



**Bal
Raksha
Bharat**

Also known as **Save the Children**



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT ACTIVITY REPORT

JAN 2021 - DEC 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bal Raksha Bharat (also known as Save the Children) is a registered entity under the Societies Registration Act 1860, working in India since 2004 and is aligned with the government mission to prioritize the welfare of vulnerable children.

Bal Raksha Bharat functions as an independent Indian charity, connected with the Save the Children Association. This association encompasses Save the Children International and its 30 member countries working to deliver positive change for children through developmental and humanitarian support across 113 countries.

Thematic Areas of Operation

Our operations span four key thematic areas:

Education

Child Protection

Health and Nutrition

Livelihood and Social Protection

Collaborative Approach

Our strategic approach revolves around collaborating with governmental systems, extending support to various Ministries and engaging closely with esteemed institutions such as NITI Aayog, National Institute of Disaster Management, and National Skill Development Corporation. Our efforts are dedicated to furthering the government's vision of a Viksit Bharat, with a primary emphasis on providing children and youth—the future architects of our nation—with a promising start in life. Our goal is to facilitate positive change for children, aligning with the overarching objective of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas"—the Vision India@2047.

Project Implementation

Through our programmes, we strive to create innovative models and initiatives that can be strengthened and rolled out by the government.

Impact

Since 2021, our on-ground interventions have directly benefitted approximately 35 lakh children, with around 29 lakh children supported through thematic programs and approximately 5 lakh children through our humanitarian response work. These impacts have been achieved through the successful implementation of 234 projects with the support of 160 donors, demonstrating our commitment to effecting positive change for children across India.

Report Highlights

This report showcases our work in the last three years - from January 2021 to December 2023, and provides insights from the development programmes that addressed the unique challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS



Signed a five- year Collaborative Plan of Action (2023-28) with National Institute of Disaster. Management (NIDM) to strengthen Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Centre to achieve zero tolerance for children in risk during disasters and emergencies.



Bal Raksha Bharat played an active role during India's G20 presidency and has extensively contributed the working groups on Gender and Women Empowerment, Education & Digital Transformation and Y20 engagement group of G20.



Bal Raksha Bharat has a partnership with Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), Department of School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Learning Improvement Programme (LIP) for the upper primary school grades (grades 6 to 8) being implemented in 10 districts of AP.



Bal Raksha Bharat signed a MoU with Govt of Haryana and provided technical assistance for the rollout of MNCH module and prevention of childhood undernutrition. Bal Raksha Bharat trained 500 ASHAs on MNCH services through modules 6 and 7 and capacitated around 700 AWCs on MIYCN and Growth Monitoring.



Collaborative development of a Standard Operating Procedure for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations 2.0 with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)."



Bal Raksha Bharat was invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textile and Skill Development to provide recommendations on the National Child Labour Policy.



Bal Raksha Bharat's recommendation on parenting has been included (2023) in the Palanhaar scheme of Government of Rajasthan.



INTRODUCTION

More than a century ago, in 1919, our founders Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton, laid the foundation of Save the Children. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, that was drafted by Eglantyne Jebb was a precursor to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Today, Save the Children comprises Save the Children International and 30 member countries working to deliver change for children across 113 countries. Bal Raksha Bharat is neither a subsidiary nor a commonly owned and controlled organisation with any other organisation in India or elsewhere.

As Save the Children, we have a rich history of collaboration with the government, both in times of development and humanitarian response.

1950s

In the 1950s, we provided relief during the famines and floods that afflicted Bengal.

1960s

During the 1960s, we partnered with the Indian government to establish mobile nutrition clinics in nine states as part of the global Freedom from Hunger campaign.

1970s

In the 1970s, we took our first step by setting up an office in Delhi and providing relief during the Divi Seema Cyclone and Tidal Wave in Andhra Pradesh.

1980s

The 1980s marked the launch of 40 projects across the country, focusing on pre-school programs, food and medical care, as well as maternal and child health

1990s

In the 1990s, we expanded our efforts in education and child protection

2000

In 2000, we acted swiftly in response to the Tsunami.

2004

By 2004, we obtained formal registration as Bal Raksha Bharat under the Societies Registration Act.



Registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an implementing agency.



Officially registered with Niti Aayog through NGO Darpan.



BRB has been granted registration under Section 12A and approval under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 after the Income Tax Authorities had duly satisfied themselves that BRB is a 'genuine' organisation.



Distinguished board members serve on a pro-bono basis, bringing their expertise from diverse sectors, including strategy, business, banking, and finance.



Bal Raksha Bharat has an independent governance structure, with a dedicated Governing Council comprised of experts who generously volunteer their time to support child-related causes. We follow the highest standards of governance, with every effort made in upgrading, wherever weaknesses are identified, in the shortest possible time and in the most effective manner.

Bal Raksha Bharat presently operates in 15 states and 3 Union Territories within India. Since 2004, our direct impact has extended to over 1 crore children, with more than half of them being girls.

Our Governing Council comprises of established leaders from the social sector, strategy, business, banking, and finance. They play an active role in directing the trajectory of our organization and share their insights to advance our vision of a nation where every child can realize their full potential.

One of our Board Members, Ms. Swaroop Sampat Rawal, also leads the NCERT Committee, with a focus on pedagogy and teaching-learning material (TLM) integration for classes 3 to 12.

We have a strong Programme Implementation team, both for development and humanitarian context. We have also invested in ensuring high calibre technical expertise at national and subnational level around Themes, MEAL & Research interventions.

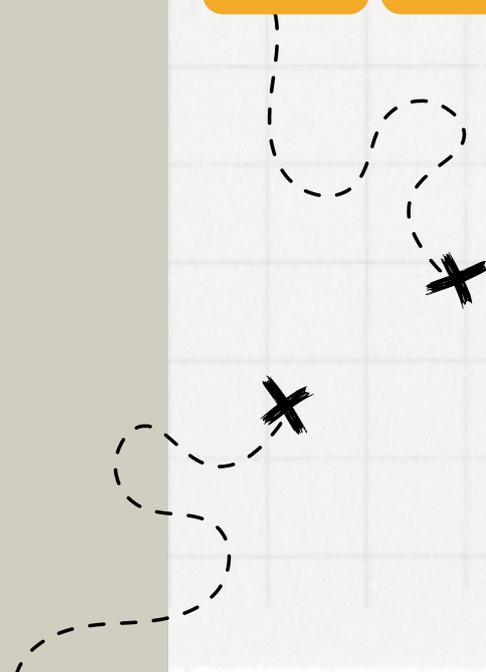
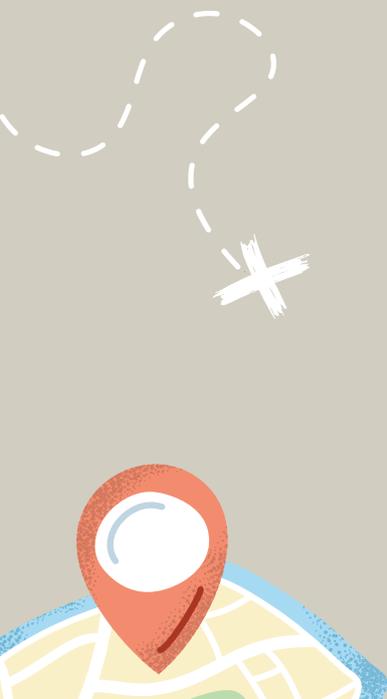
Working across India, we engage in partnerships with the government and communities in five key areas committed to the well-being of children and communities: Health & Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, and Livelihood and Social Protection. We have established robust systems and processes to create a widespread impact for children.

Our approach encompasses a four-fold process: developing innovative and replicable solutions for the most critical challenges children face, fostering partnerships and collaboration with government, the private sector, and civil society, amplifying the voices of children, and sharing knowledge to enable scalable solutions.



HERE'S A SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WE HAVE DIRECTLY REACHED IN VARIOUS STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES SINCE 2021

REGION	STATES	CHILDREN DIRECTLY REACHED
North	Haryana	46,441
	Himachal Pradesh	115,148
	Uttar Pradesh	292,756
	Uttarakhand	3,618
	Ladakh	2,213
	Jammu Kashmir	48,646
	Delhi	196,595
		705,417
West	Gujarat	4,561
	Rajasthan	403,218
	Maharashtra	423,448
	Madhya Pradesh	112,699
		943,926
East	Assam	150,723
	Odisha	268,976
	West Bengal	291,221
	Jharkhand	153,301
	Bihar	470,488
		1,334,709
South	Karnataka	85,997
	Telangana	84,753
	Andhra Pradesh	250,355
	Tamil Nadu	68,018
	Kerala	1,535
		490,658



KEY FOCUS AREAS AND IMPACT (Jan 2021 - Dec 2023)

Starting from 2021, our on-ground interventions have had a direct positive impact on approximately 35 lakh children. These impacts have been realized through the implementation of 234 projects with the support of 160 donors. Of this remarkable figure, around 29 lakh children have benefited from our thematic programs, while approximately 5 lakh children have been reached through our humanitarian response efforts.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Bal Raksha Bharat, through numerous relief projects and efforts, has extended assistance to 5 lakh children during the period spanning from 2021 to 2023. Our work during humanitarian crisis is not confined solely to immediate responses. Our interventions involve the distribution of essential supplies, hygiene kits, food provisions, and water to children and their families in the midst of humanitarian crises. Furthermore, we establish temporary shelters for children and their families when their homes have been damaged, and we create child-friendly spaces to facilitate learning and play for children during these challenging times.

We follow a comprehensive approach in our Humanitarian programming, which involves preparedness, mitigation, risk reduction, and the cultivation of resilience.

EDUCATION IMPACT

We address the educational requirements of children, nurturing an all-encompassing, equitable, and safe learning atmosphere for those aged 3-18. Our objective is to equip them for a meaningful and purposeful adulthood. Aligned with the vision of the Government of India, we share the ambition of nurturing an educational framework firmly grounded in Indian values. This framework is envisaged as a catalyst for the enduring metamorphosis of India into an impartial and flourishing knowledge-driven society.



Beginning 2021, we have devised school safety plans for 2,471 schools. Through our programmes, we have enabled 110,189 children to resume regular attendance at schools in the post-pandemic context.



Since 2021, we have supported the government in providing vital nutrition interventions to about 104,700 children between 0 to 18 years in our programme areas. Additionally, we have linked 7,281 Under-5 children to government healthcare facilities or providers, ensuring they receive required healthcare services.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION IMPACT

From our inception in India, we have been actively involved in bolstering government initiatives and programs to guarantee the effective implementation of our work aimed at benefiting children. Our efforts encompass the training and education of ANMs and ASHA workers, fostering their awareness. Furthermore, we collaborate with children and adolescents to cultivate awareness regarding maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), sexual and reproductive health. Our commitment also extends to assisting the government in fortifying Anganwadi Centers and health facilities.

CHILD PROTECTION IMPACT

Over time, Bal Raksha Bharat has executed several projects addressing various forms of child abuse, including trafficking, child marriage, child labor, sexual abuse, and exploitation through **Prevention and swift response**. We establish resilient child protection mechanisms, collaborating with the government to enhance system capabilities, ensuring that children experience a childhood free from violence, advocating for the mental well-being of children and their families, and preventing, addressing, and rehabilitating children involved in harmful labor.



Starting 2021, we successfully rescued 9,299 children from exploitative labour in our project locations, and played a crucial role in establishing 1,825 operational Child Protection Committees (CPCs).

LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IMPACT

Post Pandemic, we enhanced our collaboration with the government for increased and sustainable investments bolstering social protection and strengthening local governance structures to be gender sensitive and child friendly



2,452 households in the project areas are linked to income generation activity. Additionally, 11,407 children across areas received benefits of select social protection programmes.



WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT

Bal Raksha Bharat strives to be the preferred partner for the Government and various stakeholders in matters concerning children and their comprehensive growth. We are dedicated to advancing the government's vision of Viksit Bharat, with a primary focus on providing children and youth. A promising start in life. We aim to collaborate with the government by providing technical expertise, inputting on relevant policy matters, and fostering platforms for children to be active participants to ensure their well-being. Our programmatic and policy initiatives have made meaningful contributions to the Government's Mission **Saksham Anganwadi**, **POSHAN 2.0**, and the **Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission**. Furthermore, our efforts to safeguard children from harm seamlessly align with the objectives of both **Mission Vatsalya** and **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** of the Government.



Our programmatic and policy initiatives have made meaningful contributions to the Government's Mission **Saksham Anganwadi**, **POSHAN 2.0**, and the **Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission**.

SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS



MoU signed with **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** for Strengthening Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction in partnership in April 2023. Series of capacity building workshops and policy dialogues have been organized to integrate child centered disaster risk reduction approach in policy and programmes.



Bal Raksha Bharat played an active role during **India's G20 Presidency** and were invited to be a part of the Civil 20 engagement group. We contributed to the 'Working group on Gender and Women Empowerment' and our 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. Bal Raksha Bharat has actively contributed to the Y20 Working Group on 'Future of Work- Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills.



Co-led the children's vertical for 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) process on child-centered SDGs (for HLPF 2020), initiated by NITI Aayog.



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(2020)

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT ON EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Our commitment to fostering strong ties with both state and national governments has empowered us to efficiently harness and reinforce the existing infrastructure. Our strategy has been firmly rooted in the principle of fortifying established systems and institutions. We have adopted a collaborative approach by working alongside government education departments and community stakeholders to optimize and elevate the pre-existing resources and frameworks. This approach not only fosters program sustainability but also ensures long-term effectiveness.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

→ I. CONTRIBUTION IN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 & NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

We have effectively influenced the National Education Policy 2020 to have a more systematic integration of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) under the Right to Education Act through our recommendations.

Furthermore, we have recently made a substantial impact on the National Curriculum Framework for School Education. **We collaborated closely with the National Curriculum Framework coordination team to underscore the significance of 21st-century skills, with a specific focus on the 5Cs: Critical Thinking, Curiosity, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication.** Additionally, we have played a pivotal role in shaping the State Curriculum Framework for Karnataka by incorporating essential soft skills, commonly referred to as 21st-century skills or the 5 Cs.

Our expertise was also sought by the Rajasthan SCERT, where we presented the concept of the 5Cs and emphasized their importance in the State Curriculum Framework for the foundational stage of education.

Engagement with Key Ministries

- ⇒ Ministry of Education (MoE)/State Department/District
- ⇒ National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT)
- ⇒ State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT)
- ⇒ National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
- ⇒ Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)
- ⇒ NITI Aayog (Think Tank of Government of India)

→ II. SUPPORTING NIPUN BHARAT MISSION BY ENSURING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY (FLN)

In our commitment to fostering partnerships, we have deepened our support to state governments and relevant departments. Bal Raksha Bharat led Functional Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) implementation in Jharkhand & Rajasthan in language, numeracy and cross cutting areas. The modules created for FLN include Bal Raksha Bharat's common approaches and as Key Resource Persons the state level Master Trainers were trained by our technical team. In Jharkhand and Delhi, **Bal Raksha Bharat was part of core FLN State Working Groups. In Jharkhand we had an MoU to support the learning continuity of children through radio programmes scaling up the good practices of ECCE Framework – Gulmohar (developed focusing on early learning at home and centre) and capacity building of school teachers and other stakeholders.**

→ III. COLLABORATING WITH NIDM FOR ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHILDREN IN RISK DURING DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.

Bal Raksha Bharat's strategy goes beyond ensuring access to quality education; it also places a strong emphasis on safeguarding children in and around schools. **We have signed a five year Collaborative Plan of Action (2023-28) with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) under the Ministry of Home Affairs to strengthen Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction Centre to achieve zero tolerance for children in risk during disasters and emergencies.** CCDRR Centre NIDM and Bal Raksha Bharat aim to ensure children's safety during emergencies through various activities, including empowering children to influence policies, creating volunteer cadres, developing training modules, conducting safety audits, and conducting research on school safety. The collaboration strives to protect and provide for children during disasters and emergencies, promoting their well-being.

→ IV. PROMOTING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

To increase access to and quality of education for disadvantaged and marginalised girls, we have a strong partnership with Rajasthan Council of School Education, SMSA Government of Rajasthan. We signed an MoU in 2021 for four years for working in collaboration in seven districts of Rajasthan namely; Bundi, Tonk, Chittorgarh, Jodhpur, Rajsamand, Dungarpur, and Sawai Madhopur. In addition, another MoU has been signed with RCSE, SMSA Government of Rajasthan, to bring innovations in teaching learning processes and promote ICT enabled education in 4 Districts (Tonk, Dungarpur, Rajsamand and Udaipur) of Rajasthan.

Bal Raksha Bharat has a partnership with Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), Department of School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Learning Improvement Programme (LIP) for the upper primary school grades (grades 6 to 8) being implemented in 10 districts of AP. It attempts to ensure that state schools to access quality school practices and learning for all children, including those who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of the formal schooling system by improving teaching learning practices.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS

Bal Raksha Bharat supported and collaborated with the government at various levels through a life cycle approach, supporting the service delivery and existing mechanism to address H&N-related issues and provided multi-sectoral interventions to families, focusing on children's holistic development and well-being. For optimal H&N-related outcomes in children, adolescents and mothers, we tested and piloted innovative models with the use of technology which are replicable within the existing Health and ICDS system.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

→ I. CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF MWCD ON “POSHAN ABHIYAN” AND ‘JAN ANDOLAN’ DOWN TO THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.

During Rashtriya POSHAN Maah, Bal Raksha Bharat actively promoted nutrition literacy and enhanced ICDS efforts up to the last mile. **During POSHAN Maah 2021, 2022 and 2023. The total number of participants reached with nutrition messaging and targeted counselling was around 18,038; 27,627; and 19,822, respectively, across 15 intervention states & UTs.** In 2022, during POSHAN Maah, Bal Raksha Bharat and NITI Aayog jointly organised a roundtable discussion to enhance the impact of POSHAN Abhiyan and the role of development partners. There was participation and representation of high-level officers from MoHFW, DWCD MP, and Haryana to deliberate on multi-sectoral convergence and community accountability to augment POSHAN Abhiyan. Bal Raksha Bharat became the State Steering Committee Member for Delhi, constituted under Mission Poshan 2.0 at Delhi to ensure effective convergence for nutrition and review the progress

→ II. WORKING CLOSELY WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (MOHFW) FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF RMNCHN, PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES SUCH AS PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA THROUGH A SYSTEMS APPROACH AND BRINGING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.

Engagement with Key Ministries and Institutions under Health and Nutrition (2021-23)

- ⇒ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare/State Department/District
- ⇒ Ministry of Women and Child Development (ICDS)/State/ District
- ⇒ NITI Aayog
- ⇒ Pune Municipal Corporation
- ⇒ Indian Council of Medical Research
- ⇒ National Institute of Nutrition
- ⇒ IIT Bombay

Bal Raksha Bharat signed a MoU with Govt of Haryana and provided technical assistance for the rollout of MNCH module and prevention of childhood under-nutrition. Bal Raksha Bharat trained 500 ASHAs on MNCH services through modules 6 and 7 and capacitated around 700 AWCs on MIYCN and Growth Monitoring

Between 2019 and 2021, Bal Raksha Bharat implemented programs to prevent and manage childhood pneumonia across two states (UP and Rajasthan), which directly benefited 1,12,908 children (0-5 years of age) on Protect, Prevent and Treat interventions and successfully reduced ARI Prevalence by 63% in the intervention areas.

Bal Raksha Bharat supported the MoHFW on the rollout and effective implementation of IDCF campaigns (Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight) to prevent water-borne diseases and other childhood infections. Bal Raksha Bharat developed a self-learning Hand Hygiene Mobile App in 5 Indian languages. More than 10 lakh targeted beneficiaries have used this intervention.

Deputy Commissioner of MoHFW unveiled a report undertaken by Bal Raksha Bharat in partnership with the Indian Institute of Population Studies (IIPS), on Childhood Pneumonia and its associated factors in India. in December 2022. The report presented crucial findings and policy suggestions for tackling the multifaceted issue of childhood pneumonia, the biggest killer of children under five.

Bal Raksha Bharat has provided technical assistance for the SAANS campaign (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully) since 2019. We have supported the social media campaign for 'SAANS' and successfully achieved 52 lakh digital footprints around messaging and awareness of childhood pneumonia.

Bal Raksha Bharat implemented a four-year multi-state program called "Stop Diarrhoea Initiative" which concluded in 2012 and showed a 62% reduction in diarrheal deaths of children under five across 4 states. Many of the successful innovations have been adopted across states post-2019.

Bal Raksha Bharat's SBCC Hand Hygiene Program reached over 5 crore through Mass Media and over 3 crore through Digital Campaigns. More than 7,000 teachers and 5,400 Frontline Workers were trained in Hand Hygiene across four states.

→ III. WE HAVE CLOSELY WORKED WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DURING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

Bal Raksha Bharat supported 678 hospitals and health facilities, developed 31 COVID-19 care units in public health facilities, and 13 paediatric COVID-19 care units.

MOU signed with South Delhi Municipal Corporation for setting up of PSA oxygen plant in Tilak Nagar hospital facility

Ensured uptake of 20 lakh COVID-19 vaccine Dosages by eligible beneficiaries through 1656 outreach camps across 9 states. This was done through a 3-way strategy, which included the following;

- Strengthening the health systems and its vaccination effort (Supply side interventions)
- Mobilizing targeted beneficiaries for vaccination (Demand side interventions)
- Ensuring the convergence of community, community-based organisations, Government and allied sector (Eco-system intervention)

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT'S CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES

To ensure children are protected from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation (physical and virtual) and from being forced into labour, trafficking and marriage, we worked 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. Bal Raksha Bharat has a proven track record in India of both delivering and influencing key policy decisions, such as the legislation on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012), Juvenile Justice Act and amendment of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

➔ I. SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES ON CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS (CISS)

Our interventions for CISS are aimed at generating evidence towards the magnitude of the problems, policy analysis and finding suitable solutions to address the issue holistically.

Engagement with Key Ministries and Institutions under Child Protection (2021-23)

- ➔ Ministry of Women and Child Development/State Department/District
- ➔ Ministry of Labour and Employment/State Department/District
- ➔ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)/ State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR)
- ➔ National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)

A significant achievement of our work in this area is the collaborative development of a **Standard Operating Procedure for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations 2.0 with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).**" Following the launch of the SOP2.0 in 2020, we supported the district administration in developing an action plan to address child protection issues in 50 religious places across India.

Our efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the SOP received a major fillip as the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in November 2021 took cognizance of the SOP for CISS. Following the Supreme Court order, NCPCR established a new link called 'CiSS' on the Baalswaraj Portal to collect CiSS data from all State Governments/Union Territories. This is aimed at monitoring the rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, the data from Bal Raksha Bharat's 10-city study was uploaded on the Baalswaraj Portal by NCPCR. The Supreme court directed NCPCR, State Governments/Union Territories and the statutory bodies under the JJ Act to submit status reports regarding the implementation of the SOP within next 15 days. Bal Raksha Bharat has also been **supporting the states** of Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Delhi & Maharashtra in developing a **policy for Children in Street Situations.**

II. CLOSELY WORKING WITH WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM IN INDIA

Bal Raksha Bharat has been engaging with government duty bearers at the national, state and district level to capacitate them by providing hand holding support and tools to deliver on their mandate of protecting children. Bal Raksha Bharat **contributed to the Mission Vatsalya** guidelines and is working with the state governments to ensure its effective roll out and implementation. Bal Raksha Bharat was nominated as member of Steering Committee for UNCRC reporting process by Ministry of Women & Child Development for the 5th & 6th UNCRC Country report (2020).

III. CATALYSING EFFORTS TO ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR THROUGH PROGRAMME & POLICY INTERVENTIONS

Bal Raksha Bharat is a **member of the Central Advisory Board of Ministry of Labour** and has been providing technical support to streamline SOP on Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Amendment) CALPRA and strengthen PENCIL portal for child labour. **Bal Raksha Bharat was invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textile and Skill Development to provide recommendations on the National Child Labour Policy.** Bal Raksha Bharat was selected as a member of the State Child Labour Commission, Bihar, in 2022 for the period of 2022-25. Bal Raksha Bharat is also the Member in State Monitoring Committee, State Child Labour action plan under Labour Resource Department, Govt. of Bihar. Also serving as Governing council member and Executive committee member in State Child Protection Society constituted under ICPS, Dept of Social Welfare, Govt. of Bihar. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT FOR LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

Bal Raksha Bharat supported and collaborated with the government at various levels through a life cycle approach, supporting the service delivery and existing mechanism to address H&N-related issues and provided multi-sectoral interventions to families, focusing on children's holistic development and well-being. For optimal H&N-related outcomes in children, adolescents and mothers, we tested and piloted innovative models with the use of technology which are replicable within the existing Health and ICDS system.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

→ I. STRENGTHENING “CHILD SENSITIVITY ELEMENTS” INTO SCHEMES’ DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND UTILISATION CYCLE.

Bal Raksha Bharat through its interventions on making Social Protection deliver more for Children has shared good practices on making social protection schemes and programmes child sensitive in **Palanhaar scheme with Government of Rajasthan**, the recommendation on parenting has been included (2023).

→ II. COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

Bal Raksha Bharat has been working closely with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to ensure 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. Bal Raksha Bharat also signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for collaboration with Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube) within National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in 2020.

Engagement with Key Ministries and Institutions under Livelihood and Social Protection (2021-23)

- ⇒ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- ⇒ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- ⇒ National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
- ⇒ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

DETAILED OVERVIEW OF OUR KEY PROGRAMMES



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Children often face the greatest risks in the aftermath of any humanitarian crisis: separation from families, and subjected to different forms of physical and mental abuse. We continually work on our humanitarian action, which includes preparedness, mitigation, risk reduction, resilience building and are not just limited to immediate action, supporting 40+ emergencies across India since 2004. Bal Raksha Bharat is committed to ensure provision of Humanitarian Relief to Every Last Child.

Below is a glimpse of some of our humanitarian responses as Bal Raksha Bharat during 2020-2023

COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (2020-2022)

COVID-19 as a global pandemic threatened children's situation, exposed them to potential disruption to their education, healthcare, protection and overall wellbeing, including social interaction with friends, peers, family members, teachers and adult caregivers. In India, children who constitute 40% of the population were exposed to multi-dimensional risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bal Raksha Bharat in alignment with the Government of India's priorities initiated the COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response to ensure life-saving services remain accessible to children and communities in need of humanitarian assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic witnessed Bal Raksha Bharat launch its largest emergency response from March 2020 to June 2022. The response plan was designed in three phases: Lockdown, Community Outbreak and Recovery. The goal was to deliver a 'Non-Medical/Non-Pharmaceutical Basic Essential Package' for the most-deprived and marginalised children (girls and boys), their families, and communities in India across the strategic priority geographies.

Bal Raksha Bharat quickly and effectively mobilised human resources, increasing from 350 to over 1500. The organisation worked closely with and supported the Government to deliver solutions, rallying resources and people to help heal a nation at a scale. Interventions were planned and implemented.

Supported the Government in COVID-19 response spread over 19 states, 121 districts (24 of which are Aspirational Districts) 9,229 villages and 234 slums; reaching more than 40 lakh communities in vulnerable situations, of which more than 14 lakh were children.

Interventions aimed at strengthening the health system supported 678 healthcare facilities, including capacitating oxygen supply to counter COVID-19 crises, established 31 COVID-19 Care Units and 13 Child Friendly Paediatric COVID-19 Care Units and more than **20 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccination** were supported by the mobilization efforts of Bal Raksha Bharat across all implementing states. Bal Raksha Bharat channelled resources towards delivering 1,827 oxygen concentrators to public hospitals across the country to serve low-resourced communities.

To ensure sustainable sources of oxygen, Bal Raksha Bharat collaborated with government to install oxygen plants in few public hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Delhi. Additionally, 200 hospitals were supported with critical medical equipment to treat COVID patients. More than 10 lakh mothers and children, 9,000 frontline workers and teachers were trained on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, including handwashing with soap. More than 87,000 families were provided food kits for at least three months benefiting more than 0.4 million individuals.

Stepping up to a medical response

Support interventions covered
9,229 Villages in **121** Districts Across **19** States



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

reached through covid support and relief mechanisms

3 Public Health Facilities

were supported oxygen plants,

31 With covid care units,

1827

13 With paediatric covid centres

Oxygen Concentrators Were delivered



678

Public hospitals supported with required medical equipment and supplies

Supported govt. Medical health facilities in administration of over **20 LAKH** covid vaccination doses to adolescents and adults



OTHER HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (2021-2023)



HYDERABAD FLOODS (2020), BIHAR FLOODS (2021), KERALA RAIN FLOODS (2021)

First responder in Hyderabad floods, where we reached 13000 children. Some of the key response interventions include, Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) (Hygiene, Shelter Kits), Education Kits, Food Items & Cash for Work. Bal Raksha Bharat was a part of o Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) drafting committee for guidelines on Urban Flooding.



CYCLONE AMPHAN (2020), CYCLONE YAS (2021)

First responder to cyclone Amphan within 72 hours despite the added challenges of COVID-19 and reverse migration. We reached out to 3822 children in cyclone affected areas in Odhisha & West Bengal. Distributed food items to 2835 households (HH). Hygiene kits were distributed to 2251 HH and 1418 Shelter Kits were distributed.

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Our education programs align seamlessly with the MoE's program 'Sarva Shiksha', reinforcing the Right to Education Act 2009 and ensuring access to education for all children. Strategically located in regions with inadequate resources, particularly in Aspirational districts of NITI Aayog, our interventions aim to provide quality education to vulnerable children. Furthermore, we prioritize the implementation of initiatives in alignment with the government's National Education Policy 2020 and NIPUN Bharat Mission, with a focus on delivering a high-quality foundational learning environment for every child. Between Jan 2021 - Dec 2023 Bal Raksha Bharat equipped schools with supplementary teaching learning material, created resource-rich environment and supported children through Catch Up Clubs to attain grade-appropriate language and mathematics skills. Recognising the intrinsic link between learning and well-being, Bal Raksha Bharat supported children and teachers safe and sustained return to schools. We also supported adults and children to establish and maintain supportive relationships, feel and show empathy for others, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals.



PROTECTING AND PROMOTING FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING AT SCALE

When home became school Bal Raksha Bharat moved rapidly to stem the learning loss by ensuring that learning continued at home. School readiness could be promoted by enabling parents and caregivers with the tools and skills needed to help children continue learning at home. The widespread adoption of smartphones made mobile technology the most accessible platform to deliver these tools. Designed for simplicity and efficacy, Bal Raksha Bharat developed the **Gulmohar module**, an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Curriculum Framework, for children in the age group of 3-8 years, making it easy for parents to help their children develop the skills necessary for school. The framework was customised to a disaster situation with easy to-follow audio-visual guides that turned commonly found household items into learning aids. The module also advocates for storytelling as a powerful and accessible path to learning with multi-fold psychological and educational benefits. Government of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Bihar have institutionalized Gulmohar as a part of their FLN framework, demonstrating the scale up potential of this programme. Government of Bihar has uploaded videos of Gulmohar on their YouTube channel - ECCE Bihar, and in collaboration with Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC), Gulmohar has been referred while developing the state level FLN framework of Jharkhand.



PEACE EDUCATION : PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH A CULTURE OF PEACE AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declared: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”. Education is thus one medium through which the mind can be trained for building the “defences of peace” and the present Manual on Peace Education for Teachers is a step in that direction. It is an effort to invent peace and replace the ‘culture of violence’ with a ‘culture of peace’. “A culture of peace is a culture that promotes peace.” (UNESCO)

In the year 2000, Bal Raksha Bharat, in collaboration with Directorate of School Education Kashmir and Ladakh introduced peace education in more than 210 govt. run schools, with an aim to promote three key areas of development of a child a) Quality Education, b) Build Culture of Peace & c) Create Safe School Environment.

The same year, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi undertook an exercise to review the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE)-2000 on the directions of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). 21 focus groups were constituted as part of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 – Education for Peace was one of them. The NCF 2005 laid stress on developing attitudes, values and skills among teachers for organizing activities, to promote and nurture peace among children. The NCERT took up several initiatives to operationalize Peace Education in schools – organized training courses and workshops for school teachers, developed a resource book for school teachers etc.

THE OBJECTIVES OF PEACE EDUCATION

- Training in peace education is the first step towards building a culture of peace. Children should be trained from the time they are kids, so that when they grow up to be adults, they are already rooted in a culture of peace. However, to train students in peace, we first need to train school teachers.
- The present Manual on peace education for Teachers has been created with the intent to promote and develop relevant training content on Peace Education. It has been done so in consultation with relevant stakeholders – teachers, Save the Children’s Child Protection and Education experts, scholars etc.
- The Manual seeks to engage children and educate and train them in skills of conflict resolution and peace-building, which will help them deal positively and proactively with conflicts in and around them, before they turn violent.
- The Manual combines theory with practice. On the one hand, it focuses on the conceptual and theoretical understanding of themes and issues pertaining to peace, conflict resolution and peace-building and on the other, on their practical and experiential knowledge.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Module & SOP on Peace Education, Comprehensive School Safety and Security and Child Safeguarding Policy** developed in collaboration with Directorate of School Education Kashmir and Leh.
- **Increased Enrollment by more than 15%** in intervention schools through various child-led activities, campaigns, enrollment drives in coordination with the Education dept.
- **Established child protection mechanisms in 258 Schools in coordination with District Child Protection Units (Mission Vatsalya) and Directorate of School Education.**
- Formation and Strengthening of 258 Children Group Committees and School Management Committees in intervention schools.
- **Community-based awareness** & positive engagement of children through sports and cultural activities across intervention schools of Leh and Budgam.
- **Cadre of Resource Pool - more than 70 TOT (Training of Trainers) developed on PEACE EDUCATION from Leh and Kashmir**
- Training of Mid Level Managers (38) on Peace Education
- **More than 700 teachers from across J&K and Ladakh** have been trained in person on Peace Education, School Safety and Security, Child Safeguarding.
- Multi stakeholders core committee engagement in streamlining school safety Audit plan
- 91 zonal officers from Kashmir division trained on School safety Audit format
- **Formation of District-Level Steering committee on Peace Education, School Safety and Child Safeguarding Policy.**
- 27 officials from ICPS trained on peace education child safeguarding policy and school safety and security audit.
- Safety audit conducted by Bal Raksha Bharat & Government Officials in 150 government run schools. Findings shared with ICPS and Education Department.
- National level consultations on Peace Education with participation from varied Depts. like IMPA, NCERT, NEPA, Universities other stakeholders, focusing on the importance of Peace Education in the Education system.



SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE LEARNING CONTINUITY IN JHARKHAND

To protect and ensure learning continuity for the most marginalised children of Jharkhand through the pandemic and beyond, Bal Raksha Bharat entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC). Communication packages raised awareness on the need for learning continuity. Technical support helped build teacher capacity and ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour through the lockdowns and when children returned to school. Recorded stories became a powerful mode of learning and were broadcast on All India Radio and FM channels. 5 radio channels in Jharkhand and 1 in Bihar broadcast 30 stories as part of their educational programme. The audio-visual content of the Gulmohar modules added a welcome resource for pre-school learners on the DIGI-School App. Technical support by Bal Raksha Bharat on JEPC's online platforms also helped train teachers for a safe transition back to school, with a focus on children's learning and psychosocial well-being.



OUR HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMES

Between Jan 2021-March 2023 Bal Raksha Bharat worked towards strengthening access to clean water and sanitation, hygiene practices, adequate dietary intake and prevention and management of childhood infections which can help to address poor health and undernutrition. We worked to support the government and increase the coverage of government flagship programmes such as Anaemia Mukht Bharat, Poshan Abhiyan, Eat Right Campaign to improve the health and nutritional well-being of children, adolescents and mothers. Major interventions included sensitizing the stakeholders at block, district and state levels, capacitating front line workers, activating the Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committees, strengthening community level institutions, implementing IYCF BCC strategy.

INNOVATING FOR LAST MILE DELIVERY - A BREATH OF HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PNEUMONIA

We piloted a two-year innovative project to bring high-quality pneumonia care to approximately 90,000 under-five children across 45 urban wards in Rajasthan and two rural blocks in Uttar Pradesh. The pilot, concluded successfully in 2021, focused on the upgradation of infrastructure and capacity along the healthcare chain to aid pneumonia prevention, detection, treatment and management. Simultaneously, the mobile health tool on social and behaviour change communication, M-Health, educated and drove change in communities and among frontline workers so that timely and appropriate treatment could be sought and delivered. The project pushed the use of technology to revamp the MIS systems for accurate data management. The project reached close to 5 lakh people, directly benefiting the lives of close to 90,000 young children And 1,000 health worke.

Three pneumonia skill labs (one in Tonk, Rajasthan and two in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh) were set up. These are structured skill stations with the specific objective of imparting competency in pneumonia management to ANM, staff nurses, lady health visitors, medical officers, community health officer (CHO), nursing supervisors, teachers and trainers We handed over the skill lab to ANMTC in Rajasthan and to the CHCs in UP, who are still using it for skill-based training. Similar skill-lab provisions are now available under NHM PIP where a district can budget for 2.5 lakh for setting up skill-labs.

SCALING UP EFFORTS TO ENSURE CHILDREN'S NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING: POSHAN MAAH

Bal Raksha Bharat during the Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2021, amplified its efforts to reach over 23,000 people across intervention geographies. In Gaya, Bihar, Bal Raksha Bharat collaborated with the District Health Administration and ICDS for community outreach and awareness generation activities, using mobile vans, counselling, interactive sessions and art activities. The month-long campaign raised awareness on nutrition among pregnant women, young children and adolescents. The Jan Jagruti Rally in Pune and Poshan Rath in Bihar and Jharkhand, inaugurated by district ICDS, created community awareness on nutrition specific issues for children.



OUR CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

From January 2021 to December 2023, Bal Raksha Bharat focused on various aspects of Child Protection. This encompassed initiatives related to Children in Street Situations, strengthening the Child Protection System through workforce development via competency-based training at local and sub-national levels, putting an end to the abuse and exploitation of children, promoting psychosocial well-being through mental health and psychosocial support, and ensuring online safety for children. We worked with the government to support the implementation of Mission Vatsalya, strengthening child protection workforce and strengthening programmes for Children in Street Situations and supporting PENCIL portal of Ministry for Labour and Employment. Bal Raksha Bharat was nominated as member of Steering Committee for UNCRC reporting process by Ministry of Women & Child Development for the 5th & 6th UNCRC Country report (2020).

EXTENDING CRITICAL PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Bal Raksha Bharat responded to children's increasing mental health concerns during the pandemic by launching Ummeed, a dedicated helpline in partnership with the Rajasthan SCPCR. Ummeed allowed children and parents to seek counselling for mental health support from the safety of their homes by dialling a specific number. In addition, parents and children could report child protection issues like abuse or offences related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act which were then escalated to the state Child Rights Commission, Government of Rajasthan for action. The helpline, with 12 dedicated counsellors

The helpline responded to over 5,000 calls for help and escalated 70 cases of child rights violations.

on call, was soon receiving over 80 calls a day, mostly from parents of adolescents. Children in distress reached out to share worries about the unaffordability of digital education and tuition amid distress reached out to share worries about the unaffordability of digital education and tuition amid school closures. The helpline also received calls from parents seeking support for handling behavioural signs observed in children, including aggression, irritability and digital addiction. Bal Raksha Bharat provided assistance and psychosocial first aid across Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

CREATING A COMMUNITY-LEVEL CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE

In a bid to create safety nets for children, Bal Raksha Bharat focused on creating community cadres for the protection of children living within their own families and communities by creating a trained child protection workforce in every community. Bal Raksha Bharat found solutions by working with Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) and engaging with all duty bearers (under the Juvenile Justice Act), community representatives and children to push children's well-being and safety as a joint responsibility. These child protection workers within the community identify children at risk and escalate these cases for action to appropriate authorities, including the DCPU. These workforces were activated during COVID-19 to address issues of care and protection during the pandemic. The effort of several years bore fruit in Jharkhand and West Bengal with Bal Raksha Bharat being approved as an assessment centre for offering customised qualification for community level child protection.

over 1,500 children orphaned due to covid-19 were traced and linked to institutional provisions for support and custody the helpline responded to over 5,000 calls for help and escalated 70 cases of child rights violations



OUR LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

Bal Raksha Bharat through several state-level programmes has helped many children secure their well-being during Jan 2021-Dec 2023 period. We worked with clusters that have ultra-poor and large families who are on the verge of poverty line, a shock and stress in their life may pull them down back to the poverty line. We supported the governments to ensure greater and durable investments in social services, social protection measures and effective local governance that is child and gender friendly. Through our programmes we identify vulnerable communities and link them with Paalanhar Scheme, NREGA, Pradhan Mantri Uthhan Kana Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Matritva Bandhana Yojna. We also helped citizens gain access to Old age pension scheme and Scholarship schemes. We have also leveraged PMKVY, NRLM and state chapters to support in creating livelihood for women and young adults in both rural and urban areas to contribute to Skill India and Make in India programmes of the government.

ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO WITHSTAND ADVERSITY

Bal Raksha Bharat through its state-level programmes has concentrated on diversifying livelihoods within families by giving dignified employment opportunities to adolescents, often by breaking deep-set behavioural, cultural and social norms to ensure a healthy transition into adulthood. Over 1400 youth and adolescents were offered soft skills and vocational training to enhance employability. Other programmatic interventions looked at the specific challenges of Children in Street Situations (CiSS) and vulnerable households and helped by providing them access to legal identities and linking them to social protection schemes. In collaboration with government bodies, we ensured that more than 2500 CiSS were provided with legal IDs and 5000 families were linked to social protection schemes.



YOUTH INNOVATION AND ACTION LAB (YIAL)

Bal Raksha Bharat piloted a unique incubation and accelerator program that brings together a cohort of youth and adolescents to identify problems faced by them, and their communities to develop and pilot ingenious solutions. The Youth Innovation and Action Lab aims to leverage and catalyse the entrepreneurial potential of Indian youth, particularly in the realm of women-led social and green enterprises. YIAL was piloted through 8 workshops across the states of Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Delhi in both urban and rural contexts. Through these workshops, youth gathered deep insights about the root causes of exigent socio-economic

problems ranging from migration, climate change, unemployment, to cyber-crime and lifestyle diseases etc. which impacted their communities. This process enabled more than 150 youth (between 18 and 24 years) to develop 17 entrepreneurial propositions covering sectors like food and beverage, education, green businesses, dairy, tailoring as well as safety and security. These ideas were showcased at Ideas at Adda (marketplace), which attracted participation from social impact partners, policy and government stakeholders, thematic experts and social impact-investors.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Enhancing participation of children and young leaders

Bal Raksha Bharat empowers potential changemakers to further their impact. It ensures children are aware of their rights, provided with trainings and platforms to share and express their views on issues such as right to food, shelter, education, sanitation, protection, urban development, among others. Some of those children have gone on to be selected in leadership programs run by partners like UNICEF's Yuwaah, Pravah, Ashoka, Dasra etc. We have mentored several child champions and created numerous opportunities for them to speak at local, national, or global platforms. Children who lead their own micro-projects have reached over 2100 children and 14000 community members since 2021.



Sumati Halder, Kolkata, was forced to drop out of school and work in a leather factory. Bal Raksha Bharat provided her training, and she started working in a beauty salon for a monthly salary of INR 4,500. When the pandemic struck, all her family members lost their jobs. They struggled to get one square meal. Immediately after the lockdown was lifted, Sumati took a loan and started a small business using her beautician skills. Her business picked up with consistency and hard work, and she began earning INR 20,000 per month.



Naman Sonapar is a young environment and climate campaigner. He is the founder of 'Hari Koshish' a platform aiming towards a brighter and better future. Naman was invited to represent the youth perspective at COP27 side event where he emphasised child rights and climate action and shared insights from his participation in our campaign. In his words, each step counts and every change has to start somewhere.

PUBLICATIONS

We generated new evidence to strengthen the agenda of children and their wellbeing. At Bal Raksha Bharat, we have partnered with leading institutions like, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science (NIMHANS), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), and National Institute of Nutrition etc. to strengthen our research work. Some of the key studies through which we have strengthened evidence for informed policy making and programming include contributions to Voluntary National Review (2020) prepared by NITI Aayog, Generation at Stake: Protecting India's Children from Impact of COVID-19, 2020, Cost of Universalising Early Childhood Education in India, 2021, WINGS 2022: Spotlight on Adolescent Girls amid COVID-19, 2022, The Rights and Agency of Children (TRAC) 2022: Spotlight on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being, 2022 and Child-Centred Humanitarian Response, Planning and Actions for Urban setting in India, 2023.



CONCLUSION

We reaffirm our unwavering dedication to the well-being of children and pledge to maintain active collaboration with the government in this crucial domain of governance and public interest. We aim to 'drive effectiveness and efficiency' as well as become a more 'accountable and agile organisation' by further strengthening our accountability and transparency to children and partners.





**Bal
Raksha
Bharat**

Also known as **Save the Children**

Registered Office
D-61, East of Kailash,
New Delhi-110 065, India

Tel: (+91) 011 40538140



balrakshabharat.org



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