Effective Investments to Protect Children in India

Key takeaways and next steps from discussions with leading funders

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About the report

This report is the outcome of the roundtable discussions organised by Sattva Consulting with support from The Freedom Fund, on 3rd and 5th August 2022, in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. These roundtables were organised to enable dialogues between leading funding organisations on high-potential programming models and ways to drive a coordinated and multi-stakeholder response to child protection in the country. This report summarises the discussions from the roundtable, and indicates future directions for cross-organizational collaboration in this space.

Disclaimer

Authorship & Citation

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About Sattva

Sattva is a social impact research and consulting firm focused on developing scalable solutions for poverty alleviation. Over the past decade, Sattva has worked with foundations, philanthropists, companies, nonprofits, multilaterals and impact ecosystems in India, Africa, South and South-East Asia. We support clients end-to-end, covering support through rigorous research, strategy consulting, programme management, impact assessment and more, to deliver solutions at scale.

Acknowledgements

We strongly appreciate the time and valuable insights from all our esteemed participants.

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Contents

Abbreviations

Acronym	Full form
CARA	Central Adoption Resource Authority
CCI	Child Care Institution
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CSO	Child Safeguarding Organisation
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
CWPC	Child Welfare and Protection Committee
DCPC	District Child Protection Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
DOT	Department of Transportation
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ITI	Industrial Training Institute
JIB	Judicial Inquiry Board
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JSP	Juvenile Services Program
NACO	National AIDS Control Organization
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
NISD	National Institute of Social Defence
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
SAA	Specialized Adoption Agency
SACS	State AIDS Prevention and Control Society
SARA	State Adoption Resource Agency
SCPC	State Child Protection Committee
SCPS	State Child Protection Society
ULB	Urban Local Body
WCD	Women and Child Development

Executive Summary

There is need for a collective response to address severe risks to children in vulnerable communities. Through two roundtable discussions, leading funding organisations shared a host of approaches to child protection and child labour that have characteristics of high impact programming models and potential to engage multiple stakeholders. Through combining these characteristics, there is potential to develop holistic programs that ensure stronger child welfare across India.

Participants' exchange of learnings at the roundtables resulted in the compilation of **eight key features of high impact program design** that would lead to the most effective child protection investments.

Geography focused approaches in high need regions that allow for a concentration of efforts, efficient identification of challenges and local approaches to finding solutions

Strong engagement with **committed government bodies** that leads to systemic change and sustainability

Holistically designed programmes that enable simultaneous implementation of approaches to address the challenges from various angles

Flexible long term funding from a group of like-minded funders

A **community led focus** that builds the capacity of local champions and communities to identify and address their own needs

A proactive and qualified **core team on the ground** that provides support to local partners, drives project implementation and enables flexibility to quickly adapt approaches

Designed for scale as per the context of the challenge being addressed

Focus on evidence generation and evaluation to track progress and make adjustments

The discussions further led to identifying the following needs on the **future pathways for collective actions** in the child protection space. The need for:

- **High impact programs** designed based on the **eight key features** described above
- **Strengthening child protection infrastructure** at a local level
- **Catalysing domestic funding** for child protection, to work alongside international philanthropic efforts
- **Knowledge sharing** among funders and implementing organisations to help integrate best practices across organisations in the sector
- **Collective action** from key stakeholders in the child protection ecosystem in India

Collective action should focus on addressing specific challenges in well defined high risk geographies / marginalised communities by designing impact interventions based on the eight key features mentioned above.

Need for Collective Action in Child Protection Programming in India

Government investments in child protection[1] interventions have seen a continuous decline over the years

~35% of all child labourers[2] are from India[3]

~10.1M children in India were engaged in child labour in 2011[4]
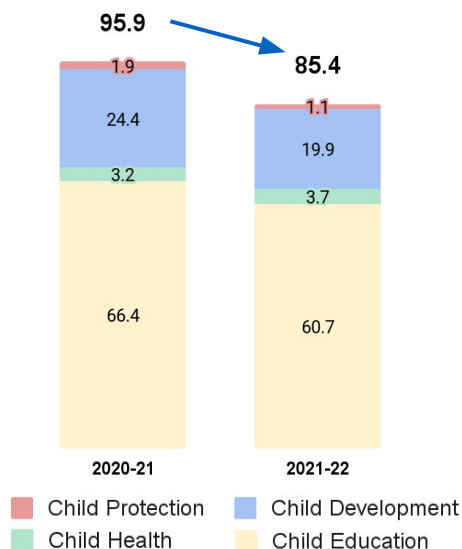
Boys	5.6M
Girls	4.5M

The **agricultural sector** accounts for the largest share of child labour with most children working within their own families

Other industries where prevalence of child labour is high
- ✓ Brick kilns
- ✓ Carpet weaving
- ✓ Garment making
- ✓ Domestic service
- ✓ Fisheries
- ✓ Mining

11% decrease in the overall Budget (INR 1,000 Cr) for Child Welfare from 2020-21 to 2021-22[5]

95.9 → **85.4**

	2020-21	2021-22
Child Protection	1.9	1.1
Child Development	24.4	19.9
Child Health	3.2	3.7
Child Education	66.4	60.7

India has a long way to go towards ensuring child welfare in the post pandemic world, especially among those at greatest risk of harm

India continues to report poor developmental outcomes among children

50%
children aged 2-17 years suffer **some form of violence** each year[6]

92%
children **lost at least one specific language ability**[7] due to school closures[8]

18 Lac
children are severely **malnourished**, and are at risk of growth retardation, health morbidities, and reduced immunity[9]

Children from vulnerable communities[10] are at greatest risk of harm, exploitation, and marginalisation

Poverty and child labour have a direct relationship in India especially in marginalised communities[11]

Disabled children are four to five times more vulnerable to abuse than their non-disabled peers[12]

Remoteness and exclusion has a direct correlation with extreme poverty and food insecurity in rural areas[13]

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[1] Child protection refers to interventions focused on safeguarding of children from vulnerable communities from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. These vulnerable populations also include children from marginalised communities, those with disabilities, out of school children, children in care institutions, children outside of family systems, children in labour or at risk of being forced into labour.
[2] Child labour refers to the exploitation of children through any form of work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend school, and is mentally, physically, socially and morally harmful.
[3] Child labour in South Asia, ILO
[4] Child labour and exploitation, UNICEF
[5] Budget for Children 2021-22, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights
[6] Violence against children, WHO
[7] These specific language abilities include describing a picture, articulating their experiences orally, reading familiar words, reading with comprehension, writing simple sentences based on a picture, etc.
[8] The loss of learning for children during the pandemic, Azim Premji University
[9] Nearly 18 lakh children in India severely malnourished: Centre, The Hindu
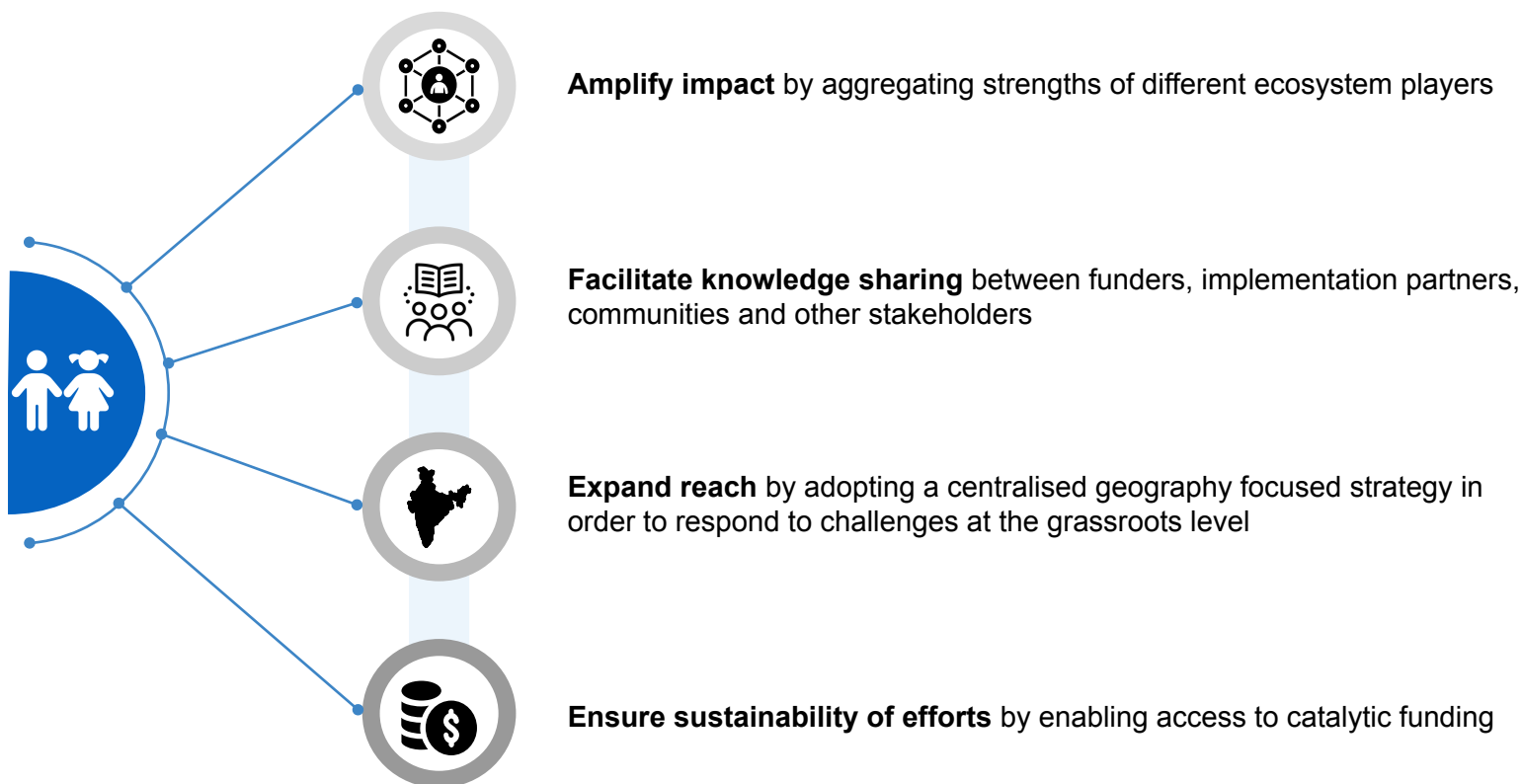[10] Vulnerable communities are populations at a higher risk due to barriers to social, economic, political and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability.
[11] Child labour and its determinants in India, Krishna Suriya Das
[12] Child protection policy, Latika Roy Foundation
[13] Marginality: Addressing the Root Causes of Extreme Poverty, University of Bonn

There is need for **collective action** from key stakeholders in the philanthropic ecosystem to address the needs of children

Amplify impact by aggregating strengths of different ecosystem players

Facilitate knowledge sharing between funders, implementation partners, communities and other stakeholders

Expand reach by adopting a centralised geography focused strategy in order to respond to challenges at the grassroots level

Ensure sustainability of efforts by enabling access to catalytic funding

To address this need for an ecosystem driven approach towards child protection, Sattva facilitated roundtables amongst key funders

Objectives of the roundtables

Identify key features of high-impact interventions in child protection and anti child labour programming

Identifying needs for future pathways for programming and exploring opportunities for **knowledge sharing** and cross-organisational partnerships

14 Organisations engaged

BAJAJ FINSERV · ChildFund Because we need each other. · CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU · EdelGive Foundation An Edelweiss Initiative · THE FREEDOM FUND · give · HCL FOUNDATION

LGT Venture Philanthropy · Piramal Foundation · PLAN INTERNATIONAL www.planindia.org · RBL BANK apno ka bank · terre des hommes Help for Children in Need · UBS Optimus Foundation · UBS

Key Features of High Impact Interventions in Child Protection

The roundtable discussions led to identification of **eight key features of high impact program design**

1 **Geography focused approaches** in high need regions that allow for a concentration of efforts, efficient identification of challenges and local approaches to finding solutions

2 Strong engagement with **committed government bodies** that leads to systemic change and sustainability

3 **Holistically designed** programmes that enable simultaneous implementation of approaches to address the challenges from various angles

4 **Flexible long term funding** from a group of like-minded funders

5 A **community led focus** that builds the capacity of local champions and communities to identify and address their own needs

6 A proactive and qualified **core team on the ground** that provides support to local partners, drives project implementation and enables flexibility to quickly adapt approaches

7 **Designed for scale** as per the context of the challenge being addressed

8 **Focus on evidence generation and evaluation** to track progress and make adjustments

1 Geography focused approaches in high need regions allow for a concentration of efforts, efficient identification of challenges and local approaches to finding solutions

How the geography focused approach is helpful

Concentration of efforts in a well defined high risk geography

Efficient identification of challenges in selected geography

Hyperlocal approach to solutioning

Examples of initiatives that have undertaken a geography focused approach

Preventing Child Marriage in Ajmer, Rajasthan

- CRY has intervened in Ajmer, Rajasthan to prevent and delay child marriage by empowering adolescent and community-based groups.
- They have worked towards breaking gender stereotypes around early marriage, encouraging girls to negotiate better and enabling them to stand for themselves and their peers. This has resulted in:
  - Formation of groups like Kishori Manch where girls raise their voices to prevent early marriages
  - 400+ girls assuming the role of leaders and peer-educators to address issues of gender-based violence through intergenerational dialogue
  - 200+ girls engaging in sports leading to improvement in their academic results
  - Strengthening implementation of laws and policies by working closely with block officials

Child Labour Free Jaipur (www.CLFJaipur.org)

- Child Labour Free Jaipur (CLFJ) addresses two types of child labour: Local children who drop out of school and work at home, and children trafficked from other states, to work in workshops in Jaipur.
- CLFJ is a collaboration between government, local residents, businesses, civil society organisations, and funders. So far these efforts have resulted in:
  - Significant improvements in care, counselling and legal assistance to rescued children in Jaipur
  - 240 Child Protection Committees activated, assisting children in high risk areas of Bihar
  - Systematic reintegration support for over 1300 trafficked children returned home
  - 28 youth survivor collectives regularly supporting each other

Disha - Preventing Child Labour in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh

- ChildFund works in 30 urban slums in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh to eliminate home-based child labor and encourage families to provide an environment for positive child growth and development.
- Their work focuses on improving community monitoring systems, and increasing access to infrastructure for health, education, livelihood, and child protection. So far their efforts have led to:
  - Forming 11 types of community based organisations to ensure protection of children's rights
  - Influencing government departments to mitigate the risk of child labor by addressing protection issues
  - Appointing 120 child reporters to act as local change agents

Strong engagement with committed **government bodies** leads to systemic change and sustainability

Government efforts to address violence against children focuses primarily on system strengthening and justice sector reforms. Given the growing willingness to collaborate, now is the best time for the philanthropic ecosystem to complement the government efforts in child protection.

India has extensive legislative and policy frameworks addressing children's rights and protection, with a vision of guaranteeing that all children have equitable access to high-quality protective services. Five primary laws: Juvenile Justice Act, Child Marriage Prohibition Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation, and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education serve as the foundation of child protection legislation. The diagram below shows the child protection system in India at central, state, and district levels, along with the role that relevant departments play.[14-16]
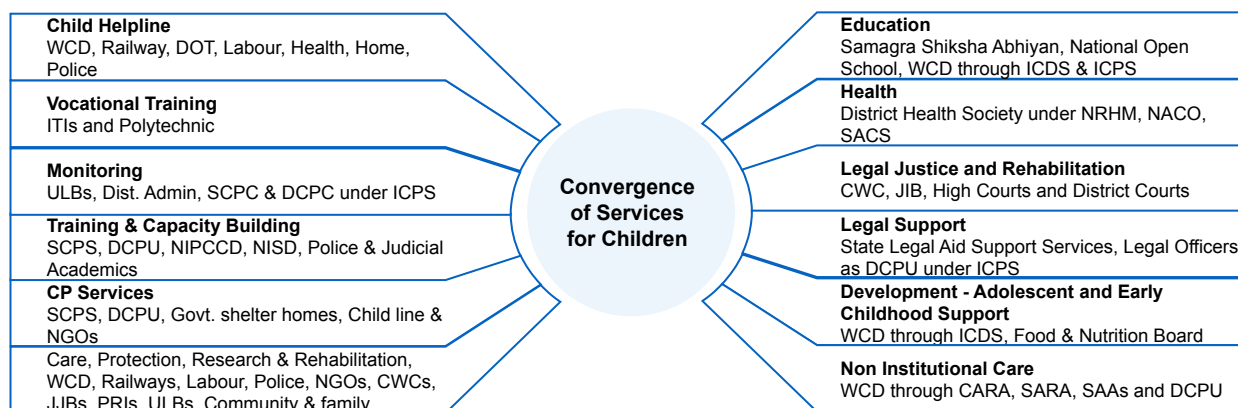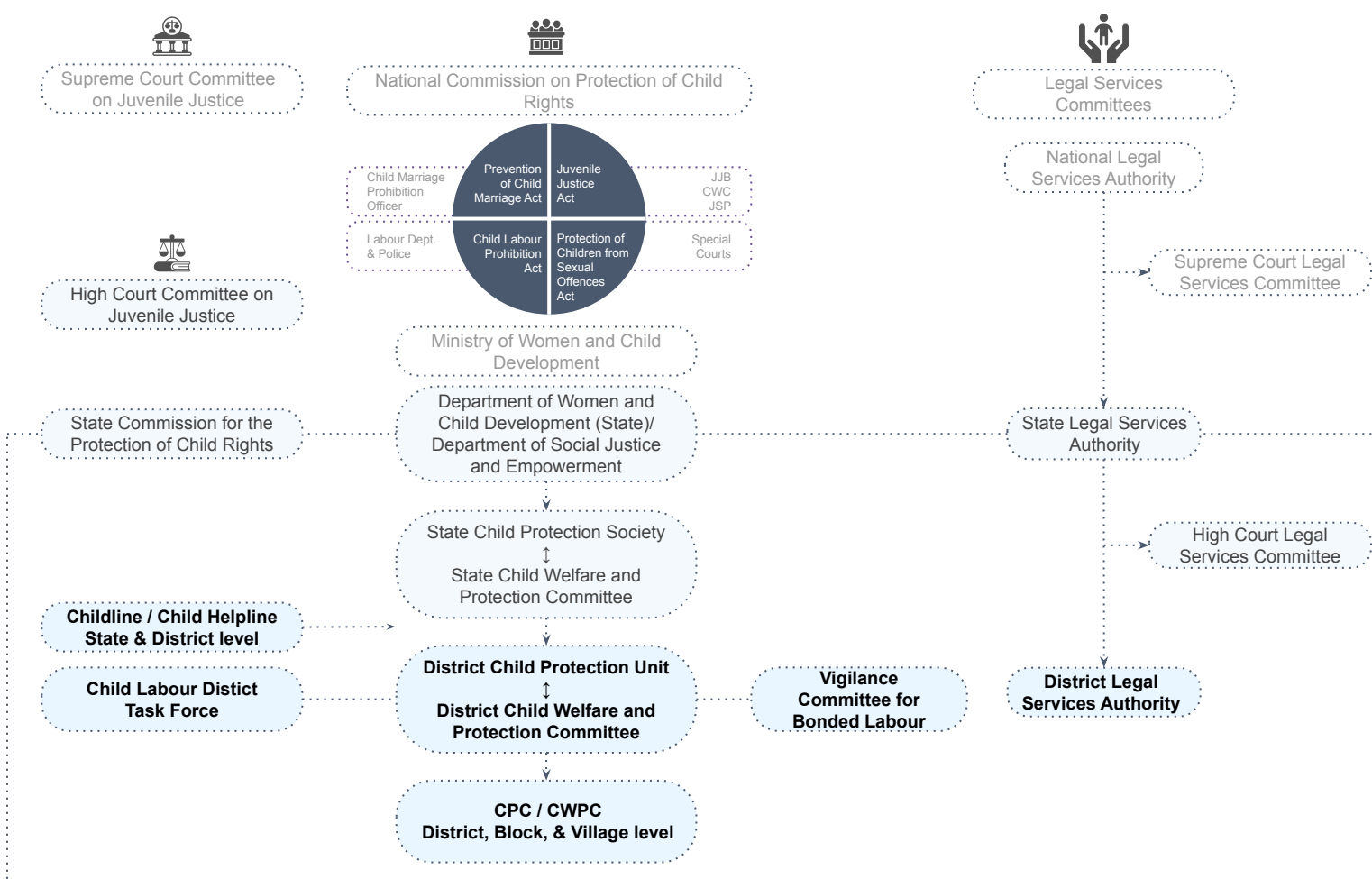
[14] *Strategy for Ending Violence Against Children, UNICEF*
[15] *Organogram of Legal Services Authorities, NALSA*
[16] *Revised Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Government of India*

Examples of collaboration with government ecosystem

HCL FOUNDATION

Community based programs as Nanhe Parinde (HCLF's protection and education program reaching out to more than 1700 children in partnership with Police in Gautam Buddha Nagar), Police Children's Clubs (instituted to create safe, inclusive spaces for more than 4000 children in slums of Chennai with Police) are aimed at keeping children safe. In order to assure government ownership, they also signed Memorandums of Understanding with the BSAs, DPOs and the Police Department for these programmes.

Piramal Foundation

The Piramal Foundation has been working with the education and health personnel in each of their 112 districts to sensitise them about the protocols and safeguarding mechanisms for children. These efforts have led to several district level officials taking the ownership to equip the block level officials with tools, designs, and M&E to recreate Child Safety Week on a large scale across many villages and at-risk blocks.

terre des hommes Help for Children in Need

Terre des hommes' work with the state is focused on building relationships with BoCW (building or other construction work) officials, legislators, and policymakers. They assist government agencies in analysing success of law enforcement, delivery of welfare programmes, and supports with addressing barriers to implementation. So far, with support from local officials they have been able to reduce incidence of child labour in the carpet industry and have also promoted rights of women and girls in Rajasthan's Garasiya and Bhil communities.

3 Holistically designed programmes enable simultaneous implementation of approaches to address the challenges from various angles

PLAN INTERNATIONAL
www.planindia.org

Plan India's Project Protect in high risk districts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal focuses on strengthening child trafficking prevention mechanisms, improving repatriation processes, and provides support to reintegrate survivors. This project has contributed to increased awareness of 50K people on the realities of child trafficking through 600+ change agents, improved access to various social protection schemes for 3K+ vulnerable families, and also prevented of child marriage for 75+ children in last one year.

give

GiveIndia's Mission No Child Homeless Initiative assists at-risk children residing in shelter homes by collaboration with multiple stakeholders such as - neighbourhood CWCs, local government, and CCIs.

4 Flexible long term funding from a group of like-minded funders aids sustainability of efforts

LGT Venture Philanthropy

LGT Venture Philanthropy's multi year support to Aangan Trust's work in increasing safety and resilience of vulnerable children.

CHILD LABOUR FREE JAIPUR BACHPAN RAHEGA BACHPAN

Child Labour Free Jaipur supported by several different funders.

UBS Optimus Foundation | **UBS**

Transform Collective anchored by UBS Optimus Foundation will support family-based care for vulnerable children.

5 — A **community led** focus builds the capacity of local champions and communities to identify and address their own needs

BAJAJ FINSERV — Bajaj Finserv has supported establishment of Mobile Creches for children of migrant workers at construction sites. This has led to ensuring safety for children while their parents are at work.

ChildFund Because we need each other. — ChildFund has formed 11 types of community groups in urban slums of Uttar Pradesh to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure protection of children's rights.

RBL BANK apno ka bank — RBL Bank's initiatives such as School adoption programmes, EduLeaders, Foundation for Mother and Child Health, and Mobile Creches focus on leveraging parents, community members, and elder girl children to play the role of champions to ensure child safety.

terre des hommes Help for Children in Need — TDH implements children led advocacy system on child labour in their work in the carpet sector, mines and brick kilns.

6 — A proactive and qualified **core team** on the ground provides support to local partners, drives project implementation and enables flexibility to quickly adapt approaches

CHILD LABOUR FREE JAIPUR BACHPAN RAHEGA BACHPAN — Child Labour Free Jaipur's core team enables local partners, including government officials, to identify obstacles and possible solutions.

7 — **Designed for scale** as per the context of the challenge being addressed

Initiatives that are designed for scale have the potential to create a greater impact compared to multiple smaller programmes being scaled. This is because small pilot programmes are often too complex and have a lot of elements which are often not applicable in a different context and hence may not lead to tangible results.

give — GiveIndia's No Child Homeless Initiative is currently working with 38+ NGOs nationwide.

EdelGive Foundation An Edelweiss Initiative — EdelGive Foundation's Coalition for Women Empowerment implemented in 7+ states across the country.

8 — Focus on **evidence generation and evaluation** to track progress and make adjustments

CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU — Evidence based advocacy backed by instruments such as gap and vulnerability analysis, baseline and endline studies, helps in negotiation with government authorities.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL www.planindia.org — Plan India is implementing a participatory action research in Jharkhand to develop, document and test a comprehensive approach to strengthen the community led child protection mechanism at the community level. The evidence generated through this research will support to influence practitioner, United Nations agencies, government and donor stakeholders to increase community led child protection initiatives.

Future Pathways for Collective Action

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The discussions led to identifying the following **future pathways for collective actions** in the child protection space

Emerging needs

1   **High impact programs** designed based on the **eight key features** stated earlier

2   **Strengthening child protection infrastructure** at a local level

3   **Catalysing domestic funding** for child protection, to work alongside international philanthropic efforts

4   **Knowledge sharing** among funders and implementing organisations to help integrate best practices across organisations in the sector

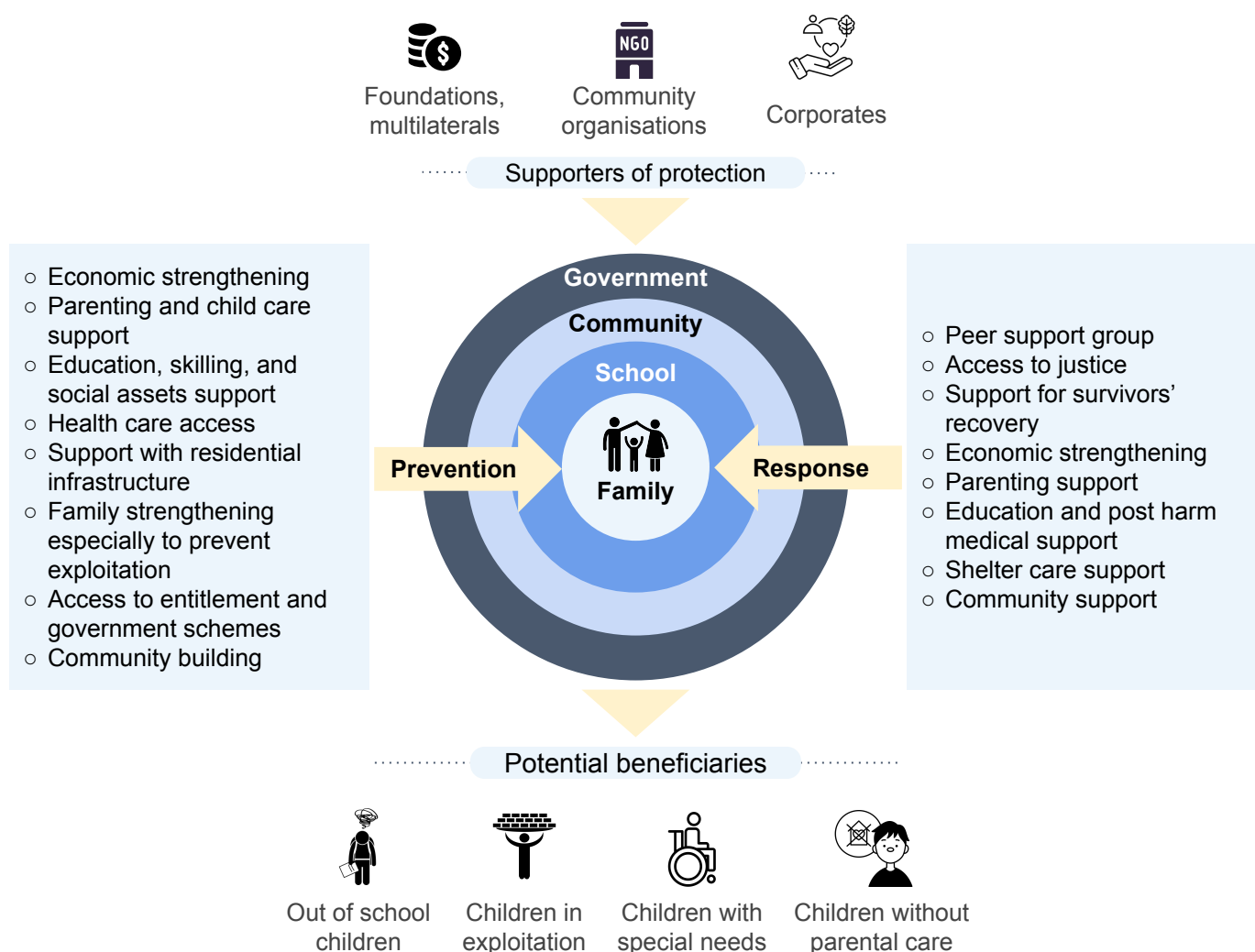**5**   **Collective action** from key stakeholders in the child protection ecosystem in India

There is a need to **strengthen the child protection infrastructure** at a local level

There is need for a better functioning child care infrastructure, especially to protect children from vulnerable populations. Here, child care infrastructure refers to the government systems in place to ensure child welfare at local levels, working alongside families and community involvement mechanisms.

Although it is the government's responsibility to ensure protection of vulnerable children, philanthropies and CSOs can play an important role in supporting government agencies, helping to bridge the gaps, and particularly aiding marginalised children who are at greatest risk of harm. While India has many laws, regulations and schemes, they are sometimes poorly implemented at the local level due to weak monitoring systems and other barriers. Therefore, philanthropic investment can be plugged towards ensuring community awareness and access to these essential services, and supporting innovations to assist with full implementation of government policies.

The illustration below shows the various components of child care infrastructure that demand investments. It covers a variety of care needs, including post-harm response as well as prevention.

Foundations, multilaterals

Community organisations

Corporates

Supporters of protection

○ Economic strengthening
○ Parenting and child care support
○ Education, skilling, and social assets support
○ Health care access
○ Support with residential infrastructure
○ Family strengthening especially to prevent exploitation
○ Access to entitlement and government schemes
○ Community building

Government

Community

School

👨‍👩‍👧
Family

Prevention

Response

○ Peer support group
○ Access to justice
○ Support for survivors' recovery
○ Economic strengthening
○ Parenting support
○ Education and post harm medical support
○ Shelter care support
○ Community support

Potential beneficiaries

Out of school children

Children in exploitation

Children with special needs

Children without parental care

3 There is a need to **catalyse domestic funding** for child protection, to work alongside international philanthropic efforts

Barriers to investing	Suggested mitigation	Outcomes
1 **Lack of understanding** of ways in which investments can contribute to a safer environment for children	**Evidence building and continued data exchange** between funders and implementation partners	**Build knowledge** for replication and scale
2 **Reputational risks** for domestic foundations and corporates	**Mitigating risks** through thorough field partner selection, continued evaluation, etc.	**Enable funding** for design and implementation
3 **Limited awareness** on the need for investments in child protection	**Simplifying the donor narrative** and enabling direct exposure	**Increase awareness** amongst philanthropic ecosystem

4 **Knowledge sharing** among funders and implementing organisations to help integrate best practices across organisations in the sector

Siloed Conversations

Lack of common spaces for engagement for stakeholders working in child protection

Untapped Tacit Knowledge

Lack of platforms to capture practitioners' insight as knowledge for ecosystem

Duplication of efforts

Wasteful investments to draft solutions to solve same problem multiple times; lack of common practices

Needs of ecosystem

Ways to enable knowledge sharing

Community building

Building a community of funders and implementation organisations supporting child protection initiatives

Ongoing dialogues

Share best practices, implementation approaches, on a regular basis

Documentation of Knowledge

Focus on codifying of intervention models, toolkits for sharing with the larger ecosystem

5 There is a need for **collective action** from key stakeholders in the child protection ecosystem in India

Areas for collaboration

Aggregating donors to establish a funding pool to identify and address specific challenges in child protection by scaling different high impact solutions in selected high risk geographies

Organising learning circles with funders and local implementation partners to **enable knowledge sharing** on high impact intervention designs and effective strategies for on ground delivery

Enabling exchange of resources such as M&E frameworks, toolkits, information on high impact intervention models, etc. to enable effective implementation of child protection programmes

These collective efforts should focus on working with **children facing heightened protection needs** in select high risk areas

Target segment

- **Age group:** 2-17 years

- **Key focus geographies:**
  - Low income at risk communities in urban and rural areas

- **Examples of children with greater need for protection:**
  - Children in highly marginalised communities
  - Children in exploitation
  - Out of school children
  - Children without parental care

High drop out rates from schools

High poverty rates

Marginalised Communities

High risk industry

Geographic targeting of interventions

Collective efforts have the potential to bring together **key stakeholders** to design and implement holistic programmes in child protection

Collective Funders
- Provision of capital for design and implementation
- Facilitate partnerships

At risk children

School

Government

Implementation Partners
- Implement child protection solutions
- Consolidate and share progress reports

Programme Management
- Help partners design programme
- Onboard and manage centralised partnerships
- Provide technical assistance and handholding support
- Create and track learning and monitoring systems
- Synthesise, disseminate learnings

Home, community

Fund Management
- Disbursement, management of funds
- Forging partnerships with funders
- Reporting of milestone based payments

Outcome evaluator
- Help partners create evaluation and develop systems for accountability to communities
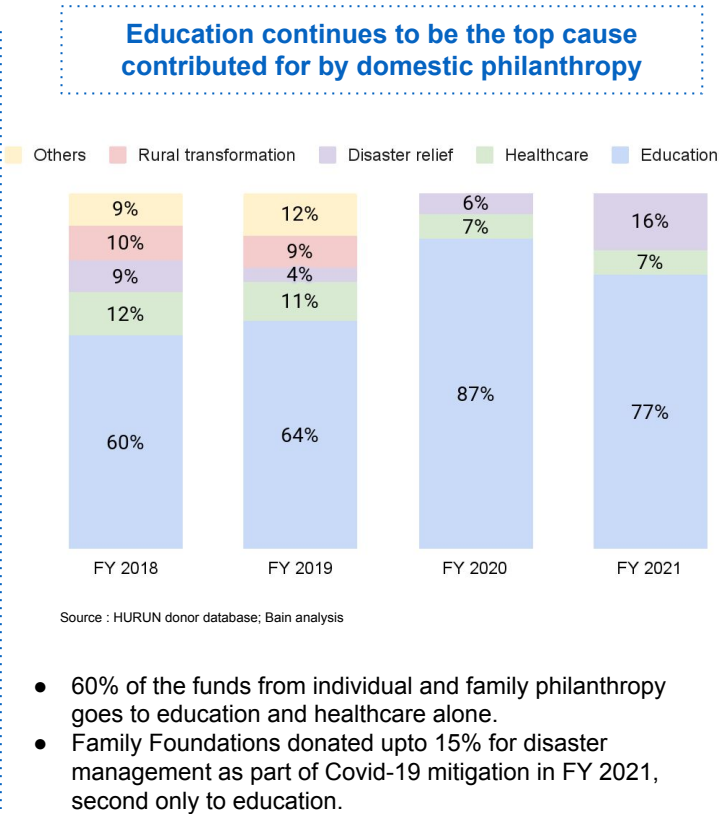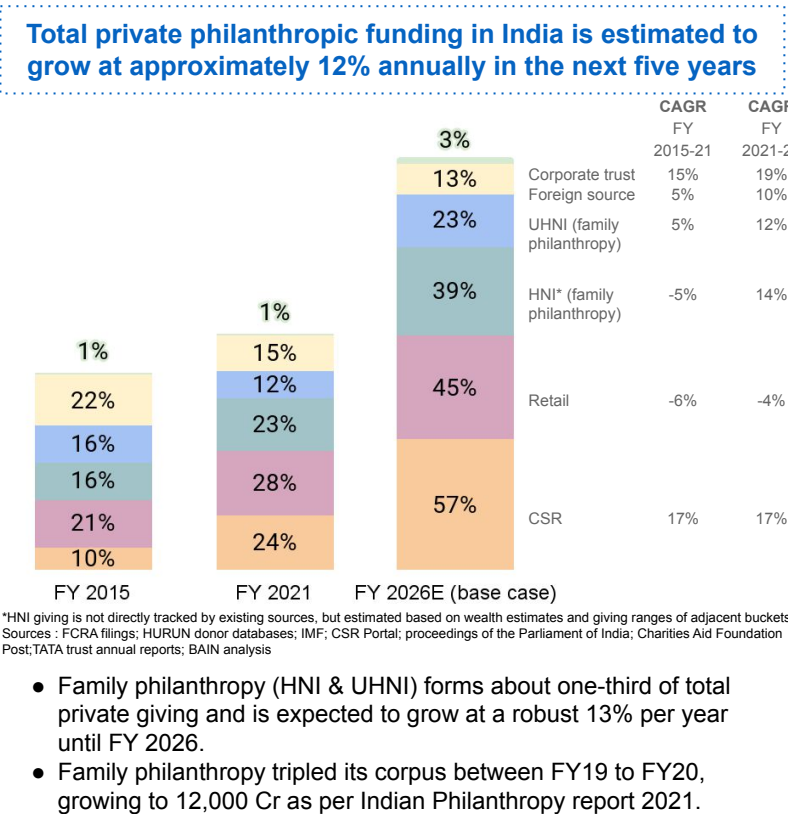- Analyse progress data collected

Annexure:
Role of Domestic Philanthropy in Child Protection

Indian private philanthropic funding is growing at a fast pace with **domestic sources contributing to 84%** of total annual funding for development for India

Total private philanthropic funding in India is estimated to grow at approximately 12% annually in the next five years

	CAGR FY 2015-21	CAGR FY 2021-26
Corporate trust	15%	19%
Foreign source	5%	10%
UHNI (family philanthropy)	5%	12%
HNI* (family philanthropy)	-5%	14%
Retail	-6%	-4%
CSR	17%	17%

*HNI giving is not directly tracked by existing sources, but estimated based on wealth estimates and giving ranges of adjacent buckets.
Sources : FCRA filings; HURUN donor databases; IMF; CSR Portal; proceedings of the Parliament of India; Charities Aid Foundation Post;TATA trust annual reports; BAIN analysis

- Family philanthropy (HNI & UHNI) forms about one-third of total private giving and is expected to grow at a robust 13% per year until FY 2026.
- Family philanthropy tripled its corpus between FY19 to FY20, growing to 12,000 Cr as per Indian Philanthropy report 2021.

Education continues to be the top cause contributed for by domestic philanthropy

Source : HURUN donor database; Bain analysis

- 60% of the funds from individual and family philanthropy goes to education and healthcare alone.
- Family Foundations donated upto 15% for disaster management as part of Covid-19 mitigation in FY 2021, second only to education.

Domestic philanthropy is strategically positioned to play a mid-long term role in the social-sector

Family Foundations

- New foundations emerging and taking a strategic focus towards Philanthropy
- Large international funders will seek to partner with domestic funders to demonstrate leverage of capital and reduce political risks and exposure
- Strategic Foundations will deeply engage with the government to fund systems change initiatives towards improving government systems

Corporations

- ESG will be a key priority for companies. While a large focus will be on reporting, early adopters will look for strategic differentiators
- The business value of CSR beyond employee & community engagement will become a mainstream conversation
- There will be a convergence of CSR, ESG, Diversity & Inclusion within companies towards a holistic impact / impact communication agenda

Non-Profits

- Social Stock Exchange and future regulations will create a demand for scalable models for building non-profit capabilities and offer them standardised services
- Technologies will simplify giving to charity, creating a business case for NGOs to engage citizens for funding
- Government's focus will increase interest in Aspirational districts among donors, and there will be a need for credible nonprofits & scalable models

Individual Philanthropists

- The number of Ultra High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNIs) and their potential to give will increase

17 India Philanthropy Report 2022, Bain & Company
18 India Philanthropy Report 2019, Bain & Company
19 Philanthropic Collaboratives in India 2020, Bridgespan
20 Strengthening philanthropic giving & impact investing for development in India 2016 - Intellecap, MacArthur Foundation
21 Bringing Foundations and Governments Closer: Evidence from India, OECD Development Centre, Paris
22 SDG Business Hub
23 Consultation Paper on the format for Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting 2020, SEBI

Through our ecosystem engagement over the past decade, we see that the **domestic philanthropy can potentially play six different roles** to drive impact in child protection

	Impact Donor	System Influencer	Catalytic Donor	Guardian Angel	Field Practitioner
Archetype					
Role played	Provides funding support to trusted NGOs with credible programmes driving demonstrable outcomes and establishes a low touch grant focused governance	Provides philanthropic support to work on creating systemic impact by collaboration with public and private sector as well as other credible players	Open to high-risk philanthropic support to innovation (sector/cause) through closely working with ecosystem players or intermediary organisations	Provides close strategic guidance to early-stage organisation and provides them unrestricted funding and access to networks to drive impact	Wants to implement their own programmes and anchors usually on a geography and sector intersection