

**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 12th November, 2020

No.AB-301(4)2/2020-SW-SW : The following draft of the Manipur State Policy for Children, 2020, which the Government propose to make has been drafted by Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights after a series of consultations with different stakeholders viz. Child Rights & You(CRY), line Departments and Social Welfare Department as the Nodal Department. A Core Committee has also examined the said draft Policy. The draft Policy is hereby published for information of all persons likely to be affected; and notice is hereby given that the said draft Policy shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of **fifteen** days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette in which the notification is published are made available to the public;

Objections and suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Social Welfare, Government of Manipur or may be sent to email: sonia.oinam@gov.in ;

The objections and suggestions which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft before the expiry of period specified above, will be considered by the State Government.

DRAFT POLICY

THE MANIPUR STATE POLICY FOR CHILDREN, 2020

Short Title, extent and commencement :

1. *The Policy may be called as the ‘Manipur State Policy for Children 2020’.*
2. *It extends to the whole of the State of Manipur.*
3. *It shall come into force on the date of publication of the policy in the official gazette.*

Definition :

1. *The term “State Government” refers to State Government of Manipur.*
2. *The term “ Conflict” refers to ethnic violence, armed conflict and civil unrest.*
3. *The term “ Children with special needs” refers to a child not less than 40% of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and also include a child with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms,as certified by the certifying authority.(Sec.2r of Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016).*

4. The term “Child Rights” includes the children’s rights adopted in the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child on the 20th November,1989 and ratified by the Government of India on the 11th December,1992.
5. The term “State Protection Commission for Child Rights” refers to Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Abbreviations

<i>ADC</i>	– <i>Autonomous District Council</i>
<i>AIDS</i>	– <i>Acquired immune deficiency syndrome</i>
<i>ANC</i>	– <i>Antenatal Care</i>
<i>ANMs</i>	– <i>Auxiliary Nurse Midwives</i>
<i>ART</i>	– <i>Anti Retroviral Therapy</i>
<i>CCI</i>	– <i>Child Care Institutions</i>
<i>CWC</i>	- <i>Child Welfare Committee</i>
<i>CPC</i>	– <i>Child Protection Committees</i>
<i>CRC</i>	– <i>Convention for the Rights of the Child</i>
<i>DCPU</i>	– <i>District Child Protection Unit</i>
<i>DISE</i>	– <i>District Information System for Education</i>
<i>HIV</i>	– <i>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</i>
<i>ICDS</i>	– <i>Integrated Child Development Scheme</i>
<i>ICPS</i>	– <i>Integrated Child Protection Scheme</i>
<i>IDP</i>	– <i>Internally displaced person</i>
<i>IDU</i>	– <i>Injectable Drug User</i>
<i>IMR</i>	– <i>Infant Mortality Rate</i>
<i>JSY</i>	– <i>JananiSurakshaYojana</i>
<i>JJB</i>	- <i>Juvenile Justice Board</i>
<i>MCPCR</i>	– <i>Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights</i>
<i>NCPCR</i>	– <i>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights</i>
<i>NCRB</i>	– <i>National Crime Records Bureau</i>
<i>NFHS 4</i>	– <i>National Family Health Survey 4</i>
<i>NSDM</i>	– <i>National Skill Development Mission</i>
<i>PLHIV</i>	– <i>People Living with HIV</i>
<i>POCSO</i>	– <i>Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act</i>
<i>RTE</i>	– <i>Right to Education</i>
<i>SJPU</i>	– <i>Special Juvenile Police Units</i>
<i>SMC</i>	– <i>School Management Committees</i>
<i>SRS</i>	– <i>Sample Registration System</i>
<i>SSA</i>	– <i>SarvaShikshaAbhiyan</i>
<i>U5MR</i>	– <i>Under 5 mortality rate</i>

1. Introduction

- 1.1. State governments are mandated to promote child friendly measures, engage with stakeholders, take affirmative action, and build a strong and functional child protection system. The Government of Manipur recognizes the accountability of the State and its statutory role towards fulfilling the developmental capabilities of children in Manipur. It is to fulfil these commitments that the State Government seeks to implement a specific policy for children in the State of Manipur.
- 1.2. The guiding principles for the policy are enshrined in the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC) as well as other international Conventions and instruments. The Convention recognises children's right to be free from abuse and neglect, sexual exploitation, trafficking, abduction, torture, deprivation of liberty, and other forms of maltreatment at all times and provides for special protections during times of conflict. The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict sets 18 years as the age limit for compulsory recruitment and participation in hostilities and a minimum age of 16 years for voluntary recruitment. Further, International Labour Organisation's Convention 182 declares child soldiering to be one of the worst forms of child labour and prohibits forced or compulsory recruitment of children under the age of 18 years in armed conflict. These instruments, together with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions, the Genocide Convention, Mine Ban Treaty(1997), Refugee Convention(1951), Protocol protecting refugee children (1967) and several Security Council Resolutions (1261, 1314, 1379, 1460, 1539), constitute a strong and comprehensive body of legal instruments which provide standards on the protection of children affected by armed conflict and emergencies.
- 1.3. India ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992. Additionally, it has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2002) in 2005. In 2007, it signed the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance but has not ratified the convention as of date. Nationally, the Constitution of India has set forth certain specific provisions related to child protection. Specifically for protecting the rights of children in armed conflict/ civil unrest, Article 39 (f) within the Constitution of India accords the "Right to equal opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of

freedom and dignity and guaranteed protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment”. The National Policy for Children 2013 affirmed the Government’s commitment towards special protection measures to secure the rights and entitlements of children in need of special protection (including children affected by ethnic and armed conflict – Section 4.11). The National Plan for Action, 2016 reiterates the Government’s commitment to set forth legislative, administrative, and institutional redressal mechanisms for Child Protection strengthened at National, State and district level, with specific points of action for children in conflict zones (Section 3.2). The NCPCR policy document on “Protection of Children’s Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest, 2010” provides detailed guidelines and recommendations to National & State Governments on the needs and requirements of the affected children. Taken together, the Constitution of India, National Policy for Children & National Plan for Action form the basic framework for fulfilling the rights of children in the State of Manipur.

1.4. Children are more vulnerable to environmental pollution than adults especially during the infant stage as they are completely defenceless. Further, a child’s development depends on the environment in which he or she grows up. In this regard, the physical environment has a huge influence on a child’s development particularly risk factors like sanitation, crowding, lack of nutrients, clean environment etc. In order to provide a healthy, clean and safe environment it is necessary for every stakeholder to join in the effort of reducing the environmental hazards through legislations, awareness, policy actions and active participation for a safe environment of our children.

1.5. The policy is also guided by an understanding of vulnerabilities, esp. age specific vulnerabilities and the lifecycle approach in context of children. The approaches allow policies and programmes for children to take into account

- 1) multidimensional nature of vulnerabilities of children and
- 2) the evolving nature of risks and challenges faced by children at different stages of childhood.

1.6 The policy is based on a three tiered protective framework for children with the following components:

- 1) ameliorative and restorative measures

2) strengthening and building convergence for systems and services and

3) promoting mental health and psychosocial recovery

1.7. Consequently, the policy response has evolved in the form of an interconnected set of regulatory measures & directives aimed at enabling positive transformation of children & families. These set of measures extend across multiple spheres including at the very minimum

1) Technical aspects linked to setting up a functional, responsive and child friendly protection system

2) Institutional mechanisms for system strengthening & optimization, ensuring community involvement & building convergence of various system functionaries

3) Capacity building and empowering diverse groups of children, families & communities

4) Design and operationalization of nuanced communications, interventions, and reporting systems for immediacy and adequacy of response

1.8. To affirm the State Government commitment towards extending special protection to all children (directly and indirectly affected by armed conflict and civil unrest), the State government adopts this resolution on Manipur State Policy for Children 2020. The policy reiterates the commitment of Government towards all children in the State and is directed to realise its vision and mission for children.

2. Background and Intervention Scenario

2.1. Manipur has a total population of 27,22,000 according to Census 2011, with 21.2% of the populace living in urban areas. It also has a high proportion of tribal heritage as representative of its population, comprising of 35.1% of the total population.

2.2. According to the Census 2011, the total child population of Manipur was stated to be 10,98,379 persons, or 38 percent of the total population of Manipur. Children in the 0-6 age group form 13 percent of the total population while those above 14 years and below 18 years make up 8.3 percent of the total State population.

2.3. Child centred schemes in Manipur face a number of intervention gaps. Overcoming systemic inefficiencies and ensuring provisioning of basic services, esp. in remote

and hilly areas needs adequate reflection, planning and follow – through by State functionaries. Due to the predominantly rural nature of households in the State, schools are small sized enrolment wise, spread out, and infrastructure wise weak. There are also similar issues in context of health, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS continues to be a critical area of concern for the State. The need for specific approaches for children within the State AIDS Policy needs to be given priority.

2.4. Conflict scenarios, in particular, deserve the attention of policy makers. These are often illustrative of times where children and families' vulnerabilities are intensified, support from community and administration is patchy and the most well designed schemes may not get implemented in the proper vein. A specific policy aimed for assuring implementation, improving preparedness, and strengthening systems in such scenarios is likely to bring much dividends.

2.5. Article 6, 24, 28 and 29 of UNCRC (Convention on the Right of Children) is indirectly linked to some of children's right towards the environment. Children have a right to life, survival and development (art 6), the right to health (art 24), right to an adequate standard of living (art 28, 29). Basic sanitation, proper outdoor physical activities and clean drinking water are lacking in many schools/institutes/kids centres/children park. Sustainable development goals such as clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy are also closely related to a child's development.

3. Policy Objectives.

3.1. The Manipur State Policy for Children 2020 shall strive to ensure that all children in the State live in a child friendly, protective environment, their rights are secured, and that steps are taken to promote resilience and peace alongside prevention of conflict. The specific objectives are:

- a) Ensure children are prevented from separation from families, recruitment and/ or any form of violation through ameliorative and restorative measures
- b) Implement an integrated set of measures for reintegration of children directly affected by conflict
- c) Strengthen the existing child protection system and promote convergence between multiple actors functioning towards securing entitlements for children

- d) Provide supportive services to families and children forced to migrate or displace and support rehabilitation/ return through an integrated set of measures
- e) Ensure right to survival, health, education and development of children remains secure despite any form of insecurity and conflict through strengthening institutional mechanisms and structures and ensuring convergence among multiple actors
- f) Empower and strengthen capacities of children, families, and communities towards post conflict recovery and development

3.2. The guiding principles for the policy are based on the National Policy for Children and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. These principles include the following:

- 1) Child protection is ingrained in an overarching protection framework which requires the cooperation and involvement of multiple actors and systems
- 2) Families, communities, sub systems and the state form the protective layers essential for the safety and well – being of all children
- 3) Ensuring basic needs and services to all children is a pre-requisite for ensuring a protective environment
- 4) Ensuring immediate access to rehabilitation and reintegration services is prioritized to traumatized and affected children and their families including psycho-social care, trauma counselling as a response and recovery mechanism and also for social mainstreaming and mental wellbeing of the affected families.
- 5) The best interest of the child shall hold priority in all circumstances, esp. in context of decisions taken to extend safety from violence, exploitation, and/ or victimization to the child. Ensuring the dignity of children and their participation is a must, esp. in context of decisions concerning their lives and future.
- 6) Access to education, skill building and supportive services all have the potential to significantly enhance well-being and should remain a priority even in an uncertain environment.

3.3 The policy objectives and principles are oriented towards fulfilling immediate, medium term and long term needs of all children, but esp. those children who

- 1) Have been, or whose families have been directly affected by any form of conflict, violence, or disaster
- 2) have been, or whose families have been forced to migrate from their traditional homestead on account of any natural, or man-made disaster or conflict, and need special assistance for rehabilitation and mainstreaming into society
- 3) have been affected by the lack of basic services, including access to health, education, developmental services, and support on account of long – term conflict, economic or physical blockade, or the suppression of developmental activities due to the above

4. Lifecycle perspective and vulnerabilities

4.1.Children are considered as a specific group on account of their special vulnerabilities and requirements in order for proper growth and physical, emotional, moral, cognitive and social development. They represent the majority of civilians affected by ethnic and armed conflict; in Manipur, they comprise of almost 40 percent of the state’s population and are both directly and indirectly affected due to this conflict.

4.2.In context of children directly affected by armed conflict, internationally, two broad groupings of violations within a conflict scenario have been mentioned. Grave violations include specific acts that are considered especially horrific and life altering and include six specific categories such as killing or maiming children; recruitment or use of child soldiers; attacks against schools or hospitals; rape and other grave sexual violence; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access (Graca Machel 10 year strategic review). Other serious violations that especially impact children include for instance torture, enforced disappearance, administrative detention, forced displacement, sexual exploitation and abuse, and hazardous work. The multiple vulnerabilities arising from exposure to any form of these violations are self – explanatory and need urgent, immediate attention.

4.3.Children in conflict zones form one of the most disadvantaged groups who are denied basic rights for survival, development, protection as well as participation. They are unable to receive basic services for food, health, education, water and sanitation. Some of them may have to flee their traditional homes and end up living

in refugee camps. In a large number of cases, children may get separated from their family members and community and end up alone, defenceless, and homeless. Some of them may be picked up or forced by groups to perform as soldiers, labourers, porters, or for sexual purposes. They may be detained illegally or confined to detention camps or prisons in the absence of identity papers or as suspects.

4.4.Children who continue to stay with their families are also affected by civil unrest through lack of basic services, learning loss due to suspension of schooling, poverty and lack of livelihood, forced to take up economic roles, or being trafficked or involved in drug peddling. Inability to access basic services such as health, immunization, essential medicines, mobility and so on may lead to adverse, sometimes long – term impacts related to health and nutrition. This may have further complications esp. in cases where they need long – term treatment and palliative support, for instance, in cases of disabilities, HIV/AIDs, TB and/ or drug abuse.

4.5.Lack of basic services also impacts family livelihoods and engulfs families into poverty. With economic blockades, trade and services get affected resulting in high prices for essential commodities as well as rising unemployment curbing affordance rates. Families may be forced to ask their children to drop out of school and enter the labour force, sometimes even sending them out to work and making them vulnerable to trafficking in guise of work.

4.6.Conflict brings with it other risks and vulnerabilities, many of which may be psychological or emotional in nature. Children may witness physical hardships, and lose the security of their homes and communities. They may be forced to flee their homes in a sudden moment, or see it destroyed before their eyes. They may see the destruction of their villages, loss of friends and families, or other horrific events at a tender age leaving them unable to cope with the emotional and psychological consequences of trauma, loss and grief. The schools and other support services near their habitations may be disrupted oftener and basic necessities may become more difficult or expensive for them to procure. Children impacted and affected by direct or indirect conflict, as evident from the situational analysis, are faced by greater vulnerabilities and lack of access to basic services such as health and education. In a conflict scenario, their families may be the first ones to be victimized, vandalized, or otherwise threatened. The schools and other support services near their

habitations may be disrupted oftener and basic necessities may become more difficult or expensive for them to procure.

- 4.7. Children are affected differently by ethnic and armed conflict. The threats that they face are unique and keep on changing based on their vulnerability as children. However, children by themselves are not homogeneous and may face special vulnerabilities due to their special attributes such as age, gender, caste, religion and so on. Understanding these is crucial for the designing of appropriate systemic interventions in response as well as for preventive and proactive auctioning.
- 4.8. Girls have particular needs esp. linked to nutrition, reproductive health, hygiene, privacy, body control, and safety issues, leading to enhanced vulnerabilities. They may experience gender based vulnerabilities such as lack of access to education linked to safety concerns. Other vulnerabilities include reduced opportunities to learn, grow and earn. These combined with their emotional security and strength may lead to issues of self – esteem and well – being. They may also face specific vulnerabilities in ethnic and armed conflict situations. Special focus needs to be emphasized on the issues of adolescent girls and young mothers – to – be. Women and girls are often victims of sex discrimination, sexual violence, including rape, sexual mutilation, sexual humiliation, forced marriage, trafficking, prostitution, and forced pregnancy.
- 4.9. Unborn or new born children, infants, toddlers, and young children are highly prone to the impacts arising from disruption of basic services such as availability of food, milk, immunization and health services, and access to health personnel in timely manner. Owing to their being in the critical phases of development, the outcome stemming from this unavailability may be lifelong. These may be further exacerbated based on their geographical location, i.e., whether they are in an urban or rural scenario, and esp. hilly & remote areas.
- 4.10. Adolescents, both boys and girls, may be more likely to be abducted and forced to serve in armies; apart from separation from their families and a secure environment, they may be subjected to long term physical hardships, hard labour, violence and abuse, and also suffer greater psychological consequences. As children, they may be more affected by violence given that they are still forming ideas about the world and themselves and the consequences of the actions that they see around themselves.

- 4.11. Children in the rural areas are more prone to unsafe drinking water, lack of proper nutrition and face child labour, etc. Climate change impact increases the risk of health related problems as children are more vulnerable.
- 4.12. Among all groups, children with special needs, have specific vulnerabilities. Children with special needs very often need the full support of their primary caregivers and the complete family in order to strive for well – being and accessing the best of their capabilities. The tumultuous scenarios in which the families find themselves post any such conflict may lead to the attention being removed from these children to the basic survival issues of the families themselves, often with repercussions for the children, whose needs get neglected.

5. Three Tiered Protective Framework For Children.

5.1. The three tiered protective framework is based on the three protective levels comprising of the following:

- 1) ameliorative and restorative measures for those directly affected by ethnic and armed conflict
- 2) strengthening and building convergence for systems and services directed at all children and
- 3) promoting mental health and psychosocial recovery, peace, life skills, education, and democratic values for emerging generations.

Through this tiered approach, the state shall operationalize the overall policy objective of creating a child – friendly and protective environment for children.

5.2. The *first level* under the tiered protective framework includes the *ameliorative and restorative measures*. Accordingly, the State shall endeavour that children are removed from exploitative, violent, and harmful scenarios and restored to their families in an environment that is positive, affirmative, and oriented towards justice and peace. The emphasis in this set of services is on children and families directly affected by ethnic and armed conflict.

- a) In accordance with the National Policy for Children, 2013 and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the state recognizes children affected by ethnic and armed conflict as well as civil unrest to be children in need of special protection. Within this category, special measures shall be laid out for

children who were being used by any armed group in any form; separated/ unaccompanied children, orphan or separated children, or those who have suffered any form of violation during the conflict.

- b) The State shall in its negotiations with armed groups, impress upon and build consensus with groups regarding the eradication of use of children under the age of 18 years in the armed groups for all purposes. Multi stakeholder engagements, media campaign, and political and civil society pressure may be some of the means for the above. As a policy objective, the state commits that all peace agreements should include specific measures to demobilise and reintegrate child soldiers into society.
- c) The State shall be fully committed to effective and efficient implementation of the Juvenile Justice System as a part of the overall child protection system in the state. The State Government shall provide necessary support for proper implementation of the JJ System at the State, district and community levels so that the rural populace, especially in the remote areas, is adequately covered.
- d) The State shall ensure that Village and Block Level Child Protection Committees (CPCs), SJPUs, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPUs), and CWCs, JJBs in each district shall work in convergence with the local police and Army units stationed in each conflict prone area as well as with local judiciary to ensure that children who may be used by non-State, self-styled militant group or outfit declared as such by the Central Government are recognized as child in need of care and protection and not inadvertently sent to prison or illegally detained by any authority. All matters related to such children shall be dealt with in the overall framework of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- e) Similar care and sensitive handling of individual cases shall be followed in case of all other children who may have faced any violation during the conflict phase. Each such individual case shall be reported immediately to the concerned Child Welfare Committee for immediate and proper action.
- f) Apart from the process followed in context of the child, measures related to ensuring justice for any violations also need to be followed simultaneously. Under the JJ Act 2015, cases may be filed against those who indulge in child trafficking, child abuse or neglect, employment in

hazardous work or exploitation, rape or violence, or use of child for other illegal purposes such as drug peddling or transportation. In accordance, the state shall take specific measures to identify the individuals and organisations involved with recruiting the children into insurgency groups and take legal action against the individual/organisations involved and public notice issued to be cautious about the insurgency group to prevent further recruitment.

- g) The State's commitment to justice and reparations for harm suffered by victims shall be borne through multiple interventions including
 - a) public dialogues and hearings, engagement forums for multiparty stakeholder dialogues, commissions
 - b) compensation to victims, assistance in the form of land and property rights lost by victims,
 - c) non – monetary efforts esp. linked to social justice,
 - d) reintegration programmes for families and communities,
 - e) physical or psychological assistance, and
 - f) assurance or guarantee of non – repetition of violence, humiliation, or other similar acts.
 - g) Symbolic acts such as commemorative ceremonies, show of respect and official apologies are equally crucial as these allow individuals, families and communities to come to a sense of closure with the past and gather the will to move forward collectively.

These measures need to be developed around a comprehensive set of guidelines linked to the overall aspect of ensuring justice and not as ad-hoc, political responses to individual circumstances or incidents that arise into public short term memory. Accordingly, the State shall develop a set of standard protocols and guidelines in context of reparations to children and families directly affected by conflict.

5.3.Children may have been placed under illegal detention/ prison circumstances through deliberate attempts of lowering their age in official documentation/ unavailability of official age documents, or not following the official procedure for ***age determination*** under JJ Act 2015. The State shall take the following measures to prevent such circumstances from occurring.

- 1) The State shall ensure that appropriate guidelines are provided to all prison camps and official detention centres making compulsory the following of age determination procedures as laid down under Juvenile Justice Act 2015 for all newly brought candidates.
- 2) The State shall ensure regular, appropriate training of police officials, local judiciary and doctors to ensure that any procedural gap does not take place in the age determination process as laid down in the JJ Act 2015
- 3) The Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR) shall, at regular intervals, carry out inspections of all State prisons and official detention camps to ensure that no detainee has been confined to the premise inadvertently.

5.4. In accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, the State shall ensure that children directly affected by ethnic and armed conflict, irrespective of whether or not recruited or used by armed groups shall be placed for *interim care in institutions* registered under the Act (or Child Care Institutions, CCIs).

- 1) Provisioning for rehabilitation and re-integration services shall be emphasized as stated in the Act, with special emphasis on birth registration (wherever required), assistance for obtaining the proof of identity, where required, health based interventions, mental health interventions, including counselling, and life skills education till the appropriate inquiry process is carried out in the Child Welfare Committee.
- 2) Resuming education is a crucial part of the rehabilitation and reintegration process and should be initiated without any delay even while the child may be in interim care.
- 3) For the time that they are housed in interim institutional care the individual care plans for all children, keeping in mind their special case requirement, family support scenario, age and educational/ vocational levels, and other parameters shall be prepared and adhered to by the concerned care givers. To ensure that children benefit from these services and progress towards psychosocial recovery, regular monitoring and follow

up of the plans shall be carried out by the responsible functionary.

5.5. Reintegration of the separated children with their families (inclusive of all such categories of children such as those lost during moving away from a conflict scenario, kidnapped or abducted children, trafficked children, or those recruited by armed groups shall be the main objective of the juvenile justice system. Accordingly, the following measures shall be taken by all state functionaries including those operating within the child protection system.

1) District authorities shall provide essential support in obtaining identity documents and tracing of families of separated/ unaccompanied minors.

2) Child protection system functionaries, such as the village and block level CPCs shall keep records of all children missing and/ or forcibly migrating from their geographical areas so that in eventualities such as when a child goes missing, it is easier to trace the child.

3) Functionaries at the registered CCIs where children are housed for interim care shall make all possible attempts to assist the child and the DCPU through recording all personal information that will be of help in tracing the child's families and community surroundings. During the process, due care to be taken to preserve the confidentiality and privacy of the child. The information collation and record keeping shall follow the standardized forms that are included within the Juvenile Justice Act Rules.

4) In rural and remote areas where means of mass communication such as newspapers may not be easily available, other means of spreading information about the missing child may be used. However, care needs to be taken in order to prevent the personal information being used by traffickers or armed groups for fear of misappropriation of identity and / or possible reprisal against the child in near future. Appropriate levels of checking and filtering information may be applied in these cases.

5) The final decision making regarding reintegration and restoration of the child to family/ extended family/ community shall be based on the CWC's inquiry and assessment of the family supportive environment.

6) This inquiry process shall also make recommendations for extending services to the family including support for health needs, temporary institutional/ foster care, and family sponsorship in case of families that may not be capable to appropriately resume care giving to the child. These recommendations shall also take into account any special disability or requirement, both in context of the child and the family.

7) Reintegration of recruited/ used children may be done while keeping in mind the altered life situation of the child, and ensuring access to services such as educational/ vocational support that would allow the child to reintegrate within the society in an appropriate and positive manner. For those at risk of potential reprisal following return to the community, appropriate temporary relocation may be considered and recommended by the CWC. Support services such as counselling need to be extended for opportune interval till the reintegration process (both for the child and the family) may reach appropriate closure. Community based care or support systems may be preferable to institutional services. However, the final decision may be taken on the individual merit of the situation by the CWC.

8) There may be specific groups for whom the reintegration process may be particularly challenging, for instance in case of former girl soldiers who have been raped or sexually abused, and who may not be accepted back into their families / communities due to cultural beliefs and attitudes. Similarly, other groups such as disabled children (esp. those affected during the conflict process), orphan or lost children, PLHIV (esp. mothers – to – be and parents of HIV positive children), or IDU users, or similar groups with special requirements should be assisted through specifically designed inputs and investments of time, financial and human resources for the reintegration process, which may be long – drawn and complicated.

9) Adequate provisioning of resources and long – term engagement with multiple service providers and stakeholders are essential for any such attempts at reintegration in such scenarios. Exploring innovative options such as peer – living arrangements, community management and involvement, and mutual dependence possibilities need to be a part of the programming in these scenarios.

10) Integrating opportunities for education, vocational opportunities for former child combatants and economic security shall be a part of the solution since these

elements play a significant role in successful social reintegration and, prevention of re-recruitment.

11) Return of the child to the family/ community care shall not be the final point for case closure. Rather, the family/ community shall take forward the components within the individual care plan of the child which may be appropriately monitored by the CWC/ Village or Block CPC or any other local representative as assigned by the CWC.

5.6. In context of the continuing conflict scenario, the State shall take special measures linked to prevention of separation from families, including

- 1) risk assessment and mapping of children for identification & designing appropriate interventions,
- 2) birth registration drives and safekeeping of records of children's identity documents,
- 3) ensuring basic services such as food, nutrition, emergency health and educational services for risk prone neighbourhoods,
- 4) training of teachers and health workers in preventive measures, life skills education to children (including, for younger children, information about their personal and family details so that tracing process may be simplified and easier), and finally,
- 5) sensitizing local self-government functionaries and district authorities for prioritizing special needs of girls and disabled children during conflict scenarios.

5.7. **The second level of the tiered protective framework** includes activation of and appropriate provisioning of all support services so that children are secure, protected, and can flourish in their natural societal ecosystems. The State has already committed itself to the effective implementation of legislations and schemes for the well – being of children including the following:

- 1) National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) (2005),
- 2) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006),
- 3) Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- 4) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (2012)
- 5) National Food Security Act, 2013
- 6) Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- 7) Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

as also specific schemes for children including

- a) Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS, 1975),
- b) National Child Labour Project Scheme (1988)
- c) Swachh Bharat Mission, 2014 (extending Total Sanitation Campaign, 1999),
- d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA, 2000),
- e) National Health Mission (NHM, 2005),
- f) Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS, 2009),
- g) National Skill Development Mission (NSDM, 2015)

5.8. Any interruption of food supplies, the destruction of food crops and agricultural infrastructures, the disintegration of families and communities, the displacement of populations, the destruction of health services and programmes and of water and sanitation systems all take a heavy toll on children. The State shall take appropriate steps to ensure proper implementation of the above mentioned child related schemes and programmes in ethnic and armed conflict affected areas. Resuming services at the earliest possible stage in a post conflict scenario is also essential in order to minimize harm and restoring normalcy.

5.9. In this context, the state shall take measures to

- 1) Maintain infrastructures and systems at peak performance levels as a preventive mechanism. This would include, for instance, proper inventory management, restocking and adequate reserves of essential supplies, enhanced capacity of the system to manage in irregular scenarios and at a stretch depending upon the scenario during and post conflict phase. Where infrastructure may have been destroyed or unavailable, inclusion of options such as mobile education/ health centres/ pop up or revolving centres etc shall be piloted for the interim period, esp. where conflict may still be prevalent.
- 2) Establish protocols or guidance on provisioning in areas of civil unrest including providing enough dry ration, mid-day meal supplies, health supplies and other essential medicines that would enable communities to tide over periods of economic blockades. This should include clarity on the chain of command as also planned processes to be followed by each responsible authority in case of disruption of communication.

- 3) Make optimum use of community level management opportunities such as recruiting local teachers and health workers, training local self- government functionaries in risk management & emergency preparedness. Explore the option of institutionalizing non – political volunteers for promoting continuation of education, supportive services, and so on.
- 4) Support the safety and security of frontline service functionaries who may be fearful of getting caught in the conflict and hence reduce delays in resumption of basic services at the earliest.
- 5) In ceasefire negotiations, emphasize on the scope of options such as ‘zones of peace’ for instance schools & health centres and days of tranquillity for allowing activities such as immunization & emergency health responses. Another area of agreement to be pursued ought to be an unequivocal agreement for non – destruction of essentialities such as schools, hospitals, food supplies, neighbourhood sources of water collection and the safety and security of humanitarian workers.
- 6) Ensure that relief, rehabilitation and welfare measures for children are provided in a non – discriminatory manner and with special regard to the needs of disadvantaged, minority or vulnerable groups.

5.10. The State shall accordingly take steps to promote awareness and training of functionaries directly interacting with children (for instance Anganwadi Workers, school teachers & other functionaries, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and other community health workers, local self-government institutions & village level education & protection committees, functionaries of residential schools/ hostels, CCI functionaries, and others) so that they recognize the crucial role played by them in providing a positive, affirmative and secure environment for all children. Empowering and training of children and youth in for instance, first aid and primary response to health emergencies can also be a positive step. Training of local law enforcement officials, and setting up of Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in each police station across the state shall be given high priority.

5.11. The training plan should ensure sensitization and perspective building of the direct contact functionaries (esp. at local level) on implementing appropriate preventive measures in their daily activities so as to avoid occurrences such as separation of children from families, inadvertent or deliberate trafficking, recruitment or conscription of children by armed groups. These measures include record keeping of children’s and

families' movements, awareness of potential child trafficking or forced recruitment scenarios and what steps can be taken towards prevention.

5.12. The functionaries mainly Anganwadi workers, Anganwadi Helpers and ASHAs who come into direct contact with children as well as district authorities also have a very significant role to play in context of ensuring basic provisioning services and continuation of health, nutrition, education, and livelihood related services for children and families in migration or camp scenarios. The State shall take all appropriate supportive measures for the safety and security of the functionaries so that they are motivated and continue to provide services to the children and families.

5.13. Displacement has a profound physical, emotional and developmental impact on children and increases their vulnerability. In Manipur, more than half of all displaced people are children. Families that may have been forced to migrate in neighbouring areas/ districts or states are in dire need of basic survival necessities such as food, emergency health care and identity documents.

- 1) District authorities who receive such families shall provide immediate basic social services to such families rather than awaiting their official declaration as migrant/ refugee status before extending support. This is imperative since it is the first few days immediately following forced migration when families, esp. children are the most vulnerable. The process of fleeing their homestead may have placed extensive pressure on the physical, psychological and emotional reserves of both children and their caregivers. Denial of support due to official apathy or procedural delays at this stage may lead to extensive, sometimes permanent harm to the child.
- 2) Identity documents often get lost, destroyed or left behind in the process of fleeing from sudden conflicts. Non – possession of identity documents may prevent families from availing of relief benefits, educational services etc. Even if educational services are available, the children may not be able to enrol for lack of proper documentation, non – acknowledgment of their status as local residents, or the inability of families to pay school fees (in context of post elementary education). The state shall enact clear directives for interim support to families affected by forced migration.

- 3) In context of health and educational services, the state shall establish clear guidelines for proper enrolment, fee subsidy, monitoring & ensuring long term treatment, availing scholarship schemes, and other supportive measures for the affected children.
- 4) The State shall take appropriate measures for rehabilitation and facilitating return of families that were forced to migrate during conflict scenario, including providing security to ensure that they are not uprooted again. In cases where the situation continues to be volatile, interim stay arrangements shall be provided to the families keeping in mind their safety, security, dignity & privacy, as well as practical considerations such as climactic conditions. In order to facilitate the above, the state shall formulate and implement a comprehensive policy for securing the rights of the IDPs and address their needs in a holistic manner.

5.14. Children living in camps, whether on a temporary basis or in a long – term conflict scenario, need specific attention for securing their entitlements as also promotion of child friendly spaces. Through these spaces and positive, supportive activities and relationships, vulnerabilities of children can be significantly reduced.

5.15. Existing guidelines, directives, and experiences from a range of situations have outlined specific measures linked to child protection that are very relevant to transit camp scenarios. These include well designed lighting, improved water and sanitation services, participative management of daily activities and group linked actions that ensure safety, protection, and dignity, esp. for women & children. The State shall take appropriate steps to ensure implementation of these guidelines, for instance, UNHCR guidelines on sexual violence against refugees.

5.16. Inter – departmental coordination and a multi-sectoral approach to health and nutrition, including reproductive health is essential for continuity of care.

5.17. The State Government shall safeguard the identity and rights of abandoned, surrendered or orphaned children. In cases of such children whose parents are untraceable or the identity of their parents cannot be disclosed as per JJ Act, a mechanism should be worked out to give a “surname” to the child to give a complete identity. The CWC concerned may decide on the surname of the child until s/he reaches the age of 14 years. Once the child reaches the age of 14 years, he/she may be asked to choose a surname of his/her choice.

- 5.18. Educational institutes, the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BoSEM), Council of Higher Education (CoHSEM), Manipur University, etc shall not insist on filling up the names of “parents” in the application form for admission or registration in case of abandoned or surrendered orphans. The details of the guardian, caregiver, fit person or the chief functionary of the CCI should suffice for the purpose of admission or registration, provided a certificate in this regard is issued by the Child Care Institutions or CWC concerned.
- 5.19. The State Government shall strive to formulate and implement appropriate schemes to provide employable skills and livelihood to the orphans staying in CCIs.
- 5.20. The CCIs or the CWC shall submit details of children with special needs currently staying in the CCIs to the Commissioner (Disability) at regular intervals. The Commissioner (Disability) may also call for such information from the concerned CWCs from time to time and inspections carried out to ensure wellbeing of the children with special needs in the CCIs.
- 5.21. Once a child attains the age of 18 years and comes out of Child Care Institutes, care must be taken to ensure she/he gets the right over his/her ancestral property, if available. The Child Care Institutes/ CWC shall work in coordination with the Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) or any other appropriate authority to safeguard the rights of the young adult over his/her ancestral property.
- 5.22. In the case of rape of a minor, the matter has to be strictly dealt with in accordance with the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. No such cases should be settled under customary laws under any circumstances. The District Child Protection Units, CWCs, MCPCR, MSLSA etc shall make extensive awareness in this regard across the state, especially in the remote areas to avoid settling such cases under customary laws.
- 5.23. **The third level of the protective framework goes beyond providing relief to the affected individuals towards promotion of a resilient spirit**, affirmative beliefs, and supportive systems that would allow children to develop to the best of their capabilities. Doing so acknowledges that every individual has the power to build on their strengths and take positive action rather than being limited by their present status and problems.

- 1) Children are resilient beings who can benefit from positive, self – affirmative beliefs and find the strengths within themselves, supportive relationships, and community environment. They have the potential to make the shift from being victims of their lot to be active survivors and assume responsibility for their actions. Through engaging with children using the concepts of participation, empowerment, capacity building and life skills education, facilitators can assist children to act as resourceful, empowered beings who can actively participate in building a stronger, resilient community. This approach is essential for helping children and families move beyond a state of transition, loss and helplessness to assume responsibility for their lives mindful of their present circumstances. The State shall promote supportive services based on child rights programming approaches esp. those integrating life skills education, participation and collaboration in a move towards psychosocial recovery and well-being.
- 2) The role of community in building positive social networks, reaffirming the power of personal relationships, social values such as caring, sharing, and responsibility for oneself and one’s environment becomes crucial in the conflict scenario. Through democratic values, engagement and dialogue, communities can move from being in a state of conflict to mutual sharing, dependence, and acceptance of each other’s needs.
- 3) Even if these may not be enough to find a stable solution to existing roots of conflicts, an environment of respect, grace and hopefulness is immensely more powerful than one of hopelessness. It also allows for building of self – esteem, self – efficacy, and respect towards oneself and the other and hence, promotes well-being. The State shall promote services and approaches to finding solutions that are community based, culture specific and based on values and strengths of both individuals and collectives.
- 4) The interventions detailed above need intensive facilitation and support services to work. The State shall promote setting up a dedicated cadre of care workers, adequately trained and supported by academicians and practitioners for extending these support services to children and families throughout the state.

6. Governance and Delivery Mechanisms.

- 6.1 This section lays down the specific mechanisms, structures, and processes that would be established towards appropriate implementation of the policy.
- 6.2 The legal framework for child protection is based on the Juvenile Justice System and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in India, though other rights and entitlements have been derived from various legislations including, for instance, the rights and entitlements linked to education, food security, rights of persons with disabilities, livelihood promotion and economic security of families. Consequently, the policy implementation requires programming and convergence across different sectors, bodies and institutional structures. The State shall ensure multi-stakeholder partnerships in context of rights based programming for the protection of children across the continuum from emergency preparedness and relief to system strengthening for development and enabling a child friendly environment for all. An illustration of the various multi-stakeholder partnerships is provided in Annexure 1. The State shall also ensure adequate resources for effective implementation of the policy.
- 6.3 The Department for Women and Children shall be the nodal department in context of child protection systems, institutional management of services for children (including early childhood care and development, nutrition, adolescent development and institutional and non – institutional care for children. A consolidated action plan for multipronged action linked to various stages and levels based on state ground realities shall form the basis of policy implementation. The action plan shall on the basis of ground evidence guide the specific components which need to be activated or accelerated in specific districts, blocks, urban wards and gram panchayats (for instance, in some areas, the focus shall be on preparedness and risk assessment while in others, intensive programming for reintegration and rehabilitation).
- 6.4 The Department shall establish a *special task force* for protection of children with the Principal Secretary as Chairperson, and with participation of other concerned Departments as its members which will oversee and coordinate the monitoring and implementation of the action plan. Core members of the group shall include the Department of Home Affairs, Education, Skill Development, Health, Water & Sanitation, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice, Planning & Convergence, and Finance. At the district level, a similar task force will be formed headed by an appropriate head (Zilla Parishad in valley areas and Autonomous District Council (ADC) in hilly areas). Apart from monitoring and sharing of status of implementation, the task force

shall also be positioned as a platform for knowledge and information sharing among various departments and districts. External representation of experts, academicians, and knowledge bodies shall be a medium for linking evidence, practice, and theory.

- 6.5 The Department of Home Affairs shall hold primary responsibility for all matters related to former child soldiers, or those used by armed groups in any form, including identification, family tracing, and return, prevention of recruitment, reparation and justice to affected children and families, and safety and security of children, direct functionaries and humanitarian workers.
- 6.6 The Manipur State Commission for Protection of Child Rights shall ensure that the guiding principles of this Policy find credence in all sectors and at all levels during the process of formulation of laws, policies and programmes affecting children. The commission will monitor implementation of the Policy and report non-compliance to the State Government. It shall also be the provider of standards, protocols and guidelines for dealing with directly affected children. The Commission shall carry out regular inspections of prisons and official detention centres to ensure that no child has been placed under illegal detention whether inadvertently or in a fraudulent manner. Under the RTE Act, it would also be the appropriate authority for proper implementation of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education. The commission shall also keep itself apprised of the special requirements in context of care and protection of children from distress, marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 6.7 District administrative authorities shall be the primary bodies responsible for ensuring service provisioning, implementation of emergency protocols and communications, immediate relief and response in the face of active conflict, recognition and management of camps, allocation and security of relief personnel and supplies, & interim settlement of communities in cases of long – drawn conflicts.
- 6.8 The Department of Health & Family Welfare shall provide integrated services in interaction with WCD and District authorities and shall be primarily responsible for continuation of long – term care requirements for special groups such as infants, adolescents, PLHIVs, IDU users, pregnant women (including those with the added vulnerability of being a PLHIV), etc. The Department shall raise a cadre of counsellors and trainers in first aid and emergency medicine, who will reach out to larger groups of families, communities and children in an attempt to overcome the steep shortage of health workers and direct contact functionaries. Skilling and

empowering communities in these aspects would also allow community members to play a positive and affirmative role and promote healing and resilience.

- 6.9 The Department of Education shall, in addition to ensuring smooth management of schools under its purview, be responsible for other initiatives. These include integrating life skills, sports for development and vital survival information into existing school curriculum, esp. on hygiene, landmine and other safety aspects, HIV and drug use prevention, etc. Modifications in teacher training curriculum shall also be explored esp. taking into account the possible role for teachers in context of family identification process, reducing vulnerability to trafficking & exploitation, identifying children who need special counselling and assistance, and promoting life skills such as decision making, problem solving, positive thinking and peace building among students. The Department shall also assume responsibility for speedy resumption of services in a post conflict scenario through campaigns such as back to school, use of school champions in community, accelerated and modular learning programmes (compensating learning loss for those who missed out crucial years of schooling esp. out of school youth and young parents), and linking education and livelihoods for the economically active adults. Additionally, every school should have provision for Child Counselling service, and mandatorily adopt alternative practices to Corporal Punishments. A healthy food plan should be included whereby no junk food is allowed in school tiffin brought by the children. Similarly, only healthy food should be available in school canteens. There should be strict prohibition on availability of any kind of intoxicants in and around the school campus. Lighter and No School Bag policy for nursery and junior primary classes should be implemented. Sanitary napkins provisions and good toilet facilities for girl students should be available in every school where adolescent girl students are studying.
- 6.10 Specific roles may also be envisaged for community elders, faith healers, leaders and village and block committee members esp. in context of prevention of trafficking and recruitment, maintaining information and record keeping of family migration status, registration and identity documents as also their role in context of attitude formation, prejudices and roots for conflict, and in context of community reintegration, conflict resolution and acceptance of families and survivors post conflict.
- 6.11 A comprehensive review of the Manipur State Policy for Children 2020 affected shall be taken up once in five years with appropriate engagement of all stakeholders and departments, and esp. children and youth, parents, village representatives and other

interested and relevant bodies. Periodical-social audits may be conducted by children's groups under the aegis of Manipur State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

By orders & in the name of Governor,

Sd/-

GYAN PRAKASH
Commissioner-cum-Secretary,
Social Welfare,
Government of Manipur.

Memo no. AB-301(4)2/2020-SW-SW

Imphal, Dated 12th November, 2020

Copy to : -

1. Secretary to the Governor of Manipur, Raj Bhavan, Imphal.
2. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur.
3. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister (Social Welfare), Manipur.
4. S.O. to Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur.
5. All Commissioner/Secretaries, Government of Manipur.
6. Director (IT), Manipur- for uploading the draft in the Manipur Government website manipur.gov.in.
7. Director (Social Welfare), Manipur for uploading the draft in Social Welfare official website.
8. Director (Printing & Stationery), Manipur for favour of publication in the Manipur Extra Ordinary Gazette.
9. Director, Information and Public Relation, Manipur for providing wide publicity.
10. Guard File.

ANNEXURE 1

An Illustration of the various Multi- Stakeholder Partnerships for implementation of the Manipur State Policy for Children

	Details of the Activity	Managing Authority	Coordinating Agencies	Type of coordination (hard/soft, vertical/horizontal)	Measure of Accountability
<i>Ameliorative and restorative measures</i>	Removal from exploitative, violent, and harmful scenarios	Police force/ army (district/ block/ village jurisdiction)	NGOs, local frontline functionaries (VCPS committee, school teacher, doctor, etc)	Soft, horizontal coordination mechanism (e.g. task force for rescue, disaster management)	Number of children rescued/ freed/ restored Injured children attended to, any other metric
	<i>eradication of use of children</i>	Ministry of Home Affairs, Autonomous Council of the area	Insurgent group representatives, Army, Political parties, NGOs	Hard policy mechanisms – declarations, written agreements between all parties involved	Agreement signed assuring non – utilization of children by insurgent groups, army
	ensuring justice and reparations	Juvenile Justice Board, Judiciary,	Police, WCD, CWC, District administration, local village representatives	Hard policy mechanism: court orders, compensation awards, plus soft -	Number of cases filed and disposed, compensation awarded, families mainstreamed/ rehabilitated
	interim care in institutions	CWC, institutional authorities	NGOs, police, local village representatives, health	Soft, vertical & horizontal coordination between agencies	Standards of care followed Number of children staying across various institutions for specified duration
	Reintegration of the separated children	CWC, NGOs, police	Frontline functionaries, VCPS, district administration, village representatives	Soft, vertical & horizontal coordination between agencies	Number of children restored to family/ extended family/ community

<i>System strengthening and building convergence</i>	Risk assessment and mapping	WCD	Home affairs, district administration, Army, autonomous councils, local village representatives, School Education, Health, Transport (esp. PDS)	Soft coordination, e.g. a taskforce/ working group for risk mapping across sectors (an example of how this affects children would be – delay in creation of school infrastructure due to economic blockade)	Timely submission of risk mapping/ assessment Risk mitigation plan in place with designated roles for each agency
	Reducing system inefficiencies	District administration: To be carried out by each department individually and then shared for interdependencies	School education, health, rural development, planning department, academic institutions and think tanks	Soft coordination mechanism: Sharing of expectancies and interdependencies (meeting forum)	As per reporting standards of each department (MIS/ Monthly reporting) Special emphasis on field inspection, action plan for avoiding delays such as financial requisitioning
	prevention of separation from families	WCD: Village Child Protection Committees, ICPS functionaries	CWC, Home affairs, including police, local leaders & NGOs	Soft, horizontal coordination, immediate response to local level conflicts	Reduction in numbers/ percent of children separated from families/ sent for institutional care
	ensuring basic service	District administration: To be carried out by each department individually and then shared for interdependencies	School education, health, rural development, planning department, academic institutions and think tanks	Sharing of expectancies and interdependencies (meeting forum)	As per reporting standards of each department (MIS/ Monthly reporting)
	provisioning community level	Local frontline functionaries, village	Block & District administration	Soft, horizontal coordination between local	Level of community participation,

	management	representatives	for various departments, NGOs	functionaries	awareness and training of community representatives on specific agreed upon areas
	Investing in human resources	Block & District administration for various departments	WCD, MSCPCR, NGOs	Hard, vertical coordination, training events	Capacity building events held, esp. for frontline functionaries
	Non – discrimination in access and availability	Block & District administration for various departments	WCD, MSCPCR, NGOs	Hard, vertical coordination	Equity and inclusiveness indicators (as per functional department); specific data collection for remote areas, socially disadvantaged groups on agreed upon parameters
	Special attention to children in camps and IDPs	District administration, local functionaries assigned to serve in the specific camps etc	WCD, MSCPCR, NGOs	Soft, horizontal coordination across departments – camp management group meetings etc	Agenda and participation of children related indicators
<i>Promoting mental health and psychosocial recovery</i>	Supportive services for families and individuals	Local functionaries, ICPS	NGOs, CWC, school counselling (trained professionals), local village representatives	Soft, horizontal e.g., sharing forum, expert group	Cases handled (confidentiality in reporting)
	Developing a cadre of care workers	WCD	District administration, school education, health department, academicians, NGOs	Hard, vertical mechanism (e.g. assigning training)	Training workshops held, mentoring and practical training of care workers

	Integrating life skills, safety information into curriculum	School education	MSCPCR, WCD, Skill development, academicians, NGOs	Soft, horizontal mechanism (e.g. information sharing on opportunities, best practices across State)	Modifications in curricula, modules prepared and transacted, assessment of students
	Community involvement and participation	Local functionaries, VCPC, local representatives	WCD, MSCPCR	Soft, horizontal mechanism (e.g., information sharing, monthly meetings for child friendly environment)	Indicators for child friendly environment and decentralized governance
	Emphasizing on strengths & resilience	Local functionaries, ICPS	NGOs, CWC, school counselling (trained professionals), local village representatives	Soft, horizontal e.g., sharing forum, expert group	Understanding of strength based life skills Programmes for capacity building on resilience