In 2018, Aangan impacted 2,654,487 vulnerable children across 7 districts in India.

1,258,711 Children reached through joint actions taken by officials and community women volunteers.

61,943 Children reached through Safety Groups.

77,673 Children reached through Family work with 44,372 families.

5,145 Children removed from harm.

3,716 Unsupervised children at risk of trafficking, kidnapping, running away, and abuse were enrolled in schools/aanganwadis.

436 Children whose families had fixed or planned marriages were identified and marriages stopped/delayed through negotiation.

964 Children engaged in hazardous work in home-based workshops/powerlooms/domestic work, construction work, etc. were removed from labour or their working hours were reduced. They were then enrolled in remedial sessions, informal education, bridge courses, etc.

29 Survivors of trafficking and sexual abuse were supported towards reintegration.

6,927 community women volunteers who jointly worked with 2,419 officials and 44,372 families in order to keep children safe.

In 2018, Aangan impacted 77,673 Children reached through joint actions taken by officials and community women volunteers in order to keep children safe.

Impact Report 2018-19

Patna
Gaya
Pakur
North 24 Parganas
Varanasi
Bharatpur
Mumbai

In 2018, Aangan trained 6,927 community women volunteers who jointly worked with 2,419 officials and 44,372 families in order to keep children safe.
In 2018, Aangan impacted vulnerable children across the following 7 districts in India in order to connect them to peer networks and keep them safe. They used Aangan’s SuperSMART Shakti curriculum to help girls understand the connection between empowerment, education, financial independence & keeping safe from harm like abuse, child marriage, exploitation, discrimination, and isolation. The women volunteers also connected adolescent boys to peer networks by using Aangan’s Asli Champion curriculum to encourage boys to challenge societal norms regarding gender roles and masculinity and helping them understand early warning signs of harm.

6,927 women volunteers enrolled

774 Community Safety Groups were established where the families, women volunteers and officials worked jointly to keep the children safe from harm.

61,943 children in community safety groups

Girls now believe that they can bring about a positive change in their communities.

92%

Girls who were part of the safety network made a safety plan for themselves by identifying safe and unsafe spaces and people, and came up with strategies to avert potentially harmful situations.

77%

Girls with whom we work with are now able to take part in household decision-making process, indicating improved agency and confidence:

36% (At the beginning of the year.)

66% (At the end of the year.)

Regular safety sessions with the boys also led to changes in attitude about gender roles

Because of the sessions, I can differentiate between safe and unsafe places. Now, I realize that some situations which I earlier used to perceive as commonplace are in fact unsafe.

-Chandni, a 13-year-old from Bihar

I don’t want to get married right now. I will study as much as I can and then I will work and support my parents on my own.

-Sunita, a 14-year-old from Varanasi

Boys who think hitting a girlfriend / wife is justifiable in some situations

- 42%

Boys who think a woman should tolerate violence if it means that it will keep her family together

- 11%

Adolescent girls and boys were 4 times more likely to have taken an active step to avert harm to themselves or their peers this year. They achieved this by ensuring that they themselves or their peers continue education, prevent child marriage by negotiating with family, report child harm cases to a teacher or community woman volunteer, etc.
Our women volunteers registered 44,372 families of the children in their community and worked actively strengthen these families. Our work with families comprised of:

18,756 Families linked to schemes / services such as Awas Yojana, Skill Development programme, Jeevika Yojana, etc. in order to enhance their future economic security.

15,094 Children linked to schemes / services such as Sukanya Samriddhi, Kishori Shakti, Kanya Uthan Yojana, Student scholarships, etc. as a step towards averting the risk of child marriage, dropping out of school etc.

565 Youth enrolled in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to provide them skill training and make them industry-ready, which in turn helps them to secure a better livelihood.

2,088 Families opened bank accounts thereby introducing them to a formal financial system, providing them access to affordable loans and promoting a habit of saving. This was done with an intent to avert multiple child harm risks that arise due to lack of access to financial resources.

1,864 Families linked to Post Office savings schemes thereby reducing financial vulnerability.

7,217 Migrating families linked to safe migration practices 921 community women volunteers conducted one-to-one safe migration planning. The women volunteers also involved community stakeholders such as the village Sarpanch, school principals, and local police officials in safe migration planning. The migrating families were made aware about the risks involved in case of labour migration, the relevant laws and policies for labour migrants, important documents to be carried while migrating, helpline number etc.

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Led by the women volunteers, families shared hyper-local community data with officials at 659 locations. As a result:

35 unsafe locations were made safe as the police increased patrolling

473 school authorities engaged children and parents on issues of child safety, working to address their concerns.

90 Panchayat Heads committed to preparing a list of migrating families to promote safe migration practices.

Access to and awareness about officials improved this year. We saw that across our districts:

74% Girls are now confident in approaching police officials for support in unsafe situations.

93% Families now believe that police officials are cooperative and helpful rather than harboring fear or suspicion of them.

82% Parents now feel comfortable in approaching school authorities to discuss issues of their children’s safety.

As a result of safety sessions with girls and boys, and the joint actions taken by families, women volunteers and officials:

83% Families are now confident that their child will be alert in the event of unexpected harm and can avert potential danger to himself or herself.

82% Families are confident about their ability to keep their child safe from all forms of harm, including trafficking, marriage, and labor.
Innovative Child Safety Interventions

Football Clubs Reclaimed Public Spaces

Police and women volunteers jointly created 21 football clubs for girls across 7 thanas in the state of Bihar to reclaim public spaces for children. With support from the Ward Member and Counsellor, 110 adolescent girls participated in this innovative strategy. These clubs acted as safe spaces for adolescent girls to meet, play, and engage in a dialogue on early warning signs of harm, risks of child marriage, and the importance of identifying trusted adults. Police officials facilitated these group discussions when the clubs were initially formed. These groups are now sustained by girls facilitating the group sessions themselves with support from women volunteers who keep regular track of these sessions and conversations among the girls.

Our Help Desk Prevented Children Going Missing

Frontline police officials and women volunteers came together to establish ‘Khoya Paya Help Desks’ and averted harm amongst 400 missing children through the 16 days of the Pitrapaksh festival. Regular announcements regarding the Help Desk and names of missing children were made throughout the day. Through such announcements and increased identification of children, 15 missing children cases were informally reported at these help desks every day. A total of 1000 ID cards were also issued to children in Bodhgaya, Vishnupad, Chandault, and Civil Line area.

Prior to the Mela, police officials and women volunteers received training by Aangan staff on various child protection laws and responses in cases of child harm. Later, police officials and women volunteers in turn conducted an awareness campaign to highlight the risks of children going missing at the festival and about the process of reporting at help desks.

This case is an example of how early reporting leads to prevention. This was also replicated in Shahpur, Kadamkuwan, Danapur, and Digha.

Removing Children from Labour with Relaxation Sessions

Community women volunteers identified 42 children from Dashashwamedh in Varanasi who were engaged in child labour. Our women volunteers, through counselling and awareness sessions, enrolled them in relaxation sessions to reduce their burden and decrease the number of hours they spent engaged in child labour. About 79% of these children are involved in begging, while 21% of the children work in selling diyas, garlands, etc. The children who beg for money either sit at the Ghats or collect money from tourists.

Out-of-School children Re-enrolled in Schools

Women volunteers conducted remedial sessions to prepare students for age-appropriate schooling and re-enrolled 557 out-of-school children in schools in Pakur district, Jharkhand. Remedial sessions not only helped these children to return to studies, but it also reduced their working hours by 2 hours per week.

Our volunteers had earlier identified 815 children who were out of school in Pakur and linked them to remedial classes. These children had dropped out of school mainly because they were either working in beedi rolling, brick kilns, agriculture and hotels or were migrating with family. Enrolment of 557 children out of the 815 identified child labourers was possible with regular sessions that involved persuasion and counselling of children and their families.

Officials Respond to Safety Concerns in Schools

A boundary wall was constructed around Rajkiya Aadarsh Uchh Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Luhasi, Nadbai through advocacy and liasoning efforts by adolescent girls associated with Aangan’s Bharosa Program. In one of the School Safety sessions led by the Station House Officer (SHO) in the area, the students discussed challenges for girls’ safety in the area. Diksha, along with other girls during the interaction, raised the concern of lack of privacy and feeling unsafe due to lack of a boundary wall around the school. Girls shared that men from the community took advantage of this and often used school hand pump to bathe and wash clothes. This often put girls in the school at risk of abuse. In fact, there were many instances when these community men had misbehaved with the girls playing in the school grounds.

This case is an example of how early reporting leads to prevention. This was also replicated in Shahpur, Kadamkuwan, Danapur, and Digha.

Migrating Families Tracked and Supported

After meeting with our women volunteers, Block Development Officers from two blocks in North 24 Parganas called for Panchayat-level meetings to discuss safe migration. Representatives across all the panchayats in the block participated and discussed the importance of maintaining a list of families at risk of unsafe migration, to track their status and ensure that they take steps to migrate safely. Aangan has trained 44 panchayats across the 8 blocks of North 24 Parganas, and the panchayats have committed to maintaining a list of migrating families using our migration kit, to ensure safer migration in the community.