



# Reinstating Hope

Insights from CINI's Model of Family Reunification

Developed by  
Child in Need Institute (CINI)



# Acknowledgement

CINI is committed to build a friendly and responsive community where children and adolescents achieve their full potential. Towards that, the organization engages with the children and systemic actors to establish the critical linkages between education, protection, health and nutrition in securing the child's wellbeing.

Since 2000, CINI's belief in the Juvenile Justice Principles of Family as the best place for a child to be, and institutionalization only as a measure of last resort has been reflected through its adherence to principles that reduce over-reliance on institutionalization, at one end, and further the cause for family-based care or alternative family-based care, on the other.

This publication is an evidence-based document, highlighting CINI's experience of reunifying children with their families, the innovative experience of organizing follow-up family reunion meetings to mark CINI's strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue restoring children. It captures a select group of actions based on CINI's own experience of running two homes (in Kolkata) for distressed children. Effort was made to intensify focus on preventing children from languishing in the child care institutions with the vision to reduce unnecessary and long-term institutionalization. CINI's credence in early restoration has led to the functioning of our children's homes as transit cares offering short-term care support aiming towards early restoration in family-based care or alternative family-based care.

This endeavor was possible under the guidance of the Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Government of West Bengal, which strongly believes that "family is the best place for a child and institutionalization is a measure of last resort". We are also thankful to West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights for believing in CINI's capacity to reunify children with their families adhering to the West Bengal Juvenile Justice Rules, 2017.

Since reunifying children with their families takes a convergent approach, many stakeholders are consulted during the process. CINI wishes to acknowledge the support of the Departments of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Childline services, and Kolkata Police Administration for extending support throughout the process. CINI also expresses its appreciation to the all the team members working relentlessly towards reunifying children with their families for their active engagement.

Last but not the least, we thank all the children who have stayed or are residing in CINI run Homes for Boys and Girls, who have always given their views and inputs for this cause and have actively participated in the reunification program. Even in the most desperate and traumatized state, these children continue to remain the best advocate of what we believe as an organization.

Note: "Consent to publish" was duly received from the children/ other whose faces featured in this book.



Dr. Indrani Bhattacharya Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Child in Need Institute



**NILANJANA DASGUPTA, I A S**  
Director  
Child Rights & Trafficking  
Govt. Of West Bengal  
&  
Member Secretary  
State Child Protection Society  
West Bengal

### **Foreword from Director, Child Rights and Trafficking, DCRT, Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal**

Child in Need Institute (CINI) has been working with children in the Child Care Institutions for decades (having two Short Stay Homes for Boys and Girls in Kolkata and three Open Shelters in Kolkata and Siliguri), engaging with the Juvenile Justice actors and the parents as well. The organization has worked very closely with the Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Government of West Bengal (over a period of 5 years) to expedite the restoration and reunification process for many children stranded in the Child Care Institutions both run by the government and also by the non-governmental organizations.

CINI's Model of Speedy Restoration and Family Reunification is very much under the purview of West Bengal Juvenile Justice Rules and its application has delivered results. CINI's belief that the family is the best and most secured place for the child and that institutional care is the last resort has been reflected in the organization's work to relentlessly reunify the vulnerable, trafficked, abused and traumatised children with their families.

This evidence-based document developed by CINI will provide valuable insights on the restoration, reunification and repatriation of the children much in need of care and protection.

Dated: Kolkata, January 2022

  
Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta, IAS  
Director, Child Rights and Trafficking  
Government of West Bengal

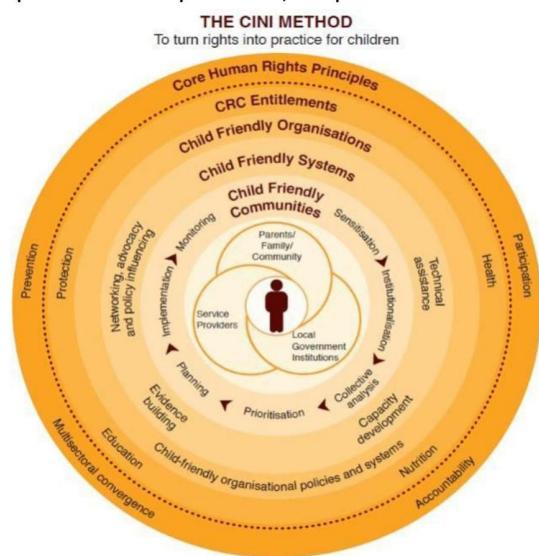
## The CINI Method

Child in Need Institute (CINI) is a registered national level non-government organization working with deprived communities since 1974 in India. CINI has received twice the prestigious National Award for Child Welfare in 1985 and in 2004. It is guided by its mission to ensure that children and adolescents achieve their right to health, education, nutrition, protection and participation by making duty-bearers and communities responsive to their holistic well-being.

The CINI Method has been distilled out of nearly 50 years of practice with deprived communities, within the framework of international forward-looking thinking. It provides a methodological model to promote the adoption of a child rights-based approach to programming for children involving primary duty-bearers in the government, service provision and the family. Through this unique methodology, CINI provides preventive and participatory responses integrating interventions in the core areas of health, nutrition, education and child protection.

At the local level where the child lives, the CINI Method aims to build *Child Friendly Communities* where all children up to 18 years of age, irrespective of their socio-economic, cultural, gender, ability or other status can fulfil their right to survive, be healthy, develop to their full potential, be protected and cared for and participate in decision-making processes that shape their lives. It seeks to strengthen partnerships between children, their parents and communities, service providers and local urban and rural self-government bodies for implementing children's rights in development practice.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond application in the community, the CINI Method further strives to create *Child Friendly Systems* and *Child Friendly Organisations* to influence wider institutions and shape organisational structures to make them work as mechanisms for implementing children's rights at the next levels. In the context of family reunification and restoration of children from the child care institutions, building *Child Friendly Systems* implies to influence child protection policy frameworks provided by the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA), the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and other related legislations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) within the Indian context for not promoting long term institutional care of children and emphasizing on restoration and family reunification.

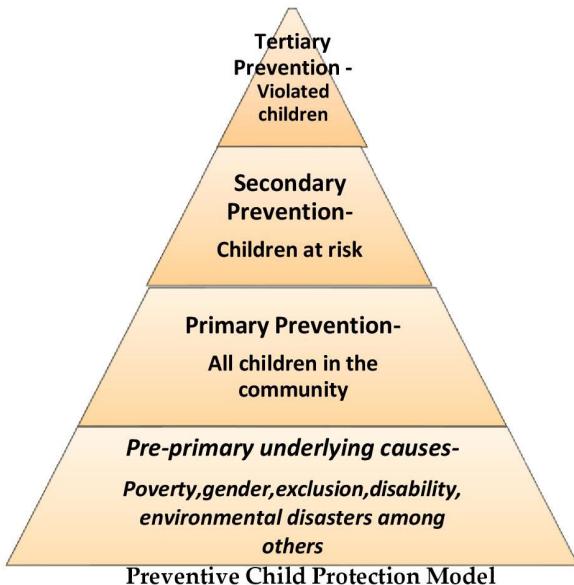


<sup>1</sup> Parents, service providers and local self-government bodies are recognised as the three pillars of the Child Friendly Community (CFC) approach.

## CINI's Preventive Child Protection Model Design - From primary healthcare to "primary child protection"

In emphasising the importance of prevention before cure, CINI Method has formed the basis for crystallising CINI's child protection approach. Even in this sphere, prevention is prioritised over cure. In developing its own preventive model, CINI has adapted the well-established preventive health model to the realm of child protection. Its preventive child protection model has been designed over the pyramid structure characterising preventive health. The child protection prevention pyramid is formed of three logically interlinked levels. Programmatic preventive measures have been accordingly recognized at primary, secondary and tertiary levels based on the level of vulnerability affecting the child.

### The CINI Method's Preventive Child Protection



Model emphasises that the majority of the child population is actually located and should safely remain on the wider bottom rung, where the risk of child vulnerability is lowest and responses can be widespread through informal, existing social structures and government systems. Vulnerabilities increase in intensity as one moves up the pyramid model, where responses need to become progressively more specialised, treatment more targeted and investments, consequently, higher.

Moving from primary and secondary up to tertiary prevention levels implies that responses are less available at the community-level and need to be found also in specialised centres, often available in larger (urban) centres away from the communities where children live. Most prevention work to keep children protected need to continue and intensify at the level of the community where parents, families and other established safety net mechanisms can ensure that children are cared for, in a way to avoid, as much as possible, that harm is done to children and care is required to restore their wellbeing afterward.

***The CINI Method insists that no child belongs in an institution. After the first phase of recovery, all vulnerable children are reunited with their family or in alternative family-based care. Building Child Friendly Communities means to create a protective and promotive environment for children in all spheres of their wellbeing.***

### Embedding Family Reunification of Children in CINI's Preventive Child Protection Model

Family reunification is central to the CINI's philosophy and practical approach to building conducive and responsive *Child Friendly Communities*. The CINI Preventive Child Protection Model aims to prevent unnecessary and potentially damaging separation of children from their families by addressing the root-causes of separation, such as poverty, child abuse, trafficking, child labour, early marriage, limited access to education and poor parenting practices. It includes the adoption of mechanisms that reduce overreliance on institutionalisation and enhancement of family care or alternative family-based care.

# CINI's Model of Family Reunification

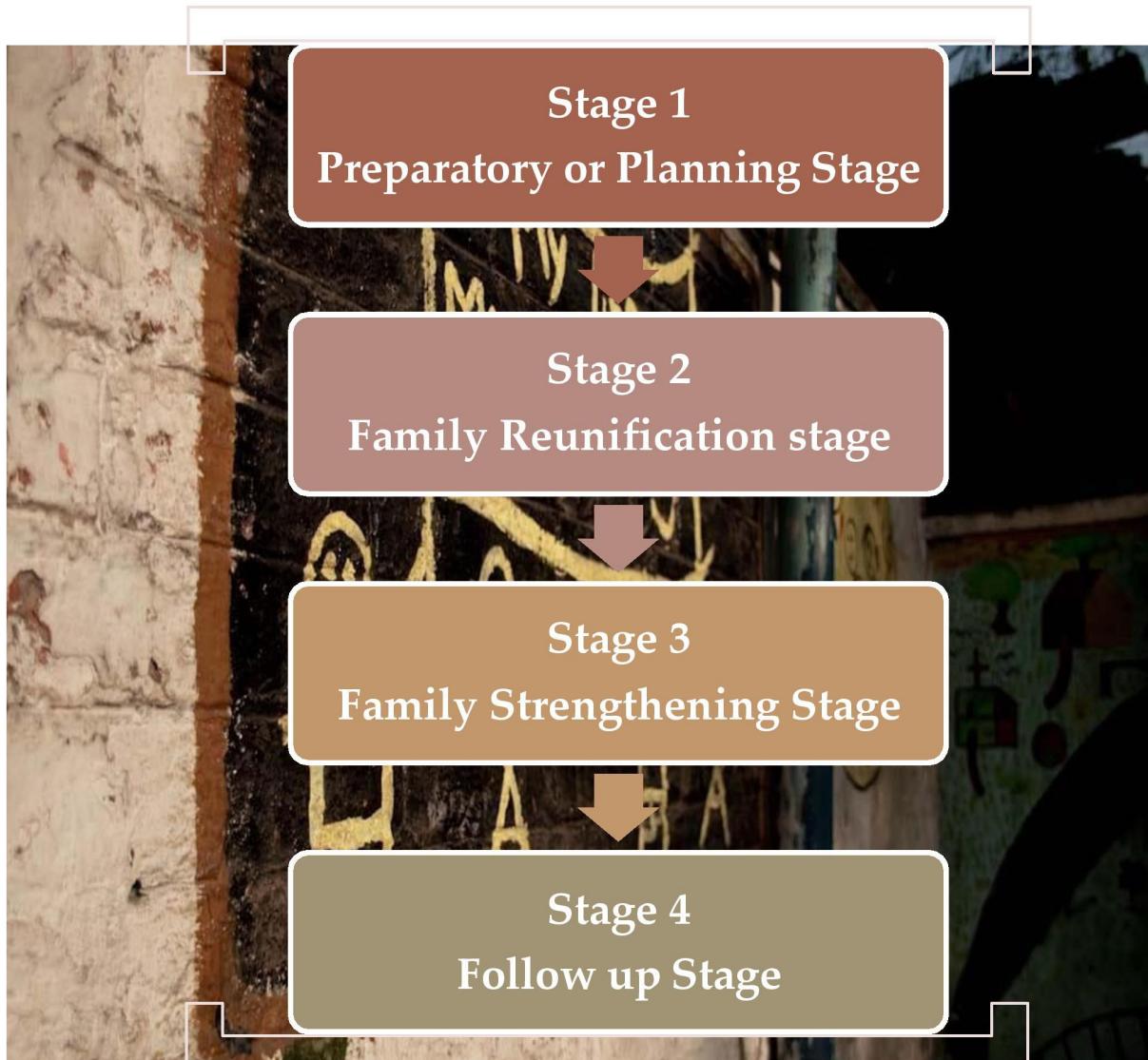
CINI's belief in the Juvenile Justice Principles of Family is the best place for a child and Institutionalisation as a measure of last resort is reflected through its adoption of mechanisms that reduce overreliance on institutionalisation, at one end, and enhancement of family-based care or alternative family-based care, on the other.

The operational procedure captures a select group of actions to expedite the process of family reunification for children from the organization run two child care institutions for boys and girls (in Kolkata) which is also applied to facilitate the process of family reunification in various other government-run child care institutions.

***The Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Government of West Bengal and also the Secretariat, Department of Woman and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal has showed confidence in CINI's Model of Family Reunification, which is in alignment with the West Bengal Juvenile Justice Rules 2017 time and again, by giving us permission to work in the government shelter homes to expedite the process of restoration/family reunification and repatriation (for children belonging to Bangladesh and Nepal).***

The table below highlights the districts, and also the government shelter homes, where we were permitted to work and implement the model

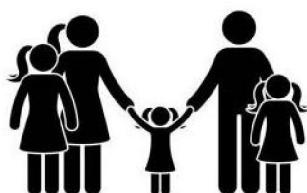
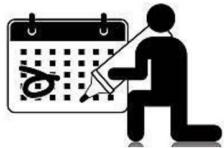
Date	District	Subject	Government Shelter Home	Permission letter
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016	Dakshin Dinajpur	Authorizing CINI to facilitate the repatriation of Bangladeshi children residing in Subhayan Home to their native country, Bangladesh.	<b>Subhayan Home for Boys</b>	Memo No:99/SCPS/16-17 Attached as Annexure
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	Murshidabad	Approval to CINI to work for Rehabilitation and Restoration of Children in Juvenile Justice Homes in Murshidabad.	<b>-Shilayan Home for Girls</b> <b>- Anandashram Home for Boys and -Kazi Nazrul Islam Home for Boys</b>	No: 1755-SW/0/M-2/17 Attached as Annexure
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	North parganas	Approval of project proposal for Restoration of Children in the CHILD CARE INSTITUTION (CCI)s.	<b>-Sukanya Home for Girls and Kisholoy Home for Boys</b>	File No. DCRT-12020/4/2020-SEC(DCRT)-DCRT Attached as Annexure



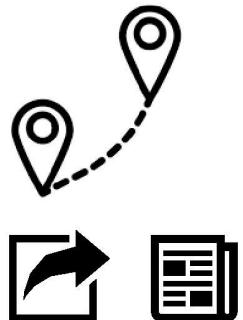
The select group of actions for both a speedy and effective family reunification is not a parallel set of actions but rather adds value to the existing process articulated in the West Bengal Juvenile Justice Rules 2017 (Rules 64K,75,76,77) and has been categorised in the above-narrated stages and detailed out further.

## Preparatory Stage-Preparing for Family Reunification

- a. Building rapport with the child is essential to gain trust. This enables the child to participate in the decision-making process of family reunification without any inhibition.
- b. The problems that forced the child to gravitate away from home will be identified. Assistance required to retain the child within the family/alternative family safety net requires attention.
- c. Continuous counselling helps the child make decisions and recover from his/her traumatic experience. The available case file of the child is also reviewed.
- d. Developing a Restoration/Repatriation calendar (inter/intra district/interstate and inter-country) and a plan in collaboration with Childline/Child Care Institution (CCI) Superintendent/District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)/ West Bengal Task Force/Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)/Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO)/any other NGO member to facilitate smooth restoration without violating any laws/government directives and circulars.
- e. Conducting pre reunification home visit to determine the home status in coordination with Childline/District Child Protection Unit.
- f. A list of the restorable children is submitted to the Child Welfare Committee to acquire the Social Investigation Order and report is submitted.
- g. Conducting a multi-stakeholder meeting in case there is mass restoration (inter/intra district/interstate).
- h. If the child is not restorable to the biological family, then:
  - 1. Communicating with respective Child Welfare Committee, District Child Protection Unit and Sponsorship Foster Care Approval Committee for placement in alternative care arrangements such as - kinship care, rehabilitative sponsorship/foster care/adoption and following the state-specific guidelines on Alternative Care and the Adoption Regulations 2017.
  - 2. A continuous follow up is conducted to oversee retention in family/alternative family.



- i. When the child is from another country, for example, Bangladesh, Nepal etc, then the West Bengal Task Force constituted under the West Bengal Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking will repatriate the child.
- j. If the child is from another district/state/ a place outside the jurisdiction of the concerned Child Welfare Committee, then following the specified rules related to the Transfer of the child as per Rule 75 of West Bengal Juvenile Justice Rules 2017 should adhere.



#### **Family Reunification Stage**

- a. The release/transfer order without delay (online/offline), the Escort order from the Child Welfare Committee needs to be collected. The Restoration /Repatriation calendar (inter/intra district/interstate and inter country) is followed.
- b. The child gets reunited with his/her parents. The parents may come to take the child back. If parents cannot come, then the child has to be escorted back home.
- c. The parents who come before the Child Welfare Committee carries the identification documents and a residential certificate assigned to them by the local councillor or panchayat. The Child Welfare Committee determines the causes behind why the child has gravitated away from home. The CWC passes a Release Order (Form 44) so that the parents can take the child home. A follow-up date is assigned to the parents wherein they have to be present at the Child Welfare Committee with the restored child to ensure that the child is safe and healthy.
- d. During restoration, the children get with a 'take-home ration kit.'



#### **Family Strengthening Stage**

- a. Family counselling helps to address any concerns the parents have towards their children focusing on the parent-child relationship, financial support for education, medical aid, health and nutritional needs of the child. Siblings (if there are) are also a part of the counselling process. Ensuring family members acknowledge their children's concerns and vulnerabilities is non-negotiable.



b. Linking families to social security schemes and government services requires attention. The families get referred to gram panchayat/urban local bodies. The information is shared with the village/ward level child protection committee and the district child protection units.



c. School visit helps to ensure that the teachers are acquainted with the child's condition. Admission in an age-appropriate class after level testing and competency mapping takes place.



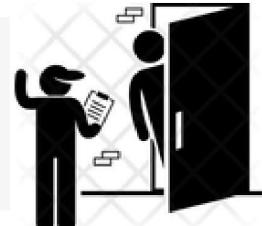
d. The child is linked to children's groups, adolescent resource hubs etc. Support from local community-based organizations is required to link the children with existing vocational training, education and their families with livelihood.



#### **Post Family Reunification Follow up visit Stage**

a. A follow-up plan for all the children restored is in place. Details of all the children restored is also shared with the community-based child protection committees for follow up. Physical and telephonic follow-ups continue. Weekly telephonic follow-ups are in place for the first month. Physical monthly follows and then quarterly follow-ups for the next one year.

b. Virtual counselling sessions with the restored children and their families are a part of their follow up plan.





## What the numbers indicate?

**Children restored** by CINI from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to December 2021 is **4717**

**3170 Boys  
restored&**

**1547 Girls restored**

### Translating Actions into Reality

Kolkata Childline and Sealdah Railway Childline teams found themselves in an unprecedented situation triggered by the mass rescue of children. Childline Kolkata had got a call regarding the alleged trafficking of about 80 children who were being taken via train from Purnia (Bihar) to Pune (Maharashtra). The Government Railway Police (GRP) at Sealdah, North 24 Parganas, Barrackpore and Dum Dum and the guard on the train were alerted. Sixty-three such were identified on the train and rescued with help of the Government Railway Police (GRP) Sealdah. The children were immediately transferred to CINI's boys' shelter home.

This was done as per the verbal instructions of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The next morning, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairperson with two members visited the boys shelter home to facilitate the production of children. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) decided that the children would



be taken to and produced before the Purnia Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

On the day of travel, a huge crowd of people collected on the streets in northern Kolkata asking for handing over of the children. The police sent some children to Kolkata station for safe shelter while the remaining were at the Sealdah station Government Railway Police (GRP) office. At the Sealdah station, the crowd even broke the Child Assistance Booth of Sealdah station.

Senior police personnel (including DCP and ACP-Kolkata Police) escorted the children and remained till they boarded the train. The Minister, Independent Charge, Department of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development, Government of West Bengal and the West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBSCPCR) Chairperson closely monitored the evolving situation and provided guidance.

The children reached Purnia safely and were taken to the CWC and eventually restored to their families in collaboration with West Bengal Task Force (WBTF) and Bihar state counterparts. Post Restoration follow ups were also done by Kolkata-Childline. Thus, a difficult situation was handled successfully with the timely support of a range of actors.

### **Lost Hope sees light**

10-year-old Rahul lost his mother when he was a child. He lived with his father in Kolkata. One fine day, Kolkata Childline received a call from Rahul's father, he said his son went missing. Immediately, Kolkata Childline helped the father file a complaint in the nearby police station and informed the Missing Persons Bureau. Nine months had passed by, and the whereabouts of Rahul remained unknown.

The father lost all hope and went back to his native village in Bihar. Meanwhile, Kolkata Police initiated the second phase of OperationSmile II in February 2016, to identify lost, missing and runaway children in Delhi and Kolkata. CINI was a part of the Operation Smilell committee.

The Officer in Charge of the Kolkata Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), two supporting members and the CINI's staff went to Delhi to visit the shelter homes to identify such children. The team identified Rahul in a Delhi based shelter home during their visit.

Kolkata Childline reconfirmed the details ofRahul. Rahul was taken to Delhi Child Welfare Committee, where based on a further order hewas produced before Kolkata Child WelfareCommittee. Rahul came back to Kolkata and went to CINI's Sick Bay for medical support, hewas suffering from acute skin diseases. Counselling support helped traumatised Rahul.

Rahul's father was informed and he come down to Kolkata to meet his son. The child was referred to CINI 's shelter home soon after his discharge from Sick Bay. Both the father and the son cried bitterly upon seeing each other after so long. Rahul's father took Rahul back to his native village. CINI escorted them back and also helped the father to enroll Rahul in school.



## CINI's "FAMILY REUNION MEETS"

### Celebrating the Inseparable Love and Bonding between the Parents and Their Children

CINI believes that family is the best place for the child than institutionalisation, which should be a measure of last resort. Every year, CINI partnered Childline and Railway Childline services in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, rescues vulnerable children. Some of the most frequent cases CINI comes across are children who have become victims of child early and forced marriages, child labour, child trafficking, child abuse and missing children. Post rescue operations followed by production before CWC, the children are provided with temporary shelter during the social investigation period.

Thorough Social Investigations plays one of the strategic roles in determining the final placement of the child. Family members get counselled during the social investigations. The support helps the family members identify stressors leading to the unforeseen vulnerability of their child and what kind of support the family requires to keep the children with them. The families learn about the positive impact of a family environment on a child and the adverse effect of institutional care. Concerns highlighted by the children and the support required upon returning to their families get communicated to their parents. The families usually have mixed reactions when they hear the concerns highlighted by their children, it is an agreement or a disagreement. But CINI continues to help both the families and the children arrive at a solution.

From 2019 to 2021 during the COVID-19 period, **CINI intervened in 145 such cases, where family reunification was possible but both the child and the parent were finding it difficult to arrive at a common understanding and fight out the causes which triggered the vulnerability and forced the child to stay away from the family.**

CINI did not give up hope but continued to support both the child and their families through regular visits and counselling support. Support was also leveraged from the neighbourhood during the home visits, where the neighbours came forward to help the families understand better on how they could take care of their children.

The long wait gets awarded when parents and their children identify the problems and identify how they can solve their problems. The parent-child relationship gets re-established once more never to drift apart. The effort equates to the placement of children in **FAMILY BASED CARE WITH BETTER OUTCOMES**. The children are finally reunited and placed in their families. But this is not the end, CINI conducts **FAMILY REUNION MEETS** with children and their families, who took much time to understand the need for, "**Being Together.**"



The **FAMILY REUNION MEETS** are held every year to share good practices of effective family reunification and celebrate the reunion. Children with their parents attend these meets and share their journey from separation to rescue to the reunion. The children share their experiences and battles of overcoming the impossible, dealing with their fear and overcoming the hurdles. They also become Role Models for the other children in the child care institutions, who currently are at the receiving end of CINI's services.



Stakeholders attend the **FAMILY REUNION MEETS**. They felicitate the parents and the children and congratulate them on being together and battling unnecessary family separation. Information on the availability of the government schemes and services is shared with the parents.

CINI conducted 3 **FAMILY REUNIFICATION MEETS** with 145 children restored during the COVID times. Effort was also made to link the children with the government schemes as well. CINI's regular and routine follow ups both physical and telephonic ensured the continuity of these children in their families. All the children are retained within the safety net of the family till date.

Services	The numbers
Individual counselling support to children	145
Family counselling	Families of all the 145 children

<b>Follow up visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Monthly telephonic follows up of all 145 children since 2019</li><li>-Quarterly physical follow ups since 2019 for all the 145 children</li></ul>
<b>Scheme Linkage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-29 families were linked with livelihoods (100 days work).</li><li>-130 families were linked with the West Bengal Government's Swasthya Sathi Scheme (Health benefit)</li><li>-8 children were linked with the Preventive Sponsorship Scheme.</li><li>-2 children were linked with the Disability Scheme of the West Bengal Government.</li></ul>
<b>Support from the local decision makers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-43 children were given educational support.</li></ul>

## Battling the Odd during COVID-19

### Reinstating Hope- Restoring Children stranded in the Child Care Institutions during COVID-19 (April to September 2020)

#### The Situation

At a time when the entire country was experiencing lockdown from April 2020 to June 2020, the child care institutional services were declared essential by the Government of West Bengal, Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, children were also being rescued by CINI partnered seven Childline services even in the strictest of lockdown and children continued to arrive at CINI's registered child care institutions. All effort was made to keep the children safe during the pandemic and also restore the children even in stringent lockdown.

CINI conducted 112 Social Investigations across its own Child Care Institutions (CCIs), government run CCIs and other NGO run CCIs and restored 60 children, accounting 53% of the total SIRs, through its convergence efforts with other systemic actors.

CINI's credence in early restoration has led to the functioning of the children's homes as transit cares offering short term care support aiming towards early restoration and placement in family-based care or alternative family-based care.

India's massive repatriation operation (Vande Bharat Mission) to bring back stranded Indians from different parts of the world in the wake of the COVID pandemic was an attempt to *reduce the distress of these stranded Indian citizens and bring them back home* by the Indian government. The Indian government also took initiative both at the Central and the State levels to issue advisories and circulars on preparedness and precautions to protect inmates of the child care institutions and cottage homes. The order was also issued by the Supreme Court of India, (Suo Moto Writ Petition (CIVIL)No.4 of 2020) to protect the interest of children coming under the ambit of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.

The lockdown got imposed from the 23rd of March 2020 bringing the endeavour of speedy restoration to a standstill. The immediate impact was that many children were still stranded in child care institutions. The category being varied in nature from children in conflict with the law to children from Nepal and Bangladesh and other categories of children in need of care and protection as enumerated in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015. The situation became overwhelming in certain instances which have witnessed the continuous flow of children in child care institutions.

**Preparing for Restoration during COVID-19**

Considering that the state has to continue to live with this indefinite period of intermittent lockdown and with the anxiety of a second wave of the pandemic, the fear was that the children would continue to stay behind in these child care institutions, with distress level no less than the stranded Indians abroad. CINI's strategic initiatives since 23rd March 2020 to speed up restoration and reduce the distress level of the children stranded in the child care institutions, was conceptualized by the development of an operational framework in compliance with the Supreme Court Order, Central and State directives on COVID -19 for inmates in child care institutions and the Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

***16-year-old Sumnima gets repatriated to Nepal***

16-year-old Sumnima Bhujel, is a resident of Jhapa district of Nepal. Her mother was a homemaker and her father is a daily wage earner who worked as a construction labour. Sumnima was forced to quit studies after class VI owing to the financial crisis at home. She had a relationship with a person she met on Facebook, but she had very limited information about him. On the 6th of May 2019, both of them fled from home to Ludhiana, Punjab where they got married and started staying. After marriage the boy started torturing her and then within three months, he left her alone. Later with the help of the neighbour, Sumnima was able to return to Kharibari block where she filed a POCSO case against the boy at Kharibari PS. As per the CWC order for the purpose of the investigation, the child was placed in CINI-North Bengal Open Shelter.

To expedite the repatriation process, CINI-Open Shelter after completion of the legal formalities, shared the case details with Darjeeling District Child Protection Officer and West Bengal Task Force (WBTF). With the unlocking phase, when the transport system turned out to be partially functional, a special order was issued from WBTF to repatriate the child to Nepal. On 31st July 2020, the child was handed over to her parents at Nepal Border in the presence of DCPO-Darjeeling, POIC, Open Shelter outreach worker, and the Nepal police officials.

***CHILDLINE's proactive engagement rescues 21 child labourers***

21 potential child labourers were rescued by CINI team in the early morning of 7th September 2020. The day was under strict lockdown phase in the state of West Bengal when the rescue operation was conducted jointly by the CHILDLINE Kolkata team and the city police.

Upon rescuing the children, it was revealed that the traffickers were taking the children to a bangle-manufacturing factory to work. 3 people harbouring the children in the bus were charged with the case of child trafficking and were arrested by the police.

The CHILDLINE Kolkata Team members rescued the children and immediately took them to conduct their medical examination. On further orders passed by the CWC, the 21 children were referred to CINI's Children's Home for Boys. Their restoration procedures began involving the Child Welfare Committee, Special Juvenile Police Unit, Missing Persons Squad, District Child Protection Unit and Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking and the children were finally restored.

***Back to her Family***

17-year-old Sunita who was given shelter at CINI's CCI for girls when she was 5-months' pregnant. She was in such a deep trauma that she was not able to divulge the details of her perpetrator. The care givers were extremely careful about her well-being and ensured that she ate well and had enough medical check-ups. She underwent numerous counselling therapies and meditative sessions to help her cope up with the situation. She was then referred to a hospital where her baby was safely delivered.

Sunita opined before the Child Welfare Committee that she did not want to keep the child with her but wanted to continue her studies or undergo a vocational training. Taking the best interest of Sunita into account the baby was sent to an adoption home. Sunita has returned back to her family after receiving counselling support to release her trauma.

**File No DCRT-12020/4/2020-SEC(DCRT)-DCRT**



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**DIRECTORATE OF CHILD RIGHTS & TRAFFICKING**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, SECTOR-1, KOLKATA 700064**  
**(STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY)**

Memo No: 374  
 To: Mr. Marine Mukherjee,  
 Assistant Director, Programmes,  
 Child in Need Institute,  
 VII: Daulatpur, PO: Failan,  
 South 24 Pgs.

Date: 02.03.2021

**Sub: Approval of the project proposal for restoration of the children stranded in the CCIs**

With reference to the abovementioned subject, this is to inform you that the project proposal titled "Restoring children stranded in the Child Care Institutions" submitted from your end vide email dated 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 has been approved by this Directorate on the basis of the following terms and conditions:

1. CINI will be permitted to work in two government run CCIs namely Kishalaya and Sukanya in North 24 Pgs initially for six months from the date of issuance of this letter.
2. The scope of project will be related to the restoration and rehabilitation of the children in accordance to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
3. The names and contact details of the staff who will be visiting these two CCIs shall be shared in advance with the Superintendent of these two CCIs.
4. No case files/records related to children shall be accessed by the visiting staff.
5. Counselling of the children for the purpose of family tracing shall be done in presence of the CCI staff.
6. The visiting staff needs to work in collaboration with the CWC, DCPU and the CCI staff.
7. Confidentiality shall be maintained at all stages of the project implementation.
8. Follow up and rehabilitation of the restored children shall be undertaken in consultation with the CWC and DCPU, North 24 Pgs.
9. A monthly report shall be emailed to the West Bengal Task Force on the restoration and rehabilitation status of the children in the above mentioned CCIs.
10. Repatriation of foreign children shall not be facilitated by CINI.

A line of confirmation of the acceptance of terms and conditions order may be sent at [wbtf.dsw@gmail.com](mailto:wbtf.dsw@gmail.com).

Director  
 Child Rights & Trafficking  
 West Bengal  
 Date: 02.03.2021

Memo: 374/1(7)

**Copy for information and necessary action to:**

1. The Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development & Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal.
2. The District Magistrate, North 24 Pgs
3. The Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, North 24 Pgs
4. The District Social Welfare Officer, North 24 Pgs
5. The Superintendent, Kishalaya and Sukanya Home, North 24 Pgs

NILANJANA DASGUPTA  
 Date: Tue Mar 02 14:53:31 IST  
 2021  
 Reason: Approved

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**DIRECTORATE OF CHILD RIGHTS & TRAFFICKING**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, SECTOR - I, KOLKATA 700 064**  
**(STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY)**

Memo No.: 99 /SCPS/WB/16-17  
 Dated: Kolkata, the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2016

To:  
 Mr Ranjan Panda  
 Deputy Director  
 Child In Need Institute (CINI)  
 Daulatpur, P.O.: Pailan, Via Joka, Dist: South 24 Parganas, Pin:700104

Subject: Authorising CINI to facilitate repatriation of 54 Bangladeshi children presently residing in Subhayan Home for Boys, Dakhla Dinajpur

Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned subject and based on your request letter through email dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, CINI as an organization is being authorized to facilitate repatriation of 54 Bangladeshi children (CNC.P & J.C.L) of Subhayan Home, Dakhla Dinajpur to their native country Bangladesh.

The terms of reference in facilitating repatriation and deliverables for this assignment will be as following:

1. Assist the Junior Social Worker in interviewing all 54 children and prepare their case history forms and individual care plans as per the Ju Act 2015.
2. Conduct Home Investigation in Bangladesh through partner organisations to facilitate nationality verification of these children.
3. Liaise with concerned officials with MHA in Bangladesh, Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata, Home Foreign & NRI Dept, respective DDC in the district head quarter, BSF in West Bengal to expedite the repatriation process and obtain necessary orders.
4. Support Subhayan Home in handing over the children to the Border Guard of Bangladesh in presence of NGOs from both the countries, BSF, Police and DCW members.

As per your letter the following team has been constituted for the purpose and comprising of –

- I. Ms. Lopamudra Mukherjee (Mobile: 9903749603) – Nodal Coordinating Person
- II. Ms. Rohini Nicholas (Mobile: 8979292724)
- III. Mr. Suroj B Bose (Mobile: 8737056565)
- IV. Mr. Shashirom Dey (Mobile: 9774936519)

The Chairperson & Member Convener of the State Task Force and the focal person coordinating Task Force has to be kept in the information loop. All the communications regarding repatriation has to be marked to uploaded with any external agencies for research or any other purposes without prior approval from the respective authority.

Monthly progress report and time to time update on the procedures to be submitted to the above mentioned and to the Superintendent of the concerned home.

The process may be initiated with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,  
  
 Richa Misra  
 Director Child Rights & Trafficking  
 Govt. of West Bengal

**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare**  
 Bilkash Bhawan, North Block, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
 Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700091

No. 1755 –SW/O /M-2/17 Dated 2 /05/2017

From: Shri Bedanga Biswas, WBCS(Exe),  
 Deputy Secretary,  
 Deptt. Of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare.

To: The DCRT, West Bengal,  
 Shalashali, Salt Lake City.

**Sub: Approval to CINI to Work for Rehabilitation& restoration of Children in J.J. Home in Murshidabad.**  
 Ref. No. P/T/26/2016-17 from CINI

Sir,  
 With reference to above, I am directed to inform you that the proposal regarding Work for Rehabilitation & restoration of children in J.J. Home in Murshidabad in connection with CINI, Daulatpur, South 24 Parganas is approved.

I am also directed to mention that the following Govt. run Homes in Murshidabad namely, 1. Shilayan Home for Girls 2. Ananda Ashram(M), and 3. KNICH are to be covered.

Yours faithfully,  
 Sd/-  
 ( Deputy Secretary)

No. 1755/1(4) –SW/O /M-2/17 Dated 2 /05/2017

Copy forwarded for information to:-  
 1. P.S. to HMOSIC of this Deptt.  
 2. P.A. to Secretary of this Deptt.  
 3. The District Magistrate, Murshidabad.  
 4. Dr. Samir Narayan Chaudhuri, Daulatpur, P.O. Pailan via Joka, South 24-Parganas.

Deputy Secretary



**Child in Need Institute (CINI)**  
**Vill. Daulatpur, P.O. Pailan, Via Joka,**  
**Dist. South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700 104,**  
**West Bengal, India**

**Via Tommaso Grossi, 6,**  
**20900 Monza MB, Italy**  
**Phone: +393356652279**

**Tel. +91 33 2497 8192 / 8206 / 8641 / 8642**  
**Website: [www.cini-india.org](http://www.cini-india.org); Facebook:**  
**<http://www.facebook.com/cini.india>**  
**Twitter:**  
**[http://www.twitter.com/cini\\_india](http://www.twitter.com/cini_india)**