

DRAFT REPORT OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION PLAN OF HAILAKANDI 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 need 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 DSW/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, Pradhans 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 DCPP with the DCPS;
- vi. Finalize the Situational analysis and DCPP with inputs from the DCPS.

1.5. Methodology:

The DCPP has been prepared in the following manner:

- i. Examine the tool for Needs Assessment at the District level and the pro-forma for District Level Child Protection Plan (DCPP) prepared by MWCD, GoI;
- ii. Finalize the tool and the format for DCPP and customize it accordingly, 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 DCPP 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 DCPP was prepared and shared with the DCPS and finally with the SCPS.

1.6. Name of the District covered: Hailakandi

1.7. Time period: February –March, 2014



Planning Meeting for DNA with Different District Level Stakeholders Under Chairmanship Of Additional District Commissioner (Dev), Hailakandi district, Assam

DISTRICT: HAILAKANDI

2. Demography:

It was constituted as a civil subdivision on 1 June 1869. Subsequently, it was upgraded to district in 1989. It is to be noted that according to some scholars, the name "Hailakandi" has been derived from the Sylheti word "Hailakundi". Assam's Surma Valley (now partly in Bangladesh) had Muslim-majority population. On the eve of partition, hectic activities intensified by the Muslim League as well Congress with the former having an edge. A referendum had been proposed for Sylhet District (now in Bangladesh).



Hailakandi district occupies an area of 1,327 square kilometres (512 sq mi), comparatively equivalent to Iran's Qeshm Island. Out of this, more than 50% is reserve forest. There are total of two reserve forests in Hailakandi district viz. Inner line reserve forest and Katakhal reserve forest. The district has got inter-state border with Mizoram on its south having a length of 76 km besides inter district border on other sides with Karimganj district and Cachar district. As per **2001** census, it has a population of 542978. It comprises two notified towns viz. Hailakandi (district headquarters) and Lala and one industrial town ship viz. Panchgram a Municipal Board governs Hailakandi town & a town Committee governs Lala. It has five development blocks viz. Algapur, Hailakandi, Lala, Katlicherra & South Hailakandi development Block. There is a Mahkuma Parishad named Hailakandi Mahkuma Parishad covering these 5 Development Blocks. There are total of 62 Nos. of Gaon Panchayat under these five blocks. The district is divided into four revenue circles comprising a total of 393 villages (including 27 forest villages). Nearly half the district consists of forests. Out of the remaining half, 33.2% is under cultivation. Rice is the main crop. District has got 18 tea gardens. The forests of Hailakandi district were once rich in wildlife but now vanishing due to human onslaught rare species found are Hoolock gibbon, Phayre's leaf monkey, Pig-tailed macaque, White-winged Wood Duck, Purple Wood Pigeon, etc., have been recorded. The southern part was also recommended as 'Dhaleswari' wildlife sanctuary.

2.1. The Administrative System is divided into:

1. **Inhabited Village:** 327
2. **Block** (Total no of Blocks 5):
 - a. Hailakandi Dev Block
 - b. Lala Dev Block
 - c. Katlicherra Dev Block
 - d. Algapur Dev Block
 - e. South Hailakandi Dev Block
3. **Zilla Parishad** (Total no of Zilla Parishad 1):
Hailakandi Zila Parishad
4. **Sub-division:** 1
5. **Revenue Circles:** 4
 - a. Hailakandi
 - b. Algapur
 - c. Katlicherra
 - d. Lala
6. **Police Stations:** 4
 - a. Hailakandi
 - b. Algapur
 - c. Katlicherra
 - d. Lala



2.2. Population Composition:

District	Total Population (Census, 2011) 659296		Total urban population	Total SC population	Total ST population	Total Muslim population
Hailakandi	Male	Female	(Census, 2011)	(Census, 2011)	(Census, 2011)	(Census, 2001)
	337890	321406	48140	70659	691	312849
No. of Inhabited Villages	No. of Primary Schools		No. of Junior High Schools	No. of HS Schools	No. of PHC	No. of PHSC
327	1236		266	17	9	105
No. Of CHC	Avg. HH Size (Census, 2001)	Sex Ratio (Census, 2011)	Literacy Rate (%) (Census, 2011)	Female Literacy Rate (%) (Census, 2011)	Work Part. Rate (%)	Prop. Of Agri. Labour (%)
2	6	951	74.33%	67.60%	32.96%	8.27%

3. Major Vulnerabilities of Children in Hailakandi:

Total population of Assam as per 2011 census is 31,169,272 of which male and female are 15,954,927 and 15,214,345 respectively, which is 3.41% of total population of India. In 2001, total population was 26,655,528 in which males were 13,777,037 while females were 12,878,491.

District	Year	Child Population (0-6 years)		% of child population	Child Sex Ratio
		Boys	Girls		
Hailakandi	2001	52,400	48,563	18.60%	927
	2011	56,936	54,342	16.88%	954

In 2011 census, there were total 111,278 children under age of 0-6 years in Hailakandi district. Of total 111,278 male and female were 56,936 and 54,342 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 954 compared to 927 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 16.88 percent of Hailakandi District. There was net change of -1.72 percent in census 2011. Child population (0-6) in urban region of the district was 4,661 of which males and females were 2,375 and 2,286. This child population figure in the district is 9.84 % of total urban population. Child population in the age 0-6 is 106,617 in rural areas of which males were 54,561 and females were 52,056. The child population comprises 17.39 % of total rural population of Hailakandi district.

3.1. Health:

The Annual Health Survey 2011-12 data reveals that Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is 31.2. The Probable Neo-natal Death (Considering 24 as the NMR/IMR as mentioned in approval of PIP 2013-2014) in Hailakandi district is 515. Probable Maternal Death (Considering 238 as the MMR as mentioned in approval of PIP 2013-2014) is 51¹. The national profile registers Infant Mortality Rate as 58 per 1000 live births and Maternal Mortality Rate as 301 per 1,00,000 live births. National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 clearly envisaged that the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate 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 are 1 District hospital, 9 Primary Health Centres, 105 Sub-Centres, 4 Block Primary Health Centres, 2 Community health centres and 2 State Dispensaries in the districts. According to the data provided by S.K. Roy Civil Hospital, there was no HIV/AIDS affected children in the district.



Meeting with Additional CM & HO (F.W)

Health situation in some blocks:

According to Mr. Rabijul Haque Laskar, Block Program Manager, NHM, Algapur block, most of the mothers were suffering from Anemia. So iron deficiency diseases were the major concern in Algapur block. He also informed that 70% pregnant women were suffering from Anemia. In order to eradicate this problem NHM has taken some initiative for children like:



Visit to Algapur P.H.C

- WIFS programme has been started for children of age group of 7-12 years;
- IPI (Iron plus Initiative) has been started in L.P Schools from January, 2014;
- Iron Supplementary Syrup is given to the children between 6 months to 5 years.

Most of the villages in Algapur block are flood prone. During flood, children suffer from various water borne diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea etc.

He also reported that scarcity of drinking water is a major concern at the time

¹Health and Family Welfare Department, Hailakandi district

flood. So packed purified water is provided from PHE and it is distributed through the committee members of Health department. People are very much aware of the schedule activities of Health Department. Almost 84% institutional delivery is reported in this block.

Mr. Subrata Dey, S.D.M & H.O cum Member Secretary, Katlicherra Block pointed out that this Block Primary Health Centre caters to the areas of two blocks namely, Katlicherra and South Hailakandi. There are 31 sub centres, 4 National Sub centre, 1 NPHC, 1 Model Hospital, 1 State dispensary in this Block. According to Mr. Katlicherra block is malaria prone. Apart from these during flood situation children suffer from sporadic diarrhoea and Dysentery. Skin disease is very common among children during drought season. He also highlighted that children belong to the age group of 16-17 years are addicted to alcohol in south Hailakandi block The rate of institutional delivery is very good in these blocks. Almost All the pregnant mothers are benefitted by Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).



Interview with S.D.M & H.O cum Member Secretary, Katlicherra BPHC

JSY Physical Status for the year 2013-14 (under Katlicherra BPHC)

Duration	Referred during Financial Year	Institutional Delivery at Katlicherra PHC	Delivery at Aranyapur Sub centre	Jamira SD	Gharmura NPHC	Madhabpur Sub centre	Total
April, 13-February, 14	961	28	15	177	147	36	1364

The Health sector, covering vaccination as well as institutional delivery, has already been taken up under National Rural Health Mission and by now, the whole of the district has been covered. The present situation of vaccination and institutional delivery is no longer a development deficit. It has been mentioned that the ASHA workers are very effective and they have good coordination with the community people.

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 Hailakandi district is 74.33% which shows better condition than the state average and much better than the literacy rate 59.64% of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise distribution, male and female literacy are 80.74% and 67.60% respectively. Total no.

of literate in Hailakandi District is 407,366 of which male and female are 226,836 and 180,530 respectively. According to the data available from Education Department of Hailakandi district, there are 1236 numbers of primary schools, 266 numbers of junior high schools, 25 numbers of high schools and 17 numbers of Higher secondary schools in the district,. There are 6 colleges in the district. In Hailakandi, the gross enrolment of class I- IV of Boys is 105 and Girls is 104 and Classes V-VIII of boys 103 and girls 101. Besides this the drop out ratio of class I-VIII of Boys are 0.0151 and Girls are 0.0137. Number of children never attending schools is 164 of which boys are 107 and girls are 57.

Block Wise Information: (Source: Education Department)

Block	LP	UP	High School	Higher Secondary
Hailakandi	517	120	15	11
Katlicherra	327	50	5	1
Lala	392	96	5	5
Total	1236	266	25	17

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 is situated in the Southern part of Assam. There are 3 numbers of elementary blocks and 1 number of sub-division. SSA, Hailakandi has already constituted 3 BRC including 103 numbers of CRC in the district. SSA, Hailakandi has been trying its best to impart quality education to all school-going children at elementary stage.

BRCs and CRCs are the apex academic body of the Block and respective cluster. As Apex Academic, the BRCs & CRCs are fully responsible for quality improvement of elementary education.

Residential Special Training Centre (RSTC):

According to Education department there are two numbers of Residential Special Training Centres with 200 learners continued from previous year and 1 new centre is proposed to be operationalized in the month of March under Lala Block with 50 learners. The learner will be provided the materials etc. 200 learners have been mainstreamed to neighbourhood schools after completion of special training till date.



Visiting RSTC, Hailakandi

SSA Running Bridge Course Centre:

There are 220 Bridge Course Centres in the district run by SSA.

Block wise Status			
Blocks	Centre	Boy	Girl
Hailakandi	134	612	568
Katlicherra	40	200	137
Lala	46	190	98
Total	220	1002	803

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV):

There was one Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya functional in the district catering SC/ST/OBC/Minority/Drop-out/never attended school among the age group of 10-14 years for 50 children. However, according to DPO, SSA it is non-functional right now due to some constrains but it is proposed that the same will be functional in a hired venue under Lala block very soon.

Apart from this, SSA will also ensure that every child with Special Need, irrespective of nature, category and degree of Disability will be provided education in appropriate environment. In 2012-13, 2280 no of CWSN were enrolled in the school. In the year 2013-14, the district already completed the process of identification of children with Special Need within the district and the number of identified CWSN is 2582.

Joyti Kendra:

There are total 21 no. of Joyti Kendras in the district of which 18 Joyti Kendras are in Hailakandi Block and 3 are in Lala block. The functioning of such Joyti Kendras has been implemented through CRCC (Cluster Resource Centre Coordination). These Joyti Kendras cater to the different categories of children e.g. child Labours, out of school children and school dropout

children. These Joyti Kendras has no unique hour-schedule in terms of their functioning. It varies due to different engagements of community people.

Some observation during visit the Joyti Kendra & RBCC on 25.03.2014

Hussein L.P. School, Block 1, Hailakandi Town>

- Duration of Classes are 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.;
- Children come from very poor families and they are mostly engaged as domestic helper;
- Books, Recreational Materials and foods are provided to children;
- The capacity of the Joyti Kendra is 25;
- One lady teacher is engaged to cater to 25 students;
- According to the Teacher of Joyti Kendra, students flow is less during Panchayat level election and market day. Because children are engaged in different election rallies and they get paid for the same.



Anwarpur Primary School, Ward no. 10 >

- Duration of Classes are 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon;
- Children come from poor families and they are mostly engaged as a domestic helper. Apart from these they are engaged as a child labour in tea stalls and vegetable markets;
- There are Two teachers in order to cater to 14 children;
- This Joyti Kendra runs within the

premises of a Primary school;

- Most of the time *Khichudie* is provided to them ;
- Students are mostly from Schedule Caste and Muslim community.

Residential Bridge Course Centre for girls, Hailakandi >

- Majority of children come from Riyang community;
- Capacity of this Residential Bridge Course Centre is 115;
- Present strength is 35;
- The average Age group of children is between 10-14yrs;
- These children can avail this service up to the age of 14 years
- Afterward they go back to the community
- Dropout rate is prevalent among them due to unavailability of schools within their community.

Issues discussed in Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with Self Help Group Members at Katlicherra Block:

Block: Katlicherra

GP: Katlicherra

Village: Alexganderpur

Date: 04.03.2014

Agenda of Discussion: Education among community

Name of the Members:

Sree Pujasree Roy, Swathi Dhar, Manika Deb, Sukurmoni Lohar, Nilima Roy, Umesh Malakar, Maniklal Roy, Anima Malakar, Nilu Roy, Sangita Roy, Pratima Malakar, Sati Sutradhar, Bina Malakar, Sundari Karmakar, Sangita Malakar, Narendra Karmakar



Discussion:

- According to the majority of the members no educational assessment has yet been done in the village;
- According to Mr. Jitendra Deb, primary school teacher of Alexganderpur, status of Mid-day-Meal is not up to the mark in the village schools be it Primary or secondary.
- The main reason for educational backwardness is poverty due to which children are forced to drop out after initial few years of schooling at primary or at best middle school level. This is more acute for girls. Young children are expected to provide hand on support to their respective families by working in small factories, as domestic helps or looking after their infant siblings while their mothers go to work.
- During the course of discussions pertaining to education it was observed that awareness about different programmes under ICPS is lacking among the village people.
- According to Ms. Anima Malakar there is lack of infrastructural facilities such as separate toilets for boys and girls, safe drinking water, sitting arrangement for teachers etc.
- According to Ms. Sukurmoni Lohar, majority of the poor families find it very difficult to send their children to high school due to transportation cost;
- Ms. Sangita Roy highlighted that, in spite of several approaches from the community no initiative has yet been taken in order to combat the issues of limited hour school timing i.e. merely schools open up to two hours (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.);

3.3. Children in ICDS:

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is implemented in Hailakandi district through 5 projects. There are total 41165 children covered under the project of which 21102 are boys and 20063 are girls. Along with pre-school education, other components of ICDS are being catered to the children through 1374 Anganwadi Centres. The project is run by 5 numbers of Child Development Project Officers, 29 numbers of supervisors and 1374 numbers of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). The needs of the adolescent girls, however, remain largely undressed through ICDS. Two posts of supervisors are lying vacant.

Category	Sanctioned	In Position
No. of ICDS Projects	5	5
No. of CDPOs	5	5
No. of Supervisors	31	29

No. of AWCs	1374	1374
No. of AWWs	1374	1374
No. of AWHs	1341	1341

In an interview with the District Social Welfare Officer who is In-charge of ICDS, Hailakandi, it revealed that most of the children coming to centres belong to the poor families. Almost all children attend the pre-school education. There is also an ICDS centre in each Tea garden areas of Lala Block and South Hailakandi block. These centres meant for the tea garden children.

Issues discussed in Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with Tea Garden People at Lala Block:

GP: Lala Mukh GP

Village: Gaglacherra

Block: Lala

Date: 28.02.2014

Agenda of Discussion: Nutrition & Education under ICDS

Name of the Members:

Somali Bhakta, Pratima Bhunia, Basana Bhar, Shanti Turi, Mina Turi, Namita Agarwal, Salita Nayek, Udit Rabi Das (SMC, President), Partha Sarathi Das (Head Teacher, Kalalpahar LP school), Dipti Nath (Teacher, Kalapahar LP School), Puja Khatun, Chhanda Ghosal



Discussion:

- Among the community members there were representation from different religion e.g. Hindu, Muslim, Riyang, Manipuri & Khasi;
- According to Partha Sarathi Das, Head Teacher, Kalapahar LP school the people of this area are very poor and deprived from the basic services;
- Namita Agarwal highlighted that the 90 no. ICDS centre is situated within the teagarden community of Gaglacherra village but it is hardly functional rather the condition of the centre is not worthy even for the domestic animals;
- According to her, Anganwadi worker of this centre comes twice a year and sub standard food grains (raw one) provided to the children at 3 to 4 months intervals;
- According to the Helper who runs the centre, cooked food was distributed among the children two years back;
- According to one of the adolescent girl among the focused group, child marriage is there due to Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of legal provisions;
- She also highlighted that they do not get other services of ICDS e.g. IFA tablets;
- According to Ms. Pratima Bhunia, in case of general illness like fever, dysentery, stomach-ache etc they go to local sub-centres;



- She also highlighted that, ASHA workers regularly visit the homes;
- According to majority of the group poor functioning of ICDS is a major concern in the village;
- There is no Creche facility within the tea garden areas;

3.4. Child Labour:

As per the census report of 2001, Assam has 3, 51, 416 child labourers of 5-14 years age group. Incidentally, the number in the whole country counted to the tune of 1.26 crore as per that census. Most of the children were engaged in domestic help, hotel, Dhabas sector etc. Apart from this, many child labourers were identified in the urban areas that were mostly migrated from other districts in Assam. Most of the families employ children for domestic help. In all the cases, the children were denied access to education, recreation, cultural practices and participation in play activities. To combat the problem, a strong coordination between labour department, Social Welfare Department, Education Department and Health Department of the district administration is required.

In terms of existence of child labours in Hailakandi district there are some specific trades like tea stalls, helper in private transport etc. In addition to that particularly, in urban areas there are few domestic child labours. The Labour Inspector reported that due to poor economic condition the parents engage their children in work. He also informed that as per the provision of the act they are taking action against the employer. As per the office record of Labour Department, Hailakandi district since April 2012 to March 2013, 18 numbers of child labours have been identified in different occupations and another 13 numbers of children have been rescued. According to him, such employers have been prosecuted as per the court of law. He also highlighted that poverty, lack of education, lack of awareness and its consequences play pivotal role and push families to engage their children as child labourer in different occupations for their livelihood. He also pointed out that the major constraints in providing services relating to child labour are lack of logistic support, lack of conveyance facility and lack of interdepartmental coordination.



Interview with Labour Inspector, Hailakandi

There are 17 Tea Gardens in Hailakandi district of which 9 are in Lala block, 4 in Hailakandi Block and 3 in South Hailakandi block etc. Some of the tea gardens are as follows:

Name of the Block	Name of the GP	Name of the Tea garden
Hailakandi	Kanchanpur GP	Kanchanpur TE
	Serespur GP	Serespur TE
	Sudarsanpur Bandukmana	Bandukmana TE
South Hailakandi	Dholai Bagan	Dholai Bagan
	Palaicherra Sultanicherra	Sultanicherra TE
		Manipur Bagan
Lala	Lala Mukh	Gaglacheria TE
	Lalacherra Vernerpur	Vernerpur TE

There are no children less than 14 years of age found in teagardens as Child labour-reported by Vice President of Anchalic Panchayet, Lala block. There are some brick kilns in Hailakandi block as per reported by Raju Rabidas, Vice President of Anchalik Panchayet, Hailakandi block. According to him, children are engaged in Brick Kilns but officially it's not been reported. Some of the brick kiln in the Hailakandi Block is as follows:

1. A.B.I, Chok Chandpur, Chandpur G.P;
2. STAR Bricks Industry, Bhaterkuper G.P;
3. C.B.I, Bhatircupa G.P;
4. Bappa Bricks Industry, Rangauta G.P.

According to District Social Welfare Officer, Hailakandi, child labour is prevalent in the district. They are engaged as motor garage worker, transport helper, tea stalls, hotels etc.

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.

3.5. Child Trafficking:

From the discussions with the district officials and NGO representatives, it reveals that children of poor families living in remote areas are vulnerable to trafficking. Due to poverty, these children are pushed by their parents to take up any kind of economic activity at a tender age. Most of them are being trafficked to other states to meet the demand for cheap labour.

Trafficking is not very prevalent in the district. However, South Hailakandi block is most vulnerable block in terms of trafficking. Even children from age group of 16-18 years are engaged in Kidnapping in South Hailakandi block but sometimes, these children get trafficked by some inter-state traffickers.

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%), followed by Goalpara (10.1%), Bongaigaon (9.8%) and Barpeta (9.7%) districts in lower Assam, Tinsukia (9.7%) in upper Assam and Morigaon (9.6%) and Kamrup (9.5%) districts in central Assam. 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 to prevention of child marriage in the district.

According to district officials, Child Marriage is not very prevalent in the district. But in tea garden areas, there are tendencies of early marriages.

Issues discussed in Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with ICDS functionaries:

Venue: CDPO Office, Lala Block

Date: 28.02.2014

Agenda of Discussions: Child Marriage, Child Labour

Name of The Members:

Mahanur Akter, Laisrm Amita, Suma Dey, Madhumita Chakraborty, Dipti Rabi Das, Fatema Begum, Pampa Nath, Sunita Singha, Sudha Roni Barman, Shibani Barman, Mustafa Begum Barsty, Razia Sultana Laskar, Rachna Khatun

Discussions:

- According to the members of the Focused Group there are instances of Child Marriages in different villages of Lala block but officially, no such incidents reported to the authority;



- According to Ms. Mustafa Begum Barsty, due to religious rituals there is a tendency of marriage in tender ages among the Muslim community;
- She also stated that the people of Tantu GP belongs to Muslim Community;
- Ms. Sunita Singha highlighted

that, Child Marriage is very rare in general though there are instances of the same in the tea garden and slum areas due to poverty;

- According to Suma Dey, Supervisor, ICDS, there are some instances of marriage within the age group of 14-15 years in Lalacherra Binarpur GP;
- Ms. Rachna Khatun highlighted that at the age of 17-18 years, boys go to Bangalore & southern part of India in search of a job (security guard);
- Ms. Laisrm Amita, Supervisor, ICDS, pointed out that scarcity of proper drinking water is major problem in Gaglacherra, Chandrapur etc;
- Ms. Madhumita Chakraborty, Supervisor, ICDS stated that Lalacherra GP is a flood prone area. She also stated that routine immunization is not regular in Kachhapcherra Kundanala

GP as ANM does not visit these areas due to poor transportation and communication system;

- She also highlighted that initiatives to ensure overall child protection at Bilaipur is being thwarted due to remote geographical location;
- Lack of proper transportation is a major constraints to regular visit to ICDS centres reported by majority of the Focused group members;

3.7. Street Children:

From the findings of the study entitled street children in Assam conducted by JPISC in 2012, it is observed that, there are 87 street children in urban centres of Hailakandi district. Most of the children belong to Hindu and Muslim families. The educational status of the street children is very poor. Most of them have never been to school and even those who get enrolled do not continue their studies. Majority of the children come from other districts of Assam in search of job in this district. The occupational distribution shows that majority of the children are engaged in rag-picking, motor garages, Brick kilns, pursuing domestic work and in hotel/restaurant/tea stalls. The other major occupations are: begging, wage labour, helper in transport, etc. In the district, more than 70% of the respondents are employed early due to extreme poverty in their families. Children were found to suffer from various ailments and skin infections possibly due to their unhygienic living conditions.

3.8. 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.

Algapur, Hailakandi and Lala are the major flood prone blocks in the district. A large part of the district gets inundated during monsoon and causes a great deal of misery to the people especially the women and children.

Mr. Siju Das, Programme Officer, Disaster Management Cell, Hailakandi has given a statistics regarding flood prone areas. Those are as follows:

- The geographical area of the district was 1327 sq.km of which 326.61 sq. Km (24.61%) is a flood hazards area;
- Total 101 numbers of villages are mostly affected during flood such as: Algapur I,III, Bakrihowar Part II,III,IV,IX,V,VI, VIII, X, XI, Bansbari Part II, Kapanarpar, Matigram, Mahanpur, Narainpur, Balaikandi, Kanchanpur grant, Ratanpur, Sudarsanpur, Chadrapur, Lala I, Rajyeswarpur, Nimatpur etc.

Flood Affected Villages under the Different Revenue Circle:

Revenue Circle	No. of Villages
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Algapur	41
Hailakandi	26
Katicherra	4
Lala	23

According to Mr. S. Das, Programme Officer, Disaster Management Cell, Hailakandi during flood the level of coordination with all department is very good. Some NGOs also take initiative to help the community people.

3.9. Child Abuse:

In the district of Hailakandi, 65 cases of Kidnapping and Abduction (u/s 363-369, 371-373 IPC) and 56 cases of rape (u/s 376IPC) were reported in NCRB, 2012. The following table shows the total crimes committed in the district:

Total Cognizable Crimes (IPC) committed in Hailakandi District, Assam in 2012

Sl. No	Crime Heads		2012
1	Murder (Sec. 302)		24
2	Attempt to commit Murder (Sec. 307)		13
3	CH not amounting to Murder (Sec. 304, 308)		00
4	Rape (Sec. 376)		56
5	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 – 369, 371 – 373)	Of Women & Girls	65
		Of Others	31
6	Dacoity (Sec. 395 – 398)		11
7	Preparation & Assembly for Dacoity (Sec. 399 – 402)		00
8	Robbery (392 – 394, 397, 398)		06
9	Burglary (sec. 449 – 452, 454, 455, 457 – 460)		33
10	Theft (sec. 379 – 382)	Auto Theft	23
		Other Theft	126
11	Riots (Sec. 143 – 145, 147 – 151, 153, 153A, 153B, 157, 158, 160)		176
12	Criminal Breach of Trust (Sec. 406 – 409)		14
13	Cheating (Sec. 419, 420)		40
14	Counterfeiting (Sec. 231 – 254, 489A, 489D)		00
15	Arson (Sec. 435, 436, 438)		15
16	Hurt (Sec. 323 – 333, 335 – 338)		51
17	Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B)		06
18	Assault on Women with intent to Outrage her modesty (Sec. 354)		52
19	Insult to the modesty of Women (Sec. 509)		00
20	Cruelty by Husband & Relatives (Sec. 498A)		125
21	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366B)		00
22	Causing Death by Negligence (Sec. 304 A)		32

Sl. No	Crime Heads	2012
23	Other IPC Crimes	423
	Total	1322

From the data on crimes committed against children available from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Hailakandi, it is observed that there were no cases reported in that section.

4. Discussions with different stakeholders regarding the situation as well as the vulnerability of children at Block Level:

As per our discussion with the representatives of different line departments at District level, we conducted various FGDs in five blocks of Hailakandi district. It was a mixed group at block offices where we interacted with BDO, PRI members, Health workers, ICDS functionaries, SHG members, teachers, community leaders in terms of overall child protection scenario within the block.

Some of the major findings through discussions and observations are as follows:

4.1. Lala BDO office:

- BDO and PRI members are not aware about the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS);
- BLCP is yet to be formed in this block;
- There is no awareness about Block Level Child Protection Committee;
- In Lalacherra GP functioning of ICDS is not up to the mark, one of the PRI members highlighted that children under age group of 0-6 years are hardly taken care of in terms of Supplementary Nutrition;
- According to PRI members, education system is very poor in the block especially in case of primary schools. The teachers do not maintain the scheduled school timing. They come to school at 11:00 a.m. and finish it by 12:00 noon;
- Issues related with providing Midday Meal in schools are irregular in Barbond GP;
- According to Amarjit Barbhunia, CSC-CSP, there are good numbers of school dropouts children in the block (Kachhapchara, Kundanala, Bilaipur);
- According to Mr. Maiuddin Laskar, AP member, Barbond GP, Health Sub-centers are functioning very well but there are no sub-centers in Lalacherra and Barhol GP ;
- According to Ms. Suma Dey, Supervisor, ICDS, there are major problem of water and sanitation system in some parts of the block (Gaglacherra, Bilaipur, Lalacherra);
- Children along with their parents travel to almost 3 k.m. to fetch drinking water;



4.2. Hailakandi BDO office:

- There are 14 GPs in Hailakandi block but during our visit to majority of GPs (Sirispur, Balikandi, Netainagar, Ratanpur, Batilkupa) we found that functioning of GP offices is not regular;

- Revenue Inspector, Panchayet Executive issue residential certificate to community people in exchange of money and also they operate official work from their residence;



- Mr. Kumar Hussain Ch., President of Anchalik Panchayet informed that one GP president has to look after 2-3 GPs;
- There are some vulnerable GPs like: Balikandi, Ratakandi, Sirispur in Hailakandi Block in terms of child protection (child marriage, irregular functioning of ICDS);

- In spite of several request no representation was there from CDPO office Hailakandi in the A.P meeting;
- According to President of Anchalik Panchayat, education department has no convergence with the PRI members;
- The structure of PRI is not clear to them. They do not have any idea about various departmental segregations. They also suggested that before executing ICPS all the stake holders specially PRI members need to have training on social legislation related to child protection;
- According to the majority of the participant in the meeting, they are very much worried about the malfunctioning of ICDS in the block;
- According to Mr. B. Rabidas, AP member, Ratakandi, no ICDS centre is there in Bahadurpur GP. He also highlighted that there are many areas where the population is not very high and two ICDS centres are there but in case of this GP although the population is almost over 7000 no ICDS centre is functional in this area;
- According to Vice President of AP, Children of age group of 10- 12 years are engaged in the tea stalls, brick kilns and motor garages as a child labour;
- Child marriage cases are not reported. It happens with a mutual understanding of both parties .The reason of child marriage is poverty;
- Hence, majority of the participants highlighted the need of awareness among the community in terms of Child Marriage, Child labour issues;
- The level of activities under NRHM is very well in the block reported by Mr. Subhas Ch. Roy, AP, member;
- Migration is very less. Some of the boys of age group of below 18 years are migrated to Bangalore or Meghalaya for job;
- Midday meal is very irregular in Kanchanpur GP, Chandpur GP, Rangawoodi GP reported by AP members;
- According to Extension Officer, BDO office, police is cooperative but they also do not have adequate knowledge of various legislation pertaining to child protection mechanisms;

- In majority of schools there are vacant posts of teachers. Also there is lack of scheduled school hours;
- As per all 14 GP members, Social Welfare Department is not working properly;
- BLCPC has been formed in the block but it is yet to be functional;

4.3. Algapur BDO office:

- According to the Mr. Kashim Ahamed, Block Development Officer, Algapur block, there are 13 numbers of GPs in this block;
- In state of Assam, structure of BLCPC empowered CDPOs, ICDS as the member secretary of Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC) but in Algapur block BDO, AP members are not aware of the same;
- According to Mr. Jarad Hussain Laskar, AP Vice President, functioning of ICDS is a major concern within the block specially because CDPO hardly operate from this block majority of the functionaries are engaged within district head quarter;
- Ms. Fulnehar Begam Laskar, AP member highlighted that there are many loopholes in functioning of ICDS like distribution of SNP, IFA tablets, irregularities in terms of running centres etc;
- According to Mr. K. Kamal Kanta Singh, Inspector of Police, O/C, Algapur P.S, instances of crime against children hardly exists in the block. He also highlighted that Juvenile cases are very low in numbers under this P.S. but he suggested that police personnel need thorough understanding of JJ Act as well as other social legislations in order to combat evils against child protection mechanisms;
- Mr. Prabir Kumar, L.D.C, Mohanpur Watch Post pointed out that they are hardly aware of any child trafficking issues within the block although some petty offences like theft is there;
- No 2nd officer is available here in Algapur P.S. No out post is available here in Algapur. Children in conflict with law are referred to Observation Home, Boko, Kamrup reported by Mr. K. Kamal Kanta Singh, Inspector of Police, O/C, Algapur P.S,
- No information is available regarding CWC and JJB in P.S;
- As already mentioned, health system is up to the mark within this block;
- Almost 84% of institutional delivery is reported by Mr. Rabijul Haque Laskar, Block Program Manager, NHM;



4.4. Katlicherra BDO office:

- According to the Mr. Kashim Ahamed, Block Development Officer, Katlicherra Block, there are 8 numbers of GPs in this block consisting 58 Revenue villages;

- According to BDO, BLCPC is not yet formed although there is a letter from DCPU stating formation date of BLCPC;



- According to BDO, Child marriage cases are not reported in the block due to lack of awareness;
- Some of ICDS centres are good and some are very poor in the block reported by Mr. Taj Uddin Majumder, AP members;
- According to PRI members, children of age group of 12-16

years are engaged in Diesel auto, tea stalls, domestic work etc as a child labour;

- According to Mr. Gopi Deb, AP President, some of the children went to Meghalaya and engaged in a coal industry as labourers;
- Most of the AP members are not aware regarding the functioning of CWC, JJB etc;
- Most of the AP member stated that migration issue is not very major issue in this block;

4.5. South Hailakandi BDO office:

- According to the Mr. Salah Ahmed Chowdhury, Block Development Officer, South Hailakandi block, there are 9 numbers of GPs in this block;
- There is no food allotment chart displayed in the ICDS centers that is why people are not aware about this reported by community members;
- According to group member of PRI, no facilities are available in the ICDS centre;
- There is no fixed timing in schools and teachers are very irregular stated by Mr. Maulana Abdul Mukith Barbhuiya, AP member, Jamira Part II GP;
- There are 3 teagardens in the block like: Dalaibagan, Sultanibagan and Monipurbagan. Children of teagarden workers are much more vulnerable because illiteracy, lack of awareness prevailing most among them. Even there is a tendency of early marriage among the garden workers reported by Ms. Nandini Majumder, supervisor, ICDS;
- According to Mr. Salah Ahmed Chowdhury, Block Development Officer, there are some vulnerable areas of the block. Those are Janlachara, Kukichara, Nandagram, Barunchara, Rifailmara;
- According to Mr. Anwar Hussain, Member, PRI, 95% of the household in Jamira GP belong to BPL category;
- According to community members there is lack of awareness on health facilities;
- Most of the girl children are engaged as domestic maid;



- Children of Gharmora-Barmora GP are prone to addiction reported by Mr. Pratap Chandra Sutradhar, Community leader;
- He also stated that Gaharcherra, Gramcherra GPs are adjacent with the border of Mizoram;
- Police is very helpful over here but they also acknowledge that they must be empowered with knowledge pertaining to various social legislations through some sensitization workshops;
- Dhariarghat-Kalicherra GP covered almost 4994 population in the block. Institutional delivery done under Madavpur sub-centre in this GP. People are not aware about the immunization in remote rural areas reported by Ms. Padma Nandi, ASHA worker;
- In an interview with Mr. Tonuj Maibangra I/C, Jamira Petrol Post, it is informed that this Police post cover 9 GPs. Child labours are there due to poverty and lack of education. Children are also engaged as construction labourers. Child marriage is found in Muslim community. Almost 4-5 cases have been reported yearly.

5. Existing Child Protection Mechanisms:

5.1. Institutional Services:

There is no institutional care facility for children both boys and girls in Hailakandi district. Only one Children's Home for boys at Silchar run by Wodwichee covers the three districts of Barak Valley.

Wodwichee Children's Home for boys, Silchar:

Children's Home for boys, Silchar run by Wodwichee under the supervision and control of the State Child Protection Society, Assam. It is a NGO run home in the Cachar district. It was established for the children in the year 1993 to ensure the child protection and improvement of the situation of children. It is a Children Home under JJ Act, 2000. It is a residential institution and a reception centre that provides care, protection, training and rehabilitation of the children in need of care and protection. It also imparts social education (including domestic science and hygiene), extracurricular activities for Children, formal literacy classes, academics, music and some other recreational activities. The capacity of the institution is 25 and present strength is 20. Total 18 no of children go to outside school for studying.

Although it is a Children Home but sometime the home authority keep some JCL boys on request of Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board reported by Superintendent of Home.

5.2. Child Welfare Committee:

The CWC of Hailakandi district has been functioning since 2004 and sits in the in the premises of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) office. The Chairperson Mr. B. K. Dhar 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	Mr. B. K. Dhar	Chair Person	9435179817
2	Mr. A. Dutta Gupta	Member	9435078684
3	Ms. P. K. Paul	Member	9435179818
4	Mr. K.A. Chowdhury	Member	9435379722
5	Vacant	-	-

The committee is sitting once in a week i.e. Monday from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. The CWC of Hailakandi is running by four persons viz: chair person and three members. According to the chairperson, the children produced before the committee mostly belong to Muslim community. The children are mostly produced by the Police and NGO. The average age group of the children produced before CWC is under 10 years of age. As per record of the CWC, 8 cases are pending till date, 7 children placed in Children's home and 16 children are restored to their families. With the help of PRI and ICDS functionaries the social worker under DCPS traces the family within 2-3 days. Apart from these CWC has organized five numbers of awareness programmes in five blocks in 2013-2014. The number of such awareness programmes need to be enhanced because five numbers of awareness programme is inadequate to cater to the awareness of village level people in entire district.

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, labour and Social welfare along with CWC.

Status report of Child Welfare Committee: (as on 24.02.2014)

Total no. of cases dealt by CWC	38
Total no. of cases in the month of February	02
Total no. of Child labour cases	19
Total no. of Street Children cases	01
Total no. of surrendered cares	06
Total no. of missing cases	02
Total no. of abandoned cases	05
Total no. of having incapacitate parents cases	05

Gaps:

- One post is vacant in the CWC;
- Non availability of SAA in the district;
- There is no CHILDLINE service in the district;
- Lack of awareness on child protection issues;
- 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.

5.3. Juvenile Justice Board:

Juvenile Justice Board of Hailakandi district sits once in a week i.e. Friday in the premises of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) office from 1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The contact details of the members of JJB:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	Sri T. K. Bhattacharjee	Principal Magistrate	9435022713
2	Smt. Khoma Roy	Social Worker	9401783833
3	Sri P.K. Ghosh	Social Worker	943507860

According to Mr. T.K. Bhattacharjee, Principal Magistrate of JJB, the children mostly belong to poor families. The average age of the children is 17 years. As per data given by JJB, they dealt with 23 cases during last year and 11 no. of cases are pending till date, 24 children have been granted bail in the last 12 months. The children are mostly produced before the JJB by police.

In an interview with Mr. T.K. Bhattacharjee, Principal Magistrate of JJB Hailakandi, it is informed that most of the children committed petty offences and they released the child very shortly. But sometimes it is found that there are instances of cognizable offences like 366 (A) IPC, 376 IPC, 380 IPC, and 302 IPC. He also highlighted some issues like:

- Illiteracy and poverty are the major factors responsible for crime related activities committed by children;
- Non-establishment of Observation home, special home etc. in this district is a major hurdle;
- He emphasized on infrastructural development of the board as well as advocated for appointment of trained members and staff in JJB;

He commented that "even though the child protection services are presently available in this district, but much improvement is required to be made in this regard. There is a need for proper infrastructure, awareness of free legal aid, providing trained officers and staff and to provide necessary resources to effectively curb the misuse of J.J. Act by procuring fake age certificates by some vested circles."

5.4. Special Juvenile Police Unit:

The SJPU has been formed in the district. According to the nodal officer of Special Juvenile Police Unit of the district they follow the guideline of JJ Act, 2000 as amended on 2006. He also stated that police produce JCL before JJB at the earliest within a period of 24 hours of his apprehension excluding the time of journey from the place where from the juvenile is apprehended. According to the Additional Superintendent of Police, Hailakandi, where a

juvenile is apprehended the officer in-charge of the police station or the special juvenile police unit (SJPU) informs the parents or guardian of the juvenile. The O/C or I/C of the SJPU also informs the probation officer about the apprehension so that he is able to obtain information regarding the antecedents and family background of the juvenile and other material circumstances which may help the board to cause injury. But during our visits to various police stations it has been observed that second officers are hardly aware of the JJ System. They also pointed out that Police Training is required in order to enhance the functioning of SJPU.

They also suggested that,

- CWC and CWO need to be co-operating with each other in dealing with the matter for care and protection of children.
- Although a few officers of the district have already been trained but follow up programmes and new sensitization programmes need to be executed to get them acquainted with the legal perspective as well as to imbibe proper mindset to deal with a juvenile.
- Computer networking system on the matter is not yet available but expected to be introduced in near future to make the entire system more effective and juvenile friendly.

The additional superintendent of Police suggested that JCLs are to be treated as normal children and as victim of circumstances. Actions need to be initiated to help rehabilitation of those juveniles so that they feel to be an integrated part of the mainstream society.

Major constraints:

1. Inadequate manpower in police;
2. Sizeable number of police officers & men are yet to be imparted training on the matter owing to shortage of manpower;
3. Lady Officers in the SJPU are few as severe shortage of lady police officers & men;
4. All CWOs are not sensitized about the SJPU;
5. Frequently change in position is also a major problem of the police officers.

5.5. Alternative Non-Institutional Care:

Alternative care stresses primarily in strengthening vulnerable families with a view to keeping the child with his or her family. It should take full account of the desirability, in principle, of maintaining the child as close as possible to his/her habitual place of residence, in order to facilitate contact and potential reintegration with his/her family and to minimize disruption of his/her educational, cultural and social life.

There is no Specialized Adoption Agency in the district. But, Nivedita Nari Sangstha, Silchar is a Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) working for three districts of Barak Valley. This SAA provides the "In country" adoption facility. It was established in the year 1996. The sanctioned capacity of the institution is 10. Presently, 4 numbers of children (1 boy and 3 girls of which 1 CWSN) are there for adoption. In 2011-2012, 7 numbers of children were placed in In-Country Adoption and 25 numbers of children given in Foster care so far.

In absence of advocacy and awareness programmes in districts, community people are either ignorant about the meaning and concept of various forms of non-institutional alternative care or has a wrong information. In the absence of proper vigilance, abandoned newborn babies from health care facilities like hospitals, nursing homes etc are often lost or stolen and thereafter illegally sold at a high price to childless couple. Prolonged process, especially the legal procedure add additional barriers, families often back off due to the fear of the process, the organisation reported.

5.6. CHILDLINE Services:

CHILDLINE India Foundation is the national nodal agency for initiation & monitoring of CHILDLINE across cities established by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in May, 1999. Presently it is under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development. CHILDLINE 1098 is a national 24-hour free, emergency telephone and outreach service for children in need of care and protection. There is no CHILDLINE in Hailakandi district. Deshabandhu Club is working as a collaborative organization of Cachar district.

5.7. District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) in Hailakandi, Assam:

DCPU has been formed in Hailakandi district on 18.12.2010. Every district should have a District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) under the Chairpersonship of the Chairperson, Zila Parishad to monitor the implementation of ICPS. The Deputy Commissioner is the Chairperson of the DCPC. The DCPC should coordinate and implement all the rights of children and ensure child protection activities at district level.

The committee is very new in the district. But, some posts are still vacant in DCPC. The DCPC organize a meeting in every quarter under chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Hailakandi. Although according to DCPO and other staff of DCPC, there was only one DCPC meeting in 2012-2013.

The DCPC meeting resolutions are as follows:

- Contribute to effective implementation of child protection legislations, schemes and achievement of child protection goals laid out in the National Plan of Action for Children 2005.
- Ensure that for each child in need of care there is an individual care plan and that the plan is regularly reviewed. Monitor the implementation of the plan.
- Identify families at risk and children in need of care and protection through effective networking and linkages with the ICDS functionaries, Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA), NGOs dealing with child protection issues and local bodies, viz. PRIs and Urban Local Bodies, etc.
- Support implementation of family based non-institutional services including sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care;

- Network and coordinate with voluntary and civil society organizations working in the field of child rights and protection;

The Structure of the DCPC:

SI No.	Name/Designation	Status
1	Deputy Commissioner	Chairperson
2	Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev)	Vice- Chairperson
3	District Social Welfare Officer-cum 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 Parisad	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

District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) took an initiative to form Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC) on 17th August, 2013. Here is the structure of the committee which is circulated all blocks through government notification.

Sl. No.	Name/Designation	Status
1	President, Ancholik Panchayat	Chairperson
2	Child Development Project Officer(C.D.P.O)	Member Secretary
3	DCPO/PO/DSWO	Member
4	Block Development Officer (B.D.O)	Member
5	Block Elementary Education Officer	Member
6	Doctor -in-Charge of Public Health Centre of Block Area	Member
7	Chairperson of VLCPC (Village Level Child Protection Committee, when Constituted)	Member
8	Officer-in-Charge of Police Station(s) of the block area	Member
9	2 non-official members to be appointed by DC & Chairperson/ DCPS (Preferably from the respected community members and the civil society representatives of the block area)	Member

6. Role of NGO:

In course of visit to Hailakandi district it has been observed that there are many a NGOs in the district but according to Ms. Anima Baruah, District Social Welfare Officer, Hailakandi there is

only one NGO working seriously in the field of child protection issues. As per the geographic location of the district services pertaining to child protection are inaccessible to the people of remote areas specially tea gardens and border areas.

Wodwichee has been working in the district from 1993. They have some programmes catering to child protection issues like: Running Composite Centre for Working Children, Creche, and Children Home. In case of composite centre for working children it was initiated by the organization in order to bring the working children back to mainstream. It may be mentioned that many children are poor family either pushed into petty jobs or they themselves escaped from the house in lure of small earning and get engaged in tea stalls, construction site, diseal auto etc. This training centre generates different supportive activities like:

- a) Bridge education to children,
- b) Vocational training to children,
- c) Nutritional support,
- d) Medical aid and Counselling,
- e) Monthly stipend to the children,
- f) Recreational and rehabilitation facility.

Wodwichee is running six Centres under Rajib Gandhi National Crèche Scheme at villages e.g. Lakshirband, Bishnugarh, Sibuttar, Nischintapur, Kanchanpur and Balikandi at Hailakandi district.

7. Information from primary sources:

Five blocks (Hailakandi, Algapur, Lala, Katlicherra & South Hailakandi) of Hailakandi district were taken up for collection of data on overall child protection issues. Two GPs were selected out of each of those five blocks and three vulnerable villages under each GP. In order to get primary data on the existing issues of child protection mechanism, parents who have children aged between 0-18 years staying with them and community leaders were taken as the sample of the survey.

The data was collected in the following way:

- i. Semi -structured questionnaire based on both quantitative and qualitative matrix to capture all relevant information about the overall child protection scenario within the District;
- ii. Individual interviews & FGDs with the Government functionaries like District level officials, Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officer, Supervisor, Anganwadi workers, ASHA worker, Teachers of SSA and primary schools, staffs of RSTC;
- iii. Focus group discussion with the mothers, PRI members, members of NGOs to secure information about the accessibility of support services and basic awareness about the child protection mechanism;
- iv. Interview with key informants like:
 - Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi,
 - Principal Magistrate, JJB,
 - Additional Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi,
 - Addl. CM & H O (F.W),

- Chairperson, CWC,
- Additional Superintendent of Police,

The primary data was collected in order to assess the existing service delivery mechanism in terms of overall child protection issues and to identify most vulnerable areas of the five blocks of the district. Analysing the present gaps the vulnerable areas are as follows:

Sl. No.	CP Issues	Vulnerable Blocks	Vulnerable GPs	Vulnerable Villages
1	Child Labour	Hailakandi, Algapur, Lala	Nitainagar, Bhtirkupa, Ratanpur, Bansbari, Sayed Band, Chandipur, Lalamukh, Gaglacherra, Bowarghat, Nichintapur	Nitainagar Part III, Ujankupa Part I, Sibuttar, Bhatirkupa Part II, Bishnugarh, Purba Sonapur, Matigram, Sayed Band Part II, Manacherra, Gaglacherra Vichimgeha
2	School Drop out	South Hailakandi, Katlicherra, Lala	Nitainagar, Bhtirkupa, Ratanpur, Bansbari, Barbond, Barun Cherra	Choto Jamira, Alekgendarpur, Killar Band, Matigram
3	Child Marriage	Lala, Katlicherra	Lalamukh, Katlicherra	Gaglacherra T.E, Monacherra
4	Substance abuse	South Hailakandi	Gharmora Barmora, Kukicherra, Nandagram	Killerband II, Choto Jamira
5	Child trafficking	South Hailakandi	Janlacherra, Kukicherra, Rifelmara, Barun Cherra, Baldabuldi	Killerband II, Choto Jamira

8. Major Gaps:

- No Observation Home and Children's Home for JCL and CNCP respectively under JJ Act in the district;
- There is no SAA working in the districts seems inadequate to facilitate non-institutional care facilities for children under ICPS;
- There is no CHILDLINE in the district;
- The nearest children home is at Silchar run by Wodwichee cater to three district of Barak Valley with a capacity of 25 children only. Hence, the poor guardian, especially who live in remote areas find it quite difficult to keep contact with their children;
- Children are employed in the tea gardens by their parents to support their family income;
- There is no Shelter Home for boys or girls, where the rescued children can be placed for immediate care and support;
- Overall lack of awareness of the community, NGOs and other stakeholders about the role and responsibilities of the Juvenile Justice System and ICPS;
- People's knowledge about various Government schemes/programmes like self-employment, wage employment, housing etc. is quite poor;
- The fund which is provided for the awareness programme is very less. It is difficult to arrange sensitization programme in the district;

- Irregular fund flow of DCPC staff;
- To address the problems of child labour, the lack of inter-departmental coordination has been observed;
- There is lack of intervention and protection programme for the street children, child labour, migrant children, CDWs etc;
- There are also no services for the children affected by HIV/AIDS and no specialized care facilities for children who are mentally challenged although Wodwichee is working in this regard and there is approach from Education Department in proposal stage.
- Issues related to drug abuse, HIV/AIDS etc needs more attention;
- There is hardly any NGO working in the field of Child Protection except Wodwichee in the district;
- Social Welfare Department has no list of registered NGOs in the district;
- Lack of Crèche facilities in the district;
- Non-availability of Open Shelter in the district;
- Poor ICDS services is a major concern of the district;
- Education system is very poor in rural areas (specially School timing and Mid-Day Meal);
- Recruitment of staff in DCPU;
- PRI members are not found in GP office. They worked from their home;

9. Plan of Action:

A. Proposals for New Projects for 2014-15:

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Unit	Target Group	Place	Capacity	Proposed Budget
1	Children home for boys	1	CNCP (Boys)	District HQ	50 (10 children for Special Need)	As per referred budget under ICPS
2	Children home for girls	1	CNCP (Girls)	District HQ	50 (10 children for Special Need)	
3	Observation & Special home for Boys	1	JCL (Boys)	District HQ	25+25 (10 children for Special Need)	
4	Observation & Special home for Girls	1	JCL (Girls)	District HQ	25+25 (10 children for Special Need)	
5	Open shelter (DCPU should complete the process for identification of the NGO)	2	Boys (1), Girls (1)	Hailakandi block & Katlicherra Block	25 each	
6	SAA (DCPU should complete the process for identification of the NGO)	1	CNCP	District HQ	10	
7	CHILDLINE	1	CNCP	District HQ		

B. Plan for Training & Capacity Building:

Sl. No.	Major theme of Training	Contents	Place (Mention Area)	Target Group	No. of Participants	No of training/ Duration	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
1	District level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	JJA, ICPS, POCSO, ITPA, CLPRA, PCMA	District Head quarter	Police CWC JJB DCPU CHILDLINE SAA NGOs	50	4 One day	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory	Better understanding of child protection mechanism and smooth execution of the same	As per referred budget under ICPS

Sl. No.	Major theme of Training	Contents	Place (Mention Area)	Target Group	No. of Participants	No of training/ Duration	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
2	Block Level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	Child rights, Combating mechanism of child trafficking, child marriage & child labour under ICPS and JJA	Hailakandi block	PRI ICDS ASHA Educational Volunteers SHGs NGOs	100	One day X 2 unit	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory Campaign TFD	Generate awareness on overall child protection issues & smooth functioning of BLCPC & VLCPC	As per referred budget under ICPS
3	Block Level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	Child rights, Combating mechanism of child trafficking, child marriage & child labour under ICPS and JJA	Katlicherra block	PRI ICDS ASHA Educational Volunteers SHGs NGOs	100	One day X 2 unit	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory Campaign TFD	Generate awareness on overall child protection issues & smooth functioning of BLCPC & VLCPC	As per referred budget under ICPS
4	Block Level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	Child rights, Combating mechanism of child trafficking, child marriage & child labour under ICPS and JJA	Lala Block	PRI ICDS ASHA Educational Volunteers SHGs NGOs	100	One day X 2 unit	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory Campaign TFD	Generate awareness on overall child protection issues & smooth functioning of BLCPC & VLCPC	As per referred budget under ICPS

Sl. No.	Major theme of Training	Contents	Place (Mention Area)	Target Group	No. of Participants	No of training/ Duration	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
5	Block Level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	Child rights, Combating mechanism of child trafficking, child marriage & child labour under ICPS and JJA	Algapur Block	PRI ICDS ASHA Educational Volunteers SHGs NGOs	100	One day X 2 unit	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory Campaign TFD	Generate awareness on overall child protection issues & smooth functioning of BLCPC & VLCPC	As per referred budget under ICPS
6	Block Level capacity building on overall child protection mechanism	Child rights, Combating mechanism of child trafficking, child marriage & child labour under ICPS and JJA	South Hailakandi block	PRI ICDS ASHA Educational Volunteers SHGs NGOs	100	One day X 2 unit	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory Campaign TFD	Generate awareness on overall child protection issues & smooth functioning of BLCPC & VLCPC	As per referred budget under ICPS

C. Plan for Advocacy, Awareness, Campaign & Sensitization:

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity	Place (Mention Area)	No. of Unit	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
1	Preparation of IEC materials for awareness campaign	Hailakandi block, Algapur block, Lala block, katlicherra block & South Hailakandi block	5	DCPU shall negotiate with SCPS to identify concerned institutions	Awareness on Child Protection issues would be enhanced among community	As per referred budget under ICPS

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity	Place (Mention Area)	No. of Unit	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
2	Establishment of new Crèches for the children mainly in the rural areas, Tea gardens and brick kilns	Gaglacherra T.E.; Serespur TE; Bandukmana TE; Dholai Bagan; Sultanicherra TE; Manipur Bagan; Vernerpur TE;	10	DCPU shall negotiate with the Assam State Social Welfare Board for establishing crèches	Children will be in safety net	State Welfare Assam Social Board,
3	Campaign on Alternative care	Hailakandi block, Algapur block, Lala block, katlicherra block & South Hailakandi block	2 X 5 blocks	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory TFD Distributing Posters	Clear understanding of adoption process will be generated among community along with knowledge about sponsorship, foster care and aftercare	As per referred budget under ICPS
4	Campaign against child labour	Hailakandi block, Algapur block, Lala block	2 X 3 blocks	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory TFD Distributing Posters, Rally	Would ensure protection and support to all child labour for safe rescue, effective rehabilitation and sustainable reintegration and would reduce the number of child labour in the district.	As per referred budget under ICPS
5	Special campaign on child marriage to be undertaken in minority belts and areas dominated by the tea tribes	Lalamukh GP under Lala Block; Katlicherra GP under Katlicherra Block, South Hailakandi block	2 X 5 blocks	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory TFD	Would reduce the number of child marriage cases in concerned areas.	As per referred budget under ICPS

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity	Place (Mention Area)	No. of Unit	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
				Distributing Posters, Rally		
6	Special drive should be initiated by AWWs, SSKs in vulnerable pockets like the Tea gardens, Brick Kilns, Border Areas to provide education and health care services to the children	Hailakandi block, Algapur block, Lala block, katlicherra block & South Hailakandi block	2 X 5 blocks	Lecture Audio-Visual Participatory TFD Distributing Posters, Rally	Reduce vulnerabilities of children in terms of SNP, Education and health hazards	SSA & DSW
7	Formation of Block level Child Protection Committee at five blocks of the district	Hailakandi block, Algapur block, Lala block, katlicherra block & South Hailakandi block	5	DCPU shall negotiate with Block administration	Smooth operation of DCPU	As per referred budget under ICPS
8	Formation of Village level Child Protection Committee in most vulnerable villages	Nitainagar Part III, Ujankupa Part I, Sibuttar, Bhatirkupa Part II, Bishnugarh, Purba Sonapur, Matigram, Sayed Band Part II, Manacherra, Gaglacherra, Vichimgeha etc.	30	DCPU shall negotiate with PRI	Smooth operation of DCPU	As per referred budget under ICPS

D. Plan for survey/assessment

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity	Place (Mention Area)	No. of Unit	Methodology	Expected Outcome	Budget
1	Conducting Survey on Child labour	District level	1	Framing Proposal in consultation with SCPS & Labour Dept.	Clear perception of the prevailing situation of child labour in the district	As per referred budget under ICPS
2	Conducting Survey on school dropout children	District level	1	Framing Proposal in consultation with SCPS & SSA.	Arresting gaps in service delivery approach	As per referred budget under ICPS

Budget: Annexed