

CENTRE FOR DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION RESEARCH EDUCATION
COMMUNICATION & TRAINING

Centre DIRECT



Annual Report 2023-24



**Adolescent
Empowerment**



**Women's
Empowerment**

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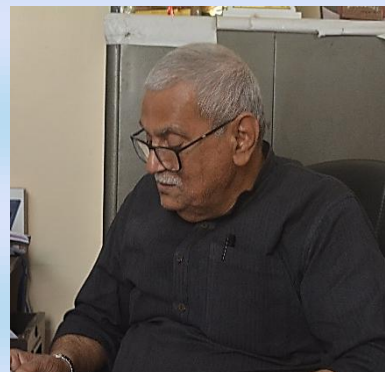
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From the Desk of the General Secretary

The Centre for Documentation, Information, Research, Education, Communication and Training (Centre DIRECT) enters its 31st year in 2024 with sharpened clarity of approach and an improved knowledge and talent base. The organization is poised to leap ahead and cover other untouched marginalized women and children.



It has been my pleasure to serve as the Founding General Secretary of Centre DIRECT since 1993. Centre DIRECT was established to serve people from various walks of life, especially the downtrodden, the poor, the destitute, women, and children from vulnerable communities.

I warmly congratulate all those involved in founding Centre DIRECT, especially those whose zeal and boundless energy made its birth and development possible. The relentless work of many devoted people has shaped Centre DIRECT into what it is today. Its strong and continuing presence underscores the organization's commitment and the transformative impact it has had on people's lives.

Looking back at the period between 1993 and 2024, we are filled with a deep sense of satisfaction for having achieved a lot more than we initially envisioned. Yet, in all humility, we acknowledge that much more remains to be done.

With the turn of this year, Centre DIRECT feels proud to present its Annual Report 2023-24. This year, the organization has mainly focused on girls' education, child protection, and the economic advancement of women. The report provides a glimpse of what we did and what we achieved through our synergized efforts.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to our many partners in development and stakeholders who have placed their faith in us. I would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all international and national donors, organizations, government bodies, consultants, friends, and well-wishers who have supported us through thick and thin. Together, I am sure that Centre DIRECT, as a family, can march ahead with confidence and rise to the many challenges ahead of us.

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ramod 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.

Our Thematic Areas

The thematic areas of Centre DIRECT include education, child labour, disaster management, health, livelihood, advocacy, and networking.

Report Structure and Overview

The report is structured to provide a comprehensive overview of Centre DIRECT's work across several critical areas, including education, child labour, disaster management, health, livelihood, advocacy, and networking. It begins with an introduction to the organization's mission and key achievements. Each thematic area is detailed to highlight specific programs and projects, emphasizing their objectives, implementation, and impact. The report also includes an in-depth examination of the various districts in Bihar where Centre DIRECT operates, showcasing the unique challenges and successes encountered in each region. By elaborating on the diverse programs and projects aimed at addressing social and developmental goals across these districts, the report aims to present a clear picture of the organization's extensive efforts and outcomes in improving community welfare.

Education

Centre DIRECT's Girl Education Programme is committed to providing high-quality elementary education, with a specific focus on girls and marginalized communities. For the past 30 years, this initiative has sought to empower girls to emerge as future leaders and agents of change. The key aspects of our approach are as follows:

Focus on girls and marginalized communities: The programme prioritizes providing educational opportunities to girls and children from marginalized backgrounds who often face barriers to accessing education.

Empowerment through education: Centre DIRECT views education as a critical tool for enabling girls to achieve their full potential. By gaining essential skills and developing positive attitudes, girls are empowered to navigate challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.

Path to social and economic empowerment: Education is seen as not only a means to academic achievement but also as a pathway to social and economic empowerment. It equips girls with the knowledge and capabilities needed to participate in the workforce, make informed decisions, and positively impact their communities.

Long-term impact: By investing in girls' education, Centre DIRECT aims to create sustainable change that extends beyond individual girls to benefit families, communities, and society at large. Educated girls are more likely to break the cycle of poverty, improve health outcomes, and promote gender equality.

Child Labour

Centre DIRECT addresses child labour through comprehensive strategies. We raise awareness about its detrimental effects, counsel child labourers and their families to promote education over exploitation, and support the safe reintegration of rescued children. Additionally, we advocate for justice by pursuing legal action against perpetrators and ensuring victim protection. The key aspects of our approach are as follows:

Raising awareness: Centre DIRECT educates communities about the detrimental impacts of child labour on children and their futures. By highlighting these effects, we aim to change attitudes and behaviour toward child labour.

Counselling and community engagement: We provide counselling sessions to child labourers, their parents, and community members. These sessions are crucial for persuading families to abandon child labour practices in favour of prioritizing education and child development.

Protection and re-integration of survivors: For children rescued from labour situations, Centre DIRECT ensures their safe reintegration into their families. This process involves providing support and protection to prevent further exploitation.

Legal advocacy and prosecution: We undertake legal advocacy from the filing of First Information Reports (FIRs) to ensuring that child labour cases are effectively addressed through the justice system. We advocate for the protection of victims, work diligently to secure justice for survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Disaster Management

Centre DIRECT's disaster management initiatives are dedicated to delivering rapid and effective relief to districts impacted by natural calamities. The approach encompasses all phases of disaster management, including preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. Below is a detailed overview of our strategy:

Preparedness: We engage in proactive measures to prepare communities for potential natural disasters. This includes conducting training, drills, and awareness campaigns to enhance readiness and response capabilities.

Response: Centre DIRECT swiftly responds to disaster situations by mobilizing resources, providing immediate relief such as food, shelter, and medical aid, and coordinating rescue operations to mitigate the impact on affected populations.

Recovery: Post-disaster, our focus shifts towards recovery efforts. We work on restoring essential services, infrastructure, and livelihoods to facilitate the return to normalcy for impacted communities.

Rehabilitation: Our rehabilitation efforts aim to rebuild and improve infrastructure and communities affected by disasters. We implement strategies for "Building Back Safer", incorporating disaster-resilient practices and technologies to reduce vulnerability to future hazards.

Community Resilience: Through our post-disaster recovery programs, we aim to enhance the resilience of buildings and communities. This involves implementing measures that strengthen infrastructure and promote community cohesion to better withstand future disasters.

Health

Centre DIRECT's health interventions aim to improve access to quality healthcare services for underserved and marginalized communities. Below is an overview of our approach:

Identifying Root Causes: Centre DIRECT begins by identifying the underlying causes of healthcare challenges faced by poor and marginalized communities. This involves conducting assessments and understanding local health needs and barriers.

Multi-level Approach: Our interventions operate at multiple levels:

- a. **Individual Level:** We provide direct healthcare services and treatments to individuals in need, ensuring they receive necessary medical attention.
- b. **Community Level:** We engage with communities to raise awareness about health issues, promote preventive healthcare practices, and foster health-seeking behaviours.
- c. **Systemic Level:** We collaborate with healthcare providers, policymakers, and stakeholders to advocate for systemic changes that improve healthcare delivery. This may include policy reforms, infrastructure improvements, and capacity building within the healthcare system.

Innovative Solutions: We develop and implement innovative solutions tailored to address specific healthcare challenges. These solutions may include mobile health clinics, telemedicine initiatives, health education programs, and community health worker training.

Quality Healthcare Services: We emphasize the implementation of quality healthcare services that are accessible, affordable, and responsive to the needs of marginalized communities. This includes ensuring the availability of essential medicines, diagnostics, and skilled healthcare professionals.

Livelihood

Centre DIRECT's Livelihood mandate is dedicated to empowering women involved in smallholder agriculture, small businesses, and farm or non-farm labour. Our initiatives are designed to build secure and resilient livelihoods, with the goal of enabling women to achieve lasting economic stability and escape poverty. Below are the key approaches we adopt in our livelihood sector initiatives:

Capability enhancement: Centre DIRECT invests in enhancing the skills and capabilities of women to boost their productivity and efficiency in livelihood activities. This includes providing training in areas such as agricultural practices, business management, financial literacy, and other relevant skills.

Asset building: We assist women in acquiring essential assets for their livelihoods, including land, tools, equipment, livestock, and capital for small businesses. Our asset-building initiatives aim to establish a solid foundation for sustainable income generation.

Collectivization: We promote the formation and strengthening of women's collectives, such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives. These groups enable women to pool resources, share knowledge, support one another, and collectively access markets and financial services.

Inclusive value chain development: We work to integrate women into inclusive and equitable value chains by facilitating access to markets, improving market linkages, and ensuring fair prices for their products or services.

Engagement of influential actors: Recognizing the need for broader community support, we engage influential actors to promote gender equality and support women's economic empowerment. This includes advocating for gender-sensitive policies and practices within communities and institutions.

Advocacy

Centre DIRECT has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts to combat child trafficking within the state. Our advocacy work involves collaborating with the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches to ensure the effective implementation of state action plans against child trafficking. Below is a detailed overview of our advocacy initiatives and achievements:

Engagement with executive, judiciary, and legislature: Centre DIRECT collaborates with key governmental bodies—including the executive (administration), judiciary (courts), and legislature (lawmakers)—to advocate for policies, laws, and enforcement mechanisms that effectively address child trafficking.

Implementation of State Action Plans (SAPs): We advocate for the effective implementation of SAPs designed to combat child trafficking. This involves monitoring plan execution, identifying gaps, and advocating for necessary adjustments or enhancements to ensure their success.

Contributions to achievements: Our advocacy efforts have significantly contributed to reducing instances of human trafficking within the state. Achievements include improved coordination among government agencies, enhanced legal frameworks, increased awareness, and better protection mechanisms for trafficking survivors.

Policy influence: We work to influence policies and practices that protect vulnerable children, prevent trafficking, and prosecute perpetrators. This includes advocating for victim-centered approaches in law enforcement and legal proceedings, as well as championing the rights and welfare of trafficking survivors.

Collaboration and partnerships: Centre DIRECT engages in partnerships with civil society organizations, international bodies, and community stakeholders to strengthen advocacy efforts and amplify our impact in combating child trafficking.

Networking

Building networks is a primary focus area for Centre DIRECT. We actively form partnerships with like-minded organizations to leverage expertise and enhance our outreach in combating child trafficking. Below is an overview of our networking strategies and their impact:

Formation of networks: Centre DIRECT has established partnerships with various organizations aligned in addressing child trafficking. These collaborations enable the pooling of resources, knowledge, and experiences to enhance efforts against modern-day slavery.

Umbrella network approach: We integrate these organizations into an umbrella network, creating a collaborative framework that amplifies collective impact and improves the state's strategies for combating child trafficking.

Leveraging expertise: Networking with diverse organizations allows Centre DIRECT to access a wide range of expertise, including legal advocacy, victim support, awareness campaigns, and policy influence. This collective expertise supports the development of more comprehensive and effective anti-trafficking strategies.

Increasing outreach: Our networking efforts extend our reach to communities, stakeholders, and decision-makers at various levels. This broader outreach enhances awareness, mobilizes resources, and engages in initiatives to prevent child trafficking and support survivors.

Driving systemic changes: The collaborative work within the umbrella network fosters systemic changes, such as advocating for policy reforms, strengthening protection mechanisms, and ensuring justice for child trafficking victims.

Operational Districts of Centre DIRECT

Centre DIRECT operates across multiple districts in Bihar, implementing a range of initiatives focused on social development, child protection, education, health, livelihoods, disaster management, and advocacy. The following are the districts where Centre DIRECT is actively engaged:

1. Patna
2. Muzaffarpur
3. Sitamarhi
4. Sheohar
5. Gaya
6. Jehanabad
7. Sheikhpura
8. Arwal
9. Nawada
10. Rohtas
11. Aurangabad
12. Jamui
13. Siwan
14. Gopalganj
15. Kaimur



In these districts, Centre DIRECT implements its programs and initiatives in collaboration with local communities, stakeholders, and government bodies. Our efforts address various social issues, protect vulnerable populations, and promote sustainable development. Our presence in these areas underscores our commitment to making a positive impact and enhancing the well-being of marginalized communities in Bihar.

CENTRE DIRECT: DISTRICT-SPECIFIC PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2023-24

Sitamarhi District

In Sitamarhi District, Centre DIRECT's projects address crucial social issues through targeted initiatives. The **Vihaan Project** supports individuals living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) by enhancing access to services, adherence to treatment, and reducing stigma. This project has successfully registered 7,197 PLHIV and provided significant aid to children and beneficiaries through counselling, health referrals, and linkage to social welfare schemes. The **TDH-BMZ Project** focuses on improving food security and empowering communities by forming community groups, providing nutritional support, and promoting sustainable farming practices. This initiative has led to improved health, economic empowerment, and stronger community institutions. The **KAWACH Project** is dedicated to the rehabilitation of child labour survivors, offering legal support and reintegration services across all 16 blocks of the district. Finally, the **Strengthening of Child Protection Committee** project works to enhance the effectiveness of Child Protection Committees in Bairgania and Majorganj blocks, creating safer and more supportive environments for children.

Muzaffarpur District

In Muzaffarpur District, Centre DIRECT's projects address various social and economic needs. The **Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescent and Youth** project aims to improve educational and livelihood opportunities for 200 girls and young women, enhance school infrastructure in 10 villages, and support 40 families with vocational training and economic aid. The **Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company** enhances agricultural productivity and income for 310 farmers, emphasizing women's involvement and collective action. The **Rampari-Nand Kishore Memorial Arogya Kendra** provides essential healthcare services to improve community wellness. The **Strengthening of Child Protection Committee** project strives to create child-friendly environments by bolstering local child protection efforts. The **Silai School for Adolescent Girls and Women** offers sewing and tailoring training, economically empowering women through skill development. Additionally, the **Sangini Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti** focuses on marginalized women's holistic development, including income-generating activities and access to credit in Saraiya and Paroo Blocks.

Patna District

Patna District's initiatives address key social challenges. The **HIV/AIDS Targeted Interventions Project** reduces HIV transmission among injecting drug users (IDUs) through risk reduction services, community mobilization, and awareness programs.

This project has engaged 438 IDUs, conducted 837 HIV tests, and facilitated ART access for 13 individuals. The **KAWACH Project** supports child labour survivors across all 23 blocks by providing education, vocational training, psychological support, and legal assistance. The **Foundation for Excellence (FFE)**, in collaboration with Centre DIRECT, offers scholarships and mentoring to academically outstanding students, enhancing their educational prospects and success.

Rohtas & Kaimur Districts

In Rohtas and Kaimur districts, Centre DIRECT's projects focus on skill development and child protection. The **Silai Schools** project, in partnership with USHA International, has established 10 schools for sewing and tailoring training. The **SHG Nurturing for Livelihood Opportunities** program supports 4 Self-Help Groups to create economic opportunities for parents of vulnerable children. The **Strengthening of Child Protection Committee** project in Sasaram Block aims to enhance child protection mechanisms across 3 Panchayats. Additionally, the **KAWACH Project** offers rehabilitative and legal support to child labour survivors across multiple blocks.

Gaya District

In Gaya District, Centre DIRECT's child protection efforts cover 300 villages, focusing on preventing child trafficking and creating child-friendly environments. The initiative has successfully reintegrated over 600 trafficking survivors and established 160 functional Child Protection Committees. The **KAWACH Project** operates in all 24 blocks, providing education, vocational training, and legal support to child labour survivors. The **VIJETA Survivors Collective** empowers around 200 rescued children through leadership roles and advocacy. Other efforts include nurturing 10 Self-Help Groups for livelihood creation and connecting families to healthcare and income opportunities.

Jehanabad District

In Jehanabad District, Centre DIRECT focuses on reintegrating rescued children and strengthening child protection. The initiative covers all 7 blocks, assisting with the reintegration of children rescued from labour and trafficking, providing support for their transition and follow-up. The **Strengthening Child Protection Committee** project, implemented in 3 blocks, enhances the effectiveness of committees and creates safe environments for children, aiming to reduce child labour and exploitation.

Sheikhpura District

The **Maitri Project** in Sheikhpura District targets the re-enrolment of girls aged 6 to 14 who are not in school. The project successfully enrolled 3,149 girls in the 2023-2024 academic year and plans to expand to Gaya District, aiming to reach 10,000 girls for the 2024-2025 academic year. The initiative includes community engagement, enrolment support, and monitoring to improve educational opportunities and promote gender equality.

Bhojpur District

In Bhojpur District, Centre DIRECT focuses on strengthening Child Protection Committees (CPCs) to enhance their capacity for managing and preventing child protection issues. The approach includes district-wide training workshops, resource material distribution, and community awareness campaigns. Local partnerships with NGOs and schools aim to bolster support for child protection initiatives. Monitoring and evaluation activities involve regular assessments, feedback mechanisms, and resource mobilization. Specific activities include orientation workshops, targeted assessments in vulnerable blocks, and community engagement through public meetings and media campaigns.

In the subsequent sections, we will provide a comprehensive analysis of each district's projects, detailing their objectives, strategies, and impacts.

Sitamarhi District

A. Vihaan Project (CSC, Sitamarhi)

The Vihaan Care and Support initiative is dedicated to offering comprehensive services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) through Care and Support Centres (CSCs) across India. Below is an overview of the Vihaan Care and Support Centre in Sitamarhi District, Bihar:

1. Objectives:

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

2. Services Provided:

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

3. Registered PLHIV:

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

4. Counselling Services:

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

5. Referrals and Testing:

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

6. Programmatic Support:

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

B. TDH-BMZ Project:

The SEWOH_VSS II program in Bairgania and Majorganj blocks of Sitamarhi District, Bihar, represents a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance food security, nutrition, and community empowerment through targeted interventions. This program aims to create a resilient and sustainable food security model by implementing a range of strategic activities.



Below is an overview of its key components and anticipated impacts.

1. Objectives:

- a. **Strengthening Community-Based Institutions:** Enhance capacity in 20 villages to monitor and evaluate national food security programs. Conduct social audits and track health and nutrition status.
- b. **Improving Access to Services:** Facilitate access to health, nutrition, and care services for children, adolescent girls, pregnant, and breastfeeding mothers.
- c. **Promoting Self-Sufficiency:** Village profiling, capacity-building of local institutions, and training on sustainable farming practices. Reduce dependency on external food sources through participatory learning and action.
- d. **Developing Monitoring Mechanisms:** Establish frameworks for community-based monitoring of food security at state and national levels.

2. Programme Activities:

a. **Community Groups Formation:**

- **Children's Group:** Focus on nutrition, food security, and child rights.
- **Youth Group:** Addressing community health, rights, and environmental issues.
- **Women's Group:** Empowering women on rights, legislation, and livelihoods.
- **Adolescent Group:** Educating on nutrition, rights, and health.

b. **Service Provision:**

- Linked pregnant and lactating women to health facilities.
- Enrolled children in Anganwadicentres for nutritional support.

c. **Capacity Building and Training:**

- Conducted extensive training for local governance bodies, legal committees, and community members.
- Training sessions on sustainable farming, kitchen gardening, and poultry farming.

d. **Nutritional Support:**

- Distributed Iron and Folic Acid tablets to pregnant and adolescent girls.
- Implemented mid-day meal programs for children.

e. **Kitchen Garden Initiative:**

- Provided marginalized families with kits for setting up kitchen gardens.
- Produced 6250 kg of vegetables, improving nutrition and food security.



f. **Seed Bank Initiative:**

- Established 10 seed banks, distributing seeds to promote sustainable agriculture.
- Facilitated significant yields of paddy and wheat through seed distribution.

g. **Poultry Farming Initiative:**

- Trained 60 women in poultry farming techniques.
- Distributed 1120 chicks, enhancing income and nutritional intake through egg and meat production.



3. **Impact of the Programme:**

a. **Health and Nutrition:**

- Improved access to ANC and PNC for pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Increased enrolment of children in AWCs and mid-day meal provision.

b. **Economic Empowerment:**

- Women empowered through income generation from activities like poultry farming and kitchen gardening& sustainable farming practices.

c. **Community Empowerment:**

- Strengthened community institutions and legal committees, fostering local governance and accountability.
 - Enhanced awareness of rights and entitlements among children, youth, and women.
- d. **Nutritional Impact:**
- Reduced cases of malnutrition through diversified food production and nutritional supplementation.



C. Strengthening of Child Protection Committee

- Target: Creating child-friendly villages.
- Coverage: Specifically focused on Bairgania and Majorganj blocks (2 blocks).
- Objective: To enhance the effectiveness of the Child Protection Committees in these blocks, ensuring they are proactive in protecting children's rights and creating environments that are safe and supportive for children.



Muzaffarpur District

A. Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescents and Youth

Overview:

Muzaffarpur, Bihar, an aspirational district near the state capital, faces considerable educational and economic challenges. The "Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescents and Youth" project addresses these challenges by enhancing educational and livelihood opportunities across 10 villages in the Paro block.

Project Objectives:

- **Empower 200 girls and young women:** Focus on social and economic development.
- **Enhance school infrastructure:** Improve learning environments in 10 schools.
- **Support 40 families:** Provide social and economic empowerment.

Key Activities and Achievements:

Output 1: Empowerment of 200 Girls and Young Women

- **Baseline Survey:** Assessed social, economic, and educational conditions in 10 villages post-COVID.
- **Youth Groups Formation:** Established 10 youth groups with 209 girls; selected 20 leaders.
- **Awareness Initiatives:** Organized events for World Environment Protection Day and International Women's Day, engaging 150 youth and 500 women.
- **District Level Network:** Formed a network with 40 members trained in Sustainable Development Goals.

Output 2: Infrastructure Support in 10 Schools:

- **Facility Improvement:** Upgraded essential facilities in 8 out of 10 schools, including fans, toilets, and water tanks.
- **Children's Groups:** Created groups in all schools, conducting 82 meetings on rights, cleanliness, and constitutional values.
- **School Events:** Held competitions and educational activities involving 301 children.

Output 3: Social and Economic Empowerment of 40 Families:

- **Training-cum-Production Centres:** Established charkha training centres, training 40 women in yarn production.
- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Provided training to 100 entrepreneurs in various trades and financial support to 34 beneficiaries.
- **Sustainability:** Enabled women to generate income through charkha production, fostering self-reliance.

B. Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company

Overview:

The Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company is a collaborative initiative focused on empowering local farmers through collective action and resource-sharing. It aims to enhance agricultural productivity, market access, and income levels for its members, with a particular emphasis on promoting women's involvement in agriculture.

Key Details:

- **Establishment:** The company has been established with the goal of creating a strong, organized collective of farmers.
- **Membership:** 310 farmers are actively involved in the producer company, contributing to its growth and development.
- **Focus on Women:** The initiative prioritizes the inclusion of women farmers, fostering gender equity in agricultural development.

Objectives:

- **Improve Agricultural Productivity:** By pooling resources and knowledge, the company seeks to enhance farming practices and increase crop yields.
- **Expand Market Access:** Facilitate better market access for members by consolidating produce and negotiating better terms.
- **Increase Farmer Income:** Enhance income through improved productivity and market opportunities, benefiting the members financially.
- **Promote Collective Benefits:** Strengthen the cooperative model to ensure shared benefits among all members, leading to a more resilient and sustainable farming community.

Activities and Impact:

- **Resource Sharing:** Facilitate the sharing of agricultural inputs, technology, and knowledge among members.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Provide training programs to improve farming techniques and business management skills.
- **Marketing Support:** Assist members in marketing their produce effectively, including negotiating bulk sales and access to new markets.
- **Economic Benefits:** By improving productivity and market access, the company aims to increase overall income levels for its members.

C. Rampari-Nand Kishore Memorial Arogya Kendra

The Rampari-Nand Kishore Memorial Arogya Kendra is a dedicated health facility named in the honour of Rampari and Nand Kishore. It aims to provide

comprehensive healthcare services to the local community, focusing on enhancing overall health and wellness.



Objectives:

- **Improve Healthcare Access:** Increase accessibility to medical services for the community, ensuring that individuals receive timely and appropriate care.
- **Enhance Health Services:** Offer a range of healthcare services, including preventive care, diagnosis, treatment, and management of common health conditions.
- **Promote Wellness:** Focus on health education and wellness programs to promote healthier lifestyles and prevent diseases.
- **Community Health Support:** Provide support and resources to address the specific health needs of the community, contributing to better health outcomes and quality of life.

D. Strengthening of Child Protection Committee to Create Child-Friendly Village

- **Goal:** Enhancing the effectiveness and capabilities of local Child Protection Committees.
- **Objective:** Creating safe and supportive environments for children within villages, likely through policy advocacy, community awareness, and institutional strengthening.

E. Silai School for Adolescent Girls and Women

Overview:

The Silai School offers training in sewing and tailoring skills specifically designed for adolescent girls and women. This vocational program aims to provide practical skills that can lead to economic empowerment and increased employment opportunities.

Objective: To empower adolescent girls and women economically by enhancing their sewing skills, enabling them to:

- **Generate Income:** Develop the capability to start and manage their own small businesses or seek employment in the tailoring and garment industry.

- **Improve Livelihoods:** Enhance their economic independence and financial stability through gained skills.
- **Foster Entrepreneurship:** Encourage entrepreneurial spirit among participants by providing the skills and confidence needed to establish their own enterprises.

F. Sangini Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti

The Sangini Mahila Vikas Swawlambi Sahkari Samiti is dedicated to the holistic development of women, with a particular emphasis on those from marginalized backgrounds. The organization aims to empower women through a variety of initiatives that enhance both their economic and social status.

Objectives:

Economic Empowerment:

- **Income-Generating Activities:** Provide training and support for women to engage in income-generating activities and develop small-scale enterprises.
- **Access to Credit:** Facilitate access to credit and thrift activities to enhance financial independence and stability.

Social Empowerment:

- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Establish and support self-help groups to promote mutual support, collective action, and community solidarity among women.
- **Life Skills Training:** Offer training on essential life skills, including financial management, health, and hygiene, to build confidence and improve overall well-being.

Awareness and Confidence-Building:

- **Information Dissemination:** Promote awareness on various issues affecting women, including rights, health, and opportunities for advancement.
- **Confidence-Building:** Conduct workshops and activities designed to boost self-esteem and empower women to take on leadership roles in their communities.

Community Development:

- **Improving Living Conditions:** Engage in collective efforts to enhance community assets and living conditions, addressing basic needs and infrastructure improvements.

Geographical Scope:

- **Regions of Operation:** The organization operates primarily in Saraiya and Paroo Blocks of Muzaffarpur District, Bihar.
- **Target:** Focuses on local women's empowerment and community development within these specific areas

Patna District

A. HIV/AIDS Targeted Interventions Project for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)

The HIV/AIDS Targeted Interventions Project for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) in Patna, supported by the Bihar AIDS Control Society, is designed to systematically reduce HIV/AIDS incidence among IDUs and their networks through comprehensive interventions. Here is a detailed breakdown of the project's objectives, activities, and impact:

Objectives:

1. Reduction of HIV/AIDS Incidence:

- Targeting IDUs and their networks to minimize HIV transmission through tailored interventions.

2. Enhanced Quality of Life:

- Improving overall quality of life for IDUs by providing essential services and support.

3. Community Awareness:

- Educating the general population about IDU, HIV/AIDS, and prevention strategies to reduce stigma and enhance understanding.

Activities:

1. Risk Reduction Service Delivery:

- Providing customized services to 400 IDUs and their partners to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. This includes distribution of clean needles and syringes, counseling on safe injection practices, and promotion of condom use.

2. Community Mobilization:

- Establishing user groups in different zones of Patna to mobilize IDUs, engage them in health initiatives, and promote community-based support networks.

3. Awareness Programs:

- Conducting outreach programs to educate the general population about the risks associated with IDU, HIV/AIDS transmission, and prevention methods. This includes awareness campaigns in local communities and schools.

Impact:

- **Registered Active HRG:** 438 IDUs registered as active High-Risk Groups (HRG) for targeted interventions, ensuring they receive specific services and support.
- **Outreach Coverage:** 421 IDUs reached through outreach efforts, ensuring broad dissemination of services and education.
- **Regular Contact:** Maintaining regular contact with 430 IDUs to provide ongoing support, follow-up, and reinforcement of risk reduction strategies.

- **STI Treatment:** Successfully treated 11 cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among IDUs, contributing to overall health improvement and reduced transmission risks.
- **HIV Testing:** Conducted HIV testing for registered active HRGs twice in a year, hence 837 tests were done, facilitating early detection and ensuring prompt linkage to care and treatment.
- **Linkage with ART:** Facilitated the linkage of 13 HRG members with Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV treatment, ensuring access to essential medical care and management.

B. Foundation for Excellence: Nurturing Brilliance – “A Program that Makes All the Difference”

In collaboration with Centre DIRECT, facilitated by Anil Kumar Sharma and Mamta Sinha, the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) has made a profound impact on the lives of academically outstanding students. The FFE Scholarship Program has significantly benefited from Centre DIRECT's support, particularly in the following areas:

1. Identification and Validation:

- **Identifying Eligible Candidates:** Centre DIRECT has played a crucial role in identifying students who are eligible for the FFE Scholarship Program.
- **Validating Family Background:** They have also validated the family background information of these students, ensuring the authenticity and reliability of the data.

2. Mentoring:

- **Student Mentoring:** Centre DIRECT has provided essential mentoring to students, guiding them throughout their academic journey and contributing to the overall success of the Scholarship Program.

These efforts, undertaken by Centre DIRECT volunteers, have strengthened and expanded the reach of the FFE Scholarship Program, making it more robust and impactful.

Status of FFE Scholarship Grant for FY 2022-23:

- **Renewal Scholars:** Scholarships granted to students renewing their scholarships.
- **First-Time Scholars:** Scholarships awarded to new, approved scholars for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The collaborative work between FFE and Centre DIRECT continues to make a significant difference in nurturing the brilliance of deserving students and empowering them to achieve their educational aspirations.

Rohtas and Kaimur District

A. Silai Schools by Centre DIRECT in collaboration with USHA International

Objective: To provide vocational training in sewing and tailoring through Silai Schools.

Coverage: There are 10 Silai Schools established under this initiative.

Partnership: Collaboration with USHA International indicates support for skill development and livelihood opportunities, especially for women.

B. SHGs Nurturing for Livelihood Opportunities

Objective: To create livelihood opportunities for parents of vulnerable children through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Number of SHGs: 4 SHGs are nurtured as part of this initiative.

Focus: Empowering families economically and improving their socio-economic conditions.

C. Strengthening of Child Protection Committee in Sasaram Block, Rohtas District

Objective: To create child-friendly villages by enhancing the effectiveness of Child Protection Committees (CPCs).

Coverage: Implemented in 3 Panchayats of Sasaram Block, Rohtas District.

Activities: Focus on improving child protection mechanisms, ensuring child rights are upheld, and promoting safe and supportive environments for children.

Gaya District

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

Project Overview: Centre DIRECT's child protection project operates across 300 villages in Gaya, Bihar, targeting marginalized communities at high risk of child trafficking. The initiative aims to prevent child trafficking, support the reintegration of trafficking survivors, and create child-friendly environments within these communities.

Key Achievements:

1. Reintegration of Survivors:

- **Survivors:** Over 600 child trafficking survivors, rescued from bangle factories in Jaipur, have been successfully reintegrated with their families.

2. Child Protection Committees:

- **Functional Committees:** 160 wards across 54 Panchayats now have fully functional Child Protection Committees (CPCs).
- **Child-Friendly Communities:** 30 vulnerable communities have been transformed into child-friendly environments.

3. Community Connections:

- **Government Schemes:**
 - 7,784 people have been connected with various government schemes, including MGNREGA Job Cards, PM Awas Yojna, PDS, and social security programs.
 - 8,330 people have benefited from the PMJAY Scheme.

Child Protection Committee Strengthening Programme:

1. Role of Centre DIRECT:

- Recognized as a child protection expert organization by the state government, Centre DIRECT has been instrumental in facilitating the roll-out and functioning of Child Protection Committees.
- The organization received formal recognition from the Director of Social Welfare, endorsing its role in strengthening child protection at various levels.

2. Implementation:

- **Ward-Level Committees:** 161 Ward Child Protection Committees were established.
- **Panchayat-Level Committees:** 46 Panchayat Child Protection Committees were formed across six blocks in Gaya District.

3. **Training and Tools:**

- **Minutes Maintenance:** Introduction of a minutes maintenance register to document CPC meetings.
- **Vulnerability Mapping:** Conducted child vulnerability mapping to identify and address areas needing protection. Data from these maps is used in meetings to address local child protection issues.

4. **Escalation Process:**

- Issues are first addressed at the ward level. If unresolved, they escalate to the Panchayat, Block, District, and State levels as needed.

5. **Impact:**

- Significant improvement in the child protection situation, with a notable decrease in child trafficking cases in the six targeted blocks: Dobhi, Sherghati, Belaganj, Chandauti, Khizarsarai, and NeemchakBathani.

Migration Register Maintenance and Child Protection Initiatives:

1. **Objective:**

- To address child protection and education needs effectively, a series of targeted initiatives were implemented, focusing on maintaining migration registers, strengthening youth and children's groups, enhancing community safety, and improving education opportunities for vulnerable children.

2. **Key Initiative- Migration Register Maintenance:**

- To track and support children affected by migration.
- **Register Creation:** Develop and maintain a comprehensive register of children migrating to and from the district.
- **Data Management:** Regularly update the register with 161 cpc members for current information on migrant children's educational and protection needs.
- **Coordination:** Collaborate with local authorities and NGOs to ensure accurate and timely data collection.

Strengthening Youth and Children's Groups:

1. **Objective:**

- To empower and support youth and children's groups in addressing their needs and contributing to child protection efforts.

2. **Capacity Building:**

- Conduct training workshops to enhance the skills of youth, children, and adolescent groups in advocacy and child protection.

3. **Support Networks:**

- Create and sustain networks among these groups to share child cases resources, ideas, and strategies.

Police-Community Meetings for Safe Spaces:

1. **Objective:**

- To foster a safe environment for children through enhanced police-community collaboration in 25 villages of high risk of child issues.

2. **Activities:**

- Regular Meetings: Host regular meetings between the police and community members to discuss and address safety concerns for children.
- Safe Space Initiatives: Develop and promote community-driven safe spaces where children can seek protection and support.

Bridge Education Centers:

1. Objective:

- To provide educational opportunities for vulnerable dropout children and integrate them into mainstream education.

2. Key Initiatives:

- Center Establishment: Established 10 bridge education centers to cater to vulnerable children who have dropped out of formal schooling.
- Curriculum and Support: Implemented a tailored curriculum to address educational gaps and provide psychosocial support.
- Linkages: Facilitated transitions from bridge centers to regular schools by coordinating with educational institutions and local authorities.

Panchayat Funds Allocation for Children:

1. Objective:

- To fund child-focused initiatives and promote child-friendly environments at the panchayat level, ensuring that local infrastructure and services cater to the needs of children.
- Distribute funds to 12 panchayats for implementing child protection and development projects.

Strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs):

1. Objective:

- Safe space corners: To create safe and supportive school environments through enhanced SMCs.
- Capacity Building: To Train 61 SMCs on establishing and maintaining child-safe spaces within schools.

Beneficiary Statistics up to March 31st 2024:

Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries
School Enrolment	2124
Ayushman Bharat Card	354
Aadhar Card	53
Bank Account	15
PDS	13
Caste Certificate	23
Residential Certificate	103
Income Certificate	60
Death Certificate	17

Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries
Birth Certificate	36
Disability Certificate	06
Parvarish Yojana	05
Old Age, Widow, Disabled Pension	77
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	20
Social Security Scheme (Tricycle)	25

B. Assisting Child Labour Survivors to Build Collective Strength and Make the District Child Labour Free

Objective: Focuses on empowering child labour survivors through collective action. Aims to address issues they face post-rescue and works towards making the district free from child labour.

C. Youth Leadership Program (VIJETA Survivors Collective)

Overview: The VIJETA Survivors Collective is a dedicated group consisting of around 200 children who have been rescued from forced trafficking. These collective aims to empower these children by involving them in leadership roles and providing them with opportunities to advocate for their rights and address the challenges they face.

Key Activities and Objectives:

1. Group Meetings:

- **Frequency:** The children hold monthly meetings.
- **Purpose:** During these meetings, they discuss and identify issues concerning them, particularly related to child labor and trafficking.

2. Issue Resolution and Advocacy:

- **Solutions:** The collective works on discussing solutions to issues affecting child labor and strategies to prevent children from falling into similar situations.
- **Community Awareness:** Members of the collective engage with their communities and raise awareness about child labor and trafficking.

3. Training and Participation:

- **Skill Development:** The children receive training in various subjects to build their knowledge and skills.
- **Panchayati Raj Institutions:** They participate in meetings of local governance bodies to advocate for the allocation of funds for child protection.

4. Engagement with Government Officials:

- **Understanding Issues:** Youth leaders meet with government officials to understand the root causes of child labour and explore solutions.
- **Family Support:** They work on finding solutions to the problems faced by the families of rescued child labourers and assist in overcoming challenges during the rehabilitation process.

Impact: The VIJETA Survivors Collective empowers rescued children to take active roles in their communities, advocate for their rights, and contribute to the broader efforts to combat child labor and trafficking. Through their involvement in leadership and advocacy, these children help drive systemic changes and support their peers in the rehabilitation process.

D. Nurturing 10 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for Livelihood Creation

Objective: Creates livelihood opportunities and increases household incomes for parents of child labour survivors and underprivileged communities. SHGs play a crucial role in economic empowerment and preventing child labour by enhancing financial stability.

- **Connecting Families to Healthcare Insurance and Income-Generating Opportunities:**
- **Objective:** Ensures families at risk of child labour have access to healthcare insurance and opportunities for income generation. This initiative also strengthens School Management Committees (SMCs) to improve educational opportunities and prevent dropouts.

Jehanabad District

A. Reintegrating Rescued Children with Families and Follow-Up

- **Coverage:** Implemented across all 7 blocks in Jehanabad district.
- **Objective:** Focuses on the process of reintegrating children who have been rescued from child labour or trafficking back into their families and communities. This initiative includes providing support services to ensure a smooth transition and ongoing follow-up to monitor the well-being and progress of the children after reintegration.

B. Strengthening Child Protection Committee and Building Child-Friendly Communities to Reduce Child Labour

- **Coverage:** Implemented in 3 blocks (specific blocks not mentioned).
- **Objective:** Aims to strengthen existing Child Protection Committees (CPCs) or establish new ones in the selected blocks. These committees are empowered to protect children's rights, prevent child labour, and create safe and supportive environments at the community level. The initiative works towards fostering

child-friendly communities where children are safeguarded from exploitation and have access to necessary support and opportunities for growth.

Sheikhpura District

A. Maitri Project

Objective:

The Maitri Project aims to re-engage girls aged 6 to 14 who are either unenrolled or not attending school by facilitating their enrolment into educational institutions.



Key Components:

1. Identification and Outreach:

- Target Group: Girls aged 6 to 14 years who are currently not enrolled in or attending school.
- Method: Identify these girls through community assessments, outreach programs, and partnerships with local organizations.

2. Enrolment Support:

- Assistance: Provide support to ensure these girls are enrolled in local schools.
- Resources: Facilitate access to educational materials, uniforms, and other necessary resources.

3. Monitoring and Follow-up:

- Tracking: Monitor the progress of enrolled girls to ensure consistent attendance and address any barriers to their education.
- Support: Offer ongoing support to students and their families to encourage sustained enrolment and participation.

4. Community Engagement:

- Awareness Campaigns: Conduct campaigns to highlight the importance of girls' education and to garner community support.
- Involvement: Engage local community members to create a supportive educational environment.

Impact Goals:

- **Increased enrolment:** Achieve higher enrolment rates for girls within the target age group.

- **Improved attendance:** Enhance school attendance and reduce dropout rates among enrolled girls.
- **Educational equity:** Promote gender equality in education by ensuring equal opportunities for girls to attend and succeed in school.

The Maitri Project is dedicated to empowering girls through education, addressing obstacles to school attendance, and fostering an inclusive learning environment.

Previous Achievements (Sheikhpura District, 2023-2024):

- **Enrolment:** During the academic year 2023-2024, 3,149 girls aged 6-14 years were successfully enrolled in schools across all six blocks of Sheikhpura district.

B. Goals for 2024-2025

- **Target:** For the academic year 2024-2025, the goal is to enroll 10,000 currently unenrolled girls aged 7-14 years into mainstream education in both Gaya and Sheikhpura districts.

Program Overview:

- **Focus:** Identify and reach out to girls who are out of school or have recently dropped out, targeting those aged 7-14 years.
- **Expansion:** Extend the initiative from Sheikhpura to Gaya district, broadening the program's impact.
- **Strategy:** Employ community-level engagement to encourage enrolment, support families, and ensure ongoing educational participation.
- **Impact:** Enhance educational opportunities for girls in rural Bihar, contributing to their empowerment and socio-economic development.

Strategic Approach:

- **Identification:** Systematically identify girls who are out of school or recent dropouts.
- **Engagement:** Mobilize local efforts to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education and overcome enrolment barriers.
- **Support:** Provide resources like educational materials and transportation if needed, and advocate for inclusive, quality education.
- **Monitoring:** Regularly evaluate progress towards the target of enrolling 10,000 girls.

Potential Impact:

- **Empowerment:** Fosters gender equality by providing girls with essential educational opportunities crucial for their personal growth and future prospects.
- **Community Development:** Promotes a culture of education within communities, addressing socio-economic barriers that hinder girls' schooling.

- **Long-term Benefits:** Creates lasting social and economic advantages, as educated girls are more likely to actively contribute to their communities and support sustainable development.

Bhojpur District

A. Strengthening Child Protection Committees (CPCs)

Context Overview:

Bhojpur District is grappling with significant child protection challenges. To address these issues effectively, it is crucial to fortify the Child Protection Committees (CPCs) across various levels. The goal is to enhance the CPCs' capacity to manage and prevent child protection problems.

On June 23, 2023, the District Level Orientation-cum-Inception Coordination Workshop was held to address child protection issues and strengthen the Child Protection Committee (CPC) in Bhojpur, Ara. Organized by the District Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF Bihar and supported by Centre DIRECT, the workshop aimed to enhance child protection strategies and transition from survival-focused to comprehensive programming for vulnerable children. Key participants included high-profile district officials and representatives from UNICEF and Centre DIRECT. The workshop highlighted critical issues such as child marriage, child labour, and elopement, and discussed strategies to improve child protection systems, promote family-based care, and empower adolescents. Notable achievements included linking 511 children to support schemes and preventing child marriages.

Strategy:

Capacity Building:

- **Training Workshops:** Host district-wide orientation workshops to boost CPC members' knowledge and skills in child protection.
- **Resource Materials:** Create and distribute detailed resource materials, including guidelines and protocols, to CPC members.

Community Engagement:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Organize community awareness programs to educate the public about child protection issues and CPC roles.
- **Local Partnerships:** Partner with local NGOs, schools, and religious institutions to strengthen community support for child protection initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- **Regular Assessments:** Conduct periodic assessments to evaluate CPC effectiveness and pinpoint areas for improvement.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Implement a system for community members to provide feedback and report concerns regarding CPC operations.

Resource Mobilization:

- **Funding and Support:** Obtain funding and support from government agencies, international organizations, and local businesses to sustain CPC activities.
- **Training Resources:** Invest in resources and materials for training to ensure CPCs are well-equipped to handle child protection cases.

Activities:

District-Level Orientation Workshop:

- **Objective:** To familiarize CPC members with their roles and responsibilities and enhance their skills in child protection.
- **Duration:** 1-day workshop.
- **Participants:** CPC members from the district.
- **Topics Covered:** Child rights, reporting mechanisms, handling abuse cases, and legal frameworks.

Vulnerable Blocks Assessment:

- **Blocks Identified:** Sandesh, Koilwar, and one additional block based on vulnerability assessments.
- **Activities:**
 - **Detailed Surveys:** Conduct surveys to identify specific child protection issues in these blocks.
 - **Focused Workshops:** Host targeted workshops in these blocks to address their unique challenges.
 - **Action Plans:** Develop and implement tailored action plans for each vulnerable block.

Community Awareness Campaigns:

- **Objective:** To increase awareness about child protection and the role of CPCs.
- **Activities:**
 - **Public Meetings:** Organize public meetings and seminars.
 - **Media Campaigns:** Utilize local media and social media to disseminate information.
 - **Educational Materials:** Distribute pamphlets, posters, and other educational materials.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- **Objective:** To ensure CPCs are performing effectively and continuously improving.
- **Activities:**

- **Monthly Reports:** Require CPCs to submit monthly reports detailing their activities and challenges.
- **Annual Reviews:** Conduct annual evaluations of CPC performance and impact.
- **Community Feedback:** Gather feedback from community members regarding CPC effectiveness and responsiveness.

State Level Initiatives

1. Foundation for Excellence: Nurturing Brilliance

- Target: Bright students across the state
- Objective: This initiative aims to support higher education and skill development for talented students in Bihar. It provides funding and resources to enable these students to pursue higher education and acquire skills that enhance their employability.

2. Supporting Human Liberty Network Initiatives and Advocacy

- Target: State-level advocacy and initiatives
- Objective: This initiative supports the Human Liberty Network in advocating with the government to implement child protection schemes effectively. It aims to strengthen anti-human trafficking units and ensure smooth delivery of compensation to survivors of human trafficking. The focus is on enhancing protection mechanisms and legal support for victims.

3. The KAWACH Project

Centre DIRECT launched the KAWACH Project to assist child labour survivors across key districts in Bihar, ensuring extensive coverage to maximize impact. In Sitamarhi district, the project spans all 16 blocks, providing targeted support to children who have been victims of child labour. In Patna, the project reaches across all 23 blocks, focusing on comprehensive rehabilitation measures. The project also operates in multiple blocks within Rohtas and Kaimur districts, addressing the needs of vulnerable children. In Gaya, the KAWACH Project covers all 24 blocks, and a total of 160 rescued children were supported to testify as witnesses in Jaipur court, enabling them to give fearless statements. Eight convictions were completed, resulting in eight traffickers being sentenced to life imprisonment by the Honourable Jaipur court.

Overall, the KAWACH Project has reached and supported a significant number of child labour survivors: 415 students in Gaya, 47 in Patna, 42 in Sitamarhi, and 95 across Arwal, Aurangabad, Gopalganj, Jehanabad, Kaimur, and Rohtas. Through these efforts, Centre DIRECT continues to profoundly impact the lives of these vulnerable children, helping them reintegrate into society and build a better future.

The KAWACH Project is dedicated to providing comprehensive rehabilitative measures and legal justice support to children who are survivors of child labour. The primary objective is to facilitate the reintegration of these children into society by addressing their educational, vocational, psychological, and legal needs.

Through access to quality education, the project aims to help child labour survivors reintegrate into the formal schooling system and continue their learning journey. Vocational training programs are offered to equip these children with practical skills, preparing them for future employment opportunities and self-sufficiency. In addition to educational and vocational support, the KAWACH Project delivers psychological counselling and emotional support to help survivors overcome trauma and build resilience. Legal assistance is also a critical component of the project, ensuring that survivors receive justice and that their rights are upheld according to relevant laws and regulations. The project advocates for the protection and enforcement of these rights, working tirelessly to prevent future exploitation and abuse. By addressing these multifaceted needs, the KAWACH Project aims to provide a holistic support system that empowers child labour survivors to rebuild their lives and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Through these efforts, Centre DIRECT aims to create a safer and more supportive environment for child labour survivors in these regions.

Centre DIRECT's Existing Collaborations

Our current partners have been instrumental in helping Centre DIRECT achieve remarkable targets this period. Their generous support and collaboration have been crucial to our success. Here are our current partners:

1. British Asian Trust, UK: Partnering on social and economic development initiatives across South Asia, focusing on improving livelihoods and education.
2. TDH (Terre des hommes) - BMZ, Germany: Collaborating on child rights and protection programs, particularly addressing the needs of vulnerable children and communities.
3. Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna: Working together on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and support services within Bihar to combat the spread of the disease.
4. Uttar Pradesh Welfare for People Living with HIV/AIDS Society (UPNP plus): Partnering on initiatives that support the welfare and rights of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Uttar Pradesh.
5. USHA International Ltd.: Partnering on initiatives such as Silai Schools to empower women through skill development and income generation opportunities.
6. Educate Girls, USA: Collaborating on projects aimed at enhancing girls' education and enrolment rates, particularly in marginalized and underserved communities.
7. Help for Children in Need Foundation (HCNF), Pune: Partnering on various social welfare initiatives, potentially including child protection, education, and healthcare programs.

These partnerships demonstrate Centre DIRECT's commitment to working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to address complex social challenges, promote sustainable development, and improve the well-being of communities in Bihar and beyond. We are grateful for their continued support and look forward to achieving even greater impact together

Path Forward: Strengthening Our Commitment and Vision

The extensive projects and initiatives undertaken by Centre DIRECT across various districts illustrate a profound commitment to addressing critical social, economic, and educational challenges. Each district has seen impactful improvements through targeted interventions in areas such as healthcare, child protection, education, and community empowerment.

In Sitamarhi District, the Vihaan Project has made significant strides in supporting individuals living with HIV/AIDS, improving access to essential services, and reducing stigma. The TDH-BMZ Project has strengthened food security and community resilience, while the KAWACH Project and Strengthening of Child Protection Committees have provided vital support and protection for child labour survivors and vulnerable children.

Muzaffarpur District has experienced enhanced educational opportunities and socio-economic advancements through initiatives like the Social and Economic Empowerment of Adolescent and Youth project, Sahyogini Farmer Producer Company, and Rampari-Nand Kishore Memorial Arogya Kendra. These projects have improved infrastructure, supported women's economic development, and provided critical healthcare services.

In Patna District, efforts to reduce HIV transmission and support child labor survivors have yielded positive outcomes, with targeted interventions and educational support improving prospects for many individuals. The collaboration with the Foundation for Excellence has further amplified educational opportunities for deserving students.

Rohtas and Kaimur Districts have seen progress in skill development and child protection through the establishment of Silai Schools, support for Self-Help Groups, and enhanced child protection mechanisms. These efforts have empowered local communities and provided essential vocational training and economic opportunities.

In Gaya District, the focus on child protection, trafficking prevention, and survivor empowerment has strengthened the support system for vulnerable children. The KAWACH Project and VIJETA Survivors Collective have made significant contributions to education, vocational training, and leadership development.

Jehanabad District has demonstrated effective reintegration of rescued children and strengthening of child protection mechanisms, providing essential support and improving child welfare across the district.

Sheikhpura District has successfully re-enrolled out-of-school girls and expanded educational opportunities through the Maitri Project, setting a precedent for future initiatives aimed at gender equality and educational access.

In Bhojpur District, the Strengthening of Child Protection Committees project has made strides in improving child protection systems through comprehensive training and community engagement, addressing pressing issues such as child marriage, labor, and trafficking.

The collective achievements across these districts showcase Centre DIRECT's dedication to fostering positive change and improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations. As we look ahead, we are poised to build upon these successes and expand our reach, implementing innovative solutions and strengthening partnerships to achieve even greater outcomes.

By continuing to address identified needs with strategic and compassionate approaches, Centre DIRECT is committed to making further advancements in social welfare and child protection. The foundation laid by our current projects sets the stage for continued progress, ensuring that our efforts will not only sustain but also enhance the impact on the communities we serve. We remain steadfast in our mission and optimistic about the future, confident that we will achieve even more in our ongoing journey to uplift and empower those in need.