



# Rajasthan Hotspot Annual Report

## 2018



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## 1. Operating Context

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During 2018, three major developments affected the work. Firstly, the state elections in Rajasthan in November resulted in a change of government, thereby causing major shifts in official responsibilities. These shifts led to changing dynamics regarding support for the program. Sometimes we needed to start over in building relationships, and other times it brought familiar officials into new positions where they could continue to collaborate.

Secondly, although the Trafficking of Persons Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Parliament), it was not given time in the Rajya Sabha (upper house). This delay in passage of the Bill means that critical provisions that would support the objectives of the program are not yet in place. These included provisions related to punishments for renting premises used for trafficking as well as sealing workshops after raids. Having these legal enforcement mechanisms in place would help persuade property owners not to rent space to individuals running workshops with trafficked children. The Bill also provides punishments for “omission of duty”, which would help to tackle any cases of police corruption. Lastly, it promotes video conferencing of testimony for inter-state cases, which would reduce the current challenges of bringing children back to Jaipur from their home places in Bihar to testify in cases.

Thirdly, after the social audit report carried out by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on shelter homes in Bihar came out in May 2018, including very serious findings of abuse at 14 homes, the Bihar government has been under tremendous pressure. The crisis required the attention of Bihar government officials, leaving them less able to engage with the smooth repatriation of trafficked children back to Bihar.



## 2. Progress towards systems change

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The first year of the project started with significant momentum: building strong relationships with district and state-level governments, local Jaipur businesses and community members to elevate the issue of child labour and develop a shared agenda. With full implementation of the Initiative beginning in July 2018, the Initiative laid the groundwork for reducing the number of workshops in Jaipur using child labour, strengthening systems for increased care for survivors, and developing a demand for child labour free supply chains. Finally, the year ended with the launch of the Child Labour Free Jaipur (CLFJ) [website](#).

Local Jaipur businesses came forward to serve as champions on the issue of reducing child labour in supply chains, including forming a Business Advisory Group. A number of prominent business people have publicly endorsed CLFJ, including the heads of the Federation of Rajasthan Handicrafts Exporters (FORHEX) and Jaipur Bloc, which together make up over 170 businesses. After intensive outreach, seven businesses have signed up for a pilot benchmarking process, a precursor to having our partner GoodWeave certify their supply chains as child labour free. **Three international retailers and one exporter have already signed agreements to be certified, and many more are in the pipeline.** Through this initial success, there is strong momentum to rapidly expand the volume of child labour free products exported from Jaipur that reach the international marketplace. Through CLFJ partner Industree, women are being mobilised to form their own Producer Companies, empowering them within the supply chains and supplementing the flow of child labour free products.

In terms of government leadership, **the Juvenile Justice Committee is addressing child labour as a priority, for the first time ever. After intensive collaboration, the CLFJ team also successfully re-activated the Jaipur District Child Labour Task Force that had been formed in 2014 but had not met in 4 years.** High-level district officials, including the District Magistrate, the second-in-command of the Rajasthan police force, the Labour Commissioner, and senior officials at the Department of Child Rights have all publicly endorsed CLFJ. They called for top priority improvements such as increasing rescues; the sealing of child labour workshops after raids; ensuring children's testimony is recorded soon after rescue to use in prosecuting traffickers; increasing the care of rescued children by strengthening their access to compensation and implementing more child-friendly procedures. High-level representatives of both the Bihar and Rajasthan governments came together to publicly announce their commitment to work together to smoothen the rescue and repatriation process.

Strong links have been made with the local police, including the Director General of Police, to increase rescues, with 189 children being rescued from July - December 2018. A major gap in documentation of children has been filled through developing and operating a digital data desk, with a dedicated Management Information Systems Officer, which will make it easier for children to rapidly access compensation, thereby reducing the risk of re-trafficking.

Community mobilisation work, to promote large-scale resistance to child labour is well underway, with more than 2,000 community members being mobilised by CLFJ partner, LEDS. CLFJ partners have been training local police and railway officials to better identify and intervene with children being trafficked through the railways and on creating the strong evidence reports needed to successfully prosecute traffickers.

The second half of 2018 saw intensive preparation work leading to the public launch of a multi-pronged marketing campaign, with the objective of reaching government, business, local Jaipur residents, and tourists. This included the launch of the Child Labour Free Jaipur [website](#), and the production of a 40-second



promotional video, followed by an outdoor site campaign (billboards, bus shelters and unipoles) in January in 16 locations and three at the Jaipur International Airport. The public launch of CLFJ took place on 18 January 2019, featuring top-level government and business representatives as guest speakers, and on 27 January, CLFJ hosted a panel on child labour at the Jaipur Literature Festival, a prominent platform attracting local and international visitors. **CLFJ events in January and February 2019 received over 90 pieces of coverage in the media, including national and local papers, online outlets and news channels.** In the months following, community outreach included 120 street play performances, 50 school presentations, distribution of 30,000 posters and stickers, and a mobile van canvassing neighbourhoods.



### 3. Hotspot Outputs & Outcomes

#### Hotspot Outcome 1: Business mobilisation

A central strategy for Child Labour Free Jaipur is to strongly promote Jaipur's child labour free creative industries in order to expand adult skilled labour opportunities and to incentivise improved practices by businesses. This goes hand in hand with the city's determined enforcement actions against illegal businesses that exploit children and threaten future prosperity.

**Conducting business supply chain research to understand the landscape:** During 2018, The Freedom Fund commissioned independent research on the drivers of child labour in the apparel, gemstone polishing and bangle sectors. Launched in November 2018, the report guided the program towards the sectors where greater supply chain responsibility can help reduce child labour and those sectors where a greater emphasis is needed on enforcement approaches.

**Building support among local Jaipur businesses:** Strong partnerships have emerged with the Federation of Rajasthan Handicrafts Exporters (FORHEX), which has 150 member companies, and Jaipur Bloc, with 20 eco-friendly textile businesses. A Business Advisory Group has been formed so that business leaders from key craft sectors can guide the direction of the work and reach out to the larger business community. A number of prominent business people served as guest speakers at the 18 January 2019 public launch of the Initiative (see photo below).



*Photo: Business and government leaders unveiling the CLFJ logo at 18 January 2019 public launch event.*

**Third-party certification of supply chains as child labour free:** Our partner **GoodWeave India** carried out intensive outreach to local businesses, targeting 438 Jaipur businesses that are operating in the project's target sectors: home textiles, carpets, apparel, and fashion jewellery. GoodWeave and The Freedom Fund have met with 182 businesses, providing them information about the option of third-party

child labour free certification as well as other ways to support the project. Importantly, through this outreach, the Initiative has catalysed the business community to consider its responsibility towards their outsourced supply chains and how to ensure the full supply chain is child labour free.

In order to demonstrate the benefits to businesses of rigorous tracking of their supply chains, GoodWeave launched a four-month supply chain mapping and benchmarking process for businesses in Jaipur, so companies can gain better visibility of their sub-contracting and see where there may be risks of child labour.

GoodWeave agreed with seven businesses to conduct this benchmarking, including apparel and home textile businesses that sell to domestic and export markets. One of these, **Rangotri**, is a leading exporter, and

since the owner also serves as the chairperson of Jaipur Bloc, a reputed association of home textile manufacturers, the partnership could motivate other Jaipur Bloc companies to join the initiative.



*Photo: Rangotri owners, pioneering supply chain mapping with Goodweave*

**GoodWeave International** signed a license agreement with two UK-based home textiles brands sourcing from Jaipur-based exporters as well as a major US retailer. A Jaipur-based exporter regularly selling to one of these has also signed on as a licensee, with three more in process. A major UK department store is also coming on board, which will bring another set of exporters into the program in Jaipur. This is in addition to GoodWeave's several current licensees that source from Jaipur, including Target. Goodweave is also exploring with Monsoon Accessorise, C&A, Gap and other smaller licensees ways to expand their partnership to bring more child labour free trade to Jaipur.

Starting work in Jaipur has been a good opportunity for GoodWeave International and GoodWeave India to adapt their long-standing rug certification for these other sectors. Their modified framework includes revised monitoring and oversight systems, licensing and certification mechanisms, and an introductory fee structure.

GoodWeave India has gained new insights on the key trigger points that shape business opinions in favour of certifying their supply chains and has integrated these within their marketing strategy. These advantages for businesses include:

- Showcasing certification and improved transparency with the clients of the business can help it to bring in new business;
- Confidence regarding compliance with local laws and improved documentation of supply chains can lead to expanded domestic and international orders - in part because businesses can show the full production capacity of their supply chain;
- Better understanding of relevant government policies;
- Increased worker retention and loyalty because they feel more comfortable sharing concerns; and
- Increased brand visibility in the international market.

Alongside this work with businesses, GoodWeave's social program team has identified urban clusters in and around the industrial areas of Jaipur in preparation for launching a comprehensive program for at-risk children. The objective is to align the preventive approach of GoodWeave's current Child Friendly Community Program (CFC) with the overall Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative. During GoodWeave India's preliminary survey in the communities, staff noted that there is a need for a strong child labour prevention program that can help at-risk children to successfully join the formal education system.

**Empowering a women-led workforce to produce child-labour free products:** CLFJ partner Industree, in collaboration with SEWA Bharat, is mobilising women in the target neighbourhoods into self-help groups (SHGs) for training – with a view to forming Producer Companies.

The interest shown by the women in the target areas is a positive sign of progress. 367 women have participated in either self-help groups or other community meetings, and 1 youth club has been formed with participation from 68 youths. After initial scoping, Industree has shifted its model of setting up a large unit to



establishing smaller units of 10-12 members each. This shift allows for a larger number of units that are in closer proximity to the homes of the producers, for ease of access.

Women will be trained on production skills, financial literacy, women's empowerment, and other topics. Industree has developed a child labour module that will be used with SHGs. An added benefit is that Industree will now use this child labour module in its training in other parts of the country.

Identifying products that are likely to succeed in the market is crucial: Industree has researched tie and dye, natural lac and aari taari<sup>1</sup>, and so far lac product designs have been developed, including through a design development workshop with Mr. Awaz Mohammad, a national awardee for lac products. The ten lac products developed have received a high level of exposure including the Christmas ornament products and games which have been displayed at the India Pavillion fair, the world's largest trade fair with a focus on consumer goods.

Industree is reaching out to businesses to stimulate purchases of products developed by the women in the SHGs. Products were showcased in the International Gifts and Handicrafts Fair in October in New Delhi, and conversations are underway with a number of businesses.

**Business Mobilisation Challenges:** Industree's work to organise neighbourhood women into SHGs was disrupted by the election and the communal tensions which resulted in a curfew. Also, for Industree, setting up new staffing and arranging collaboration with SEWA Bharat in Jaipur has taken time.

In some cases, GoodWeave had difficulties enabling businesses to see the value of ensuring child labour-free supply chains and how a credible certification system can help their operations and revenue. Many businesses still felt that their responsibility is limited to their main factory premises. However, GoodWeave's strategy of offering supply chain mapping and benchmarking has helped businesses to see the advantages and is building commitment towards certification.

## Hotspot Outcome 2: Multi-stakeholder mobilisation for a child labour free Jaipur

A second strategy of the Initiative is to bring together key government bodies to take rigorous action against illegal workshops that exploit children and to improve care and restoration of the child labourers. At the same time, residents in the targeted neighbourhoods are organising together so that local families can protect their own children and can prevent the functioning of child trafficking around them. During 2018, the Initiative identified several key measures to improve support for the children and several that would radically enhance deterrence against child exploitation in Jaipur. Many of these measures are now starting to be implemented through directives by the relevant committees and senior government leadership.

**Activation and reformation of the District Child Labour Task Force:** Through the efforts of the CLFJ Initiative, the Task Force met for the first time in July 2018, after 4 years of dormancy. Since then, the Task Force has been active, with productive meetings, especially since January 2019. The committee is working to address all the challenges in tackling child trafficking and child labour, including the recording of the children's testimony before they return to their home areas (164 statements), the sealing of workshops after raids, the formation of a sub-committee on rescues and preventive actions, carrying out tenant verification of workshop premises, and medical examinations of rescued children. The District Magistrate has ordered a more child-friendly policy for taking statements of rescued child labourers: instead of requiring them to come

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<sup>1</sup> Natural lac is a traditional product used to fix semi-precious stones and glass onto jewellery and other decorative products. Aari-taari is a local method of embroidery.

to a government office, the Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) must now visit the children in the shelter homes. This policy change has already been put in practice. There has been a clear shift from The Freedom Fund needing to raise all the key points for the agenda of the Task Force to the members themselves taking ownership of the issues and pushing them forward. For example, in a recent meeting, the Assistant Labour Commissioner proactively explained the need for proper recording of 164 statements and sealing of workshops.

**Strengthening identification and rescues:** In the first half of 2018, before the project began implementation, there were very few rescues. But as civil society and government bodies began working together, despite the Rajasthan elections, a much higher number of rescues took place. Our partner Prayas was particularly active in working with police (including the Director General of Police) to encourage special rescue operations. Prayas has staff dedicated to visiting the highly-affected areas to collect information about workshops, and our partner Taabar also maintains an information network in these areas. Prayas and Taabar as well as Childline, BBA and other NGOs ensured that 339 children were rescued through 82 police rescue operations in 2018, with CLFJ Initiative focusing both on the number of rescues as well as the quality of care for all those rescued. With clear senior government commitment, the Rajasthan police recently publicly stated its commitment to removing child labour through a tweet.



#### **Interventions to strengthen data accuracy and documentation of rescued children:**

In the first half of 2018, a large amount of effort went into resolving the major gaps in maintaining complete and accurate records for rescued children and ensuring they are repatriated with all the necessary documents to immediately apply for compensation. After having overcome the backlog of data gaps, the CLFJ Initiative, through the Centre for Child Protection (CCP), set up a digital data desk at the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Jaipur. A full-time staff person was recruited to ensure soft copies of all the rescued children's required documents are kept. This Management Information Systems (MIS) officer, supervised by CCP staff, now prepares the list of rescued children, checks whether the required documents have been submitted to CWC by the shelter homes, and follows up if there are any documents missing. The MIS officer provides status updates to the CWC.



*Photo: District Magistrate and other officials at the railway station in Jaipur, sending off 138 children being repatriated back to Bihar, with 100% of documentation needed to apply for compensation.*

Establishing this process took multiple meetings between the CWC, Department of Child Rights, The Freedom Fund and shelter homes. As a result of the new, streamlined process, for the first time ever, in

January 2019, 138 rescued children were repatriated to their home state of Bihar and 100% of the documentation they need to apply for compensation was simultaneously handed over on a pen drive. A special team accompanied the children and provided the soft copies of their documentation to the Bihar government departments. The fact that the data was delivered in digital format will also speed up the process of releasing compensation by the District Legal Services Authority in Jaipur, as well as entry into the Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS) in Bihar. 76 of these children have already been entered into the CLTS system, thereby linking them with their rehabilitation entitlements.

**Improving and increasing prosecutions of child labour cases:** Many accused of trafficking have been arrested over the years, but convictions are lacking. Clear legal documentation is needed to successfully prosecute cases. CLFJ Initiative, in collaboration with our partner, Sardar Patel University of Police Centre for Child Protection (CCP) conducted a three-day training in December 2018, especially for Investigation Officers and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) personnel. The main objectives were: to strengthen skills in writing strong reports for case filing; gathering proper evidence; and completing charge sheets that show all the relevant crimes committed. Twenty-four participants included Investigation Officers, Child Welfare Police Officers, as well as representatives of AHTU who came from the five major source districts in Bihar for trafficked children.

The following points were also agreed to strengthen interstate police coordination:

- Bihar district police should be informed of children's return, so they can do monthly visits to their home to reduce the risk of re-trafficking;
- A dossier should be opened of local middlemen in Jaipur, and a copy should be sent to police stations in Bihar so that Bihar police can take actions against them;
- The railway police should identify children while they are being trafficked by train in the source districts.

In addition, senior police have now issued an order to get each rescued child's statement recorded, after proper counselling, before they go back to Bihar. With the efforts of CLFJ partner Taabar, this practice has begun.

**The Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) plays an active role in CLFJ:** Through the efforts of CLFJ, the JJC took up the specific issue of child labour, which was unprecedented. After the August consultation in which the JJC agreed to intervene on a number of fronts, they have been consistently following through to ensure progress. The JJC has developed a monitoring framework and started conducting quarterly review meetings of the concerned departments. In the last six months, JJC has conducted two joint reviews of five key departments. As a result, departments made some important commitments including specifying the role of the District Child Labour Task Force and inter-state working arrangements. The impact of the JJC's interventions are visible. For example, the Rajasthan Legal Services Authority has been proactively reaching out to shelter homes to make arrangements for victim compensation. The JJC has officially endorsed the CLFJ Initiative and provided its consent to be part of it.

**Strengthening support for survivors:** Coordination among numerous Freedom Fund NGO partners is underway for the monitoring and tracking of children repatriated to Bihar from Jaipur. In February 2018, CLFJ partner, Centre Direct, conducted a camp for families in Gaya, Bihar and within three months, 300 people received compensation and support through government schemes. In March, a workshop was conducted with Bihar partners to develop a common process for strengthening rehabilitation, including developing agreed follow-up tracking forms. The responsibility of follow-up for each of the repatriated children has been distributed, based on district, to project partners. The Bihar Labour Department signed an MOU with our partner Prayas, making them responsible for two special homes, with a capacity of 100 people each, to keep

children for a year, with the aim of in-depth skills training. This investment in the skills of older adolescents will help prevent their re-trafficking.

With new funding through the program, Taabar has introduced additional child-friendly activities at its shelter home, including designating additional counselling rooms where children demonstrate their creative activities with the help of an arts/crafts teacher and theatre teacher who regularly work with the children. The children are also learning theatre and are performing on public platforms including a recent performance at the Jaipur central station on child rights, where the Divisional Railway Manager attended and personally greeted them. Taabar has conducted a workshop for its staff on documentation for the children, how to be effective in their roles, and working with children with various forms of art.

Prayas's advocacy around the use of railway funds to assist children rescued at railways has also resulted in a tangible outcome. The Ministry of Railway has issued a circular for stationmasters across the country allowing use of station funds for meeting child protection expenses at stations. Prayas also trained 273 railway stakeholders on how to identify and deal with cases of child labour and child trafficking.

**Mobilising communities to build resistance to child labour:** With guidance from our partner Praxis, two local NGOs with strong roots in the community, LEDS (Labour Education and Development Society) and SEWA Bharat, have been working in targeted Jaipur neighbourhoods to enable community members to use action research to assess the status of the community on a number of levels and build resistance to child labour. In addition to community mobilisation work of holding community meetings, raising awareness and strengthening access to government entitlements, LEDS and SEWA have also identified volunteers who have mapped local issues and conducted a survey of unemployed individuals and dropout children.

Through the action research, when it was identified that many migrant labourers do not have voter ID cards, they focused on resolving this issue, along with activating the health cards and construction worker cards needed for 591 community members to receive entitlements. By training volunteers to identify issues and addressing them through community member participation, the whole community is more empowered and has a higher level of sensitization to tackling child labour. Through the work of LEDS, 60 construction contractors came together and collectively declared that they would not allow children to work on their projects. Since construction workers are an important entry point into one of the target communities, this declaration is a critical step towards eventual widespread community resistance to child labour.

**Through monthly meetings, camps and one-to-one meetings, over 2,000 people have been mobilised on various issues related to child rights, health, education and human rights and various government schemes.** LEDS mobilised 205 parents to get their children enrolled in school, of which 88 have already been selected for admission.

**Challenges in government and community mobilisation in Jaipur:** One of the main challenges is the intensity of engagement and follow up that is needed so that agreed measures are implemented and sustained. It is important to ensure that official decisions are fully documented and instructions to lower officials are sent out. The Initiative can then continue to build on this progress even with changes of officials. At the community level, the NGO partners are overcoming the exclusion of residents in the targeted neighbourhoods from many of the key social supports to which they are entitled. This is difficult work, but protecting children who are from other states, and transitioning the use of local workplaces toward adult work will take place and be sustained alongside local residents seeing these other signs of progress and access to rights.



### Hotspot Outcome 3: Inter-state collaboration for reintegration

During 2018, the Initiative has provided the impetus and coordination so that Rajasthan and Bihar are taking forward their intention of closer working arrangements to protect children. Officials at the operational level, for example in police and Child Welfare Committees, have worked through concrete and detailed arrangements for collaboration, which will serve as a reference point going forward. Further steps are needed to consistently ensure these actions are taken.

**Inter-State Working Arrangement declared between the states of Rajasthan and Bihar, for eliminating child labour and child trafficking:** A high-level interstate coordination meeting was organised in February 2019, jointly by Prayas and the Labour Resources Department, Bihar. The meeting included senior officials from both states, as well as the National Human Rights Commission, Chanakya Law University, Labour Enforcement Officers from 13 Districts of Bihar and civil society organisations such as Human Liberty Network (the Freedom Fund's partner network in Bihar). Participants reflected together on how to effectively deal with challenges in the reintegration process, and the declaration on the Inter-State Arrangement was made by Mr. Dipak Kr Singh, Principal Secretary, Labour Resources Department, Mr. Gopal Meena, Labour Commissioner, Bihar, and Mr CBS Rathore, Additional Labour Commissioner, Rajasthan.

**Rajasthan and Bihar Child Welfare Committees (CWC) strengthen coordination:** In October 2018, The Freedom Fund organised a full day CWC interstate coordination meeting in Bihar to discuss support for recovery of rescued children. Members of the Jaipur CWC worked alongside members of CWCs from 11 source districts of Bihar, to collectively identify problems, come up with workable solutions, establish roles and responsibilities for each state, and compile a list of actions. They formed a Whatsapp group to stay in close coordination. Items agreed included:

- Address verification will be conducted so that the documentation for the rescued children includes their real home address;
- Correct and complete documentation of rescued children will be shared by Jaipur CWC to the relevant CWC in Bihar so that each child can access support;
- Ensuring access to all compensations and entitlements;
- Follow up support to each child to ensure education and economic rehabilitation; and
- Protection of children during judicial Proceedings.

Since October 2018, CWCs of both states are being supported by CLFJ partners to fulfil the commitments they made.



*Photo: CWC members from Rajasthan and Bihar met for a full day session in Patna, to identify problems and establish next steps, for the smooth repatriation, care and protection of rescued children returning to Bihar.*

**Challenges of inter-state coordination:** One of the difficulties has been unpredictable changes of plans by the key officials required for inter-state working. Diligent work with officials to help them prioritise this initiative, as well as existing strong relationships of the Human Liberty Network in Bihar and partnership with influential agencies such as Prayas have helped to get the required results.

#### Hotspot Outcome 4: Outreach

The second half of 2018 saw intensive preparation work leading up to the public launch of a multi-pronged marketing strategy, with the objective of reaching government, business, local Jaipur residents, and tourists. A logo and creatives were developed for use throughout the Initiative, including for a billboard campaign. Communication materials were developed, included a 40-second promotional video, and in December, the [www.childlabourfreejaipur.org](http://www.childlabourfreejaipur.org) website was launched. In the coming months, in preparation for child labour free products in the marketplace, the website will increase its focus on consumer audiences. In January 2019, CLFJ launched its outdoor advertising campaign including signage on sixteen outdoor billboards, bus shelters and unipoles, and three sites at the Jaipur International airport.



*Photos: Billboard campaign above road and in airport in Jaipur.*

On 18 January, CLFJ held its public launch event at the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur. The event was well attended by leaders from the Jaipur business community as well as government. The Chief Guest was Mr. Jagroop Singh Yadav, Jaipur District Magistrate (highest district government position in Jaipur).



*Photo: Chief Guest Mr. Jagroop Singh Yadav, Jaipur District Magistrate, speaking at public launch event.*

The event included kite flying for neighbourhood children, two plays on child labour by actors, neighbourhood children and rescued children staying at a shelter home, and prominent government and business speakers.



*Photos: Audience watching the street play, and child playing with kites at the public launch event.*

On 27 January 2019, CLFJ hosted a panel on child labour at the Jaipur Literature Festival, which attracts international and national visitors. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. The panel titled “Imagine: Childhood Set Free,” included child labour experts: Ramesh Paliwal, Sanjoy K. Roy, Sheoraj Singh Bechain, Paro Anand and Harsh Mander in conversation with Hisham Mundol. **CLFJ events in January and February received over 90 pieces of coverage in the media, including national and local newspapers, online outlets and news channels.**



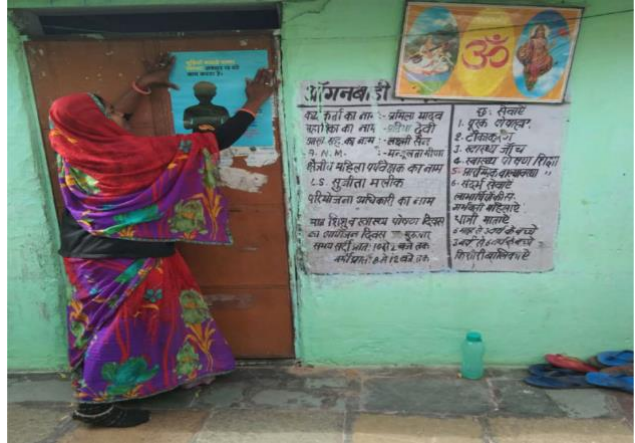
*27 January 2019 Jaipur Literature Festival  
CLFJ hosted child labour panel.*

At the same time, our community outreach program ramped up, including 120 performances of a street play on child labour. Our partner, Darma, mapped out all the neighbourhoods in Jaipur and systematically covered the most relevant locations. Each event started with the CLFJ mobile van driving through the neighbourhood making announcements with a megaphone that a play was going to happen. A crowd then gathered and the community enthusiastically shouted back answers when engaged by the street play actors. Darma gathered pledges from community members to support CLFJ, inviting them to press the “counter” button on the mobile



van. In addition to the neighbourhood performances, there were 50 school presentations and a large distribution of posters and stickers.

*Photos: CLFJ mobile van; poster and sticker campaign in local communities; and CLFJ outreach to schools*



**Challenges of outreach:** Although the public visibility gained during the year has been vital for the collaboration of business, government and community members, producing high quality events and marketing has taken a huge amount of the team's attention, and it has become clear that to undertake this type of work, additional staffing is needed.





## 4. Supporting a Community of Practice

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In September 2018, The Freedom Fund team held a reporting training to guide partners in how to compile information for reporting requirements. The training included a review of narrative report writing, financial reports and detailed explanations on completing target spreadsheets.

A key part of developing civil society capacity in Jaipur has been to help groups who were working in isolation to be willing to meet with each other to prioritise the issues to raise with government bodies. Promoting collaboration will continue to be a priority, but already NGOs have realised its importance both for policy engagement and for work taking place in the same neighbourhoods.

Use of shared tools for reintegration and developing stronger support and accountability for the restoration of the children in Bihar has been an important development for our partners.

The Freedom Fund itself has taken on several new approaches within this hotspot, expanding our institutional capability. For example, the promotion of child labour free business and use of market-demand to incentivise change in industry has been new. Likewise, use of public marketing techniques and outreach to media required different skill sets.



## 5. Case study

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### CLFJ partner Industree: What happens at a *mohalla* meeting?

As part of organising women into social producer companies, *mohalla* (urban colony) meetings are being conducted with members of the community. These meetings are a way to share information about NGO partner Industree and its Producer Company model, and to encourage women to join the intervention. The meeting starts with the introduction of Industree, including why the organization is there, why it wants to work with them, and how the project could impact their lives and livelihoods.

A number of topics are discussed including: The benefits of forming economic Self-Help Groups (SHG); benefits of being in a group with common interests and common art forms; understanding the value of their work; earning and learning opportunities as a group; improvement in women's social status within the community if they have increased regular earnings; gaining more bargaining power in the value chain; and understanding their contribution towards the final value of the product.

Once SHGs become active, stable, and trained with the required skill sets, a certain number of SHGs will form one overarching producer company (or several producer companies). Industree explains to the women about what a producer company is, how are they formed, and what makes them different from regular companies. There is an emphasis on producer ownership, and on having direct access to the market.

Although initially women expressed that their skill sets are enough for what the market demands, once Industree introduced financial and work management skills training, a significant number of the women transitioned to responding positively to the opportunity of taking ownership versus simply getting very low daily wages.



Photo: *Mohalla meeting organised by Industree.*

## 6. Independent Evaluation & Research

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The evaluation will measure the impact of the hotspot's interventions over approximately two years in supporting Jaipur's progress to becoming child labour free, assessing change in two crucial dimensions: (i) status of government response and (ii) business norms around child labour. The Freedom Fund commissioned Development Solutions, New Delhi to undertake the evaluation, and the Institute of Development Studies Jaipur is a partner to Development Solutions for the research. Data collection took place between August – November 2018, with a view to measuring responses to child labour by government institutions, the status of inter-state collaboration, and the proportion of workplaces in target neighbourhoods that were using children.

1,468 workplaces were accessed in key neighbourhoods for the survey and the researchers also carried out key informant interviews with government officials and civil society. The full report is due for publication in April 2019, but already the data from the baseline is feeding into program design and is especially highlighting the importance of strategies to assist large numbers of children who are working alongside their parents in Jaipur for very long hours that are harmful to their development. Child labour in Jaipur is not only an issue of inter-state trafficking.

- In 32.5% of all units surveyed, there were child or adolescent labourers. While child labour (14 and under) alone was found in 15.6% of the units, adolescent labour (15 to 17-year-olds) was found in 26% of the units.
- The use of child labour (14 and under) was highest in the cold lac bangle industry with 27% of the units engaging child labour. The hours worked by children was highest in Aari-Taari (embroidery) units.
- Adolescent labour was the highest among the aari-taari units. Across all industries, the proportion of units engaging both child and adolescent labour was the highest in Aari-Taari.
- Nearly 19% of the saree embellishment units engaged child labour.

The overall goal of the project that will be assessed by the independent evaluation is to measurably reduce child labour across Jaipur, with a special focus on achieving a 20% reduction in the proportion of workshops in these industries using child labour. Targets for measuring improvement in government systems include:

- Increasing the annual number of charge sheets filed by 30% (against the baseline);
- Increasing the number of children rescued annually by 100%; and
- Increasing the annual number of children reintegrated by 100%.

### **The Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative is contributing enormously to the learning within The Freedom Fund about new ways of working.**

- Ensuring government collaboration and leadership is a model we intend to take forward to other hotspots, having The Freedom Fund representatives undertake that outreach directly as well as local partners taking the lead.
- We have seen the value of increased visibility of the Initiative and creating public excitement around the vision of the work.
- Mobilising allies in the business community to make the economic case for ending child exploitation is also an important new strategy for the Freedom Fund. One example of this was the helpful exchange between the FORHEX Secretary and the new Chief Minister about the Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative.







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