



**Centre DIRECT - A Registered Voluntary Organization.**

The Centre for Documentation Information Research Education Communication and Training

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025



+91612-2265938, 9334114078



centredirect@yahoo.com



www.centredirect.org



129 E, 2nd Floor, Patliputra Colony Patna-800013

## From the Desk of the General Secretary



**Pramod Kumar Sharma, General Secretary**

Centre DIRECT has completed yet another remarkable journey in the year 2024-25, and I am proud to share our accomplishments with you through this Annual Report. As we continue to grow and progress, it is important not only to celebrate our achievements but also to reflect on the challenges we faced and articulate a clear vision for the future.

### Key Achievements

This year, we made significant strides in fulfilling our mission. Our goal is to empower women, children, adolescents, and youth from vulnerable communities through education, enabling them to live with dignity and self-reliance. We aim to dismantle the barriers of caste, class, gender, occupation, and social prejudice, helping individuals build better lives—both individually and collectively.

Thanks to the dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters, we have been successful in the following areas:

- **Social Security:** We assisted over **80,000 families** in accessing social security services.
- **Child Protection:** In Gaya district, we reached **9,042 couples and 14,971 children** living in **8,117 high-risk households**, creating safer and more protective environments for children.
- **Girls' Education:** In Gaya and Sheikhpura districts, we identified **55,000 out-of-school girls aged 7-14** and facilitated the school enrolment of **11,000 girls** during 2024-25.
- **Empowering Adolescent Girls through Education:** We are guiding **1,250 adolescent girls & Youth (14 to 29 aged)** to successfully complete Class 10 through structured camps and academic support.
- **Vocational Training:** We provided **vocational training to 4,593 youth**, enabling them to move towards self-reliance and financial independence.
- **"Lakhpati Didi" Initiative:** Under this initiative, launched last year to empower rural women, we trained **400 women** in traditional spinning (charkha) techniques to promote self-employment and resilience.

### Challenges

While we take pride in our progress, we also encountered several challenges this year. One major hurdle was the government mandate requiring Aadhaar cards for school admissions, which prevented many girls from enrolling. Despite such difficulties, our team remained committed and found alternative ways to serve the communities. We continue to learn from these experiences, which shape our future interventions.

## Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, we remain fully committed to advancing our mission more rapidly and effectively. In the coming year, we will focus on the following key priorities:

- Creating safe and protective environments for children, especially by promoting girls' education and encouraging adolescent girls to complete secondary education.
- Expanding our outreach within communities so that more girls and women can benefit from our programmes.
- Enhancing digital capabilities to serve communities more efficiently and ensure sustainability.
- Strengthening partnerships with new donors and supporters for long-term development.
- Focusing on advocacy and policy change to create lasting social impact.



We are confident that, with your continued support, we will achieve these ambitious goals and take further steps toward building a just and equitable society.

None of our achievements this year would have been possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of our partners, donors, well-wishers, government agencies, and our dedicated team. We are deeply grateful for your trust, encouragement, and steadfast support. Your generosity and partnership continue to energize our efforts and inspire our mission.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our institutional and community partners, whose support has been instrumental in turning our vision into action on the ground.

A special note of thanks goes to our volunteers, whose selfless dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts continue to motivate us and strengthen our initiatives at every level.

This year, we placed particular emphasis on girls' education and child protection, recognizing them as foundational pillars of sustainable social transformation. Through these focus areas, we have reached some of the most vulnerable children, offering them safety, dignity, and hope for a better future.

As we look ahead, we remain firmly committed to walking this path of transformation together. Centre DIRECT is dedicated to deepening its impact and is fully prepared to expand its efforts into other states – bringing education, protection, and empowerment to even more underserved communities.

We thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to advancing this journey – side by side – with renewed purpose and shared resolve.

Thank you.

**Pramod Kumar Sharma**  
General Secretary,  
Centre DIRECT



## About Centre DIRECT

On 1st May 1993, we held a meeting in Patna and passed a formal resolution to establish an organization dedicated to empowering women and protecting children. We named this organization the “Centre for Documentation, Information, Research, Education, Communication, and Training” abbreviated as Centre DIRECT.

During a subsequent meeting on 21st May 1993, the General Body decided to register the organization under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. We completed the registration officially on 12th August 1993.

### Vision

Centre DIRECT envisions a future where empowered women, adolescents, children, and youth significantly contribute to national development. We aspire to create a just society where these individuals lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Our organization aims to facilitate the transfer of valuable knowledge with a focus on human resource and social development.

### Mission

Our mission is to enhance and empower women, adolescents, and youth through education, enabling them to live with dignity and self-reliance. We aim to overcome barriers of customary biases, prejudices, and social constraints related to caste, class, gender, and occupation. Additionally, we seek to address institutional barriers that hinder their ability to take proactive steps towards improving their individual and collective well-being. Centre DIRECT also amplifies children's voices, engaging with local, state, and central government bodies to advocate for policies that serve their best interests.


### Goals of Centre DIRECT

- ✓ Promote Gender Equity and Women’s Empowerment
- ✓ Ensure Child Protection and Child Rights
- ✓ Facilitate Inclusive and Equitable Education
- ✓ Empower Adolescents and Youth
- ✓ Address Social and Institutional Barriers
- ✓ Strengthen Community-Based Institutions and Governance
- ✓ Foster Policy Advocacy and Legal Reform
- ✓ Build Resilient Communities
- ✓ Enhance Access to Health and Social Services
- ✓ Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Partnerships

# Thematic Areas Centre DIRECT

## Our Thematic Areas

Centre DIRECT's work spans across several key thematic areas, each contributing to its overarching mission of social justice, empowerment, and protection of vulnerable communities. These areas include:

 Education

 Child Protection

 Health & Nutrition

 Livelihood

 Disaster Management

 Advocacy

 Networking

## Education

Centre DIRECT's Girl Education Programme has been a cornerstone of our work for over 30 years. It aims to ensure access to quality elementary education, especially for girls and children from marginalized communities. Our key approaches include:

- **Targeting marginalized communities:** We prioritize outreach to girls and children who face systemic barriers to education due to poverty, caste, or gender.
- **Empowerment through learning:** Education is not just about academics—it is a tool for self-confidence, resilience, and informed decision-making.
- **Path to economic independence:** Education opens pathways for girls to access employment opportunities, participate in public life, and challenge social norms.
- **Sustainable impact:** An educated girl positively impacts her family, uplifts her community, and contributes to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.

## Child Protection

Centre DIRECT adopts a comprehensive and rights-based approach to combat child labour. Our interventions span from prevention and rescue to rehabilitation and justice:

- **Awareness and sensitization:** Community campaigns focus on the long-term harm of child labour and promote education as a right.
- **Support and Counselling:** Child labourers and their families receive counselling to understand the value of education and access alternatives.
- **Help in Protection and Reintegration:** Rescued children are safely reintegrated with their families or into protective care, with support to ensure non-recurrence.
- **Action in Legal and Justice:** From filing FIRs to trial monitoring, we support survivors in the justice system and advocate for strict action against offenders.

## Health & Nutrition

Centre DIRECT addresses health disparities in underserved communities through comprehensive, multi-level interventions:

- **Root Cause Analysis:** We conduct in-depth assessments and field studies to identify the specific health challenges faced by poor and marginalized populations.
- **Holistic Engagement:**
  - **Individual Level:** We provide direct access to healthcare services and treatment.

- **Community Level:** We raise awareness about preventive care and healthy practices.
- **Systemic Level:** We advocate for stronger healthcare infrastructure and inclusive policy reforms.
- **Innovative Delivery Models:** We utilize mobile health units, telemedicine, and trained community health workers to expand access and improve service delivery.
- **Commitment to Quality:** We prioritize health services that are accessible, affordable, and culturally responsive.

## Livelihood

Our Livelihood Programme focuses on economic empowerment of women, especially those engaged in agriculture and informal work. Key strategies include:

- **Skill-building:** Training in agriculture, small business, and financial literacy to enhance productivity.
- **Collective action:** Formation of SHGs and cooperatives to amplify economic strength and negotiating power.
- **Advocacy for inclusion:** Mobilizing community and institutional support for gender-equitable policies and practices.

## Disaster Management

In disaster-prone regions, Centre DIRECT responds quickly and effectively to protect vulnerable populations. Our disaster management strategy includes:

- **Preparedness:** Community training, mock drills, and early warning awareness to build disaster readiness.
- **Response:** Timely delivery of food, shelter, water, and medical aid during disasters.
- **Recovery:** Supporting the restoration of basic services and livelihoods post-disaster.
- **Rehabilitation:** Promoting "Build Back Safer" strategies with disaster-resilient infrastructure and practices.
- **Resilience building:** Long-term programs that strengthen community structures and cohesion to withstand future disasters.

## Advocacy

Centre DIRECT is a recognized leader in child trafficking advocacy in Bihar. Our policy and legal advocacy focus on:

- **Government engagement**
- **Implementation of State Action Plans**
- **Rights-based influence**
- **Collaborative platforms**

## Networking

Strategic partnerships and networking are central to Centre DIRECT's impact model. Our networking initiatives:

- **Build coalitions:** We partner with like-minded NGOs, civil society groups, and government bodies tackling child trafficking.
- **Umbrella network formation:** Integrated networks enhance coordination, knowledge-sharing, and unified advocacy.
- **Promote systemic reform:** Joint advocacy drives meaningful policy changes and improved protection frameworks across Bihar.

# Operational Districts of Centre DIRECT

Centre DIRECT operates across multiple districts in Bihar, implementing a range of initiatives. The following are the districts where Centre DIRECT is actively engaged:

## 1. Patna Division

1. Patna
2. Rohtas

## 2. Tirhut Division

3. Muzaffarpur
4. Sitamarhi
5. Sheohar

## 3. Munger Division

6. Sheikhpura

## 4. Magadh Division

7. Gaya
8. Jehanabad
9. Aurangabad
10. Nawada



## From 1993 to 2025: A Journey of Growth and Impact of Centre DIRECT Intervention

Starting from a single district in 1993, Centre DIRECT has expanded its operations to 10 districts across Bihar by 2025. This growth reflects our long-standing commitment, grassroots engagement, and the effectiveness of our interventions.

Through active collaboration with local communities, stakeholders, and government bodies, we have successfully implemented a wide range of programs and initiatives. These efforts aim to address critical social issues, protect vulnerable populations, and promote sustainable and inclusive development.

Our presence in these regions underscores our dedication to improving the lives of marginalized communities in Bihar. By working at the grassroots level, Centre DIRECT continues to drive meaningful change in the areas of social justice, education, child protection, women's empowerment, and livelihood development.

## District-Wise Offices in Bihar

Sl No	District	Office Address	Contact No
1	Patna	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 129 E, Pataliputra Colony, Patna – 800013	+91 9334114078
2	Muzaffarpur	Sridhar Nagar, Raghunathpur, P.O.– Saraiya Factory, Muzaffarpur – 843126	+91 8873858236
3	Sitamarhi	House of Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Bhavdepur, Mela Road, Near Krishna Marvel, Ward No. 21, Sitamarhi – 843302	+91 7992341606
4	Gaya	House of Subedar Singh, Binay Babu Lane, Delha, Gaya – 823002	+91 7761857951
5	Gaya (Bodhgaya)	House of Mr. Mantu Kumar, S/O Mr. Devenand Yadav, New Baridih, Bodhgaya, Gaya – 824231	+91 9801641671
6	Sheikhpura	Flat No. 202, Rasmani Devi Complex, Budhauri Bypass Road, Sheikhpura – 811105	+91 8935983507
7	Rohtas (Sasaram)	House of Mr. Ramji Singh, Gandhinagar, Near BSNL Office, Sasaram – 821115	+91 9122877339

# District-Specific Program Highlights for 2024-25

## Project Summary by District Wise

District	Project Name	Objective
Sitamarhi & Sheohar	Sshakati Project	Support PLHIV through service access, treatment adherence, and stigma reduction.
	TDH-BMZ Project SEWOH_VSS II Program	Improve food security and empower communities via nutrition, farming, and group formation.
	CPWCs Strengthening	Improve local CPWCs for better child protection.
	Pragati Project	To empower out-of-school adolescent girls and young women by enabling them to complete Class 10 through the government open schooling system, thereby providing a second chance of education.
Muzaffarpur	Adolescent & Youth Empowerment Project	Improve education and livelihood for girls and young women; vocational support for families.
	Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company	Enhance women's income and productivity through collective farming.
	CPWCs Strengthening	Improve local CPWCs for better child protection.
	Silai School for Girls & Women	Skill development through sewing/tailoring training.
	Sangini Mahila Vikas Sahkari Samiti	Holistic development and credit access for marginalized women (Saraiya & Paroo).
Patna	HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention	Reduce HIV among IDUs through awareness, mobilization, and treatment access.
	KAWACH Project	Child labour survivor support (education, training, legal aid) across 23 blocks.
Rohtas (Sasaram)	Silai Schools	Skill training via sewing schools in partnership with USHA International.
	Project - Wel Swasthya & Wel Netrutva, Wel Shiksha	Empower women and adolescent girls (aged 10-55) across by enhancing related to reproductive health and gender equality.
	SHG Nurturing for Livelihood	Economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups for parents of vulnerable children.
Gaya	Child Protection Initiative	Child trafficking prevention, CPC activation in 30 villages, and reintegration of 600+ survivors.
	KAWACH Project	Rehabilitation of child labour survivors in all 24 blocks.
	VIJETA Survivors Collective	Empower rescued children as advocates and leaders.
	SHG Formation & Livelihood	Support for families through SHGs and linkages to healthcare and income sources.
	Maitri Project	A focused initiative to ensure the education of out-of-school girls aged 7 to 14 years in Bihar. Operating in the districts of Gaya
Jehanabad	Reintegration & CPWCs Strengthening	Support reintegrated children and strengthen CPCs in 3 blocks across all 7 blocks.
Sheikhpura	Maitri Project	A focused initiative to ensure the education of out-of-school girls aged 7 to 14 years in Bihar. Operating in the districts of Sheikhpura
Nawada		
Aurangabad		



# Sitamarhi District

## 1. Sshakati Project Project (CSC, Sitamarhi)

The Sshakati Project is committed to delivering comprehensive care and support services to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) through a network of Care and Support Centres (CSCs) across India. In Sitamarhi district, Bihar, the Sshakati Care and Support Centre operates under this initiative, providing critical services such as treatment adherence support, counselling, health referrals, and social protection linkages. This centre is supported by the Centre for Health Research and Innovation (CHRI), ensuring quality care and community-based support for PLHIV in the region.



### Objectives:

- Enhance access to essential services for PLHIV.
- Improve adherence to treatment regimens.
- Mitigate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.
- Elevate the overall quality of life for PLHIV.

### Services Provided:

- **Counselling:** Professional guidance and emotional support.
- **Outreach and Follow-up Support:** Continuous engagement to ensure ongoing care.
- **Health Referrals:** Access to necessary medical services.
- **Linkages to Social Welfare Schemes:** Connecting individuals with available social support programs.

### Registered PLHIV:

- A total of 7,197 individuals are registered in the ART Centre and are also listed in the CSC.
- 957 individuals in the pre-ART phase are registered at the CSC.

### Counselling Services:

- 957 registered PLHIVs received at least one counselling session during the year.

### Referrals and Testing:

- 419 family members or sexual partners of PLHIV were referred for HIV testing and received their results.
- 69 registered PLHIV were screened for tuberculosis symptoms by CSC staff through Intensified Case Finding (ICF).

### Programmatic Support:

- 548 children benefited from the Parvarish Yojna, a program supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 466 beneficiaries received assistance under the Bihar Shatabdi AIDS Kalyan Yojna, with total support amounting to ₹83.88 lakhs.

## 2. TDH-BMZ Project SEWOH\_VSS II Program

The SEWOH\_VSS II Program, supported by Terre des Hommes (TDH) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has been implemented in Bairgania and Majorganj blocks of Sitamarhi district, Bihar. Running from Jan 2020 to December 2024, the project targets 20 villages, reaching out to 4,443 families – approximately 17,675 individuals. The initiative focuses on improving food security, sustainable livelihoods, and community resilience through participatory approaches, capacity-building, and locally-driven development strategies.

### 1. Introduction

The **SEWOH\_VSS II** is a multi-sectoral rural development initiative focused on enhancing **food security, nutrition, health access, and community empowerment**. Working across 20 villages, the project specifically targets marginalized groups including **Musahar, SC, ST, Dalits, OBCs, minorities, and backward classes**. During the initial phase, baseline assessments and introductory meetings were conducted with community members to identify **geographic, economic, health, and nutritional challenges**.

### 2. Program Objectives

1. **Strengthen Community-Based Institutions**  
Social audits, local monitoring, and empowerment of grassroots governance bodies.
2. **Improve Access to Services**  
Timely access to health and nutrition services for vulnerable groups.
3. **Promote Self-Sufficiency**  
Focus on sustainable agriculture, kitchen gardening, poultry, and seed saving.
4. **Develop Monitoring Systems**  
Establish local mechanisms aligned with state and national indicators.

### 3. Major Interventions & Achievements

#### A. Children's Groups

- **20 groups formed**; 260 active members (132 girls, 128 boys) out of 801 oriented.
- **234 meetings held** (target: 240); 2,376 total participations.
- Activities:
  - ✓ Red Hand Day, World Environment Day, Anti-Child Labour Day, Earth Day
  - ✓ Sports competitions, biodiversity documentation, district-level trainings.
  - ✓ Trainings on malnutrition, environment, child rights, teamwork, budgeting.



## B. Youth Groups

- 181 youths selected (102 boys, 79 girls) from 1,215 approached.
- **168 out of 240 meetings held** (seasonal disruptions).
- **Key Activities:**

- Community mobilization against child marriage, trafficking, and child labour.
- 3 district-level trainings (120 participants: 56 women, 54 men).
- Ration card enrollment support, biodiversity registers, school attendance drives.



- **Issues Raised:** Lack of higher education, sports facilities, local employment.

## C. Women's Groups

- 20 groups formed, 321 members from marginalized backgrounds.
- **All 240 planned meetings conducted;** 3,002 total participations.
- **Key Achievements:**
  - 80% institutional deliveries.
  - Reduced child marriage rates.
  - 405 families practicing kitchen gardening; 11,670 kg vegetables produced.
  - Seed bank supported 385 families; 225 kg shared with others.
- **Trainings on:** Health, hygiene, gender issues, food diversity, legal awareness.
- **District Trainings:** 120 women trained; linked with ATMA for millet production.



## D. Adolescent Girls' Groups

- 20 groups; 222 members (many school dropouts post Grade 7).
- **222 meetings held** out of 240; 1,902 total participations.
- **Focus:**
  - Nutrition, menstrual hygiene, legal rights, child marriage prevention.
  - Shift from cloth to sanitary pad use observed.





- **Trainings:** Covered anemia, legal awareness, personal development.

#### E. Service Delivery & Nutrition Linkages

- **Growth Monitoring:**
  - Total 2,696 children (0-5 yrs), 1,237 monitored.
  - Identified 36 SAM and 138 MAM cases.
  - Linked to health services via ASHA/AWW.
  - 120 individuals trained (40 women, 40 youth, 40 adolescent girls).
- **IFA Tablet Distribution** to pregnant women and adolescents.
- **Improved AWC Enrolment & Mid-Day Meals** in schools.

#### F. Livelihood Promotion

- **Kitchen Gardening:**
  - 405 families (11670 kg produce); 45 families shared 225 kg with others.
- **Seed Banks:**
  - 10 established for sustainable farming.
- **Poultry Farming:**
  - 60 women trained; 1,120 chicks distributed.
  - Contributed to income and nutrition.

### 4. Impact Summary

#### A. Health & Nutrition

- Increased access to maternal care, reduced malnutrition, diversified diets.

#### B. Economic Empowerment

- Income from poultry and kitchen gardens.
- Reduced input costs in farming via seed banks.

#### C. Community Empowerment

- Strengthened local institutions and legal awareness.
- Children and youth advocating for school materials, sanitation, rights.

#### D. Sustainability & Innovation

- Biodiversity registers across villages.
- Local leadership in growth monitoring and service linkages.
- Community ownership in agriculture and health.

#### 5. Challenges

- Seasonal disruptions (cold, heatwaves, weddings).
- Initial community hesitation and social barriers.
- Lack of sports infrastructure, higher secondary schools, local jobs.



The SEWOH\_VSS II program has established a **sustainable and scalable model** of rural development through community participation. With demonstrated improvements in **health, education, food security, and gender equity**, the program showcases how **locally driven initiatives** can bring about **transformational change in vulnerable communities**.



## 4. Pragati Program –Sitamarhi, Bihar

**In collaboration with: Educate Girls, USA & the Community "Let every girl study, move forward, and fulfil her dreams."**

The Pragati Program is a powerful "second chance" education initiative aimed at reintegrating adolescent girls and women aged 15 to 29 into the formal education system by preparing them for the Class 10 board examination. This initiative is a significant step toward making them self-reliant, empowered, and aware citizens.

Implemented by Centre DIRECT in four blocks of Sitamarhi district – Suppi, Majorganj, Riga, and Bairgania – this program is opening new pathways for quality education for underprivileged and marginalized women. It offers them not only education but also self-confidence and equal opportunities to move forward.

In Bihar, nearly 8.4 million women have not completed their Class 10 education. The primary reasons behind this are poverty, distance from schools, patriarchal mindset, motherhood,



child marriage, and migration. Being deprived of education has limited their ability to participate in household and societal decision-making, significantly hindering their overall development.

### **Key Achievements**

During the year 2024–25, the Pragati Program made notable progress. Over 100 awareness meetings were conducted across 78 villages in the four blocks of Sitamarhi. Through these efforts, 3,200 potential beneficiaries were identified. Out of these, 1,250 adolescent girls and women were enrolled under the Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE).

To support their learning, 80 study centers were set up, each operated by trained local female facilitators (Preraks). A total of 45 Preraks underwent an intensive 12-day training to enhance their teaching capabilities.



All 1,250 enrolled learners are now preparing to appear in the June 2025 BBOSE Class 10 exam, receiving regular academic guidance through these community-based learning camps.

In addition to academics, the program also focused on holistic development by conducting workshops on menstrual hygiene, self-defense, life skills, and career guidance. Community engagement was strengthened through parent meetings, adolescent fairs, and women's group discussions.

### **Challenges and Solutions**

The program faced several challenges such as family resistance, fear of exams, lack of academic continuity, and household responsibilities. These were addressed through door-to-door counseling, engagement with community influencers, peer group learning, flexible study center timings, and the provision of creche facilities where needed.

### **Plans for 2025-26**

Looking ahead, the program aims to enroll over 1,000 new learners and support them in appearing for the June 2026 board exam. Additionally, Centre DIRECT plans to introduce digital and mobile-based learning modules to ensure that even girls in remote areas have access to quality education.

The Pragati Program is not just about imparting education—it is about nurturing self-respect, independence, and building a strong, empowered future for girls and women. This initiative is laying a solid foundation for meaningful social transformation in Bihar.

## **5. Strengthening of Child Welfare Protection Committee**

As part of our commitment to building child-friendly villages, Centre DIRECT undertook focused efforts to strengthen Child Welfare Protection Committees (CPWCs) in the Bairgania and Majorganj blocks of Sitamarhi district. The primary objective of this initiative was to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of existing CPWCs, enabling them to take proactive and coordinated actions to protect children's rights. Through regular training, community engagement, and sensitization

sessions, CPWC members were empowered to identify, prevent, and respond to issues such as child marriage, child labour, abuse, and school dropouts. These efforts are aimed at creating a safe, supportive, and participatory

environment for children, ensuring that every child enjoys their right to protection, development, and dignity. Blocks (2 blocks).





# Muzaffarpur District

## 1. Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescents and Youth

Funded by DACHSER India Pvt. Ltd. and implemented by Centre DIRECT with support from the Help for Children in Need Foundation (HCNF), this year-long project (April 2024 – March 31, 2025) focuses on empowering adolescents and youth in the Paru and Saraiya blocks of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar. The initiative aims to enhance their social well-being and economic prospects through skill development, life skills education, awareness on health and rights, and community engagement, fostering a supportive environment for sustainable change.

This project, titled "**Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescents and Youth**", is being implemented by Centre Direct with the support of DACHSER India Pvt. Ltd. and coordinated by Help for Children in Need Foundation (HCNF). It was carried out from April 2024 – March 31, 2025 in ten selected villages across Paroo and Saraiya blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. The primary aim of the project is to socially and economically empower rural adolescents and youth—particularly girls and women—so they can improve their quality of life and contribute meaningfully to the holistic development of their communities.



The project focused on key thematic areas such as education, health, livelihood, child rights, and leadership development to promote awareness, participation, and self-reliance among the local population. A baseline survey conducted in the region revealed that most of the 905 surveyed households belonged to Scheduled Castes and were dependent on daily wage labor. Access

to health services and welfare schemes was extremely limited. These findings guided the strategic planning and execution of the interventions.

During the implementation period, 10 youth groups were formed across 5 Gram Panchayats, engaging 209 adolescent girls. These young individuals received training on leadership skills, community participation,

school enrolment, and prevention of child marriage. Youth also actively participated in awareness events organized around International and National Days like Earth Day, International Youth Day, Teachers' Day, and Gandhi Jayanti. Over 1,000 people participated in key campaigns such as Child Rights Week and Swachhta Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight).

In the area of education, children's groups were established in 10 schools, with 301 students participating. Through 108 sessions, children were sensitized on topics like constitutional values, personal hygiene, health, and their rights. Additionally, 73 out-of-school children were successfully re-enrolled. Basic infrastructure in schools was assessed and School Management Committees (SMCs) were motivated to maintain and utilize resources effectively.



In the health sector,

awareness campaigns were carried out in all 10 villages to educate communities on emerging diseases and the importance of timely medical care. Free health camps were conducted in 3 villages, benefiting 430 individuals with consultations and free medicines. September was observed as Nutrition Month, during which Anganwadi centers held health and nutrition sessions for pregnant and lactating women. Children who had missed their vaccinations were identified and immunized.

In terms of livelihoods, four cluster-level Tripurari Model Charkha Training Centers were established, where 45 women were trained in spinning yarn. A total of 1,030 kilograms of yarn was produced, and ₹4.21 lakh was distributed as wages.

Despite a temporary shortage of raw materials, women continued to earn a regular income. Additionally, 41 entrepreneurs received financial assistance amounting to ₹5 lakh, out of which ₹3.55 lakh has been recovered, allowing loans to be extended to 30 new beneficiaries. All women were linked to the Women's Cooperative Society to ensure long-term access to credit.

Trained women now spin an average of 200 grams of yarn per day, earning monthly incomes between ₹2,500 and ₹3,000.

This has significantly improved their confidence, household contribution, and social status. Furthermore, 40 of these women were registered on the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) portal, enabling them to access government schemes. Twelve review meetings were conducted at the project office to track progress and train the project team on life skills, child rights, health, nutrition, and child protection. Youth participants also represented their communities at district and state-level forums, enhancing their leadership skills and expanding their social networks.

The project has achieved significant impact in the areas of education, health, and livelihoods. By empowering adolescent girls and women, strengthening school systems, and promoting community awareness, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for integrated and sustainable development. It not only addresses immediate needs but also builds long-term resilience and self-reliance within the community. The active participation of youth and support from local institutions are key factors driving this project toward long-term success.





## **2. Sahyogini Farmers Producer Company**

Established in 2022 with the support of Centre DIRECT, the **Sahyogini Farmers Producer Company Pvt Ltd** has made significant progress in empowering local farmers during the year 2024-25. The company aims to enhance agricultural productivity, improve market access, and increase the income of farmers through collective resource-sharing and collaboration. Currently, the company has 233 active farmer members, with a special focus on promoting women's participation to advance gender equality in agriculture.

During this reporting period, the company implemented various impactful activities. A total amount of ₹10,10,000 was distributed among 39 members to encourage the collective use of agricultural inputs, sharing of technical knowledge, and livelihood improvements. Training programs were conducted to enhance farmers' skills in modern agricultural techniques and business management. Additionally, support was provided for collective marketing, negotiating bulk sales, and accessing new markets.

As a result of these efforts, there has been a positive increase in the income of members, especially women farmers. The company has established itself as a successful model promoting collective benefits, economic self-reliance, and gender equality, contributing to sustainable and inclusive development in the rural farming community. Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company continues to be a strong and inspiring initiative in rural development.

## **3. Strengthening of CWPCs to Create Child-Friendly Villages**

In the Paru and Saraiya blocks of Muzaffarpur district, the organization has continued its dedicated efforts to strengthen Child Welfare Protection Committees (CWPCs) across 10 selected villages during the year 2024-25. The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance the effectiveness and capabilities of local CWPCs to create safe and supportive environments for children, thereby fostering Child-Friendly Villages (CFVs) where every child is safe, healthy, educated, and protected from exploitation and abuse.

To achieve this, CWPCs members have been regularly trained on crucial child protection laws, including the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, alongside proper reporting and intervention mechanisms. The program emphasizes active community participation by engaging parents, teachers, children, and local leaders to build a protective ecosystem around children. CPCs are empowered to monitor and address critical issues such as child labor, school dropouts, child marriage, and abuse.

The initiative also focuses on strengthening coordination between CWPCs and frontline workers, including Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), teachers, and local police, to ensure a comprehensive support system. Public awareness campaigns have been conducted regularly to educate the community on child rights, health, hygiene, and education. Furthermore, children's groups like Bal Panchayats have been actively involved, providing young voices a platform to express concerns and participate in village-level decision-making processes.

Through these sustained efforts, the program has made significant strides toward building safer, more nurturing communities that prioritize the well-being and rights of children.

#### **4. Sangani Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd.**

Established with the support of Centre DIRECT, Sangani Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. is committed to the holistic development of women, especially those from marginalized communities. The organization focuses on empowering women by enhancing their economic and social status through a range of initiatives.

The key objectives include economic empowerment through income-generating activities and access to credit, enabling women to start and expand small-scale enterprises and achieve financial independence. Social empowerment is promoted through life skills training covering financial management, health, and hygiene, aimed at boosting confidence and overall well-being. Additionally, the organization conducts awareness programs on women's rights, health, and opportunities, coupled with confidence-building workshops to encourage women's leadership in their communities. Collective efforts are also made to improve community assets and living conditions.

During the financial year 2024–2025, the Samiti disbursed a total loan amount of ₹7,50,000 (Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Rupees) among 23 selected members. Loans ranged from ₹20,000 to ₹40,000, tailored to individual business plans and viability. Supported enterprises included tailoring units, grocery shops, poultry farming, vegetable vending, food processing such as pickles and papad making, and mobile repair services.

Operating primarily in the Saraiya and Paru blocks of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, the organization continues to focus on empowering local women and fostering sustainable community development within these regions.

#### **5. Usha Sewing School Project**

In the financial year 2024–25, Centre DIRECT, with the support of Usha International Limited (UIL), successfully conducted certification and refresher training sessions under the Usha Satellite Sewing School (USSS) component of the Usha Sewing School Project in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar.

These sessions aimed to provide advanced training to rural women who had previously completed basic sewing instruction at Usha Classic Sewing Schools (UCSS). The core objective of the refresher training was to strengthen their technical abilities and prepare them to take on roles as Women Entrepreneurs (WEs) and UIL-certified trainers, thereby enabling them to sustain and expand the impact of the project within their communities.

A total of 30 women participated in the refresher training during this period. They hailed from diverse rural areas including Raghunathpur, Ramkrishna Dubiyahi, Rupauli, Ratanpura, Paharpur, Hariharpur, Vishnupur Dubiyahi, Mohammadpur, and Sakhra. All participants were married and belonged to low-income households with monthly incomes ranging between ₹5,000 and



₹10,000. Their educational backgrounds ranged from primary to graduate level, and importantly, none of them owned a sewing machine at home prior to this program—underscoring the importance of project intervention in resource-limited settings.

The two-day refresher sessions covered advanced stitching techniques, sewing machine operation and maintenance, and entrepreneurial skills development, following UIL's standardized curriculum. These sessions were organized at pre-identified cluster training centres, arranged and managed by Centre DIRECT. The agency ensured smooth execution of the program including attendance management, logistics coordination, and real-time reporting.

At the end of the training, all 30 participants received official certificates from UIL, validating their upgraded skill sets. The women reported a marked improvement in their technical confidence and motivation to contribute economically to their families and communities.

Among the participants, three women expressed strong interest in becoming certified Women Entrepreneurs, and one participant, Manu Devi, shared her plan to open a Usha Sewing School independently. Several others indicated their intention to begin tailoring businesses, launch boutiques, or engage in home-based sewing work as a means of income generation.

Beyond technical outcomes, the program delivered meaningful social and psychological empowerment. Many women voiced a desire to share their learning with others in their communities—indicating a ripple effect that supports the long-term sustainability of the Usha Sewing School model.

The certification and refresher trainings conducted during 2024–25 have been instrumental in enhancing the capacity, confidence, and economic potential of rural women in Muzaffarpur. These women are now emerging as local change-makers, inspiring others and working toward financial independence through their skills in sewing and tailoring.

Moving forward, Centre DIRECT, in close partnership with UIL, will continue to mentor and support these women as they transition into full-fledged Women Entrepreneurs. This support will include access to equipment, refresher mentorship, business planning, and guidance for setting up local sewing schools. Expansion into neighbouring villages is also planned, to increase the program's reach and impact across more communities.





# Patna District

## HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention (TI) Project for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)

The HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention (TI) Project for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) in Patna, Bihar, supported by the Bihar State AIDS Control Society (BSACS) during the reporting year 2024-25, tackles the urgent issue of HIV transmission among this vulnerable group. Injecting Drug Users are at high risk because of the common practice of sharing contaminated needles and syringes, which significantly accelerates the spread of HIV, especially in urban centres like Patna where the IDU population is considerable. To address this, the project employs targeted interventions aimed at preventing HIV transmission, improves access to critical health services for IDUs, and works to increase community awareness to reduce stigma associated with drug use and HIV/AIDS. Through this integrated approach, the project strives to reduce HIV infections within the IDU population as well as the broader community. Project

This project combines health services, behaviour change communication, and community mobilization to empower IDUs to adopt safer practices. It provides harm-reduction supplies such as clean needles and condoms, offers individual counselling, and conducts awareness programs to educate both the high-risk groups and the wider community.

### **Objectives:**

The project aims to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) by implementing targeted prevention strategies and providing essential health services. In addition to minimizing the spread of the virus, the initiative focuses on improving the overall quality of life for IDUs by offering comprehensive health care and psychological support to address their vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the project works to increase community awareness about HIV/AIDS and drug use, actively striving to reduce the stigma associated with these issues, thereby fostering a more supportive and informed environment for affected individuals.

### **Key Activities:**

The project actively distributes clean needles, syringes, and condoms to Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) to reduce the risk of HIV transmission through contaminated equipment. Additionally, counselling sessions have been provided to 400 IDUs and their partners, focusing on safe injection practices and responsible sexual behaviour. To foster peer support and increase the reach of health services, user groups have been formed across various areas of Patna. The project also conducts educational sessions in schools and communities to dispel myths, raise awareness, and promote HIV prevention, ensuring a comprehensive approach to tackling the epidemic among high-risk populations.





## Impact and Achievements

During the reporting year 2024-25, the project successfully registered 438 active Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), reaching 421 individuals through outreach activities and maintaining regular follow-up with 412 IDUs. A total of 12 cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were treated, and 815 HIV tests were conducted bi-annually to monitor and manage the health status of the target group. Additionally, 19 IDUs were linked



to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services, ensuring access to critical treatment. These efforts have played a crucial role in reducing the risk of HIV transmission and improving overall health outcomes among the IDU community in Patna.



# Rohtas District

## WelSwasthya, WelNetrutva, and WelEducation Project (CSR)

The Welswasthya, Welnetrutva, and WelEducation project, implemented by Centre Direct and supported by the Welspun Foundation for Health and Knowledge (WFHK), began its initial rollout during this reporting period across five newly selected villages in Sasaram and Shivsagar blocks of Rohtas district, Bihar. This foundational phase prioritized community need assessments, trust-building, and the formation of women's groups to establish a robust base for future interventions. Focused efforts on capacity building, data collection, and social mobilization set the stage for impactful work addressing women's health, leadership development, and social awareness within the target communities.

### 2. Key Activities and Achievements

**Need Assessment & Baseline Survey:** - A comprehensive need assessment and baseline survey was conducted in five newly inducted villages, covering key indicators such as menstrual hygiene, nutrition, awareness of RTIs/STIs, prevailing gender norms, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practices, and access to essential services. Data collection methods included door-to-door surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews, all carried out in local dialects to ensure cultural sensitivity and inclusivity. This approach provided critical insights into community needs, laying the groundwork for targeted and responsive interventions.

**Line Listing of Direct Beneficiaries:** -A detailed line listing exercise identified and registered 2,031 women and adolescent girls across the five villages. Data captured included age, education level, reproductive health status, and access to health and social services. Beneficiary distribution was as follows: Dhankada (413), Lerua (404), Shivpur-Basantpur (403), Karup (409), and Siguhi (402), ensuring equitable outreach across all target areas.



### **Community Engagement & Group Formation:**

-Eighty new community groups were formed, each comprising 20–25 adolescent girls and women, to foster peer support and encourage behaviour change through safe, inclusive spaces. Initial group meetings focused on project orientation, discussing health and hygiene concerns, selecting peer leaders, and initiating conversations to break social stigma related to reproductive health and gender norms. This early engagement played a pivotal role in building community trust and ownership of the project.

**Early Mobilization Activities:** -Outreach Resource Workers (ORWs) conducted household visits, informal community meetings, and engaged with local elders to build rapport and secure family approval for adolescent participation. These efforts helped identify potential peer leaders and community influencers.



**Capacity Building Initiatives:** -A one-day staff training session was conducted on 25th February 2025, focusing on Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) strategies, effective community engagement, and documentation and follow-up protocols. Preparations for a comprehensive Training of Trainers (ToT) scheduled for April 2025 were also underway, with curriculum development in progress.

**IEC Material Development**-Drafts of flipbooks, posters, and session aids were created, covering essential topics such as menstrual hygiene, gender equity, nutrition, RTI/STI awareness, cancer, and WASH. These materials, designed with simplified text and visuals for ease of understanding, were submitted to WFHK for review and finalization prior to field deployment.

### International Women's Day Celebration (8th March 2025)

The project marked International Women's Day with celebrations held across the five selected

villages, engaging women and adolescent girls from the newly formed groups. The event provided an empowering platform to honour women's contributions and foster solidarity. Sessions were conducted on women's health, nutrition, and rights, alongside interactive discussions aimed at building confidence and leadership skills. The celebration strengthened



community enthusiasm for the project and encouraged greater participation, helping break social taboos and reinforcing the importance of gender equity and health awareness.

### Challenges and Early Learnings

- **Hesitation among girls to join groups:** Overcome through persistent home visits and informal dialogues by ORWs to build trust.
- **Sensitivity around topics like menstruation and STIs:** Addressed using empathetic language and female facilitators to ensure comfort and openness.
- **Low visibility of the project in new villages:** Improved by early engagement with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), and Anganwadi workers, enhancing community awareness and acceptance.

The period from 14th February to 31st March 2025 marked a crucial foundation-laying phase for the WelSwasthya, WelNetrutva and WelEducation project. Despite initial resistance and low exposure to structured health education, significant progress was made in gaining community trust, registering over 2,000 women and girls, forming groups for sustained engagement, and preparing teams for quality implementation. The insights and relationships cultivated during this phase will guide more targeted and impactful interventions in the months ahead.

# Gaya & Jehanabad District

## 1. Protecting Child Labour Survivors and Creating a Safety Net Through Community-Based Child Welfare Protection Committees

The project titled "**Protecting Child Labour Survivors and Creating a Safety Net through Community-Based Child Welfare Protection Committees**", implemented by Centre DIRECT with support from the **British Asian Trust (BAT)**, is being carried out across **300 villages in Gaya district**, Bihar, with additional focused interventions in **all seven blocks of Jehanabad district**. The initiative is designed to prevent child trafficking, support the reintegration of child labour survivors, and strengthen grassroots child protection mechanisms. By building and activating Child Protection Welfare Committees (CPWCs) at ward and Panchayat levels, the project fosters safer, child-friendly communities. With a strong emphasis on community ownership, access to entitlements, and survivor-led advocacy, the initiative aims to create a sustainable safety net that protects vulnerable children and promotes their long-term well-being.

Centre DIRECT, with support from BAT, undertook a comprehensive child protection initiative across high-risk communities in Gaya and Jehanabad districts of Bihar. The project focused on preventing child trafficking, supporting the reintegration of child labour survivors, and establishing sustainable, community-led protection mechanisms. At its core, the intervention empowered local Child Protection Welfare Committees (CPWCs), strengthened system-level coordination, and mobilized survivors through leadership and livelihood programs to create long-term, child-friendly communities.



### Key Achievements

1. **Reintegration of Survivors** : More than 600 children rescued from exploitative labour – especially from bangle factories in Jaipur – were successfully reunited with their families. Follow-up support and linkage to welfare services ensured smoother reintegration and reduced the risk of re-trafficking.
2. **Strengthening Child Protection Welfare Committees (CPWCs)**:- The project established 161 ward-level and 46 Panchayat-level CPCs across six key blocks – Dobhi, Sherghati, Belaganj, Chandauti, Khizarsarai, and Neemchak Bathani. Currently, 160 wards in 54 Panchayats have active, functioning CPCs. These bodies played a key role in transforming 30 vulnerable communities into safer, child-friendly spaces through awareness campaigns, interventions, and referrals.
3. **Scheme Linkages and Social Protection Access** :- The project facilitated access to social security and entitlements for 7,784 individuals, including MGNREGA, PDS, PM Awas Yojana, and pensions. Another 8,330 beneficiaries received healthcare support



through Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY). Additionally, hundreds received essential IDs and certificates, easing their access to state services.

4. **Institutional Strengthening and Tools:** - Centre DIRECT was formally recognized by the Director, Social Welfare Govt of Bihar Cum Vice Chairman State Child Protection Society, Bihar Directorate of as a child protection expert. It introduced standard tools like CPWC minutes registers and vulnerability mapping to ensure data-driven and transparent interventions. A clear escalation system was established, allowing local issues to be raised from ward to state level.
5. **KAWACH & Survivor Rehabilitation Initiatives:** - The KAWACH Project was implemented across all 24 blocks of Gaya to offer rehabilitative support and legal assistance to child labour survivors. Services included educational re-enrolment, vocational training, legal aid, psychosocial support, and facilitation of entitlements to prevent re-trafficking and secure justice. As part of its commitment to holistic reintegration and protection of child labour survivors and their families, the project successfully facilitated access to a wide range of government schemes and entitlements. A total of 46 children were newly enrolled in schools, ensuring continued education post-rescue. To improve access to healthcare, 42 individuals received Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) cards, and 84 families were linked with local Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) for nutrition and early childhood services. To enhance identity and financial inclusion, 137 beneficiaries received Aadhar cards, 54 opened bank accounts, and 78 were issued e-Labor cards. Social protection access was broadened with 88 individuals linked to the Public Distribution System (PDS), 37 with MNREGA job cards, and 21 with housing support under PM Awas Yojana. Legal and civil documentation was also facilitated, including 351 caste certificates, 327 residential certificates, 133 income certificates, 268 birth certificates, and 95 death certificates. Vulnerable beneficiaries were further supported with 40 disability certificates, 9 Parvarish Yojana approvals, and 77 old age, widow, or disability pensions. Additionally, 20 individuals received mobility support under the social security tricycle scheme, and 24 were registered for UDID (Unique Disability ID) online. These comprehensive linkages played a vital role in strengthening the safety net for vulnerable children and their families, reducing the risk of re-trafficking and improving overall resilience within target communities.
6. **Empowering Survivor Leadership - VIJETA Collective:** - The VIJETA Survivors Collective brought together over 200 rescued children to lead advocacy and peer-support activities. Members held monthly meetings to discuss local challenges, participated in training sessions, engaged in public awareness campaigns, and interfaced with Panchayati Raj Institutions to push for child protection budgeting and action. This youth-led initiative empowered survivors to become agents of change within their communities.
7. **Livelihood and Education Support for Families :-Ten Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** were established to strengthen the financial stability of families of rescued children. These SHGs promoted savings, small businesses, and alternative livelihoods to eliminate dependence on child labour. Families were also connected to healthcare and insurance schemes, while School Management Committees (SMCs) were activated to monitor retention and prevent dropout among at-risk children.
8. **Bridge Education Centres :-** As part of its comprehensive child protection strategy, Centre DIRECT established 10 Bridge Education Centres aimed at supporting vulnerable children who had dropped out of formal schooling. The primary objective of these centres is to provide educational continuity and reintegration support, helping children bridge learning gaps and transition back into the mainstream education system. Each centre implements a customized curriculum tailored to the specific learning needs of these children, along with psychosocial support to address trauma

and instability often associated with child labour or trafficking. In close coordination with educational institutions and local authorities, the project has facilitated smooth linkages for these children, ensuring their enrolment in age-appropriate grades and promoting sustained attendance. These centres serve not only as educational spaces but also as safe, nurturing environments that foster confidence and a renewed interest in learning.

9. **Interventions in Jehanabad District :-** In all 7 blocks of Jehanabad, efforts focused on the long-term reintegration of rescued children through follow-ups, community engagement, and access to entitlements. In three blocks, CPCs were either newly formed or strengthened to localize child protection, raise awareness, and embed protective mechanisms at the grassroots level.

The year 2024-25 witnessed substantial progress in building protective ecosystems for children in Gaya and Jehanabad. Through a strategic blend of survivor reintegration, community-led CPCs, and youth-driven advocacy, the project made measurable strides in reducing child trafficking and labour. Going forward, Centre DIRECT will intensify its efforts on sustainability, capacity enhancement, and policy advocacy to realize its vision of child-friendly, trafficking-free communities across Bihar.



## Sheikhpura & Gaya District

**The Maitri Project**, implemented by Centre DIRECT with support from Educate Girls, is a focused initiative aimed at ensuring educational access for out-of-school girls (OOSGs) in the districts of Gaya and Sheikhpura, Bihar. The project identifies and enrolls girls who have been excluded from formal education systems due to socio-economic, cultural, or systemic barriers. Through intensive community engagement, household visits, and coordination with local schools and authorities, the initiative works to bring these girls back into classrooms. Alongside enrolment, the project also emphasizes retention and learning outcomes, offering support systems such as bridge education, mentorship, and advocacy with parents and community leaders. The Maitri Project represents a critical step toward closing the gender gap in education and empowering girls to pursue their right to learn and thrive.

The Maitri Project is a focused initiative aimed at ensuring the enrolment and retention of out-of-school girls aged 7 to 14 years in formal educational institutions. Implemented in the Gaya and Sheikhpura districts of Bihar, the project works in partnership with Educate Girls and is executed by Centre DIRECT. It uses grassroots, data-driven approach to identify, mobilize, enrol, and retain girls who are either unenrolled or have dropped out of school. The initiative promotes gender equality in education and works to eliminate socio-cultural and economic barriers through strategic engagement with parents, communities, schools, and local government bodies.

The Maitri Project aims to re-engage girls aged 7 to 14 who are either unenrolled or have dropped out of school by addressing the root causes of educational exclusion. The initiative focuses on facilitating their enrolment in nearby government schools, ensuring that no girl is left behind due to socio-economic or cultural barriers. Beyond enrolment, the project emphasizes sustained participation through community-based awareness campaigns, tailored retention strategies, and active involvement of parents, community leaders, and school authorities. By creating an enabling environment that values girls' education, the project works to ensure that enrolled girls remain in school, thrive academically, and build a foundation for a brighter future.

Geographical area, covering 19 blocks in total—13 blocks in Gaya district and 6 blocks in Sheikhpura district, Bihar. As part of its extensive outreach, the project has surveyed 1,597 out of the 1,836 targeted villages within these districts. Through its community-based approach, the initiative has successfully reached 292,326 households, enabling effective identification and engagement of out-of-school girls and their families. This broad coverage ensures that the project's impact is widespread and inclusive, targeting the most vulnerable communities to promote girls' education.

**Key Activities and Implementation:** - The project's implementation involved several key activities to ensure effective outreach and impact. Trained personnel were deployed for various roles, including door-to-door surveys, community mobilization, enrolment assistance, and data verification. Regular training sessions were held to enhance staff knowledge on survey protocols, enrolment procedures, communication strategies, and the use of the Performance Management System (PMS), leading to improved data quality and field performance. Community Coordinators used the Survey PMS app to conduct door-to-door surveys, identifying 18,691 households with out-of-school girls and creating a detailed baseline database for targeted interventions. The project also focused on enrolment through specialized training on school documentation and government schemes, followed by an enrolment drive conducted in collaboration with schools, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and block officials. This effort resulted in the enrolment of 10,977 girls across Gaya and Sheikhpura districts, including 3,142 in Sheikhpura, with an emphasis on tracking their academic progress. To support retention, the project organized community meetings and awareness sessions, provided scholarship information, and promoted local engagement, leading to a positive shift in family attitudes and improved support for girls' education. Enrolment data was verified by



cross-checking with school registers to confirm admissions, helping prevent dropouts and ensuring consistent monitoring of attendance and academic promotion through the PMS.

**Summary of Achievements (Cohort 3: 2024–2025)** :- During the 2024–2025 period, under Cohort 3, the project achieved significant milestones across the districts of Gaya and Sheikhpura, covering a total of 19 blocks. With a target to enroll 10,000 out-of-school girls (OOSGs), the initiative successfully enrolled 10,977 girls into 1,430 schools. All enrolled girls were actively mobilized to support their continued participation in education. Efforts to ensure their retention in school are currently ongoing, focusing on sustained engagement and monitoring to prevent dropouts and promote academic progress.



**Challenges and Learnings:** - The project faced several challenges, including cultural resistance in some communities and difficulties accessing remote, hard-to-reach villages. However, important learnings emerged from these experiences. Early engagement with community influencers proved crucial in gaining local cooperation and trust. Additionally, continuous staff training combined with the use of technology-enabled tools such as the Performance Management System (PMS) significantly improved the quality and efficiency of project implementation.



**Strategic Approach:** - The project's strategic approach comprised four key phases to ensure effective identification, engagement, support, and monitoring of out-of-school girls (OOSGs). The first phase involved conducting door-to-door surveys using the Performance Management System (PMS) to accurately identify OOSGs in the target areas. During the engagement phase, the project organized parent meetings, school-level awareness campaigns, and collaborated closely with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to foster community involvement. The support phase focused on facilitating enrolment processes, providing continuous tracking, and offering learning support to help girls stay in school. Finally, the monitoring phase utilized PMS-based progress tracking, enrolment verification, and dropout prevention measures to ensure sustained attendance and academic progression.

**Impact and Future Direction:** - The project has effectively increased enrolment, exceeding 10,000 out-of-school girls, while actively working to enhance retention rates and promote gender equality in education. Its long-term goals center on empowering girls, supporting community development, and ensuring sustainability through robust collaboration between government bodies and NGOs. Looking ahead, the program plans to expand its reach to include older age groups and additional districts, improve real-time digital monitoring, and deepen partnerships



with local authorities and civil society organizations. The Maitri Project has made notable strides in reintegrating out-of-school girls into the formal education system across Gaya and Sheikhpura. By combining community engagement, institutional cooperation, and data-driven strategies, the project successfully enrolled 10,977 girls, emphasizing retention and empowerment. The insights and frameworks established through this effort provide a solid foundation for future growth and replication in similar regions within Bihar and beyond.





## State Level Initiatives

## 1. Foundation for Excellence: Nurturing Brilliance - "A Program that Makes All the Difference"

In the financial year 2024-25, under the dedicated leadership of Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma Program Secretary at Centre DIRECT, a total of 30 students from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh received support through the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Scholarship Program. This included 24 first-time scholarships and 6 renewals for deserving students pursuing Engineering (BE/B.Tech) and Medicine (MBBS) degrees.

Each recipient was granted financial support ranging from ₹40,000 to ₹60,000, depending on the course and donor-specific guidelines. For MBBS students in their first year, assistance covered initial semester costs, and in two cases, reimbursements were processed upon submission of receipts, as per donor expectations.

Thanks to Mr. Sharma's consistent efforts in verification, mentoring, and candidate support, the program has effectively narrowed the gap between potential and opportunity for students from

economically disadvantaged backgrounds. His contribution also strengthened the integrity and fairness of the scholarship process.

Nationally, FFE awarded 18,884 scholarships across India in FY 2024-25, amounting to a total

disbursement of ₹91.60 Crores. Volunteers like Mr. Sharma continue to play an integral role in scaling FFE's mission of educational empowerment.

The collaboration between FFE and Centre DIRECT, led by Anil Kumar Sharma and Mamta Sinha, has significantly enhanced the scholarship program's outreach and impact, especially in:

- 1. Identifying and Validating Eligible Students:** Centre DIRECT has helped recognize deserving applicants and verified their family and financial backgrounds to ensure transparency.
- 2. Student Mentorship:** Through consistent guidance and academic support, Centre DIRECT mentors have played a vital role in motivating students and helping them stay on track.

This partnership has not only made the FFE Scholarship Program more accessible and impactful but has also created a strong support system for students striving to build a better future through education.





## **2. Bihar Survivors Education Initiative**

In 2024, Centre DIRECT launched a vital educational support initiative to empower a group of resilient child trafficking survivors who were rescued from exploitative child labor conditions in bangle factories in Jaipur and Hyderabad. These boys, most of whom were trafficked between the ages of 9 and 12, endured extreme hardships – including long hours of forced labor, physical abuse, and prolonged separation from their families. Despite their traumatic pasts, they demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination by successfully clearing their Class 10 (Matriculation) exams in 2024.

This initiative was born out of the urgent need to support their transition into higher education, while ensuring their psychological, emotional, and physical well-being. Many of the survivors returned to families living in extreme poverty, struggling for basic necessities such as food, shelter, and medical care. In some cases, limited awareness within the family and community about the value of continued education posed additional risks of school dropouts or re-trafficking.

To address these challenges and nurture their aspirations, Centre DIRECT designed a comprehensive support plan for the period June 2024 – May 2026, which includes:

- Safe housing in Patna, away from high-risk environments
- Daily living support, including food, clothing, and medical care
- Educational assistance, including enrolment in preparatory classes and individual tutoring to help them qualify for the Class 12 board exams
- Safeguarding measures to ensure their psychological safety and physical well-being

### **Survivors and Their Dreams**

Today, ten survivors are receiving full-time educational and personal support under this program. Once victims of exploitation, these young individuals are now filled with hope, purpose, and ambition. With structured support for housing, meals, emotional care, and academics, they are not only catching up on lost years of education but are also pursuing bold aspirations—from becoming doctors, lawyers, and police officers, to serving the country through the armed forces.

This initiative is helping these children reclaim their childhoods, realize their potential, and prepare to become leaders and advocates in the fight against child trafficking within their own communities.

### **Donor Support & Funding**

**Centre DIRECT expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and families whose generous contributions have made this life-changing work possible. As of July 2024, a total of INR 9,00,000 has been mobilized to support the education and holistic care of these survivors for the academic year 2024–2026.**

**This collective support is enabling each child to receive safe lodging, quality education, meals, medical care, and emotional guidance – equipping them with the tools to pursue their dreams and build a life of dignity and independence.**

**This initiative represents more than an educational intervention – it is a movement for justice, healing, and empowerment. These young survivors, once silenced by abuse and neglect, are now finding their voices and emerging as champions for change in India’s ongoing fight against child trafficking.**

# Centre DIRECT's Existing Collaborations

## Institutional Collaboration and Government Support

The impact of Centre DIRECT is significantly amplified through strategic partnerships with government institutions and elected representatives across various administrative levels. These collaborations ensure that our programs are integrated with public systems and effectively address the needs of vulnerable populations throughout Bihar.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued cooperation and strategic guidance of key state-level departments and statutory bodies, including:

- **Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA):** Enhancing access to justice and legal aid for marginalized women and children.
- **Bihar State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (BSCPCR):** Providing policy direction and institutional oversight for the protection of child rights.
- **Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar:** Supporting a wide range of welfare programs benefiting children, women, and underserved communities.
- **Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar,** in strengthening efforts to combat child labour, promote safe and fair employment, and protect the rights of working children and youth.
- **Panchayati Raj Department:** Promoting participatory local governance and decentralized planning through Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs).
- **Anti-Child Trafficking Units and ADJ (Weaker Section Courts):** Enabling justice for survivors of child trafficking and exploitation through legal aid, FIR filing, and judicial processes.
- **Child Rights Centre (CRC) at Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna-** A focused on strengthening child rights and legal awareness in Bihar.

## At the district level, our work is strengthened through collaboration

- District Magistrates and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)
- Labour Resources, Departments, District Education Officers, and Health Departments
- Police and Law Enforcement Authorities
- Child Protection Welfare Committees (CPWCs) and Village-level stakeholders

## Role of Elected Representatives of PRIs

We deeply value the involvement of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)—including Mukhiyas, Ward Members, Panchayat Samiti members, and Zila Parishad members—in enabling meaningful grassroots engagement and community-led governance.

Their contributions have been pivotal in:

- Raising community awareness on key issues like child rights, education, health, and gender equality.

- Strengthening and participating in Village Child Protection Welfare Committees (VCPWCs) and other local governance structures.
- Facilitating convergence and outreach of government schemes to the most marginalized.
- Enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making at the village level.

This multi-tiered institutional collaboration—from state departments to district officials and PRI representatives—has helped foster deeper programmatic impact, ensure sustainability, and build community ownership across Centre DIRECT’s areas of operation.

Centre DIRECT remains committed to expanding and nurturing these partnerships to further inclusive development, social justice, and systemic change across Bihar.

## **Our Partners: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Development**

Centre DIRECT’s progress and sustained impact are made possible through the unwavering support of our valued partners. Their commitment and collaboration have enabled us to implement transformative programs that drive equity, opportunity, and protection for underserved communities.

### **Our Current Partners**

1. **British Asian Trust, UK** – Spearheading innovations in child protection systems across India.
2. **Terre des Hommes (TDH-BMZ), Germany** – Advancing child rights and protection for vulnerable populations.
3. **Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna** – Partnering on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment access, and care.
4. **Centre for Health Research and Innovation (CHRI)** – Connecting communities and public systems to improve health outcomes.
5. **USHA International Ltd.** – Promoting skill-building and economic independence for women through the Silai School initiative.
6. **Educate Girls, USA** – Improving enrolment, retention, and education quality for girls in rural areas.
7. **Help for Children in Need Foundation (HCNF), Pune** – Supporting child protection, education, and health initiatives.
8. **Welspun Foundation for Health & Knowledge (WFHK)** – Delivering integrated health, nutrition, and education interventions under WelSwasthya, WelNetritva, and WelEducation programs.
9. **British Asian India Foundation** – Enhancing national efforts to strengthen child protection systems and community resilience.

### **Contributing to the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Centre DIRECT’s programs are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through targeted interventions and collaborative approaches, we contribute meaningfully to the following goals:

- **SDG 1 – No Poverty:** Promoting livelihoods and economic resilience in marginalized communities.



- **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being:** Strengthening maternal, child, and adolescent health and addressing HIV/AIDS.
- **SDG 4 – Quality Education:** Expanding inclusive and equitable education, particularly for girls and out-of-school children.
- **SDG 5 – Gender Equality:** Advancing the rights, participation, and leadership of women and girls.
- **SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:** Promoting improved hygiene and sanitation at the Panchayat level.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Enabling youth and women to access skill development and income opportunities.
- **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Supporting transparent local governance and community-based justice mechanisms.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, supporters, and government allies for their unwavering dedication to creating a more inclusive, just, and sustainable future. Together, we are transforming lives, strengthening systems, and building resilient communities across Bihar.



# Centre DIRECT's Impact Across Bihar Districts

During the year 2024-25, Centre DIRECT has demonstrated a profound commitment to addressing social, economic, and educational disparities through targeted, multi-sectoral interventions across key districts in Bihar. By focusing on health, child protection, education, and community empowerment, the organization has driven meaningful improvements in the lives of marginalized populations.

## District-wise Highlights:

- **Sitamarhi:** The Sshakati Project improved access to essential HIV/AIDS services and reduced stigma, while the TDH-BMZ Project bolstered food security and community resilience. Strengthening Child Welfare Protection Committees (CWPCs) led to the elimination of child labor, and the Pragati Program provided adolescent girls and young women with second-chance education, preparing them for critical board examinations.
- **Muzaffarpur:** Initiatives like the Adolescent and Youth Social-Economic Empowerment Project and enhanced CWPCs fostered child-friendly villages. The Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company and Sangani Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. advanced women's economic empowerment, complemented by vocational training through the Usha Sewing School Project.
- **Patna:** Efforts to halt HIV transmission and reintegrate child labor survivors showed positive outcomes. Collaboration with the Foundation for Excellence expanded educational opportunities for underprivileged students.
- **Rohtas:** The establishment of sewing schools, support for Self-Help Groups, and projects such as Welswasthya, Welnetrutva, and WelEducation enhanced skills development and protective capacities, empowering communities.
- **Gaya:** Child protection and anti-trafficking initiatives including the KAWACH Project and VIJETA Survivors Collective strengthened support systems for rescued children. The Maitri Project facilitated re-enrollment of out-of-school girls, advancing gender equality.
- **Jehanabad:** Improved reintegration of rescued children and reinforced child protection systems elevated overall child welfare.
- **Sheikhpura:** The Maitri Project furthered access to education for out-of-school girls, supporting gender equality efforts.

These accomplishments highlight Centre DIRECT's strategic, compassionate, and integrated approach. Beyond immediate relief, these projects lay a foundation for sustainable community empowerment.

## Path Forward:

Centre DIRECT remains dedicated to innovation, community participation, and institution-building. Future includes scaling successful programs to additional districts, forging new partnerships, and intensifying impact. The organization is optimistic that this journey marks just the beginning of deeper social transformation fueled by collective commitment and expertise.