



## PROJECT MISSING CHILD ALERT



### BACKGROUND

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, on average, 100,000 children go missing every year in India with as much as 55% of these missing children being girls. Out of these, 45% remain untraced.

Amongst the states in India, West Bengal recorded the highest number of missing children with more than 12,000 reported missing in 2011. Data from the Ministry of Home Affairs reports that between 2012 – 2015, a total of 39,000 boys and 67,600 girls remained untraced.



### ABOUT THE PROJECT



Missing Child Alert is a project responding to the grave issue of child trafficking and child labour in South Asia. Led by Plan International and South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) with financial support from Nationale Postcode Loterij, Netherlands, the project is currently being implemented in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

In India, the project covers 10 districts of West Bengal and 14 districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. 3 districts of Morang, Makwanpur and Banke are the areas of operation in Nepal with 2 districts, 5 sub-districts and 20 unions covered under the project in Bangladesh.

A formal agreement between the three states, SAARC-SAIEVAC and other grassroots organisations focuses on developing a regional cross border preventive child trafficking alert system. The project works closely with the

Ministry of Women and Child Development, State level Child Welfare Committees and local police departments to strengthen regional instruments and policies to ensure justice.



## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Establishing an alliance with the National Informatics Centre, State Legal Service Authority (SLSA), the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs to tackle issues of child trafficking
- Strengthening of Village Level Child Protection Centres in various communities
- Developing training manuals on para-legal volunteers in coordination with the SLSA
- Training of Law Enforcement Personnel at border districts to tackle the issue of child trafficking
- Organising the first tri-lateral convention with the Governments of India, Bangladesh and Nepal to share recommendations made by the feasibility study of the project and to develop broad strategies for project implementation
- Mapping of service providers to support victims of trafficking across the project area was undertaken successfully
- Research aimed at addressing legal reforms and supporting regional actions for protecting the rights of missing children was conducted



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 400 children were intercepted at two Indo-Nepal border points and one on the Indo-Bangladesh border
- 78 children were prevented from unsafe cross border movement (potentially being trafficked)
- 39 survivors of Bangladeshi origin and 17 survivors of Nepali origin have been repatriated from India
- MCA partner organisations are now members of the task force appointed by the Government of India to implement the Standard Operating Procedure for repatriation of victims of child trafficking between India and Bangladesh
- Child Friendly Police Stations and Child Assistance Booths at border districts in India have been established
- A National Steering Committee led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Govt. of Bangladesh has been formed
- A Repatriation Information Management System (RIMS) to facilitate the repatriation process of trafficking survivors from India to Bangladesh and Nepal has been developed for the project

