

AVERTING A CHILD RIGHTS DISASTER

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21





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*If we don't stand up for children,
then we don't stand for much*

– Marian W Edelman



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

The year 2020-21 was challenging for everyone. The Covid19 pandemic almost brought the whole world to a grinding halt at the beginning of this year. The impact was at multiple levels such as health, economy, and relationships. People who were already vulnerable found themselves further marginalized. This was particularly so for India where decades of progress in certain areas were reversed, such as poverty levels, child labour, school and education etc. The pandemic was nothing less than a disaster and as in the case of any disaster, children were among those rendered most vulnerable. This was evident from the increased incidents of school dropouts, child labour, child marriages, violence against children at home and mental health issues faced by children.

Civil society organisations were caught in a triple challenge. The problem was aggravating, however, the resources suddenly started to dry up and in addition, the restrictions of the first lockdown severely hampered the capability of CSOs to reach out and support people in need. Railway Children India also had to confront these challenges. The sudden closure of railway stations impacted our programme presence, losing two corporate funders threatened three projects and there was the initial challenge of seeking permission to even move and reach out to children at risk.

Railway Children India could not have overcome this challenge without the hard work of every member of its team, along with our NGO partners.

There were kind donors, both individuals and corporates, whose support not only prevented the closure of three projects but also gave us the capability to support 3,200 migrant workers, 6,000 vulnerable families and 6,865 children with emergency relief. Our board resolutely stood by us and supported us with critical advice, and encouragement, and helped us garner support through their networks. Across the Railway Children group, including the board, support was massive in terms of boosting morale as well as making quick decisions to provide us with the timely support that was required to increase our reach.

I take this opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters who have helped us and stood by us during these testing times. Though it was a challenging year, this also increased Railway Children India's resilience as an organization. We are entering into the new financial year 2021-22 with increased capability and a commitment to increasing our support to children and families at risk. We are also looking forward to developing our new five-year theory of change and strategic plan that will guide us from 2022 to 2027.

Thank you,

Navin Sellaraju
CEO, Railway Children India



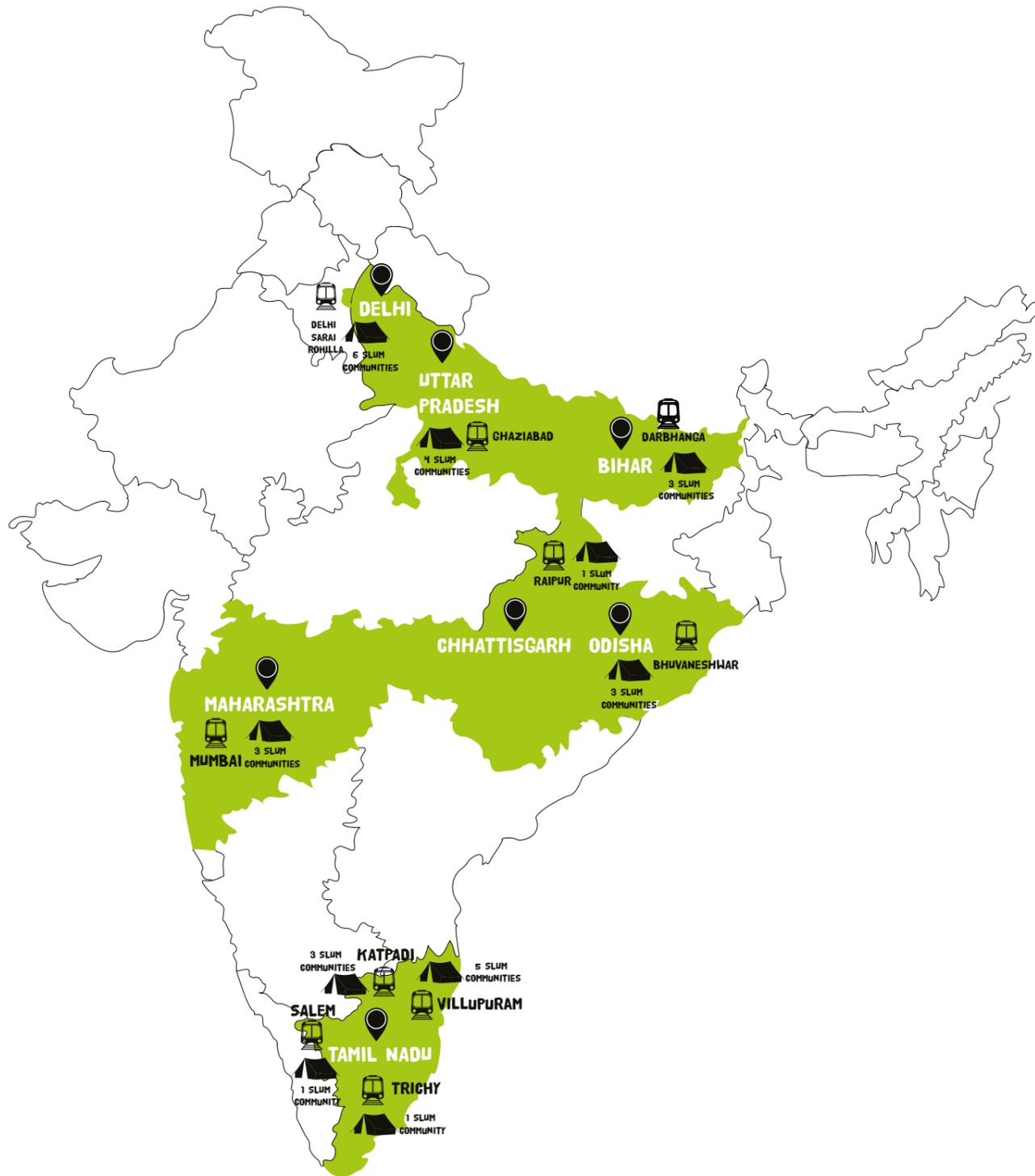
ABOUT RCI

VISION:

We believe in a world where no child ever has to live on the streets.

MISSION:

To create and enable sustainable changes in the lives of children living on the streets.



OUR WORK MODEL

Railway Children India (RCI) believes in early intervention/prevention as the most effective way to ensure the protection of children arriving at railway stations alone and at risk. We aim to reach children before they are lost to life on the streets.

We work and intervene at three levels for lasting and long-term change:

At and around the railway station:

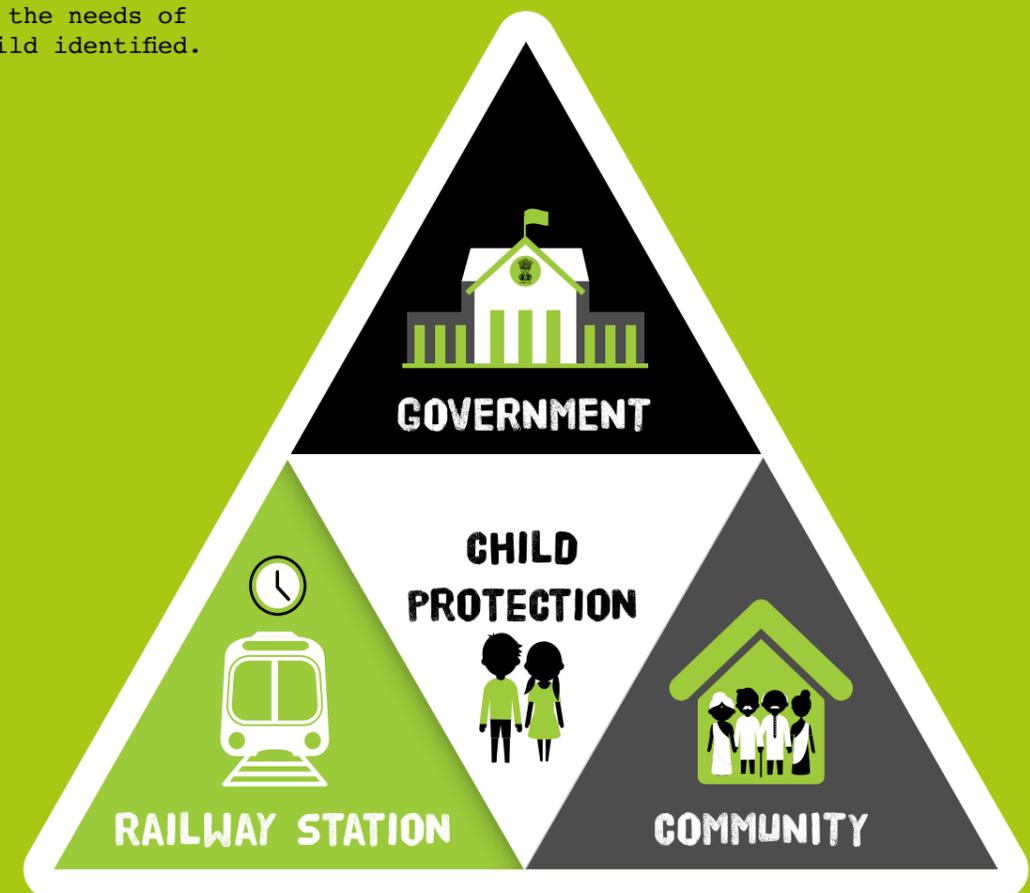
RCI aims to transform stations into child-friendly spaces. A team of outreach workers (ORW) work around the clock to reach every child arriving or passing through the station alone. The ORWs respond to the child's immediate needs such as food, water, medical and counselling support etc. The first response centre is located at the station as a Child Help Desk, to cater to the needs of every child identified.

In communities:

Railway Children India works to create a safety net within the community, so that none of the children falls through it, and become vulnerable. RCI believes in empowering communities and families by strengthening their resources, so they have the responsibility and ability to properly care for their children and keep them safe.

With governments:

Strengthening the existing government system and structures is key to ensuring long-term sustainable change which is what we work towards, and what allows us to have the greatest impact, where it is needed most.



MORE ABOUT US ON WWW.RAILWAYCHILDREN.ORG.IN



A YEAR WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Highlights of 2020-2021

2020 was a difficult and unprecedented year, particularly for low-income communities, families and their children. We worked to reach and provide immediate relief material to 18,000 children and 6,000 families in 30 slum communities across seven states in India. Our work from programmes, strategic alliances, fundraising, marketing, and communications to child safeguarding was all geared towards ensuring children and families affected by the pandemic were safe and equipped to prevent themselves from further vulnerabilities.

6,865 CHILDREN
WERE PROTECTED
THROUGH OUR WORK
ON RAILWAY STATIONS,
AND 80% OF THEM
WERE SETTLED
BACK HOME

3,067 FAMILIES
WERE SUPPORTED
THROUGH OUR FAMILY
STRENGTHENING
INITIATIVE

5,679 CHILDREN
WERE PROVIDED
DRY GROCERIES AND
HYGIENE KITS DURING
THE LOCKDOWN

5,114 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
WERE REACHED
THROUGH AWARENESS
BUILDING ON COVID19
SAFETY
MEASURES

20,000 IRTCSO MEMBERS
WERE REACHED
THROUGH OUR CHHUK
CHHUK RAIL FILM
SERIES ON CHILD
PROTECTION

2,042 RAILWAY OFFICIALS
WERE TRAINED AT
EIGHT TRAINING
INSTITUTES FROM
FIVE DIVISIONS

A DIGITAL
COMMUNITY OF
25,000 PEOPLE
WAS DEVELOPED
ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS

AVERTING A CHILD RIGHTS DISASTER: GOALS & IMPACT

Our mission that 'No child should ever have to live on the streets' found a new meaning in 2020. The Covid19 pandemic pushed us to increase our scope and scale of work, to reach more children and families, with our program model undergoing a dramatic shift. 30 vulnerable slum communities around the 10 railway stations we worked at became a central focus of our work, as railway stations remained closed in lockdown and child rights issues compounded as the crisis extended.

A. REACHING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

The pandemic has had myriad effects on our lives, affecting functions and people in different ways. Early 2020 posed a challenge to our team functioning on various railway stations, working to protect children. The lockdown and Covid19 restrictions led to a shutdown of operations which was resumed by May-June 2020 while following new restrictions.

- **A TOTAL OF 6,865 CHILDREN** have been protected and supported at and around the Railway station. (here the number includes children protected at 10 Railway stations and 30 Slum communities).
- **823 CHILDREN** were protected at 10 Railway Stations and 80% of children were restored to either families or childcare institutes.
- **646 CHILDREN** accessed the Open Shelters across five locations, namely, Salem, Katpadi, Villupuram, Trichy and Ghaziabad.



B. THE MIGRANT LABOURERS' CRISIS

The lockdown triggered a mass movement of migrant families from cities to travel back to their villages. Millions moved and 100s died in this process. Special "Shramik" trains began operation on the 29th of April 2020 to assist stranded migrant workers in getting back home. However, without proper food and water support, people experienced extreme distress travelling on these trains and the Railway Protection Force has reported 80 deaths on the Shramik express.

- During this time, **RAILWAY CHILDREN INDIA SUPPORTED LABOURERS** boarding trains from Ghaziabad and Anand Vihar.
- We supported **3,200 PEOPLE** including children with food and water.



C. SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING CRISIS

Due to the lockdown, industries and their operations came to a standstill and the negative impact of this started trickling down to the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, especially children. We started working with 30 slum communities around 10 Railway stations to mitigate the crisis that arose due to the pandemic.

- **6,043 CHILDREN** from 30 slums were supported with dry rations, health kits, and educational support like re-enrolment in schools, linking families with social security schemes, and vocational training.
- **995 CHILDREN** from six slum communities were provided with nutritional supplements after an assessment was conducted to identify severe acute malnutrition and moderate acute malnutrition in children.
- A needs assessment study was completed across **30 SLUM COMMUNITIES** in 10 locations, leading to the standardisation of community interventions and the establishment of child activity centres to provide non-formal education to children in five slum communities.
- **NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY** was celebrated across all the locations to highlight the issues of gender equality and child sexual abuse – Outreach team members shared awareness material
- **RCI OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF GHAZIABAD FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF DRY RATIONS** to vulnerable families affected by the Covid19 crisis. In Delhi, we coordinated with the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR).
- Across the locations, RCI's partners worked closely with the district administrations and railway stakeholders in **REACHING OUT TO THE VULNERABLE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WITH COVID19 RELIEF MATERIALS.**



D. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN

The economic repercussions of the pandemic were felt severely by the most marginalized communities and their children. A major number of lost children reunified with their families through our interventions in the past came either from families of daily wage earners or rural landless labourers. We began our relief work by first connecting with the families of children that we have reunified in the past three years.

- **10,490 CHILDREN** across 10 project locations were contacted for support.
- **3,067 FAMILIES** were supported with dry rations and other daily essential items. This immediate support helped them to cope with the crisis of the lockdown and lead a dignified life.
- **PARTNERSHIPS WITH FIVE NEW CSOS** enabled us to reach out to reunified children from Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab.
- **6,741 CHILDREN** from these families benefited from educational support, counselling, rations etc.
- **5,679 CHILDREN** were given dry groceries including a hygiene kit.
- **355 CHILDREN** benefited by linking their families with social security schemes.
- **245 CHILDREN** were enrolled in school.
- **81 CHILDREN** were linked to vocational skills, and 424 children were supported with educational materials.
- **89 CHILDREN** were given medical support.
- **25 FAMILIES** were linked with employability skills training.

E. BUILDING PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

The pandemic had a myriad effect on families and individuals, anxiety and stress became an issue not only for adults but children as well. As we followed up on the children reunified with their families, signs of stress and anxiety among children were observed. The underlying causes were staying indoors for days and the difficult financial conditions of their families.

RCI initiated a process to support children and families with psycho-social needs. RCI team members were trained by a mental health expert to provide practical support to parents on how to talk about the pandemic with children. Families were given guidance on how to manage such issues for their own as well as those of their children by addressing the hidden stresses that they were facing.

- **3,757 CHILDREN AND 4,030 ADULTS** were supported
- **12 PEOPLE (PARENTS AND CHILDREN)** were identified in need of expert counselling. They have been linked to tele counselling facilities operated by either the government or private mental health institutes.



F. SPOTLIGHT: NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

Our work in and around railway stations brought us face to face with the economic and social impact of the pandemic on the lives of children. From family members losing their income, school closures, increased violence at home, and growing mental health issues, the Covid19 pandemic put an entire generation of children at risk. We conducted a needs assessment across 24 slum communities around nine railway stations, including a population of 26,745 people, 4,502 households and 14,577 children, to understand the evolving needs of families and children and the impact on their most basic rights to survive, learn and be protected.

Here are some key findings from the needs assessment study:

- **CHILDREN FROM FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS FACE HIGHER VULNERABILITY.** The percentages of a household headed by women were as follows: Raipur and Trichy (40% in each location) followed by Villupuram (37%) and Salem (30%). In Trichy and Salem among the women headed families 36% and 28% of households did not have any adult male member.
- **49% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SALEM, 38% IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI AND 32% IN GHAZIABAD PRACTICE OPEN DEFECATION.** Children were at risk of exposure to infections in these locations as they need to go out for fetching water or accessing the toilet.
- **MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORKING POPULATION (62%) WERE EARNING ROUGHLY 265 INR PER DAY OR LESS.** This low income was one of the main reasons for visible child labour in these slums.
- The data suggest that during the lockdown, **49% OF PEOPLE LOST THEIR JOBS** across all nine locations
- **MORE THAN HALF THE FAMILIES (53%)** with children under five years were not able to feed milk to their children.
- **FOOD SECURITY OR AVAILABILITY OF FOOD HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONCERN FOR MOST FAMILIES.** Such scarcity of food items in the families might lead to them pushing their children either towards begging or child labour.
- **THE SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE** in Ghaziabad was **54%** in children aged between six and 14 and **75%** in the 15-18 age group. Moreover, in Ghaziabad, **16%** of children aged 6-14 and **26%** of children aged 15-18 were working. Darbhanga also has **10%** school dropouts in the 6-14 age group 18% between 15 and 18. About **3%** of children aged 6-14 and **13%** aged 15-18 were earning in some way. School dropouts were higher among the 15-18 age group in Bhubaneswar **14%** and Salem **18%** and **8-9%** were earning in both the locations.
- Among all the vulnerabilities, **THE LARGEST NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE REPORTED CONSUMING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE.**



G. COLLABORATING WITH KEY PLAYERS IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

As a strategic partner of the Indian Railways, we hold regular sensitisation workshops and training for its officials on child safety. Due to the lockdown and subsequent restrictions, we had to relook at the mode of imparting these training workshops.

After the lockdown and its restriction was enforced training workshops were held for 2017 railways officials in 27 sessions at 8 institutes and 5 divisions. Out of these, 45% of the workshops were done in online mode with railway officials attending from their respective work locations, which included 29 hotspots for child trafficking.

Key Highlights:

- Collaborated with District Child Protection Units to **STRENGTHEN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS** in and around railway stations.
- Engaged with the District Administration of Central and Shahdara Districts of Delhi in support of **RCI'S RELIEF SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES** travelling by Shramik Special Trains.
- A status report was submitted along with recommendations to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for **AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR CHILD PROTECTION AT 51 RAILWAY STATIONS** and their districts.
- A recommendation was submitted on **CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES POST-COVID19** to the Covid Response CP Alliance (NGO network) to be shared with parliamentarians by the network.
- Engaged with the Delhi State Commission for **PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (DCPCR) AND CENTRAL DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY GROCERY PARCELS** to vulnerable children and their families in Delhi.
- **A SHORT FILM SERIES CHHUK CHHUK RAIL - HAMARA BAGHPAN WAS LAUNCHED** in collaboration with Indian Railways Ticket Checking Staff Organization (IRTCSO), to engage #RailwayHeroes on child protection issues and on how to protect children that reached **OVER 20,000** railway staff.
- **ENGAGEMENT WITH IRTCSO** - the union that represents ticket checking staff of Indian Railways has enabled RCI to address TTEs/TCs on a large scale on issues of child protection from time to time. IRTCSO updates about children who have been protected by TTEs/TCs on their official Facebook page.

H. EXPLORING AVENUES FOR FUNDRAISING

The requirement for an increase in fundraising became essential as the funds required to support our emergency intervention grew. The team used diverse and innovative methods to reach out to people to raise funds. Glimpses of our fundraising campaigns raising awareness on diverse issues being faced by children are showcased here:

- **'LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND'**, a crowdfunding campaign with 'Give India' was launched with a focus on raising funds for our work in shelter homes, especially during the lockdown. We partnered with Impact Guru, GuideStar India and other crowdfunding platforms for additional campaigns.
- We launched **'BEHIND EVERY FACE'** a campaign sharing untold stories of children RCI works with.
- **DIGITAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS** were focused on raising funds for the emerging needs of communities during the pandemic and to sustain our ongoing programmatic work at railway stations - **'NO CHILD SHOULD EVER GO HUNGRY'** **'COMMUNITIES4CHILDREN'** and **'NO CHILD ON THE STREETS'** to name a few.



I. PUSHING DISCOURSE ON CHILD PROTECTION

To build a robust digital community and support RCI's fundraising and communication needs

- Over the last year, **WE HAVE BUILT A DIGITAL COMMUNITY OF 28,000** across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube, engaging audiences about RCI's work and children's issues in India.
- Multiple issue-based campaigns have been launched to build an understanding of child rights and protection in the context of RCI's programmatic work - **'LET'S TALK EDUCATION'** **'COPING IN A CRISIS'** **'WHERE'S MY PLAYGROUND'** **'THE TRAFFICKING TRAP'** amongst others.
- **WE COLLABORATED WITH DIGITAL PLATFORMS** like Youth ki awaaz, Tales of humankind, Children's Armour and Bihar Youth For Child Rights, Tulika books for children's book reviews, Mommy bloggers like Pooja Khanna, Experts in the sector - Kavita Ratna, Farida Lambay, Leena Kejriwal, and an international think tank on child rights CRIN MAIL, amongst others, that helped direct organic traffic to our platforms and website.
- **WE EXPLORED PLATFORMS** like Twitter chats and takeovers with SafeCity, Prerana, Save the Children and some youth groups.

J. ENSURING A SAFETY NET FOR CHILDREN

Child Safeguarding systems and mechanisms have been strengthened in RCI and in nine partner organizations to prevent, report and respond to child abuse and exploitation as per the Child Safeguarding Policy.

Railway Children India's Child Safeguarding Policy (CSP) clearly outlines how to ensure the protective culture, accountability of all team members, code of conduct required from our staff, consultant, interns & volunteers. It also illustrated a reporting and response procedures in case any child safeguarding issues are cited.

- **DEVELOPED POST-COVID19 LOCKDOWN ADVISORY** for Child Help Desks and Open Shelters and oriented six partners on the same.
- **PREPARED 'DOS AND DON'TS'** for community intervention for the Delhi Sarai Rohilla team.
- **CHILD SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY** introduced for the Family Strengthening Initiative.
- **FINALISED SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES** for Children Data Sharing in addition to revising the Child safeguarding Policy for RCI.
- **CONDUCTED A NEED ASSESSMENT** of all partners.
- **ORIENTED 73 PARTICIPANTS** on safeguarding guidelines in the community and family strengthening set-up.
- **MAPPED CHALLENGES IN ADHERING TO SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES** during the survey process, accordingly revised Dos and Don'ts in community work amongst other training.



IMPACT STORIES

We're proud to have worked with thousands of children to ensure their rights have been met. Their stories act as evidence of our hard work, motivating and inspiring us day after day.

BHIBHU SPEAKING AGAIN AFTER INTENSIVE COUNSELLING AND SPEECH THERAPY

A 14-year-boy Bhibhu (name changed) was found alone in the middle of Ghaziabad Railway Station on 15th November 2019. He stood on the platform scared and looking for help. When our outreach worker approached the child, he was a bit hesitant to talk, but once the officer spoke about the Child Help Desk and how it supports children in need of care and protection, Bhibhu relaxed. Our team realised that the child was unable to speak and communicate well, hence they found it challenging to get details about his family.

Bhibhu was produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Ghaziabad and brought to our Open Shelter. On his arrival, he was welcomed by the carers and also introduced to the other children living there. He settled into the routine and started counselling the next day.

The counsellor soon discovered that Bhibhu was suffering from a speech disorder and struggling with both understanding and speaking. The child had difficulty forming specific words and sounds correctly and his speech was partly incoherent. Therefore, despite multiple attempts, he was neither able to share his home address nor recall the phone number of his parents. However, the counsellor slowly started engaging him through non-formal activities and making sure he was interacting with other children to make him comfortable and happy at the shelter. Bhibhu was also connected with the psychiatrist and speech therapist of Salaam Balak Trust to help his overall development. The speech therapist used various techniques to assist with swallowing, including facial massage and lip, tongue and jaw exercises. This helped strengthen the face and jaw muscles used for eating, drinking and swallowing, and increased his perceptive abilities too.

Bhibhu spent approximately six months at the shelter and within this time, he started to express his emotions and also learnt how to write. He also developed an interest in drawing and with the help of a counsellor, his speech started getting better every day. The counsellor involved the child in every group activity which helped to enhance his social skills considerably. The non-formal educator also gave a lot of time and attention to him, which helped him to gain confidence and overcome his communication difficulties.

During counselling, Bhibhu explained that he had run away from his home in search of his mother who left home due to a bitter fight with his father. While he was searching for his mother, he met one of his friends who assured him that he would help him in finding his mother but then abandoned him. It was then that Bhibhu found himself alone and frightened at reached Ghaziabad railway station. Eventually, the boy's communication skills grew to the extent that he was finally able to share his parent's address and express his desire to go back home. *"It took six months for me to enable Bibhu to speak and share his home address, and now he can return home happily"*, said the counsellor.

In April 2020, the team traced Bhibhu's family with the help of the police and it was confirmed that he was from the Fazilka district in Punjab. His parents were daily wage labourers and were overjoyed when they heard their child was safe at our shelter and wanted to come immediately to take him home. He has been restored to his family.



HOW RANI WAS REUNITED WITH HER FAMILY & ENCOURAGED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Our team found Rani alone at Katpadi Railway station waiting for a train. We approached her and took her to the Child Help Desk to find out more and she explained that she works at the railway station with her siblings. We contacted her parents and asked them to come to take her back home and then followed up to see what support we could offer to the family so Rani was no longer putting herself in danger at the station.

During counselling sessions with her parents, we found out that they belong to a tribal community and struggled to provide even the most basic necessities in life. Rani had two sisters and an older brother, and it was very difficult for the parents to take care of the family. These children would go to the railway stations and trains to sell basic things like safety pins. None of them went to school and the entire family was struggling due to poverty.

As soon as the lockdown began in India, we knew Rani's family would be suffering so contacted them by phone. We found out that the parents had both lost their jobs and as the trains weren't running, there was no income in the family. Our team helped them by providing the necessities that would last for a few weeks and made sure to visit them at their home to offer reassurance at the same time as providing them with food and grocery kits.

We have continued to work with the family and helped them understand how sending the children to school will benefit them in the long term and how important getting a basic education is in today's world. As Rani wasn't interested in studying, over time we explained the importance of education and convinced her to re-join school once they re-opened after the lockdown. We assured the family that our team will help them navigate the difficult procedures involved and that we would be there to offer support throughout.



“I STAY AT HOME TO PROTECT MY MOTHER FROM MY ALCOHOLIC BROTHER” – KARAN’S STORY

In mid-February, our team found 16-year-old Karan (name changed) in a desperate situation at the Raipur Railway Station. He had squabbled with his older brother, who had been drunk, and Karan decided he wanted to leave home and look for work in Mumbai, away from home. Distraught and angry, that is when our team found him.

With the help of the Government Railway Police (GRP), he was reunited with his family on the same day, and we began working with them to find out more. It was after several visits to Karan’s home in Gudhiyari, that the team was able to piece together Karan’s story. When Karan was only eight years old, his father abandoned the family and for a long time, they were unaware of his whereabouts until they discovered through their relatives that he has remarried. With the sole responsibility of looking after three young children, Karan’s mother took on odd jobs to bring food to the table which was not easy.

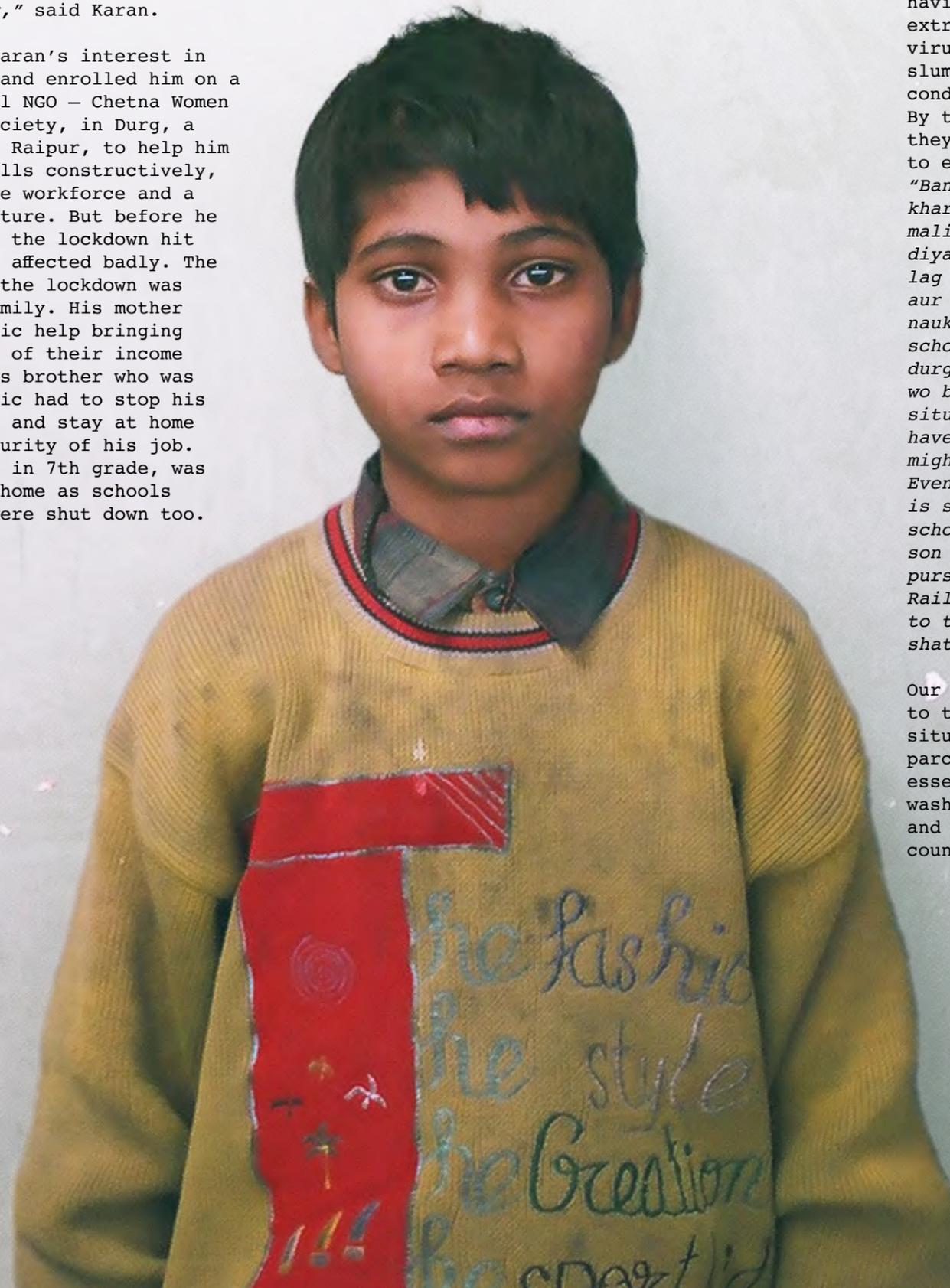
Karan’s family had been dealing with difficulties and trauma for a long time. His mother had hoped that after her children were educated, they would grow up to support her financially. But her dreams were shattered when her son older son dropped out of school while in the 8th grade, under the influence of the bad company.

“Mera ek sapna tha ki mera bada beta bada hokar mera hath batayega lekin use sharab ki lat lag gayi. Jiske Karan mere sare sapne bikhad Gaye” – “I was dreaming of the day my elder son would grow up and support me. But unfortunately, he got into the habit of drinking alcohol,” said Karan’s mother.

By the time Karan’s brother was 24 years old he was working as a labourer in Raipur, squandering his earnings on alcohol, and leaving little to support his family. Often, under the influence of alcohol, he would come home and beat his mother up. It was soon after that Karan found out and dropped out of school to stay at home and protect her. Karan was in the 5th grade when he dropped out of the school and since leaving, he has worked at restaurants and roadside dhabas as a dishwasher, to supplement his mother’s income.

“Mai roz school jata tha lekin meri darubaaz bhai se meri maa ko bachane ke liye mujhe school chhodna pada” – “I used to go to school every day, but I had to discontinue my study and stay at home to protect my mother from my alcoholic brother,” said Karan.

We soon discovered Karan’s interest in vocational training and enrolled him on a course run by a local NGO – Chetna Women and Child Welfare Society, in Durg, a neighbouring city to Raipur, to help him use his time and skills constructively, preparing him for the workforce and a decent job in the future. But before he could start training the lockdown hit India and Raipur was affected badly. The economic fallout of the lockdown was brutal on Karan’s family. His mother who worked as domestic help bringing in the largest chunk of their income lost her job. Karan’s brother who was a recovering alcoholic had to stop his counselling sessions and stay at home too, without the security of his job. His sister, studying in 7th grade, was also forced to stay home as schools across the country were shut down too.



THE FALLOUT OF THE COVID19 CRISIS & RAILWAY CHILDREN INDIA’S RESPONSE

From the day of the lockdown, not only was Karan’s family at a high risk of having no income and livelihood but also extremely vulnerable to contracting the virus, as they lived in densely populated slums, with poor sanitation and hygiene conditions.

By the time we reached Karan’s family, they were struggling to even find enough to eat as they had no savings at all. *“Bandi ne mere pure parivaar ki zindagi kharab kar di hai. Iski wajah se mere malik ne mujhe kaam par aaane ko mana kar diya yah keh kar ki unhe mujhse bimari lag sakti hai. Mera bada sudhar raha tha aur naukaari par lag gaya tha lekin uski naukari bhi chali gayi. Meri beti ka school bhi band ho gaya aur jis bete ko durg bhejkar padhane ka sapna dekha tha wo bhikhad gaya” – “Due to lockdown, our situation has become worse. My employers have removed me from the job saying, they might get the infection because of me! Even my elder son has lost his job and is sitting idle at home. My daughter’s school has been closed and my younger son who was readying to go to Durg to pursue his training with the support of Railway Children India, couldn’t go due to the shutdown. All my dreams have been shattered,” said Karan’s mother.*

Our team in Raipur was able to reach out to the family, and others in similar situations, and support them with food parcels, dry rations and other daily essentials. The team also educated them on washing hands and other hygiene practices and will continue to support them as the country emerges from the Covid19 pandemic.

“WHENEVER I SEE MY GRANDSON HUNGRY, MY HEART BREAKS.” – SONU’S STORY

Sonu (name changed), a 12-year-old boy was found roaming around at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station in January 2020. Alone, he had lost his way while trying to reach his grandmother’s house. The Railway Children team were able to act quickly, tracking down his grandmother, and handing Sonu over before following up with counselling and support for the family.

They discovered that Sonu’s father had passed away a few years ago, changing his life dramatically. Unable to raise him as a single parent, his mother had handed him over to his paternal grandmother while she remarried and started a new life without him, in a distant village. The burden of a life without his parents was incomprehensible but living with his loving grandmother made life easier. But all that changed when Covid19 arrived.

Sonu’s grandmother worked hard at a home in the neighbourhood as a domestic worker, to provide two meals to Sonu, each day. But the lockdown meant she could not go to work and couldn’t bring food to the table. Without any savings, she was distraught at not being able to feed her grandson.

“I am getting old now, my daughter-in-law left the family after my son died, I thought that I would raise my grandson on my own, but this lockdown has destroyed all my hopes. Whenever I see my grandson hungry, my heart starts aches,” Sonu’s grandmother told our team when we got in touch.

As our teams reached out to children who had been reunited with their families in the past, we knew they would be one of the many struggling to find food so we immediately linked the grandmother to the local grocery store and arranged for all their basic essentials to be taken care of.

“I had no idea that Railway Children India would come forward to help me when my loved ones left me in the face of this crisis. But somewhere I believed that God would find help for me. After the kind and humble gesture by your team, my faith in God is even stronger!” she said filled with emotion and gratitude.



DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

In our most difficult times, our donor family - individuals, foundations, corporates, governments, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral agencies - has stood by us, and helped us stay afloat. We have immense gratitude for their belief in our work, and their passion to keep children safe.



**Azim Premji
Philanthropic
Initiatives**



**give
INDIA**



**Indian Railway Catering and
Tourism Corporation Limited**
A Government of India Enterprise

THE YEAR AHEAD WHAT'S NEXT?

The year ahead looks both challenging and exciting at the same time, as we explore new models of work to approach child rights and protection more holistically. From the increasing scale, deepening our community work, engaging diverse audiences on child protection, and raising more funds, here's our 5-point summary for the next year.



Examining the 'Theory of change' and formulating a strategic plan for the coming year which would align with the increasing scope and priority of RCI's work in India.



Area of work to expand to encompass children and communities in and around the railway stations covering more geographies.



Building a robust fundraising program to ensure that our work with children and communities continues unhampered.



Apply for approval for Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) clearance to add impetus to our work.



Work to expand child rights advocacy and partnership with government and same sector partners.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Railway Children India's team is the pride of our organization. It is through collective efforts that we can fulfil the mission and vision of our organization. Meet our leadership team

BOARD MEMBERS



Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Director



Yasmin Riaz
Director



Sanjay Kumar Gupta
Director

LEADERSHIP



S Navin Sellaraju
Chief Executive
Officer, RCI

L John Bosk
Sr. Programme
Manager

Kaushambi Singh
Manager HR

Nitin Aggarwal
Head of Finance
& Admin



Railway Children India
(A Company Licensed under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013)
CIN: U85100DL2013NPL260371, e-mail: contact@railwaychildren.org.in
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

Particulars	Note	As at March 31, 2021 (In Rs)	As at March 31, 2020 (In Rs)
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
1 Shareholders' funds			
(a) Share capital	2	-	-
(b) Reserves and surplus	3	68,28,328	43,07,318
2 Non Current Liabilities			
(a) Non-Current provisions	4	10,44,513	9,23,494
3 Current liabilities	5		
(a) Trade Payables			
i) Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises; and		-	-
ii) Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	-
(b) Other current liabilities	6	15,23,559	1,45,40,458
(c) Current Provisions	7	7,410	1,233
		94,03,810	1,97,72,503
II. ASSETS			
1 Non Current Assets			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment	16		
i) Tangible Assets		6,88,626	8,59,704
ii) Intangible Assets		2,02,616	2,92,247
(b) Long term loans and advances	8	2,48,591	2,48,591
2 Current assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	9	64,77,018	1,70,73,964
(c) Short Term Loans & Advance	10	17,86,959	12,97,997
		94,03,810	1,97,72,503

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other Explanatory Information : Note 1 to 22

As per our report of even date
For Jagdish Chand & Co.
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Reg. No. 000129N

Ravi Goel
Partner
M. No. 078748

Place: New Delhi
Date: July 24, 2021

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Director
DIN: 07483105

Ms. Yasmin Riaz
Director
DIN: 08332110

Mr. S Navin Sellaraju
CEO

Railway Children India
(A Company Licensed under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013)
CIN: U85100DL2013NPL260371, e-mail: contact@railwaychildren.org.in
Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 2021

Particulars	Note	For year ended March 31, 2021 (In Rs)	For year ended March 31, 2020 (In Rs)
Revenue from operations			
I. Donations and Grant received	11	5,41,42,909	5,45,92,739
II. Other Incomes	12	6,85,602	12,73,381
III. Total revenue (I+II)		5,48,28,511	5,58,66,120
IV. Expenses:			
Program Expenses	13	3,19,35,387	3,43,55,701
Covid Relief Expense	14	43,34,554	-
Enabling Function Expense	15	1,29,99,384	1,40,61,255
Other expenses	17	26,90,369	32,12,806
Depreciation	16	3,47,807	4,26,653
Total expenses		5,23,07,501	5,20,56,414
V Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		25,21,010	38,09,706
VI Tax expense:			
(1) Current income tax		-	-
(3) Deferred Tax		-	-
Total Tax expenses		-	-
VII. Surplus / Deficit after tax		25,21,010	38,09,706

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other Explanatory Information : Note 1 to 22

As per our report of even date
For Jagdish Chand & Co.
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Reg. No. 000129N

Mr. Ravi Goel
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Place: New Delhi
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Mr. S Navin Sellaraju
CEO

Railway Children India

B-107, First Floor,
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www.railwaychildren.org.in



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Fighting for street children