Nobody wants to see children harmed or hurt, yet in India, nearly 100,000 children go missing every year. Over a million children are reported to be victims of trafficking, 45% of girls marry before the age of 18, and a child is sexually assaulted every 30 minutes. Protecting a child from being harmed rarely features in the mainstream of development dialogue. This has to change.

In hotspot districts, where the incidence of child harm is high, Aangan builds and strengthens child protection systems to ensure that the most vulnerable children are safe, supported, in school, and assured of childhoods free from trafficking, child marriage, hazardous work, violence, and exploitation.

Our work is located in 7 hotspot districts where child harm is high:

- Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Patna, Bihar
- Gaya, Bihar
- Pakur, Jharkhand
- 24 North Parganas, West Bengal
- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded in 2002, Aangan worked for 10 years with rescued child survivors in government shelter homes in 16 states across India. We saw the brutality children experienced, and it inevitably drove us to the urgent work of prevention, to keeping children safe before they encounter harm. We are a diverse team of 108 people, passionate about what we do.

In 2018, we trained 6,163 women and engaged 1,854 officials to impact 1,60,484 children.

WE BELIEVE THAT CHILD PROTECTION SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS SO THAT EVERY CHILD IS SAFE EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY.
OUR WORK IN SHELTER HOMES

THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN RESCUED FROM TRAFFICKING, EXPLOITATION, AND ABUSE ARE LIVING IN DISMAL AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS IN HOMES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

A SAFE HAVEN FOR CHILDREN

Imagine if shelter homes were a welcoming and secure place for children who have been robbed of a safe childhood to heal, committed to the rights and needs of children residing there. Imagine if rescue homes addressed and nurtured the vulnerabilities that denied these children a safe space to grow up by providing them with the care and protection essential for their successful reintegration into mainstream society; offering them a fresh lease of life by giving them the opportunities to grow to their full potential.

Child care institutions (CCIs) were set up for this very purpose, but the abject reality is that conditions at these institutions are far from ideal. Thousands of children rescued from trafficking, exploitation, and abuse are living in dismal and dangerous conditions in CCIs across the country. Abuse, varying in forms and degrees of intensity, is rampant in CCIs.

GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

Yet, the neglect continues unabated, and children continue to live in a dreadful environment posing serious threats to their development and safety. Our founders realized that in the absence of regular monitoring, they would continue to be at high risk of being re-victimized or abused. This prompted them to set up Aangan and work towards improving the harsh prison-like facilities and make homes rehabilitative healing spaces. When Aangan started in 2002, 0 states had systems for monitoring/audit/third party inspections of CCIs. In the beginning, we expanded and focused our work primarily - across the state run CCIs in Maharashtra.

Aangan was operating in 15 CCIs in Mumbai/Maharashtra, working with rescued children, running psycho-social rehabilitation programs.
OUR MONITORING TOOL

IN 2009, AANGAN PIONEERED AND PILOTED A MONITORING AND ACTION METHODOLOGY IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF FOR REGULARIZING MONITORING OF CCIS

With an eye on regularizing monitoring of CCIs by simplifying the tools required for it, in 2009, we pioneered and piloted a monitoring and action methodology in collaboration with UNICEF.

Consequently, Aangan was appointed by Departments of Women/Child Development /Social Welfare across 17 states to use this and train ground staff and local officials on running CCIs as per the Juvenile Justice Act. As a result, Aangan introduced the Monitoring and Capacity Building tool in 368 CCIs and trained 13,500 staff in these institutions.

Focusing on ten key themes aligned to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Model Rules 2016 and UNCRC, the introduction of the methodology resulted in changes including improvements in nutrition and sanitation standards during the period of our association with State departments.

STANDARDS OF CARE 2.0

With the idea of encouraging State governments to adopt a “data-driven” approach to improving the standards of care in CCIs, we digitized our monitoring tool, and linked it to a central information repository to build a “data visualization dashboard”, presenting our findings in the form of actionable points and providing States with:

- Real time, reliable data on key indicators
- Identifying clear areas of improvement and strengths.
- With constructive, specific and actionable recommendations.

Our digitized tool has already been successful in improving the service quality of CCIs in the states of Assam and Nagaland. Soon, we will be replicating the success of this tool in all the states across India.