



Bal Raksha Bharat is the Indian member of the International Save the Children Alliance.

This year has marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Save the Children in India as Save the Children organisations working in India become a single national organisation. The year also saw us expand our presence, notably in Bihar. Today, Save the Children works in 13 states and union territories: Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Pondicherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Our current priorities are increasing children's access to quality education; protecting children from abuse, exploitation and neglect; working with children affected by HIV AIDS; ensuring better nutrition and health care for children and assisting children and their families being better prepared for emergencies and coping with the aftermath.

**Thematic Areas
we work in:**

Education
Child Protection
HIV/AIDS
Health
Hunger
Emergency

CEOs Message



2007-2008 has been a year of transition. The global Save the Children members operating in India for more than 60 years have come together under one entity, Save the Children, Bal Raksha, Bharat. This gives us better operational efficiencies and programmatic focus. This is less confusing to our stakeholders who only will have to deal with one Save the Children organization in India. We have also created an exceptionally skilled team with access to the global Save the Children expertise and superb executional ability.

We have received the Government approvals to operate as an independent society, the tax exemptions and the approval required to receive foreign donations. The organisation has a remarkable Board chaired by Arun Maira. The Board has clearly articulated its vision that we should be the 'Go to' organisation for children in India. That is indeed what we are setting up! An organisation that would greatly impact millions of Indian children and thereby shape the future of the world.

Thomas Chandy,
CEO
Save the Children

Key Achievements



- Community based protection mechanisms (793 Children Groups and Child Protection Committees) to protect children from abuse and exploitation were set up across the programme states.
- Education support provided to 5,673 working children in order to enable them to get back to mainstream education and another 2,786 drop-out children were placed back in school.
- Researched and co-authored an extensive study on child abuse in India in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of a community-based component to the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) being developed by the Ministry for Women and Child Development.
- We responded to two major floods in four states, reaching over 40,000 children.

Table 1:
Number of children directly benefited during the year

Themes	Number of children directly benefited
Education	133,951
Child protection	98,258
HIV & AIDS	6,890
Health	14,876
Other (water and sanitation)	18,559
Emergencies	58,587
Emergencies (TRP)	198,993
Total	530,114

Education:

Main area of focus was improving access and retention by improving quality of education.

In Jammu and Kashmir 14,865 children had improved access to schooling in 10 districts through teacher training and strengthening Village Education Committees (VECs).

In Orissa, 429 children with disabilities were mainstreamed into formal schools, 66 ICDS workers and teachers were oriented on inclusive education; 554 children were provided with physical aids and appliances, and 174 children received government scholarships.

A study on "Minimum standards for quality education" was conducted in Andhra Pradesh.

We played a key role in the formation of the Tamil Nadu Inter-Agency Group on Early Childhood Care and Development led by the ICDS department.



776 children from 40 flood-affected villages in Bihar were sent back to school through a Back-to-School campaign.

Child Protection

Community based protection mechanisms were set up to prevent and respond to child protection issues. Children are part of these community-based committees and were instrumental in identifying, discussing, responding to and preventing child rights violations and child protection concerns:

- 793 Children Groups and Child Protection Committees (CPC) were formed.
- 3,500 children and 56 NGO functionaries provided with child protection training.
- 3,129 adolescent children benefited from life skills

and reproductive health training in Rajasthan.

- In Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra, safety to around 200,000 children within their community and schools were provided by the CPCs.
- 166 children were rescued from trafficking and were enrolled in formal schools and alternative education programmes.
- The CPCs prevented 305 child marriages in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
- We supported 25 residential institutions in six districts of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in improved living conditions for 1,000 orphans in the state.



HIV and AIDS

- Save the Children partnered with UNESCO, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, Plan, CARE, Modicare and Red FM to organise an awareness-raising event in Delhi to mark World AIDS Day on 4th December, 2007 in which 700 school and out of school children participated.
- We acquired membership of Tamil Nadu State HIV and AIDS Advisory Working Group for working with children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, as well as of the World Community Advisory Board of the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition.
- Work continued in Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and supporting interventions for combating stigma and discrimination.

Emergency Response

Tsunami Response Programme

This year saw the completion of the major part of the Tsunami Response Programme, with the final parts integrated in to Save the Children's India programme. The main areas of work were in Shelter, Early Childhood Development, Education, Livelihoods and Child Protection. The total beneficiaries: **500,433 children** including **198,993 girls**.

As part of our advocacy efforts the Disaster Management policy of Andhra Pradesh was changed to include Child Friendly relief supplies such as clothing, shelter, and food specifically addressing the nutritional needs of infants and babies.

26 Child led contingency plans were prepared with the participation of 8,535 children and support of adults and duty bearers. 104 task force groups formed. Disaster Management Policies of Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Tamilnadu reviewed completed

Flood Response

A 7-month emergency flood response programme was implemented in 286 villages of four severely affected states (Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Assam) and reached more than 15,000 families including 40,587 children.

The emergency programme included distribution of food supplies, clothes, shelter and provision of health and safe play and education areas for children.

47 primary schools were repaired, and 16,335 children have received education kits and support in returning to school.



Strategic Engagement with Government:

Central Government:

Save the Children has worked closely with the Ministry of Women and Child Development over the last year, providing technical support in the follow up to the Child Abuse study which was researched for the Ministry along with UNICEF. As a result of our efforts a community based child protection mechanism was included in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) developed by the Ministry.



At the state levels, Save the Children has also engaged with the Departments of Social Welfare and Education.

In Jammu and Kashmir, we reviewed the Minimum Standards for Care in Institutions in collaboration with the government

Media and Advocacy work was done specifically on Child Labour across the states. In Orissa, we successfully lobbied with the government to issue a circular to all the Collectors and District Magistrates asking for stricter enforcement of child labour laws and policies; in Bihar we have fed into the development of a State Child Labour Action Plan, and in West Bengal a report on 'Missing Children' was published working closely with the government to set up child protection mechanisms across the state to prevent trafficking into child domestic work or commercial sexual trade.

FUTURE AREAS OF WORK

We plan to focus on the critical area of child survival over the next two years. A scoping study on Hunger and Malnutrition was conducted to define how Save the Children will work in this critical area. A Child Rights Situation Analysis is also underway to define our future areas of intervention.

Our Governing Council Members:

Arun Maira, Chairman (Chairman, Boston Consulting Group)

Harpal Singh, Vice Chairman (Non Executive Chairman, Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited)

Pallavi Shroff (Partner, Amarchand & Mangaldas, Suresh A. Shroff & Co.)

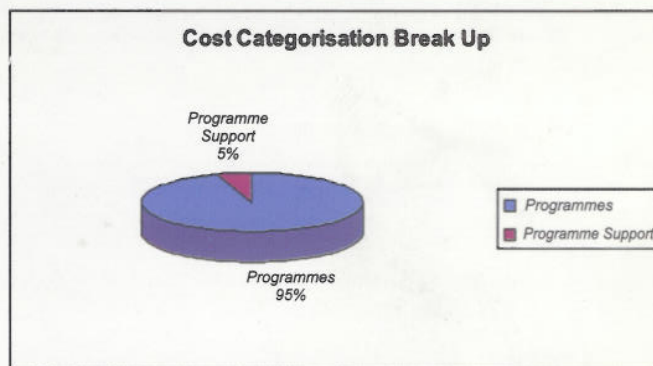
Smita Parekh (Director, Mahindra United World College)

Manju Bharat Ram (Founder & Chairperson, Shriram Schools)

Rajiv Kapur (Founder, InvesTech)

Cost categorisation break up

	INR
Programmes	549,390,369
Programme Support	28,752,790
Total*	578,143,159



* Total work done by Save the Children in India



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