This year showed us more than ever the crucial importance of strengthening systems to create resilient communities. In the hotspots where we work, families face different crises every day: financial instability, the possibility that they may have to pull their children out of school or have them married early, the looming threat of trafficking, and more. Working with systems—both formal and informal—to ensure that every child is safe from any kind of vulnerability is our job every day of the year.

### IMPACT 2019-2020

#### Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community women volunteers partnered with Aangan in FY19-20 to ensure that children in hotspots for child harm had the tools they needed to access the right to a safe childhood.</th>
<th>Officials across police departments, schools, and municipalities partnered with these women to build their communities' resilience in the face of threats to child safety.</th>
<th>Actions were taken jointly by community women and these officials, who coordinated their efforts to create an ecosystem that would be able to prevent risks to children.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8846</strong></td>
<td><strong>4633</strong></td>
<td><strong>489</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Children were made safer and gained the knowledge, support, and network they needed to be able to stay in school, avoid early marriage, say no to hazardous labor, and avoid being trafficked.

### Harm Prevented

- **12,672** families registered in government programs & services for social security livelihood, & health to combat vulnerability & build resilience for times of crisis.
- **5,089** children were connected to bridge courses, vocational training, remedial courses, etc. to avert risks in their neighborhoods by ensuring that they stay in school.
- **6,296** children were connected in government programs & scholarships targeted at preventing child marriage & strengthening skill development to ensure current and future security.

#### Early Marriage

255 child marriages were delayed or averted through negotiation with the families of girls.

#### School Absence

1,318 out of school children were provided bridge schooling to make sure they were prepared for an age-appropriate grade level, and enrolled in school. Volunteers check in regularly with school staff to ensure that students continue to attend.

#### Hazardous Labor

Negotiations with family led to children reducing their hours of hazardous labor/week as an interim measure to quitting work completely. 89 children pulled out of hazardous labor completely.

### Children in Care

199 child care institutions in Odisha, Nagaland, and Assam used our tool for monitoring of shelter home to improve the conditions of shelter homes and ashramshalas (monasteries) for 40,460 children.
**URBAN SYSTEMS**

**Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Aangan trained 342 police officers & 1,151 school principals to ensure that they would be equipped to provide a comprehensive response to complaints of sexual harassment in schools, which will make the 237,000 children who attend these schools safer. Community groups worked with the municipal corporation and police to make safe spaces for women and girls a priority on the city’s agenda. They presented a plan to make 7 vulnerable pockets of the city safer, leading to a cross-sector initiative to install street lights in poorly lit areas, so girls won’t have to walk home alone in the dark.

**Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

The Varanasi Development Authority partnered with Aangan to include child protection in the agenda of 300 women’s savings groups. The Municipal Corporation endorsed this model as a comprehensive way to marry safety & financial security to ensure the long-term stability of adolescent girls in the district. 24,167 girls participated in peer groups to discuss challenges to achieving their career aspirations, come up with career plans, and connect with vocational trainings to be able to access employment opportunities in the future.

**POLICE SYSTEMS**

**Patna, Bihar**

Girls in Patna now present risks they face in their communities and recommend actions for addressing them to police officials at each of the district’s 67 stations each month. These women’s & girls’ boards ensure that child safety priorities are proactively built into the way the Bihar Police works, so that 254,465 children in the district are safe.

**Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

This year, we facilitated the first ever dialogue between police and school authorities in Bharatpur to determine a coordinated response to POCSO violations, allowing a wide variety of stakeholders working on behalf of children to communicate seamlessly. We also partnered with the Rajasthan Police to integrate child safety into the priorities of Community Liaison Groups, comprised of citizens who work closely with police to represent communities’ interests. We also enabled 106 women to join these groups (which so far have been exclusively male) for the first time in the state’s history, to ensure that the perspectives of children & women would be represented.

**INFORMAL SYSTEMS**

**All Hotspots**

Across the hotspots where we work, women volunteers have built relationships within their communities that allow them to guide families on decision-making that will determine their children’s future security. This deep sense of trust allows them to negotiate with families with children’s best interests in mind.

Preventing dangers like early marriage and hazardous labor is only possible due to the credibility and expertise that our women volunteers have built, and the ways in which they use their social capital to ensure that the informal systems that surround children are supportive and safe. This year, 9,484 families pledged to keep their children safe by supporting them to continue their education, and ensuring that they were not married before 18 years of age.