



# Hello Childline

CHILDLINE is a project of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (GOI) in partnership with State Governments, NGOs, International Donors, the Corporate Sector, Concerned Individuals and Children.

ISSUE 54

DECEMBER 2008

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue No 54 of the CHILDLINE Newsletter. This is the third issue in 2008.

This issue features some very disturbing cases that raise the issue of increasing incidence of child sexual abuse in our country. In the last quarter CHILDLINE has been focusing its efforts on penalising the guilty and have managed to secure some very child friendly compensations for child victims. CHILDLINE has also found that the allied systems are increasingly getting involved in the care of children and as you will see this time the media has played a very active role in helping CHILDLINE intervene positively on the cases.

CHILDLINE partner agencies all over the country continue to celebrate important days with very innovative and creative programs. While these programs allow the children an opportunity for fun and games they serve a more important purpose. As you will see in this issue, awareness programs run by CHILDLINE have resulted in many people approaching CHILDLINE directly for help. The most touching case is of this little girl who is forced to work as a domestic worker, beaten and abused and locked up in the house when the family goes out. She hears a CHILDLINE message broadcast from a travelling auto-rickshaw and calls CHILDLINE herself.

This time CIF has received a huge number of cases all of which have not been incorporated in this issue, partially on account of the sheer volume of cases received. CIF appreciates the wonderful work and effort of all the CHILDLINE agencies in reaching out to children in need, and will try to ensure coverage in the following issues.

We invite you to be part of the process of making our country more 'Child friendly'. Please do send in messages for the 'pin-up' board and our special section "Children's Voices", which calls for prose, poetry, art etc created by children. Your comments and suggestions for keeping this newsletter a dynamic medium of communication between persons who hold the welfare and protection of children close to our hearts, are always welcomed.

We look forward to having your contributions pour in...

## What is CHILDLINE?

CHILDLINE is a national, 24-hour, free, emergency telephone helpline and outreach service for children in need of care and protection. The **CHILDLINE** number 1098 is a toll free number that is common in all the cities of India. Initially started in Mumbai in June 1996, **CHILDLINE** is currently operational in 83 cities. **CHILDLINE** aims to reach out to the most marginalised children between the age group of 0-18 years, and provides interventions of shelter, medical, repatriation, rescue, death related, sponsorships and, emotional support and guidance.

So if YOU see a child in distress, call 1098!

## CHILDLINE is ringing in 83 cities of India:

Agartala, Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, Allahabad, Alwar, Amaravati, Aurangabad, Baroda, Bangalore, Berhampur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandauli, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuttack, Cuddalore, Darbhanga, Delhi, Eluru, Goa, Gorakhpur, Gurgaon, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Jalpaiguri, Jammu, Kakinada, Kalyan, Kanchipuram, Kanpur, Kannur, Kanyakumari, Kasargod, Kishanganj, Kochi, Kolkata, Kota, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Madurai, Malappuram, Mangalore, Meerut, Mumbai, Murshidabad, Nadia, Nagapattinam, Nagpur, Nasik, Palakkad, Patna, Port Blair, Paschim Medinipur, Pune, Purba Medinipur, Puri, Purnea, Ranchi, Rourkela, Salem, Shillong, Shimla, Sholapur, Sitamarhi, South 24 Parganas, Thane, Thrissur, Thirunelveli, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Udaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi, Vijaywada, Vishakapatnam, Wayanad.





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## City Highlights and Happenings!

### Celebrating 10.9.8 Day

September 10, 2008 was a very important day for us at CHILDLINE. It was a 'Once in a Millennium' chance to celebrate the **'1098' Day on 10.09.08.**

### 1098-day celebration in Delhi

On the occasion of 1098 Day, CIF North RRC associated with Oxford bookstore to organize a book reading session for street children. The Oxford's in-house Kid's coordinator organized an interactive session with 40 children. She used cut out models/ pictures to tell stories and involved children in enacting the stories, which led to a high level of involvement. It was a fun based learning for children. This was followed by stone paintings by the children. The children had a wonderful time and the entire atmosphere with books around was a stimulating experience for everyone involved.



The visitors in the coffee shop at the Oxford bookstore at Statesman House in the heart of Delhi (Connaught Place) also witnessed the program.

Also 1098 html mailer was successfully sent out to around 20 MNCs across Delhi NCR. These were put up on the internal server of these companies and sent out to all their employees on 10th September 2008.

CHILDLINE Posters at Barista. Starting 10th September 2008, the North RRC associated with Barista Coffee for a poster campaign as part of awareness drive. CHILDLINE posters were put up in all Barista outlets across Delhi and Gurgaon for the next 15 days.

**CHILDLINE Kochi** celebrates '10-9-8' Day with a series of awareness programs. The team used various mediums to celebrate the day and spread awareness on CHILDLINE and the service. CHILDLINE Kochi tied up with the local FM radio, private Club FM, Radio Mango and S FM stations and announcements were made through them

on CHILDLINE and how the public can support CHILDLINE in its activities.

The CHILDLINE team organized a outdoor mobile Campaign, in which a Jeep with speakers was driven through the district with the CHILDLINE song and messages being broadcasted out aloud. The team also distributed 10,000 leaflets to the public through this campaign. TATA Indicom also supported CHILDLINE by sending an SMS on CHILDLINE to all of its clients. An exhibition on Child Rights and CHILDLINE was also organised at Ernakulam South Railway Station.

CHILDLINE organized an essay writing competition for the school children. The theme of the essay competition was "Kuttikalude Avakasha Samrakshanam Sadhyadakai 1098 Loode," (the protection of child rights through CHILDLINE). Of the total thirty essays received, six were shortlist. The winners were awarded with certificates and cash prizes (Rs. 500 for first place, and Rs. 300 for second place). The prizes were given away by the District Collector at the concluding function held at the Children's Park. CHILDLINE-Kochi got 1,400 Calls on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

**CHILDLINE Tiruchirappalli** chose to mark the 1098-day with a large public awareness program at Tiruchirappalli Junction (one of the largest railway stations in Tamil Nadu). The Southern Railways Divisional Security Commissioner, Government of India inaugurated the function by releasing a host of balloons, symbolizing the liberation and freedom to be enjoyed by every child of India. A CHILDLINE stall, which was put up on platform No.1 by the Collaborative CHILDLINE agency, distributed thousands of CHILDLINE pamphlets. Student volunteers also distributed pamphlets over a wide area Junction, Central Bus Station, Chattram Bus Station, Gandhi Market and Tanjore sub urban, along with the CHILDLINE team. In all it was a very successful day with CHILDLINE being able to reach out to large number of people.





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## North Zone

In the last quarter **CHILDLINE Lucknow** hosted three youth focused Child Rights sensitisation campaigns. In the month of June 500 NCC cadets (National Cadet Corps) were orientated on Child Rights and CHILDLINE through street plays. In the month of July around 30 students from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia University and Khushi foundation attended an orientation on JJ Act and its implementation status. The biggest youth related activity was held on International Youth Day (12<sup>th</sup> August). A rally was organised in collaboration with the National Social Service (NSS) Dept of Lucknow University and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). The rally passed through prominent areas of the city, youth and over 200 social workers from different fields who participated in the rally carried banners with CHILDLINE and AIDS control messages.

This year **CHILDLINE Shimla**, with support from the Labour Commissioner organized a workshop for the Labour Department of Himachal Pradesh to commemorate World day Against Child Labour (12<sup>th</sup> June). At this workshop the issue of Child Labour and the various challenges faced by both the Labour Department and the NGOs working in this sector were discussed. The effectiveness and the limitations of the JJ Act and the welfare of children in Himachal Pradesh were also talked about. Some of the suggestions offered by the participants in response to problems discussed included the need for a media campaign to spread mass awareness on the issue, mobile schools for migrant children and the need to implement a project in Himachal Pradesh, which will work against Child Labour. Most of the participants agreed that clear role delineation, as well as cooperation between the different departments working on Child Labour is essential to improve the efficacy of the system.

The last quarter has been a very busy time for **CHILDLINE Jaipur** with three very engaging events. To begin with World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June) was celebrated with over 120 children of construction labourers. The CHILDLINE team first conducted a session on environment and what it means and later organized a drawing competition for the children.

Later in the month **CHILDLINE Jaipur** organized a one-day Initiation cum Training Program for the team members of Jan Kala, the new CHILDLINE collaborative organization. All the team members participated in the training program. The main areas of focus during this training program were experience sharing and documentation. Other aspects covered included the need to register every call according to the guidelines of the call register. A detailed session on counselling techniques was also given by the CHILDLINE Coordinator, best practices and case intervention strategies were also discussed in some detail.

Closer to the end of the month of June CHILDLINE Jaipur together with the Institute of Development Studies, UNICEF and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

organized a Bal Utsav at Bal Bhawan on June 23, 2008. The programme was aimed at providing nearly 150 children living in Children's Homes a fun filled day, where they could escape for a few moments, the relatively closed setting they live in. Throughout the day, children were engaged in a variety of activities such as drawing, painting, mono acting, dance and drama. There were a number of facilitators and volunteers to interact with and guide the children. The organizers of the bal utsav focused on making it a joy filled, fun creative event.



Two days after the first bal utsav, a second bal utsav was organised for more than 500 children from the street children project and the local government school. Children participated in various activities i.e. craft, theatre, dance, drawing, music etc. On 29<sup>th</sup> June at the valedictory session at the Jawahar Kala Kendra the children presented their plays and dance performances while the children's works were displayed in the Art Gallery.



After much discussion and collaborative exercises CHILDLINE Jaipur is working with Jaipur Doordarshan and All India Radio's FM Channel to air advocacy messages for CHILDLINE. UNICEF Rajasthan sponsored this activity for the month of August. **Jaipur** Doordarshan telecasted the message every alternate day during August and All India Radio





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aired the message for thirty consecutive days starting from September 15, 2008.

**CHILDLINE Gorakhpur** organized a daylong counselling session for all the CHILDLINE team members. CHILDLINE Varanasi also attended the program. The session was held at and supported by St. Joseph's College. All the sessions were conducted in a very participative manner by the psychologists from the Sahara Welfare Foundation who were the main resource persons. The topics covered included basic counselling skills, problem identification and problem management – all child focused. As a direct outcome of this program CHILDLINE Gorakhpur undertook the responsibility of getting the IQ testing of mentally challenged children from one of the resource organisation's shelter home for girls.

15<sup>th</sup> August 2008, CHILDLINE Gorakhpur formed CHILDLINE Volunteer Club (CVC). The main focus of formation of the club was to draw support and collaboration from concerned individuals from all walks of life. The programme began at the CHILDLINE centre with oath taking by each member of the club. The ceremony consisted of presenting concept paper to the members' explaining the roles and responsibilities. Following this ceremony, the group then moved to the District Magistrate's (DM) office, where the DM pinned badges to all the volunteers.



In another major effort, this time with the police, CHILDLINE Gorakhpur was successful in getting the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gorakhpur to act as a Nodal Officer from the police department for CHILDLINE Gorakhpur. The SSP has since then instructed the police officers of the district to extend all possible support and cooperation to CHILDLINE.

CHILDLINE Gorakhpur organized a '**No Child Labour Day**' on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (Anti Child Labour Day) to create awareness among the people on "No child labour". Superintendent of Police, City Chief Guest of the day, flagged off the rally.

One hundred and fifty children from National Child Labour Project Schools, University students, and CHILDLINE team

members and partner agencies took part in the rally. The children held placards and banners with No Child Labour Messages and slogans such as '*Adhe Roti Khayange, School Padane Jayenge*', '*Bal Shram Bandh Karo, Bandh Karo*', '*and Bal Shram Aparadh Hai*'. The rally passed through roadways, bus terminus, railway station, and police station and culminated at the CHILDLINE Call Centre.

**CHILDLINE Meerut** has been organizing regular medical camps in local slums every month. A team of doctors from the Rural Development Foundation, New Delhi visits the slum every month, and cater to the needs of nearly 150 -165 children. Apart from full medical check up, the children were also given free medicines.

This last quarter CHILDLINE Meerut has focused its efforts on advocacy Initiatives. As a direct result CHILDLINE is now featured on the district website of Meerut.

In another event the District Inspector of School (DIOS) at Doorli, invited CHILDLINE to address a meeting of (248) Principals of Inter Colleges of Meerut district. The participants were briefed on CHILDLINE services and the issue of child rights (with a special mention on corporal punishment). The Principals were requested to take the message back to their institutions. Backup reference materials were given to all the principals to help them spread information on CHILDLINE.

## South Zone

**MARG Chennai Marathon:** August 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, CIF-SRRG - Chennai team & Chennai CHILDLINE team members participated in the MARG Chennai Marathon organized by Give Life Charity and MARG. The event was flagged off at 6.30 a.m along the Marina beach road. A total number of 45 people including CIF participated in the event on behalf of CHILDLINE. CHILDLINE Kiosks were put up at the start and the end points through which CHILDLINE team disseminated awareness materials to the public.

CIF team ran for the MARG 'I Love Chennai – The Great Chennai Run' which was a 7 Km marathon. The CHILDLINE team sported CHILDLINE T-Shirts and carried placards and banners displaying CHILDLINE message.





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**Kanchipuram CHILDLINE** conducted extensive advocacy work in the last quarter. Through concentrated effort they were able to meet and interact with many officials from the allied systems. CHILDLINE was able to meet with the Mamallapuram Town Panchayat President, concerned officers of Archaeological Survey of India, Officials from the Tourist Department, and the police officers in the local police stations. CHILDLINE also met the Collector, NCLP, Labour Dept, CWC Officials & Probation Officers as well as the BDO, AEO of Thiruporur block, SP/DSP, Social Defence Officials and CWC members of Chennai. CHILDLINE discussed the issues of child rights, child beggary, street children, disabled children missing children etc the role and nature of CHILDLINE, the problems faced by the CHILDLINE team during intervention, the problems faced by the officials in implementing their duties in regard to street children and the ways in which the different departments could support CHILDLINE in their endeavors.

## East Zone

**CHILDLINE Agartala** has been successful in getting the CIF website on the Tripura State Website with support from National Informatics Centre (NIC)

**CHILDLINE Shillong** brings magic into the life of three hundred children. BSNL Shillong sponsored for the tickets to the Sorcar Magic show. The CHILDLINE volunteers gathered three hundred children mainly targeting working children, child labourers, rag pickers, street children, slum children and domestic workers. The Rotary Club of Shillong provided the refreshments and arranged the travel of the children. CHILDLINE distributed almost a 1000 pamphlets during the 3 days of the show. It was a wonderfully fun experience that the children enjoyed immensely.

**CHILDLINE Jalpaiguri** organized the CAB on 14<sup>th</sup> August this year. Some of the major decisions regarding the police and the district administration were taken.

### Police

- To be made mandatory for every police station to stick CHILDLINE laminated poster (CHILDLINE will provide Posters).
- To provide a vehicle to CHILDLINE in emergency cases.
- To allow CHILDLINE to present their activities at the District Crime Meeting.
- To provide wireless facility to share information on missing children - inter and intra district.
- To provide wireless facility while restoration of children to other districts.
- Data sharing about missing Children and Juvenile delinquents with CHILDLINE and the police every month

### District Administration

- CHILDLINE hoardings in the premises of the Collectorate office

- A letter by the Additional District Magistrate to all government department asking them to cooperate with and assist CHILDLINE

This last quarter **CHILDLINE Imphal** has focused its efforts on spreading awareness on Child Rights and CHILDLINE services. Five major events were organized and participated in by CHILDLINE.

- Organised an awareness Programme on child Rights for Women working at Heinoukhongnembi Gram Panchayat Area under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).
- Organised an Awareness Programme during the Ratha Yatra Festival at Brahmapur Laipubam Leirak, Imphal East.
- Organised a media campaign for NGOs working for children against the kidnapping of and 'missing children' in the State since the month of May 2008 onwards.
- Organised a meeting for the voluntary organisations and children's Homes in Imphal.
- Participated in the day long discussion on the issue of recruiting child soldiers organized by the Manipur Alliance for Child Rights, to which CHILDLINE Imphal is a member.

Given that Howrah station in Kolkata shelter's number of runaway children, it is also the source area from which many children are trafficked and is a popular railway junction well known to street children. **CHILDLINE Kolkata** decided to organize a night outreach program in August. Accordingly the CHILDLINE team worked and came across thirteen children on the platform. During course of conversation and discussion seven children expressed interest to go to night shelter. Four others only asked for medical treatment but opted to stay on the platform. The following day the CHILDLINE team approached the GRP police inspector and asked for permission to put up CHILDLINE posters on the platform. The GRP were very cooperative and CHILDLINE got to meet a number of their police personnel and were able to talk to all of them about child rights and CHILDLINE services. This outreach at night also gave the CHILDLINE team a hands on exposure to the children and the lives they live on the station.

As a part of sports event the Kolkata CHILDLINE football team was invited by the Kolkata Police to join the Para (Locality) Football Tournament. The children sporting CHILDLINE T-Shirts participated in the tournament. It was a huge opportunity for CHILDLINE as the tournament generated lots of CHILDLINE awareness within the community and also helped in developing a linkage with police. The children to had a great time.

**CHILDLINE Orissa** organized a meeting of the Directors' and Coordinators' of five CHILDLINE cities, (Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela).



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At the meeting each of the cities spoke about their activities, problems faced by them with the allied systems and the already existing facilities in the cities and districts. In the plenary session all the participants discussed ways to address the problems raised. At the meeting the District Social Welfare Officer, Puri pledged his full-fledged support to the CHILDLINE activities.

## West Zone

**CHILDLINE Nagpur** participated in an Info-entertainment Programme on HIV/AIDS organized by the Nagpur Young Men's Association (NYMA). NYMA offered CHILDLINE an exhibition stall at the venue. CHILDLINE was able to reach out directly to almost 200 people who visited the stall. An added benefit was the chance for CHILDLINE to interact with NGOs working on HIV/AIDS who offered CHILDLINE help in related cases in the future.

Health Camp Organised by **Nagpur CHILDLINE**. On International Labour Day, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008, Nagpur CHILDLINE in collaboration with \*Sickle-Cell Department, Government Medical College, Nagpur organized a Health Camp at slum area. Being able to organize this camp was a major achievement for CHILDLINE because the people living in this area are afraid of taking medicines and injections because of their superstitious beliefs. 137 Children within the age group of 0-18 years were the beneficiaries and sickle cell tests were done on 110 children. 10 persons were detected as sickle cell patients and have been referred for further treatment at Government Medical College, Nagpur.

Nagpur CHILDLINE organized an 'Educational Material Distribution Programme' on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008. The educational material for 470 children was sponsored from Leela Ventures and Roshan Estate, Nagpur.

**CHILDLINE Mumbai** observes World Addiction Day. As part of the open house, the CHILDLINE Mumbai Team along with the Narco Analysis Cell of the Mumbai Police organized a session on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008, which was also the World Addiction Day. The event was organized in the Bandra East Community Centre where street children coming to CHILDLINE are often given shelter.

The guest speaker for the event, Dr. Tavarik, educated the children on Drugs and their side effects, disorders related to drug addiction and syndromes. These children are addicted to intoxicants such as whiteners, nail polish removers etc. Dr. Tavarik made a child (the child was himself an addict sometime back and was on hard drugs such as Afim and Ganja) do a role-play on what happens when a child is into substance abuse. The children were shown a demo on how whiteners are harmful to the body by pouring it on a piece of thermocol, which eventually got burnt in the process.

Thirty-two children who participated in this event were in the age group of 9 to 18 years.

Children were later given snacks and shown posters of CHILDLINE. However, most of the boys were already well informed about the CHILDLINE service. Children also called CHILDLINE and tested the service.

**Celebrating Impact Day** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 is celebrated as an Impact Day by Deloitte corporate office. This day is symbolic for the employees in terms of sharing social responsibility. As part of the Impact Day, **Mumbai CHILDLINE** team members met 15 employees of Deloitte and conducted an awareness programmes on CHILDLINE service. They performed puppet shows in the community and slum areas in Powai, Mumbai. After the puppet shows the Deloitte and CHILDLINE team distributed CHILDLINE pamphlets and stickers in the community to enhance the understanding of the people.

At the same time CHILDLINE children were also taken to Deloitte office where they were taught Warli paintings and the staff played games. Children were also shown a children's film by Deloitte. At the end of the day CHILDLINE was felicitated along with other participating NGOs.

**Telecom Advocacy:** As a fall-out of the CAB meetings, the telecom department has printed the CHILDLINE message on MTNL Telephone bills for Mumbai city in the month of June'08.

## The Melting Pot

21<sup>st</sup> September 2008, The Oberoi Melting Pot united the nations of the world to contribute towards CHILDLINE India Foundation.

The Oberoi Melting Pot is an annual event hosted by The Consular Corps in Mumbai, in association with The Rotary Club of Bombay and The Oberoi, Mumbai.

This annual event brought together twenty countries including Australia, Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Germany, Ireland, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam. They showcased their culture and their culinary traditions. The evening entertained more than 500 guests with special performances by the African drummers, vocals from Indonesia, China etc. There were a variety of culinary treats at the 19 food stalls from the respective countries. In addition were the sponsored prizes from the raffle hampers and silent auctions for holiday packages to these places.

CIF is extremely grateful to The Oberoi Melting Pot for introducing CHILDLINE to the world, we extend our acknowledgement to Ms. Busi Kuzwayo Dean, Consular Corps in Mumbai; Mr. Gul Kriplani, Past President Rotary Club of Mumbai; Mr. Mohit Nirula General Manager, The Oberoi, Mumbai; Kanan, Udeshi Manager, Communications, The Oberoi. Our heartfelt thanks to the Honorary Consul Generals of all the twenty countries for extending their kind support to CHILDLINE India Foundation.

\* Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder characterised by red blood cells that assume an abnormal, rigid, sickle shape.





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## Making a Difference - CHILDLINE Intervention

### NORTH ZONE

#### ***Dhruv's happy reunion with his family...***

Dhruv, a 10 year old boy was lodged in a government shelter home in U.P. for the last year and a half. Dhruv was not a delinquent child and nor was he unable to find his way home. He was unfortunately a victim of the same system that was supposedly protecting him. Dhruv had accidentally got separated from his parents during an interstate train journey and had ended up in Mumbai. He was picked up by the Mumbai police who referred him to the CWC. He was ultimately repatriated to a government shelter home in Lucknow, UP as Dhruv said that was where he lived. Once put in the home the officials in charge made no attempt to return Dhruv to his family. The worst part of this is that Dhruv knew where he lived – he just did not know the accurate postal address.

Fortunately for Dhruv, a **CHILDLINE Lucknow** team member was interacting with Dhruv and the children in the children's home one day, and the team member heard Dhruv's story. The CHILDLINE team checked with the home but got no satisfactory response so they decided to try and locate Dhruv's home by themselves. They realized that the address was rather sketchy but decided to follow up on it anyway. After a few initial setbacks the team was finally able to locate Dhruv's home in Gonda district.

Dhruv's family was ecstatic at the news that their son was alive and well. They had given up hope of ever seeing him again. The father immediately got onto a train and left for a very emotional reunion with his son.

For the CHILDLINE team it was a bittersweet experience. They had reunited Dhruv with his family but they could not help but wonder how many other "Dhruv's" were languishing in 'shelter homes' needlessly separated from their families and loved ones.

This case draws attention to the needs of the children residing within the system and the need for timely action to ensure quicker restoration of children.

#### ***CHILDLINE Jammu reunites Nisha with her father...***

15 year old Nisha had run away from home because her stepmother would harass her and threaten to marry her off to the first man who would pay her Rs.60,000, irrespective of his age, caste, or physical condition. In desperation Nisha had run away from home and was missing for six months. Her father had lodged a police complaint but had been unable to find her.

In early June, the police found Nisha wandering in Jammu and picked her up and took her to CHILDLINE. Nisha was

kept in shelter home till her parents could be located. Nisha told CHILDLINE staff that when she first ran away she had managed to find work as domestic help in a teacher's home for a few months. Once she earned some money she had gone to her aunt's house and lived with her for some time. However her aunt was unable to keep her indefinitely, so Nisha again left and was wandering about in Jammu when the police picked her up. After about 2 weeks, the police arrived at shelter home along with Nisha's father. Nisha's father had lodged a missing person's complaint at the police station and was constantly in touch with the police.

The police informed him about his daughter's whereabouts. He was very relieved and happy to see his daughter safe and well. He earnestly promised that he would take proper care of Nisha in the future. The CHILDLINE team got him to promise that in case his wife started harassing Nisha again he would report it to the local police station. Only after he had agreed to all these requirements, in writing, and after he had officially informed the local police station in his hometown where the family lives, was the father given custody of Nisha.

#### ***CHILDLINE Meerut helps Dinesh return home...***

Dinesh, a 15-year-old youth was unhappy because he was being forced to study by his farmer parents. They already had 2 older sons who were farmers and wanted a different life for Dinesh who was their youngest son. But Dinesh rebelled and ran away from his hometown in Varanasi.

Dinesh reached Delhi by train and at the station he met a person called Chandrapal from Bhadora (in Meerut) who questioned him on his whereabouts. Chandrapal was a teacher in a school and also did farming. He took Dinesh to his village, after falsely promising him that he would be paid for working in the fields. The reality turned out to be entirely different, despite working for long hours he was not paid any money, was not allowed to call up his parents, or step out of the premises. Initially the boy was allowed to talk to his parents under strict supervision. A paltry sum of Rs 2000/- was sent to the parents as the wages earned by Dinesh. The boy worked for nearly seven months. As days passed no more money was sent and working became very tedious for Dinesh, and when Dinesh wanted to talk to his parents he was not allowed to, because he begged his parents to come and free him.

What was worse for Dinesh was that by then his parents had not only reconciled to him not studying but they wanted him to continue work and send his wages to them. Only when the money stopped reaching them and they were unable to talk to their son did the parents finally approach the



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Varanasi CHILDLINE for help. Varanasi CHILDLINE contacted Meerut CHILDLINE as the boy was in Meerut.

CHILDLINE contacted a volunteer who lived in the same village as Chandrapal. The volunteer contacted Chandrapal who told him that Dinesh was very happy staying with him and so he was not going to send Dinesh back home. However when the volunteer spoke to Dinesh he sensed that the boy was very unhappy even though he said he did not want to go home. Meerut CHILDLINE team felt that coming onto to strong with Chandrapal might not be in the best interests of Dinesh who was still living with him. So a CHILDLINE team member called up Chandrapal and specifically told him that he could be fined Rs. 20000 for keeping a child in forced employment. Chandrapal immediately released the child.

During this time CHILDLINE had contact Dinesh's parents, they came to the CHILDLINE office to meet with their son. Dinesh seemed very weak, scared and unhappy. On asking, Dinesh first said he was happy working and did not want to go back. His body language was not convincing, so the team deferred taking a decision till after he and his family had had lunch. After a long chat with Dinesh and his parents the situation began to clear up. The parents tempted by the money they were receiving wanted Dinesh to continue working and were not willing to take him home with them. Dinesh who was very unhappy and dejected that his family did not want him back. Finally Dinesh broke down and begged his parents to take him back promising that he would study, as they had wanted him to do so earlier.

The team worked with the parents for a long time before they were willing to take Dinesh back and give him the education they had dreamed of at one time. Chandrapal was pressurized by CHILDLINE to pay the entire salary that was due to Dinesh. When CHILDLINE last spoke to Dinesh and his parents (03-08-2008) Dinesh said he was happy and attending school.

## **SOUTH ZONE**

### **CHILDLINE Kanchipuram effectively intervenes to prosecute a child abuser...**

Muskan a six-year-old girl was being sexually abused by a 40-year-old man, Ragith Raja. Muskan used to go home, by herself, from her tuition classes at 7.30 in the evening. Every day this man would pull Muskan into his little room and aggressively fondle her around her chest and breast. Little Muskan was terrified, she knew something was wrong but she was afraid to tell anyone in case she got scolded. Fortunately a boy from the neighborhood saw what was happening and told her parents. The next day Rajith Raja was caught in the act and badly beaten up by the neighbours. He ran away soon after that.

Muskan's father called up CHILDLINE Kanchipuram, who

told him to lodge a complaint with the police station. The parents and Muskan went to the police station where even Muskan was asked to recount the incident. That same night the local people apprehended Rajith Raja. However, the police didn't file an FIR and nor gave any kind of complaint number. CHILDLINE approached Tular, an NGO dealing with child sexual abuse cases. The parents of the child told CHILDLINE that the police had not only not registered a case against the culprit, but had released him. The Kanchipuram CHILDLINE coordinator & the parents went to the Gomudipondi E3 Police station to meet the police. The Sub Inspector (SI) was not available and when contacted over the phone he said that the people had beaten Rajith Raja very badly and so the police had decided to let him off. CHILDLINE insisted that he had committed a major offence against the child and needed to receive proper punishment. However the victim's father told CHILDLINE that the police refused to do anything to the abuser and was even trying to force him to come to some sort of out of court arrangement with the abuser.

CHILDLINE Kanchipuram coordinator then contacted the Probation Officer, Chennai, who in turn guided the team to contact the CWC Chairperson. The coordinator contacted her and gave all the details. The CWC Chairperson immediately contacted the Superintendent of Police (SP), Thiruvallur and briefed him about the case. The SP then asked CHILDLINE to meet the DSP of Gumudipundi Police station. CHILDLINE Kanchipuram Coordinator along with the parents went and met the DSP.

The DSP called the SI and severely reprimanded him for not lodging an FIR. Following this directed the Inspector of E3 station and asked him to deal with the case. The FIR was lodged by 8.30 p.m and the culprit was arrested that same night and locked up. The sub-inspector was also firmly warned not to repeat this action that had done so much damage to the reputation of the police. The case was filed under sec 4-354 IPC Act (Harassment of Women) and presently the culprit is behind the bars.

Geographically the area of Gummidipoondi falls outside the district of Kanchipuram and so outside the area covered by CHILDLINE Kanchipuram. However this extremely successful intervention, done through constant networking between related agencies (the Probation Officer, CWC - Chairperson, SP, DSP of Thiruvallur and Tular) has not only protected a little girl but has created excellent awareness for CHILDLINE in a new district.

### **Viki goes home thanks to the efforts of CHILDLINE Palakkad...**

12-year-old Viki was found at the Olavakkod railway station. When the police tried to pick him up he was very aggressive





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kicking, biting and scratching. The police called in CHILDLINE. Surprisingly Viki was very calm and cooperative with the team members. The team members slowly won him over and Viki started to give them his family details. CHILDLINE provided Viki with temporary shelter till he could be produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM). As it turned out that Viki was from Kanpur, CHILDLINE **Palakkad** called up CHILDLINE Kanpur to locate Viki's family. As according to procedure, CHILDLINE produced the child before the CJM who then directed that Viki stay in the Children's home till his family could be contacted. That same night the CHILDLINE Kanpur team called to say that they had located Viki's family and the next day Viki's father and elder brother came over to CHILDLINE Palakkad. The CHILDLINE team then produced the father to the CJM court, where Viki's father submitted the necessary papers for verification.

Since Viki was willing to go back with his father (even though he had run away because he was constantly scolded for playing up in the house) and since the family were more than happy to have Viki back, once all the documents were verified Viki was allowed to return home with his father and brother

## **An awareness campaign by CHILDLINE Vijayawada leads to 12-year-old Laxmi being rescued from being exploited as a domestic worker...**

Laxmi a native of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh was from a family of very poor financial conditions. Laxmi had been sent to work to help with the financial situation of her family. However the family for whom she was working used to beat her often, give her very little food and very hard labour.

One day CHILDLINE Vijayawada was conducting a rickshaw awareness program against Child Labour. Laxmi heard the message and when no one was at home Laxmi called up 1098 and asked for help. Laxmi was under a lot of stress because she knew her family needed the money she earned but she was finding it increasingly difficult to continue with the family she was working for.

Laxmi was unable to give her home address but CHILDLINE was finally able to trace the address from the incoming phone number. The CHILDLINE team along with Labour Department Officials, National Child Labour Project staff went to the house and rescued Laxmi. The employer of the child was the MD of Prakash Arts, which is an advertising agency. Labour Officials registered the case against the employers.

Laxmi was brought to the child rescue shelter and the team had to work very hard to get Laxmi to calm down and talk. The team later called her parents and the case was produced before the CWC. The CWC warned the

parents against putting Laxmi to work again and ordered that she be placed in school. The CWC also said that the Probation Officer would monitor the case and check up to see if Laxmi is in school in the future. The Labour Officer fined the employers Rs. 20,000 for employing a child as a domestic worker.

## **EAST ZONE**

### **CHILDLINE Agartala helps Kaira to see again!**

Fifteen-year-old Kaira had been blind for the last 13 years of her life. When Kaira was two, she had an eye infection. Her parents not being able to afford better treatment took her to a local quack who gave her some eye drops, as a result of which an opaque film formed in both eyes. Kaira lost her eyesight and began to lead her life as a blind person. Her family saw her as a burden and Kaira hated to go out of her home because people teased her and called her unkind names.

One day a local social worker who had heard of CHILDLINE called up 1098 and asked if they could help Kaira. CHILDLINE agreed to try and so brought Kaira to the CHILDLINE office. The team arranged for Kaira to be taken to the VHAT Eye hospital. The doctors examined Kaira and were optimistic about being able to help her regain her eyesight. An operation for one eye was arranged and immediately following the removal of her bandages, Kaira was ecstatic because she had regained vision in her right eye.

Kaira and her family were so grateful they promised to spread awareness on CHILDLINE in their village.

### **Twelve-year-old Deepti a child domestic worker is rescued and rehabilitated by CHILDLINE Guhuwati...**

Deepti had been working as a domestic worker with the Deka family for the last three years. Besides being made to do very heavy work she was constantly abused and beaten up. The situation got so bad that a neighbour called up CHILDLINE and asked them to help Deepti. When CHILDLINE reached the home, the door was locked but the team members could see that Deepti was inside the house. So they spoke to her through the window. The police restrained the crowd of neighbor from breaking down the door to rescue Deepti. Mr. Deka, the employer was called. He reached home at about 9.30 pm. Deepti was then taken to the CHILDLINE office. The next day she was taken for a medical examination. CHILDLINE produced the case before the CWC. Deepti told the CWC that her mother lived in another district in Assam and she said that her mother was mentally unstable, had sold off all their property and was now living with her family. Deepti said her mother had



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put her to work in the Deka's house. Given the situation the CWC placed Deepti in temporary shelter at the shelter home run by the collaborative organization.

In the meantime, local television and print media kept featuring the case. Mr. Deka tried many times to bribe CHILDLINE to settle the case out of court and to get them to intervene with the TV station to stop featuring the case. CHILDLINE requested the CWC to deal with Mr. Deka. Accordingly he was fined Rs 25,000, which was put into fixed deposit for Deepti when she turns 18. Till then Deepti will stay with at the Children's home, which will be responsible for her care and education.

## **CHILDLINE Jalpaiguri helps secure free Anti rabies medication...**

Anish and his friends were attacked by a rabid dog that bit all three of them. Anish's parents immediately took him to the hospital, but the anti-rabies vaccine was not available so they brought the child to a local quack, who prescribed his own medicines and warned the parents against going to the hospital.

Tragically Anish died as a result of this. Anish's family went to the police station and with their help sealed the room of the quack doctor but was unable to arrest him as he had fled. Anish's family called CHILDLINE and told them the case and asked for their intervention as the hospital was refusing to do a post mortem on Anish and they needed the death certificate to go ahead with the last rites.

After much persuasion and threats CHILDLINE was able to get the hospital to do the post mortem and they met with District Medical Officer who gave CHILDLINE a letter to the hospital to provide free anti-rabies vaccine free of cost to other children who were also bitten by the dog. CHILDLINE organized a rabies awareness camp to stress the importance of getting proper medical care for all animal bites and scratches.

## **Bela asks CHILDLINE Kolkata for help to get justice for herself and her child...**

The Railway police picked up Bela while she was wandering about near the railway station. First Bela said that she had run away from her home because her brother who she lived with (her parents being dead) had beaten her. However Bela did not want to stay at the CHILDLINE center and opted to return home. On the way back Bela told the CHILDLINE team member accompany her that, what had really happened was that Bela had gotten pregnant by her boyfriend, who then refused to marry her. Bela said she did not know what to do and had gone to the Panchayat to ask for their help. However the Panchayat had refused

and the whole village had also shunned her. Her brother also beat her and started to ignore her and ill-treat her. In desperation Bela went to live with her relative and ultimately had her baby there. Soon after her delivery Bela slipped into depression and in this condition had wandered out of her home leaving the baby behind. However Bela had started to miss her child and wanted to go home and she was accompanied back to her relative's home to see her baby. Bela is currently living at the CHILDLINE night shelter. The case has been produced before the CWC and is still being processed.

## **Little Partho reunited with his family through the help of CHILDLINE Medinipur...**

Partho five years old had gone missing from his family who lived at Belda Railway station. The whole family was engaged in begging. One day while Partho was with his mother he fainted and his mother had gone to get him some water. During the time she was gone Partho recovered and not seeing his mother went in search of her. By the time the mother got back, both could not find the other.

On the same day the Kotwali Police Station at Paschim Medinipur informed CHILDLINE that they had found a child named Partho aged about 5 years and they wanted CHILDLINE to take responsibility for the child. When the CHILDLINE team members went to the police station and spoke with Partho he told them that he and his family live on Belda station. CHILDLINE provided Partho with temporary shelter for the night and informed the Belda railway police. The next morning, Partho's mother came (with his birth certificate) to the CHILDLINE office and the child was handed over to her post verification.

## **CHILDLINE Berhampur returns 18 year old Manu to his family...**

Manu was mentally disturbed after the sudden death of his father. One day he left home saying he is going to see the doctor for his treatment. Wandering about he reached Berhampur. He ended up on a pavement outside the home of Mr. Sahu. Mr. Sahu took him to the local police station where he was told to take the boy to the CHILDLINE office.

At the CHILDLINE centre Manu was provided counselling, however this did not yield any results. He could not recollect his house address. Finally he was given a pen and paper. He could write and ultimately he gave the team member a phone number of a friend. Through this number CHILDLINE was able to eventually contact his family. The following day, team member, accompanied him to his home and handed him over to his family with a word of caution.



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## ***CHILDLINE Rourkela helps rescue 16-year-old Pushpa from an abusive and exploitative work situation...***

Two years ago Pushpa had been duped by a woman in her village to leave with her and go to work as domestic help in Delhi. Pushpa's family was very poor and her relatives had often talked about her being sold off to get money for the rest of the family. When Pushpa was promised a job with good facilities she believed the woman and without telling her family left with her, for Delhi. Within a month Pushpa called her family and told them that she was working as a domestic worker there. Her parents wanted her to return home at once but Pushpa did not know where she was or how to get back. One day one of the neighbours told Pushpa's parents that the woman who had trafficked Pushpa died.

A month or so later Pushpa again got a chance to contact her parents and this time she was able to give them the address in Delhi. Her parents went to Delhi but the employers refused them entry into the house. Not knowing anyone in Delhi the parents returned home. Nine months later Pushpa again called her parents asking them to come and get her as she was being very badly treated by the family she was working with. By this time Pushpa's brother had heard of CHILDLINE through an awareness program conducted at one of the local Melas. He told his father about CHILDLINE activities, they contacted CHILDLINE to help rescue Pushpa.

CHILDLINE Rourkela immediately contacted CHILDLINE Delhi and sent all the information along with a photograph. Delhi CHILDLINE traced the address and requested CHILDLINE Rourkela to come to Delhi. The team member of CHILDLINE Rourkela went to Delhi with the parents of the child. The CHILDLINE team along with the police rushed to the home and rescued the girl. The house owner was compelled to pay the child seventeen thousand as compensation.

## ***CHILDLINE Shillong intervenes to give four children a chance at a new and happier life...***

Four siblings aged thirteen, nine, six, three and one lived with their aunt after the death of their mother. The aunt had two children of her own. She worked as a daily wage worker in a charcoal shop. Her meager earnings were insufficient to support all seven of them. Her two children are in school and her three-year-old nephew was also admitted in the same school. The two older girls were not in school and went rag picking every day to contribute to the family income.

One of the parents in the school noticed that three-year-old Charles had a nasty hurt on his head and bruises all over his face. She called CHILDLINE on 4<sup>th</sup> June and asked the team members to come to the school. When the team visited the school, the boy disclosed that his aunt used to beat him up regularly. The teachers had conducted a home visit the previous day, and found the baby girl of 11 months with scar marks and fractured hands sleeping on the ground. Alice (the daughter) also had scar marks. They found out that both girls used to attend school in the mornings and go rag picking in the afternoons. The teachers also informed that the eldest brother was working with a family in another locality.

CHILDLINE reported to the CWC about the case and also registered a case of abuse with the police station. The Police then requested the team from CHILDLINE and a teacher from the school to identify the house so that they could pick up the children. The eldest girl was cooking while the younger daughter was sitting outside the house in the pouring rain. The little baby was lying on the floor. The police picked up the children and then also picked up the aunt from the charcoal shop where she worked.

An FIR was lodged by the CHILDLINE team member and the teacher against the aunt for abusing, torturing and ill-treating the children. The aunt was arrested. It was found that the eldest one had a fresh scar under her feet as her aunt poked her with a sharp stick. The baby was admitted for medical treatment for her injuries. The aunt said she found it very difficult to look after all six children and said she would be very happy if CHILDLINE took responsibility of the children.

The children were placed in a shelter home. 6<sup>th</sup> June the children's father visited the school to see his children. He was sent to CHILDLINE office. As per his statement, as soon as his wife expired in the month of July last year, on the third day in the morning, the aunt took them away from him without even taking his consent. He used to come and visit the children regularly, but the aunt always chased him away stating that she will call the Police. He had also asked custody of the children but she refused to give them to him.

The aunt alleged that, the children's mother died as a result of torture meted out by their father. Also he had remarried and was not interested in looking after the children. The father denied these allegations. He stated that he wanted to visit them again after all the debts he had incurred for his wife's illness were cleared. He said that he had not expected they would be so poorly treated. He wanted to have his children back but as the





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case was before the CWC, he was told that he would have to await their decision. Two women who had come with him said that he was unable to financially look after the children.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, the eldest brother, John, (13 years) of the four children was brought to CHILDLINE by a woman. She stated that she took custody of the boy from his aunt to work with her a few weeks ago. Soon after the child was taken away, the aunty asked the woman for Rs.3000/- (three thousand) to her as a kind of payment for his work, the woman hesitated to give her the money.

John stated that his father used to abuse his mother when she was alive; and said that he was an alcoholic. He said that his brother and sisters should not be handed over to his father. He himself hesitated to go with his father, as they were not looked after properly.

The youngest child was eventually referred to the SOS Village through the intervention of the Director Social Welfare and the other three children were sent to the Children's Home and are presently continuing their education.

## WEST ZONE

### ***CHILDLINE Ahmednagar called to intervene on a case of a minor girl being trafficked into prostitution...***

Krupa was a very poor girl living with her aunty as her parents had died. The aunt used to beat Krupa frequently and burdened her with all the housework. A neighborhood boy told Krupa that he loved her and would marry her and in her desperation Krupa believed him and ran away with him. He brought Krupa to Mumbai and they went to stay at his Aunt's house. The boy left Krupa with his aunt and said he was going to look for a place for them and he never returned. During this time Krupa found out from the aunt that she had been abandoned by her husband and had taken to prostitution to survive. She convinced Krupa to do the same.

One day Krupa along with another girl was brought to a roadside Dhaba at Nagar-Pune road and was forced to entertain customers. She was being pushed into prostitution. A peer educator of another project who got to know of the incident immediately called up Ahmednagar CHILDLINE and informed them about the girl. The following day the team posed as customers and verified the information. Following verification both the girls were immediately rescued from the road side Dhaba and were produced before the local police station. As per the CWC order, the girls have been placed in a shelter home.

### ***CHILDLINE Solapur provides medical assistance to Khush...***

Eight-year-old Khush was diagnosed with a hole in his heart, when he was six. Since then he had been living as an invalid as his parents could not afford the cost of the surgery needed. Khush's parents meanwhile approached a number of NGOs and also the Department of Women and Child Development for assistance. The DWCD official contacted CHILDLINE.

On receiving the call the CHILDLINE team went to meet Khush and his parents and verified the family background. Khush was then immediately admitted in a hospital. CHILDLINE team approached the Solapur Collector along with the parents for support. The Collector requested the team to contact Jeevandeep, an NGO who would be able to support the expenses of the operation. Jeevandeep sanctioned Rs 60,000 for the operation. The CHILDLINE team then negotiated with hospital to lower the cost of the surgery. The operation was successful and the child is recovering well.

### ***The rape and murder of 4-year old Mumtaz...***

**CHILDLINE Nagpur** was informed by a concerned adult about the rape and murder of a four-year-old little girl. Manisha had gone missing from her neighborhood where she had been playing with her friends. Her parents informed the police and after much investigation a neighbour told the police that Manisha was last seen in the company of a 45-year-old man named Vasanta. When the police apprehended Vasanta he initially denied knowing anything but after very tough questioning he finally confessed to raping and murdering Manisha. He told them that he had thrown the body into a nullah (open drain). When the police were able to recover Manisha's body they found that it was covered with bruises and injuries inflicted on it by Vasanta – who had tortured the child with stones and beat her up with his fists. The public was so incensed at the sight of the body that the police had to intervene to prevent the mob from lynching the man on the spot. The police arrested Vasanta and lodged him in the Central Jail. Due to the extreme anger of the people riots broke out and this case received a lot of media coverage.

CHILDLINE stepped in and organized a series of awareness program on how to protect children from child (sexual) abuse. The public was asked to call 1098 whenever they needed help for a child in distress.

Initially the police had closed the case against the man saying that they could not file rape charge, as the child was dead. However the advocates with the CWC board got the case reopened as a murder case. The case is ongoing.



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## ***Children rescued from Rajmahal Circus...***

The fateful day when 6 girls from the Rajmahal Circus of Akola were rescued in Raipur, gave us the information of more girls, below the age of 18, employed in the circus. CIF's North team and members from Esther Benjamin Trust (EBT) and Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation (EBMF) Nepal, were told that girls were brought into the circus by agents and were beaten during training with wet ropes. Furthermore, the agent and the artistes' families signed a training bond for the paltry sum of Rs 1000-1500 per child per month. Affidavits were created by EBT, EBMF and CHILDLINE on this information and this became the crucial document to book Rajmahal Circus.

CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) representatives along with a high court lawyer – Ms. Rao, met children rescued from circuses in an earlier rescue operation. By meeting parents and related government officials, issues of children working in a circus were thoroughly understood.

The rescue operation took place on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008, and was made possible by the collaboration of CIF, EBT and EBMF. The rescue was further conducted with active support from the North, West and East Regions and networking between eight CHILDLINEs based in Amravati, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata, Murshidabad, Nadia, and Nagpur.

## ***Groundwork and Planning the Rescue***

Like any case that needs a build up, several things had to be done simultaneously. On confirming the children's testimony, CIF proceeded to get a better understanding of the administration set up and local NGOs. CHILDLINE teams of Maharashtra were mobilised. Meanwhile CIF North got in touch with organisations that could partner in the rescue and rehabilitation. The rescue was conducted under the Bonded Labour Act so that the children could get maximum compensation and stringent action taken against the errant employers.

The Child Welfare Committee was also moved to facilitate the process and ensure protection and repatriation of the children. All documents were meticulously drafted and reviewed legally. Not to slip on any score, the CIF's Western Region team was all set to coordinate with the State officials in Mumbai including creating database of relevant State officials, Labour department, Police, the Nepalese Embassy.

## ***The Rescue***

All set, the process of rescue was planned. On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 7 a.m, 20 people, including women (13 children below 18 years) were rescued. A man of about 45 years

was also rescued on his plea that he was regularly beaten and tortured.

CHILDLINE members were present through out the process of recording statements of children, to ensure that all critical facts were included; as the Labour Dept did not give due importance to gravity of abuse reported by children. However, subsequent to the Labour Commissioner's intervention, the process was expedited taking the relevant aspects into consideration. Then the children were taken off for medical examination and then to the police station to lodge a FIR.

Following this the children were then placed in shelter home, but it was found that Akola had a shelter home for boys and women but not for girls! While the boys and the two women were provided shelter, it was a bit difficult to get accommodation for the girls for that night. After much argument, the girls were shifted to the girl's home in Amravati early next morning

## ***Ensuring Compensation***

As per the procedures of the Bonded Labour Act, the children were produced before the Vigilance Committee and issued a release certificate.

It was known that a rehabilitation package did exist, CIF contacted people dealing with Bonded Labour in the Ministry of Labour. Ms. Urmila, Goswami, Under Secretary Labour Welfare provided complete details with circulars and faxed a copy of the same to the Akola DM. Also the team realized that if the children left and the process was not initiated, then the children would never get the compensation money. The District Magistrate (DM) made personal efforts in this direction and also ensured that all DMs concerned themselves with the rehabilitation of these children. This was of great help.

## ***Repatriation***

Three days had passed and the children were getting very restless to return home. The Bureaucratic tangle continued with Maharashtra JJ rules being quoted for interstate repatriation. On a final appeal to the Officer on Special duty, the senior officers were pushed to take a proactive stand. The next major task was to repatriate the children with their respective families. The team soon realized that many of the children could not provide their full addresses but only names of their village and sketchy landmarks. As most of these children were from East and North-East, CIF's Eastern Region office provided the list of CWC and children's homes in West Bengal.



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The DM, Akola meticulously planned the number of escorts for all the rescued. The DM was extremely proactive in planning the restoration team of 6 Nepalese children with 3 Nepalese women, two Nepalese NGO representatives with two Police escorts to go to Delhi. Another team set off for West Bengal. The Kolkata CHILDLINE team received the children at the station.

As decided, each team headed towards the children's villages and handed over the children in presence of the Panchayat members and the Police. CIF also rendered formal request to the DMs in each of the districts to link the families to existing government schemes especially in context of livelihood to prevent their re-trafficking.

## ***Closing the Loop – Follow up***

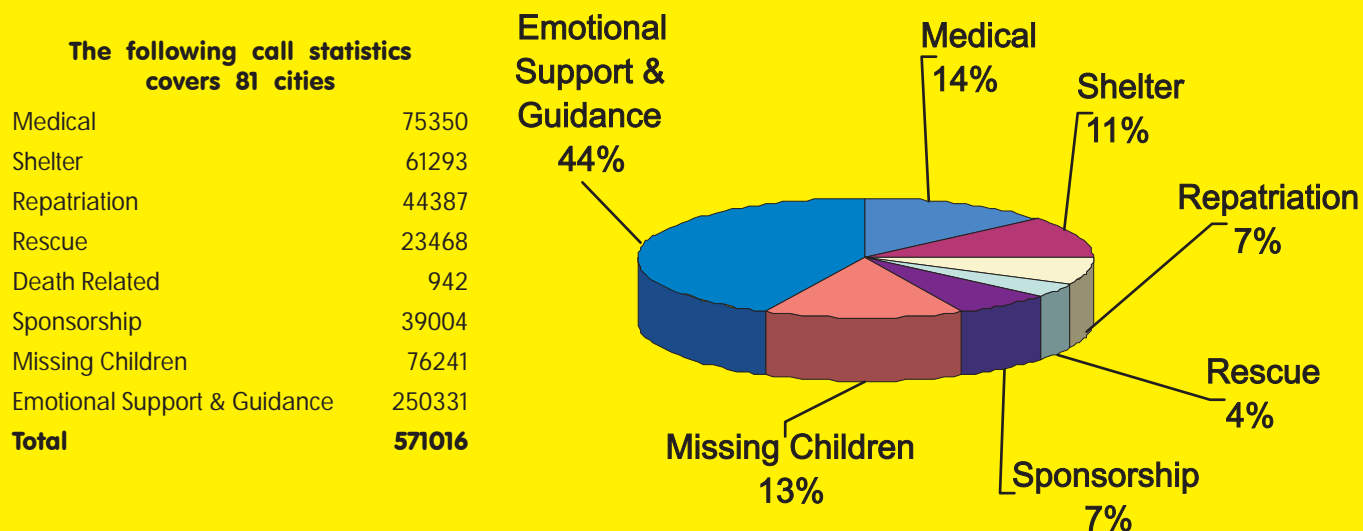
- Follow up on the release of compensation continues to date
- Follow up on each child for appropriate rehabilitation support

- Raise money/ resources for Rehabilitation
- Two of the traffickers from Nepal have been booked and arrested

Mr. Sriker Pardesi, DM, Akola moved the entire administration in favour of CHILDLINE. Mr. Pardesi, was very sensitive to the needs of the children, especially the girls. The DM took up the rescue and restoration of children as a State responsibility and took quick decisions, coordinated the entire process and where systems were not in place he set them up (setting up of the vigilance committee). He directed the police, labour and revenue department to escort the girls back home and personally communicated with the DMs of the respective districts.

CIF would like to acknowledge and thank, Mr. Pardesi, for his great support and cooperation in the rescue and restoration of the children.

## ***Percentage of Intervention Calls since Inception till September 2008***



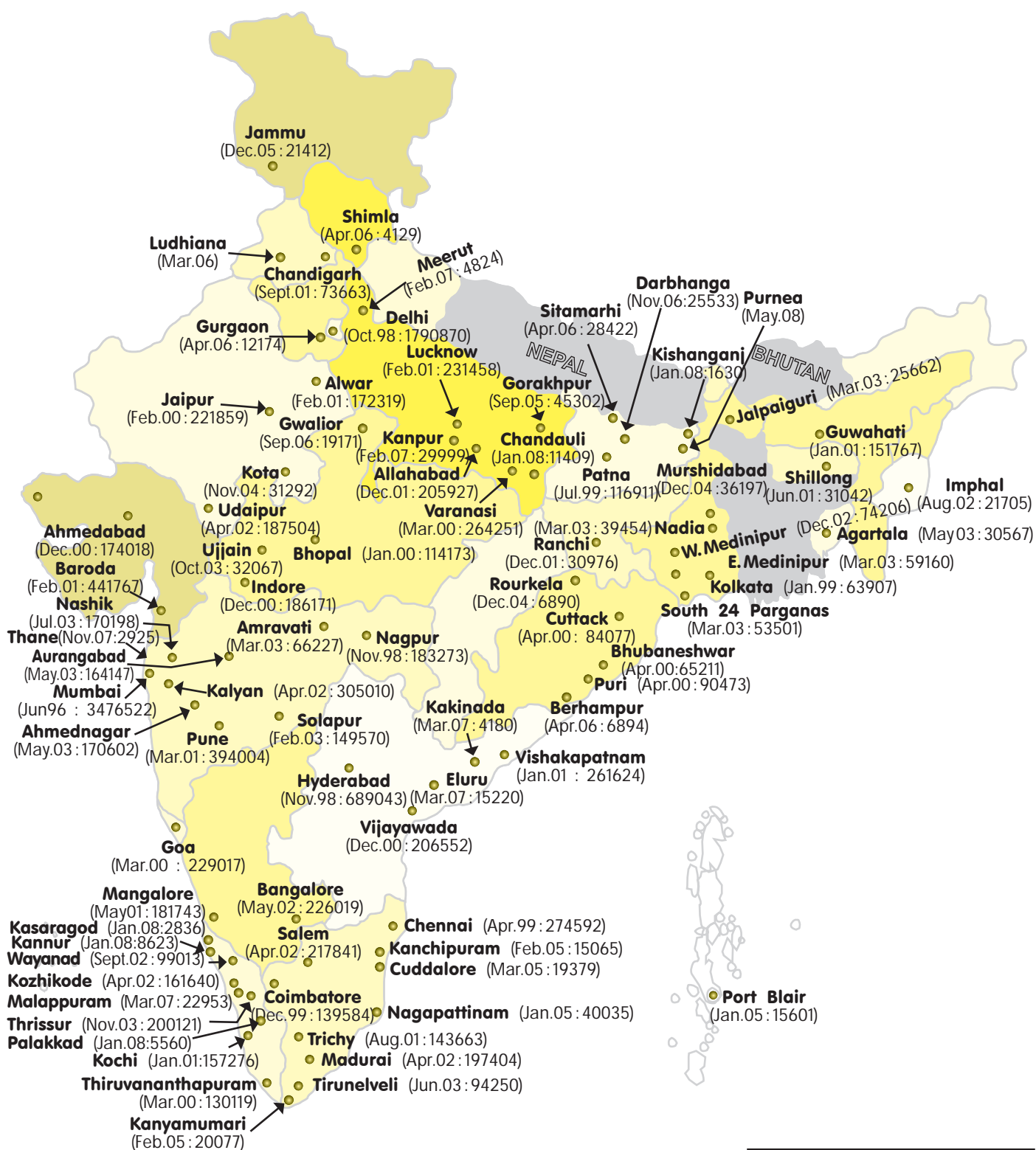




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**CHILDLINE has recorded a total number of 1,47,08,103 calls from inception till September 2008**





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## The CHILDLINE Family

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Health, Railway Ministry, Department of Social Defence/ Social Welfare.

### NGO PARTNERS

**Agartala** (Voluntary Health Association of Tripura), **Ahmedabad** (Ahmedabad Study Action Group, Gujarat Vidyapith), **Ahmednagar** (Snehalaya), **Allahabad** (Diocesan Development and Welfare Society), **Alwar** (Nirvanavan Foundation), **Amravati** (Shree Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal), **Aurangabad** (Aapulki Samaj Seva Sanstha, DILASA), **Baroda** (Baroda Citizens Council, Dept. of Social Work, MS University), **Bangalore** (APSA, CRT, Don Bosco), **Berhampur** (Indian Society For Rural Development, Organisation For Development, Integrated Social & Health Action, NIRMATA), **Bhopal** (AARAMBH, Bhopal School of Social Sciences), **Bhubhaneshwar** (Ruchika Social Service Organisation), **Chandigarh** (Pediatric Centre - PGIMER, YTTS), **Chandauli** (Gramyanchal Seva Samiti), **Chennai** (Don Bosco, Indian Council for Child Welfare, Department of Social Defence, Asian Youth Centre, NESAKKARAMSEEDS), **Coimbatore** (Don Bosco, Families for Children), **Cuttack** (Basundhara, Open Learning System), **Cuddalore** (Indian Council for Child Welfare), **Darbhanga** (East and West Educational Society, Kanchan Seva Ashram, Gramoday Veethi, Sarvo Prayas Sansthan, Batika, Manav Jagriti Kendra, Gyan Seva Bharti Sansthan), **Delhi** (Butterflies, Delhi Brotherhood Society, Don Bosco Ashalayam, Prayas, Salaam Balaak Trust), **Elluru** (Social Service Centre), **Goa** (Goa Salesian Society, Nirmala Education Society, Vikalp, Jan Ugahi), **Gorakhpur** (Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Samiti, Development Initiatives by Social Animation), **Gurgaon** (Shakti Vahini), **Guwahati** (NIPCCD, Indian Council for Child Welfare), **Gwalior** (Center for Integrated Development), **Hyderabad** (Divya Disha, SIDUR, Confederation of Voluntary Associations-COVA, CSIM), **Imphal** (Dept. of Anth-Manipur University, Manipur Voluntary Health Association, Manipur Mahila Kalyan Samiti), **Indore** (Lok Biradari Trust, Indore School of Social Work), **Jaipur** (Institute of Development Studies, Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha, I-India), **Jalpaiguri** (Dept. of Economics - Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri Welfare Organisation, Universal Progressive Study and Cultural Forum), **Jammu** (Indian Red Cross Society), **Kakinada** (VIKASA-NCLP), **Kalyan** (Aasara), **Kanchipuram** (Asian Youth Centre), **Kanpur** (Subhash Children's Society), **Kannur** (Don Bosco, TSSS), **Kanyakumari** (Kottar Social Service Society), **Kasaragod** (Institute of Applied Dermatology), **Kishanganj** (Crescent Education & Welfare Trust, Nilu Jan Vikas Sanstha, Koshi Gramin Vikas Sansthan, CSSWRN), **Kochi** (DonBosco Sneha Bhavan, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences), **Kolkata** (Bustee Local Committee, Cini Asha, CLPOA, Don Bosco Ashalayam, IPER, Loreto Day School, SEED), **Kota** (Rajasthan Bharat Scouts & Guides, Utkarsh Sansthan), **Kozhikode** (AWH, Farook College), **Lucknow** (NIPCCD, HUM), **Ludhiana** (SGB International Foundation, Vocational Resource Rehabilitation Training Center for Blind), **Madurai** (Grace Kenett Foundation Hospital, MISS), **Malappuram** (PSMO College, Sheshy Charitable Trust), **Mangalore** (YMCA, Roshni Nilaya), **Meerut** (Janhit Foundation), **Mumbai** (Aasara, BalPrafulta, CIF, Hamara Foundation, Prerana, YUVA), **Murshidabad** (CINI Murshidabad Unit, Palsapally Unnayan Samiti, Shahid Khudiram Pathagarh), **Nadia** (Sreema Mahila Samity, Karimpur Social Welfare Society), **Nagpur** (Apang Va Niradhar Bahuddheshiya Kalyankari Sanstha, Bapuji Bahujan Samaj Kalyan Bahuddheshiya Sanstha, Matru Sewa Sangh, Varadaan), **Nashik** (Navjivan World Peace and Research Foundation), **Palakkad** (Preshitha Social Service Society, Mercy College), **Nagapattinam** (Avvai Village Welfare Society), **Paschim Medinipur** (Prabuddha Bharati Shishu Tirtha, Vidyasagar School of Social Work), **Patna** (East and West Educational Society, Bal. Sakha, Tripolia Social Service Hospital, Nari Gunjan), **Port Blair** (Prayas), **Pune** (Dnyanadevi, Karve Institute of Social Service), **Purba Medinipur** (Vivekananda Loksiksha Niketan, Egra Sarada Shashi Bhushan College), **Puri** (Rural and Urban Socio-Cultural Help, Open Learning System), **Purnea** (Tatvasi Samaj Nyas, Parivesh Purnajagaran Manch, Akhil Bhartiya Gramin Vikas Sansthan), **Ranchi** (Xavier's Institute of Social Service, YMCA, Samadhan, Chhota Nagpur Sanskritik Sangh), **Rourkela** (DISHA, SHRADHA), **Salem** (Don Bosco, YWCA), **Shillong** (Bosco Reach Out, Impulse NGO Network), **Shimla** (Himachal Pradesh Voluntary Health Association, Population Research Centre), **Sholapur** (Walchand College of Arts and Science, Department of Social Work, Akalkot Education Society), **Sitamarhi** (East and West Educational Society, Pratham, Pragati Ek Prayas, Nav Jagriti, Nisha Mahila Vikas Sansthan), **South 24 Parganas** (School of Women's Studies, CINI - Diamond Harbour Unit, Sabuj Sangha), **Thane** (Aasara), **Thirunelveli** (Saranalayam - TSSS, Centre for Empowerment of Women & Children), **Thiruvananthapuram** (Don Bosco Veedu, Loyola Extension Services, Trivandrum Social Service Society), **Thrissur** (St. Christina-Holy Angels Home, Vimala Community Extension Centre), **Trichy** (SOCSEAD, Bishop Heber College), **Udaipur** (Seva Mandir, Udaipur School of Social Work), **Ujjain** (Kripa, Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Sciences Research), **Varanasi** (ASMITA, Gandhi Adhyayan Peeth, Gramyanchal Seva Samiti, Shri Shanti Vikas Seva Sansthan), **Vijayawada** (Forum for Child Rights), **Vishakhapatnam** (Priyadarsini Service Organisation, UGC-DRS Prog. Dept. of Social Work - Andhra University), **Wayanad** (JVALA, Hilda Trust).

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This Publication is supported by



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