

DRAFT REPORT OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION PLAN OF DIMA HASAO DISTRICT IN ASSAM

1. Introduction:

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a centrally sponsored scheme of Government -Civil Society Partnership to improve the well being of children in difficult circumstances and to reduce the vulnerability to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children. The scheme aims to create a protective environment by improving regulatory frameworks, strengthening structures and professional capacities at national, state and district levels. Integrated Child Protection Service (ICPS) envisages setting up of a District Child Protection Society (DCPS), as the nodal organization at the district level in each district as a fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme. Given the broad scope of the ICPS of promoting protective environment for children, it is imperative that a comprehensive plan, based on a thorough analysis of vulnerabilities and child protection concerns at the district level, be developed for each district along with strengthening the statutory bodies that will contribute towards ensuring that the scheme will have a far reaching impact, and will directly facilitate the implementation of the JJ Act and other interventions towards promoting protective environment for children at the community level.

1.2. Purpose of District Child Protection Plan

The broad objective of the District Child Protection Plan (DCPP) is to ensure effective implementation of child protection activities with due cognizance of the district specific needs of children in need of care and protection. The District Child Protection Plan will serve the following purposes:

- i. Contribute to effective implementation of child protection legislations, schemes and achievement of child protection goals;
- ii. Map all child related service providers and services at district for creating a resource directory;
- iii. Identify the needs of children in need of care, protection, shelter, counseling, restoration, rehabilitation etc for wholesome reintegration in the society;
- iv. Prioritize the needs for taking action in regard to these needs;
- v. Identify gaps in and provide recommendations for strengthening the implementation of family based non-institutional services including sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care;
- vi. Use the information for effective delivery of services under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 at district level;
- vii. Provide recommendations for effective rollout of district, block and village level child protection committees and provide context specific ToRs for these committees which will facilitate monitoring;
- viii. Identify gaps in and provide recommendations for effective Network and coordinate with all government departments and voluntary and civil society

- organizations working in the field of child rights and protection;
- ix. Provide a framework for maintaining a database of all children in institutional care and non-institutional care at the district level;
 - x. Identify capacity gaps of personnel (Government and Non-government) working under child protection system and provide a plan for training and capacity building to ensure improved child protection services to children;
 - xi. Provide a framework for effective monitoring and supervision of ICPS in the district to review the progress and achievement of child protection activities.

1.3. Scope:

The needs assessment has captured information on:

- i. Nature and magnitude of problems of children without family care, children engaged in various occupations, child victims of trafficking and early marriage, child abuse, children engaged in begging, children with special needs, children affected by HIV/AIDS, child victims of substance abuse, children prone to disaster, children of vulnerable groups like commercial sex workers, prisoners, child victims of migration to places within and outside the state;
- ii. Institutional care facilities for CNCP and JCL, care standards, status regarding restoration and rehabilitation of children, adequacy of manpower, capacity building of staff, funding pattern etc;
- iii. After Care and rehabilitation programme for children above 18 years;
- iv. Functioning of statutory bodies like CWC, JJB, SJPU, disposal of cases etc;
- v. Need for day care services for the street and working children, existing schemes to address the needs of child beggars; access to CHILDLINE services, if exists;
- vi. Status regarding non-institutional care options like adoption, foster care and sponsorship, etc. to children without family ties, functioning of SAAs, SARA;
- vii. Areas un-served/under served by child protection programmes;

1.4. Strategies:

Major strategies accomplished for District Need Assessment are as under:

- i. Identify, compile and complete desk review of all the relevant district specific reports, documents, available at state and district level from Government, NGOs, media and other sources. These could include reports from DWCD&SW/other concerned department, SSA and Education Dept, Labour Dept, NCLP, media, research organizations, educational institutions including Universities, NGOs and others;
- ii. Undertake field visits to select sites (communities, children's institutions, adoption agencies, drop-in shelters, and others, as necessary);
- iii. In-depth interviews with key informants, including the CWC, JJB, SJPU, SP and DC of District, community leaders, educators, NGOs, Gaon bora and concerned others;
- iv. Draft a District CP Situation Analysis and a District Child Protection Plan (DCPP);

- v. Share findings of the District CP Situational analysis and the draft DCPD with the DCPS;
- vi. Finalize the Situational analysis and DCPD with inputs from the DCPS.

1.5. Methodology:

The DCPD has been prepared in the following manner:

- i. Examine the tool for Needs Assessment at the District level and the proforma for District Level Child Protection Plan (DCPD) prepared by MWCD, GoI;
- ii. Finalize the tool and the format for DCPD and customize it, if necessary, to make it state specific;
- iii. Organise orientation programme for the team members who will facilitate collection of information for Needs Assessment at the district level;
- iv. Consulted the District Administration and DCPS about the need for developing the DCPD and for which the nature of information required from the concerned district;
- v. Team members collected information as mentioned in the tool from Govt. officials, NGOs, Panchyats, Police etc to understand the child protection need of the district;
- vi. Team members organized some small group discussions with the NGOs and individual interaction with some key persons like GRP, Labour Commissioner, Tea Associations etc;
- vii. Team members collected the filled in tools from the District officials with their inputs;
- viii. The information received from secondary sources and from field survey and discussion with various stakeholders were collated and the major gaps in the child protection services were identified;
- ix. On the basis of the needs identified, a draft DCPD was prepared and shared with the DCPS and finally with the SCPS.

1.6. Name of the District covered: Dima Hasao

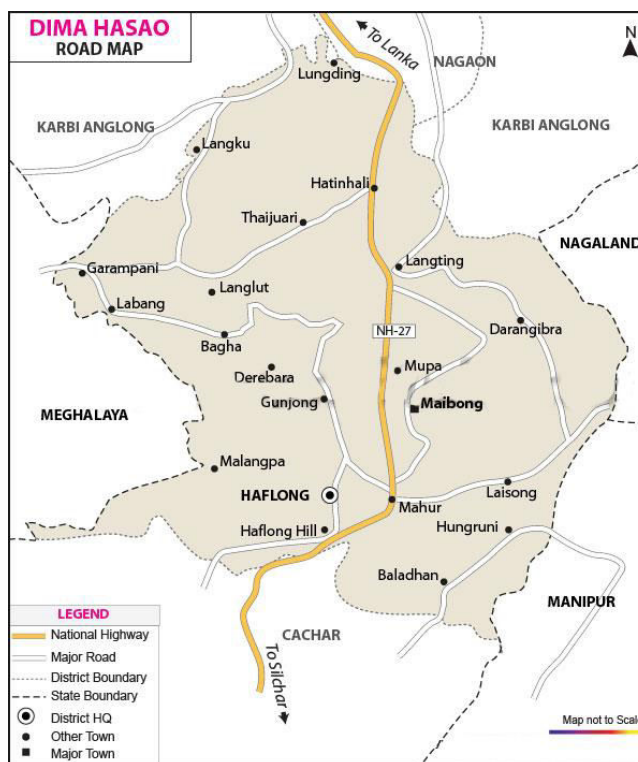
1.7. Time period: July-August, 2012

District: Dima Hasao

2. Demography:

The Dima Hasao district, formerly known as, North Cachar Hills (NC Hills) is a district garlanded by hills. It was created in 1970 with its head quarter at Haflong. Dima Hasao District is the hilliest and undulated districts of Assam. The DIMASA community of N.C. Hills district is one of the earliest known tribal groups of Assam. The word 'DIMASA' means 'Children of a great river'.

The Dima Hasao District is situated at southern part of Assam & is bounded by Nagaland & Manipur state in the east, Cachar district of Assam in the south, Meghalaya state & the part of Karbi-Anglong district in the west & another part of Karbi-Anglong & Nagaon district in the north. The population of the district is 213,529 with the density of population of 44 sq.km, both are lowest in the state of Assam.



Dima Hasao is one of the two hill districts of Assam in the North Eastern Region. It was a part of Cachar district till the formation of United N.C.Hills & Mikir Hills districts in 1951. There are many tribes in the district namely: Dimasa, Zeme, Hmars, Kukis, Biates, Karbis, Hrangkhols, Rongmei Naga, Khasi, Pnars, Vaipheis, Khelmas etc.

The Constitution of India gave it the status of an autonomous district. The Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council (D.H.A.C.) is constituted under the provisions of the sixth schedule to the Constitution of India to administer this autonomous district. In 1970 N.C.Hills is separated from the United N.C.Hills & Mikir Hills & declared a full-fledged district. North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council has three wings of administration, viz., Legislature, Judiciary, and Executive. Apart from the subjects enshrined in the sixth schedule, the Govt. of Assam have transferred almost all the departments along with the executive power to the Council except General Administration, Police, Treasury, election and judiciary.

2.1 The Administrative System is divided into:

1. Village (Total no of Villages: 822)
2. Block (Total no of Blocks 5)

3. Sub-division: 2
4. Revenue Circles: 3
5. Town Committee: 4
6. Police Stations: 8

2.2. Population Composition:

District	Total Population 213,529		Per cent urban population	Per cent SC population	Per cent ST population	Per cent Muslim population
Dima Hasao	Male	Female	Census 2011			
	110,566	102,963	28.67%	2.10%	53.70%	
No. of Inhabited Villages	No. of Primary Schools		No. of MM Schools	No. of High Schools	No. of PHC	No. of PHSC
822	767		173	48	2	65
Rural poverty (per cent below poverty line)	Avg. HH Size	Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate (%)	Female Literacy Rate (%)	Work Part. Rate (%)	Prop. Of Agri. Labour (%)
		931	78.99 %	72.15 %		18.56%

3. Major Vulnerabilities of Children in Dima Hasao:

According to 2011 census, the total population of Dima Hasao is 213,529 of which male and female are 110,566 and 102,963 respectively. There is change of 13.53 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Dima Hasao District recorded an increase of 24.72 percent to its population compared to 1991. The initial provisional data suggest a density of 44 in 2011 compared to 38 of 2001.

The total child population of 0-6 years in 2011 is 31,758, of which 15519 are girls and 16239 are boys. The Child Sex Ratio in 2011 is 956. The gender related disparities prevailing in the district call for an assessment of social situation in the district

District	Year	Child Population (0-6 years)		% of child population	Child Sex Ratio
Dima Hasao		Boys	Girls		
	2001	15,752	15,048	16.38%	955
	2011	16,239	15,519	14.87%	956

3.1. Health:

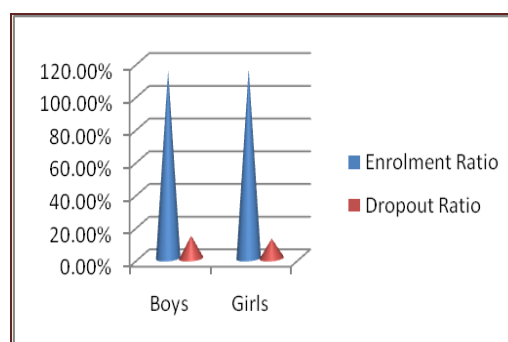
The SRS 2010 data reveals that Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is significantly higher than the Crude Death Rate (CDR) i.e. 9.8 and 3.3 respectively. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Dima Hasao district is 58 per 1000 live births¹ and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is 3 per 1,00,000 live births² while the national profile registers Infant Mortality Rate as 58 per 1000 live births and MMR as 301 per 1,00,000 live births. National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 clearly envisaged that the IMR and MMR would be reduced below 30 per 1000 live births and 100 per 1, 00,000 live births respectively within 2010, however, both the statistics are far below the expected target. There is 1 hospital, 2 Primary Health Centres, 65 Sub-Centres, 3 Block Primary Health Centres, 2 Community Health Centres and 2 State Dispensaries in the district.

According to the Head Master of G.C. High School, Mahadev Tilla , health care infrastructure is almost non-existent in the villages due to non-availability of doctors and other health staff. Tender aged tribal children mostly suffer from malnutrition. The government health infrastructures are only available source of health care in the district. During the flood the children were mostly affected by water borne diseases like: diarrhea. According to the Joint Director of Health a HIV/AIDS affected child was reported in the ICTC centre in Dima Hasao. There may be some other cases which are not reported because of ignorance of the people living in the far-flung areas, reported the Joint Director of Health Services.

3.2. Education:

According to 2011 Census, the literacy rate in Assam is 73.18 (Male 78.81 and Female 67.27) and the corresponding figure in Dima Hasao district is 78.99% which shows much better condition than the state average and much better than the literacy rate 67.62% in 2001. On gender wise distribution, male and female literacy are 85.34% and 72.15% respectively. According to the data of Education Department of Dima Hasao district, there are 767 primary schools, 173 junior high schools and 48 High Schools and 4 High Secondary schools. There is 1 college in the district. In Dima Hasao, there were 577 numbers of children who never attending schools from them 324 boys and 253 girls.

Status of Elementary education in the district: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a unique mission on the elementary education sector in view of its comprehensive coverage and integrated approach. The mission has become all the more significant with the Right to Education Act, 2009 coming into force. The district has been successful in creating



¹Annual Health Survey 2010-11

²Joint Director Health Services, Dima Hasao district

awareness about the importance of elementary education among the community, particularly in rural areas. The district has also been able to achieve near cent percent access both at primary and upper primary levels.

Primary Education: The status regarding primary education in Dima Hasao district is encouraging. At the primary level, the enrolment of the girls is higher than the boys viz, 9999 numbers of boys and 10073 numbers of girls are enrolled in the primary school and the ratio became 114.8% for boys and 115.9% for girls. On the other hand, the dropout rates are not so much high in the district like: 13.65% of boys and 12.01% of girls are drop out from primary schools.

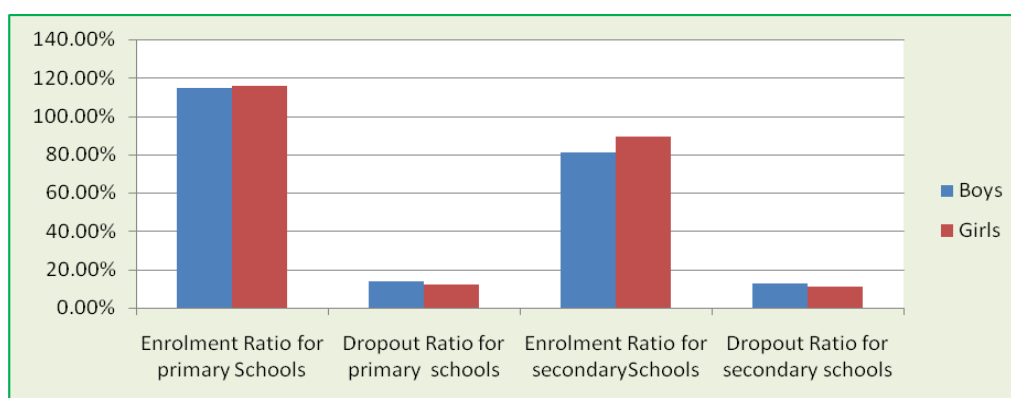
Secondary Education: The comprehensive coverage of the primary schools somehow got shrunk at the secondary level. The total number of enrolment in V-VIII is 11285 (boys: 5559, girls: 5726). The Gross Enrolment Ratio for boys is 81.1% and girls are 89.4%. The status of the dropout ratio for boys is 12.87% and the girls are 10.87%. However, the dropout rate of the girls is low.

The net enrolment ratio of children in elementary education sector has improved consistently. The dropout rates both at Primary level and Secondary level is not remarkable. According to the DPO, SSA the dropout rates are very low in the district.

There are some reasons behind the school dropouts like:

1. There are seventeen tribes in the district. The tribes are not interested in studies and the girls get married at an early age.
2. After passing class VIII standards the girls are engaged in Jhum cultivation with their family.
3. Distances of high schools lead to school dropouts.

The graphical representation shows the disparity of enrolment and dropout ratio of boys and girls at the primary and the secondary schools in the district Dima Hasao.



The Residential special Training Programme is functioning in the district. All the learners are found to be child labour before joining the centre. There are two Residential Special Training Centres running in the district. Apart from this the SSA provided educational support to the children who are engaged as a child labour through the Non Residential Special Training Centres. There exists 143 numbers of the centres in the Dima Hasao district. There are 750 boys and 603 girls are enrolled in 145 centres.³

The Government of India has approved a new scheme called Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV). There are two KGBV schools in Dima Hasao district from that one school is under construction. Approximately, 50 numbers of children enrolled in the KGBV centres in the district.

3.3. Children in ICDS:

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) implemented in Dima Hasao district through 5 projects. Total 13,038 numbers of children from them 6612 boys and 6426 girls are attending preschool education under ICDS scheme. Along with pre-school education, other components of ICDS are being catered to the children through 606 centres and by 3 numbers of Child Development Project Officers, 16 numbers of supervisors and 606 numbers of Anganwadi workers (AWWs).

In an interview with the Child Development Project Officer, ICDS of New Sangbar block, it was gathered that most of the children coming to centers belong to tribal community. Almost all children attend the pre-school education. But during two or two and the half years the food supply is totally stopped due to some administrative reasons. According to the CDPO, New Sangbar block, there was no ICDS centre in the Mahadev tilla. He also informed that some new villages were identified in the district and their proposal to the State Government for setting up new centres is pending. In the district, there were no programmes for adolescents girls under the ICDS projects.

3.4. Child Labour:

As per the census report of 2001, Assam has 3, 51, 416 child labourers of 5-14 years age group. Most of the children were engaged in domestic help, hotel, Dhabas etc. Most of the families employ children for domestic help. In all the cases, the children are denied access to education, recreation, cultural practices and participation in play activities.

In Dima Hasao, the child labours are not in large numbers but are sporadically found in Tea Stalls and Motor Garages. According to the Labour Officer, Haflong, due to poor economic condition the parents send their children to work to support their family income. Particularly, in rural areas there are plenty of domestic child labourers. He also informed that as per the provision of the Child Labour

³ Source: SSA, Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council

(Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 they are taking action against the employer. The labour department has not yet started any rehabilitative programme child labours, but they are engaged in tracking of the child labours within the district.

There are no brick kilns in the district. There are two tea gardens namely: Kopili Tea Estate at Umransu block and Gunjung tea Gold at Deumralg block. In the tea gardens, it is common for children to work alongside their parents to supplement their family income. Children with their nimble fingers are preferred to pluck the tea leaves (being a delicate job) and also undertake weeding, hoeing and nursery activities during off-season. The mothers working in the gardens normally bring their children to the work-place as there is no one back home to look after the children and the crèche facility as stipulated under the Plantation Labour Act is non-existent. As a result a child grows up observing his/her mother plucking the leaves and gradually assists her.

Mr. Rahamat Ali, Labour Officer, Haflong highlighted some constraints in providing any services relating to child labour which are as follows:

- * Insufficient staff: there are three offices in the district but one office is running and other two offices are closed due to shortage of staffs.
- * The labour officer faces problems to manage his official work since he has been on dual charge with other district.

According to him, routine investigation on child labour is being done every month with the help of District task force. The routine survey is held on Haflong and Harengagao.

Mr. R. Ali, Labour Officer, Haflong shared the following data on child labour:

Period: 2nd Quarter, 2012

Total no. of units investigated: 58

Nature of unit investigated: Tea stall and Hotels, Shops, Motor Garage and Bike Repairing Centre.

Total no. of child detected at the time of enquiry: 15 Nos.

Action:

No action in way of prosecution could be initiated as most of the employer produced birth certificate and other evidence in respect of the age of the child detected wherein it is found that they were just above 14 years of age.

Remarks:

As Dima Hasao District is industrially backward, employment of child labour in such sectors is not prevalent. The most probable spot of employment of child labour are: tea stalls, small shop, garages etc. However, due to frequent investigation, awareness has been created and employment of the child labour has remarkably minimized.

Economic scenario of Dima Hasao district is dim. Geographical remoteness coupled with poor communication, as well as infrastructure facilities are the major factors behind the low level of development. However, in spite of the gloomy scenario, prospects of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry are bright. So the tribal people are mostly engaged in cultivation and their children also helped them. The children who are working in the hotels, tea shops etc. are mostly migrated from other districts. At present, the child labour issues are mostly dealt by the Department of Labour, but there is a strong need to link its existing efforts with that of Department of Social Welfare mainly in terms of providing non-formal education, health and also ensure the children get better support of service delivery mechanisms under ICPS, CHILDLINE etc. It is encouraging to note that the State Sarba Shiksha Abhijan Mission too had recognized the magnitude of the problem and had given special focus to mainstream the children through special Residential Bridge Course Centres.

3.4.1. Street Children

In a recently conducted survey on street children by Jayaprakash Institute of Institute of Social Change, it is observed that there were about 10 to 15 street children living near the market place in Halflong Town and all of them were male. It was observed that that most of the children were migrated from other districts in Assam in search of any work. The families of these children are very poor and have no access to public distribution system.

3.5. Child Trafficking and Migration:

According to the district officials and members of CWC/JJB, trafficking is not prevalent in the district apart from a few stray incidents. During the season of cultivation the children from other district like Karbi Anglong, Cachar migrate with their family. Sometimes people also migrate from other states like: Tripura, Manipur etc. Jhum (shifting) cultivation is said to be the life of the rural people of Dima Hasao. Since traditional agricultural practice is the mainstay of economy, people migrate to other places in search of living. For example, many people with their children migrate to Karbi Anlong during the time of sugarcane plantation. The district administration also informed that tribes generally do not migrate from their own place.

From the discussions with the district officials and NGO representatives, it revealed that children of poor families living in remote areas are vulnerable to migration. Due to poverty these children are pushed by their parents to take up any kind of economic activity at a tender age. Many of them migrate to other states to meet the demand for cheap labour. The district shares boundaries with Nagaland and Manipur in the east, Meghalaya in the west, Nagaon and Karbi Anglong in the north and Cachar district in the south. The children migrate mainly to these places.

In the meeting it was reported that 13 children of Dima Hasao were trafficked to Tamilnadu. According to the SDO (S), due to ethnic clashes within the tribal communities of the district some children became orphan. An outsider took the advantage of the children's poor economic condition and took away 13 children to Tamilnadu with the promise of providing shelter, educational support and a safe life. Then the children were rescued from Tamilnadu with the help of district and state administration and restored the children to their respective families. There is a voluntary organization in Lodhi village, dominated by Lodhi community, took an initiative to identify the addresses of the children and placed them to their families. Among those 13 children 5 were placed with the organization since their families were incapable to maintain the children.

3.6. Child Marriage:

In Assam, the median age at first marriage for boys is 26.9 and for girls the corresponding figure is 20.8 (DLHS, 2007). The 2001 Census of India showed that 19.22% of them were married off between the ages of 10 to 19 years in Assam. It is found that percentage of child marriage is highest in Dhubri District (11.1%). Prevalence of child marriage is lowest in NC Hills (6.9%), followed by Cachar (7.5%), Hailakandi (7.6%) and Karimganj (7.9%) districts in south Assam. This trend portrays a similarity in districts that are geographically situated near one another which contributes significantly either to the practice or prevention of child marriage in the district.

Child marriage was not prevalent in the Dima Hasao district. According to the data it showed that child marriage is the lowest in N.C. Hills and the corresponding figure in Dima Hasao is 6.9% only. In the meeting the district officials informed that no early marriage is practiced in the district. The average age of marriage is between 18-21years. According to them there are 16-17 tribes apart from mixed community living in this district. These people are sensitized on the vices of child marriage. They follow customary law while solemnizing marriages.

3.7. Children Affected by Natural Disaster:

Assam falls under the seismic zone-V which indicates risk of earthquake with high magnitude. In this regard, a minimum level of awareness about preparedness of management of any sort of disaster apart from disaster resilient construction of school building and incorporating course-content on disaster preparedness in school curriculum/ syllabus creating awareness and developing impact of such calamities to great extent in this backdrop.

The district suffered huge potential losses due to recent devastating Flash Flood and Land Slide occurred following incessant rainfall during the period from 25th to 27th June, 2012. Many roads, bridges, railway track, infrastructure as well as human lives were affected due to the devastating natural calamity.

According to Mr. Siju Das, District Project Officer, Disaster Management Authority, Dima Hasao district, this year total 27 places were affected by the disaster. The major landslide and flash flood happened in the places namely:

Name of the Sub Division	Name of the Places
Haflong	Retzawl, Jatinga, Mahadev Tilla, Boro Haflong, Songpijang, Gunjung, Dimalik Razi, Boildura, Topodisa, Sontilla, Harangajao, Dittockcherra, Sangbar, Thaizuwari, Larvo, Jinam Valley, Moulhoi, Hunveng, Mahur
Maibang	Mupa, Kalachand, Hathikali, Maibang, Gigingpur, Simplangdisa, Wajao, Koladisa

Mr. Siju Das and the team visited some landslide prone areas like: Mahadev Tilla and Jatinga valley. Mahadev tilla is about 8 km. far from the Haflong town. According to Mr. Kabir Ahamed Chawdhury, president of this village, more than 45 houses have been affected (major and minor) due to landslide. He also told that there were 250 houses in this Mahadev Tilla. During the crises time at first the army came forward to help and rescued the villagers and then District administration also came forward to help people. There is one high school and two L.P schools in the village and the school buildings were also affected in landslide. During landslide 10 villagers were heavily injured, two were spot dead. The victim families got the assistance in the form of food, medicine etc according to the govt. rules. In this village the people are mostly engaged as labour. Apart from this, many of them worked as a govt. employee or they earned money through their business. According to him, there is no ICDS centre in Mahadev Tilla. The Project Officer Disaster Management also informed that the schools are suspended due to landslide and one of the schools is highly damaged and three rooms of the school are totally broken down. This has caused to postpone two examinations. According to the head master of the secondary school at Mahadev tilla, Mr. Thianbel Suantak who actually belongs to Vaiphea community told that the student strength of the school is 260. After the disaster time the classes resumed but only two examinations had to be postponed. In Jatiga Valley, Mr. Saradindu Das, teacher informed that there is an ICDS centre in this village and about 30 are attending the centre, but the problem is that no food has been supplied for this ICDS centre. According to the Mr. S. Das Jhum cultivation is one of the reasons for landslide. They affected people are getting the facilities from the district administration. They opened relief camps for helping and rescuing the villagers.

Mr. S. Das, District Project Officer, Disaster Management Authority provided some data on Disaster risk management which are as under:

- Total Population Affected: 1,50,000 (Approx) (Urban & Rural Population including stranded Railway Passengers)
- Villages Severely Affected : 54 Nos
- Villages Partially Affected: 197 Nos.
- Total Villages Affected: 251 Nos.
- Urban Area Affected: 4 Nos

Causality so far reported

- Total = 6
- 1 Male - Died due to heavy landslide.
- 3 Female – Died due to heavy landslide.
- 2 Minors (Male) – Died due to flash flood

4 died at Mahadev Tilla and 2 died at Leiri in Jinam Valley due to landslide and flash flood.

- Total Injury - 14 Nos
- Male – 9
- Female – 5
- Grievously Injured – 3

To overcome the situation the district authority took some necessary actions which are as follows:

- 2 Nos. of injured persons were treated at Haflong Civil Hospital
- 1 No. grievously injured lady was Air lifted to Guwahati Medical Collage and Hospital for better treatment.
- Other 11 Nos. of minor injured persons were provided First Aid.
- Three Relief Camps were opened (Presently Closed)
- 21 nos. of Relief Distribution Centre are working
- 5 no. of Medical Teams were Deployed
- 2500 no. of affected people were evacuated (including 1300 stranded Rly. Passengers)

3.8. Child Abuse:

In the district of Dima Hasao, 19 cases of Kidnapping and Abduction (u/s 363-369, 371-373 IPC) and 03 cases of rape (u/s 376IPC) were reported in NCRB, 2010. The following table shows the total crimes committed in the district:

Sl. No	Crime Heads		2010
1	Murder (Sec. 302)		17
2	Attempt to commit Murder (Sec. 307)		08
3	CH not amounting to Murder (Sec. 304, 308)		05
4	Rape (Sec. 376)		03
5	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 - 369, 371 - 373)	Of Women & Girls	11
		Of Others	08
6	Dacoity (Sec. 395 - 398)		01
7	Preparation & Assembly for Dacoity (Sec. 399 - 402)		00
8	Robbery (392 - 394, 397, 398)		02
9	Burglary (sec. 449 - 452, 454, 455, 457 - 460)		11
10	Theft (sec. 379 - 382)	Auto Theft	03
		Other Theft	40
11	Riots (Sec. 143 - 145, 147 - 151, 153, 153A, 153B, 157, 158, 160)		04
12	Criminal Breach of Trust (Sec. 406 - 409)		02
13	Cheating (Sec. 419, 420)		06
14	Counterfeiting (Sec. 231 - 254, 489A, 489D)		00
15	Arson (Sec. 435, 436, 438)		11
16	Hurt (Sec. 323 - 333, 335 - 338)		24
17	Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B)		02
18	Molestation (Sec. 354)		00
19	Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509)		04
20	Cruelty by Husband & Relatives (Sec. 498A)		02
21	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366B)		00
22	Causing Death by Negligence (Sec. 304 A)		05
23	Other IPC Crimes		22
	Total		191

From the data on crimes committed against children available from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Dima Hasao it is observed that there was only one case of rape recoded in 2010 and the figure remains same in 2011. One case of kidnapping and abduction was registered u/s 366(A)/372 IPC, 371/34 IPC) in 2012. There is only one case registered procurement of minor girl u/s 366(A) in 2012.

Cases Registered under Crimes against Children, Dima Hasao district

SL. NO.	CRIME HEADS	CASE REGISTERED			
		2009	2010	2011	2012(till 31-07-2012)
1	Infanticide (Sec.315 IPC)	-	-	-	-
2	Murder (Sec. 302 IPC)	-	01	-	01
3	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	-	01	01	02
4	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec.363-369, 371-373 IPC)	-	-	02	01
5	Foeticide (Sec.315,316 IPC)	-	-	-	-

SL. NO.	CRIME HEADS	CASE REGISTERED			
		2009	2010	2011	2012(till 31-07-2012)
6	Abetment To Suicide (Sec.305 IPC)	-	-	-	-
7	Exposure & Abandonment (Sec.317 IPC)	-	-	-	-
8	Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec.366 (A) IPC)	01	-	-	01
9	Buying of girls for Prostitution (Sec.373 IPC)	-	-	-	-
10	Selling of girls for Prostitution (Sec. 372 IPC)	-	-	-	-
11	Child marriage restraint Act 1929/ Prohibition of child marriage Act 2006	-	-	-	-
12	ITPA'1956	-	-	-	-
13	Other crimes against children	-	-	-	-
Total		01	02	03	05

Source: SP Office, Dima Hasao District

Assam being a poverty ridden state marred by ethnic clashes, armed conflicts, natural disaster, it is quite obvious that there would be a large number of destitute and orphaned children as children being the worst victims of any natural or manmade disaster. Deputy Superintendent of Police in Dima Hasao told that the district is mostly affected by insurgency problems.

3.9. Child Domestic Work:

Child Domestic Work is widespread in the urban pockets of Assam especially in Guwahati and adjacent pockets. The 1991 census data reports that 6.8 lakhs boys and 4.1 lakhs girls are engaged in domestic help in the state of Assam. In the district of Dima Hasao, the prevalence of child domestic workers is also fairly high and these children mostly belong to the age group of 5-15 years. According to NGO sources, the law for prohibition of child domestic worker is rampantly violated in the district especially in the urban and semi-urban centers and there is complete lack of awareness about it amongst the employers. The predominance of the child domestic workers in the area is an indication of some form of structural disorganization and an outcome of multiple social, economic and cultural factors. There are not as such records for Child Domestic Workers in Dima Hasao district.

4.Gaps in the Existing Child Protection Mechanisms:

The following gaps are identified in the needs assessment:

4.1. Institutional Care:

Since there is no children's home in Dima Hasao district, many children who are without families or without family care remain unprotected and often they migrate to other places in search of living. CWC find it difficult to ensure a protected place for such children.

4.2. CHILDLINE Services: Non-availability of CHILDLINE services in the district.

4.3. Child Welfare Committee:

The CWC of Dima Hasao district has been functioning since 2008 and sits in the separate office premises in the District. The Chairperson Mr. R. Faihriem reported that CWC, since inception has been playing a positive role to ensure child rights and makes effort to generate awareness on the role of the CWC to deal with the Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and children at risk.

The contact details of the members of CWC:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	Ralthang Faihriem	Chairperson	09435172314
2	Hrishikesh Upadhaya	Member	09435077001
3	Puran chand Haflongbar	Member	08471860657
4	Adhunika khersa	Member	09435077507
5	Dr.Silpi Saikia	Member	09435077208

The committee is sitting twice in a week for duration 30 minutes to 1 hour. According to the chairperson, most of the members attend the committee regularly. He also pointed out that if any emergency arise then the chairperson of CWC called all the members for the immediate sitting. Most of the children produced before CWC by police. Mr. Faihriem, Chairperson CWC told that the average age group of the children produced before CWC is 12 years to 17 years. He also highlighted that the average time is taken to trace the family of the children is not more than two days. He also informed that only two cases have come or have been produced in CWC. One is from Dhubri and another is from Tipura.

He also gave some suggestions regarding CWC, like:

- * Training and awareness generation programme is needed in all levels like: District to Gaon Buras/ village authority.
- * There are no homes for providing shelter of the children. So the CWC facing problems.

He also expressed his views regarding child protection services in the district. However, the mass public is not aware of the child care and protection granted by the Govt. thus awareness programme in block level, village level may be organized. Block/village may be invited to collect information. Further booklet, pamphlet in local language outlining the principal provisions of the act may be published in sufficient members of copies and distributed to the public. The children home/ special home for shelter of such children may be established immediately in every district H.Q lastly, the committee members may be allowed to undertake tour to the vulnerable places in this regard for collection of information & interact with the public.

The CWC expresses their resentment about the poor budgetary allocation and inadequate manpower. The functional liaison between SJPU and CWC is good. According to the Chairperson and member of the committee linkages need to be strengthened with all concerned departments specially, health, education, police, Social welfare department, Labour department with CWC. CWC's role in facilitating admission to schools under RtE is found encouraging.

Gaps:

- Non availability of SAA.
- There are no CHILDLINE services in the district.
- Lack of awareness on child protection issues. So, training is needed.
- Lack of coordination with labour department such as: a Child labour found by Labour Department has handed over to the family/parents by department only. None are produced before CWC.
- Lack of awareness about JJ System & Justicing mechanism
- No effective network between various stakeholders on trafficking related issues
- Lack of NGOs which can effectively deal with child related issues
- Absence of children's homes in the district
- Lack of infrastructure & other financial/administrative support
- Overall lack of awareness of the community, NGOs and other stakeholders about the role of CWC.

4.4. Juvenile Justice Board:

Juvenile Justice Board of Dima Hasao district sits twice in a week in the premises of the office chamber of Additional Deputy Commissioner and Principle Magistrate, JJB from 11a.m. Here, the Additional Deputy Commissioners are enjoying the dual powers like: Judicial and Executive power. So the Additional Deputy Commissioner is the designated first class principle magistrate. The contact details of the members of JJB:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	Mr. Khanindra Choudhury	Principal Magistrate	09435022082
2	Mr. Gautam Kumara Das	Social Worker	09435077909
3	Dr. Leena Hakmaosa	Social Worker	09435077009

At first the JJB was formed in the district in 2008. The new JJB is working till August, 2011. According to Mr. Goutam Kr. Das, there are no such cases reported in the Juvenile Justice Board during his tenure. But according to the data of SP office which showed that there were three cases registered in 2011 and five cases registered in 2012 under murder, rape, kidnapping and abduction. So, there may be some communication gaps between the social worker of JJB and the SJPU in the district. There is one computer assistant in the JJB who maintains all the records of JJB. They have a computer for maintaining the database. According to Mr. Das they don't have any pending cases also.

Gaps:

- Lack of awareness among the social workers.
- Lack of coordination among the various duty bearers.
- Capacity building training on JJ system is needed for the Social workers.
- Overall lack of awareness of the community, NGOs and other stakeholders about the role of JJB.

4.5. Special Juvenile Police Unit:

There are 8 police stations in the Dima Hasao district. According to Mr. Surajit Singh, Dy. SP., Dima Hasao informed that he is the nodal officer of Special Juvenile Police Unit. As per his statement the SJPU has been formed in all police stations. It is notified to all police stations that the second officers are the designated as the Child welfare Officers to look after the all child related matters. He pointed out some constraints like:

- Lack of awareness of the child protection system in the district.
- Inadequate infrastructural facility of the Special Juvenile police unit.
- Lack of training on JJ Act.

Mr. M. K. Das Additional Deputy Commissioner, mentioned about the **ASWAS** project. He informed the basic idea of the project run by the police department is to provide support to those children who are affected by manmade disaster.. The Total beneficiaries of the project in Dime Hasao district (up to 2012) is 24 renewal cases and 45 Fresh cases. The students get financial support from the project. The students get financial support from the project. They get Rs. 750/- amount per month. The students from nursery to class VII between age group 4-12 years are benefited through this project in the district.

4.6. Alternative Non-Institutional Care:

Alternative Care Services in the district are not available. Awareness about the various components of family based non-institutional care under ICPS has been seriously lacking not only among the general but also among members of the CWC.

4.7. District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) in Dima Hasao, Assam

It was informed by Ms. Sabita Langthasa, Deputy Director i/c District Social Welfare Officer that DCPC has been formed in the district in 2010 vide an order of the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Social Welfare Department, but it is yet to be functionally active to ensure a protective network for the children in district. The Meetings are very infrequent; she also informed that three meetings were held on 11.10.2010, 8.12.2011 and 02.03.2012. The low key functioning of the committee may be due to delay in placement of staff. Mr. Chowdhury, ADC reported that two social workers have recently been appointed.

Sl. No.	Name / Designation	Status / Position
1	Deputy Commissioner	Chairperson
2	Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development)	Vice-Chairperson
3	District Child Protection Officer	Member Convener
4	Superintendent of Police	Member
5	Joint Director of Health Services	Member
6	Project Director, DRDA	Member
7	Inspector of Schools	Member
8	District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO)	Member
9	District Mission Coordinator of Sarva Shiksha Abhijan	Member
10	Chairperson, CWC	Member
11	Principal Magistrate, JJB or his / her Nominee who is a Member of JJB	Member
12	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Zilla Parishad	Member
13	One Expert in the field of Child Protection (to be nominated)	Member
14	Representative from one NGO working in the field of Child Protection (to be nominated)	Member

In the district DCPC is working under the DC while the Social Welfare Department functions under the Autonomous Council formed under VII Schedule. Since the Secretary, Autonomous Council is not a member of DCPC; there are certain confusions at the district level on the mode of implementation of ICPS.

4.8. National Child Labour Project (NCLP): There are no NCLP schools in the district.

4.9. Major Gaps:

- No Observation Home and Children's Home for JCL and CNCP respectively under JJ Act;
- There is no SAA in the districts to respond to the needs for non-institutional care facilities for children under ICPS;
- No CHILDLINE in the district;
- Some children are working in hotel, motor garages mostly engaged by their parents to supplement their family income;
- There is no Shelter Home for boys or girls, where the rescued children can be placed for immediate care and support;
- Lack of linkages with essential lateral services for children for example education, health, police, judiciary, services for the special children etc;
- During last two years the food supply is totally stopped in ICDS centers due to some administrative reasons;
- Overall lack of awareness of the community, NGOs and other stakeholders about the role and responsibilities of the Juvenile Justice System and ICPS;

- To address the problems of child labour, the lack of inter-departmental coordination has been observed;
- District Child protection Committee under ICPS is yet to be functional;
- There is lack of protection programme for the street children, child labour, trafficked children, migrant children, CDWs etc;
- The needs of children with special needs remain unaddressed.

5. Plan of Action for Child Protection under ICPS:

In order to address the above mentioned gaps, the following activities through District Child Protection Plan under ICPS may be considered for taking action:

1. Creating Protective environment for children under ICPS:			
	Major Activity	Key Actions	Who is responsible
1.1	Completion of recruitment of staff	Negotiate with SCPS	SCPS
1.2	Organize capacity building of newly recruited staffs of DCPC;	District administration may organize short term training for the members of DCPC and newly recruited staff members of DCPC.	SCPS
1.3	Organize DCPC meeting in every quarter;	DC to monitor the activities of DCPC. The State Govt needs to issue notification regarding the structure of DCPC and the mechanism for implementation of ICPS, since the the district is covered under VII schedule of the constitution.	DCPC, SCPS, Assam State Govt
1.4	Orientation of Police on child protection issues as part of DCPC.	Negotiate with the State & District Police Department	DCPC
1.5.	Establishment of new institutions for CNCP and JCL for both Boys & Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize credible NGOs to run Children Homes • Identify Land / building for initiation of Observation Homes to be run by the Govt. 	SCPS
1.6	Establishment of CHILDLINE.	Contact CHILDLINE India Foundation and its regional Office at Kolkata, AB-15, Salt lake, Sector-I, Kolkata - 700064, West Bengal for initiating CHILDLINE in Dima Hasao. The report of the Need Assessment and the Street Children Survey conducted by JPISC may be considered as a rationale for initiating CHILDLINE in the district.	CIF, SCPS, DCPC

1.7	Services for children with special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of all NGOs working in the field of disability. • Implementing Schemes for the disabled children with support from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India. 	SCPS, DCPC, MSJ &E, Commissioner, Disability, NGOs
1.8	Children affected by HIV/AIDS to initiated with immediate effect	Negotiate with the Health Department to covers the children under ICTC Programme.	SCPS, DCPC, Assam SACS, NGOs
1.9.	Organize programmes for the victim of trafficking, migrant child labor / children of migrant laborers;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with the labour department to rescue children engaged in hazardous occupations and the migrant children to cover them under NCLP Programme. • Initiate AWWs, SSKs in vulnerable pockets like the Tea Gardens, Border Areas to provide education and health care services to the children 	DCPC, Labour Dept., ICDS
1.10	Establishment of District Drug Detoxification Centre for children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Schemes under DDRC of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India through credible NGOs may be initiated. • Alcoholism is widespread in the tea gardens. It is the women and children who are bearing the burnt of the alcoholism related abuses. There needs to be a sustained campaign against alcoholism & gambling linking them with gender violence 	MSJ & E, SCPS, DCPC, Health Dept., NGOs
1.11	Establishing web enabled tracking system for missing children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with NIC to initiate a missing Children Portal to track all Missing Children and pour information with the DCPC & Police. • Training of functionaries on the process of uploading information 	SCPS, DCPC, NIC
1.12	Strengthening the functioning of Statutory Bodies under JJ System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize awareness activities in schools, colleges, hospitals and other public places on child protection and the role of JJS to give visibility to these bodies. ▪ Organize training programme for the members of CWC / JJB at the 	SCPS, DCPC, NIPCCD, JPISC, UNICEF

		<p>district level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Giving information to all BDOs of the district about the role and function of the justicing bodies under the Act to ensure greater visibility of these bodies. ▪ District officials to take responsibility to network with other service providers like Support NGOs, ICDS, Drug Counseling Centers, Police, ICDS, GRP, RPF, District Information office, facilities for the challenged children, Health Department and other related offices/organizations for effective functioning of CWC and JJB. ▪ POs should be allowed to concentrate more on JJS instead of engaging themselves in administrative activities pursued by the DSWOs. ▪ Strengthen Infrastructural support for CWC & JJB. 	
1.13	Stronger mechanism for Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation	Apart from the routine monitoring by DCPC, a Monitoring Committee at the district level under the chairmanship of DC & with other professionals may be formed to strengthen the Monitoring Activities.	SCPS, DCPC
1.14	The newly set up SAA needs to initiate non-institutional care services e.g. Sponsorship, Foster Care;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize awareness / campaign in remote areas on the procedure for Adoption. • Initiate drive against Illegal Adoption. • Develop linkages with Health department to arrest sale of babies • Identify families who are in need of sponsorship support to continue education for their children. • Identify families for Foster Care. 	DCPC, NGOs, Health Dept, SARA, CARA
2	Dealing with Migrant Children		
2.1	Mapping the gamut, nature & problems of migrant Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District authorities should survey families who have migrated in search of work or for any other 	DCPC, Recognized Research

		<p>reasons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District authorities should immediately issue cards / documents that entitles migrant/potential migrant families to civil supplies. • Migrant families should be given priority to provide employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS; • Migrant families should be given BPL cards to facilitate their access to poverty reduction schemes; • Arrange Education through SSK / MSK for the migrant Children. • Organize Sponsorship support to vulnerable families to arrest migration of children. • Organize Crèche, AWW, SSK, programmes under NRHM in vulnerable pockets to arrest migration of children. 	Institution.
3	Prevent children being separated from families		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District authorities should initiate a birth registration drive, and ensure that children have a form of legal identity. • CWC should be assigned to cover areas where children affected by natural disaster; • CWCs and district authorities must pay particular attention to children who are separated from their families. • Government personnel must ensure that separated or unaccompanied children have access to the same emergency care and services as other children. • District Authorities must pay special attention to the health, nutrition, education and psycho-social needs of children out of family care. 	DCPC, Labour Dept., NGOs, Management of Tea Gardens, Police Dept.
4	Anti-trafficking Activities:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate Bridge Course Centres, Remedial Coaching (RC) centres 	Police, SSM, ICDS, NGOs,

		<p>and Vocational Training units in source areas in partnership with Gaon Buras and other community based organizations. Formation of Anti Trafficking Committee (ATC) with Gaon Buras initiatives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivate youth organization for ensuring child protection rights; ▪ Life skills training for adolescent girls; ▪ Bridge Course Centres through SSA may be formed at GP level to bridge the gap for drop outs and make arrangements for their mainstreaming; ▪ Dissemination of information about child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and other harmful practices through leaflets & brochures, banners, Hoardings, Cinema/Cable TV slides in different forums / platforms on the issue. ▪ Formation of Child Protection Committee at the block, village/ward level; ▪ Sensitization of Mondal Level Officials, Village headman, teachers, youth clubs, district officials on the vices of trafficking of children for labour including domestic labour, sexual exploitation etc. ▪ Form Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) and activate SJPU in each Police Station. ▪ Inclusion of child protection issues in training for teacher, Village level Education Committee, Anganwadi Worker, ANM & ASHA worker should be mandatory ▪ The Anganwadi centres should act like Child Protection Units to spread awareness on trafficking related issues to parents, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups ▪ School Sensitisations programmes need to be organised to address 	Village level
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		evils of trafficking and also to form children's group for their increased participation in anti-trafficking campaign	
5	Training, Capacity Building, Networking and Advocacy:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building program with Gaon Panchayet • Capacity building of SAA on Alternative Care. • Orientation of Block level stakeholders – police, judiciary welfare, Education, civil society on ICPS. • Advocacy campaign to include campaign on family planning. Large family size is one of the key reasons for loose familial linkage and being engulfed in the vicious cycle of poverty. • People's knowledge about various Government schemes/programmes like self-employment, wage employment, housing etc. is quite poor. IEC materials and leaflets on various Government schemes should be prepared and distributed through the SHGs / Youth Groups / CBOs / CPUs etc. • Extensive use of IEC materials focusing on child rights, legal aspects of trafficking, profile of the agents, provisions of law especially concerning child domestic workers (to be targeted in urban areas) and most importantly the gender factors associated with trafficking. • Periodic training of all functionaries under JJ System, e.g. CWC, JJB, SCPS, SJPU members needs to be organized to develop their functional knowledge about child rights and legal procedures. 	DCPC, SCPS, NGOs, Education Dept., Village level.
6	Managing Disaster Affected Children:		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District authorities must ensure emergency service provisions during natural disaster, mainly flood, to cover health, food and nutrition and education in areas namely, Haflong and Maibang subdivision. • Mother and child care, ICDS services, the supply of baby food and milk to be provided on emergency basis, • During Flash flood school children are the most affected and fall pray to child labour and child trafficking so the authorities be more sensitive on the issues related to children in Flood situation; • Standard sanitation, hygiene and clean drinking water for children, lactating and pregnant women need to be ensured by the local authorities. • An information outlet must be set-up to cater community's information need, it will help them to assess government's schemes they are eligible for in a hassle free and un-braised way. • Preventive strategies need to be implemented to contain or avoid child migration during the emergency situation. • Bring about ownership of community in relief process; community can be involved in the actual conduct and planning of distribution and need assessments. • Coordination among the government and NGOs are sometimes found wanting, hence, coordination with local NGOs / CBOs is to be developed for distribution work to prevent duplication of relief work and 	DCPC, Disaster Management Dept., ICDS, Village Health Dept., Village Headman, NGOs
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		uneven distribution.	
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