



MAKING CHILD PROTECTION EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Annual Report 2023-2024



CONTENTS

- 1. A year beyond numbers**
Foreword by CEO, Navin Sellaraju
- 2. Key moments of 2023-2024**
- 3. From vulnerability to safety: The journey of a child**
- 4. Strengthening the safety net for children**
Goals & Impact
- 5. Leveraging people, partnerships and evidence for child protection**
Across the Delhi-Howrah Railway Network
- 6. Towards a convergence model**
Bridging the gap on safety for children
- 7. Capable and coherent child safeguarders in action**
- 8. Stories that matter**
- 9. With Gratitude**
- 10. Together, with our team**
- 11. Know us (Railway Children India) better**
- 12. Financials**



1. A YEAR BEYOND NUMBERS

Foreword by Navin Sellaraju

Rolling up my sleeves and diving into Railway Children India's Annual Report is almost like piecing together a new project – it helps us reflect on what worked and didn't, what learnings we need to carry forward, what nuggets and aspects need to be pivoted and it also swells my heart up with gratitude and pride.

2023-2024 was a mixed bag of lessons learnt and progress made. Impressive was the work done across stations and communities, reaching 3308 children and 829 families whose lives could've taken a different turn had our teams not reached them in time. Impressive was the number of railway officials who began taking initiative to protect children themselves – 3851 officials and 2840 children, a result of our continuous trainings and engagement with the Indian Railways. Impressive was the growth of the Child Activity Centres into hubs of safety, skills and school enrolment, metamorphosing from a once emergency shelter to a bustling space for its community's children.

But what was most impressive was beyond numbers – the stories we heard of lives changed, the emotions we shared with those we worked with every single day, the grit we saw in the eyes of our teams to push their limits to help a child, the gratitude we felt when people and funders choose to support our vision.

This was the second year of our new five years strategic plan. However, we had to quickly respond to Government policy changes, recalibrate as a team and put in place a short-term strategic direction. In 2025, we will be developing our new five year strategic plan. In this strategy we will ensure that we go the extra mile to make sure no child alone and at risk is left alone within the transport network.

Thank you and best wishes for the next year.

Navin Sellaraju
CEO, Railway Children India



2. KEY MOMENTS OF 2023-2024



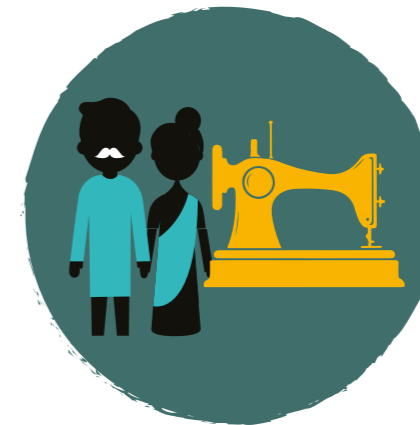
3308 children were protected across 4 transport terminals and 7 communities in 7 locations



92% (i.e 1392) of all children rescued across transport terminals were reunified with their families



3442 children are going to school and learning



829 parents have been linked to social schemes, entitlements and livelihood opportunities



21 Groups including Children, Adolescent Girls & Boys are active and thriving across 7 communities



3851 railway officials were trained on child rights and protection

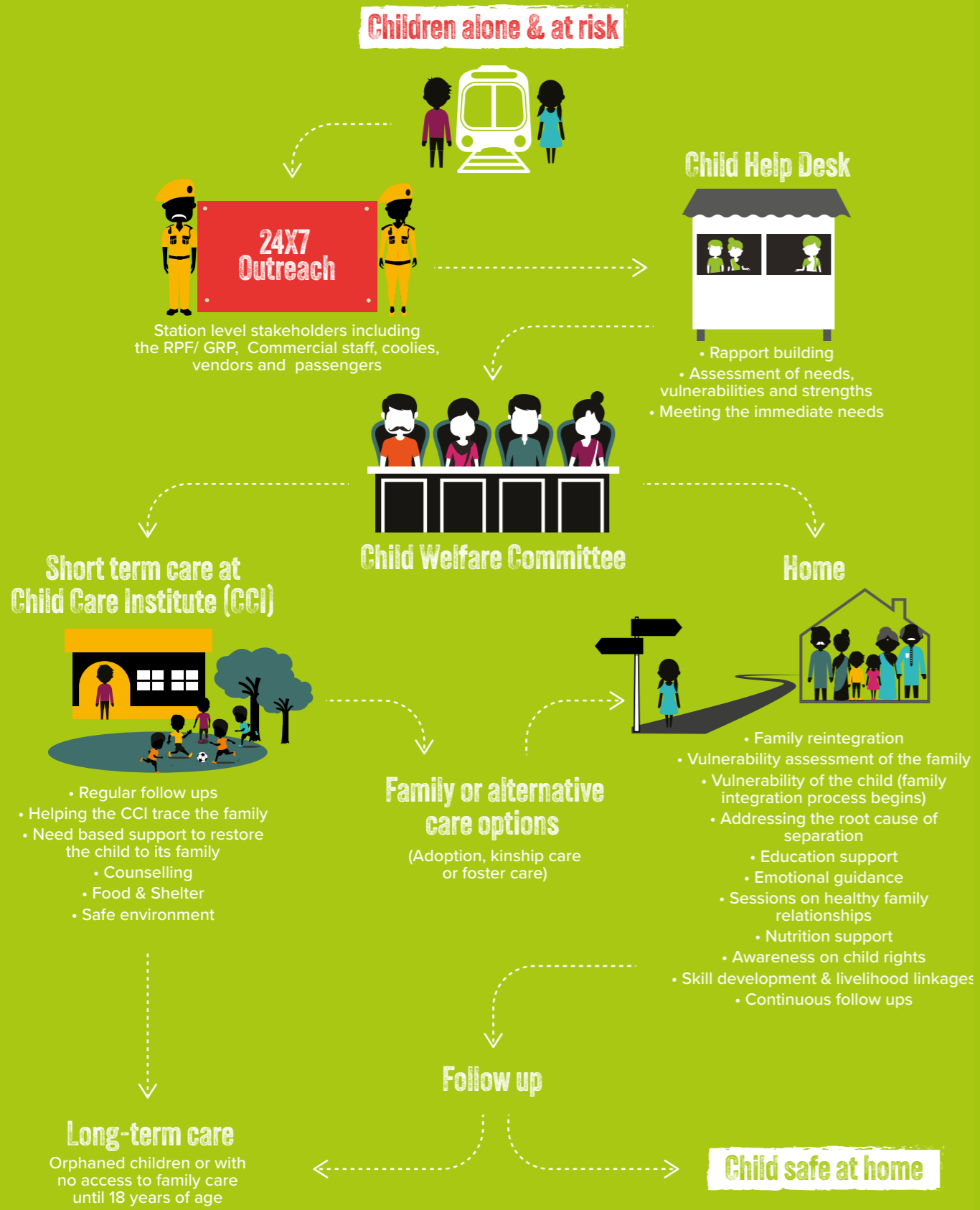


821 children were trained through life skill sessions and self-defense sessions



56858 passengers were sensitized during 845 awareness campaigns across 4 transport terminals and satellite stations

3. FROM VULNERABILITY TO SAFETY: THE JOURNEY OF A CHILD



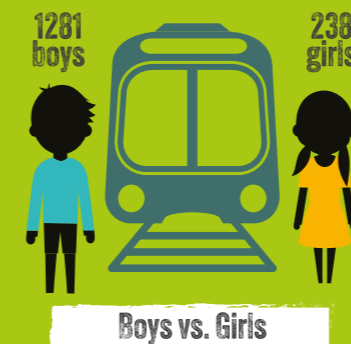
4. STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY NET FOR CHILDREN: GOALS & IMPACT

To thrive, children need a strong and robust safety net. People, policies and protection services with an eye on the needs of India's children helps prioritise, design, calibrate and act so that children are safe, learning, growing and flourishing. A large part of Railway Children India's work has been focused on reaching the most vulnerable children and bringing them to safety – a home or a family. Across transport terminals and slum communities, through partnerships and team work, with dialogue and determination, we have slowly and steadily built a safety net for children.



A. LOST & FOUND AT TRANSPORT TERMINALS, AT RISK CHILDREN REUNITED WITH FAMILIES

Imagine the plight of a child when they arrive alone at a busy and bustling mammoth sized railway station? Imagine the fear of their parents who cannot find them? Our work in setting up and sustaining child-friendly transport terminals across India has played a critical role in protecting children before they fall through the safety net and ensuring they reach back home safely. We have catalyzed collective action across transport terminals, with every actor playing their part in protecting at risk children.



Building safe transport terminals

- Across our transport terminal work we reached and protected 1519 children. This included 1281 boys and 238 girls, with a in the age group of 13 to 18 years followed by 7 to 12 years. The primary reasons why these children gravitated away from home are in search of work, aspiring to see how big cities look like, and roaming around owing to school dropouts or being irregular in schools and negligence of the parents coming from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Delhi NCR locations.

Building safe transport terminals

- 4 Child Help Desks served as the nucleus to ensure child protection work across railway stations and transport terminals. Across Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantonment, Ghaziabad railway stations and Anand Vihar Bus Terminal 1519 children were protected within the ambit of our safe network.
- 17% of all children brought to safety, were referred by vigilant and active stakeholders including the Railway Police Force, Coolies, Railway staff etc, totalling 260, a result of our comprehensive trainings over the years.
- Our outreach workers, scanning the length and breadth and nooks and corners of stations and bus terminals found 83% of the children protected during their outreach activities.
- 29 Child Help Groups across 3 railway stations brought together 321 members including the Station Manager, Railway Police Force, Government Police Force, District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committees and Railway Children India team members – a testament to setting the foundation of our Convergence Model. Mitigation strategies, challenges faced and the way forward dominated the agenda of these meetings, articulating the roles and responsibilities of key players of child protection.



Children safely back home

- For every child, a safe home and family is the starting point of all that we do and work towards, believing that institutional care must be the last resort for every child. That's how 92% of the children we protected (1392 to be precise) were reunited with their families. Regular and close follow ups were carried out for every child to ensure their families were nurturing safe spaces for them, to understand why they felt the need to leave home, and all protocols of family tracing, production before the CWC, individual care plans amongst others were followed.
- We were able to safeguard 193 from Ghaziabad railway station alone who were referred to Open Shelters. Of these, 178 children were reunited with their families.



Children safely back home

Enhancing passenger awareness

- Through **845 awareness campaigns** we reached **56,858 passengers**, discussing the rights of children, across 4 transport terminals and adjoining satellite stations. Child labour, missing children, trafficking, girl child and other pressing topics were addressed via street plays, leaflets and one on one dialogues.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD



B. FOR EVERY CHILD – A SAFE FAMILY, HOME & COMMUNITY

Imagine the plight of a child when they arrive alone at a busy and bustling mammoth sized railway station? Imagine the fear of their parents who cannot find them? Our work in setting up and sustaining child-friendly transport terminals across India has played a critical role in protecting children before they fall through the safety net and ensuring they reach back home safely. We have catalyzed collective action across transport terminals, with every actor playing their part in protecting at risk children.



7 communities



1789 children



829 families



8 community volunteers



31 peer facilitators

CHILDHOOD AT THE CENTRE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Safe spaces for children: Child Activity Centres

- The Child Activity Centres have grown into safe hubs for children. It's where children learn, play, grow, and do everything they want to be doing. Across **7 Activity Centres**, overflowing with children every day, karate, computers, reading, drawing are amongst the leading activities children are learning.

Children leading the way

- Adolescent development and participation** across communities is beginning to gain steam through the formation and activation of Adolescent Groups. **21 boys and girls' groups** were trained on their rights, and actively discussing issues affecting their lives and taking action for themselves and their communities.

Schemes, Services & Basic needs for Children

- From the Sukanya Samridhi Yojna, opening bank account, procuring birth certificates, Adhar Cards, Health Insurance Cards and Pan Cards, health care support services and nutrition kits, **78% of children we work with**, 1389 to be precise, **were linked with critical Government schemes and entitlements** that often hold them back from accessing their basic rights to health, education, nutrition amongst others.

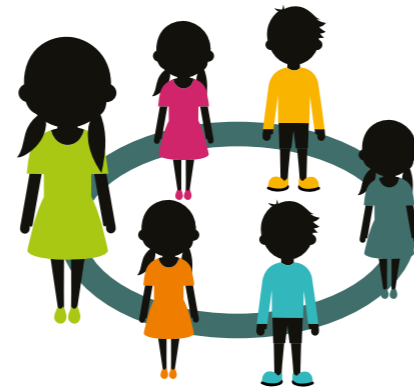
- 7 health camps** in the community ensured children underwent regular check-ups including General health checks, Eyes checks, Dental checks and 2 Mega Medico Legal Camps with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and local NGOs.

Access to education, non-formal activities and skill building

- With home visits, discussions with parents and children, and regular counselling, **67 children were admitted to school and 17 adolescents were linked with vocational courses with the goal to upskill them and make them future ready**

- Understanding the **vital role of skill building**, **31 Peer Facilitators have been selected across the 7 communities** and trained to further take their knowledge and skills to children in the community

- Comprehensive life skill education** was imparted to **668 children** including art therapy, self-defence, amongst others. There are 153 involved in regular self-defence sessions.



GLIMPSES FROM THE COMMUNITY



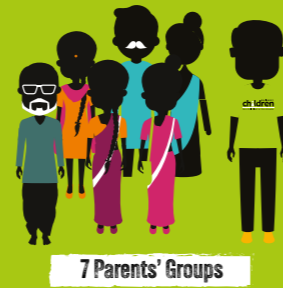
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Parents and families form the first layer of protection for children. Safe, stable, caring and nurturing home environments ensure children have a chance to grow, learn, thrive and be happy. Working for the well-being of children is closely linked to addressing the needs and gaps of families. That's why understanding the family as a whole becomes imperative to ensure children will be safe. From parenting workshops, linkages with social protection schemes and livelihood opportunities, counselling and education, our work remains focused on strengthening families to be able to better protect children.

Parenting as an intervention tool

- A parents' most inherent instinct is to want to do the best for their children. Difficult family situations directly impact children and their childhoods, and that's why we developed **resilience building workshops** for parents from the communities to deal with their circumstances in context to children. **98 parents** have been engaged in these sessions, helping them and their children to cope better.
- **7 parents' groups comprising 12 members** each were formed at the Community level that meet with our teams regularly. These groups come together to understand the rights of children, why education is important, legal implications of child marriage and other issues affecting the lives of their children.

- In March 2024, we launched the family reintegration programme, marking a significant step in supporting vulnerable children and families and reintegrating them into families. The team diligently prepared the first draft of vulnerability criteria to guide case intakes and created a comprehensive assessment form to analyse needs, vulnerabilities, and strengths. Orientation sessions were conducted to familiarize the family reintegration team with the new assessment form. Field visits to all Transport Terminals (TT) were made, where on-the-job trainings were provided to the team. The team started analyzing the cases and categorizing them into low, moderate, and high vulnerabilities to initiate family work



7 Parents' Groups

Empowering Families by links to Schemes, Services & Entitlements

- Connecting **829 families** to schemes, services and entitlements like Labour Cards, E-Shram Cards, Pan Cards and Aadhar Card has assisted them in better providing for their children and making ends meet. Providing **sewing machines for mothers** in the community has helped them work and contribute to their family income too.

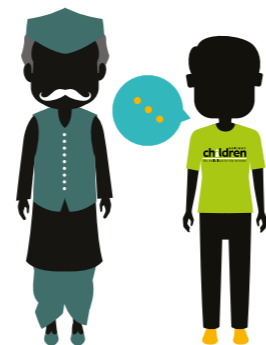


Sewing machines provided

SAFETY CIRCLE FOR CHILDREN: PARTNERING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Partnership with the local government acts as the vehicle through which there is collective responsiveness to the needs of children and mutual accountability of those responsible for delivering key services for children. Across 7 communities, we collaborated with the District Legal Services Authority, Local Government representatives, District Child Protection Units (DCPU) and representatives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to leverage support for children and their families through various schemes and support. Dialogues and discussions resulted in real action with Government representatives, children and community members meeting face to face and understanding the needs of children.

- For children without basic legal documentation, availing basic rights becomes difficult. For this purpose, we initiated a discussion with the **local MLA** to assist in providing proof of residence for the children.



Discussion with local MLA

- 5 children were linked with the **Preventive Sponsorship Scheme** of the Government, with the aim to enable children to continue living with the family. Meanwhile, a detailed discussion was held with the DCPU and CWC to support the needs of 29 vulnerable children in the community.

5. LEVERAGING PEOPLE, PARTNERSHIPS & EVIDENCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION, ACROSS THE DELHI-HOWRAH RAILWAY NETWORK

Catalysing collective action at the state and national level through demonstration of a robust convergence model across the Delhi-Howrah rail network was a key goal for us this year. We developed a strong ecosystem to support the needs of at-risk children traversing through the rail network, bringing focus to child protection issues and facilitating conversations at the district level. We continue to build a learning and evidence base to catalyse change and influence proactive action by key stakeholders who come in contact with children.



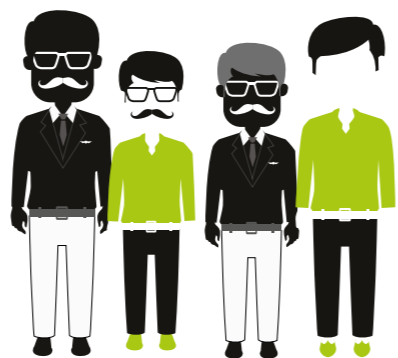
Passive to Active: Training Railway & Roadway Officials to become key actors for child protection

- Across the Delhi-Howrah route, we facilitated in-depth training sessions for the JR Academy and 25 ZRTIs, ZTCs and multi-disciplinary institutes. Additionally, we trained the Government Railway Police personnel in the Moradabad division of Uttar Pradesh and Patna division in Bihar, with the goal to create **ambassadors for child protection** across the sector. Understanding the gravity of the situation, officials were keen to converge their efforts and take an active approach to building safe transport terminals for children. 275 district officials including Child Care Institute staff and the Child Welfare officers were trained on various aspects of child protection related legislation.
- **Trained officials protected 2840 children**, of which 206 children were protected in running trains and 2122 were protected at multiple stations across the Delhi Howrah network.



2840 children protected by trained Railway Officials

- **Child Help Group meetings** are now part of a routine agenda across 14 transport terminals, including 4 direct interventions areas, 1 satellite station of Sahibabad and 9 districts of Patna.
 - In collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit, our **Child Help Desk Register** was adopted across 9 stations in Patna.
- Addressing the bystander effect through passenger sensitization**
- Awareness is the first step to ensure we make the public progress from apathy to empathy for children and issues pervading their lives. Through monthly campaigns on different topics, **38150 passengers were sensitized across stations** in Patna, Delhi NCR, satellite stations in Ghaziabad and 9 and between Delhi Cantonment and Delhi Sarai Rohilla. **20,000 T/TCs were sensitized** through the awareness campaigns both physically and virtually.



20,000 T/TCs sensitized

ABHINANDAN: AN ANNUAL FELICITATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Each year we come together to recognise and applaud the phenomenal efforts of Railway Officials in reaching and protecting vulnerable children across railway stations in India. This year we carried out 4 events, across the North Railways, East Central Railways, Government Railway Police of Patna and the Moradabad division, awarding 132 railway officials for the contributions in building child-friendly stations.



6. TOWARDS A CONVERGENCE MODEL – BRIDGING THE GAP ON SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

A noteworthy milestone on a global platform was the demonstration of a preventive and replicable convergence model aimed at transforming the Indian Railway network into a safety net for unaccompanied vulnerable children on moving trains and at railway stations. Our participation under the Systems Innovation Learning Partnership (SILP) Experimentation Fund grant enabled this pilot project in the districts of Ghaziabad and Patna along the Delhi-Howrah railway corridor, to spearhead the way forward.

In collaboration with the Climate KIC Foundation, SIDA, and the Directorate-General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands we achieved:

- Accelerating learning on systems innovation by sharing ideas, tools, methods, and experiences, exploring solutions to common challenges, and co-developing systems innovation tools based on new insights.
- Strengthening the capabilities and mindsets of both railway personnel and government child protection functionaries to enable them to lead in complex situations.

- Advancing both existing and new examples of using systems innovation as a practical framework, methods, and tools.

We introduced and practiced the elements of persistency, consistency, patience, not introducing a parallel system in place, convergence, collaboration and adding value to expedite the child protection procedural aspects. These elements aimed to reaffirm the shared commitment between Railway Children India and systemic stakeholders towards the common goal of safeguarding children along the railway corridor.



CHILD PROTECTION ACROSS TRANSPORT TERMINALS



7. CAPABLE & COHERENT CHILD SAFEGUARDERS IN ACTION

We strive to prevent abuse and promote the safety, protection, wellbeing, and development of children across spaces and remain committed to putting these principles into practice. Keeping the child at the centre of every decision and action, child safeguarding continues to climb up the ladder as our top priority in all our work with children.

A Dedicated and Comprehensive Training Course for Child Protection Functionaries

A comprehensive concept note for a training course tailored for child protection functionaries working in contact with transport terminals and its neighbouring communities was drafted and delivered for our first enthusiastic batch of 13 participants. The course consists of 16 modules, of which 10 were developed this year, each addressing crucial aspects of child protection.

Specialized Training Sessions For the transport terminal team

Our training sessions have been dedicated to enhancing participants' proficiency in critical areas such as case documentation and the development of Individual Care Plans (ICP), which are essential for our work of protecting at risk children across transport terminals. Additionally, we have focused on imparting thorough knowledge of key child protection legislations and recent amendments, ensuring that our team members are well-equipped with an understanding of the current legal frameworks.

Moreover, we have provided specialized trainings tailored specifically for transport terminal teams, emphasizing follow-up procedures.

These specialized trainings have empowered our team with enhanced proficiency in case documentation and ICP development, improved understanding of child protection legislation, and optimized follow-up procedures.



TRAINING OF THE TRANSPORT TERMINAL AND FAMILY REINTEGRATION TEAMS ON CASE MANAGEMENT

For the Community team

With the community team, we focused on 3 key areas: Conducting Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), Child rights, Safeguarding and protection, and Life Skills.

Trainings were provided on conducting Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with children, utilizing body mapping tools, and on child rights, safeguarding, and protection. Additionally, we developed an extensive Life Skills module and facilitators guide for children and adolescents, aiming to equip them with essential life skills for their holistic development. A total of 3 training sessions were conducted on "Conducting life skills sessions with children and creation of Training Learning Materials (TLM)" with 14 community team members and 25 peer facilitators.

Our focus with the community team has yielded significant outcomes. Training sessions honed their abilities in conducting Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with children, adeptly utilizing body mapping tools. Moreover, comprehensive modules covered child rights, safeguarding, and protection, bolstering their understanding and capacity in these critical areas.



LIFE SKILL TRAINING SESSION OF PEER FACILITATORS FROM THE COMMUNITY

One of the outcomes of conducting training life skills training with a peer has helped empowered peer facilitators and equipped them with enhanced skills and confidence in delivering effective lif

Teacher Training in Government Schools of Delhi in collaboration with Tech Mahindra Foundation

In collaboration with Tech Mahindra Foundation, we conducted extensive training programs for teachers of Government Schools in Delhi, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the safety and protection of children in schools.

- A one-day training module on child protection and safeguarding was developed and delivered, reaching approximately **1,160 educators**.
- Additionally, a six-hour training module on child protection and safeguarding was created for **Master Trainers of government school non-teaching staff**, followed by a two-day training session for **30 Master Trainers**.
- A comprehensive **3-day training module** on child protection and safeguarding, conducting two batches of sessions for **65 teachers**.

The outcome of these trainings was a significantly enhanced understanding of child protection measures and safeguarding among teachers and school staff, ultimately fostering safer environments for children within Government Schools in Delhi.



IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE TECH MAHINDRA FOUNDATION, CHILD PROTECTION SESSIONS FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATORS WERE ORGANIZED BY OUR CHILD SAFEGUARDING LEAD, IN THE PRESENCE OF COO, SAJID ALI AND ALONGSIDE 16 TEACHER EDUCATORS.

LEARNINGS FROM THESE SESSION WILL BE SHARED FURTHER WITH 3000+ TEACHERS, CREATING A RIPPLE ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING ACROSS SCHOOLS – THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

Child safeguarding policy adhered to amongst team members and partner organizations

Our focus on child safeguarding remains paramount, with a series of initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children. A total of 5 training sessions were conducted on safeguarding mechanisms and reporting procedures, which included two training sessions with the Uday Open Shelter team, Salaam Baalak Trust, and 3 sessions with our own team members working at transport terminals and in communities.

Additionally, orientation sessions on Child Safeguarding Practices were held for all new recruits, volunteers, visitors, and interns, emphasizing RCI's commitment to safeguarding and zero tolerance for abuse and exploitation.

Furthermore, 11 case management debrief sessions were conducted across four transport terminals. Discussed approximately **650 potential cases** with terminal and community teams, **53 children identified with concerns**, and reported safeguarding issues.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING SESSIONS IN ACTION





8. STORIES THAT MATTER

Every child has a story. A story that matters. There are many children out there whose stories need to change so that they are able to live the childhoods they deserve. Here are some of the many that we are proud to share.

*All names have been changed to protect the identity of the child.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER AT THE CHILD HELPED DESK PROVES LIFE CHANGING FOR TWO TEENAGE COUSINS

Two teenage boys, 15-year-old Anuj (name changed) with his 17-year-old cousin Suresh (name changed), wandered into the Ghaziabad railway station, right before the Child Help Desk (CHD). Upon spotting them ambling nearby, one of RCI's outreach workers at the CHD started a conversation with both of them, in a pursuit of knowing more about them. Accordingly, both were led to the Child Assistance Booth and provided with plentiful food and water, along with other essentials to comfort them and ease them.

Following this, both the children were led for a counselling session where they divulged details about the situations that led them to the station all alone, by themselves.

At the counselling session, they revealed that the duo had left home and were heading to Delhi to pursue a job at a nearby village, named Bansi. Both their families had weak financial backgrounds, which forced these boys to step out, take responsibility and earn a living for their respective households.

Furthermore, Anuj shared that they had run away from home for this venture without informing anyone of their plan in their family.

In Bansi, they got meagre jobs as helps at a local sugarcane farm. However, three days into their work, the mediator who had helped them secure this job informed them of his plan of sending them away to Kerala. This plan didn't sound right to Suresh. He felt the distance from his hometown and Kerala was too much to even contemplate the move. His concern for the well-being of his family, forced him and Anuj to take yet another brash decision and run away from the farm.

Not knowing where to go after running away, the boys set out on a long walk to the Ghaziabad railway station, where our team members encountered them.

After the revelation of their journey, our team set about the process of their reunification with their families. The due process for this began with the duo being produced before the Child Welfare Committee. From thereon,

they were taken to the nearby Uday Open Shelter for a temporary stay. Upon receiving orders from the CWC, the procedure for tracing the families of the Anuj and Suresh began, which ended a few days later, when both the children were successfully reunited with their respective families.

A COUPLE TRAVERSING TOGETHER OR A TROUBLED TEENAGER WITH AN OLDER MAN? HERE'S HOW WE FOUND OUT

A 16-year-old Amna (name changed) was spotted ambling around the **Anand Vihar Bus Terminal** along with a slightly older-looking male. The outreach team of Railway Children India is aware that any child even if accompanied and carrying a valid with him/her may be at-risk.

With this in mind, it was only natural for one of our team members, patrolling the bus terminal to approach the duo.

When asked where the two were headed and how they were related to each other, Amna replied saying headed to Haridwar and the man was her boyfriend. Amna wasn't willing to share more and even insisted on being left alone. However, knowing that she was a minor and in potential danger, our team member comforted her, assured her and motivated her to reveal more.

We also spoke with the older male. He shared that he hailed from Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, and that he worked in a company in Faridabad, Haryana. He went on to share that the couple met each 6 months ago in a park, where they both exchanged numbers, began chatting over the phone and soon were seeing each other. After this revelation, Amna too shared that she had fled her home without informing anyone of her whereabouts.

Amna also shared that both her parents had passed away and she lived with her uncle and aunt in Faridabad. Amna claimed that her uncle and aunt were abusive towards her and she had no intention or will of returning to them.

The truth, however, was about to reveal itself soon.

Following Amna's revelation, she was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, as per standard protocol. Thereafter, the ChildLine network was directed to trace her family. The team contacted Faridabad ChildLine telephonically and also circulated information in police stations around Faridabad. The team soon received a lead from sec-8 Faridabad police station where a missing FIR was lodged by the Amna's parents.

Over the phone, our team received startlingly different information. It became clear that both of Amna's parents were indeed alive. Her father worked in a factory while her mother was a domestic worker. Her parents shared that Amna showed very little interest in pursuing an education.

Her father had only recently caught Amna talking over the phone with a boy. It soon became clear that the boy was much older than Amna. Her father did not accept this relationship and ordered Amna to cease all communication with the boy; he even threatened to marry Amna off if she did not follow his will. However, Amna was adamant on marrying her boyfriend. Now scared of the threat though, she fled her home with him. Her concerned parents filed an FIR, which led to their prompt identification.

Once the background checks were in place, the CWC directed Amna to be reunited with her parents.

During our follow-up sessions, Amna shared that she has now had a change of heart, whereby she wants to upgrade her stitching skills, earn a respectable living and contribute to the household productively.

FROM FROWN LINES TO CURVED SMILES— A MOTHER'S MOMENT OF JOY CAME AFTER OUR INTERVENTION FOR HER SON'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Eleven-year-old Vishal's family resides in the Kishan Ganj basti, near the busy Sarai Rohilla Railway Station. While his father worked at a restaurant in the city, his mother worked as domestic helper to sustain the family's living. The family had inhabited the community for close to five years now. During a home visit the RCI staff checked in with the family as a part of the team's routine outreach program. During this interaction, it was revealed that at a tender age of 11, Vishal had fallen prey to substance abuse. Since many of his peers indulged in these activities, Vishal only followed suit to fit in. However, in doing so, he began sniffing glue, smoking, cannabis, and consuming alcohol.

The team decided to pursue this matter further by setting a meeting with Vishal's parents. During this meeting, Vishal's mother further revealed that this habit of substance abuse had long taken an ugly turn with Vishal having dropped out of school, and even losing consciousness from time to time. Despite the family's efforts to encourage him to abstain from substance abuse, Vishal persisted in his harmful behavior. This worried his mother to a great extent. His deteriorating health and wasteful spending was a constant cause of grief for her.

RCI's team member recognized that Vishal needed more than reprimanding, and decided to catch up with him every day, even if it were for short conversations to understand his unending urge at such a tender age. Vishal didn't take these regular sessions very well. He despised them so much that he would run miles away from the community. Later his parents too began backing off when the idea of enrolling him in a de-addiction center was presented to them.

However, team RCI did not put a stop to its efforts. Persistently following up with both Vishal and his family, our team received the go-ahead from his parents to enroll him in a de-addiction center. Following their go-ahead and Vishal's consent, he was presented before the Child Welfare Committee along with his parents. The committee conducted counseling of the child and his family and ordered that after the medical examination of the child, the child should be sent to a de-addiction center.

After the necessary procedures, Vishal's mother expressed her happiness at her son's future prospects. She could finally see a life for her son, where no substance was involved, and that alone brought a smile to her face. Vishal continues at the de-addiction centre and is making rapid progress.

HOW LEARNING AT THE ACTIVITY CENTRE BECAME THE STEPPING STONE FOR AAYAN'S ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE ADOLESCENT BOYS GROUP

12-year-old Aayan (name changed) was discovered through the vulnerability assessment in the community, where he was introduced to the RCI Community Centre and its activities. This introduction enhanced his interest, leading him to frequently inquire about the Community Activity Centre. Aayan, whose father works as a cobbler and whose mother is a homemaker, is currently in the 7th grade and excels in his studies. He finds joy in participating in the activities at the centre, an enthusiasm shared by all his siblings who are also involved and regularly attend the various activities in the community centre. Aayan is remarkably active, demonstrating consistent attendance at the Community Centre. He particularly enjoys playing cricket and has a talent for drawing. His leadership qualities have earned him the role of President within the adolescent boys' group. The provision of an educational kit further enhanced his excitement and commitment to the Community Activity Centre, where he now regularly attends the evening sessions.

Aayan has set an example for the other adolescent boys in the community and a close follow up is being kept ensuring that there is no disruption in Aayan's studies and also for his siblings, who should not become victims of any forms of abuse.

A SEWING MACHINE: AN EMPOWERING & TRANSFORMING FORCE FOR WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES

35-year-old Kanika (name changed) has 3 children, 2 adolescent boys aged 17 years and 18 years and one adolescent girl aged 14 years. RCI supported all her three children, who frequented the Community Activity Centre. Her 17-year-old son has been enrolled into Computer Training by RCI and is presently studying in class 9, therefore we ensured regular follow up to ensure his smooth transition into class 10 and adequate support for his board exams. The 18-year-old son had dropped out of school, but with assistance from RCI, he has been enrolled in open schooling to complete his class 10 board exams. Kanika's daughter attends school regularly and actively participates in activities at the Community centre. Given the financial circumstances of the family, it was crucial to closely monitor the children to prevent the risk of adolescent boys dropping out of school and engaging in labour activities.

Kanika, like many homemakers living in the urban slums, lived with financial constraints due to limited employment opportunities outside her home. However, sewing machines emerged as a transformative instrument, enabling women in the community to earn an income while remaining in the comfort of their households. This story delves into the experience of one such homemaker who utilized a sewing machine for a livelihood opportunity

and improved the financial standing for her family. Kanika's narrative illustrates the transformative potential of a seemingly modest gift – a sewing machine – in enhancing the livelihood of a struggling family.

With a family of five and her husband earning a modest income as a rickshaw puller, Kanika grappled with significant financial challenges. The irregular and insufficient earnings made it challenging to meet basic needs, let alone save for the future. The weight of financial responsibility bore heavily on Kanika, compelling her to seek additional income sources and also imposing an indirect threat for the adolescent boys to drop out of school and join the labour force.

Railway Children India's timely intervention altered Kanika's life. This gesture provided Kanika with an avenue to explore livelihood opportunities and supplement her husband's income. Armed with the sewing machine, Kanika wasted no time in leveraging her newfound opportunity. She sharpened her sewing skills and commenced offering tailoring services within her community. Initially, Kanika started by sewing clothes and mending garments, effectively catering to the tailoring needs of her neighbours. She earned approximately Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1500 per month, depending on the frequency of orders, which were sporadic rather than consistent. However, she aspires to broaden her clientele within the neighbourhood, and word of her adept craftsmanship is spreading rapidly. Kanika has observed a surge in demand for her services compared to her initial days, owing to her dedication and superior quality of her workmanship.

Kanika's initiative has changed the present and future of her family. The income she generates from her sewing business has enabled her family to afford essential expenses and enhance their quality of life. With a more stable income, Kanika's husband can now concentrate on his work without the constant worry of making ends meet.

Kanika's active participation in parent meetings at the Activity Center in Balmiki Basti underscores her commitment to community involvement. As an engaged member, she shares her insights and experiences, fostering a supportive environment for fellow parents grappling with similar challenges. Kanika's journey serves as a source of inspiration, illustrating the transformative potential of perseverance and opportunity.

Kanika's narrative represents the profound impact of a single act— the gift of a sewing machine – on a family's livelihood. This serves as a classic example of family strengthening, from the lens of securing the economic stability of a family and being able to take better care of her children and preventing them from becoming victims of child labour.

9. WITH GRATITUDE

Looking back on 2023-24, we see our generous friends, supporters and partners behind each and every moment of impact and reason to celebrate. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made, and continues to make, our mission possible. Thank you to our community for making our work — and this impact — possible, for being by our side, and for helping us finish 2023-24 strong. We have only the highest of hopes for 2024-25.



Donors



Partners



Of little heroes and birthday fundraisers

These heroes are little, but their impact is enormous. With a nudge from their parents and a whole lot of heart, they paved the way for future kid-fundraisers on their birthday, choosing to direct donations towards children less privileged than themselves > taking home birthday presents.



10. TOGETHER, WITH OUR TEAM

Meet the backbone of our organization – our people. With deep passion, hard work and a shared mission, together, we are able to keep children safe.



Sanjay Kumar Gupta
Chairperson



Harbhajan Singh
Director RCI



Megha Jain
Director RCI



Priya Varadarajan
Director RCI



Navin Sellaraju Sukumar
Director & Chief Executive
Officer of RCI



AFSAR AHMED KHAN
Program Manager

AMARJEET SINGH
Digital Fundraising Officer

HIMANSHU PAL
Data Entry Operator

HIMANSHU SINGH
Finance and Admin Manager

LOPAMUDRA MULLICK
Senior Manager Program & Strategic
Alliance

NIDA SIDDIQUE
Manager, Child Safeguarding and Training

NIPA BHANSALI
Senior Manager, Knowledge Management
& Communications

NITIN AGGARWAL
Head of Finance and Operations

TARANNUM PRAVEEN
Donor Care Executive

VIJAY KUMAR
Backend & Face to Face Officer



11. KNOW US (RAILWAY CHILDREN INDIA) BETTER



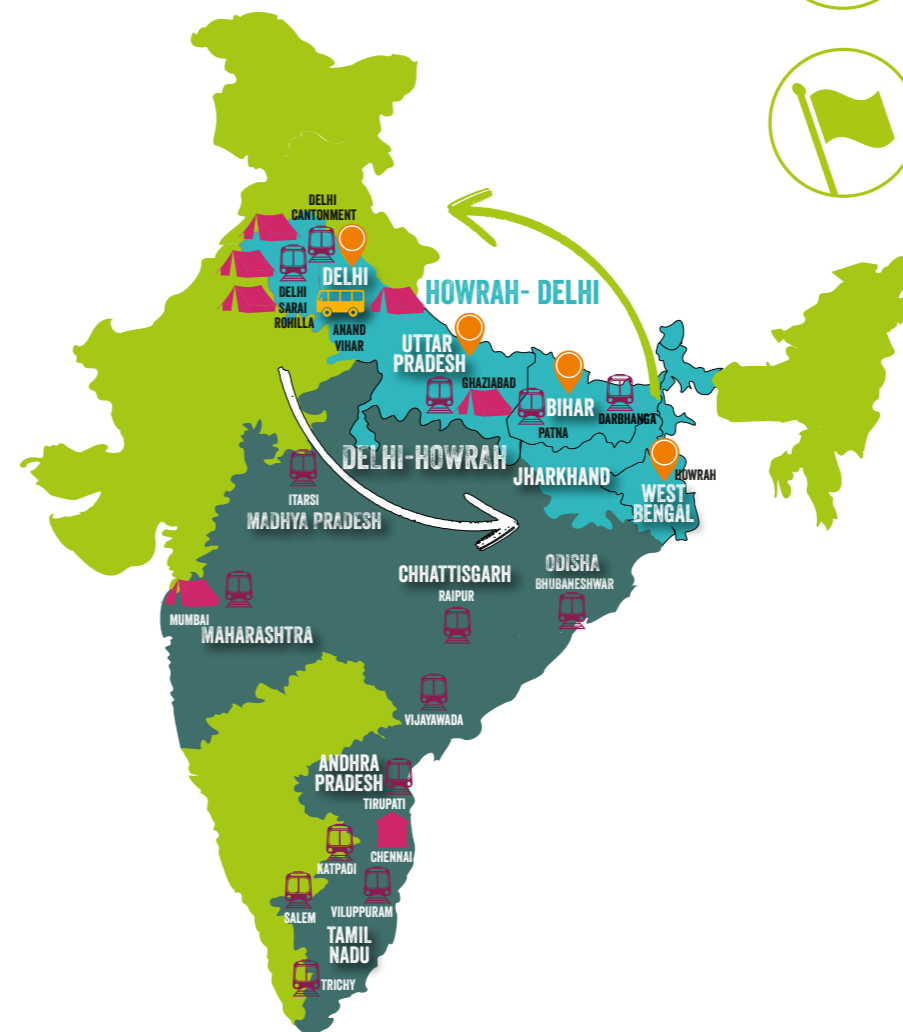
Our Vision

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



Our Mission

Create and enable sustainable change for children living alone and at risk on the street.



- RAILWAY STATION WORK
- COMMUNITY WORK
- BUS TERMINAL WORK
- DELHI-HOWRAH RAIL NETWORK
 - 5 STATES
 - 34 DISTRICTS
 - 64 RAILWAY STATIONS
- PAST PROJECTS

12. FINANCIALS

Railway Children India
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024
(A Company Licensed under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013)
CIN: U85100DL2013NPL260371, e-mail: contact@railwaychildren.org.in

Particulars	Note	As at March 31, 2024 (Rs. in Lakhs)	As at March 31, 2023 (Rs. in Lakhs)
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
1 Shareholders' Funds			
(a) Share Capital	2	-	-
(b) Reserves and Surplus	3	116.49	156.39
2 Non Current Liabilities			
(a) Long-Term Provisions	4	14.50	12.14
3 Current Liabilities			
(a) Trade Payables	5	-	-
i) Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises; and		-	-
ii) Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises		1.84	1.32
(b) Other Current Liabilities	6	11.07	6.82
(c) Short Term Provisions	7	0.63	0.13
		144.53	176.80
II. ASSETS			
1 Non Current Assets			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	8	-	-
i) Tangible Assets		7.97	9.00
ii) Intangible Assets		0.24	0.24
(b) Long term Loans and Advances	9	0.46	0.36
2 Current assets			
(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	112.26	152.06
(b) Short Term Loans & Advance	11	23.60	15.14
		144.53	176.80

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other Explanatory Information : Note 1 to 21

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

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Ravi Goel
Partner
M. No. 078748
Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.08.24

Sanjay Gupta
Director
DIN: 01657370

Harbhajan Singh
Director
DIN: 07483105

Navin Sellaraju Sukumar
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, 2024				
Particulars	Note	For year ended March 31, 2024 (Rs. In Lakhs)	For year ended March 31, 2023 (Rs. In Lakhs)	
Revenue from operations				
I. Donations and Grant received	12	658.15	616.97	
II. Other Incomes	13	4.20	9.51	
III. Total Income (I+II)		662.35	626.48	
Expenses:				
Program Expenses	14	416.49	275.57	
Enabling Function Expenses	15	263.52	306.00	
Depreciation & Amortization Expenses	8	3.15	3.59	
Other Expenses	16	19.09	23.41	
Total expenses		702.25	608.57	
V Surplus / (Deficit) for the year (III-IV)		(39.90)	17.91	
VI Tax expense:				
(1) Current income tax		-	-	
(3) Deferred Tax		-	-	
Total Tax expenses		-	-	
VII. Surplus / (Deficit) after tax		(39.90)	17.91	
Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other Explanatory Information : Note 1 to 21				
As per our report of even date For Jagdish Chand & Co. Chartered Accountants CAI Firm Reg. No. 000129N				
Ravi Goel Partner M. No. 078748 Place: New Delhi Date: 24.08.24		For and on behalf of the Board of Directors		
				
		Sanjay Gupta Director DIN: 01657370		
		Harbhajan Singh Director DIN: 07483105		
		Navin Sellaraju Sukumar CEO		

Railway Children India

B-107, First Floor,
Panchsheel Vihar, Khirki,
New Delhi – 110017

www.railwaychildren.org.in



children RAILWAY
No child lost to the streets