



# Rajasthan Hotspot Annual Report

## 2019



# Child Labour Free Jaipur Annual Report 2019

REPORT DATE: APRIL 2020

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## 1. Operating Context

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Started in July 2018, Child Labour Free Jaipur (CLFJ) is a partnership that aims to eliminate child exploitation, especially by curbing child labour in workshops in Jaipur neighbourhoods. CLFJ has a strong collaboration with the Rajasthan government and works with local Jaipur businesses, NGOs, and communities to protect children, develop ethical supply chains and increase education and livelihood opportunities. The program works directly in Jaipur neighbourhoods as well as in Bihar source districts where the majority of the trafficked children come from, promoting cooperation between the Rajasthan and Bihar state governments to pursue justice against traffickers and give comprehensive reintegration support to the rescued children. CLFJ has a major focus on partnership with local businesses and exporters to prevent child labour within their business supply chains.

CLFJ's partnership with all the relevant government departments is a vital part of the operating context for work against child labour. With new appointments in key government positions, CLFJ continued to build understanding and involvement at all levels of government.

At various points in the year, parts of the neighbourhoods where the CLFJ work is concentrated were affected by local agitation due to a local case of child sexual abuse, as well as communal conflict, resulting in curfews being put in place. This made it hard to undertake rescues or for community groups to meet.



## 2. Progress towards systems change

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Since its launch event in January 2019, which was led by government and business representatives, CLFJ has emerged as a holistic framework drawing on a diverse network of stakeholders, dedicated to changing deep-rooted practices and tackling child labour at all levels, with practical solutions.

### Business Performance: Promoting child labour free business and social enterprises

- Through CLFJ partner, GoodWeave, **three international retailers and seven Jaipur exporters** have signed licensing agreements to have the products in their supply chains certified against child labour, including Jaipur Rugs, a leader among regional businesses. GoodWeave India is presently monitoring 150 subcontractors and 555 home-based workers, to ensure there is no child labour, through these licensing partnerships.
- The **Rajasthan Department of Industries and Rajasthan Department of Women and Child Development** are starting to generate economic opportunities for small and medium enterprises and women's economic self-help groups that are child labour free. In 2020, CLFJ will work with these departments on practical approaches to take forward their commitment.

### Government Performance: Improving government policy implementation and enforcement

- Jaipur courts are now focused on taking swift action against child traffickers, and Jaipur is becoming India's leading city in enforcing laws against trafficking: By December 2019, Jaipur had achieved three **child labour convictions**, two of which resulted in life imprisonment (with further convictions since then). The first of these was reported as a **landmark conviction** because it was the **first life sentence issued in India for a case of trafficking for child labour** using the key Indian Penal Code section that carries more serious penalties (Trafficking of a Minor - 370(5)). CLFJ partners helped Jaipur's legal system to achieve these convictions in many different ways, including locating the children involved and bringing them back from Bihar to Jaipur to give testimony. The High Court has now ordered that children should give complete testimony to the courts before they return to their families.
- CLFJ partner Police University's Centre for Child Protection (CCP) trained all the child labour stakeholders involved in the judicial process, which strongly contributed to the increased effectiveness of the criminal justice system, including (1) a detailed consultation **where 86% of the judges who hear child labour cases participated**; (2) practical hands-on training with 67 police on developing strong legal documentation in cases; (3) trainings for lawyers and 18 Public Prosecutors on legal strategies; and (4) in coordination with the Labour Department, training 33 labour inspectors on their enforcement role to reduce children in workshops.

### Community Organisation: Strengthening community resistance to child exploitation

- Almost 3,000 members of community groups in key Jaipur neighbourhoods have been mobilized with awareness about resisting child labour and the importance of keeping children in school. CLFJ partners LEDS and SEWA Bharat have worked closely with parents, leading to the enrollment of 385 children in government and private schools. CLFJ engagement with the Rajasthan State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) and Department of Education led to a **statewide Order requiring that the names of all school management committee members be publicly displayed**

in the school. This simple action will increase schools' accountability to parents, an important step that will lead to better quality education.

#### Public awareness and attitude change: Wider influence

- Since its inception, **CLFJ has been featured in the media over 200 times**, including wide coverage by media outlets at the annual Jaipur Literature Festival and at our public launch event in January 2019. For example, a Thomson Reuters international news article featured the importance of counselling of rescued children, highlighting the work of one of the CLFJ partners, Taabar. <http://news.trust.org/item/20191127233000-u0h0y/>
- By December 2019, the updated website: [www.CLFJaipur.org](http://www.CLFJaipur.org) was ready to launch, helping to propagate the model of Child Labour Free Jaipur, with regular updates from the field and an impact timeline that illustrates the implementation of CLFJ's model for systems change.





## 3. Hotspot Outputs & Outcomes

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### 3.1 Headline results

Some examples of the reach of the project are as follows:

- **3,076 households in targeted Jaipur neighbourhoods gained new access to entitlements.** Our partners helped households gain access to social support systems and improve their incomes, thereby reducing the pressure to have children working.
- **598 rescued children who had returned home to Bihar benefited from reintegration support.** 40 NGO field workers conducted regular home visits, supporting children to enrol in school and their families to receive government benefits, thus reducing the likelihood that the children will be re-trafficked. Out of the children repatriated since July 2018 under CLFJ, only 1.6% have been re-trafficked - a massive change from the high levels of re-trafficking taking place previously.
- **921 women completed basic training in lacquer product making, embroidered jewellery, natural dyeing, tie and dye and tailoring, to help improve their incomes.** However, these skills need to be significantly upgraded to give them more bargaining power in the market.

### 3.2 Progress towards hotspot objectives

#### Hotspot Outcome 1: Business mobilisation

##### Expanding certified child-labour-free supply chains:

- Our partner GoodWeave India worked with **three international importers and seven exporters** to trace and then monitor their entire supply chains as well as reviewing their HR policies, outsourcing strategy, and hiring policies. Through the process, these businesses upgraded their practices against child labour, and, with continuous GoodWeave monitoring and support, they have put more rigorous checks in place before outsourcing work or hiring staff. By December 2019, GoodWeave was actively carrying out **randomised site visits as well as sensitisation to 150 subcontractors and 555 home-based workers** in the supply chains of these licensed businesses. This in turn creates economic demand for child labour free production in the region.
- Through their outreach to 1,210 Jaipur businesses, GoodWeave identified that many local textile and craft businesses are interested in knowing more about the risks of child labour in their supply chains, but are not yet ready for certification. To help businesses start to address child labour, and to create a pipeline of businesses that will later be ready for full certification, GoodWeave developed the **Responsible Outsourcing and Hiring Network Initiative (ROSHNI)**. As a ROSHNI pilot, GoodWeave carried out full mapping and benchmarking of the risks in the supply chains of 7 Jaipur suppliers. By December, ROSHNI had **expanded to 11 businesses** – which had so far disclosed 75 subcontractors which GoodWeave then checked to identify risks of child labour.
- GoodWeave held individual meetings with 419 suppliers and exporters, targeting garment, home textile and carpet producers, as well as key business associations like FORHEX, FORTI, and GEAR to inform them about ROSHNI and CLFJ.

## Empowering women in supply chains and developing a skilled adult work force:

- Our partner, Industree Crafts Foundation developed the **first ever child labour prevention model integrated into a social enterprise training**, and with CLFJ support, SEWA Bharat delivered this curriculum to over 1,300 Self-Help Group (SHG) members in Jaipur. CLFJ is now in discussions with the Rajasthan Department of Women and Child Development to plan ways to take this in-depth training against child labour statewide to SHGs that benefit from government registration, marketing and loans.
- Three production centres were set up and began producing child labour free products.
- Towards the end of 2019, with limited international orders coming through, CLFJ shifted to focus on gaining orders from local businesses to enhance incomes for the women producers. CLFJ has therefore created a new partnership with Access Development Services to capitalise on their existing market linkages that will generate orders for the production centres. These production centres will provide a base for the development of women's producer companies.
- Collaboration with the relevant government departments continues to increase, with the Department of Industries and Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) offering support to generate economic opportunities for child labour free women artisans, for example, helping them to complete SHG documentation formalities and access finance, design support and marketing.



*Senior officials from Department of Industries and Department of Women and Child Development visited women artisans and SHGs in the Bhatta Basti neighbourhood, offering access to government-backed bank loans and support for training. Photo: SEWA Bharat*

- Senior officials including the Principal Secretary, DWCD visited one of the CLFJ production centres and are considering using it as a model for the launch of their new scheme to support women's craft clusters.

The CLFJ **Business Advisory Group**, a group of prominent Jaipur business leaders, meets every quarter to guide CLFJ on accessing business networks, scaling up the certification system, participating in fairs, and acting as enablers and brand ambassadors for CLFJ.

## Hotspot Outcome 2: Improving government policy implementation and enforcement

### Strengthening legal sanctions against child traffickers in Jaipur

CLFJ has been helping to strengthen the Jaipur legal system so that employers using trafficked children can no longer operate with impunity. To reach the three child labour convictions at the end of 2019 (with further convictions in 2020), multiple actions were taken with government agencies to strengthen legal enforcement:



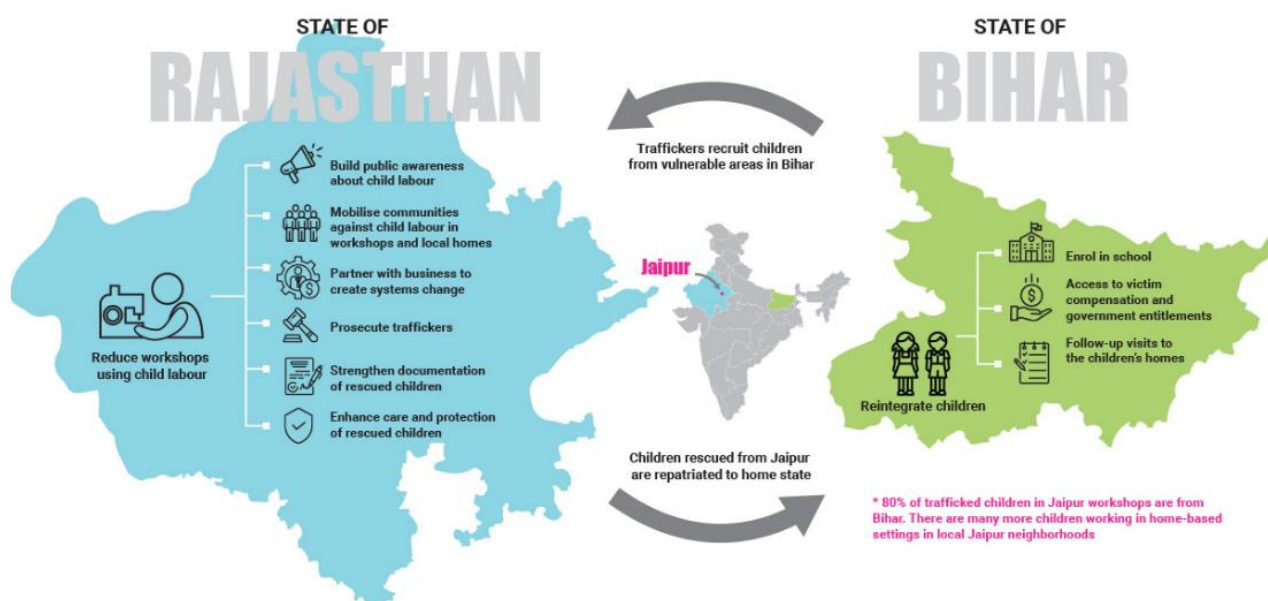
- **Increasing identification and rescues:** During 2019, the District Child Labour Task Force became active, with the effectiveness of the meetings increased and important orders being issued for improved practices. For example, official directives were issued that resulted in the Subdivisional Magistrate and Labour officials starting to visit shelter homes, interviewing children and granting Bonded Labour or Child Labour certificates. Increased attention on child labour meant that **from January to December 2019, 557 children were rescued**. CLFJ has also worked with several partners to increase the reporting of suspected child labour cases to the Labour Department.
- **Bringing children back from Bihar to testify:** During 2019, **88 children have been brought back to Jaipur** by our Bihar partners to give testimony in court. The children stay in safe shelter with partner Prayas while in Jaipur and attend court with the support of committed lawyers. Families are willing to let children come back to testify because of the trust built with our Bihar NGO partners who do regular follow up, helping them access entitlements. One parent accompanies each child coming back to Jaipur, along with an NGO representative.
- **Strengthening the capacity of Public Prosecutors and Judiciary:**
  - In March and July 2019, CLFJ partner, the Police University's Centre for Child Protection (CCP), organized trainings for lawyers and Public Prosecutors on strategies for child labour cases. The prosecutors who acted in the successful convictions had attended these events.
  - In September and December 2019, CLFJ helped organise consultations for senior judges. **86% of judges hearing child labour cases attended** and discussed ideas on how to make prosecuting child traffickers a top priority.
- **Helping during case proceedings:** CLFJ supports committed NGO lawyers that assist the Public Prosecutor before and in some cases, during the case proceedings.
- **Building vigilance among statutory oversight bodies:** CLFJ analysed the gaps in the legal process and raised these with the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) and Rajasthan Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) especially requesting that the judicial process should be more child-friendly. CLFJ arranged an interaction of rescued children with the JJC Chairman, Hon'ble Justice Mehta, who subsequently promised to ensure child-friendly, speedy procedures in child labour cases, and has since supported policy changes resulting in more child-friendly courts.
- **Child labour cases are consolidated to 6 child-focused courts:** As a result of the JJC elevating the issue, the High Court ordered all child labour cases to be heard in 6 courts already designated for child sexual abuse cases. Child labour cases are now handled with greater sensitivity and courts are ensuring better protection from traffickers' interference.
- **Protecting child witnesses giving testimony:** Facing an increased likelihood of serious penalties, traffickers are anxious to control the families of rescued children and influence them to testify in favour of the trafficker. In two cases where the trafficker kidnapped children who were due to testify, CLFJ's NGO partners mobilised police to try to rescue them. In the case that led to the first conviction, the police finally raided a train on which the trafficker had the witness and his family – rescuing them from his control. CLFJ then worked to help activate the Witness Protection system in the key Bihar districts where the children were from. In Gaya District, the same young person who had been kidnapped and rescued from the train helped to lead the first public consultation of the Witness Protection Committee.
- **Strengthening future evidence collection and testimony:** CLFJ partner CCP has trained and mentored frontline police and Anti-Human Trafficking Units in Rajasthan and Bihar on preparing effective "First Information Reports" and Charge Sheets, to ensure accurate legal documentation for cases. A model FIR format has been provided as a guide to the police, and individual support and monitoring continues, to ensure the police apply what they learned in the trainings about writing high quality FIRs.



*Meeting with local police to review and strengthen legal case evidence recording.  
Photo: Freedom Fund*

- Recently, the High Court ordered that the full testimony of the rescued child labourers should be taken before they are repatriated to home states. Once this order is fully implemented, children will not need to travel back to Jaipur to give their testimony. This critical order will lead to more accurate testimony that is not influenced by the threat of the traffickers.

### How it works



- **Strengthening support and reintegration for survivors**
- **Counselling and casework:** In 2019, CLFJ supported improved counselling and casework for rescued children in Jaipur. At the request of the Department for Child Rights (DCR), our partner CCP held a training for 24 counsellors, caseworkers and outreach workers to create a child friendly environment for rescued children and ensure counselling before the children provide their witness statements. Since then, the DCR Director issued guidelines for counsellors in shelter homes and directed the District Child Protection Units to ensure that every child in the shelter homes should have individual care plans.



*Counsellor at CLFJ partner Taabar shelter home. Photo: Thomson Reuters*

- Additional work to address this need has been undertaken through the Children's Investment Fund Foundation's support for a pilot program through which partner organisations have been visiting Jaipur shelter homes to improve case management and counselling (41 such visits to homes in 2019). This program, collaborating with CLFJ, provided evidence at the request of DCR, leading to a commitment to increase the fees provided for counsellors to visit the homes as well as increasing the per-child monthly support given to the shelters.
- At the end of 2019, DCR approved for CLFJ partner Antakshari to coordinate counsellors to visit the shelter homes and provide on-going counselling.
- **Children's documentation to support access to rights:** Since 2018 and throughout 2019, CLFJ supported the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to develop a digital system to track information for rescued children.



*Children returning from Jaipur, on arrival at train station in Bihar  
Photo: Freedom Fund*

- CLFJ partners Taabar and CCP coordinated closely with shelter homes in Jaipur to ensure all documents were sent to CWC for entry into the digital system. In January, the first group of rescued children returned home to Bihar with ALL of their necessary legal documents to access government benefits and compensation, which were then handed over on a pen drive to the Bihar government, for entry into the Bihar tracking system. In December, DCR officially requested CCP to assist the CWC to establish a formal data management system to institutionalise work



started with CLFJ support, thus integrating the digital database system into formal government systems.

- **Compensation for rescued children:** The Rajasthan Legal Services Authority (RLSA) have now included rescued child labourers as a category that can benefit under the victim compensation scheme. **For the first time, RLSA has authorised for 106 of the child labourers rescued in Jaipur to receive victim compensation**, with many more in process. Partners in Bihar are helping children set up bank accounts to receive the funds. Though the interim amount is not high (around \$180), it is one of a number of entitlements that will help children's reintegration. Bihar partners are also registering every rescued child, 14 and under, for the Bihar Chief Minister's Relief Fund.



*NGO worker carrying out home address verification, to prepare for returning children, Bihar. Photo: Freedom Fund*

- **Reintegration support in Bihar:** By the end of 2019, through 4 funded NGOs in Bihar (NIRDESH, Centre Direct, Prayas and TSN), **CLFJ was supporting 598 returned children**, with 40 trained fieldworkers carrying out the work. Reintegration support includes regular follow-up and home visits. CLFJ's Bihar-based Program Advisor conducts regular partner site visits and meetings with district officials to help improve delivery of essential entitlements and compensation to these children.

### Hotspot Outcome 3: Strengthening community resistance to child exploitation

CLFJ's strategies within the key target neighbourhoods in Jaipur are enabling local families to remove their children from home-based work and return them to school, as well as creating an environment where it is increasingly difficult for workshops to use trafficked children.

- Our partners, LEDS and SEWA Bharat, working in Shastri Nagar, Ramganj and Bhatta Basti neighbourhoods, made progress in school enrolment during 2019, with a total of **385 children directly**

**enrolled in public and private schools** during the year, as well as linking children with bridge courses or open schooling offered by World Vision and Pratham Foundation.

- **Enabling local residents to obtain vital documents and access benefits** such as birth certificates, residents certificates, and pensions is important because it stabilises families, which in turn helps protect children from harmful labour. During 2019, through the neighbourhood-based work, **3,076 individuals gained new access to government support.**
- Through SEWA, eight youth groups with over 160 members met regularly and engaged a large number of children through celebrations of special days, with a focus on preventing child labour and the importance of education.
- **Monthly meetings with a wide range of officials**, such as panchayat members, teachers, religious leaders, labour unions, lawyers and health officials, are helping to create responsibility for making sure that social welfare schemes and educational provision are reaching local residents.
- **A Child Rights Watch Group** has been established to sensitise high-level officials on child labour, with its initial meeting co-organised by city council members and chaired by the Mayor, a first of its kind. Several additional meetings followed, with attendance from journalists and key Jaipur officials that are in a position to influence the issue. Street level meetings included shop owners, residents groups, police and others, to start to create local vigilance against child labour.



*Street-level meeting organised by Child Rights Watch Group with shop owners, residents and police. Photo: Child Rights Watch Group*

- LEDS highlighted that the rigorous “**child rights**” and “**Right to Education**” training of their staff and volunteer outreach workers has given them greater confidence in pushing for children’s rights, especially during school admission campaigns.
- CLFJ partner Praxis India continues to assist SEWA and LEDS to adopt participatory approaches to changing social norms in these neighbourhoods. For example, **local adolescents, volunteer fellows and staff in both organisations learned techniques of “digital storytelling,”** enabling them to critically analyse the issues of concern in their area and share their message.
- CLFJ partners’ engagement with the Department of Education has led to a **state-wide Order requiring that the names of all school management committee members be publicly displayed in the school.** It is expected that this important step to activate SMCs will lead to better quality education for the children.



*40 members of School Management Committees from schools in northern Jaipur meeting to learn about their roles and responsibilities and how to address cases of child labour. Photo: Freedom Fund*

- CLFJ's mission benefits from aligned funding for GoodWeave India in other parts of the district, through which **GoodWeave is creating 30 "Child Friendly Communities,"** including working with several schools across Jaipur district, with each community having one or more Motivation and Learning Centres for out of school children. GoodWeave carried out intensive mapping of vulnerable children and learning level assessments with 8,031 children in the age group 6 – 14 years, out of which, 5,286 have been identified as at risk of child labour and have been supported for regular school attendance.

#### Hotspot Outcome 4: Wider influence

Maximising the impact of CLFJ relies on intensive outreach activities at local, national and international levels. This work started in 2018 and intensified in 2019, with CLFJ emerging as a comprehensive model that could be adapted for use in other cities in India. It is gaining significant attention:

- **Locally,** GoodWeave ran an inter-school debate competition with **8 schools which reached 4,000 people** to raise awareness, with most students reporting that this is the first time they had heard about the seriousness of the child labour problem.
- GoodWeave also launched a consumer social media campaign **#isyourproductchildlabourfree**, encouraging youth in particular to ask this question when purchasing products.
- In June, CLFJ Hotspot Manager, Ravi Prakash, spoke about CLFJ at the "Investing in Children" forum of the Rajasthan Corporate Social Responsibility Summit.
- CLFJ launched its updated website <http://www.CLFJaipur.org/> in early 2020, which provides resources and regular updates from the field and an Impact Timeline that illustrates the implementation of CLFJ's holistic model for systems change.
- **Internationally,** throughout the year, CLFJ hosted a number of high-profile visitors to the project, increasing the influential networks through which CLFJ is promoted. This included Princess Eugenie of York, Cindy McCain, Director of the McCain Institute, and famous cricketer Ben Stokes.
- In September, CLFJ partner Industree and British Asian Trust hosted an event in London with international attendees including UK government representatives Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development, and Dame Sara Thornton, the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.



## 4. Supporting a Community of Practice

- CLFJ convenings were held in May and December 2019 giving an opportunity for all CLFJ partners to share their approaches and deepen their understanding of the overall strategy. In May, a wide range of CLFJ stakeholders and special guests came together to learn and share about the successes and challenges of the program, followed by an afternoon session for CLFJ-funded partners to review reporting requirements, share more specific information and build collaboration. The December meeting for funded partners included a session on safeguarding.
- GoodWeave India held a training for SEWA local organisers, to help them learn more about approaches to preventing child labour in supply chains.
- Praxis India continues to support LEDS and SEWA with their neighbourhood strategies.
- Service provider, ThinkThroughConsulting (TTC), conducted financial reviews for all the partners. A financial compliance training is planned for early 2020.



*SEWA trainer explaining their work to other CLFJ partners at partners' convening.  
Photo: Freedom Fund*

## 5. Case study

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**GoodWeave's inter-school debate competition:** GoodWeave India held classroom discussions on child labour in 12 schools in Jaipur with children responding that this was the first time they became aware of how serious the problem is. After the sessions, GoodWeave provided reading materials and a debate question: *Is your product child labour free?* Student debaters were asked to argue for or against the idea that this question, being asked by consumers at the time of purchase of a product, is the ONLY solution for the eradication of child labour.

Students did their research, and eight schools had a debate competition on Children's Day in November 2019. This was followed by an event where the winners from each school came together for an inter-school debate competition in December. Senior college faculty leaders adjudicated, while the students provided various solutions for the problem of child labour. Overall these events were highly successful, covered by media in local papers, and it sensitized over 4,000 people, including children, teachers, and parents.



*GoodWeave India inter-school debate competition on consumers' role in preventing child labour.*

*Photo: GoodWeave India*

**TAABAR created a child-friendly police station, Shastri Nagar:** In Jaipur, most of the child labourers are rescued in the northern part of the city. Shastri Nagar police station is within this area, and police assistance to the children at the point of rescue is very important. If the police's treatment of the children is insensitive, it can further traumatise them, with long-term effects. To help with this, TAABAR gained approval of the

Deputy Commissioner of Police for North Jaipur to open a child friendly space at the police station. Presently, children often have to spend several hours at the police station immediately after rescue. Although bringing rescued children to a police station at all is not an ideal practice, having a child-friendly space is an important interim step while broader, more child-friendly rescue processes can be established.

The police provided a room on the campus of the police station, which TAABAR renovated. They provided beds, a TV, toys and games, and TAABAR also meets with police officers with special responsibility for women and children as well as other frontline police based at this station to help them develop child sensitive case handling. The new unit was inaugurated on 10 December 2019 by senior police officials.



*10 volunteer counsellors being trained at the police station, with a special focus on immediate counselling when children are rescued. Photo: Freedom Fund*

**Escaped children help trigger arrest of employer:** Four children escaped from a workshop where they had been suffering brutal treatment. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) sent them to TAABAR's shelter home where they were immediately given first aid for multiple injuries. The children explained that the employer abused them, compelling them to wash their face with chili powder in hot water, to keep them awake at night.

TAABAR staff requested the CWC to lodge a legal case against the employer, and went with police to do the site verification. They took the children to the police station where they explained what had been happening. The police went to arrest the employer, but he escaped. Through the property owner, the police found out where he was, and once the children had identified him, he was arrested. A senior police officer followed up by visiting the children, and TAABAR arranged with the Legal Services Authority to begin the process of applying for compensation.



## 6. Independent Evaluation & Research

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An independent evaluator, Development Solutions, completed the baseline survey for CLFJ on prevalence of workshops using child labour and status of government responses. A midline independent review of the status of government responses is being planned.





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