



Reducing Child Labour, Promoting Protection, and Preventing Exploitation of Children in Koppal District, Karnataka

PBA: SC/2009/0081
December 2015

**Reducing Child Labour, Promoting Protection, and Preventing Exploitation of Children
in Koppal District, Karnataka**

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MTSP Organizational Target for Country	In partnership with governments and other agencies, reduce the proportion of primary-school-age children who are out of school by at least 40 percent.
UNICEF 2008–2012 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality basic services provided to target populations with a special emphasis on excluded populations including Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes through strengthening of the management, budget and delivery systems of child-related government programmes • Children’s rights mainstreamed into development planning, resource allocation, programme implementation and civic engagement • Increased capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies at all levels
Geographic focus area	India/Karnataka/Koppal
Focus population	Child labour in all sectors, with a focus on children in the cottonseed and agricultural sectors in Koppal District, adolescents and youths in the 14–18 year age group, women’s groups from marginalized and excluded communities, teachers, elected representatives, and families.
Programme partners	Department of Labour, Deputy Commissioner, Koppal, Karnataka
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List of Acronyms

ATC	Anti Trafficking Committee
CACL	Campaign Against Child Labour
CABA	Children Affected By HIV/AIDS
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CC	Child Club
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
ECE	Early Childhood Education
GOI	Government of India
GOK	Government of Karnataka
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
JJA	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
KCPCR	Karnataka Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
KCRO	Karnataka Child Rights Observatory
NCLP	National Child Labour Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NREGP	National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme
OSC	Outside School Children
PRI	Panchâyat Raj Institution
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RTE	Right To Education
RDPR	Rural Development and Panchayath Raj
SC	Scheduled Caste
SCPU	State Child Protection Unit
SDMC	School Development and Monitoring Committee
SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
SSA	SarvaShikshaAbhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UEE	Universalization of Elementary Education
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WCD	Women and Child Development

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNICEF project “Reducing child labour, Promoting and Preventing Exploitation of Children in Koppal District, Karnataka, India” supported by German National Committee was implemented from April 2010. This project has emerged as a trend setting District based child protection programme in the State of Karnataka. The learnings and good practices emerging from Koppal District positively contributed to State level child protection programmes and more particularly, in influencing the child protection programmes of 10 North Karnataka Districts. Over the last five years the project influenced State level preparation of District Child Protection Plan, Standard Operating Procedures for Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Child Protection Policies for Schools, institutionalizing child and women sensitive police training programmes, inclusion of child protection in social work education and creating models for District level interventions.

Community level child protection structures viz., Child Protection Committees (CPCs), School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs), Anti Trafficking Committees (ATCs) were constituted in all 134 Gram Panchayats. Linkages between Village level child protection structures and Block level and District level Child Protection Committees were established. This resulted in mainstreaming of 7,527 child labour into Special Training Centres (STCs) and schools. Thus during last five years 13,925 child labour/out of school Children were brought back to school.

More than 250,000 key community members, 3000 Anganwadi workers, 7,000 SDMC members, 10,000 Child Protection Committee members, 15,000 elected representatives, 6,000 officials of various departments were sensitized on child labour, child marriage and child abuse issues. This resulted in their active participation in child marriage campaigns, enforcement drives. The impact of this is clearly resulted in substantial reduction of child marriages in Koppal District. Child marriages in Koppal District reduced from 41.5% in 2007-08(DLHS 3) to 14.3% in 2012-13 (DLHS 4).

Education support programmes in 800 schools included strengthening Child Clubs, improvement of sanitation and drinking water, quality education for grade X students, teacher training programmes and supporting vulnerable children to continue education. This paved way for improving the retention of the children and in preventing drop outs. The pass percentage of grade 10 children increased from 54% in 2009 to 83.5% in 2014.

Karnataka Police Department initiatives on child protection are emerging as model program for the proactive and lead role played by police to both prevent abuse and

exploitation of children and promote a conducive environment where children can grow and enjoy life without violence. Nearly 1,15,185 children visited police stations and participated in planned interventions for building a child friendly police system. This interaction resulted in children gaining confidence and immediate intervention of police on child protection issues.

Koppal programme on linking social protection schemes to 945 children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS emerged as a model for the State and the implementation of the special sponsorship support for such children picked up momentum across the State. These programmes are expanded to all the Districts of Karnataka with annual budget of USD 8 millions.

Adolescent Girls Collectives emerged as a key village level child protection structure. Sensitized more than 100,000 adolescent girls and formed 926 girls' collectives across five Districts in North Karnataka. These collectives act as information points at the community level for preventing child marriages. The members of adolescent girl's collectives play key role in preventing child marriages and to date have prevented over 907 child marriages along with other stakeholders. More than 809 girls registered for open school programme for continuing education.

The drought situation and migration of the families along with the children resulted in drop out of more than 2,000 children. Linking of social protection schemes to more than 9,211 families is helping these families to protect themselves from drought. The parliament and assembly elections delayed the implementation of the programmes.

The visit of German First Lady and UNICEF Ambassador Ms. Daniela Schadt on 7th Feb 2014 to the project was much appreciated by the State government. This also provided the opportunity to show case the totality of the intervention to the State government.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 Background and Analysis

India is one of the only two countries in the world that produce BT (genetically modified) cottonseed. Hybrid cottonseed production in India is highly labour intensive and requires 90 to 120 continuous days of standing for long hours emasculating and cross-pollinating each flower of cotton plant by hand. Cross-pollination, vital in cottonseed production, accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the total labour requirement and for 45 per cent of cultivation costs, and is mostly carried out by children. There is a concern that the increased demand for labour in India's cotton fields has led to more child labourers in recent years.

Across India, there are an estimated 414,390 children below 18 years, of which 223,940 are children below 14 years, and mainly girls, who are working in cottonseed production.¹ More than half of these children (223,940) are under 14 years. Children are paid much less than adults and work for longer hours.

Six adjoining Districts in the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka constitute 35 per cent of the total area of India under cottonseed cultivation. An estimated 175,000 children below 18 years are employed in this "cotton corridor" of these, nearly 100,000 are under 14 years.²

UNICEF is implementing programmes aimed at eliminating child labour in the cotton sector in Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh and in Raichur District in Karnataka. Keeping in mind that UNICEF has begun working in Raichur and Kurnool, this proposal focuses on reaching children and families in the last District in the cotton corridor of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, that is, Koppal District.

Karnataka produces cottonseed in an area covering 5,000 acres, mostly in Koppal, Gadag, Chintamani, Baghalkote, and Raichur Districts. It is estimated³ that approximately 29,500 children below 14 years of age are working in the cottonseed sector in Karnataka, of which 81.2 per cent are girls. Further, around 18,000 adolescents (14–18 years) work in the same sector in the State.⁴ Commercial cotton is

¹Davuluri Venkateswarlu, "Child Bondage Continues in India's Cotton Supply Chain", 2007, Study commissioned by India Netherlands Committee.

²Ibid.

³Davuluri Venkateswarlu, "Child Bondage Continues in India's Cotton Supply Chain". In 2006–2007, the author conducted a sample study in 78 villages in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu. He estimated that approximately 5.91 children work per acre under cottonseed. Based on Karnataka having 5,000 acres under cottonseed, he estimated that 29,500 children are employed in this sector.

⁴Ibid.

cultivated on 5,300 acres in Koppal District, which employs seasonal child labour during the sowing and plucking seasons.

In Koppal District, an estimated 7,092 children are working in the cotton sector. Koppal is characterized by a high proportion (29.4 per cent of the total population) of socially excluded communities: Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs). The District has a high female illiteracy rate (60.4 per cent) and 51.4 per cent of girls married are below 18 years. Only 10.2 per cent of all rural households have toilet facilities.⁵

Many children who are involved in cottonseed production typically are from families in debt to agents acting in the interests of large cottonseed-producing companies. These agents offer farmers loans of up to INR 40,000 (around US\$ 803) an acre to produce cottonseed. Farmers turn to their own children and those of poor landless families to work in cottonseed production. Many deeply indebted families see no way out of their financial crisis but to hand over their children to middlemen as bonded labour.

Cottonseed landowners prefer to hire girls as they are easier to control, are willing to work for longer hours, receive much lower wages than boys, and are more committed to the work. As long as the children are involved in labour, they are denied the opportunity to go to school. It is estimated that 89 per cent of children do not attend school and that more than 65 per cent of school-age children in the cotton-growing and cottonseed-producing States are dropouts.⁶

Majority of children working in the cottonseed sector have either dropped out of school or have never been in school. Venkateswarlu's study shows that about 89 percent of the children working in cottonseed fields in other States are either school dropouts or have never attended school.⁷ Some children attend school for only part of the school year when work is not available.

Cottonseed production takes a tremendous toll on the health of children. Pesticides used in cotton and cottonseed production in India include highly toxic chemicals, including Monocrotophos (acutely toxic and banned in many countries); Endosulphan (highly acutely toxic and banned in more than 50 countries (banned in India this year), including the European Union and several Asian and African nations); and Methomyl (high acute toxicity). Children working in cottonseed production are directly exposed to high quantities of pesticides. General health problems reported by children include

⁵Koppal District at a glance, 2006–07. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOK.

⁶Davuluri Venkateswarlu, "Child Bondage Continues in India's Cotton Supply Chain", 2007.

⁷ Davuluri Venkateswarlu, "Child Labour in Hybrid Cottonseed Production in Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh", 2004., study undertaken by Glocal consultancies private Limited, Hyderabad

severe headaches, weakness, convulsions, and respiratory congestion. A few cases of death due to pesticide exposure have also been reported.

India's legal framework prohibits many of the practices that are common to the cotton-growing and cottonseed-producing areas: the securing of children's labour through giving loans/advances to their parents and compelling them to work until the loan has been repaid; long hours of work; and paying less than the minimum wage.⁸ The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, however, does not specifically prohibit the work of children in agriculture, but it restricts the number of working hours in a day to a maximum of six, including time spent waiting for the work. The act is limited to children up to 14 years of age and does not provide protection to children in the 15–18 year age group working under exploitative and harmful conditions. Simultaneously, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (JJA) pertains to children in need of care and protection, including working children below 18 years. Education up to the age of 14 years is enshrined as a fundamental right in Article 21A of the Constitution of India, and The Right to Education Act has been passed in 2010 making basic education compulsory for all children. This provides a new window of opportunity for intervention and strengthening of education system and to ensure all children are in school and learning.

The Government of India (GOI) formulated its National Policy on Child Labour in 1987. It launched the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 1988–1989, which aims to release child labourers from work and to rehabilitate them through the provision of education, nutrition, and basic health services. Karnataka is the only State in India that has introduced a scheme for the rehabilitation of child labourers funded by the State and vested in the State Labour Department.

Although the cottonseed industry has acknowledged the problem of child labour, this has not translated into serious and sustained attempts to address the issue. While the concern expressed and the priority given by the national and State governments are major steps forward, these have to be matched with more effective implementation on the ground. This means creating systems that are less rigid, that are more efficiently monitored, that are able to deliver standardized quality services, and that involve affected communities meaningfully to ensure a sense of ownership. Unresolved issues that need closer attention and urgent action emphasize the close link between child labour and education. These issues include poor quality of teaching in schools; poor monitoring of learning outcomes; poor or inadequate physical infrastructure of schools;

⁸The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933; the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

absenteeism among teachers; the lack of effective linkages to skills building; and lack of girls' access to higher education.

2.2 Programme/Project Results Planned

The **development objective** of the project was: "In cotton- and cottonseed-producing areas, children up to 14 years of age are not working and are in school."

The primary target groups of the project were:

- 7,092 children in the age group 6–14 years working in the cottonseed sector. The project will also address issues of child labour in other sectors after these have been identified through a baseline survey.
- 4,100 boys and girls in the age group 7–14 years who are out of school.⁹
- Adolescent girls in the age group 15–18 years who are outside the regular education system and who are in need of life-skills development.
- Families of 8,000 working and out-of-school children from vulnerable and marginalized social groups.

The secondary target groups of the project were:

- 270 youth groups and associations.
- Women and girls from SC/ST/minority sections and others who are vulnerable to violence and abuse.
- 685 PanchayatiRaj Institution (PRI) members, 60 talukpanchayats, 20 zillapanchayats, agricultural workers, seed companies.¹⁰
- 250 functionaries from the Departments of Labour, Women's Development and Child Welfare, Police, Rural Development, and Social Welfare based at the District, taluk, and village levels.

The development objectives were to be achieved by fulfilling the following four **outcomes**:

1. Establishing child protection structures to address child labour issues.
2. Making quality education available to all children in the age group 6–14 years.
3. Ensuring that families and communities take collective action for the protection and development of children.
4. Ensuring enhanced access to service providers and introducing social protection schemes for vulnerable families.

⁹Household Survey, Department of Labour, GOK, 2006.

¹⁰District Statistical Handbook, 2006–2007, GOK.

3. RESOURCES

Total Approved Budget by Funding Type and Amount in USD for the Project

Funding Type	Approved Programme Component Amount
Regular Resources (RR)	nil
Other Resources – Regular (ORR)	
Other Resources – Emergency (ORE)	nil
Total (RR and OR)	

Table 2

Summary of Available Resources by Funding Type, Donor, and Programmable Amount in USD

Type of Funding/ Donor Name	Programmable Amount
Regular Resources	
RR	nil
RR for OR	nil
Set-aside	nil
Other Resources	
Donor -German National Committee	
Total	

4. RESULTS

Koppal child protection programme completed five years of implementation. The programme emerged as a model District child protection programme in the State of Karnataka. The project contributed to the implementation of child protection programme in neighboring 10 Districts of North Karnataka. The good practices and lessons from Koppal programme were shared with Department of women and Child development (DWCD) – Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Department of Education, Sarva Shikshana Abhiyana (SSA), Department of Labour, Department of Police and all the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) during the Karnataka Legislative Assembly sessions in order to scale up the good practices throughout the State. Significant results achieved under different Outputs are given below:

OUTPUT 1: Establishing child protection structures to address child labour issues

Output 1.1: CP structures under labour (labour commissioner/inspector, enforcement officers) and ICPS/JJ (CWC, DCPUs, SJPU, CP Committees) in place, functioning at State, District, and panchayath level.

State Level

The State level structures of child protection like the State child protection unit, the selection committee for the selection of the members to the statutory bodies like the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child welfare Committees and inspection committees for institutional care are in place and functioning. The Juvenile Justice committee at the High court and the Gender Sensitization and Child friendly Police training unit at the State level are playing the monitoring and capacity building roles. The child rights resource centre in Mangalore and the Enfold proactive health trust in Bangalore act as resource teams to build capacities of the State level teams on child protection issues based on specific need assessments with the child protection work force. Development of child protection curriculum and advocacy with colleges of social work ensures adequately trained child protection work force for the sector. The specific achievements of the project are the following:

- 25 Districts of Karnataka have completed the situational analysis of children and preparation of District Protection Plan through the support given to Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD).
- Foster care guidelines are developed by DWCD by the support given to ICPS. These are adopted by NGOs.
- Supported DWCD and Education Department in developing Child Protection Policy for educational institutions. This school safety and prevention of child abuse policy is adopted by the cabinet of Government of Karnataka.
- Supported in developing Girl Child Policy for the State.
- Standard operating procedures for Child Welfare Committees were developed. Which are used for the capacity building of newly appointed CWC members through series of workshops and Trainings.
- Police personnel are trained by developing SJPU Training manual.
- Open house manual is developed based on the experience of Koppal CP programme, and distributed to all the police stations of the State.

- JJB Manual is prepared and members were trained on dealing with cases of children in conflict with law.
- Compiled the State level orders and circulars related to Child Protection by different departments into a compendium “*Nammellara Hone*” (Our Responsibility) for the easy reference of CP functionaries.
- Developed Adolescent empowerment manuals for teachers and children “*Chandada Baduku*” and used.
- Compiled the articles related to child rights and protection by the eminent persons of the State in Kannada “*Putta hejje saddu keli*” and English “*The impressions*” for the use of University/colleges.
- Supported DWCD and CSO partners on constant dialogue on amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) and sharing them with Union Government through organizing State level consultations.
- Developed the prototype multi-disciplinary intervention on dealing with child abuse cases and Collaborative child response units were piloted in three hospitals. Based on this experience One Stop Crisis Centers (OSCC) are setup in every District by the DWCD in Collaboration with Health, Police and Judiciary.
- Showcased Child Protection programmes in Karnataka with special focus on Koppal intervention to the German First Lady and also an UNICEF Ambassador.
- Observation of 25 year of CRC (Child Rights Convention) was organized across the State. It resulted in mass awareness on CRC. In Bangalore, Child safe city campaign roped in the police, the schools, the judiciary, Legal Services Authority and the civil society organizations and was sustained for a month.
- The annual review of the programme was done with DWCD every year. The Principal Secretary having realized the achievements of the project shared the learnings with the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and with all the heads of the District administration in all 30 Districts.
- In order to address the issues related to lack of trained professionals in the field of child protection, child protection curriculum was developed and diploma courses introduced in three colleges of social work in the State.
- The capacity building programme for the police personnel for women and child friendly policing was institutionalized and the department of Police has allocated six million rupees annually for this programme.
- Promoted convergent review and planning for child protection at regional level by bringing DCPU, SJPU, CWC, JJB, Departments of Labour, education and District administration of all Districts.
- Provided support to the High Court Committee on Child Marriage in organizing consultations and preparing Plan of action to prevent child marriage in the State

- Supported in setting up State level Child marriage prohibition cell at DWCD; training the CMPOs and other stakeholders; developing protocol on rescue and post rescue operation to prevent and prohibit child marriage at different levels.
- Facilitated Developing FAQs, handouts, posters, hoardings, stickers and manuals on Child labour, child marriage and trafficking.
- Supported in designing and implementing State level campaign against child marriage.
- Facilitated preparation of manual for Panchayat level Child Protection Committees based on the experience of Koppal CP programmes,
- Promoted a model for family based non-institutional alternative care for children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS (CABA) using the Koppal experience. Advocacy at the State level resulted in allocating 60 million rupees and setting up a tracking system for results by the State Government.
- Facilitated the regional interface of the groups promoting Community Child Protection Committees from the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Puduchery and Tamil Nadu to create a road map for the same using ICPS as a tool.

District Level

The District level child protection structures in the State including DCPUs, CWCs, JJBs and SJPU are set up and functional across the State. The project supported the recruitment and capacity building of these child protection structures and worked on the Standard Operating Procedures for these bodies. District level joint review and planning processes were facilitated and supported. The intervention in Koppal is being used as model for the capacity building and advocacy processes across the State. The specific achievements in Koppal District are the following:

- Linkage of more than 1,873 children in need of care and protection through different services of DCPU as a result of building the capacities of Staff of District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).
- The Child Red Alert (Telephonic alerts system) on child marriage, missing children, maternal deaths, infant deaths, severely anemic pregnant women, child malnutrition and children in need of care and protection emerged as replicable model. 4,023 cases were reported and responded through this system.
- Koppal Police Programme on child protection used as a model program for the proactive and lead role played by police to prevent abuse and exploitation of children and promote a conducive environment where children can grow and enjoy life without violence. 623 police personnel from Koppal District were trained on range of child protection issues. These interventions resulted in the following:

- A collaborative programme between police department and SSA resulted in organizing exposure visits for school children to police stations (Open House programme). Nearly 115,185 children participated in this programme which resulted in increased number of reporting of child abuse cases and reducing the fear inhibition about the police among children. Based on the findings of the feasibility of this programme, a manual is brought out, distributed to all the police stations in the State for extension. SSA and Police departments have jointly issued a circular to organized Open House programme throughout the State.
 - Police department actively participated in the enforcement of child marriage legislation. 446 mass marriage organizers were oriented by police.
 - Police officers handled 432 cases of children in difficult circumstances (79 cases are related to children in conflict with law, 138 cases on missing children ,101 cases related to protection of children from sexual offence and 117 other cases of care and protection) in child sensitive way.
 - 150 police officers were trained on Protection of Children from Sexual offence (POCSO) Act 2012 with the support of line departments and civil society organizations.
 - The sensitization of 50 judicial and legal officers on POCSO Act resulted in landmark judgment under this act by the Special Court. The accused was punished with imprisonment for life followed by other 5 similar judgments.
 - The special community sensitization programmes by the police department as per the Standing Order of the police department viz., the beat meetings, outreach programmes resulted increased referrals on child protection issues by the community.
 - Trained 1800 police staff in 12 Districts on range of child protection issues, role of SJPU and framework of ICPS. These programmes were organized in convergence with Police Training Schools.
 - Regular bi-monthly review of SJPU functioning is done throughout the State.
 - Child Protection issues became a major review point in monthly District level police department crime meetings.
- Established block and cluster level child labour enforcement teams and capacity building of 340 officers from line departments resulted in rescuing 390 children from hazardous work and booking 140 cases against employers on child labour, minimum wage, JJA and other related laws. This helped in strengthening implementation of National child labour project in the District.

- The IEC material on child protection issues was disseminated to Grama panchayaths, schools, Anganwadi centers and government officers. This resulted in quick referral of cases to CWC, JJB, SJPU, Child Line, DCPU and government departments by the public as well as various stakeholders. Number of cases presented before the CWC increased from an average 10 cases per month in 2010 to 120 cases per month in 2015.
- Enhanced the convergence between different departments in eliminating child labour, prevention of child marriage and other child protection issues due to the regular planning and review meetings with District officers, project team and NGOs under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner.
- Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj institutionalized Child Protection Committees (CPC) in 134 Grama Panchayaths with 5147 members in Koppal District. These committees actively involve in collecting and analyzing the data related to children, take convergent action with service providers at community level and monitor the different community based child protection systems. These committees played key role in solving 3173 child protection issues of various levels through motivation gained from the trainings. Based on this experience the State has issued a circular to form and functionalized CPC in every GP across the State as mandated under ICPS.
- Mass sensitization and capacity building of counselors and health functionaries about the right of the child for alternative family based care through sponsorship and foster care services for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS resulted in enrolling 945 children (CABA) under Vishesh Palan Yojana (Special Sponsorship/Foster care scheme) for special treatment, nutrition and education services.
- Regular news, articles, stories and incidents are reported by the media in a child sensitive manner in local and State media as a result of media sensitization workshop. Short film on child marriages was developed and broadcasted by the National Doordharsan.

Output 1.2: Monitoring systems to track and target at-risk children established and maintained

- The baseline survey revealed the data of 4,730 child labour/outside school children in the project area, its systematic show casing to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) resulted in strengthening rehabilitation by Government of Karnataka both in programmatic and financial support. This resulted in identifying and rehabilitation of out-of-school children in the consecutive years in collaboration with SSA.

- Supported NCLP in developing web enabled child track system for the rehabilitation of 1,050 children in Koppal District. This system was developed by Labour department, Government of Karnataka.
- The E-Just software developed and implemented by State Child Protection Unit under ICPS for monitoring the children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. The software and its implementation was show cased to the Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Justice and expected to be used in more States.

Output 1.3: Civil Society alliance established and actively partnering government efforts on child labour elimination

The State level alliance of civil society organizations under the Child Rights Observatory was strengthened in the region. In addition a network of NGOs working on child protection was strengthened including the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL). As the civil society network was already available, these were strengthened and worked in collaboration to strengthen the efforts to end child labour. The specific achievements under the output are the following;

- In 10 Districts of North Karnataka, a team of 40 Resource Persons on child protection issues are developed. The team members had phase wise training for 15 days. Through them, capacity development of CWC members, JJB social workers, DCPU members and civil society partners was undertaken. Nearly 400 members were trained on range of child protection issues.
- In order to strengthen the Child Protection activities at North Karnataka, Civil Society Alliances viz., Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO), Karnataka Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KCPCR) are supported. Mass awareness campaigns were organized through civil society organizations in North Karnataka on the issues of child labour, child marriage and adolescent empowerment.
- Supported Universities in initiating courses on child protection. It resulted in Bijapur University and Roshni Nilaya School of social work Starting a Post Graduation Diploma/Certificate Course on child protection. Roshni Nilaya and Christ University have added child rights and child protection in their social work education curriculum.
- Initiated formation of North Karnataka Child Rights Consortium with both Government and Non-Government Organizations.
- Children of Devdasis were rehabilitated through the support of NGOs and CBOs.
- Twenty three thousand SHGs are made Child labour and child marriage free women groups at Bidar District through mass campaign.

- District level resource teams are prepared on Child protection in 6 Districts of North Karnataka.

Output 1.4: Convergent State and District Plans against child labour

- Supported DCPUs of 25 Districts in developing District Child Protection Plans.
- Supported State Labour Department to organize the World Day Against Child Labour and child labour rehabilitation. District Action Plan for child labour elimination was developed for Koppal.
- Efforts are made to strengthen convergent action for child protection through convergence workshop with direct stakeholders in 6 Districts viz., Bidar, Kalburgi, Raichur, Vijayapura, Bagalkote and Gadag.
- Based on the experiences of Koppal and Raichur to create Child rights clubs at schools and Child Protections committees at Grama Panchayats workshops were conducted with School Head masters and Panchayat Development Officers in 5 child marriage vulnerable Districts of North Karnataka.

Output 1.5: Advocacy platforms strengthened for the amendment of Child Labour Law to include prohibition of child labor in Agriculture

- Organized workshops on amendment of Child Labour (prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986. Signature campaign and awareness rallies were supported. The Central Advisory Committee has considered the changes suggested by the project to prohibit children working in agriculture sector.
- **Systematic advocacy on enforcement of CLPR Act and convergence workshop in Raichur motivated District enforcement officers along with District administration to file 26 cases of transporting children for agriculture related works, arrested the perpetrators and a fine of nearly Rs.16 lakhs was collected.**
- Consultations on Child labour prohibition and regulation bill 2014 were held and recommendations were made by the State and civil society organization.
- Based on Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006, developed protocols to mass marriage organizers, issuing age certificate, printing press, temple committees and DTP operators.
- Mass awareness and study on effects of migration on children resulted in extending 100 working days to 150 days under NREG scheme for Koppal District by the department of RDPR. Simultaneous clear instructions are given for No child labour in NREG Scheme.
- The advocacy with Koppal Zilla Panchayat resulted in discussing Child Protection issues in Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meetings.
- The experiences of Koppal were used in developing National level Action Plan for prohibition of child marriage.

- Systematic advocacy with National mission on Empowerment of Women resulted in supporting the strengthening of the Devadasi collectives in Koppal and protecting their children from getting into commercial sex work.
- Elected representatives are able to handle issues like child labour, child marriage, drop-outs, HIV/AIDS, out of school, children of devdasis, Trafficking, child abuse etc on their own and have handled 549 child protection cases.

Output 2: Quality education available for all children 6-14 years

Output 2.1: At least 50 percent of all 988 primary schools and upper primary schools providing quality, child friendly education increasing enrollment, retention and preventing drop outs.

The interventions in the schools focused on teacher training and providing additional support for students. All the schools in the District were covered and school development and management committees were constituted and strengthened to demand for quality education and to improve community participation.

- 862 government school teachers from 466 schools are trained on quality education with the support of State Education Training Institute. The focus of training was on class room transactions, child friendly teaching methods and leadership aspects. This resulted in teachers delivering quality education.
- The pass percentage of grade 10 children enhanced in Koppal District from 54% to 83.5% (2010 to 2014) as a result of the Support extended to education department in developing a District plan for improving the performance of 10 grade children. This resulted in education department coming with interface of children with subject experts, radio programmes, additional educational support programmes for grade 10 children. 68,000 children were covered through these programmes (14,000 children in 2010-11, 16,000 children in 2011-12, 17,000 children in 2012-13 and 19,000 children in 2013-14).
- Programmes for improving school water and sanitation were organized in 800 schools with active participation of Grama Panchayath institutions. It resulted in promoting 511 working toilets and solving drinking water problem in 473 schools.
- Enrollment and retention has been improved by 84 Percentage and school dropout has been decrease by 78% in the project area (515 Schools) through the intervention of child right clubs (CRCs) formed in 800 schools. It also promoted child participation in school planning, distribution of education materials, mid-day meal and bringing back out of school children and referring the cases of child marriage to help lines. Education Department has issued a State level circular for forming the Child rights club in all government and private schools.

- Child Rights Clubs have identified 7799 issues related to child protection and raised them to Grama Panchayat at various local forums.

Output 2.2 Transitional programmes/bridge schooling for child labourers and other out-of school children up to 14 years in place to mainstream into education

- Through a convergent effort of enforcement drives by departments of education, labour, police, RDPR, Revenue, CBOs, NGOs and local administration as well as change of social norms through mobilization of community institutions 13,925 children are rescued and mainstreamed to education through NCLP/SSA bridge Centers.
- Prevented the migration of nearly 5581 children from 2872 migrating families of draught prone area by ensuring their retention in the school with the support of SSA.
- 10,202 children are able to continue education through the educational support provided in the form of educational material of books, bags, transport facility, school/college fee based on the project criteria (need based, single parent, BPL, orphan, Devadasi)

Output 2.3: Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent Teacher Association (PTAs), and Panchayath Raj Institutions (PRIs) monitoring and supporting universal quality education

- 800 SDMCs take responsibility to retain children in school and address the issue of child labour especially in agriculture sector. SDMCs conduct regular meetings and discuss issues related to school management and quality education as motivated in the SDMC training to 5686 members.
- 1730 Grama Panchayath members are trained at different phase on child rights, right to education and child protection issues.

Output 2.4: Preventing drop outs of girls from school through Strengthened Early Childhood Education

- Supported the DWCD to develop a comprehensive plan to address the issue of 45,000 children out of 110000 beneficiaries of ICDS, who are reported as severely and moderately malnourished in Koppal District. Community Mobilization, supporting through health department, home visits and sensitization of the families and intervention through child red alert resulted in improving the status of more than 15,000 children

- Supported 1,218 Anganwadis in enrollment of 6,129 children (57 children enrolled in 2010, 625 in 2011, 1235 in 2012, 1225 in 2013, 1996 in 2014 and 991 in 2015) into Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes. The sensitization of Anganwadi workers, school teachers and community resulted in enrollment of nearly 16,000 children into Grade1 from Anganwadi centers.
- The sensitization of communities on need of birth registration resulted in the birth registration of 2,496 children. District had reported 88% birth registration as per DLHS4.
- Bala Vikasa Samithi has been strengthened through facilitating 6,238 regular meetings by the community animators with the support of Anganwadi workers to monitor the quality of services of ICDS.
- The intervention on malnutrition has taken a campaign mode. The special new born care unit (SNCU) was set up in District hospital.

Output 2.5: Evidence based advocacy for effective targeting and utilization of resources for education of excluded children

- Advocacy and community mobilization on enrollment of children from excluded communities' viz., Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minority and Backward Class to SC/ST/BCM hostels as their right has resulted in enrolling 1660 children from these communities into government hostels.

Output 3: Ensuring that families and communities take collective action for the protection and development of children.

Output 3.1: Parents aware of harm caused in sending children to work and send their children to school

- 300 different stakeholders like Religious leaders, elected representatives, officials, key influencers and children spoke in 180 weekly episodes in FM Radio on prevention of child labour, child marriage and different child protection issues. This has resulted in reporting nearly 4000 cases of child protection through help line and other systems.
- Mass mobilization through range of communication materials viz., pamphlets, leaflets posters, banners, wall writings and hoardings strengthened convergence of stakeholders from community to block and District level in reducing child labour, child marriage, increase in reporting and enrollment. These interventions supported in declaring 45 villages as *child labour free*.
- Mass awareness programmes such as World Day against Child Labour on June 12, Child Rights Convention (CRC) week programmes in November were organized which reached more than 199,000 people on child protection issues.

- Awareness programmes through exhibition stalls organized in village festivals, gatherings and public programmes. Signature campaign and oath taking programs organized. The Labour Minister of Karnataka participated in sign banner campaign in Koppal on 20 November 2014 on the event of CRC 25 year celebration.

Output 3.2: Adolescents, especially girls and women networked and empowerment to monitor and tackle child rights violations and protect children’s rights, in particular the right to education and to protection.

- Nearly 35,800 Sensitized Adolescent girls from 504 villages have emerged as informants, community norm changers and change agents in the community and the family through 926 girls’ collectives. These girls’ collectives have given an undertaking to the Deputy Commissioner on “*no to marriage before 18 years*” and succeeded in preventing 907 child marriages along with other stakeholders. Anaganwadi Workers facilitate adolescent girls meet twice a month.
- 50,000 children endorsed to the Deputy Commissioner through a letter “No child labour and No Child Marriage” as part of anti child labour and child marriage prohibition campaign. It resulted in awareness building on preventing child marriages and child labour. More than 1000 cases are referred by these children on child labour and child marriages to authorities.
- To build the sustainability for the community based child protection 926 adolescent girls collectives and children from 93 High Schools from 90 GPs were strengthened through life skill education titled “Chandada Baduku (Beautiful life)”.
- 765 adolescent boys and girls rehabilitated from child labour/child marriage through skill development in garment making, motor rewinding/repairing, mobile phone repairing etc. contribute to build a child labour/child marriage free family by enhancing family income and support the education of their siblings.

Output 3.3: Community leaders, including PRIs take active role in monitoring child rights issues and take action for preventing child labour

- Elected representative and local leaders actively participate and independently take action in bringing back children to school, child protection committee meetings, monitoring of schools and Anganwadies after the training on child protection issues with special focus on child labour elimination and right to education.
- As envisioned by State government Department of RDPR to own the responsibility of education and child protection by local government, 134 Grama Panchayats effectively conducted children Gramsabhas wherein 7799 issues

raised by children and community of which 3173 issues were attended and solved in 515 Children Gramsabhas from last 5 years. Thus it has emerged as one of the regular practice/strategy to take ownership by the Grama Panchayats (Local governance) for child development and protection.

- Supported 1073 children with disability mainstreaming and bringing them to child protection safety-net.

Output 3.4: Advocacy towards farmers, trade unions, seed companies for child labour free farming

- 102,039 farmers endorsed in writing to the deputy commissioner saying no to child labour in their farm and agriculture which has resulted in reduction in child labour and increased enrollment rate in schools which has been continued by the labour department through NCLP
- Strengthened the practice of social norms by displaying permanent steel board in their farm on “No Child labour” which regularly alerts farmers and community on child labour.
- The norm of “No Child labour” of Multi-national/local Seed companies was ensured of implementation by sensitizing companies, subcontractors and farmers and brought child labour near to Zero.
- Sensitized the trade unions and farmers’ groups to own-up responsibility of child protection which resulted in 70 leading farmers openly speaking on child protection issues in AIR and other forums.

Outcome 4: Enhanced access to service providers and social protection schemes for vulnerable families

Output 4.1: Social protection schemes evaluated/assessed and modified/adopted to explicitly target vulnerable families, including those having children engaged in child labour.

- 9211 vulnerable families were identified through socio-economic survey and presented to various departments for needful action.
- Supported NGOs for rehabilitation of devadasi families with special focus on education support and livelihood promotion activities.

Output 4.2: Increased awareness among families on social protection schemes and public services

- More than 536 Gram Sabhas were organized and awareness created on social protection schemes and services.
- Supported the Zilla Panchayats in total sanitation campaign and building the individual toilets.
- The families and communities were sensitized and supported on various social security schemes of different departments; as a result people are able to claim the benefits as their right from concerned departments and duty bearers. During the project period 4,095 families benefited from various schemes.

Output 4.3: Systems set up to monitor and link vulnerable families to social protection schemes and services

- More than 4,095 families whose children were engaged in labour availed the benefits of social security schemes viz., pension, food security under public distribution system, employment under NREG, skill development, housing etc during the project period.

Output 4.4: Partnerships in place to link Self Help Groups (SHGs) to economic and livelihood programmes

- 1288 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 12434 women are involved in savings (Rs.6.5 million), internal credit (Rs.5.6 million) and bank linkages. The sustainability of the intervention is ensured by linking the SHGs to livelihood development programme under NRLM and National Women Corporation.

5. CONSTRAINTS

- Continuity and sustainability of the convergence mechanism at the Grama Panchayat to District level for a long term.
- Maintaining the political will of the elected representatives for Child protection from Grama Panchayat to State level.
- Vacancies, constant turnover/transfers of duty bearers at different levels
- Regional disparities in development, Cultural beliefs, traditions practices/rituals.
- Lack of conviction in accepting children as decisive factors in Human development Index at various level by different stakeholders.
- Inadequate rain fall and crop failures leading to draught which is a major push factor for migration.

6. ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Child protection mechanisms are in place and functional in the District:**

District child protection Unit is functioning on Public Private Partnership and convergence mode. All District child protection structures such as CWC, JJB, SJPU, OSCC are in place. Regular review of child protection intervention is done by the District administration. Community based child protection structures such as Child protection committee, SDMC, Bala Vikasa Samithi are in place and functional. These bodies own responsibility for the protection of children in the community in collaboration with CBOs such as women groups, youth groups and religious/cultural institutions. This has resulted in declaring 45 villages' child labour free and no child marriage.

- **Paradigm shift towards child protection safety net through convergent action:**

The elected representatives of Grama Panchayat are convinced of shifting the focus from mere infrastructural development to human development, by primarily focusing on aspects of survival, development, protection and participation of children. 134 Child protection committees have institutionalized children grama sabha, solved 3173 child protection issues raised by children and discuss child protection in local governance.

- **Strengthened social norms and enforcement mechanisms:**

Advocacy for change of social and cultural norms on practice of child marriage, child labour, and education resulted in initiatives by the families and communities on their own to prevent child labour and child marriage and send the children to schools. Different strategies with religious/political/community leaders and use of media succeeded in convincing people to bring about and sustain changed social/cultural norms.

- **Significant reduction in the incidence of Child labour and child marriage:**

Trainings and consultation with stakeholders, mass awareness, rescue programmes and enforcement drives have significantly reduced the incidence of child labour and child marriage in the District. As per SSA reports out of school children has reduced from 6969 in 2010-11 to 1004 in 2015-16 and child marriage has reduced from 41.5% in 2007-08 to 14.3% in 2012-13 as per DLHS report. Landmark judgment from Karnataka High Court declaring child marriage prohibition Act 2006 as "*secular legislation*" boosted the efforts of preventing child marriage in the District.

- **Reduced vulnerability among families through right based programs:**

Identification of vulnerable families, promotion of SHGs, Linkage to social security schemes, enhancing employability has reduced the vulnerability of 12,434 families from allowing the children to fall into difficult circumstance. Awareness on child labour, child marriage, trafficking and child abuse alerted the children, youth, women and community representatives in crating protective net for children.

- **Child protection through child participation:**

Children are equipped with strategies for their protection by active participation and holding the duty bearers accountable through 900 child right clubs, 1200 balika Sangas, 503 Children grama sabhas etc. Child participation enabled promoting child friendly schools, child safety environment in the community and violence free adolescence by identifying, reporting and collective action.

7. LESSONS LEARNT:

- **Implementation through District Administration:** Implementation of the project through the District administration helped in standard procedures in designing, capacity building, implementing and financial administration. Convergence for effective child protection between various departments was enabled as administrative head (Deputy Commissioner) was the implementing authority for the project. When a programmatic intervention is set up in a regular administrative system it gets institutionalized and sustained for a longer duration.
- **Convergence mode of operation:** Convergence mode of functioning at the community/Panchayat level among all service providers enabled for a single window system of dealing with child protection issue and bringing a large number of children within the safety net of child protection. This strategy is workable at block, District and State level. ICPS too advocates this mode of convergence for effective implementation.
- **Participatory Method of implementation:** Children as primary stakeholders of the project participated in expressing opinions and decision making for the development and change. Participation of the community, elected representatives, service providers, CSOs, Administrative wing, and policy makers created a platform and relevant strategies for child protection as evident from the systems of child protection and its functioning.

8. SUSTAINABILITY:

- **Child protection committee to GP:** Effective community based child protection is the key of preventing children falling away from safety net. Panchayat level Child Protection committees represented by different stakeholders and its effective functioning will ascertain protecting children from real and perceived danger. Basically it will create a child protective environment that will help in preventing abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence on children.
- **Participation of the community for sustainability of educational efforts:** SDMCs in the schools, Bal vikasa Samithis in Anganvadi, Youth groups, Balika Sangas, Child right clubs will collaborate and work for sustaining quality

education in schools and preventing drop-out of children from main stream education.

- **Linkage of SHG to NRLM:** Intervention to strengthen families to reduce vulnerability of children through SHGs is sustained by linking these groups to NRLM of department of RDPR. As SHGs are one of the representatives in Child protection committee they own responsibility of prevention of Child marriage and child labour in their own family and monitor it in their neighbourhood.
- **Incorporating child protection interventions into State System:** The Child Protection interventions will be sustained as they are already incorporated into regular systems in the State.
 - Child protection interventions such as child help line, family based alternative care such as sponsorship, foster care, special scheme for CABA, Institutional care for children in need of care and protection, Statutory bodies of JJ System are already institutionalized under ICPS.
 - Child protection committee, Children Grama Sabha, special programme for migrating families are institutionalized under Department of RDPR;
 - Child right clubs, SDMC, Teachers capacity enhancement programme are institutionalized under Education department;
 - Red Alert, Balika Sanga and Anti Trafficking Committees are institutionalized under DWCD.
 - Relevant documents on protocols and procedures developed for prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of child protection issues are now owned and in use by respective departments.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

10. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF is grateful for the support provided by the German National Committee. As Koppal Child Protection intervention has demonstrated replicable model for the State and Country and provided opportunity for field based learning; the Child protection workforce of the State, District and community along with families and children of the project area keep on record the possibilities made by this project. This unique project with feasible strategies and methodologies will work as catalyst in process of bringing about child friendly policies, legislations, programmes and systems in the coming days to provide comprehensive protection to children against abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence and unnecessary separation from families.