

People's courage

Ending sexual violence and trafficking against children, **Madhya Pradesh, India**

Eight children are trafficked every hour in India.¹ Of those, five are never found. Thousands of children, largely from poor families, are lured or abducted by traffickers every year, and sold on either to pimps and brothels who force them into sexual slavery or as bonded labourers in highly dangerous construction sites and manufacturing industries. This misery for India's children must end.

The problem

The global slavery index estimates that 8 million people are living in modern slavery on any given day in India. In 2018 51% of all trafficking victims were children, of which more than 80% were girls.² Nearly half (45%) of these trafficked children were pushed into forced labour while another 22% were sold into prostitution the same year.³ This data does not include the statistics of missing children in India which further demonstrates a grim situation. A child goes missing every eight minutes in India. Millions of missing children may have been trafficked, who end up in forced labour, slavery and sex work. A total of 73,138 children were reported missing in 2019, an 8.9% increase from the previous year.³

The partner

Jan Sahas, which means 'people's courage', was founded in 2000 with a mission to eliminate violence and slavery, focusing on the most excluded social groups, including those facing gender and caste-based violence. Today, Jan Sahas is a national grassroots non-profit working in 100 districts of 13 states in the country alongside 1500 full-time members and 4800 volunteers based out of 14,000 villages and towns.

Jan Sahas have been selected as a partner because as a survivor centric, community led organization, they work on a large scale with individuals belonging to the most marginalized sections of society who face grave humanitarian concerns. Around 93% of staff belong to communities Jan Sahas serves. By reaching these most excluded children, dignity is restored to their lives, but the system changes created also improve protections for all children.

The philanthropic solution

Jan Sahas will build adolescent children's capacity to make informed decisions, seek help and assert their rights; while simultaneously engaging stakeholders (government agents and caregivers) on prevention and early detection of incidence of violence against children as well as sensitive handling of such cases. Their work is based upon a combination of strategies

aiming at bringing individual, community and systemic level outcomes through, empowering children on their rights, strengthening support and care available to child survivors, and improving implementation of laws and policies around children's protection from abuse and harm. Jan Sahas overarching model is known as 'PR3' – which stands for their four focus areas of action; prevention, response, rehabilitation, reform in system.

The evidence

In the last twenty years, Jan Sahas have supported ~2,860,000 adolescents, children, young people and women across all our program areas. This includes liberation and rehabilitation of 48,547 families from the illegal and inhumane practice of manual scavenging and rescue of 9,256 children and women from forced labor and trafficking. They have prevented 7,200 young girls (between the age of 11 to 18 years) from entering caste-based commercial sexual exploitation, and also supported 23,124 survivors of sexual violence (children and women) through legal recourse, psycho-social therapy, education and livelihood opportunities.

The impact

Over the 18 months of the project, Jan Sahas will work in two high-risk districts in Madhya Pradesh, India to:

- train 150 professionals/ paraprofessionals in the treatment of survivors, on investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, and/or in the prevention of trafficking;
- orient 2280 non-professionals in the treatment of survivors and/or prevention of trafficking;
- provide services to 750 child survivors and those at risk of human trafficking.

1 Lancet

2 National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (2018) *Crime in India*

3 Ibid

4 National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (2019) *Crime in India*

All programmatic data provided by Jan Sahas. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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