



2023

Registered as Child Welfare
and Action Foundation

WAIC ANNUAL REPORT



WHERE
ARE
INDIA'S
CHILDREN?

2023

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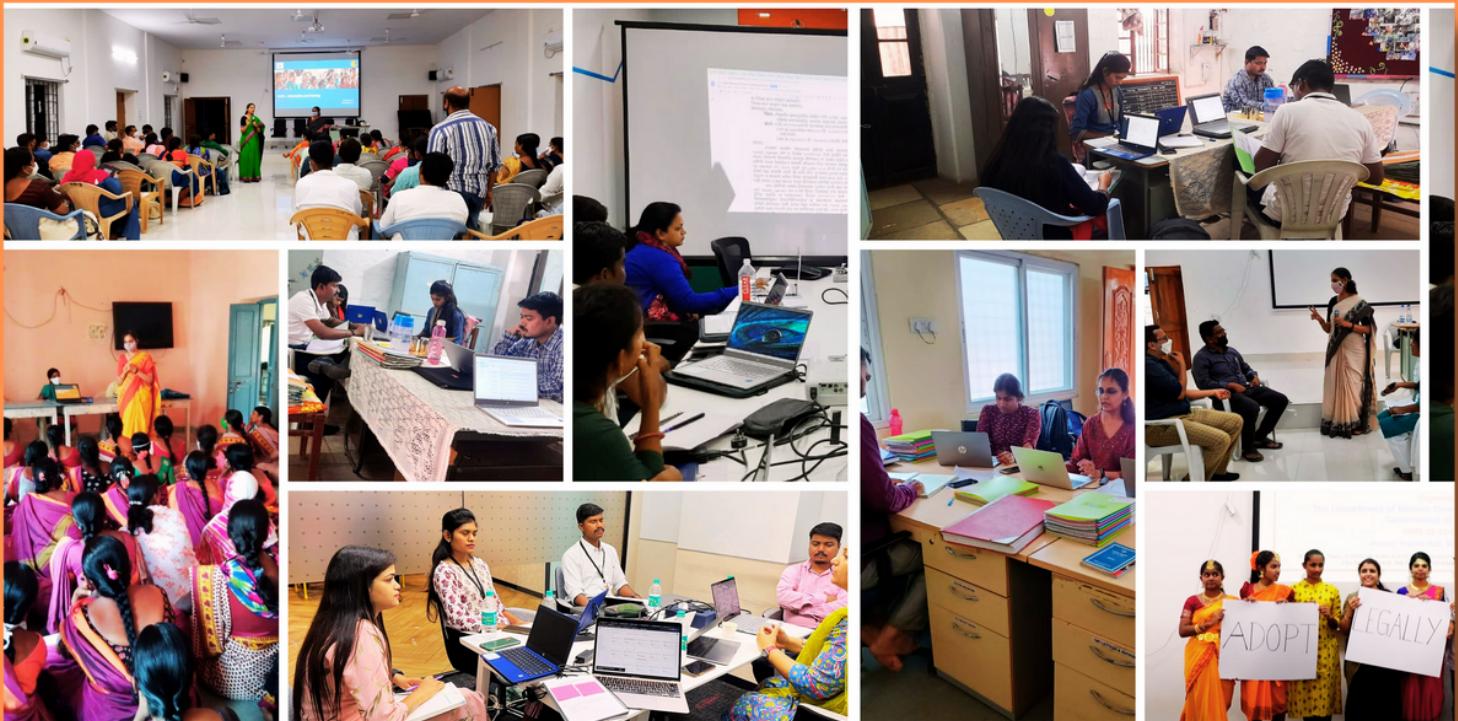


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*Photograph are for representation purpose only

Introduction

The number of children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs, a.k.a child shelters) ranges from 3.5 – 4 lakhs.

The number of children that are in the legal adoption pool at any point is barely 2100.

Where Are India's Children?

As of July 2023, there are over 34,000 prospective parents in India waiting for adoption referrals, but the number of children legally available for adoption is barely 2100.

Permanent solutions are possible. At WAIC, with the support of the local WCD governments, we are working to ensure that abandoned and orphaned children are accounted for and reach a positive outcome in the child's best interest.

WAIC has adopted a 3-Pronged Approach to tackle the challenges

Digitize records of the 4,00,000 Children in CCI and flag eligible children for adoption.

Sensitize and train over 30,000 relevant stakeholders.

Through research, representation, and public awareness, support authorities to make policy changes that govern the adoption mechanism.



*Photograph are for representation purpose only



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Message from our leaders



MEERA MARTHI
CEO & CO-FOUNDER



PROTIMA SHARMA
DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER



SMRITI GUPTA
CO-FOUNDER

We are thrilled to share that FY 2022-2023 was a groundbreaking year for WAIC - Child Welfare and Action Foundation. Our unwavering commitment to our cause propelled us to ink two strategic MoUs with the Governments of Maharashtra and Telangana. These agreements enable us to implement our innovative technology solution and work tirelessly in the field to ensure that eligible children enter the legal adoption pool.

As the effects of the global pandemic waned, we accelerated our efforts and substantially improved our technology solution, the Child Lifecycle Management Solution (CLMS). Thanks to our exceptional team, we were able to grow in headcount and expand our reach. We owe much of this progress to The Nudge Institute, which selected us to participate in their Accelerator program. Subsequently, we received grants from D4GX (Data for Good Exchange), backed by Dasra and Bloomberg Foundation. Our partnership with the Azim Premji Foundation further strengthens our resolve to support children in Maharashtra this coming year.

Over 160 children
have moved into the
legal adoption pool.
52 have found their
forever families.

As we embark on the new
financial year, we are filled
with hope, enthusiasm, and
confidence. We will work
tirelessly to continue making a
positive impact on the lives of
children in shelters!

What we do!

WAIC (Where Are India's Children) is working for a child's right to a family.

Our technology solution, Child Lifecycle Management Solution(CLMS) has been developed to solve challenges of human failure points. We use CLMS to digitize, manage, track, and audit the ground-level processes of children in CCIs. CLMS has been developed as an Open Source technology solution which can be used by Child Care Institution(CCIs), and relevant government bodies, to manage the status of all vulnerable children who reach CCIs, and to ensure the movement of children into the legal adoption pool where applicable, giving all children a chance to reach their forever family.

We have
created 20 categories
to classify a child based on
the child's guardian status.

The WAIC team uses CLMS to enter data, update data, and track the children's cases till they reach the CARINGS portal.



Programs



**Photograph are for representation purpose only*

WAIC (Where Are India's Children) is working for a child's right to a family. We have signed MoUs and are deploying our technology-enabled fieldwork in Maharashtra, Telangana, and Karnataka for a child's right to family.

Maharashtra



In Maharashtra, we work in identifying Abandoned and Orphaned Children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs aka Child Shelters) and Supporting their Movement into the Legal Adoption Pool using our technology solution CLMS and extensive fieldwork. With the support of the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in Maharashtra, along with our partner, we are working in 13 districts and plan to continue working till we cover the entire State.

Telangana

We work very closely with the WCD department in Telangana. We are their partners in improving the adoption ecosystem in the State. Presently, WAIC is working on digitising records of children using our tech solution, CLMS, identifying eligible children for adoption and working with local district authorities to get them legally free to be adopted. We are working in 12 districts of Telangana.



Research and Advocacy

WAIC has been working on the ground for the past 18 months and has digitized data of close to 11000+ children to date.

The Jena Committee Report 2018 showed 55000+ potentially adoptable children languishing in CCIs. Abandoned, orphaned, and other vulnerable children NOT evaluated for adoption eligibility.

WAIC HAS STUDIED CASES OF 2834 CHILDREN IN CCIS. KEY FINDINGS



25%

children have had no family visits since they were admitted to CCIs



15%

children are abandoned, their family is not traceable, or they are orphaned with no guardians



68%

children have a parent, who may or may not be interested in the child



17%

children are orphans who have been left in shelters by their relatives



4.3 years

is the average length of time children have spent in CCIs so far



7%

children had a family visit more than a year ago. Gradual abandonment is real but unrecognised

JJ Act's definition of an orphan child is open to interpretation on the ground.

Nothing is defined for neglected children in CCIs.

Currently, only 1 of every 200 children in CCIs gets evaluated and become legally adoptable.

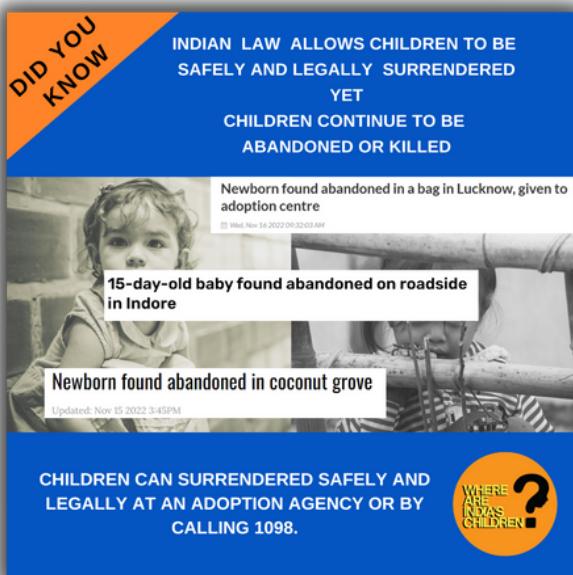
According to our work and study here are some of the changes that can be made in the JJ Act.

- Minimum Visitation requirement
- Define neglect & cruelty by parents/Guardians
- Termination Of Parents/Guardians rights
- Define Permanent Plan
- Mandated Reviews/Permanency Hearing
- Child's Right to a Family
- Allow only linked CCIs to accept children

We will continue to present these changes in front of the WCD Department to ensure a child's right to a family is fulfilled.

Campaign

#SafeSurrender



November is celebrated as Adoption Awareness Month internationally, which was an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about Safe Surrender and promote the well-being of children.



As a society, we judge and shame parents or guardians who are unable or unwilling to raise their children. This judgement ultimately hurts the child. Instead, we should create awareness about #SafeSurrender and guide a vulnerable parent/guardian to the nearest adoption agency if such a need arises.



The Women Development & Child Welfare Department in Telangana is celebrating the legally free adoption of 1.4k children since 2014.

By using the arts to convey important messages about the adoption process and the benefits of adoption, the event likely reached a wider audience and created a lasting impression on attendees., which WAIC was proud to support



Measuring Progress

Impact

Every child in the states we work in is evaluated to get a chance to reach a family through long-term changes made to the adoption ecosystem. Every child in shelters is accounted for and no child languishes in shelters unnecessarily.

 01

Children's records digitised

Till date, 11000+ children's records have been made visible through our tech solution, Child Lifecycle Management Solution

 02

Recommended for adoption evaluation

3900+ children have been recommended for adoption evaluation based on indicators like guardian status and visitation frequency

 03

Active Cases of Children being worked on

Our team on the ground is actively working on close to 300+ cases of children from the recommended children

 04

Children who are in the legal adoption pool

We supported the local WCD authorities and enabled 160+ Children entry into the legal adoption pool

 05

Children got adopted and reached families

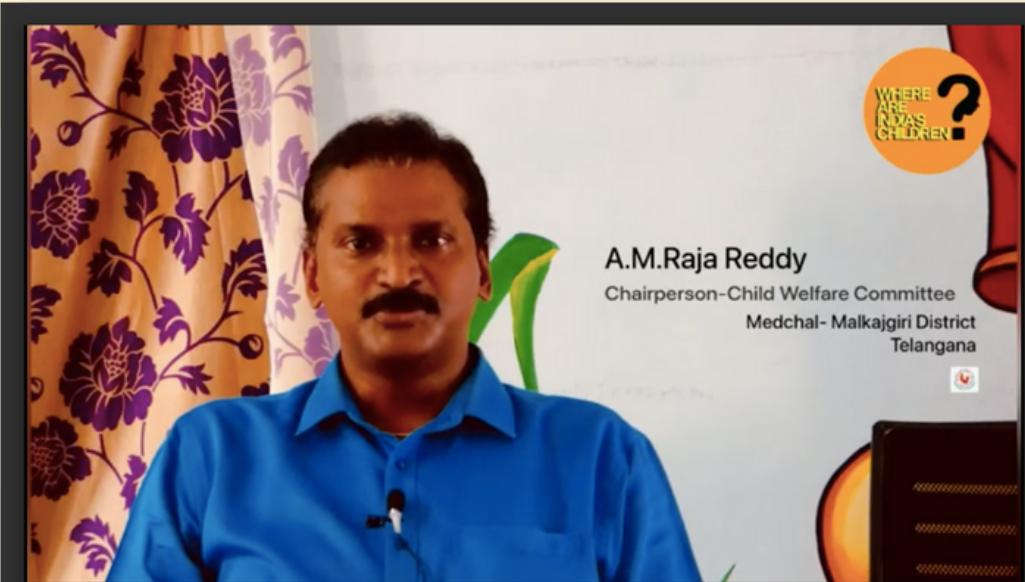
37+ children have reached their forever families

 06

Children reserved for adoption

14 Children have been reserved by inter-country parents and will reach their families soon

What our Government Partners are saying



"There are children ready to be adopted and there are parents ready to adopt. The technology will bridge the gap and connect these two. It will be a big boon to the society as more children will get into the right path once adopted instead of potentially getting into wrong paths in life. WAIC can make a big impact on the adoption process."



It's heartening to hear that the work done by Where are India's Children has been appreciated and that the organization has been able to make a positive impact on the lives of children in need of rehabilitation. Working closely with the Child Welfare Committee is essential in ensuring that the organization's efforts are aligned with the needs of the community and that the welfare of children is prioritized at all times. It's positive to hear that the work done in collaboration with the CWC in Aurangabad has been a matter of pride.

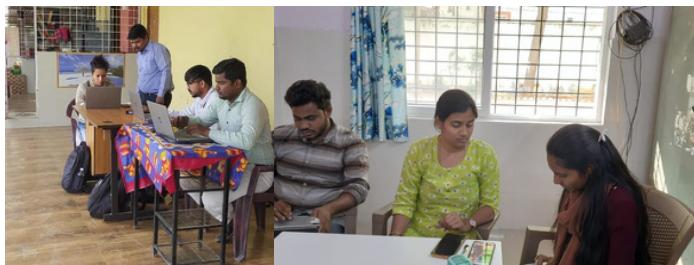
On ground activities

At WAIC, we believe that every child deserves a loving and supportive family, and we work tirelessly to make this a reality.



Training

Over 30,000 relevant stakeholders need to be sensitized and trained. We have just begun by training close to 400+ stakeholders



Team

WAIC team visits CCIs to collect data in CLMS and process recommended children for adoption.



Campaigns

#SafeSurrender Awareness Campaigns and the 2022 and 2023 Fundraiser to help get hundreds of children urgently out of shelters and into families.

Success Stories

Pallavi* was found in a railway station when she was 5 years old. Her process was started, and a paper notification was given, but the child was not declared legally free for adoption. She faced obstacles in being declared legally free for adoption. WAIC supported the WCD in identifying this child, Pallavi was finally declared legally free and found her loving forever family in 2022. Pallavi's journey to finding a loving family took four years, but with the intervention of WAIC, it has been expedited. * Name changed to protect privacy.



Siblings Laxmi* and Pallavi* were admitted to the CCI when they were 5 and 3 years old. 12 and 10 years old were reserved for adoption. Both siblings came to the CCI when they were 5 and 3 years old. The paperwork mentioned surrender by family and no family visits for 6 years. but the children were missed for adoption evaluation. WAIC supported WCD in identifying these for these children. The CWC ordered the necessary steps, and the siblings reached the adoption pool in 2022. The siblings have been reserved for inter-country adoption and are waiting to reach their family once the process completes. * Names changed to protect privacy.



**As of today we are supported by
Azim Premji Foundation
(April 2023-Ongoing)
-Nudge Accelerator Program
(Sept 2022-Ongoing)
-Winner of Data for
Good Exchange (D4GX)
Prize (Dec 2022-Ongoing)
-Finalist of AGAMI
Idea Prize
(November 2022)**

**Deployment of Project Mumkin in
Maharashtra and Telangana
Approvals from the Centre to commence
our work in Madhya Pradesh and
Karnataka
Presentation to WCD on policy changes
Organization building underway at WAIC
to strengthen team and overall reach.**

WAIC is registered as Child Welfare and Action Foundation. Donations to WAIC are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act

**Support Us!
Your Help Will Transform The Lives Of
Millions Of Children In India.**

Contact

**Where Are India's Children
Registered as Child Welfare and Action
Foundation.**



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BANK DETAILS RIGHT AWAY.**