



Making

#TheInvisibles

Visible



INTRODUCTION

Save the Children is committed to reaching out to all children in need of care and protection with emphasised focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised. Acknowledging the importance of an identity document for children in street situations, Save the Children has launched a project, namely, 'Surviving the Streets in India: Providing a legal identity' (#TheInvisibles), which provides children in street situations with a legal identity document. The intervention aims to provide a legal identity, school enrolment, access to healthcare services, skill development, employment opportunities and financial services to 2,00,000 children across (Delhi, Kolkata, Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur, Mughalsarai, Lucknow, Pune, Mumbai and Nasik) in the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal over a period of two years till March 31, 2020.

Visit us at:
www.savethechildren.in

CONTENTS

COVER STORY	... 2
<i>Launch of 'Spotlight on #TheInvisibles'</i>	
NEWS UPDATES	... 4
<i>Protecting #TheInvisibles from toxic air</i>	
<i>We ask Kolkata to #lightupherway</i>	
<i>Residential camps organised for reintegration of #TheInvisibles into society</i>	
<i>Save the Children supports government in strengthening Individual Care Plan</i>	... 5
FACT FILE	... 6
IN THE NEWS	... 7



Sanyukta Bhatia, Mayor of Lucknow addressing the gathering at the launch

Launch of 'SPOTLIGHT on #TheInvisibles'

"We need organisations working in the field of child rights to reach every last child," said Sanyukta Bhatia, Mayor of Lucknow during the launch of 'Spotlight on #TheInvisibles-A mapping study on children in street situations'. The report, which took stock of children living and working on the streets without a legal identity, was launched on November 27, 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Representatives from civil society organisations working on child rights, our implementing partners, child champions, members of child rights Protection Commissions from West Bengal, New Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh; UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) and Directorate of Women and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) from all four states were present at the event.

The objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic and related conditions of children living in street situations (CiSS) and help integrate them into the mainstream. The study carried out a complete enumeration of the children in street situations in 10 cities (Delhi, Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mughal Sarai, Mumbai, Nashik, Pune and Kolkata) through a census survey. The report based on the

study examines the status of CiSS in terms of their legal identity and access to various social security schemes.

Save the Children, CEO, Bidisha Pillai said, "The importance of reliable data on CiSS is key to help in their rehabilitation process. One of the biggest challenges we face with these children is the absence of data on who these children are, where they live and what they do. This study is an attempt to bridge this gap of reliable data."



Launch of the mapping study report at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

COVER STORY

On the occasion, the Mayor of Lucknow, Sanyukta Bhatia, the Chief Guest at the event added that, "All agencies working in the field of child rights should work in convergence with a time-bound approach. The Government needs support and feedback from organisations working in this field. Every last child should achieve his/her rights and government and NGOs are working together for this noble cause. Lucknow Municipal Corporation is always there to provide all possible support."

Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Protection of child rights stressed on the issues of migration that poses serious challenge to handle the issue. "We need to deal with issues like migration, it's a major cause of children on streets. We need a separate plan to address such problem. An exclusive department is necessary to solve this issue, which will work at micro level at individual

ward levels. Children in street situations should get benefit of all social protection schemes," he said.

Preeti Verma Panday, Member, State Commission for Protection of child rights, Uttar Pradesh spoke about the need of public participation to ensure safety to these children. "We have to make their life safe and treat them like our own children. We will take 'jan sahyog' to overcome such situations and we are working with business houses and market forums to sensitize them to make factories and markets child labour free," she said.

The Child Champions present at the event, Khushi and Adarsh got an opportunity to share their experience of life on the streets with UIDAI officials: Sunil Prasad, Asst Director, UIDAI, Gol and Jasmine, Deputy Director, UIDAI, Uttar Pradesh.



Child Champions sharing their experience on the importance of a legal identity card

NEWS UPDATES

Protecting #TheInvisibles from toxic air

Delhi reels under very poor pollution levels after Diwali celebration, Save the Children in partnership with Salaam Baalak Trust and MRYDO distributed 1500 respirator masks across 11 districts of Delhi for the children in street situations. Children identified were most vulnerable- who have been exposed to polluted air round the clock with no form of despair and who have identified through #TheInvisibles project. 40 hotspots were mapped based on the adverse situation and subsequently children were identified to distribute the masks. The masks were distributed on November 8, 2019. To ensure that children studying in schools are not adversely affected due to the current air quality, outreach workers went to the hotspots and sensitized the parents and children about the worrisome air quality situation prevailing in and across Delhi and further appealed them to restrain their children from undertaking outdoor activities till severe pollution condition persists. Parents were trained on the usage of masks and also the importance of regular usage of masks. A do's and don'ts one pager was circulated among the families and children, so that they can use mask properly.



Distribution of masks for children living in the streets

Under this activity the Outreach Workers went to the hotspots and mobilised the stakeholders (Parents, Aanganwadi Workers, Teachers, Local Pradhan etc.) and shared information about social protection schemes which can be availed after getting their Aadhaar cards. A detailed discussion took place and a list



Meeting with the community to discuss benefits of social schemes

of required documents for availing such services were shared with the stakeholders.

Signature drive conducted across districts: A signature drive to support identity for street children also gathered momentum across the districts. People came and took oath to support identity of street children by signing the banner. This activity had a very positive outcome as people also talked about street children and their issues and showed interest in supporting the cause of these children.



Community participating in the signature campaign

We ask Kolkata to #lightupherway

West Bengal Massive campaign was observed in different parts of Kolkata and Howrah for children in street situations and girls safety, our tag line was #lightupherway. Snapshots of the campaign moments are captured through photographs. The campaign focussed on ensuring safety for children in street situations and on girls.

Residential camps organised for reintegration of #TheInvisibles into society

Uttar Pradesh 20 days' residential camps for Social reintegration and education Mainstreaming: Two camps in Allahabad and Lucknow held wherein 48 drug addicted and disengaged children living in street situation groomed and trained for 20 days through a structured camp. Individual child care plan developed based on their circumstances, willingness and orientations. Key government officials and statutory bodies participated in the camp. Child Welfare Committee, Post Office, Bank officials and members of State Commission for Protection of child rights delivered motivational speeches for children during the camp on de-addiction.

NEWS UPDATES



23 children reunited with their families A camp was held in Child Care Institution, Ramnagar (Varanasi) wherein 25 children had gone through the 20 days' course. Address of 23 children out of 25 were traced and unified to their families. Some of the staffs of child care institute, Ramnagar (Varanasi) have been part of the process to get a first-hand experience on family tracing and unification.



#TheInvisibles find voice for political participation as CRC week concludes A major rally was organised to mark the child rights week. Children across 5 locations i.e., Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Mughalsarai and Agra conducted rally to demand their right to identity. The weeklong rally concluded on 20th November where 10 representatives submitted manifesto of demands to Mayor of Lucknow, Ms. Sanyukta Bhatia.



Children participating in the rally to raise awareness

Save the Children supports government in strengthening Individual Care Plan

Maharashtra WCD (Women and Child Development), Department of Maharashtra initiated the concept of developing a Standardised Guideline of Individual Care Plan (ICP), so that all the Child Care Institutions, competitive authorities and key stakeholders must follow it properly and ensure implementation of ICPs towards the effective as well as successful rehabilitation of children under Juvenile Justice systems. In this process, Save the Children supported the Department in developing the ICP Guideline.

The ICP Guideline has been developed in two phases. In first phase the concept and need of ICP Guideline was placed before a Committee constituted for the development of ICP guideline. It is followed by the incorporation of suggestions of thematic experts (such as: Health & Nutrition, Education & Recreation, Psychology, Vocational Training) was done to freeze the content and elements of the guideline considering every aspect of a child's requirement under the Juvenile Justice system towards its social reintegration and rehabilitation.



A roundtable with government representatives to discuss the Guidelines

The second phase included a lot of critical feedback, suggestions and revision from the Honourable Commissioner, WCD, Maharashtra in the process of development of this document and it not only covered different components for child care, development and rehabilitation in the document but also helped a lot to prepare this document user friendly.

This process was followed during the final dissemination workshop on 7th November 2019 in Pune for the finalization of ICP guideline for CCIs. This workshop was organized by Save the Children under the leadership of Honourable Commissioner, Department of Women and Child Development, Maharashtra. In this process participation of other eminent stakeholders such as: CSOs (UNICEF, Miracle Foundation, PRERNA, International Justice Mission), Implementing Partner of Save the Children (New Vision), Child Welfare Committee representatives was ensured.

FACT FILE

FINDINGS FROM THE MAPPING STUDY (Spotlight on #TheInvisibles)

Identified Numbers



- Across the surveyed cities, 202765 children in street situations were identified. Of these, 81235 were in Delhi, followed by three cities of Maharashtra with 52535 in Mumbai, 14626 in Pune and 3894 in Nashik. In Uttar Pradesh, 30407 children were identified, of which, 5656 were in Agra, 4282 in Allahabad, 9147 in Kanpur, 10996 in Lucknow and 326 in Mughal Sarai. In Kolkata, 20068 children were found on the streets.
- In Delhi, of the 81235 children, 3025 were from Child Care Institutions (CCI).

Classification of Children in Street Situation



- Of the children identified, 59.2% were those working on the street.
- Nearly 37.7% of the identified children were those whose families lived on the streets and only about 3% were children living on the streets.
- Around 60% of the children were in the age group of 6 to 14 years.
- Among children working on the street, the percentage of girls across all age groups was higher than boys.

Reasons for Being on Street



- The three key reasons for children to be on the streets were search for job/income, lack of shelter and slum displacement.
- One out of two children, either those working on the street or whose families were on the street were from migrant families who came to city with or without family in search of jobs.
- Around 25% children ended up on the street after moving with the family, as they were unable to find shelter. Another 23% moved with or without family due to slum displacement.

Socio-demographic and Economic Profile



- Of the children identified, 60% were boys.
- Among the children identified in Delhi, 66.1% were between 6 to 14 years of age. One out of two children were between 6 to 14 years old in all cities except Mughal Sarai, where more than 80% children were aged 10 years or below and 47% children were 5 years old or below.

Education



- Approximately 58.1% children in the age group of 3-5 years had no formal education and could not read or write. Only 40% children among this age group had attended pre-school or received primary level of education.
- One in two children in the age group 6-10 years was not attending primary or upper primary school.
- Around 33% children in the age group of 11-14 years were attending upper primary school.
- One out of four children in the age group of 15-18 years were attending "higher education or technical training".

Marital Status



- Although all the respondents were minors, yet 0.3% (around 652) children on the streets were currently married. Out of them, 51% were girls. Importantly, around 12% children in the age group of 11-14 years reported to be married.

Place to Sleep



- One out of four children in street situations sleep on the street or footpath. Among surveyed cities, Allahabad (57.8%) and Kolkata (47%) had a very high share of children who sleep on the street or footpath.
- One in four girls was sleeping on street or footpath, which jeopardizes her safety.



Save the Children
100 YEARS

National Support Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No 91
Sector- 44, Gurugram – 122003
Webpage: www.savethechildren.in