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for every child

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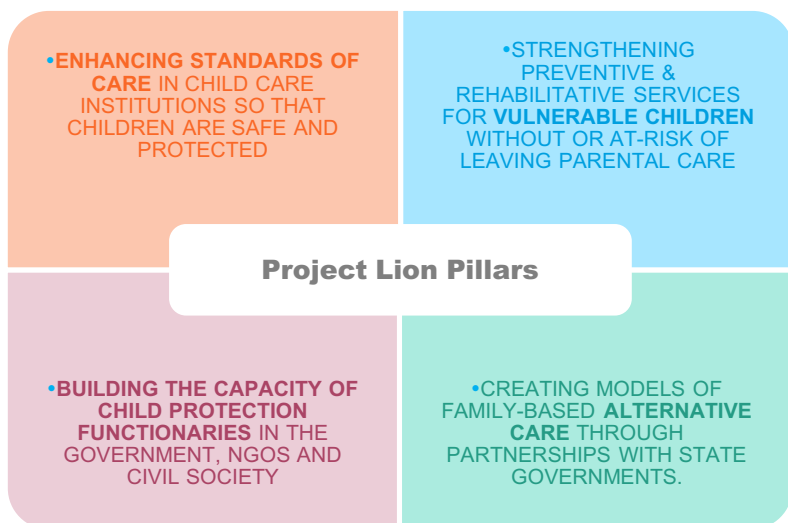# PROJECT LION

Progress Report, March 2021

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A Bright Future for Vulnerable Children Without Parental Care in India

2020 was an unprecedented year. India has had more than 10.7 million cases of COVID-19 infections to-date with 10.4 million recoveries and about 154,000 deaths. The ensuing lockdown, social distancing policies and loss of jobs heightened the vulnerability of poor and marginalized families. Child disproportionately were affected by the secondary impacts of the pandemic. Though numbers are not yet available, especially because social distancing made reporting even more scarce, there is a fear that many children have been put to work or trafficked. Similarly, there is a growing fear that children may be increasingly exposed to domestic violence and abuse, with critical child protection services and schools that could report harmful practices shuttering for prolonged periods as a public health safety measure. Children in Child Care Institutions in India were impacted by the fear of infection, disruption of routine, lockdown related isolation and concern for family members.

UNICEF is adapting the way it delivers programs to reach children with consistent, sustained care during the pandemic. UNICEF's commitment to for children remains steadfast amidst the fluxes caused in everyday life throughout this public health emergency. Project Lion continues to provide quality care in family and community-based environments to all children in need of care and protection, children in contact with law and children in institutional care. Every child deserves a nurturing and loving environment to grow up, where they can thrive and work to reach their full potential as they enter adulthood.

Through Project Lion, UNICEF has supported children in twelve primary states in India: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. UNICEF also working at the national level to achieve results for children.

•**ENHANCING STANDARDS OF CARE** IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS SO THAT CHILDREN ARE SAFE AND PROTECTED

•STRENGTHENING PREVENTIVE & REHABILITATIVE SERVICES FOR **VULNERABLE CHILDREN** WITHOUT OR AT-RISK OF LEAVING PARENTAL CARE

Project Lion Pillars

•**BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF CHILD PROTECTION FUNCTIONARIES** IN THE GOVERNMENT, NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

•CREATING MODELS OF FAMILY-BASED **ALTERNATIVE CARE** THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS.

Our Progress in Numbers

The following data outlines our progress to-date across the three primary Project Lion indicators, both at the national level and also on a state-by-state basis. Overall, Project Lion has exceeded its goals across every indicator. At the state level, shortfalls occurred in a few areas as programs have adapted to the changing context of COVID-19. Many of these results are expected in 2021.

State	# of children benefitting from the establishment of a system to monitor and enforce standards of care in childcare institutions		# of stakeholders involved in the provision of alternative care to children have improved knowledge and skills		# of districts that operationalized preventive/rehabilitation services for children at risk or out of family care	
National	**226%** AGAINST OUR GOAL		**221%** AGAINST OUR GOAL		**615%** AGAINST OUR GOAL	
	281,195 *Actual*	124,000 *Target*	19,661 *Actual*	8,870 *Target*	357 *Actual*	58 *Target*
Assam	4,198 *Actual*	2,000 *Target*	151 *Actual*	400 *Target*	33 *Actual*	10 *Target*
Bihar	16,802 *Actual*	3,000 *Target*	1,200 *Actual*	600 *Target*	38 *Actual*	2 *Target*
Chhattisgarh	2,658 *Actual*	50,000 *Target*	684 *Actual*	3,000 *Target*	3 *Actual*	10 *Target*
Gujarat	3,265 *Actual*	5,000 *Target*	1,868 *Actual*	120 *Target*	2 *Actual*	5 *Target*
Jammu & Kashmir	57,054 *Actual*	500 *Target*	356 *Actual*	50 *Target*	1 *Actual*	1 *Target*
Jharkhand	7,225 *Actual*	25,000 *Target*	244 *Actual*	1,500 *Target*	24 *Actual*	4 *Target*
Madhya Pradesh	6,287 *Actual*	1,000 *Target*	332 *Actual*	500 *Target*	13 *Actual*	2 *Target*
Karnataka	40,139 *Actual*	5,000 *Target*	2,870 *Actual*	500 *Target*	30 *Actual*	5 *Target*
Maharashtra	10,333 *Actual*	10,000 *Target*	1,280 *Actual*	500 *Target*	17 *Actual*	5 *Target*
Odisha	22,778 *Actual*	5,000 *Target*	250 *Actual*	300 *Target*	30 *Actual*	3 *Target*
Rajasthan	1,07,035 *Actual*	2,500 *Target*	326 *Actual*	700 *Target*	33 *Actual*	7 *Target*
Uttar Pradesh	10,696 *Actual*	15,000 *Target*	2,827 *Actual*	700 *Target*	75 *Actual*	4 *Target*

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Enforcing Standards of Care

In 2020, UNICEF Project Lion worked with state governments to strengthen standards of care and their monitoring in institutions in all 12 targeted states of the country. Going well beyond the committed numbers, this intervention impacted more than 281,195 children across 12 states, by creating better living conditions in institutions, with more trained staff that are better equipped to handle emergencies, mental health situations and case management.

Much of Project Lion's work focused on creating systemic changes in collaboration with state governments. For example, in Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF worked to implement guidelines and standard operating procedures for children in institutions, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Project Lion supported these state governments in providing online guidance and support to children and care givers in institutions to ensure that standards of care are maintained for prevention and response to COVID-19, but also more broadly prioritizing the right and wellbeing of children.

Project Lion has played a critical role of building the capacity of the workforce aligned with institutions to enforce standards of care. As an illustration, trainings were conducted by Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority and Child Resource Centre, for various staff from Child Care Institutions to build their understanding on childcare and protection. In Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF has provided training and tools to 350 members of Child Welfare Committees so that children are only placed in institutions once alternatives have been exhausted and that services are provided based continuous assessment, planning, monitoring and review. With UNICEF support, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has established a COVID-19 Help Desk to provide support to the social service workforce and caregivers.

Monitoring of institutions for truly quality care remains a staple of Project Lion's work. In Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka children benefited from continued monitoring and enforcement of standards of care in institutions. UNICEF helped to develop monitoring frameworks for District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees and Inspection Committees, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Rajasthan, state and district level monitoring committees reviewed the standard of care in institutions to ensure compliance to the prescribed norms by the state government. In Uttar Pradesh, all 182 Child Care Institutions (CCI) were inspected by inspection committees. In Odisha, all 240 CCIs in the state are maintaining standards of care for 8,523 children residing in CCIs based on state specific guidelines. These standards of care are monitored periodically through a system of CCI score cards developed with UNICEF to support all 30 districts. In addition, Odisha conducted its first Orphan Census to identify parental status of children across the state. This exercise will now be repeated every four years. This year 30,000 children were identified without parental support and 26,3048 children were identified living with single mothers.

A critical part of UNICEF's work in 2020 has been to empower staff and children in institutions during the current pandemic. In Jammu and Kashmir, 149 Child Care Institution staff were trained on providing psychosocial support to children who feel stressed, anxious, worried or have manifested other related issues due to fear associated with COVID-19 or because of the recurrent trauma from conflict in Kashmir. Counselling services and psychosocial support is being provided for the children in institutions in Rajasthan with active efforts made to enhance the skills and capacities of counsellors and psychologists. In Jharkhand, 69 District Child Protection Unit and CHILDLINE counsellors were trained to understand and manage children's behaviors and extend psycho-social support.

Strengthening the Child Protection Workforce

In 2020, UNICEF focused on enhancing the skills of 19,661 child protection functionaries on using Individual Care Plans, Social Investigation Reports, administering case management, and providing mental health and psychosocial support to children, especially given the pandemic. This was even more relevant as care givers required the knowledge and skills to work in the challenging situation caused by COVID-19. Going above and beyond, UNICEF was able to build capacities of more than 54,301 child protection functionaries across 17 states.

UNICEF is committed to institutionalizing capacity building on child protection within State governments to ensure a sustained and long-term impact for children. These processes have been normalized within the states of Gujarat, Odisha and Bihar, with significant progress in Maharashtra and Karnataka and processes set in motion in all others. In Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Gujarat, stakeholders involved in the provision of alternative care to children received improved knowledge and skills through face to face trainings prior to the onset of COVID -19. Following the onset of the pandemic, they had access to various online platforms on childcare, protection, family-based care, family strengthening, case management, family tracing and reunification, alternative care, quality institutional care and mental health and psychosocial support.

Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing has been at the forefront of conversations with the child protection workforce, as they respond to the added pressures on children without parental care who are experiencing the COVID-19 emergency. In Bihar, UNICEF facilitated the training of 320 Integrated Child Protection Scheme functionaries, including counsellors from institutions, on psychosocial wellbeing and mental health. 39 counsellors were selected as Master Trainers by the partner National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences to carry forward the trainings. UNICEF has also carried out mental health and psychosocial support capacity building activities in Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and more.

Another focus has been the prevention of trafficking children away from family care. A partnership with the Railway Protection Forces (RPF) resulted in the training of 300 RPF and Government Railway Police officials, covering Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh on child protection. This training is significant for preventing the trafficking of hundreds of children from these source states to several destinations across the country. Advocacy with the Criminal Investigation Department led to the training of senior, mid-senior and ground level Police officers on child protection with focus on effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in times of COVID-19.

Growing the capacity to effectively manage cases has been an important aspect of Project Lion as the pandemic has led to major changes in the home life or home situation of many children. UNICEF is supporting Gujarat in expedited case management systems for children deinstitutionalized at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state with intensive support in 9 districts. In Jharkhand, 217 District Child Protection Unit and institutional functionaries have increased knowledge and skills on expedited case management and family strengthening after completion of 5 days capsule online training in twelve batches. Case management guidelines were also developed in Uttar Pradesh.

Supporting Vulnerable Children

In 2020, UNICEF worked to support states in prioritizing prevention of family separation and rehabilitation of institutionalized children to their families or in family based alternative care. UNICEF successfully supported more than 350 districts across 12 states to have operationalized preventive and rehabilitative services for children at risk of family separation or out of family care.

A key highlight of 2020 has been the restoration of children to their families following a COVID-19 Supreme Court order. Across the country 145,788 institutionalized children in need of care and protection and 5,155 institutionalized children in conflict with law were released to their families, guardians, and other alternative care arrangements. This is significant, as it shows that several thousand children who are in institutions have families or kin that can take care of them. However, these children will need constant support and follow up to ensure that they are being well taken care of and that they can access health and education facilities. UNICEF along with state governments will be focusing on their follow up and monitoring in 2021. UNICEF will support and build evidence on family based alternative care.

UNICEF played a critical supporting role building out systems for local child protection. In 2020, Bihar and Odisha focused on the creation of Child Protection Committees at the Panchayat (village council), Ward (administrative area within cities) and Block (county) levels. In Bihar, 534 Block level, 5,282 Panchayat and 33,099 Ward level Child Protection Committees have been formed. In Odisha, 6,798 Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees and 314 block level committees were formed and strengthened with technical guidance from UNICEF. These committees are critical community influencers who help to ensure that there are appropriate child protection measures in place locally to help children remain in family care whenever possible and appropriate.

Community mental health has been a major focus for UNICEF as it supports communities and creates stable environments for children to grow. The Rajasthan government facilitated community based mental health and psychosocial support for 9,325 children and caregivers, through 161 district-based psycho-social support groups with counsellors under the Department for Child Rights and Directorate of Women Empowerment. Over 6,000 children, parents and primary caregivers have been provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support, in addition to 12,000 migrants in quarantine centers and 4,000 youth volunteers.

Modeling Alternatives

In 2020, Project Lion worked on building capacities and creating demonstrable models on various aspects of alternative care in several states. By advocating for the adoption, replication, and upscaling of these models in more states and districts so that children can be placed in family-based care rather than in institutions. Some of the models include the scale up of After Care programs, non-institutional family-based care including foster care, community-based kinship care and prevention of family separation.

Many of UNICEF's interventions occurred at the state level to ensure the sustainability of alternative care. In a very significant development, the Department of Women and Child Development in Odisha and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen alternative care in the state including components such as capacity building and handholding support to child protection functionaries on deinstitutionalization, foster care, aftercare, gatekeeping, family strengthening, and development of knowledge products.

Project Lion continued to support care leavers. UNICEF and the Youth Care Leavers Association of Maharashtra conducted an online survey to assess the situation of their peers. The Association undertook crowd funding and successfully raised over INR 400,000 to provide relief through ration kits, medicines and psychosocial care to nearly 400 care leavers. UNICEF amplified their voices and concerns through strategic advocacy by leveraging UNICEF's strong connections with government, elected representatives and other NGOs working on aftercare to facilitate linkages. UNICEF's effective engagement also resulted in the formation of the Madhya Pradesh state Care Leavers Association, with active participation of over 70 children and over 270 more being traced to enroll into the network. They have been regularly meeting for group conversations, self-development activities and other initiatives.
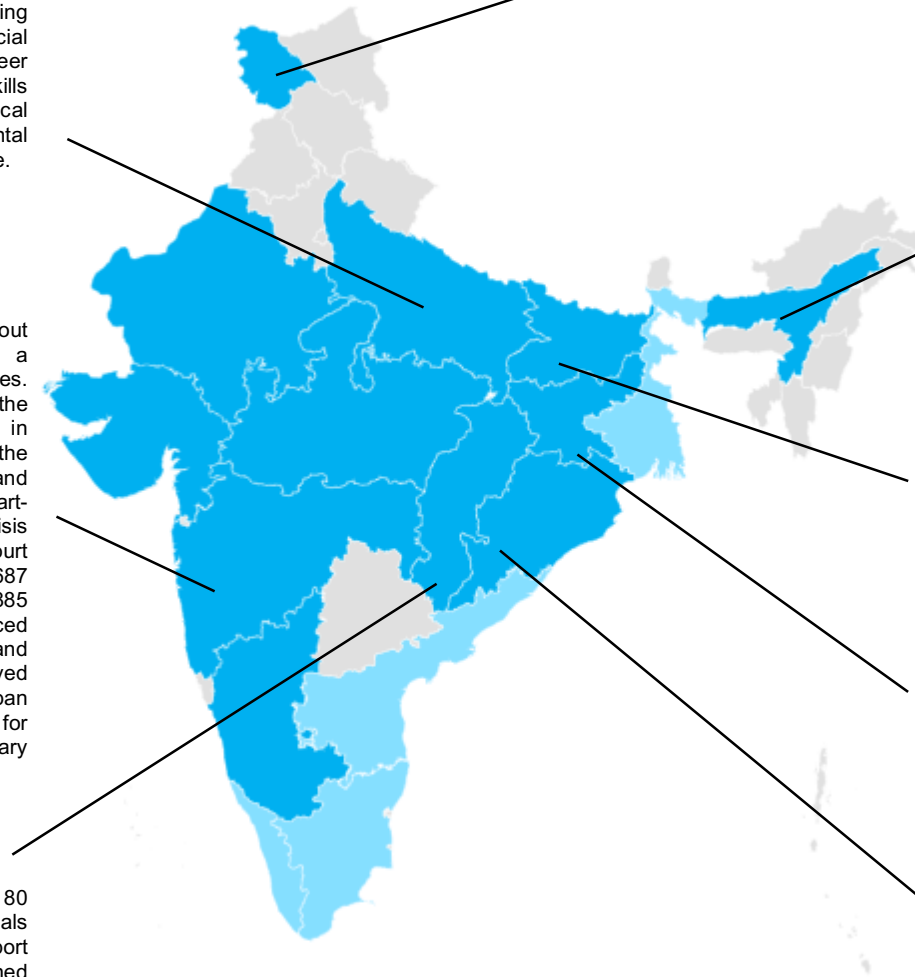
Project Lion also strengthened other forms of alternative care available to children. All 33 districts in Gujarat are covered now under the Palak Mata Pita Yojana – a sponsorship and kinship care policy for orphans - which currently benefits 16,521 children. UNICEF is also providing technical support for family strengthening and alternative care with a demonstrable model initiated in Banaskantha. In Rajasthan more than 480,000 children benefitted from UNICEF's continued technical support to the government's Palanhar Yojana, a sponsorship and kinship care scheme to financially incentivize families of economically vulnerable children. Sponsorship and Foster Care Committees across 30 districts of Odisha linked 884 children with sponsorship, de-institutionalized and integrated 5,201 children to family-based care and reintegrated 486 children in society through aftercare support. 3,188 children were either rescued from child labor and trafficking or were street children rehabilitated and reintegrated back to their families.

Spotlights Across India

In **Uttar Pradesh**, UNICEF's technical support resulted in 3,216 children being reunified with their family or placed under family-based care alternative care in 2020. UNICEF advocacy with the government resulted in approximately 160,000 children, adolescents, caregivers and family receiving community based mental health and psychosocial support, including support through peer-to-peer activities, benefiting from positive parenting skills activities, focused non-specialized psychological support, and facilitated access to specialized mental health clinical care during the COVID-19 response.

In **Maharashtra**, UNICEF planned and rolled out psychosocial care interventions with iCALL, a program under the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. A rapid needs assessment was undertaken on the challenges and psychosocial needs of children in institutions and their caregivers and this formed the basis for a series of 12 webinars for self-care and self-enhancement as well as skills in counselling, art-based therapy, addressing severe distress and crisis and response to specific problems. 558 District Court Protection Unit members, 453 counsellors, 687 institution staff received this training. Also, 6,885 children from seasonal migrant families were placed in kinship care arrangements with grandparents and relatives. An additional 112,952 children received economic assistance through the Bal Sangopan scheme aimed at strengthening families to care for their children and thereby avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

In **Chhattisgarh**, UNICEF built the capacity of 80 CHILDLINE staff on MHPSS and Project Lion goals to strengthen the provision of psychosocial support in communities . 70 paralegal volunteers were trained online in partnership with State Legal Services Authority on MHPSS representing all 27 districts of Chhattisgarh. The staff of partner organizations and DCPUs in 8 districts were also trained on MHPSS.

UNICEF in **Jammu & Kashmir** is implementing program to promote community based alternativ care in 24 villages across two districts. Chil Protection Groups have been organized and traine on alternative care in each village. Tradition practices on care and protection for children hav been identified so that the models developed ar informed by the local practices and are cultural appropriate and sustainable.

In **Assam**, a State Plan of Action on Alternative Car has been developed and shared with the governmer for approval. 5 districts have been selected to run th non-institutional family care model on a pilot basi with key focus on foster care and aftercare. Distric specific action plans have been developed i consultation with key stakeholders, and distric level orientation programs have been conducted t further mobilize support from various state-ru departments.

In **Bihar**, UNICEF supported the preparation of stat aftercare guidelines that have been submitted to th State Social Welfare department for approva Additionally, UNICEF Bihar in partnership with Soci Welfare Department and Udayan Care, is developin two small group homes for girls in Patna to help ther in their transition towards independent living. Th Bihar Social Welfare Department has announced tha year 2021 will be dedicated towards strengthenin

In **Jharkhand**, the emotional and psychological wel being of children in institutions was promoted throug mental health and psychosocial support trainin organized by the Department of Women and Chil Development, UNICEF and Central Institute c Psychiatry, Ranchi.

In **Odisha**, UNICEF worked with the Odisha Stat Commission for Protection of Child Rights to issu guidelines for protection of children in institutions an residential hostels immediately after the COVID-1 lockdown and provided technical support to Hig Court Juvenile Justice Board to conduct monitoring c Child Care Institutions in line with Supreme Cou guidelines.

Stories from the Field

FAMILY STRENGTHENING IN GUJARAT

Sister and brother Disha (15) and Yash (12) live with their parents, Ganeshbhai and Menkiben in Moti Dumali village of Chhotaudepur district, Gujarat. Both parents are farm laborers and migrate for four to five months every year to nearby districts for work. Disha and Yash used to attend the school in their village and their parents would leave them behind with their relatives when they migrated for work every year. But last year the parents took both the children along with them as they felt that the children had grown up enough and are ready to help them with their work. Due to a long absence, the teachers struck off their names from the school. Since then, the children did not try to get re-admitted into school and started spending their time with other dropout children.

As a part of the family and community strengthening program implemented in the district by Project Lion and the Deepak Foundation, a situational analysis and needs assessment was launched to identify vulnerable families in the village. During one such visit to the village, the program team met Ganeshbhai and his family. While interacting with them the situation was assessed, and they were identified as one of the vulnerable families of the village. Sustainable income was one of the main issues identified placing the children in danger of entering the workforce and permanently dropping out of the school. Such cases can often lead to the permanent separation of children from family members as they take on working responsibilities rather than remaining at home with their parents and loved ones.

The Village Child Protection Committee members contacted the School Management Committee (SMC) members and shared the challenges Disha and Yash were facing. An SMC member agreed to help both the children, she initiated counselling of the children and their parents and share the importance of education. However, Ganeshbhai and Menkiben were not convinced and felt that Disha and Yash should migrate and work. SMC members persisted with counselling of parents and children and finally after a month's time, both Ganeshbhai and Menkiben agreed to re-enroll their children back in the village school. Ganeshbhai will be linked with District Industry Centre training program to establish his own business and be provided with a start-up loan. The family will also be linked with various government welfare schemes that could help ensure their housing and healthcare. These efforts resulted in a stronger family unit where both children were protected and properly cared for preventing separation and child labor.

SKILL BUILDING FOR CARE LEAVERS IN BIHAR

In the past year and a half, UNICEF Project Lion has been supporting the government of Bihar in designing and strengthening the aftercare programming in the state in partnership with NGO Udayan Care. In 2020, critical state specific policy documents, standards and comprehensive guidelines, a complete set of theme-based knowledge products for child protection functionaries and children were developed. During implementation of the project, it was observed that there are very few skills building and vocational training opportunities for children leaving institutions. With UNICEF's advocacy and continued dialogue, the Social Welfare Department took a very positive step of sending 14 girls from different Child Care Institutions from Begusarai, Patna, Madhubani, Purnia, and East Champaran to pursue a Diploma in Hotel Management in collaboration with ECHO, Bangalore. The process of identification and finalization of this intervention took almost a year after UNICEF had facilitated a government learning visit to ECHO in 2019 in collaboration with the State Child Protection Society, known as the Bihar Exchange Programme. This whole exercise brought a change in mindset of the functionaries as it helped them to learn about the good practices which were being implemented by the government in Karnataka and conceptualize this program.

With UNICEF's advocacy and Udayan Care's technical support, the government is now planning to initiate focused interventions around skills building, vocational training of children including children with special needs. Since the start of the aftercare project, a positive and conducive environment has been created in Bihar and as a policy level decision, the Directorate of Social Welfare has agreed to provide Rs. 4000 to each care leaver as aftercare support. The Department has announced that 2021 will be dedicated to strengthening family based alternative care, foster care and after care.

Care leavers welcomed by ECHO at Bangalore Airport.
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Financial Report

The following chart outlines the use of funds to-date during the implementation of Project Lion. These funds were used across all 12 Project Lion states and in national level efforts.

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COMMITTED EXPENDITURE
Strengthening the standards of care and alternative care options for children. This budget line includes scaling family/community-based care options, as well as the prevention of separation and rehabilitation of vulnerable children. It also includes the development of gatekeeping mechanisms and creation of guidelines for standards of care in institutions.	$2,588,477
Strengthening preventative and responsive child protection systems, including through training and capacity building. This budget includes strengthening of oversight mechanisms and costing methodologies.	$163,463
Providing protection services for vulnerable children & adolescents during COVID-19, including children in institutional and alternative care	$272,656
Additional funds have been **committed through contracts for the upcoming year** to implementing NGO partners across states to improve the standards of care in institutions and grow alternative care options in the upcoming year. These funds will also support national and state trainings, the development of communications material and an analysis of costing towards institutional and non-institutional care.	$1,179,184
Total Programmable Cost	**$4,203,780**
Operating Costs (~10%)	*$428,957*

Total	$4,632,737

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The Way Forward

In 2020, COVID-19 setback progress for children in every sector from child protection to education to nutrition. For Project Lion, one of the main challenges was the lack of online systems and level of digital literacy amongst child protection functionaries. This issue was addressed throughout the year by creating online working, monitoring, follow up and capacity building platforms to uncover new ways of working that, while unexpected in initial planning, could help to streamline the child protection system moving forward. Children also have felt the need for digital literacy as their education has been disrupted, a point raised in the Juvenile Justice Committee consultation that urged states to bridge this divide.

Moving into 2021, Project Lion has several key goals:

- Growing virtual guidance and support for the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and care givers in institutions, as well as enhancing the capacity of child protection functionaries to extend this support to rehabilitated and restored children.
- Working in collaboration with the state governments to ensure safety of children in institutions. This will include additional efforts to strengthen case management systems and training for better quality of care of children.
- Emphasizing family strengthening programs and the prevention of separation through the development of alternative care models and enhanced gatekeeping systems
- Following up and monitoring for children sent back to their families due to the current pandemic, in collaboration with the government, to ensure that they are retained with their families when possible and that they are given access to education, health, protection, mental health and livelihood.
- Building evidence on the benefits of family-based care as compared to institutional care through a national level study.
- Strengthening the national care leavers network and supporting their interface with government, corporate and other key stakeholders. This will involve supporting state government efforts in creating care leaver associations and advocating for greater direct support to care leavers.
- Documenting progress on alternative care models and initiatives on prevention and rehabilitation, an effort that was delayed due to the pandemic.

Every child deserves a safe and caring place to call home. Project Lion is helping to make that a reality at a critical moment where the shocks and stresses of COVID-19 are making children more vulnerable and increasing the risks they face. Together, we have reached more than 280,000 children with better standards of care in institutions, more than 19,000

child protection stakeholders with improved capacity to administer alternative care and more than 350 districts with preventative and rehabilitation services for children at risk or out of family care. This program is working towards sustained, systemic change in the culture of care in India.

On behalf of UNICEF in India, thank you.

Annex: Key Terms

AFTERCARE SERVICES: Aftercare services are provided to children transitioning out of the alternative care system. These services are available for children leaving institutions, as well as those leaving any other type of family-based care (i.e. foster care). There is a strong need for individualized plans that are suited to the needs of each child. Children who leave care require support through planning, preparation and information in order to prepare them positively for moving on from care. They should have the opportunity to develop skills as preparation for independent or semi-independent living as young adults. Support should be available for young people after they have left care and into young adulthood.

ALTERNATIVE CARE: Alternative care refers to the spectrum of services available to children whose parents are no longer able to provide them with adequate care. Children may live in informal care arrangements with kinship care, community-based care and other family-based care wherein the caregivers have informally reached out to take care of the child. Formal alternative care includes all placements with a recognized caregiver and includes all foster care and residential care arranged by a third party, whether government or private agency.

CHILD PROTECTION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM: An online information system for the routine collection, analysis and interpretation of data on individual children's wellbeing, which helps to effectively manage cases and assist in family reunification, amongst other child protection activities.

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE: In India, state governments are required to establish at least one Child Welfare Committee per state. The purpose of the committee is to determine the best interest of a child and find the child a safe home and environment either with his/her original parents, adoptive parents, foster care or an institution. Under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), funds are available to establish and maintain the Child Welfare Committee.

CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW: The term 'children in conflict with the law' refers to anyone under 18 who comes into contact with the justice system as a result of being suspected or accused of committing an offence. Most children in conflict with the law have committed petty crimes or such minor offences as vagrancy, truancy, begging or alcohol use. Some of these are known as 'status offences' and are not considered criminal when committed by adults. In addition, some children who engage in criminal behavior have been used or coerced by adults.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: This compilation and clarification of children's human rights sets out the necessary environment and means to enable every human being to develop to their full potential. The articles of the Convention, in addition to laying the foundational principles from which all rights must be achieved, call for the provision of specific resources, skills and contributions necessary to ensure the survival and development of children to their maximum capability. The articles also require the creation of means to protect children from neglect, exploitation and abuse. All children have the same rights. All rights are interconnected and of equal importance. The Convention stresses these principles and refers to the responsibility of children to respect the rights of others, especially their parents. By the same token, children's understanding of the issues raised in the Convention will vary depending on the age of the child. Helping children to understand their rights does not mean parents should push them to make choices with consequences they are too young to handle.

DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION UNITS: District Child Protection Units were formed in 2012 to coordinate and implement all child protection activities at the district level. The Unit identifies family at risk and children in need of special

protection; ensures that each child in need of care has an individual plan that is regularly reviewed; monitors the implementation of a care plan; supervises and monitors all child care institutions in a district; and maintains a database of all children in alternative care at the district level.

FOSTER CARE: Foster care is a type of alternative care in the domestic environment of a family, other than the child's biological family, that has been selected, approved and supervised. In India, a child is placed in foster care by a Child Protection Committee. A foster family must be found suitable by the District Protection Unit.

GATEKEEPING: Involves making decisions about care in the best interests of children who are at risk of losing, or already without, adequate parental care. It is a systematic procedure to ensure that alternative care is used only when necessary and that the child receives the most suitable support to meet their individual needs. In India, Child Welfare Committees ensure effective gatekeeping by preventing family separating and regulating placement into institutional and other forms of alternative care.

INDIVIDUAL CARE PLAN: A care plan is a way to document information about how a child can be kept safe and what support or resources they will need.

INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS): Was launched by India's Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2009 to build a protective environment for all children in India, with a special focus on those who are the most vulnerable, such as unaccompanied children, child laborers, children living on streets and children affected by HIV. The ICPS also seeks to establish a robust child protection system at all levels: national, state, district, sub-district and community. Special attention is being given to establishing and strengthening community-based preventive child protection services. Enhancing the capacities of families and non-institutional alternative care will also be promoted to avoid unnecessary separation of children from their families.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, (JJ ACT): creates a robust legal framework for the protection of the rights of all children in India. It is the primary legislation governing alternative care in India and reaffirms a child's right to basic needs through proper care, protection, development, treatment and social reintegration. The Act provides for care and protection of children who do not have adequate parental care and emphasizes every child's right to a family. It also stipulates that the state has the obligation to provide shelter to the child without parental care through institutional or non-institutional care.

JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARD: a legal body created by the JJ Act 2015, which is sensitive to the needs of children. Each Juvenile Justice Board consists of a three-person panel with one magistrate and two social workers. Boards typically meet one to three times a week and proceedings generally consist of brief hearings before the child and his or her family, with reports by probation officers and occasional witnesses.

KINSHIP CARE: Family-based care within a child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child. Kinship care can be formal or non-formal. Informal kinship care is a private arrangement, whereby the child is looked after on an ongoing or indefinite basis by relatives or friends without having been ordered by an administrative body. Formal kinship care has been ordered by an administrative or judicial authority.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS): These programs include any support that people receive to protect or promote their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. One major component of MHPSS is treatment and prevention of psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. MHPSS also includes activities that empower children and adults to socialize with their peers and communities in a healthy and positive way.

OBSERVATION AND SPECIAL HOMES: These institutions are mean to provide care and rehabilitation services to children in conflict with the law. Observation Homes are meant for temporary care and reception. Special Homes are

intended for longer term reception. Both types of homes are established by state governments or through voluntary or non-governmental organization.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: Restorative justice is an approach to justice in which the response to a crime is to organize a mediation between the victim and the offender. The goal is to negotiate for the offender to deliver restitution to the victim. In some cases, the wider community may be involved. In the case of this program, UNICEF is working with Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards, who work directly with children who are in conflict with law. By promoting restorative justice, UNICEF seeks to reduce institutionalization of youth and offer community-based alternatives that are often more effective and cost efficient.

SPECIAL ADOPTION AGENCY: India's Special Adoption Agency is a government child care institution that provides care for children who have been declared legally free for adoption by a Child Welfare Committee. Each agency is responsible for overseeing the adoption process and responsible for the care, protection and well-being of every child in its charge and shall cater to their health needs; emotional and psychological needs; educational and training needs; leisure and recreational activities; protection from any kind of abuse, neglect and exploitation; social mainstreaming and restoration or as the case may be and follow-up.

SPECIAL JUVENILE POLICE UNIT: This Unit was created in 2009 and includes the Director General and Additional Director General of Police, the Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Commissioner and Additional Commissioner of Police, designated Child Welfare Officers and a social worker from an NGO. These units assist the police in all cases involving minor children, help police personnel and police stations to become more child-friendly, and create community awareness on issues affecting children in conflict with the law.

SPONSORSHIP: provision of supplementary support, financial or otherwise to the families to meet the medical, education and developmental needs of the child. Sponsorship aid can be seen as a preventative measure to support families living in extreme poverty and allow children to remain with their parents. Sponsorship may also be used as a type of rehabilitative care once children have been reunited with their families after having been placed in an institution. Sponsorship is not restricted only to financial support and may include guidance, counselling and other services provided to children and their parents.