



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- Made adjustments to the values of assets and liabilities pertaining to FCRA balances wherever required such that all the assets have been stated at the lower of carrying value and net realisable value and wherever applicable, by effecting a write-down of the respective assets. Similarly, liabilities have been stated at the values at which they are expected to be discharged.
  - Recorded liabilities for goods/services received and assessed that it will meet all obligations in respect of commitments for purchase of goods/services with respect to the FCRA operations prior to 31 July 2023 for purchase of goods and services and that these obligations will be met from the unrestricted fund balances and will be disbursed from non FC bank accounts.
  - Evaluated that the refusal does not adversely affect its ability to continue as a going concern and that sufficient funds are available from local sources to fulfill its obligations.
  - Assessed that:
    - pursuant to the cancellation, the amount of foreign contribution lying unutilised in the FCRA Account stands vested with the prescribed authority under the FCRA 2010 until the certificate is renewed or fresh registration is granted by the Central Government and accordingly no payment can be made by the Society from the designated FCRA bank accounts post 31 July 2023, including to refund the restricted fund liability to the Foreign Contribution (FC) donors.
    - assets created out of the foreign contribution, vest with the prescribed authority under the FCRA, 2010 until the certificate is renewed or fresh registration is granted by the Central Government.
    - no claims have been received and that there is no exposure with respect to penalties/fines/compliances with laws and regulations/potential claims from donors/vendors pursuant to actions taken by the Society upon refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010, as on the date of approval of the financial statements by the General Body.
    - Corpus fund, Endowment fund and Restricted funds under FC will not be available for utilisation with effect from 1 August 2023, on account of refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010 until the certificate is renewed or fresh registration is granted by the Central Government.
    - property, plant and equipment created out of the foreign contribution, vest with the prescribed authority under the FCRA, 2010 until the certificate is renewed or fresh registration is granted by the Central Government and has accordingly reassessed the useful life of property, plant and equipment.
- (i) As per management assessment supported by legal opinion, prescribed FCRA balances vest (with effect from 1 August 2023) with the prescribed authority i.e. the Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary (Home) of the concerned State Government or Union Territory where the assets of the person whose registration has been cancelled under section 14 of FCRA are physically located, under the FCRA, 2010.

These included balances as on 31 July 2023 of Rs. 5,400, Rs. 216,975,000 and Rs. 147,830,639 in respect of Corpus fund, Endowment fund and Restricted funds respectively pertaining to 31 March 2023, which had not been subsequently utilised. The balances outstanding in respect of such FCRA funds as on 31 March 2023 amounted to Rs. 5,400, Rs. 216,975,000 and Rs. 297,364,207 respectively.



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The current liabilities balance as on 31 July 2023 includes Rs. 51,681,522 and Rs. 35,634,870 pertaining to current liabilities and Gratuity liability outstanding as on 31 March 2023. The Society has assessed that the above obligation will be met from the unrestricted fund balances and will be disbursed from the non FC bank accounts. The balance outstanding as on 31 March 2023 in respect of current liabilities and Gratuity liability amounted to Rs. 92,746,560 and Rs. 36,298,654 respectively.

The assets created out of the foreign contribution, vest with the prescribed authority under the FCRA, 2010 until the certificate is renewed or fresh registration is granted by the Central Government.

The net block of property, plant and equipment as on 31 March 2023 amounted to Rs. 450,635. The gross block as on 31 July 2023 includes Rs. 8,152,719 pertaining to property plant and equipment outstanding as on 31 March 2023. The Society has reassessed the useful life of property, plant and equipment.

The cash and bank balances including other bank balances and interest accrued on fixed deposits as on 31 March 2023 and 31 July 2023 amounted to Rs. 790,264,367 and Rs. 733,472,510 respectively. The gross balances as on 31 July 2023 include Rs. 21,151,488, Rs. 1,700,021, Rs. Nil and Rs. 329,013 pertaining to advances recoverable in cash, kind or for value to be received from external parties, security deposits, staff advance and grant debtors respectively which were outstanding and were provided for as on 31 March 2023. The gross balances outstanding as on 31 March 2023 in respect of the above amounted to Rs. 54,718,169, Rs. 1,764,521, Rs. 237,103 and Rs. 9,654,236 respectively.

The stock in hand balance as on 31 March 2023 amounted to Rs. 156,711 which was subsequently utilised by 31 July 2023. Based on the assessment by TCWG and legal advice obtained, the Society does not anticipate any further adjustments/effect to the financial statements.

- (ii) During the previous financial years, the society had reviewed the balances outstanding in foreign contribution (FC) related accounts and Non-FC related accounts and determined that certain rectification adjustments were to be made in respect thereof and that, those adjustments would not have any impact on the combined/consolidated financial statements.

Pursuant to the refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010, the Society has recorded rectification adjustments resulting in an amount of Rs. 32,752,490 as recoverable from Non FC account and Rs. 1,317,035 as payable to Non-FC account.

The Society will abide by the directions of the prescribed authority.



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**Significant accounting policies**

Basis of preparation of financial statements

As per Appendix I to the Applicability of Accounting Standards to Non-corporate Entities



**Secure Childhood  
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(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 statement 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.

**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 recognised 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 capitalised 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 is Rs. Nil as on 31 March 2023.

Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**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 amortised over the remaining term of the lease agreement or the useful life of the assets, whichever is shorter.

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

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

Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**e. Stock in hand**

Stock in hand is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, with obsolete stock written off. Cost comprises the cost of purchase and is determined using the first-in, first-out method. The net realisable value of stock in hand is based on the service potential of the stock.

**f. The Society's obligations towards various employee benefits have been recognised 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.



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**Society Registration Number:**  
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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.

## g. Leases

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

## h. Income Recognition

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

## i. 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.

## j. 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.

## k. 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/nonoccurrence 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.



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**BAL RAKSHA BHARAT***(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)***Schedules forming part of the accounts****Schedule 15 – Notes to accounts****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. Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**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. Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**5. Restricted fund**

- 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.

- The unutilised 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.

Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**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.

Also Refer to Note 1(b) above.

**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 organisation, 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



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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 utilised to meet the aforesaid purpose. 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



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grants in accordance with the agreements with them.

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 previous year, the Society received various Grants in Kind for humanitarian responses from donors amounting Rs. 7,700,931 where as in the current year the value of the gifts in kind, aggregating to Rs. NIL 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-Mar-23 (Rs.)	Year ended 31-Mar-22 (Rs.)
Audit fees	15,00,000	14,00,000
Other services	4,00,000	3,00,000
Out of pocket expenses	91,000	59,452
GST	3,58,380	3,16,701
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,49,380</b>	<b>20,76,153</b>

**12. Employee Benefits****Defined contribution plans**

The employee provident fund scheme is a defined contribution plan. A sum of Rs. 37,204,012 (previous year Rs. 25,272,069) has been recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

**Defined benefit plans**

With effect from 1 April 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 1 April 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 1 April 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 year of service completed).



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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 31 March 2023 is Rs. 58,853,285 (previous year Rs. 57,598,083).

The expenditure for gratuity as determined by actuarial valuation for the year 2022-23 is Rs. 8,457,889 (previous year Rs. 14,807,050).

The actuarial assumptions for regular staff for the aforesaid calculation were as under:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
Discount Rate	7.25% per annum	6.75% per annum
Annual salary escalation rate	0% increment in FY23-24 and afterwards 7% from second year	7.00% per annum
Mortality	IALM 2012-14	IALM 2012-14
Withdrawal Rate	40.00% per annum	14.00% per annum

The actuarial assumptions for project staff as under:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
Discount Rate	7.00% per annum	NA
Annual salary escalation rate	7.00% per annum	NA
Mortality	IALM 2012-14	NA
Withdrawal Rate	49.49% per annum	NA

13. 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 recognised these assets in its books of account at nominal value.

**14. Amount due to Micro and Small Enterprises**

The amount due to Micro and Small Enterprises as defined in the "The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006" has been determined to the extent such parties have been identified on the basis of information available with the Society. The disclosures relating to Micro and Small Enterprises as at 31 March, 2023 are as under:



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(Amount in Rs.)

(i)	The principal amount remaining unpaid to supplier as at the end of the year	33,391,938
(ii)	The interest due there on remaining unpaid to supplier as at the end of the year	141,749
(iii)	The amount of interest due and payable for the period of delay in making payment (which have been paid but beyond the appointed day during the year) but without adding the interest specified under this act	-
(iv)	The amount of interest accrued during the year and remaining unpaid at the end of the year	-

**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 transferred restricted fund liability pertaining to FY 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 of Rs. 6,921,388 to unrestricted fund since there had been no claim from the concerned donors to date. The transferred amount has been included in Other income (Refer to Schedule 2 and 10). During the previous year, the Society had transferred restricted fund liability pertaining to FY 2016-17 of Rs. 545,091 to unrestricted fund.

**17. Contingent liabilities and provisions**

As on March 31, 2023 (and as on 31 March 2022) there is no contingent liability against any pending litigation.



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

For **BAL RAKSHA BHARAT**

**Deepak Kapoor**  
Chairperson

**Rajiv Kapur**  
Treasurer

**Sudarshan Suchi**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Subhashish Neogi**  
Director-Finance

Place: Gurugram

Date: 1 September 2023



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# Bal Raksha Bharat

Also known as **Save the Children**

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

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