



What we do in India

- We're improving the quality of education for 14,800 primary school children
- We're helping 5,600 school drop-outs get a basic education
- Our village-level anti-trafficking networks rescued 166 children in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh
- We're saving lives with health and nutrition programmes in Rajasthan and West Bengal
- We're providing aid to 10,000 families affected by floods in Bihar



India is changing faster now than at any time since gaining independence in 1947. Home to 1.1 billion people, it is a world leader in information technology. Some 50 million people now earn the equivalent of US\$10,000 per year – but that's still only 5% of the population. Meanwhile, 300 million people struggle to survive on less than US\$1 a day.

Children and young people under 18 make up more than 40% of the population. Many don't go to school at all, or drop out early. Millions don't have enough to eat, cannot get treatment when they are ill and have to work to support their families or for their own survival.

India is frequently hit by natural disasters – for example, the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), the earthquake in Kashmir (2005) and floods (2007 and 2008). India is the world's largest democracy, but religious, social and regional divisions sometimes threaten its stability. An estimated 3.1 million people are living with HIV.

Save the Children in India

We began working in India before independence by providing food and shelter to people who were in need. We set up an office in 1975 and today we work with national and local government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in nine states and union territories – Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Assam, Pondicherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In 2008, we

launched Save the Children India as an independent member of the International Save the Children Alliance.

We focus on:

- helping more children get a good quality primary education
- protecting children from harm – in particular, from hazardous forms of child labour
- saving young lives with health and nutrition programmes
- enabling communities affected by the tsunami, Kashmir earthquake and recent floods in Bihar to rebuild their livelihoods
- supporting government to provide better services for the most vulnerable children.

Key areas of work

We're educating children

Most children in India (90%) enrol in primary school, but four in ten drop out before they've completed their five years. Much teaching is still done by traditional rote learning methods, corporal punishment is common, and children are often taught in a language they don't understand.

We're improving the quality of teaching

We're working to improve the quality of education at preschool and primary levels in ten districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Together with the government, we're training teachers in 50 primary schools and 47 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres in how to get their pupils really involved in what they're learning. Some 14,800 children benefited from this over the past year.

We're introducing systems to monitor attendance

In Andhra Pradesh, we're enabling children to take part in the monitoring of pupils' attendance. Using a system introduced by the government called 'e-shishu', they can track who is attending and who isn't.

We're making schools more accountable

The village education committees we helped set up in Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Orissa are continuing to play an active role in governing schools, to improve their facilities and encourage teachers to use methods that keep their pupils interested and motivated.

We've also set up children's groups so that pupils can raise concerns with their school management committees or local government.

We're enabling children who've dropped out to go back

In Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, we're supporting bridging courses and alternative education centres for working children, girls, children from certain castes and tribal groups and children working in hazardous industries. The centres are popular because they're flexible and adapt their opening hours to suit children's needs. In the past year, 5,600 children gained a basic education, and 2,700 subsequently moved into mainstream schools.

We're helping children with disabilities go to school

Just one in ten of India's estimated 40 million children with disabilities are in school. Although the law says that children with disabilities have the right to be educated in mainstream schools, this does not happen in practice and many staff don't have the necessary skills.

In Orissa, we helped 429 children with disabilities move into mainstream schools. We also trained 66 children's centre workers and teachers on how to meet the needs of all the children they are working with, regardless of their abilities.

We're campaigning for a ban on corporal punishment

Fear of being hit is one of the reasons that children drop out of school early. We're urging the Department of Education to ban corporal punishment. The National Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights quoted our recommendations in the letter he sent to the Department of Education arguing for the ban. We were invited to attend a meeting on the subject organised by the Minister for Women and Child Development, which was widely covered in the media.

We're protecting children

India's laws ban the use of young workers in hazardous industries, but thousands of children still work – in firecracker and matchstick factories, weaving carpets, embroidering clothes and working in cotton fields.

Many girls are domestic workers, even though this was made illegal in 2006 for young people under 14. Shut away in private houses, they are often badly treated, and are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse. They may be fired for small mistakes, losing not only their jobs, but the place they live as well.

We're highlighting the plight of child domestic workers

We spearheaded the review of the implementation of the law banning child labour, together with other agencies such as UNICEF and the International Labour Organization. The group drew up a draft protocol for the rescue and rehabilitation of domestic child workers and began a month-long media campaign to raise awareness of their plight, in the run-up to the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2009. This received wide coverage.

We're influencing national policy

A member of our policy team seconded to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is helping to develop the government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The Ministry has asked us to support three state governments in reporting on the implementation of the Child Rights Convention.

Together with the government, UNICEF and a local NGO, we compiled the first ever national-level report on child abuse in India, published in April 2007. It's one of the largest studies ever conducted, covering more than 12,000 children and 4,800 young adults in 13 states. We hope this will inform and influence the government as it draws up its child protection policy and a bill on offences against children.

We're combating trafficking

Human trafficking in India has become an organised crime generating a business worth some US\$8 million. The trade relies on enticing women and children from poor areas with promises of jobs and/or marriage. We've set up 87 anti-trafficking networks at village level across the states of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The networks consist of committees whose members are local young people, self-help group members and elected representatives.

In the past year, the networks rescued 166 children from trafficking, who were enrolled in schools and alternative education programmes. The networks also helped arrest 33 traffickers.

We're helping communities protect their children

We've helped to set up a further 793 community child protection committees across several states. The committees are made up of children, parents, teachers, health workers and other community members who can identify issues affecting children and find ways to tackle them. Most of the committees meet monthly to discuss issues such as school drop-out rates, physical punishment in schools, child labour and early marriages.

In the past year, child protection committees prevented 305 child marriages in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

HIV and AIDS

There are an estimated 3.1 million people living with HIV and AIDS in India, but there are no reliable estimates of the number of children affected.

We're raising awareness

Working through schools, children's groups and local partners, we've been raising children's awareness of HIV and AIDS in the communities affected by the 2004 tsunami. In the past

year we've reached more than 25,000 children and 55,000 adults. As a result, 701 people volunteered to get tested for HIV, with follow-up and support provided by our partners.

Together with 15 other NGOs, we're beginning work with the Indian government's National AIDS Control Organisation to improve care for children affected by HIV and AIDS. Over the next four years, we aim to provide quality comprehensive care for 517,500 children in 1,188 villages in 40 districts across seven states – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Child survival

More children under five die from preventable and treatable diseases in India than in any other country. We're working with poor and marginalised children and communities in Rajasthan and West Bengal to help them increase their access to good quality healthcare and treatment for malnutrition. When parents are better able to recognise and seek early treatment for the major childhood illnesses, children are much less likely to die. We plan to increase our activities by opening health and nutrition programmes in more states over the next year. We'll also be launching a major campaign to boost child survival in India, insisting that the Indian government do even more to address the country's high rates of child mortality and malnutrition.

Communities disrupted by emergencies

When a disaster strikes, children are particularly vulnerable. In an instant, they may lose their home, their community, their security and everything they have.

Floods in 2008 affected around 28 million people across 17 states. Our response is focusing on the states of Bihar and Orissa, which are the most severely affected (4.8 million people in Bihar and 6.1 million in Orissa). So far we've reached 10,000 families with food aid, blankets, clothing and materials for shelter, and medical help. We plan to stay in the flood-affected areas and help keep children safe, and get them back to school

Floods also affected around 13.7 million people in 2007. For seven months, we worked with 286 villages in Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Assam and helped more than 15,000 families, including 40,000 children. We provided food and clothing, and tarpaulin for temporary shelter. We set up 40 child-friendly spaces for 4,800 children, where they could play safely and have their lessons, until their schools were repaired.

To improve the communities' response to any future disaster, we helped to set up 191 disaster management committees and 246 children's disaster preparedness committees and provided their members with training.

Some 10,000 people died in the states of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal as a result of the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004 and thousands more had

their homes and livelihoods destroyed. As our response to the tsunami draws to an end, we finished building 48 Integrated Child Development Services centres in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



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