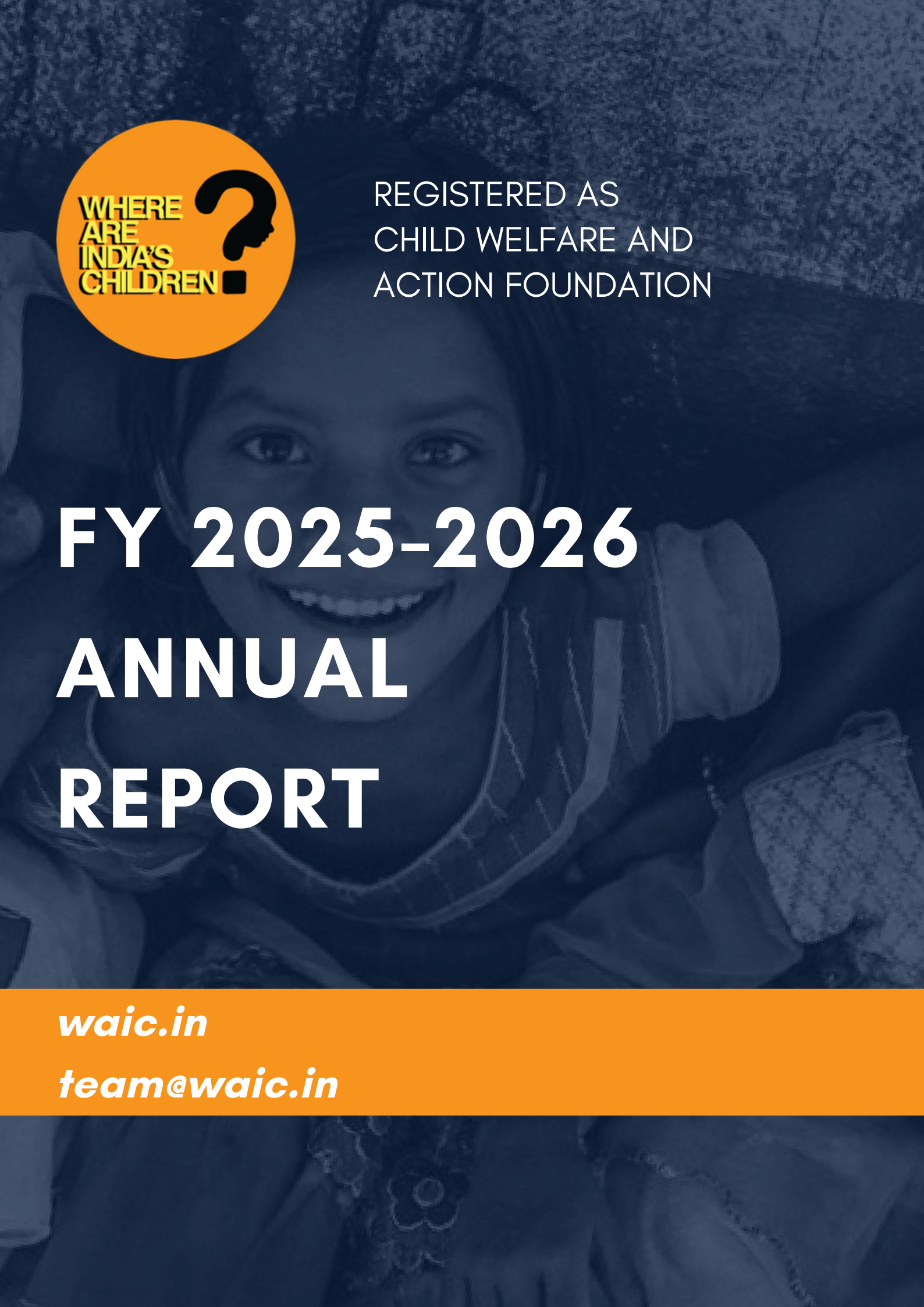


REGISTERED AS
CHILD WELFARE AND
ACTION FOUNDATION

FY 2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

waic.in

team@waic.in

Table of Contents

Our Champions	3
Founders Corner	4
Vision and Mission	5
Our Approach	6
Stories from the field	7
Highlights of the year	11
Impact in Numbers	12
Stakeholder Interactions	13
Capacity Building Sessions	14
Parent Preparation Sessions	15
Fundraiser Event	16
Financials at a glance	17
Donations at a glance	18
Partnerships & Supporters	19
Looking Ahead	20
Summary	21

OUR CHAMPIONS


Altamash


Amit


Amritha


Ann


Chalapathi


Kamlesh


Kavya


Pradnya


Prasanna


Premalatha


Purender


Ramesh


Ravi


Sanjay


Santhosh


Shahadev


Shivaji


Shivaraja


Shreyas


Shubham


Vishwas

The WAIC team is passionate, dedicated, and an asset, and they are the pride of the organisation. Fieldwork is particularly challenging because it involves working with multiple stakeholders, shifting mindsets, and following a thorough legal process. Most importantly, we must ensure we respect everyone's roles and boundaries.

This includes a committed support team for admin and finance activities to ensure compliance, which is as important as our programs.

We are grateful for their dedication and never-give-up attitude!

FOUNDERS CORNER



MEERA MARTHI
CEO & CO-FOUNDER



PROTIMA SHARMA
DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER



SMRITI GUPTA
CO-FOUNDER

FY 2025-2026 was a year of starting new programs while approaching the old ones afresh. Together with the WCD departments of Maharashtra, Telangana, and Karnataka, our team continued to leverage technology and fieldwork to bring more eligible children into the legal adoption pool — and closer to the families they deserve.

This year, we also took a significant step, launching the Safe Surrender Awareness Program to reach communities at the grassroots level. We began with household surveys across 10 villages through Panchayat Gram Sabhas and Self-Help Groups. Six months in, we were honest with ourselves — the surveys were not yielding the results we had hoped for. So we pivoted. We shifted our focus to training Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and ANMs.

None of this is possible without our team. 22 people who believe in this work as deeply as we do, who show up every day, and who make every milestone possible.

Our six Child Protection Patrons stood firmly by our side once again — a sustained, five-year commitment; so did our individual donors, whose year-on-year renewal of trust is perhaps the most meaningful vote of confidence we receive. We are grateful to Smt Ranjani and Smt Gayatri for performing in the fundraising event that brought us more supporters.

We are grateful to the Azim Premji Foundation for a partnership that has meaningfully strengthened our work in Karnataka, and to Dr Reddy's Laboratories CSR for enabling us to work across CCIs in Maharashtra. Our thanks go to Linkwell Telesystems, ShipConsole, and FutureThoughts for their continued support — and to the Tarachand Ramnath Seva Trust for supporting our org building capacity.

This year was about people coming together — our team, our government partners, and our donors — all choosing to believe in our vision and mission. That belief is what moves this work forward. We look forward to the coming year with renewed hope, enthusiasm, and confidence because *every child deserves a family*!

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision is that Every child in India is assured a right to family through long-term changes made to the adoption ecosystem. Every child in shelters is accounted for and no child languishes in shelters unnecessarily.

Our mission is to make every child in India's shelters visible to the authorities through digitisation. Evaluate children for adoption eligibility and enable policy changes for children living in shelters even when they have a family. Bring about a sustainable change through adoption-related training and public awareness.

WHY WAIC

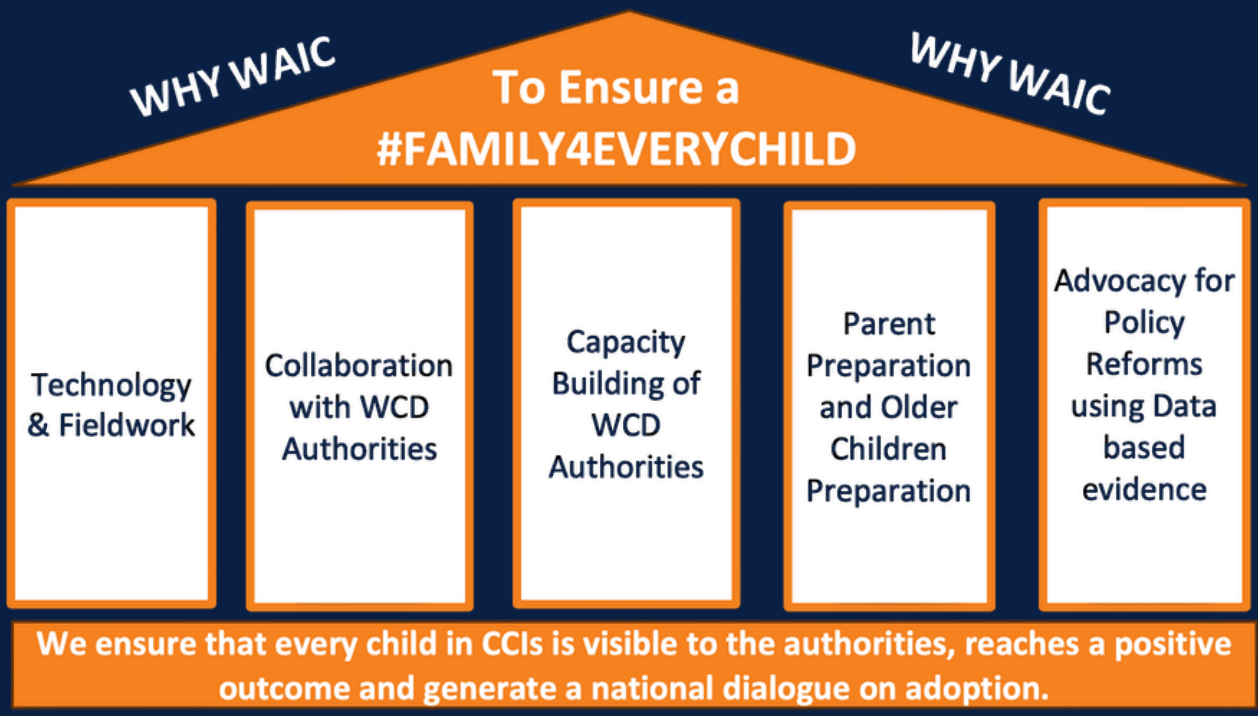
When we think of childhood, we think of love, laughter, and being held and cared for. But for lakhs of children in our country, childhood looks very different. These are children who live in Child Care Institutions(CCIs). Many of them have been abandoned, some orphaned, others left behind by circumstances beyond their control. And yet, India has thousands of parents waiting and longing to adopt. So why are these two worlds — waiting children and waiting parents — not meeting?

That is the question that WAIC was born to answer.

At WAIC, we work with district and state authorities across Telangana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to ensure that children in shelters who are eligible for adoption are identified, evaluated, and placed into the legal adoption pool — the national database called CARINGS. Only then can a child be matched with a waiting family.

This process is not simple. It is time-consuming. It involves visiting every single Child Care Institution, digitising data, following up with government authorities, and ensuring that no child who is eligible slips through the cracks. It is quiet, invisible, painstaking work. But it is work that changes lives, and we have a passionate and dedicated team who do this every day, tireslessly.

OUR APPROACH



WAIC's Approach: Four Pillars of Intervention

- **Technology & Fieldwork** - We digitise and humanise the records of children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs), making them visible to decision-makers and ensuring no child is left behind in the system. Using this data, our dedicated team actively follows up on cases of children eligible for adoption, working on the ground to move them into the legal adoption pool.
- **Capacity Building & Training** - We collaborate with the WCD and equip CCIs, District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) with knowledge of the Juvenile Justice Act, pre-adoption processes, and adoption regulations—strengthening their capacity to protect children and uphold the adoption ecosystem.
- **Parent Preparation & Child Preparation** - We at WAIC realised it is not enough to ensure children reach the legal adoption pool. We need to prepare parents who are adopting children above 8 years, and at the same time prepare children for adoption.
- **Research, Advocacy & Campaigns** - We are the voices of vulnerable children through evidence-based advocacy, policy engagement, and community campaigns, including raising awareness about the Safe Surrender Law and creating acceptance for the adoption of older children, fostering a society that supports every child's right to family.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Meena's Journey from Abandonment to Belonging



Amit Deshmukh
Senior Project Associate

In 2019, four-year-old Meena was found abandoned at a place of worship. She could only tell those who found her her name. A good Samaritan brought her to the police, and the Child Welfare Committee placed her in a Children's Home for care and protection.

Medical tests revealed that Meena was HIV positive. She received treatment, protection, and dignity. A woman later came forward claiming to be her mother — but could produce no documents to establish her identity or her relationship with Meena, and never returned.

For years, Meena remained in institutional care. No path forward. No permanent family in sight.

In January 2023, a WAIC team member visited her CCI and identified Meena as a child who should be evaluated for adoption. WAIC requested the CWC and DCPU to review her case. Efforts to trace her family followed — her maternal grandmother and uncle were eventually located. Initially, both declined responsibility. With sustained support and counselling from WAIC and the DCPU, they agreed to surrender.

The CWC declared Meena legally free for adoption in December 2023, at the age of eight. Her Medical Examination Report and Child Study Report were completed, and she entered the legal adoption pool.

After a year of waiting, a prospective adoptive mother from abroad chose Meena — wholly and completely, including her HIV status.
In January 2026, after completing all legal formalities, eleven-year-old Meena finally found a family.

Meena's story reminds us that early identification, persistent family tracing, and inter-departmental coordination can turn years of institutional waiting into permanent belonging. Every child — regardless of age, health condition, or circumstance — deserves that chance.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Reintegration Journey of three siblings



Ravi
Project Associate

Three siblings: Sandhya, Shilpa, and Kushal. Their parents were migrant construction labourers, alcohol-dependent, and unable to provide even the basics — food, shelter, healthcare, education. In 2021, a community outreach worker found the children living with their mother in an under-construction building in Karnataka and rescued them. The CWC placed Sandhya and Shilpa in one CCI and Kushal in another.

Both parents disappeared after the admission. They moved from place to place for work and stopped visiting. The CCIs could not trace them.

For four years, the three siblings lived in institutional care without a single visit from family.

In December 2024, WAIC visited the CCIs as part of an adoption evaluation process. The team flagged the siblings' case — over four years in care, no family contact, parents untraceable — and reported it to the CWC. The CWC initiated the abandoned child procedure and started the abandoned process for the children. As part of that, paper publication and police traceability were initiated in April 2025.

In May 2025, the police located the father in another state. He appeared before the CWC and expressed willingness to take responsibility for his children. The CWC permitted a temporary placement with him during the summer vacation.

The children returned to their CCIs after the vacation to continue their education. The father has since begun visiting occasionally — a tentative but real step towards family reintegration, under the supervision of the CCIs.

Their story might not seem like a happy ending with the children still living in the CCIs, but the family was traced, and the children were reunited with the family — because someone looked, flagged, and refused to let four years of silence go unquestioned.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Years of Waiting, One Review, A Lifetime Changed



Ramesh
Project Associate

Rohan (Name Changed) was just 4 years old when he was rescued by the police, and the CWC admitted him to a CCI in November 2014. As his biological family could not be traced, Rohan continued to grow up in institutional care. For 8 years, though eligible for adoption, the process was unintentionally overlooked. Each birthday passed without parents, every festival was celebrated without the warmth of a family, and every passing year reduced the child's opportunity to experience family life.

In 2023, a WAIC team member reviewed the child's case and brought it to the attention of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for adoption evaluation. After examining the case, the authorities initiated the long-pending legal procedures. A newspaper publication was issued to trace the biological family, but nobody was traced. The police also could not trace his family. Rohan had to wait yet again before his Medical Examination Report was completed. The MER was delayed because of a spelling mistake in his name. WAIC team members continuously followed up with the DCPU, and the CCI coordinated with a government hospital, and Rohan's MER was eventually completed.

In April 2026 – twelve years after he was rescued – Rohan reached the legal adoption pool. Soon thereafter, a family came forward to adopt him. At the age of 16, when many believed the chances of adoption were limited, Rohan received the greatest gift of all—a forever family. In July 2026, at the age of 16, when most believed his chances had passed, Rohan walked out of institutional care and into a home filled with love, acceptance, and belonging.

This case is a powerful reminder that every child matters, and every child's case deserves timely attention. A single review of one forgotten file changed the course of an entire life. Although the years spent waiting can never be returned, the child's future has been transformed through collective efforts. This journey reminds us that it is never too late to change a child's life. No child should remain forgotten because of administrative delays, and every child—regardless of age—deserves the opportunity to grow up in the love, care, and protection of a forever family.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Importance of advocating for permanency and continuous follow ups



Prasanna
Project Associate

Ramya (name changed) lost her mother young. In 2023, her father died on a train. Still a child, she walked to the Railway Police Force herself and asked for help. The RPF personnel immediately acted and informed CHILDLINE about the orphaned child. CHILDLINE admitted her to a Government Girls Home for temporary care and protection.

CHILDLINE admitted her to a Government Girls Home for temporary care and protection.

Ramya was transferred to her native district. During the inquiry, the child's paternal grandmother and aunt were found, but both were unwilling to raise her and unable to do so financially. They were unwilling to surrender her, but also did not visit or connect with the child regularly.

In 2024, the WAIC team identified Ramya's case under the "No Visitation" category and began working with the DCPU and CWC on a permanent rehabilitation plan. W

DCPU and CWC officials visited the child's village and counselled the paternal grandmother. The grandmother refused, and Ramya herself expressed unwillingness to be adopted. Considering the child's views and the family's position, the CWC reviewed the matter and recorded that the child was not willing to go for adoption. This was in June 2024. WAIC did not give up. The team continued coordinating with the DCPU, encouraging repeated counselling sessions and home visits — patiently, consistently, over months. Slowly, something shifted. The grandmother began to see adoption differently. So did Ramya.

In October 2024, the grandmother formally surrendered her. Ramya could finally get the opportunity she deserved, but technical delays kept Ramya from the legal adoption pool for another year. In March 2026, at the age of 11, Ramya was finally in the legal adoption pool. Two months later, she was reserved — and in June 2026, she reached her forever family.

From a child who once said no — to a child who finally has a family. Sometimes, the most important thing is not to give up.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



A dedicated team of 19 field members, including 2 project managers, one project lead, and overseen by 1 Chief Program Officer, leads WAIC's on-the-ground efforts.

Our team visits all Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in their assigned districts and enters each child's data into CLMS. They then present children identified for adoption evaluation to local Women and Child Development (WCD) authorities, and collaborate closely to move eligible children into the legal adoption pool.

Beyond helping children enter the adoption pool, WAIC's work has facilitated family tracing, sibling reunions, and, when necessary, safe surrenders for children whose parents or guardians are unfit or unwilling to provide care. Through these efforts, WAIC ensures each child they work with has a chance of finding a safe, loving family.

Through the Safe Surrender Awareness Program, the team members conduct sessions to train community members, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and ANMs about the Safe Surrender law and educate them about the legal adoption process.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Maharashtra
- 35 Districts (322 CCIS)
- 15 declared free for adoption;
- 48 on the CARINGS portal
- 13 children reached families

Telangana
- 31 districts (253CCIs)
- 111 declared free for adoption
- 92 on the CARINGS portal
- 62 children reached families

Karnataka
- 34 districts (454CCIs)
- 54 declared free for adoption
- 41 on the CARINGS portal
- 34 reached families

Tech Upgrade
- CLMS V2.0 stabilised in MH, TS, and KA
- Ongoing Upgrades and Maintenance

Safe Surrender Awareness Program
- 1350 Household Surveys
- 354 Community Members

Institution Building
- Focus on Employee Well-being
- Cross-learning sessions between States
- Case Discussions

Impact Metric for 25-26

METRIC	NUMBER
Children's records digitized	24,000+ (1000+ CCIs)
Currently active cases with WAIC	500+
Children Declared Legally Adoptable by CWC	180
Children on the Mission Vatsalya Portal	181
Children adopted and reached families	109

Headcount – 23; Volunteers - 5

** Please note, children declared adoptable by the CWC reach the adoption pool only after their Medical Examination and Child Study Report is uploaded to the Mission Vatsalya Portal*

STAKEHOLDER INTERACTIONS



Our team meets with all the states' WCD SARA teams every month to update them on the progress, or lack thereof, in the state. This consistency has helped highlight the challenges we face on the ground. The SARA team then intervenes and instructs the on-ground WCD team to expedite the process for the children waiting to be reviewed and evaluated.

We met the Deputy Commissioner, WCD, MH, the Deputy Director, SARA, KA, and the Telangana Regional Joint Director to apprise them about the status of our work.

This year we started conducting debriefing sessions with the CCIs, DCPUs, and the CWCs when the digitisation and update of the data was completed in a district.

The debriefing session serves multiple purposes.

1. The team discusses the data with all the stakeholders in one meeting, which helps them know the current status in their district.
2. The classification of the child identified for adoption are discussed in detail.
3. The pre-adoption process of each classification is discussed and recommendations are given to the DCPU about the orders that should be given by the CWC.

CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS



The team consistently provides training when requested, either to the particular district stakeholders or the State.

WCD Karnataka invited WAIC for a 2-day State Orientation Program to provide training on the Adoption Evaluation process and the Foster Care to Foster Adoption process. The training was conducted under the aegis of CARA in Bengaluru. Over 180 participants attended the training.

We were invited by the Telangana WCD for a State Orientation Program to provide training on the Adoption Evaluation process and the Foster Care to Foster Adoption process. The training was conducted under the aegis of CARA in Hyderabad. Over 200 participants attended the training.

As a resource for the online refresher training conducted by CARA every quarter, WAIC conducted the training until the end of 2025.

PARENT PREPARATION SESSIONS









Parent Preparation Sessions are central to our mission of ensuring that every adoption is built on a foundation of understanding and care.

These sessions equip prospective parents with the knowledge, sensitivity, and tools needed to welcome an older child into their lives. They provide a space to explore the realities of adoption, address concerns, and learn trauma-informed practices that strengthen bonds. By preparing families emotionally and practically, we help ensure that children are embraced by parents who are resilient, compassionate, and ready for the journey. In doing so, we bring children closer to their right to a safe and loving family.

This year, we had varied sessions, from parents who adopted siblings above 10 years old to parents who adopted children with special needs. We also had the good fortune to have Dr Jagannath Pati - former Director of CARA speak to us about policy reforms, process, and gaps in the system.

FUNDRAISER EVENT



Last year, we organised our first fundraiser event with professional artistes— and we could not have asked for a more extraordinary beginning.

Padma Shri awardees Ranjani and Gayatri — the legendary Carnatic duo — graciously agreed to perform for WAIC in Hyderabad. It was a profound honour.

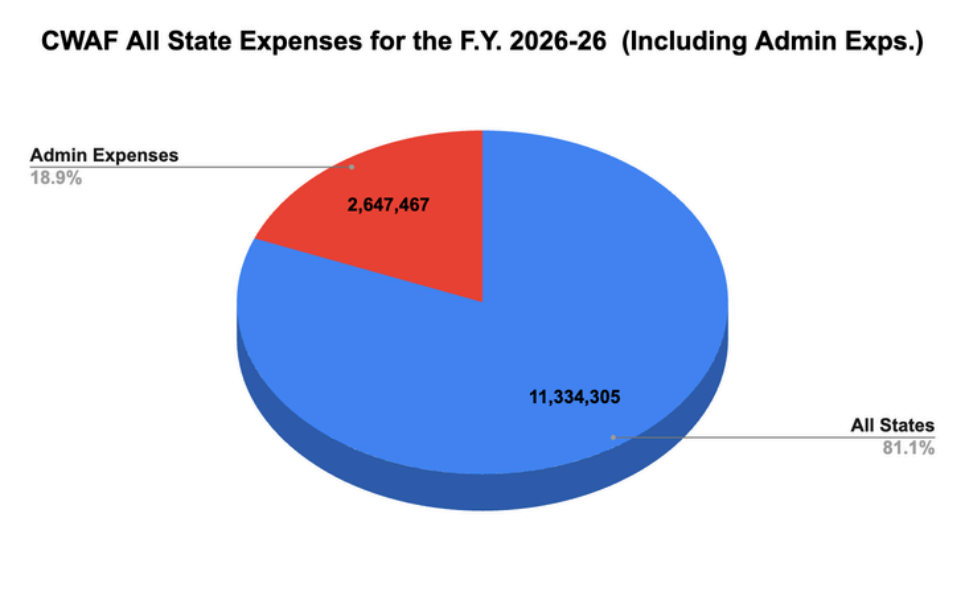
The concert was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Mr Balkumar Marthi and Mr Rajkumar Ravuri, and supported by Open Face Media for the promotional collateral. Over 600 people attended, and we raised close to ₹6.5 lakhs.

The moment that stays with us — Ranjani and Gayatri performed a song they composed especially for WAIC. It was deeply personal, deeply moving, and something none of us will forget.

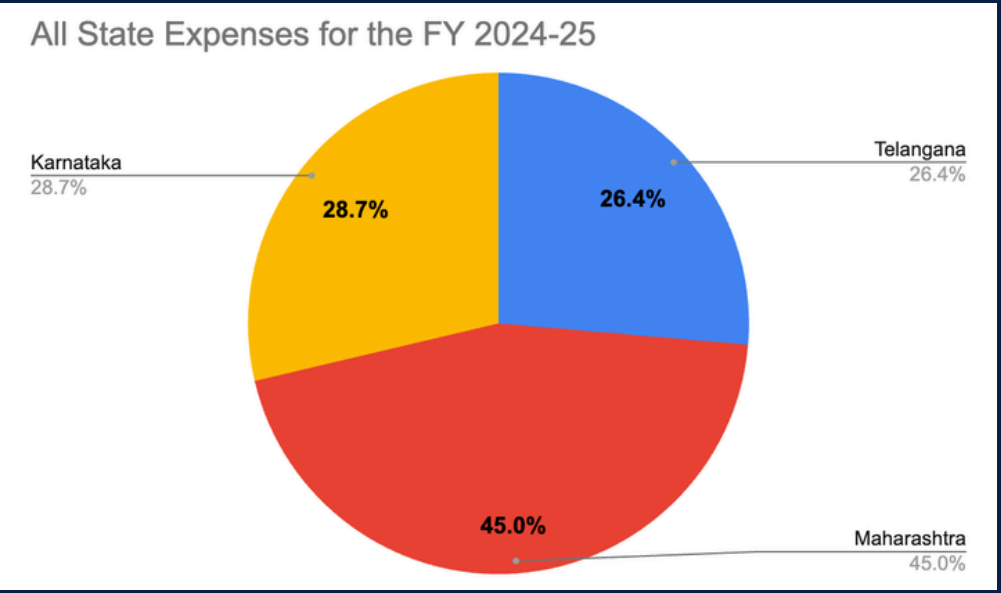
But beyond the funds, 600 more people left that evening understanding the challenges in India's adoption ecosystem — and knowing that WAIC exists to address them. For us, that awareness, for us, is as valuable as any donation.

waic.in

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE



PROGRAM EXPENSES

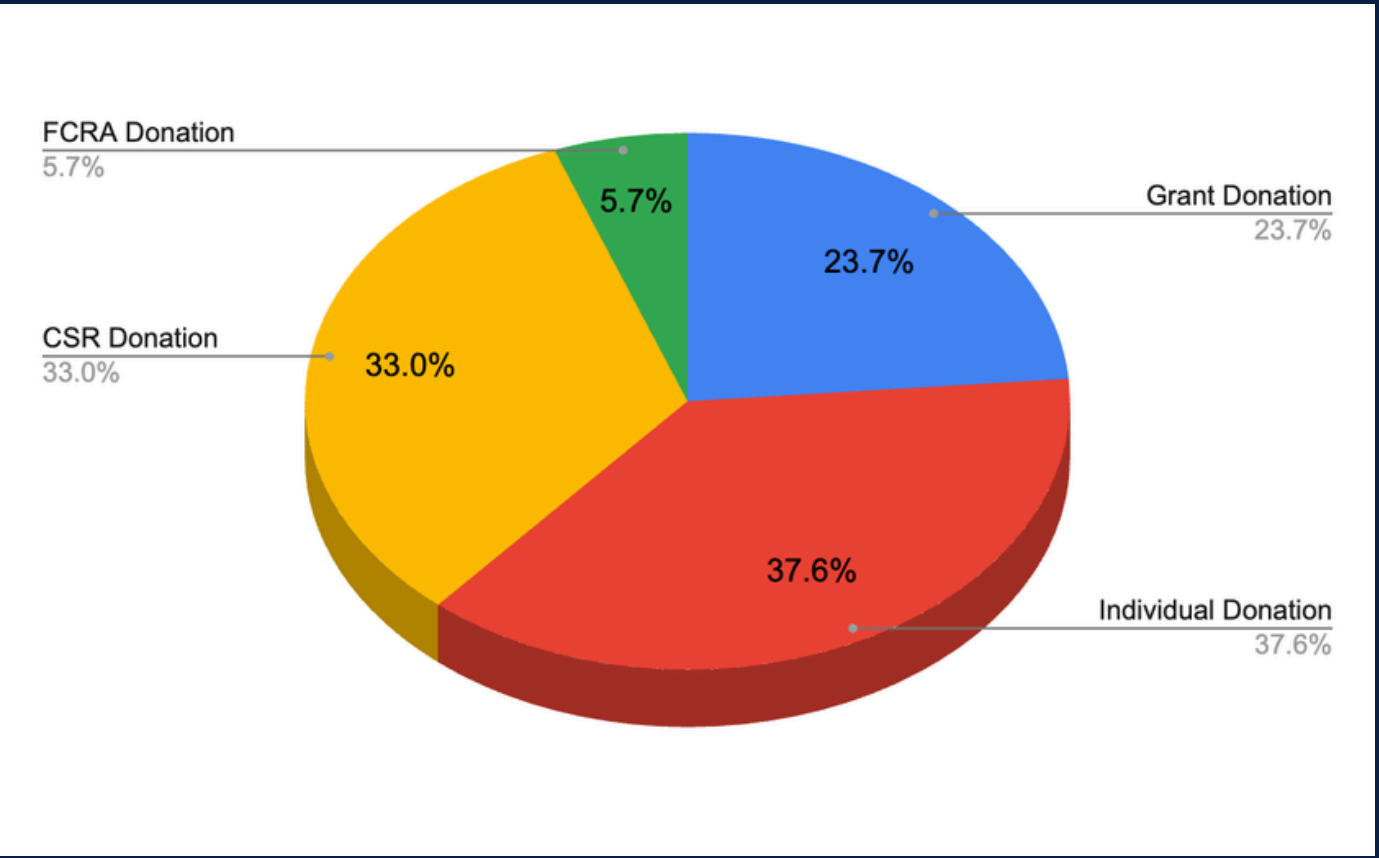


Our Total expenses for FY 2025-2026 amounted to INR 1.39 crores.

Program Expenditure was budgeted at INR 1.50 crores, with actual spend of INR 1.13 crores. This includes maintenance of our technology solution - Child Lifecycle Management Solution (CLMS)

Administrative expenses totalled INR 25.3 lakhs, covering accounting software and other subscriptions, auditors' fees, ISIN registration, CDSL fees, PF and ESIC registration, outsourced accounting services to ensure compliance, in-house HR and finance support, and CEO and Director salaries

DONATIONS AT A GLANCE



We received donations from multiple sources this year, with individuals and HNIs continuing to be our strongest and most consistent supporters.

This year, we received our FCRA Certification and received donations through foreign contributions.

Our audited financials is available on our website at https://waic.in/financial-reports/

PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to our partners and supporters for standing with us. The state WCDs of Maharashtra, Telangana, and Karnataka continue to believe in our work and constantly support us.

VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful to all our volunteers who are parents through adoption and understasnd the importance of a family for a child.

Anushree Murari, for always being ready to support us in data analysis, fundraising, and raising awareness about Safe Surrender.

Saron Harford, who maintains our website and supports us with any changes tand completes the work with admirable grace.

Sanjay Mucharla, who gave us the first draft of the parent preparation training material and supported us during the fundraiser event.

Trushali Kotecha, our volunteer from the UK who supports us with fundraising in the UK.

Natasha Gowans, our volunteer from Malta who advises us with communications.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue our existing programs with the same focus, zeal, and enthusiasm to ensure a child's right to family is fulfilled.

Our Safe Surrender Awareness Program will be expanded to train Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, and ANMs

Safe Surrender Awareness Program (SSAP) - to ensure information dissemination about the Safe Surrender law at the grassroots level. We will present the Safe Surrender information to the Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, and the ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) for better distribution.

Child Preparation program - Older children often face difficulties adjusting to family environments due to their experiences in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). This increases the risk of adoption disruptions, underscoring the need for targeted support for this demographic.

Structured Child Preparation and Parent Preparation Sessions

- When the CWC asks a child above 6 years if they are ready to be adopted, most of the time, the child is unable to understand what it entails.
- When a child is found eligible for adoption after due process, before the CWC signs the LFA certificate, the child should be prepared by a child counsellor about what it means to be adopted; only then can the CWC sign the LFA after the child's consent.
- Develop structured sessions for children in CCIs to prepare them and address emotional readiness, trauma recovery, and the transition to family life.
- Parents who choose to adopt children above 6 years can avail our expert preparation sessions during adoption, and after adoption as well.

SUMMARY

The annual report highlights our organisation's achievements & progress over the past year. We have seen steady growth in impact.

Our financial position has improved, but we are always on the lookout for sustainable funding to cover our costs.

We are grateful to all the supporters who have stood by us and continue to donate and support us!

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.











- www.waic.in
- Phone: +91 95501 06995
- team@waic.in
- Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka

waic_family4everychild

linked.com/company/waic-in

whereareindiaschildren

waic_campaign