



# Rajasthan Hotspot Annual Report

## 2020



# Child Labour Free Jaipur Annual Report 2020

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*Started in July 2018, Child Labour Free Jaipur (CLFJ) is a partnership that aims to eliminate child exploitation, curbing child labour in workshops and home-based workshops in Jaipur neighbourhoods. CLFJ is a collaboration between the Rajasthan government, Jaipur businesses, NGOs, local communities and funders to prevent trafficking, 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 governments to pursue justice against traffickers and give reintegration support to the rescued children.*

## 1. Summary of progress towards a child labour free Jaipur

In the past year, trafficked and local children in Jaipur as well as rescued children with their families in Bihar faced increased risks due to the Covid pandemic. All of the driving factors for harm to children were compounded, and so all the partners in CLFJ had to reinforce our collective efforts. Overall, the progress towards improving government systems achieved before 2020 has been sustained, and there are many signs within the communities, local enterprises and government that, despite opposing pressures, the elimination of child labour will be a high priority during the Covid recovery period.

### Outcome 1 - Improving government policy implementation and enforcement

- Momentum on rescues and court proceedings has picked up again post-Covid. In the second half of 2020, 365 children were rescued, which is a 50% increase compared to the same period in 2019. Also, in December 2020, a further (6th) conviction was achieved against a trafficker, once again with a sentence of life imprisonment.



*Rescued children celebrate Diwali at the quarantine centre, Jaipur*

- CLFJ is supporting pilot cases for **video testimony for child trafficking victims** coordinated by the Indian Supreme Court. Video testimony reduces risks to children, and can speed up convictions. At the request of the Supreme Court, our Bihar partners have submitted information on 526 witnesses in trafficking cases who could provide their testimony by video. Meanwhile, our training of Rajasthan police is focusing on **improving evidence collection** so that prosecutions can be strengthened and can move from relying heavily on child victims' testimony.
- **Forming survivor collectives** is now an important part of our support for adolescents reintegrated in Bihar. Through these collectives they can help each other towards recovery, raise their demands to the authorities, and hence influence the effectiveness of protection mechanisms to benefit many more children. Our partners recently formed nine survivor collectives, spanning multiple villages, through which returned Jaipur survivors will identify and take up their priorities including for education, skills training and access to compensation.

## Outcome 2 - Promoting child labour free business and social enterprises

- Over 300 women in neighbourhoods with high prevalence of child labour were able to earn new income during the post-lockdown period through their own child-labour-free Producer Companies, set up with support from ACCESS Development Services. Thanks to successful engagement, several government departments are identifying ways to support these enterprises, including showing commitment to the idea of a state-of-the-art training and production centre close to the target neighbourhoods.

## Outcome 3 - Strengthening community resistance to child exploitation

- Despite Covid restrictions, our partner Pardarshita has successfully worked to **integrate rejection of child labour within key neighbourhood institutions** that have direct influence on curbing child labour. They held 10 meetings between Resident Welfare Associations (RWA), local market associations and the police. They also visited 150 property owners to explain the risks of renting out properties to traffickers. So far 102 property owners have signed pledges not to rent their properties out to employers using children, and Pardarshita will follow up to make sure these are upheld.
- Police and Labour Department partnered with CLFJ to design and distribute **7,000 posters warning against use of child labour across all of Rajasthan** as well as through 31 police stations in Jaipur.
- Rajasthan State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights partnered with CLFJ in launching a **two-week school enrolment promotion campaign** using 3 rickshaws to reach all areas of the most affected neighbourhoods, helping parents who face challenges getting their children enrolled.



## 2. Operating context

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Since March 2020, access to government offices in Jaipur has been unpredictable due to high covid infection rates affecting the availability of many officials. Partners also had to avoid large group meetings, though some trainings, children's tuition and other small group activities were taking place following local anti-covid restrictions during the later part of the year.

CLFJ target neighbourhoods were also severely affected economically. At the end of May, with business orders coming to a halt, workshop owners sent most of the trafficked children back to Bihar and other home areas. However, once the economy opened up again, there was a steadily renewed demand for child labour, with traffickers targeting the same desperate communities in Bihar. With fewer trains running, CLFJ NGO partners widened their rescuing efforts to also intercept Rajasthan-registered inter-state buses in Bihar districts and completed several rescue operations. On these buses, the traffickers used alternate tactics to make it harder to identify trafficked children, such as arranging for a parent to travel part of the way with the children. Additionally, local informants have reported that, following the increased pressure on traffickers, workshops have moved to more internal hidden areas of Jaipur neighbourhoods, in order to be harder to identify and target by police.

The tragic deaths of 5 child labourers in Jaipur during 2020 have brought the issue of child trafficking to the increased attention of the authorities. These deaths showed the extreme vulnerability of trafficked children who were not getting adequate food or access to medical treatment when needed and who suffered cruelty and neglect from employers. Moreover, the way these deaths were dealt with by the local authorities highlighted the inconsistency of processes and their implementation. While one police station properly processed two cases and worked to give the bereaved parents their rights, another police station did not disclose two of the deaths to the Child Welfare Committee in the proper manner, and tried to avoid sending the child's body back to the parents for a funeral. CLFJ partners gave support to these families.

The Bihar authorities initially showed commitment to finding and helping the large number of children who had been put on trains back to Bihar by the traffickers (who now saw them as a liability), but when major floods hit the state in July 2020, the Bihar government was not able to follow through to the extent required, and the vulnerability of these children and their families compounded.

With the collapse in demand for handicraft and apparel products, business attention was focused on survival rather than on actions such as child labour free outsourcing and the use of verified supply chains, as supported by CLFJ partners. At the same time, families who depended on this income were more desperate than ever to take what work was available and involve everyone who could fulfil orders, including children. However, once the schools reopened for some grade levels and thanks to a deep community penetration by CLFJ partners focused on school enrolment, we were able to create strong pressure within communities to keep children out of exploitation and into schools. Also, throughout the lockdown, GoodWeave used the Freedom Fund Emergency Relief Fund to provide rations to workers in the supply chain of their business networks, strengthening ties with these companies. More details on the Emergency Relief Fund are provided later on in the report. ACCESS also used mask orders to very effectively build up collective production through the women's Producer Companies, providing stability and desperately needed income for these women producers.

During the same period, the Indian government passed an Amendment to the law that tightens the provisions of the existing [Foreign Contribution Regulation Act \(FCRA\)](#). The Freedom Fund has provided

professional guidance to CLFJ NGO partners to comply with all the new requirements. Moreover, all NGO partners' budgets were checked to ensure compliance with the new rules for Indian NGOs receiving foreign funds, which require them not to spend more than 20% on administrative costs.

### 3. Progress towards hotspot objectives

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#### Outcome 1 – Improving government policy implementation and enforcement

With the project now in its third year of operation, CLFJ support for government has been further strengthened to improve policies and their implementation, especially focusing on obtaining effective legal sanctions for traffickers and improved protection for child trafficking survivors. The work spanning all relevant departments related to legal action, labour practices, child protection, small businesses/community enterprises, industry and education.

#### Strengthening legal sanctions against child traffickers in Jaipur

**Video conferencing for children's testimonies** - CLFJ ensured that one of the trafficking cases from Bihar was included in the Supreme Court's 4-state piloting of video conferencing for victims of child trafficking. We successfully assisted the courts in Gaya District (Bihar) to set up the arrangements for children to give testimony. For these children, video conferencing from their home state is safer and less traumatic than travelling hundreds of miles back to Jaipur, and it should also enable convictions to come through faster. In 2019 and early 2020, CLFJ had already brought back a total of 142 children to Jaipur to testify in their cases. Now, at the request of the Supreme Court, our partners have submitted details of 526 witnesses in trafficking cases (children and family members) available to use video conferencing to give their testimony.

**Convictions and rejection of bail** - After Covid, the Jaipur courts were functioning only for essential business. After the courts became active again in December, a sixth trafficking conviction was achieved, the fourth with a sentence for life imprisonment. It was a case from 2016 involving 6 boys aged 13 – 15 producing bangles. The court once again emphasised the seriousness of the crime as well as showing a deep understanding of the context in home villages including the pressure that families and children receive from traffickers that can undermine the testimony. At the District Child Labour Task Force, members emphasised the importance of publicising these convictions to show that Rajasthan will not tolerate child trafficking and to assist other districts in replicating effective use of the law. Also, in four cases where bail was appealed to the lower or higher court, our partner supported the rejection of bail, creating a strong deterrent effect.

**Sustaining rescue operations** - At a time when police activities have been affected by covid both in terms of additional responsibilities and illness, it was important to reinforce the vigilance needed for rescues:

- In Bihar, our partners worked with the state police to instruct 5 districts to pay attention to bus depots and interstate road traffic to prevent trafficking.
- Partners worked closely together to intercept buses bringing children back; Prayas was able to intervene with the police and rescue 31 children directly from the bus (see case study below).
- In Kaimur district, where the main highway crosses to the neighbouring state, our partner's field staff carried out checks to ensure that police were being vigilant on the border crossing point where the largest number of inter-state buses pass through.
- To further strengthen police efforts in Gaya District, Centre DIRECT trained Police Station House Officers. The training was led by a Supreme Court lawyer, a High Court lawyer and a senior officer from the Rajasthan Police Academy.
- In Gaya, the police supported mobile outreach activities carried out by Centre DIRECT in the most affected areas and transport hubs. Centre DIRECT organised for auto-rickshaws (with side panels with



anti-trafficking messages) to travel with volunteers to make announcements on loudspeakers, display posters and do wall-writings alerting people to the activities of traffickers.

- CCP is partnering with the Railway Police Force (RPF), and has conducted training sessions with 91 RPF staff at 7 key railway stations about identification of child trafficking.
- In Jaipur, since July, the Child Labour Task Force has met twice and has helped to reinforce the urgency of carrying out rescues. Taabar, CCP and Prayas are serving as members of the Task Force. As a consequence, 365 children were rescued in the second half of 2020, which is a 50% increase compared to the same period in 2019.



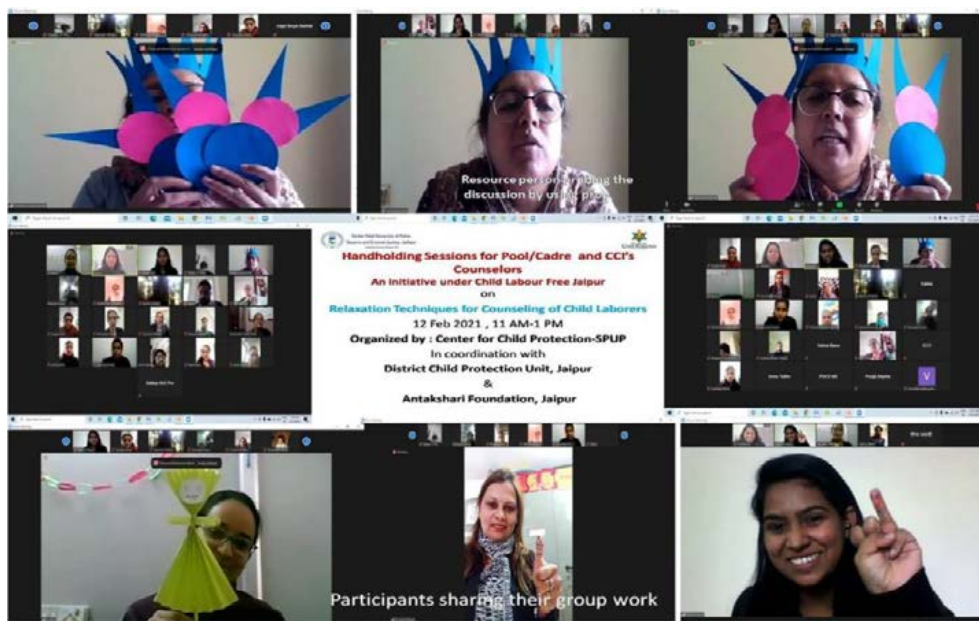
*District Magistrate in Gaya, Bihar, launches the auto-rickshaw outreach campaign against child trafficking*

**Strengthening investigation** - CCP provided a 5-day online training for 40 police officers, including case studies of recent convictions and procedures for case filing, search, seizure of evidence, arrest, production of charge sheets and further investigation of crimes. CCP's medico-legal consultant is examining medical reports on rescued child labourers, to see how these could be strengthened for use as evidence in the court process. CCP continues to scrutinise child labour First Information Reports (FIR) filed by police stations, to improve quality.

#### [Improving support and reintegration for survivors](#)

**Promoting the use of state resources for child protection** – At the invitation of the Rajasthan State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR), CLFJ submitted detailed and costed proposals for the state to use the \$14 million destined to child protection and anti-trafficking schemes announced in February 2020 by the Chief Minister. Following the submission, CLFJ is now contributing to further consideration around the allocation of these funds.

**Counselling rescued children** - With the endorsement of the Department for Child Rights (DCR), CCP and Antakshari have been collaborating to train and deploy a pool of 22 counsellors who work in different child protection projects and shelter homes. In November, CLFJ conducted an online training which included identifying indicators of trauma; helping children understand the purpose of counselling; and understanding difficult behaviour by children. A counselling manual for use in future trainings is being prepared.



*Online training of counsellors.*

**Increased per child payment** - Following CLFJ engagement with DCR, the department informed all shelter homes that from 2020 onwards the monthly payment to shelters for each child will be increased to INR 2,520 per month (from INR 2,000).

**Documentation and repatriation of children** - The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) continues to compile key documents that are needed for children to access compensation when returned home. CLFJ is working with CWC to make sure these children are always repatriated with the necessary documents and is identifying and working to correct any lapses in the process.

**Survivor collectives** - Nine of these collectives of adolescent survivors are now formed in areas that have a concentration of returned children. The survivors will learn how to bring their collective issues (such as challenging the delay in compensation) to government officials. One of the major requests made by the adolescent survivors is for education tuition to help them overcome the years of schooling they missed, as well as to access appropriate skills training. CLFJ is currently seeking new resources for this purpose. Also, the Gaya and Patna Child Protection Units have requested a list of survivors who are over 15 years old and ready for vocational training.

### **Child trafficking survivor appears for matriculation exam in Bihar**

*Recalling his past in the dingy factory of Jaipur, Ashish tells The New Indian Express that how he survived on just two slices of bread and some vegetables and was forced to work for 17 long hours.*



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Ashish Kumar (in black jacket in second row) during the exam. (Photo | Express)

*Newspaper report on child trafficking survivor, supported through our partner, Centre DIRECT, sitting the matriculation exam. See blog: <https://freedomfund.org/blog/success-story-child-trafficking-survivor-sits-for-school-exams/>*

**Support for families of returned children** - Our four reintegration NGO partners continue to carry out follow up visits through 40 field workers. Their priorities are for every family to have a food ration card, access to work under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, to open a bank account, and to obtain ID cards and birth certificates. In addition to this, partners are strengthening engagement with the local government to facilitate access to witness protection and entitlements for the children. Thanks to this engagement, Centre DIRECT has become a member of the District Anti-Human Trafficking Committee and of the District Child Protection Committee. Unfortunately, school enrolment for the newly returned children was prevented due to schools remaining closed. Schools should open for all students in April 2021, and partners will be concentrating on enrolment then.

**Compensation and wages recovery** - In both Bihar and Jaipur, partners are urging government bodies to release compensation. CLFJ partners provided evidence about delays to the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) so that they sent notifications to districts to take action on this. However, the results have been limited so far. While the principle of compensation for victims of child labour has been established in Jaipur through the Legal Services Authority, recently only 17 payments have been released, and 106 approved out of 755 applied for. Likewise in Bihar, out of more than 300 demands for compensation submitted to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for child labourers under 14 years, only 19 have been released. Our partner Pardarshita is pushing for the Labour Department to issue wage recovery demands to employers, under the Minimum Wages sections of the law. 22 of these are in process.

**Creating sustainable support for reintegrated children** - Village and Ward-level Child Protection Committees (VCPC and WCPC) are the statutory body with the responsibility for identifying at-risk children and assisting their families and schools to improve their situation. In many rural areas, they exist but do not meet or take any action. With additional funding agreed, CLFJ is planning work with Centre DIRECT for 2021, to make WCPCs and VCPCs active in approximately 50 villages in Gaya that have the highest concentration of returned children. This will expand our reach beyond rescued children to address a wider range of child protection issues and prevent at-risk children from being trafficked.

As a positive sign of endorsement by the Gaya District administration of the emerging child protection movement, they recently issued orders to Block Development Officers (local government officials) to organise Child Protection Committee (CPC) meetings at all levels. At Block-level CPC meetings, Centre DIRECT drew attention to delays in issuing compensation and entitlements to survivors and the immediate risks that children face as a consequence of such delays.

## Outcome 2 - Promoting child labour free business and social enterprises

**Progress of women's Producer Companies, supported by ACCESS** - Membership of the two Producer Companies, launched during the pandemic, continues to grow. 573 women are now shareholders and 300 women earned income through the Producer Company during the past 6 months. During this time of high unemployment, orders for over 130,000 masks have provided a lifeline of income to women members, and the Producer Companies have built a reputation as a stable source of income, despite restrictive lockdowns. By improving their income and collectivisation, it is hoped that hundreds of members will become advocates against child labour within their own communities. A team of bankers made visits to two of the production centres, explaining to 65 women about safer loan schemes for entrepreneurship support.

Total sales for the last quarter were approximately \$14,400, and the Producer Companies currently have 13 active buyers. Amazon Karigar (the Amazon category supporting craftspeople) is featuring the Producer Company products on their India website: [Amazon Karigar site for Producer Company](#).



One of the Producer Companies has signed an agreement to participate in GoodWeave's ROSHNI<sup>1</sup> program, which will prepare the company for certification. GoodWeave is supporting the production centre to start to document their prevention of child labour. Already, ACCESS field mobilisers make random visits to women working at home, to ensure adherence to the no child labour rule.

Alongside this, the training of women for higher skills continues with 186 women recently trained in bangle cutting and lacquer products, electrical sewing machines, embroidery and stitching. 60 new products have been designed and produced and the project now has 4 production centres fully functioning. In addition to the Producer Companies, ACCESS has been supporting 20 women's Self-Help Groups (SHG), with 438 members, helping them establish the proof of savings over multiple months, as required to access government-backed loans through banks. 20 new SHGs have also been formed, making 40 in total.

*As reported by ACCESS: "Earlier, women did not have a stake and ownership in work for wages, and they had very little say in decision making at home and in the society, but due to the formation of 2 women producer companies, they have started earning and became owners/leaders in these companies which has given them a lot of confidence. They are getting more respect from their own people. Now their families are also motivating them to do more paid work which is a very positive change"*

**Engagement of government business departments** - CLFJ has been seeking active participation by the relevant government departments responsible for promoting business and gaining additional promotion for child labour free enterprises. At the end of 2020, this work began to show results, so that in early 2021 CLFJ representatives met with senior officials from the Department of Industries, Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), and Rajasthan Skills and Livelihood Development Corporation (RSLDC), to explore ways to support the child labour free Producer Companies. During the meeting, the Principal Secretary of DWCD expressed his commitment and recommended the use of a government owned building, the Haj Committee Centre, for the establishment of a state-of-the-art skills training and production centre. The building is conveniently located near the neighbourhood where the majority of the women producers are based.

Government representatives have also been open to further opportunities for CLFJ, including using the CLFJ logo on all products marketed as part of the government partnership, as well as special shelf space for the Producer Companies at government sales emporiums.

**Creating child labour free certified supply chains** - The economic conditions created by the pandemic have hampered the work of GoodWeave. Bringing businesses on board requires many face-to-face meetings, but this was not possible due to covid restrictions and high infection rates, and member businesses were completely preoccupied with bringing in orders and sustaining their business. However, from July to December 2020, GoodWeave was able to circulate information to 363 businesses, and conducted 59 one-to-one meetings, with a view to enrolling them for supply chain monitoring. Also, physical inspection of premises to remediate child labour had to be halted and was only re-started in December 2020. Nevertheless, GoodWeave continued to build on the goodwill created by their proactive distribution of food rations in the communities linked with participating businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> ROSHNI is the Responsible Outsourcing and Hiring Network Initiative, a strategy to scale up certification among domestic businesses in India and create a pipeline of businesses that will later be ready for full certification.

- GoodWeave licensing, connected to Jaipur, has expanded to include 5 international brands and 8 exporters. Due to the Covid-related economic disruption, the licensees' supply chains currently under monitoring was reduced to 419 home-based workers and 44 sub-contracting units.
- 20 ROSHNI members (including 5 new ones) have now disclosed 121 sub-contracting units and 19 home-based workers. Among these members, there are senior representatives of Jaipur industry associations including GEAR, FORHEX and Jaipur Bloc.
- 12 capacity-building workshops have been conducted in various factories and sub-contracting units, including 129 workers and managers. These workshops focused on child labour, health & safety issues, Covid awareness, forced labour, freedom of association, wages and environmental issues.
- GoodWeave launched a field operation to identify vulnerable families in the supply chain and assist them with access to relevant entitlements and insurances, to help prevent children being drawn into work. So far, 500 marginalised workers' families have been identified and their needs assessed, and 60 children have been enrolled in school.

### Outcome 3 - Strengthening community resistance to child exploitation

**Uniting communities against child labour** - In the neighbourhoods of northern Jaipur, for decades, home-based child labour and the presence of child trafficking victims have been normalised. CLFJ is helping local residents to challenge this:

**Meetings of Residents Welfare Associations and Market Associations, and mobilising key influencers** - Despite the difficulties posed by covid restrictions, our partner Pardarshita has worked to integrate rejection of child labour within key neighbourhood institutions that have direct influence on curbing child labour. In the past six months, they held 10 meetings between Resident Welfare Associations (RWA), local market associations and the police. They also identified 10 key influencers among association leaders, mosque leaders and others, and oriented them on harms caused by child labour. These influencers were helped to consider how to bring the message within their community institutions. Pardarshita visited 150 property owners to explain the risks of renting out properties to traffickers. 102 property owners signed pledges not to rent their properties out to employers that use children, and Pardarshita will make sure these are upheld.



*Landlords pledge to prevent their properties being used by employers exploiting children*

**Community level poster campaign** – The Labour Department and Police Department partnered with CLFJ to design and distribute 7,000 posters, promoting reporting child labour cases, warning employers against exploiting children and warning house owners against renting their rooms to workshops exploiting children. These were distributed and posted by police and labour officials in the 33 districts of Rajasthan with 3,000 of them being put up through the 31 police stations in Jaipur. The Labour Secretary as well as senior police officials launched the poster initiative. The 3 posters are in the annex.

**Training group leaders** – In the Jaipur neighbourhoods, there are 51 groups, including single women groups, youth groups and action research groups currently functioning with approximately 498 members, coordinated by SEWA and Partners in Change (PiC). Although the group activities have been kept at a low level due to covid restrictions, partners have used this time to build the skills of 28 Fellows (community volunteers) in action research methods, through three training events. The Fellows have learnt how to undertake social mapping, collectively identify issues of concern related to child labour and analyse household data about those issues, with further training planned. So far, SEWA has mapped 1,000 households in 16 areas. The approach has also helped 250 households connected to PiC to access government entitlements at a crucial time.

**Getting children enrolled in school** – In December 2020, as part of a 15-day CLFJ enrolment drive, several partners collaborated to arrange for 3 rickshaws to spread the message of stopping child labour and ensuring all children are enrolled within targeted communities. The rickshaws, accompanied by partners' staff, displayed signs and played an announcement to draw attention to the message, and moved around the neighbourhoods distributing pamphlets on how to get children enrolled. Each day, the rickshaws generated 180 - 210 queries. The Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) partnered in the campaign and there was wide media coverage. Over 600 children were enrolled in government and private school in the months following the campaign, with enrolments still continuing.



*The rickshaws for the enrolment campaign.*

SEWA, Pardarshita and PiC also promoted school enrolment through their community and youth groups, with the goal of identifying all out-of-school children in their working areas. Pardarshita set up a help desk outside some of the schools, to assist parents struggling to enrol their children.



**Ensuring school quality to encourage regular attendance** - From September 2020, CLFJ began activities to ensure that Jaipur schools could effectively provide a valuable alternative to child labour for families:

- We brought together a wide range of organisations to successfully launch the Right to Education network in Rajasthan, aiming at improving education across the state.
- Pardarshita is organising a social auditing of schools, with support from Partners in Change, so that children, parents and teachers can create accountability for addressing problems in infrastructure, teaching, discrimination, lack of textbooks and issues with midday meals. The process will start in 15 schools in early 2021.
- With endorsement from the Department of Education, CCP has provided trainings to School Management Committees (SMC) from 6 schools on their roles and responsibilities, especially with regard to child labour and out of school children. As one participant noted: “We did not know that we could do a lot for our children. SMCs are so powerful! Surely we will overcome the challenges being faced by our schools.” Pardarshita also held two trainings for 96 SMC members from 6 other schools. Further SMC trainings are planned.
- Partners in Change and SEWA are now providing supplementary tuition at 6 community centres for children who are not currently benefiting from school, now reaching 176 children. Community women have shown they are keen to identify additional children in need and bring them to the centres.



*School Management Committee training event*

#### Outcome 4: Wider influence

CLFJ's collaboration with the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has emerged as an important factor to bring enhanced effectiveness to the public outreach activities, and they will be an important ally in fostering the use of the learning from the CLFJ program in other districts in the state. We continue to update the Child Labour Free Jaipur website ([www.CLFJaipur.org](http://www.CLFJaipur.org)).

## 4. Freedom Fund Emergency Response Fund

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From April to October 2020, CLFJ Jaipur and Bihar partners engaged in three rounds of emergency relief activities, including distribution of free food packets sufficient for 15 days, limited direct cash transfers, livelihood support through mask-making, and free mask distribution.

Partners also provided the community with information about the pandemic and how to take preventive measures.

The total value of support provided was \$97,098 and the three ERF rounds reached a total number of 22,529 beneficiaries.

## 5. Supporting a community of practice

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By September 2020, the CLFJ team, partners and funders completed a strategic planning process to review the progress achieved and set out priorities for the next phase of work, including strengthening collaborations among partners.

Partner grant agreements were then renewed. In support of new priorities set out in the strategy, we were pleased to receive funding commitments from the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), as well as the Dorothea Hauss Ross Foundation.

During 2020, partners have increased their collaboration and united in their responses to the impact of covid:

- They coordinated in mapping out routes and planning logistics for the 15-day rickshaw campaign promoting school enrolment in Jaipur;
- They collaborated to identify and intercept buses that were entering Jaipur, bringing trafficked children back;
- CLFJ is developing a shared “phone tree” so that texts and whatsapp messages can be sent to the partners, to be forwarded to their field staff and local volunteers, who will then forward them to over 2,000 individuals.

In Q4 2020, financial reviews with all the partners were started; safeguarding training was provided; and three all-partner Community of Practice sessions were undertaken, including capacity building for compliance with the new FCRA Amendment.

## 6. Independent Evaluation & Research

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In November 2020, an independent evaluator, Development Solutions, undertook a follow-up assessment of programmatic results. The evaluation found systemic improvements in enforcement in Jaipur through an increased number of rescues and filing of legal cases, as well as higher than expected school enrolment among reintegrated children in Bihar. Additionally, despite Covid-related school closures, it reported that many children and adolescents in Jaipur had not started working. They made a range of helpful recommendations for further development and expansion of the program.

## 7. Case studies

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### Interception of a bus trafficking 31 children to Jaipur.



*Children rescued from the intercepted bus*

Part of our strategy to stop trafficking of children back to Jaipur was to get a strong message out to the railways and bus companies to stop traffickers using their services. We worked with RSCPCR to issue guidance to the Transport Department and Labour Department about preventing trafficking, including reminding owners of bus companies that their licenses are in jeopardy if they help in trafficking children.

Our partners then worked through informants in the neighbourhoods to get information about any buses that they heard of bringing children from Bihar. In August, we heard information about the number plate of one such bus and which toll booth it would be passing through. Taabar and Prayas, along with Childline, and lawyers working with CLFJ, worked with the police to monitor the toll booth and watch out for the bus. Around 2pm, the partners and police identified and intercepted the bus, arresting 4 contractors and the driver, and rescuing 31 children aged between 10 and 16 years.

Having earlier briefed police at Galta Gate police station to be ready to process the suspects and assist the children, the NGOs and police took them there, and Taabar provided food and support. RSCPCR and Rajasthan administrative services sent officers to the police station to ensure proper processing of the case. When one police officer from another police station tried to intervene and get a child illegally handed over to someone else, the lawyer had to take strong action to prevent this. The interception and arrests were publicised in media.





*Suraj and Manoj – Names and faces altered to protect identity*

After being rescued from a bangle-making factory in Jaipur, Suraj<sup>2</sup>, aged 12, stayed at a shelter home and then returned to his village in Gaya, with support from Centre DIRECT. Suraj had worked at the factory with his older brother Manoj, aged 13, for 15 months, but during the rescue operation, Manoj had been hidden by the trafficker, and remained under his control.

When Suraj and his parents were reunited, the same trafficker approached them trying to re-traffic Suraj. Meanwhile, Suraj told his parents how they had been forced to work for 17 hours a day and were badly beaten if something went wrong. When this took place, the managers turned the music on full volume to cover the noise of crying because the workshop was in a residential area.

Suraj's parents refused to give the child back to the trafficker, and they demanded that he should bring back Manoj. The trafficker said that in exchange for bringing Manoj back, the parents should give him INR 200,000 (\$2,740).

During one of the follow up visits by the Centre DIRECT fieldworker, the parents told him that they were constantly facing threats and that the trafficker still had the older child and refused to bring him back. The fieldworker took the mother to the nearby police station and helped her to file a report against the trafficker. Centre DIRECT ensured that the police report contained Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, which carries more serious penalties.

However, the police station took no action against the trafficker, so Centre DIRECT informed the senior state police who directed the District Superintendent of Police to ensure that Manoj was united with his family within a week.

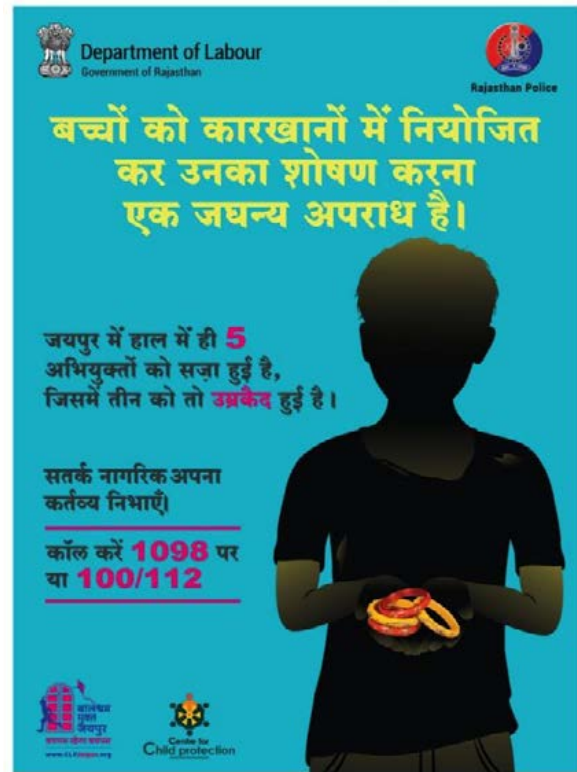
Within a week, the police ensured that the trafficker returned the child, and Manoj was brought to court to give his statement. He bravely gave testimony against the trafficker. Centre DIRECT has applied for witness protection for the family, and they continue to follow up on the case.

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<sup>2</sup> Children's names have been changed, for confidentiality.



## Annex: Posters developed and distributed in partnership with Police and Department of Labour



Posters encouraging community reporting against child trafficking, and warning employers against exploiting children



Local police putting posters on display in the neighbourhoods.



Department of Labour  
Government of Rajasthan



Rajasthan Police

# बच्चों से बाल श्रम कराने वालों को मकान किराए पे ना दें।

ऐसा करने पर कानूनी कार्यवाही की जा सकती है।

सतर्क नागरिक अपना  
कर्तव्य निभाएँ।

कॉल करें **1098** पर  
या **100/112**



[www.CLFJaipur.org](http://www.CLFJaipur.org)

Poster warning property owners against renting to employers exploiting children





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