

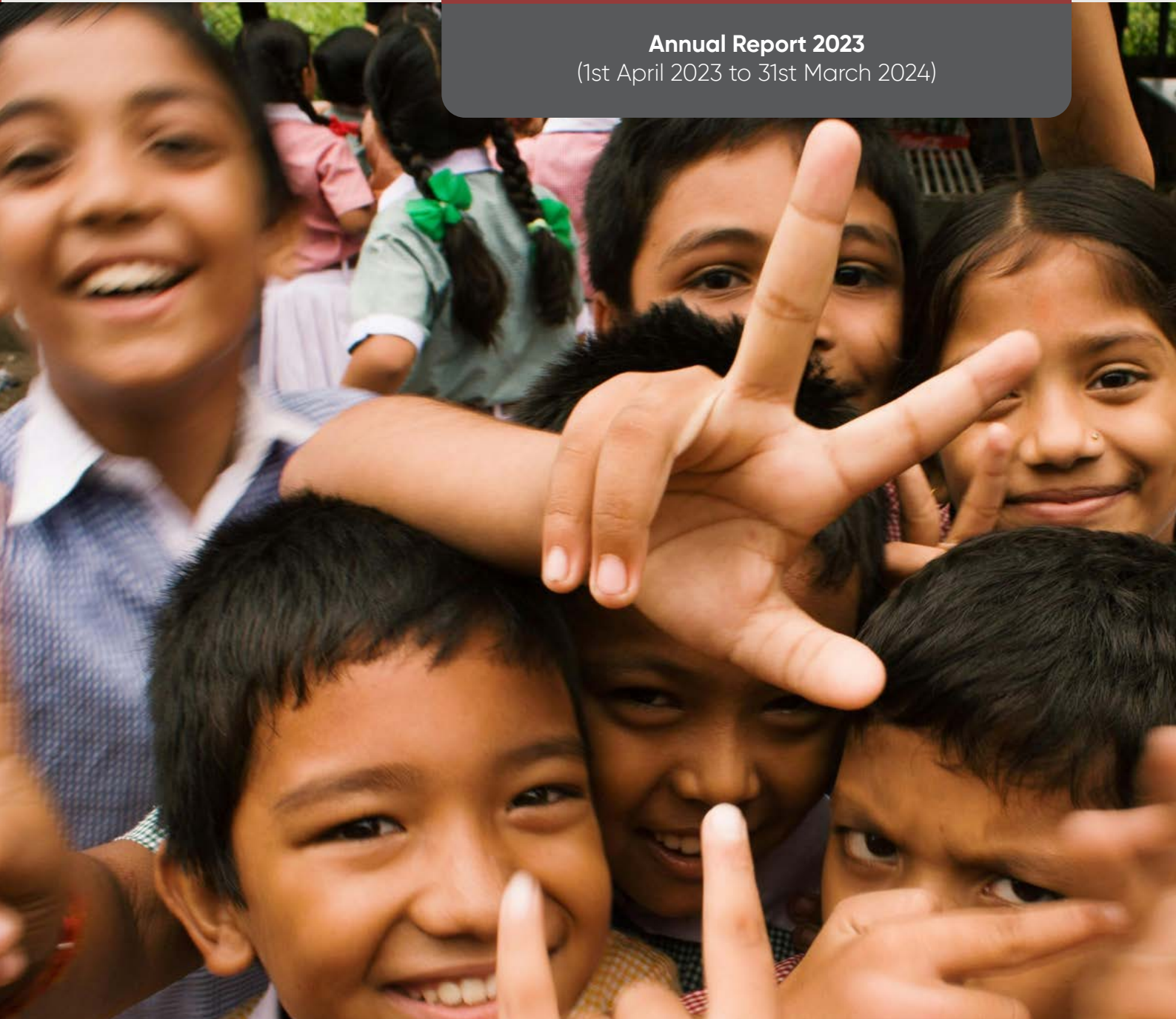
Centre for Child and the Law

Empowering Child Rights, Transforming Futures

28 Years of Impact through
Research and Advocacy

Annual Report 2023

(1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)



National Law School of
India University



28 YEARS OF IMPACT THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY | Centre for Child and the Law | 27

Executive Summary

Food, education, and protection are the three seemingly distinct yet interconnected aspects of children's rights. The Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) conducts ongoing socio-legal research, builds the capacities of both state and non-state actors, and advocates for progressive provisions in the law across all these domains. We undertake this work with heightened rigor with the steadfast aim of safeguarding and advancing children's rights in India.

Our research in the domain of right to food and nutrition delves into the critical connection between policy, governance, institutions, and capacities on one hand and explores opportunities to improve access to justice for children in conflict with law, on the other. We take pride in sharing insights from our path-breaking work on scripting comprehensive state rules under the national law on food security; engaging with the juvenile justice system effectively while reaching out to enable justice to children and their families who are entangled in the legal system.



Through continued research, advocacy, and collaboration, we strive to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Our findings inform policy changes, empower communities, and ultimately, create a future where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

This year has been a combination of achievements and learning experiences for all of us. The range of our work has led to the building and strengthening of our local, state, national, and international partnerships, while allowing us to learn from the ensuing interactions. It has been an enriching journey over the past year, involving the dissemination of our research and igniting conversations on crucial child rights issues. These experiences have kept us motivated and committed to amplifying the voices of children and advocating for a world where their rights are not just rhetoric but a lived reality.

Looking ahead, we plan to deepen our research on specific socio-political challenges, develop practical tools and resources for policymakers and practitioners, and foster community engagements to ensure our research translates into tangible improvements for children. By working together, we hope to ensure that every child has the right to nutritious food, access to a fair justice system, and a quality education- the building blocks for a fulfilling and productive life.

We are beholden to the invaluable support from fellow researchers, practitioners and child rights advocates, who have committed themselves to exploring various ways in which the law can lead to social transformation, creating a just society where all children enjoy their rights.

We look forward to your continued and engaged support.

Dr Neetu Sharma
Co-Director



Our Vision

To see a world where all children live with dignity, achieving their full potential.

Our Mission

To contribute to a child rights centric society in which the State is accountable to children, and empower communities, especially marginalized children, to claim and realize their rights.

Acronyms

AAY	Antyodaya Anna Yojane	JS	Jagrutha Samithi a.k.a. Vigilance Committee
APPI	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	KLSLA	Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
BVS	Bala Vikasa Samithi	MBS	Maternity Benefit Scheme
CCL	Centre for Child and the Law	MDMS	Mid Day Meal Scheme
CiCL	Children in Conflict with the Law	ME	Maternity Entitlement(s)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation(s)	NFSA	National Food Security Act
DBT	Direct Benefits Transfer	NGO	Non-Government Organization(s)
DCPCR	Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights	NLSIU	National Law School of India University
DCPO	District Child Protection Officer	OH	Observation Home (Government Boys Observation Home, Madiwala, Bengaluru)
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit	PDS	Public Distribution System
DGRO	District Grievance Redressal Officer(s)	PHH	Priority Household(s)
DLSA	District Legal Services Authority	PIL	Public Interest Litigation
FGD	Focus Group Discussions	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution(s)
FORCES	Forum for Creches and Childcare Services	RCs	Ration Card(s)
FPS	Fair Price Shop(s)	SFCs	State Food Commission(s)
GoK	Government of Karnataka	SIRs	Social Investigation Report(s)
GP	Gram Panchayat	SDMC	School Development and Monitoring Committee(s)
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services/ Schemes	TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
IGRM	Internal Grievance Redressal Mechanism	VC	Vigilance Committee a.k.a. Jagrutha Samithi
JJ	Juvenile Justice		
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board		

About Us



The Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) is a specialized multi-disciplinary Research Centre of NLSIU was established on April 1st 1996. The Centre integrates research, direct field action and teaching on child rights law; and uses law and socio-legal strategies as tools for transformative social change in order to enable children to live with dignity. The specific aim of CCL is to ensure social justice, human rights and quality of life for all children in India, with special focus on equitable quality education, care, protection and justice for marginalized and excluded children.

The objectives of the Centre are to enable children to be treated as rights holders; to help institutionalize the human rights based approach into policy, law and practice on children, and to build the capacity of state and civil society for more effective realization of child rights. Drawing from its engagement with research and direct

action, it launched the pioneering PG Diploma in Child Rights Law through Distance mode in 2008, which is currently coordinated by the University's Distance Education Program known as Professional and Continuing Education.

Throughout its existence, CCL has championed an interdisciplinary approach, combining policy research, legal reform, advocacy, and lobbying with government entities to ensure the effective realization of child rights. Embracing strategies like a human rights-based approach and participatory action research, CCL collaborates closely with academia, practitioners, communities, and social movements to advance children's human rights. The organization focuses its efforts primarily on three key program areas: Early Childhood Care and Development, Child Welfare and Protection, and Food Security.



What We Do

Advocating for Child Welfare and Protection: Project "Enabling Access to Justice"

Despite the comprehensive rights-based legal framework, most of the safeguards and layers of protection laid down by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the corresponding Rules, are at times inadvertently found to be just out-of-reach by many adolescents and their families, who find themselves entangled in the legal system.

In this context, our project 'Enabling Access to Justice for Children in the Juvenile Justice System' endeavours to provide essential services, including quality legal-aid, psychosocial and rehabilitative services to assist Children in Conflict with the Law (CiCL) navigate the justice system.

Additionally, the project strives to raise awareness and enhance the capacities of key stakeholders within the child-support-services system by sensitizing them to child-friendly practices and encouraging them to adopt a child rights perspective in their approach.



Lastly, the project aims to systematically identify, collate, analyse and document the gaps and challenges which hinder the effective functioning of the system, producing several wide-ranging research outputs to support advocacy efforts. These objectives collectively aspire to strengthen the overall functioning of the Juvenile Justice system viewed comprehensively from the lens of child rights.

The following highlights form part of our on-going work at the Government Boys Observation Home (OH) at Madiwala, Bengaluru through our on-site Helpdesk:

1. **Legal Services:** The helpdesk offers comprehensive legal services to children- including explaining and clarifying the various complex legal processes to the child and family; coordinating with stakeholders such as lawyers, police, and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on all aspects of their case; and, providing legal representation to the child, over the course of the proceedings through our advocates wherever requested.

2. **Psychosocial Services:** The Project provides essential psychosocial support to children and their families. This encompasses psycho-social counselling services for both- the child and the family, as well as follow-up and aftercare for children admitted to the Observation Home.

3. **Awareness Programs:** The Project conducts awareness programs on child rights, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the Juvenile Justice system. These programs are not only conducted for children residing at the Observation Home but also to all other stakeholders who work with children in various capacities to foster a culture of awareness and protection.

Through these activities, CCL endeavours to fulfil its objective of ensuring justice to children in conflict with law by providing legal and psychosocial services to children entering the Juvenile Justice system and their families, thereby contributing to their rehabilitation and well-being.



Ensuring Food Security through Right to Food

CCL's project "Ensuring Food Security for Marginalized People in India Through Advocacy and Capacity Building on the National Food Security Act, 2013" aims at establishing a network of monitoring, evaluation, and grievance redressal institutions in eight states of India to advance the right to food and nutrition security. As part of this domain, CCL focuses on adopting a systems strengthening approach and emphasizes stakeholder capacity building while addressing key implementation challenges.

Through several years of engagement with reviewing NFSA implementation, CCL has identified many prominent gaps preventing optimisation of NFSA's potential for eradicating food insecurities and malnutrition. Challenges include absence of or deficiencies in state NFSA rules, legal framework overlaps, diminished capacities of key stakeholders and, compartmentalized problem-solving approaches within states. The project's multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral activities target addressing food insecurities which have been negatively impacted by the loss of livelihoods especially in the aftermath of adverse government policies and conditions exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

With a focus on eight states including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, CCL engaged with stakeholders at various levels

towards mobilisation of stakeholders, building their capacities, and provided technical support to them on the legal framework. Key stakeholders encompass members of State Food Commissions (SFCs), District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs) in Telangana and Jharkhand; Civil Society Organizations, and Policymakers across India, with emphasis on the eight states. Additionally, in districts like Ramanagara and Vijayapura in Karnataka, CCL engaged directly with grassroots implementation and monitoring groups and rightsholders such as Vigilance Committees (VCs), School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs), Bala Vikasa Samithis (BVSs) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The programme on right to food also has a prominent focus on knowledge generation, research backed evidence building and dissemination of knowledge products to understand and address impediments to effective implementation of the NFSA 2013, thereby fostering a continuous engagement with ministries, state departments, government bodies and agencies, as well as CSOs.

Guideline and position papers and policy briefs on key components of the Act have been developed to address pressing issues and challenges existing in the food systems. These include digitization, fortification, cash transfers, adequacy of Anganwadis in tribal and urban areas, and sustainable food security models amidst climate change which pose threats to the principles underlying the NFSA.

Emphasis on Early Childhood Development and Care: Karnataka FORCES

In September 2023, CCL took a significant stride forward by uniting like-minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) under a formal state-level network affiliated with the National FORCES (Forum for Crechès and Childcare Services). Our objective is to champion childcare services throughout Karnataka. In a dynamic assembly,

we convened 17 participant organizations, culminating in the establishment of the Karnataka Chapter of FORCES. The Karnataka FORCES was officially launched on December 1st, 2023. Strengthening our commitment to child rights, we have adopted the Chapter's guidelines and a formulated a comprehensive plan of action for the ensuing six months. This milestone merely marks the inception of our journey towards a brighter future for children across Karnataka.





Research

An essential component of our on-going work at CCL is the production of various research and advocacy outputs across all domains in the form of reports, guideline documents, handbooks, position papers, and policy briefs. Given below is a list of the important outputs produced during this reporting period.

Re-examining the Significance of the Social Investigation Reports

At CCL, we actively contribute to discussions on child rights, protection, and access to justice initiatives. Our social workers authored a paper for the Children First Journal by the Delhi Commission of Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR). This paper draws from their personal experiences in capturing the voices of children and their families while creating Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) for CiCLs. The SIR is a comprehensive tool which informs the Juvenile Justice Board about a child's social, economic, and psychosocial context, aiding better understanding and decision-making. The paper served a threefold purpose: shedding light on the Juvenile Justice system's treatment of children, documenting effective practices for SIRs, and proposing improvements for its current form while offering insights and recommendations for preparing impactful SIRs.

Bail Toolkit under Juvenile Justice

CCL released a Juvenile Justice bail toolkit on October 7th, 2023, in the presence of Assistant Secretary, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. This toolkit provides guidance on bail procedures, conditions, and rejection cases under the JJ Act 2015. Designed for easy understanding, it aims to make bail provisions accessible to all, regardless of legal knowledge. (Pic. of the toolkit).

Understanding the Working of Legal Services Provided to CiCL

Drawing from CCL's work at the OH, the Child Protection team, authored a chapter which examines the working of legal aid services provided for children under the JJ System. The chapter explores the journey of a CiCL (and their family) navigating the JJ system. It has been included in the book titled 'Human Rights and Legal Services for Children and Youth' published by Springer.

Feasibility of Cash Transfers for Food Security

An analytical study on the Implementation of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) under Annabhagya Scheme in Karnataka: An Evaluation of the Awareness, Utilization, Preferences and

Challenges was completed and a report submitted to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Karnataka. The report provides valuable insights and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the DBT scheme.

Adequacy of Anganwadis in Karnataka

A study on the 'Adequacy of Anganwadi Centres in Tribal and Urban Areas in Karnataka State' following its commissioning by the Department of Women and Child Development, Karnataka has been submitted. This report ascertains the need of Anganwadi Centres in the Tribal and Urban areas of the State and recommends the establishment of more Anganwadis in the study locations and pockets of the state.

Other Research Outputs

- » A guideline document, ' Strengthening the Role of Local Authorities in the Implementation of NFSA, 2013,'
- » A position paper 'Reviewing Food Fortification as a Strategy to Address Malnutrition in India'
- » A policy brief on 'Status of Nutrition of Tribal Children in Hilly Regions of Karnataka State and Policies That Are To Be Brought Out to Improve Their Standard of Nutrition, Infrastructure and Nutritional services in Anganwadi Centers'
- » A position paper on Genetically Modified foods titled "Arguing against genetically crops- A threat to food and nutrition security in India"





Capacity Building

Throughout the year, CCL has organized various capacity-building sessions and events catering to different stakeholder categories within its key program domains. The training sessions for stakeholders in the Juvenile Justice System were meticulously designed to address the specific needs and roles of individuals working with children in need of care and protection, as well as those in conflict with the law. These sessions cover a wide array of topics, ranging from an updated overview of relevant laws to procedures on apprehension and bail, preliminary assessments under the Juvenile Justice Act, and insights into child psychology and development. Each session is led by resource persons who are esteemed experts in their respective fields.

Similarly, within the Food Security domain, each capacity-building session underscores the pivotal role played by grassroots stakeholders and rightsholder groups in effectively implementing the several components of the NFSA, 2013. These sessions elucidate the unique roles and responsibilities of these stakeholders within the food distribution and nutrition governance system, emphasizing their significance.

The trainings in this domain also provide an introduction to the right to food and nutrition security in India, offering a historical perspective on food legislation and an overview of the

rules and schemes constituting the major components of NFSA, such as the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Maternity Benefit Scheme (MBS), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), and the Public Distribution System (PDS). The focus remains on delineating the statutory roles and responsibilities assigned to each key stakeholder group. The sessions delve into the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of malnutrition, including under-nutrition among children.

Additionally, a diverse range of informative topics have been covered in the trainings, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of stakeholder groups in achieving them; women and children's development through right to food programs; NFSA from a child rights perspective; Gram Panchayat schemes related to the right to food, and the role of Gram Panchayat members; as well as the impact of agriculture in the context of climate change.

In addition to these initiatives, CCL facilitated gatherings of several Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to explore the effects and long-term impacts of climate change in their respective project areas. These efforts aimed to enhance their capacities to map climate risks through comprehensive assessments across various project locations.

Capacity building initiatives under Access to Justice Project

Advocates empanelled with the District Legal Services Authority

CCL organized two training workshops building the capacities of 35 DLSA empanelled advocates from Karnataka on the JJ Act, 2015 during this year. These sessions were conducted in collaboration with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KLSA) and the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. The primary objectives of the training were to infuse participants with a child rights perspective and enhance their comprehension of the JJ Act. The programme provided them with an overview of the JJ Act and also facilitated discussions on various aspects such as apprehension procedures, custody, bail, and preliminary assessment under the Act. Additionally, each session underscored the necessity to adopt a child rights approach by the advocates. The training delved into the importance of comprehending the evolution of a child's psychology from childhood to adolescence when navigating the Juvenile Justice system; where the focus is on helping participants make a conscious distinction in their approach while dealing with children and adults in the criminal justice system.

Counsellors and Protection Officers

Counsellors and Protection Officers (Institutional Care) from 17 districts of Karnataka attended a training on the JJ Act, 2015 organised by CCL in collaboration with the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Karnataka. The two-day training held in June 2023 at the NLSIU campus provided

an overview of the JJ Act emphasising the need for a special law for children which addresses the overlap between children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection.

Resource persons highlighted the roles and obligations of counsellors and the importance of adopting a child rights approach. Participants were also familiarized with concepts of developmental and child psychology covering aspects such as physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual and social development of adolescents. The training fostered a conducive environment for exchange of knowledge and building of capacities enabling participants to enhance their skills and competencies in the JJ System.

District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs)

Also in collaboration with the ICPS of Karnataka, CCL organised a two-day training programme for the DCPOs in July 2023. The training focussed on discussing the integral role played by the officers in the implementation of the JJ Act 2015, in word and spirit. The sessions provided an overview of the UNCRC, 1989, JJ Act, 2015, the Adoption Regulations of 2022 and the purpose and role of Mission Vaatsalya. The various sessions were facilitated by experts drawn from civil society networks, JJB Members, UNICEF ; and Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare. About 30 participants, including DCPOs, Superintendents of CCIs and Probation Officers from various districts of Karnataka attended.

The participants contributed to the programme with insightful interactions, narrations of their experiences and challenges they face. The



sessions highlighted the responsibility which lay upon the DCPOs to work in coordination with other stakeholders in safeguarding the rights of a child. Such trainings also provide a crucial avenue for the participants to mutually discuss administrative issues under the ICPS and seek clarifications on new procedures and processes under the scheme.

Staff of Child Care Institutes (Institutional Care)

A capacity building session was conducted for the OH staff in December 2023. Eminent counsellor and therapists were invited to discuss varying psychological needs of a child and how socio-familial conditions affect them. These sessions highlighted the need for teamwork and empathy from everyone in performing a duty of care while ensuring the best interests of the child.



Bengaluru Urban District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)

CCL staff were invited as resource persons by the DCPUs of Bengaluru Urban district comprising the north, south, east, west and central zones to build the capacities of about 60 of their personnel on the JJ Act 2015 with a focus on "Role of DCPUs concerning CiCL" by delving into the context of the JJ Act, its guiding principles and potential pitfalls. CCL staff emphasized the importance ascribed to rehabilitation in the context of CiCL and highlighted the distinction between justice systems for juveniles and adults, pointing out the former's mandate to provide a child "another chance" to rebuild their life. The session provided an opportunity to explain the imperative of rehabilitation for reintegration and restorative balance among CiCLs, the victims, their families, and the community.



Capacity building initiatives on NFSA, 2013

Committees and Panchayats tasked with grassroots monitoring and implementation

Over several years now, CCL has consistently invested in building capacities of the various committees tasked with monitoring and ensuring effective implementation of the NFSA at the grassroots. These are the Jagrutha Samithi members (Fair Price Shop level Vigilance Committee), the Bala Vikasa Samithi (BVS) members at the Anganawadi level, the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members at the government primary and high school level and Gram Panchayat members at the Panchayat level. The districts of Ramanagara and Vijayapura have been selected as pilot geographies for this engagement. Through eight training sessions last year, we had strengthened the capacities of 321 participants viz., JS, BVS, SMDC and GP members from Ramanagara and Vijayapura, helping them understand and execute their roles and responsibilities diligently in the effective implementation of the Act.

In addition, 109 members including 51 BVS members and 58 GP members participated in two trainings in January 2024 at Vijayapura. These trainings equip the participants with an overview of the critical components of the NFSA, including the ICDS, MBS, MDMS and the PDS. Further, it specifically enables the GP members to understand the nuances of their roles and responsibilities within each of these components, empowering them to effectively exercise their duty.

District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs) in Telangana

In collaboration with the Telangana State Food Commission, CCL organized an online workshop for DGROs. The workshop aimed to enhance the officers' understanding of policy, legal, and nutritional aspects, with a specific focus on women and children. Discussions revolved around strengthening the roles of DGROs in implementing the NFSA within their respective districts. A comprehensive manual on the right to food and nutrition, and grievance redressal principles was developed for use during the workshop. Participants actively engaged in key issues such as raising awareness among rights holders, addressing coordination challenges, and emphasizing the need for effective monitoring. The workshop also comprehensively covered central and state rules pertaining to the TPDS, ICDS, MDMS, and MBS.

Workshop on the Role of CSOs in NFSA, 2013

Our workshop titled "NFSA, 2013 and Role of CSOs in Karnataka State," held at Dharwad in December 2023 also adds to our enriching experiences of this period. The workshop aimed to deepen participants' understanding of hunger, nutrition, and malnourishment within the context of the right to food and nutrition security. Participants gained invaluable insights into the four key components through which the food security act is operationalized on ground viz., the ICDS, mbs, MDMS, and PDS. The recent cash transfer scheme under Annabhagya was also explored. Against the backdrop of India's Global Hunger Index ranking, which slid from 107th in 2022 to 111th in 2023, the discussions were vibrant and thought-provoking.

To supplement our training methodologies which range from classroom lectures to engaging case studies, open discussions, and interactive role-

playing, we also invited guest speakers to share invaluable practical experiences from the Right to Food Campaign and nutritional research among adivasi and tribals. A special session on the "Impact on Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change" a run-away hit as it provided crucial insights into the effects of climate change on agriculture with mind-boggling scientific studies.

Climate Risk Assessments: Workshop to Empower NGOs on Effective Climate Action

CCL, in collaboration with Bread for the World (Germany), successfully organized a three-day Capacity Building Workshop on Climate Risk Assessments from November 27 to 29, 2023. The workshop aimed to equip NGOs with essential skills for addressing climate risks and enhancing their effectiveness in climate action.

Climate expert Thomas Hirsch led the sessions on global and Indian climate trends, climate policy responses, and climate risk assessments. Activity groups assessed project exposure to climate hazards, conducted vulnerability assessments, and discussed project-specific climate risks. Mr. Hirsch, Head of Climate & Development Advice, Germany, brought extensive expertise to the workshop, drawing from his background in geography, social science, and environmental teaching. His insights and experiences from international NGOs such as Bread for the World and Greenpeace enriched discussions on sustainable development, climate change, and human rights.

The workshop emphasized the crucial role NGOs play in climate adaptation planning, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for addressing climate risks. The closing session addressed key takeaways, commitments, and outlined next steps for continued climate action, reflecting the workshop's impact and value.





Collaborations and Stakeholder Engagement

Film screening on Child Sexual Abuse by Rahi Foundation

CCL in collaboration with Queer Archive for Memory, Reflection and Activism, organised a screening of the national award winning documentary "The Little Girls We Were and the Women We Are" at The Catholic Club, Bengaluru in October 2023. The film narrates the story of five

women survivors of incest and child sexual abuse in India and their journey from abuse to recovery. It extends a message of hope and healing to survivors.

Child Rights Conversations

CCL launched the "Child Rights Conversations" video documentary series in Kannada this year, featuring experts discussing various aspects of child rights in the post-Covid era. Conversation were around various issues including children's mindset post-Covid, Rights and Protection of Children" and "Impact of Digitalization on Child Rights. These conversation were recorded for wider dissemination, and are available on our YouTube Channel- Centre for Child and the Law (@centreforchildandthelaw907) for public viewing.

CENTRE FOR CHILD AND THE LAW & QAMRA ARCHIVAL PROJECT PRESENT
A National Award Winning Film by RAHI Foundation

rahi FOUNDATION

The Little Girls We Were... and the Women We Are

FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION WITH ANUJA GUPTA & ASHWINI AILAWADI

Five Indian women survivors of incest and child sexual abuse share their journey from abuse to recovery. It extends a message of hope and healing to survivors. (38 min. English.)

14 OCTOBER 2023 • 6.30 PM
THE BALLROOM, CATHOLIC CLUB
MUSEUM ROAD, BENGALURU

NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY BENGALURU

ENTRY IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGED 18 AND ABOVE

Multi-Stakeholder, State and National Consultations on Juvenile Justice

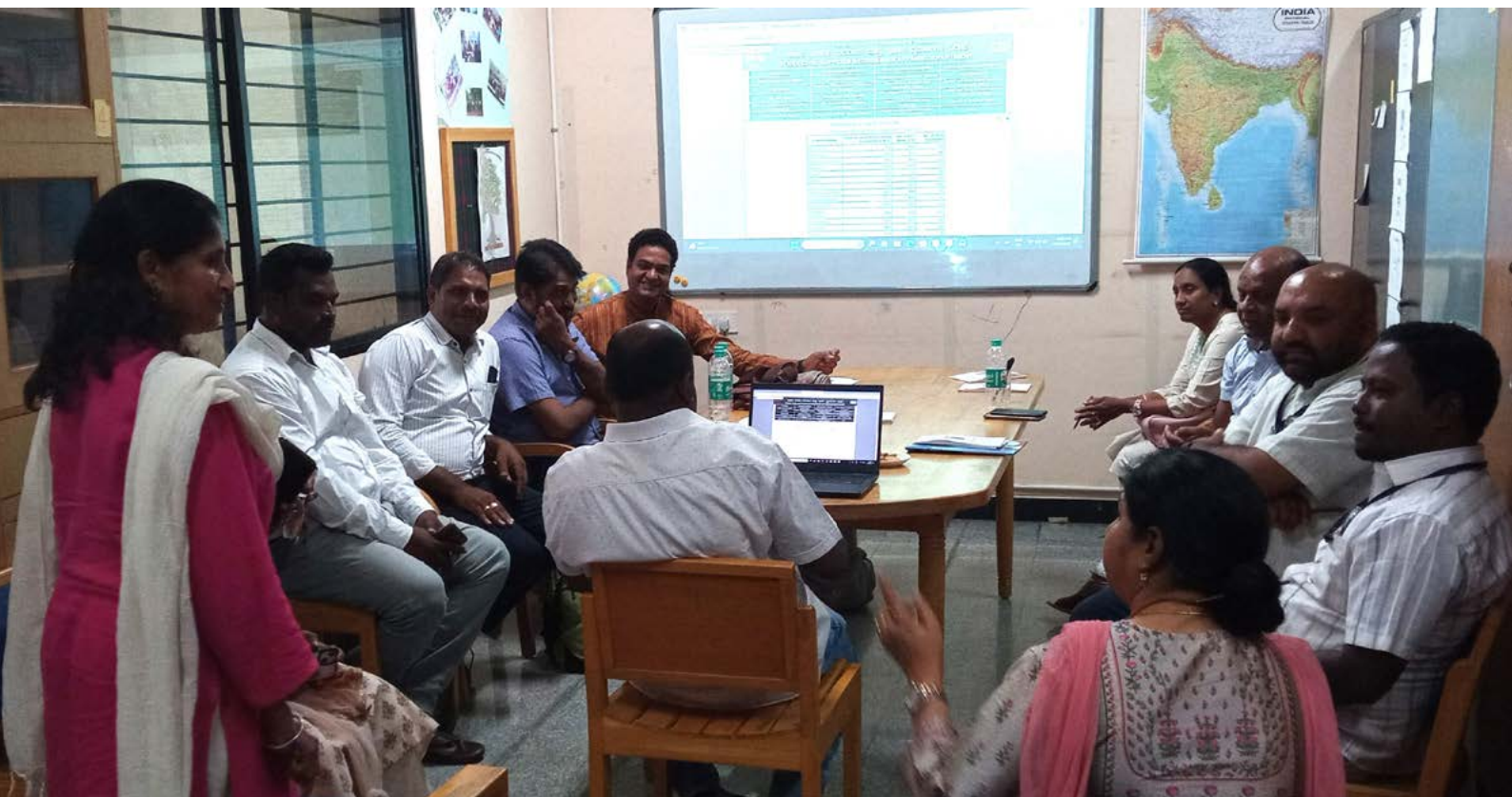
The CCL team presented on learning, challenges and best practices based on our work in the 'Enabling Access to Justice for Children in the Juvenile Justice System at the Multi-Stakeholder State Consultation - Juvenile Justice System organised by the Juvenile Justice Committee, Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka held in August 2023 at the Judicial Academy, Bangalore. The consultation brought together stakeholders such as judges, lawyers, police, staff of child care institutes and civil society organisations to

critically examine the implementation of the JJ Act, 2015 throughout the state of Karnataka.

20 years of Voluntary Guidelines on Right to Food

CCL representative actively participated in moderated the side event on 20 years of Right to Food Guidelines co-organised by FIAN

International and Global Network on Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRTFN), as part of the World Social Forum organised in Kathmandu, Nepal from February 15th to 19th. The event highlight the importance of the RTF guidelines and called for serious commitment on the part of states to their international commitments



Postgraduate Diploma in Child Rights Law (PGDCRL)

Do you work with children in an NGO, educational or research institution or in a legal-aid setting? Are you linked to any government departments concerning children? Are you interested in knowing more about Child Rights Laws in India? If yes, then Enroll Now!!!

The National Law School of India University is offering a one-year online Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights Law (PGDCRL) through its Professional and Continuing Education department.

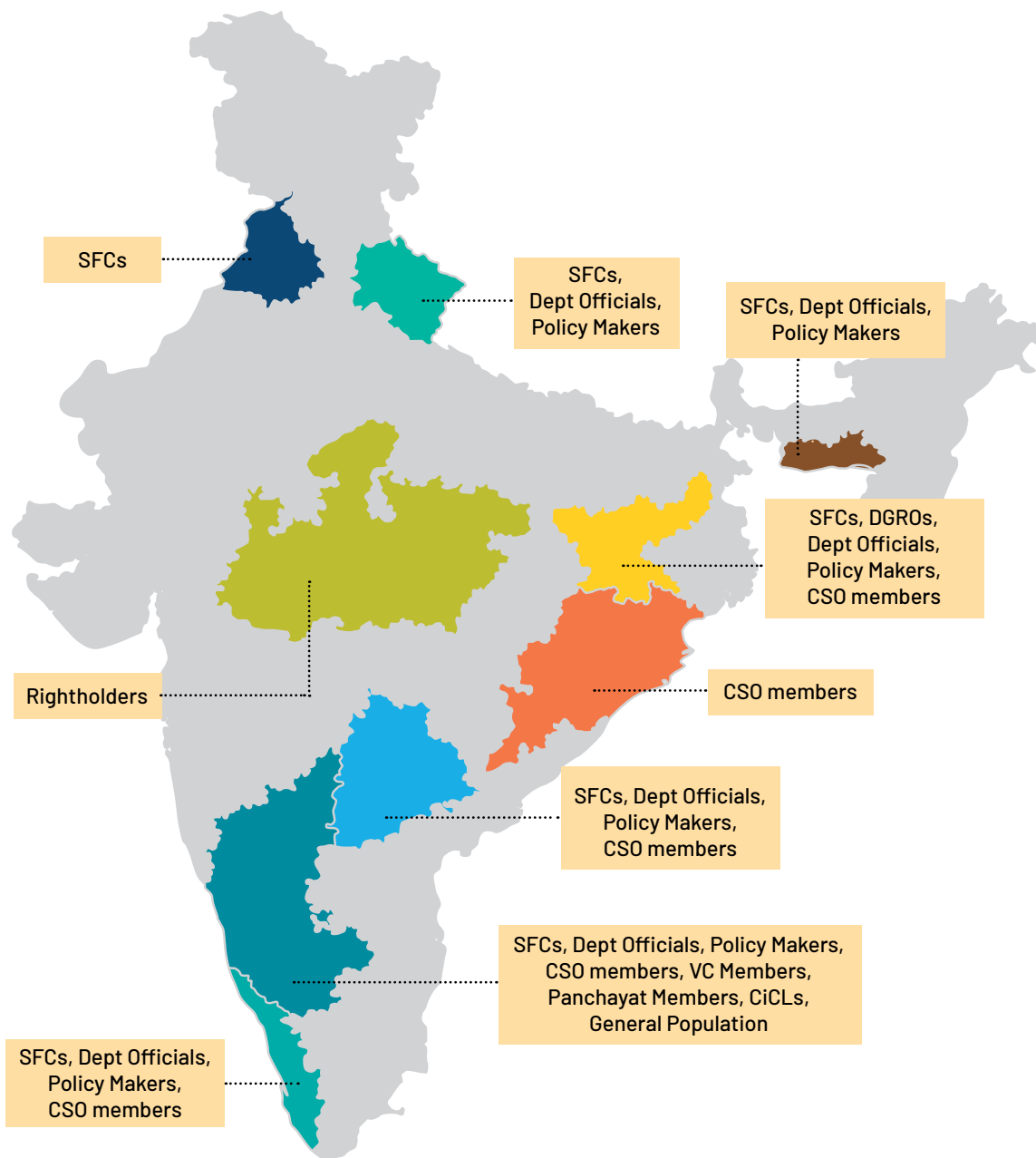
This unique course fosters a deep understanding on child rights law in India, combining theoretical insights from international and domestic laws with practical applications. It hones advocacy and lobbying skills, benefiting professionals associated with the government, NGOs, legal-aid, education, and research.

<https://pace.nls.ac.in/programmes/postgraduate-diploma-child-rights-law-pgdcr/>

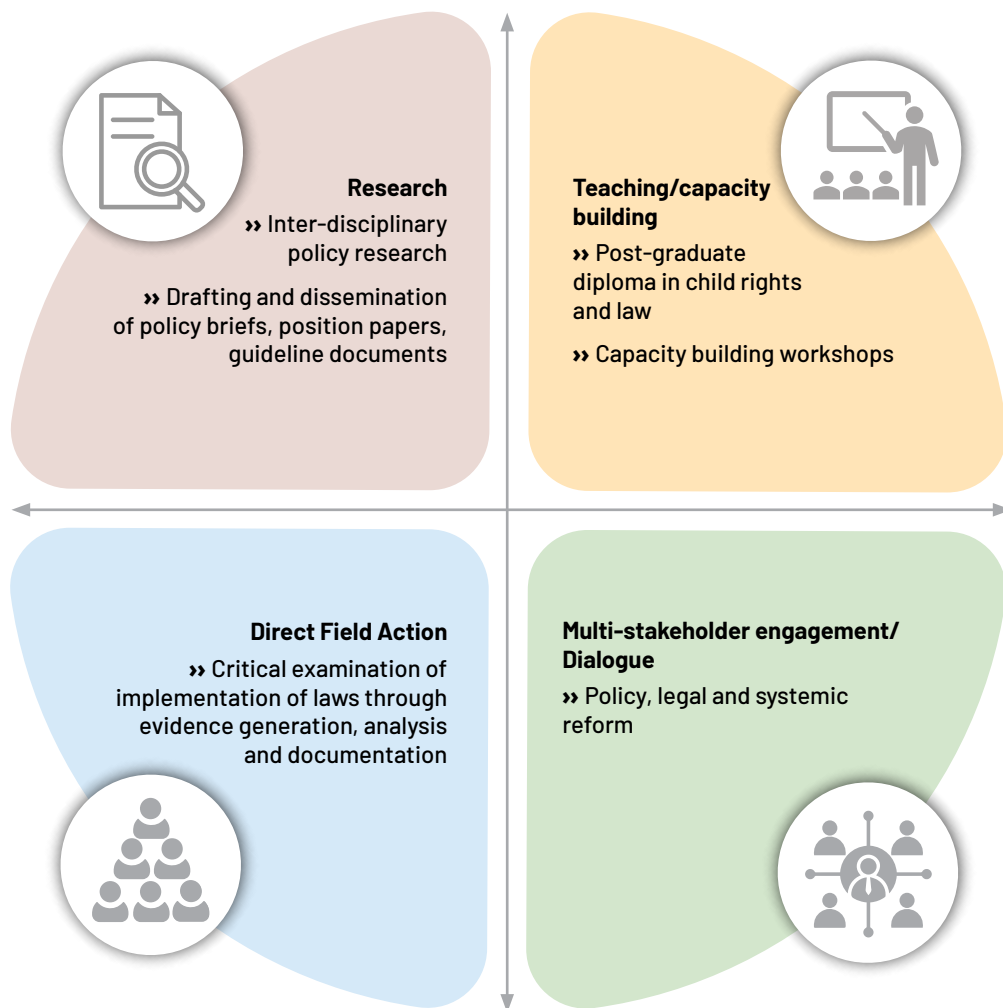
State-wise engagement with stakeholder groups

Describes the various states and stakeholder groups engaged with during the project period.

- Jharkhand
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Madhya Pradesh
- Meghalaya
- Odisha
- Punjab
- Telangana
- Uttarakhand



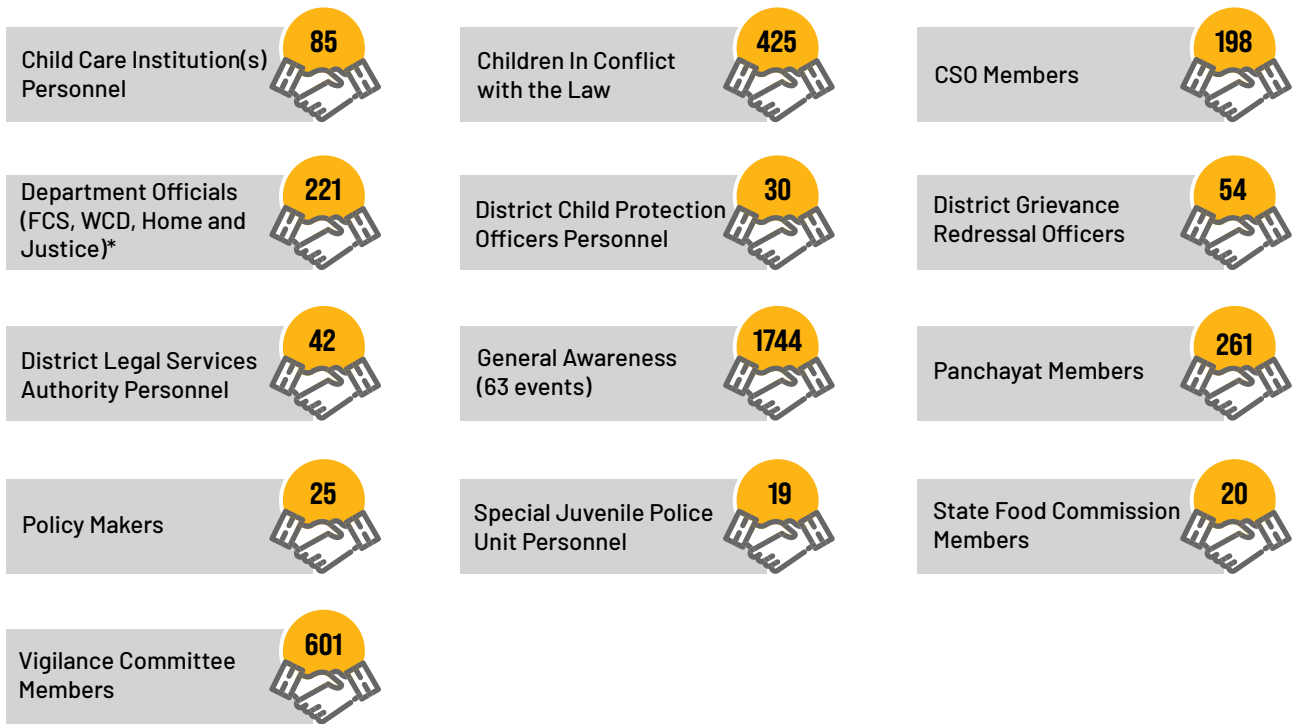
CCL: Key Operational Areas



Enabling Access to Justice... (upto 31 st March 2024)

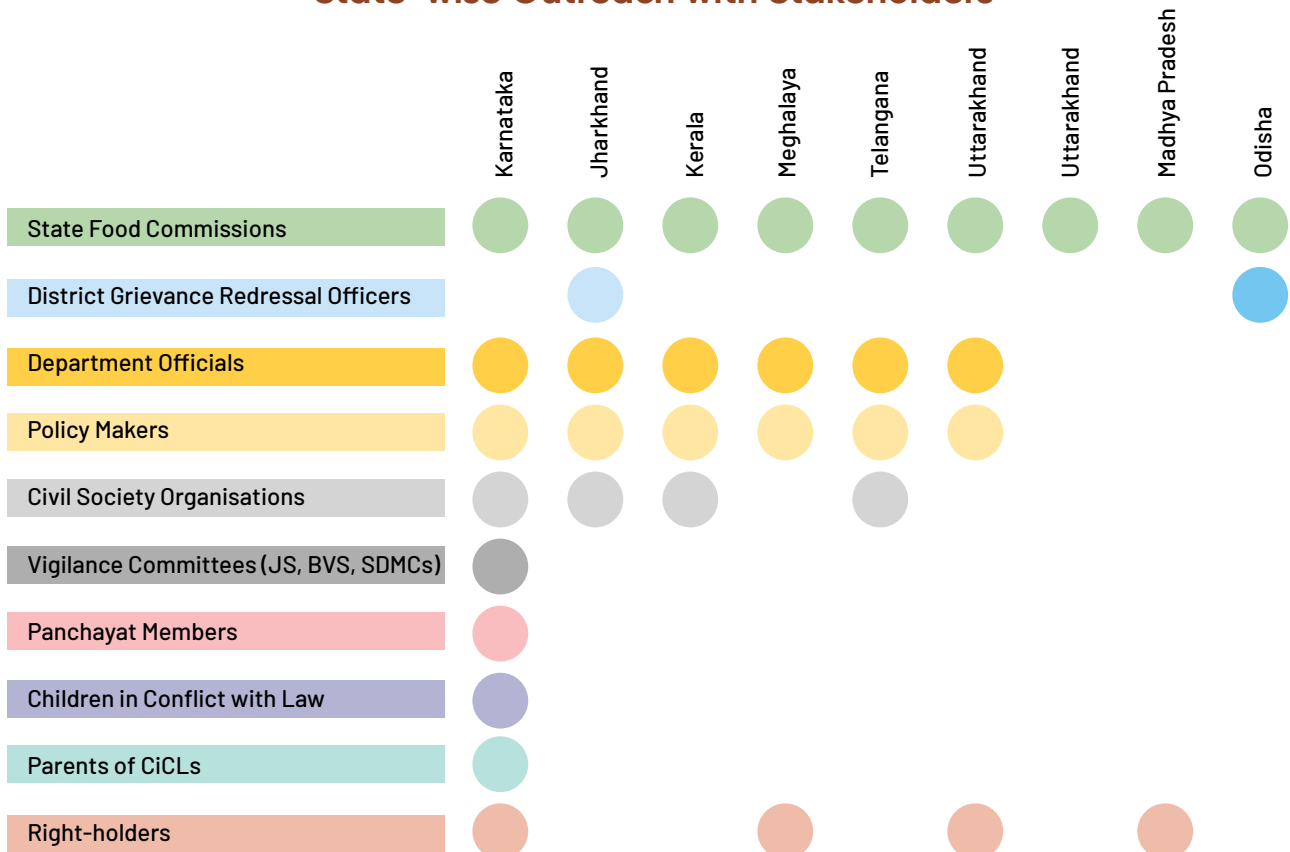


Engagement with Stakeholder Category



* Department Officials include personnel from the various government departments including Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Women and Child Development, Home Affairs and Justice.

State-wise Outreach with Stakeholders





Consultations and Networking

NFSA 2013- A Decade of the Food Security Law in India: National Consultation

In 2023, as India was gradually overtaking China to become the world's most populous country, it also entered into the 11th year of the historical food security law- the NFSA, 2013. In commemoration of this landmark legislation, CCL, organised a 2-day national consultation in September 2023 at NLSIU. The event served as a platform for reflection and discourse on the challenges and achievements encountered in the journey of implementing the NFSA over the past decade.

The consultation acknowledged that despite the intention of the legislation to ensure universal access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices across diverse socio-economic strata, NFSA's journey had been fraught with challenges including socio-legal gaps, obstacles in implementation, and the emergence of climate change as a modern threat to food security. These challenges have necessitated a critical examination of policies and practices to ensure equitable and sustainable food security for the future.

Throughout the event, there was a palpable sense of urgency and determination among participants to address the myriad challenges

facing India's food security landscape. Calls for stronger collaboration, innovative partnerships, and evidence-based policymaking resonated across sessions, reflecting a shared commitment to realizing the vision of a hunger-free and equitable country.

The 2-day national consultation on NFSA 2013 provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to come together, reflect on past experiences, and chart a course for the future. The rich discussions, diverse perspectives, and concrete recommendations generated during the event will serve as a roadmap for policymakers, practitioners, and advocates working towards the realization of food security and nutrition goals in India. As the country continues its journey towards sustainable development and social justice, the lessons learned and insights gained from this consultation will undoubtedly inform and shape future interventions, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of food security and well-being.

The full report is available on our website: <https://ccl.nls.ac.in/>

CCL representatives also facilitated and participated in review of NFSA implementation in other states, such as Odisha and Jharkhand.

NGO Consultations and FGDs in five districts

In August, CCL partnered with five district NGOs: Humanity Foundation (Belagavi), Asare Women's Organisation (Ramangaram), Centre for Non-Formal Education (Vijayapura), Chikmagalur Multipurpose Social Service Society (Hassan), and Lesson Foundation (Raichur) and held a consultation to discuss the current status of Direct Benefit Cash Transfers (DBT) under the Annabhagya Scheme, the issuance of ration cards in Karnataka's, challenges in the existing provisions of the national and state food security programs, and grassroots realities in the districts. The study intended to evaluate the viability of cash transfers under the Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) scheme as part of the Annabhagya Yojane in Karnataka. Between October and November 2023, we embarked on a journey across Ramanagara, Hassan, Raichur, Vijayapura, and Belagavi districts, convening a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) as a follow-up to the online survey.

The FGDs played a crucial role in gathering qualitative insights into the DBT scheme—evaluating fund flow processes and, identifying challenges and sources of exclusion faced by beneficiaries. Our overarching aim was to understand the extent of exclusion, utilization patterns, and preference-related issues.

CSO Consultation in Kerala

With the support of the Kerala State Food Commission, CCL organized a one-day consultation on the 'Role of Civil Society Organizations in Strengthening the Implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 in Kerala.' The event took place in June 2023, at Thiruvananthapuram and was attended by 36 representatives. The discussion revolved around a rights-based approach, encompassing the pillars and determinants of the Right to Food, as well as the principles governing it. It provided an opportunity to delve into nutritional and health-based indicators specific to Kerala, highlighting districts burdened by high levels of under-nutrition. Throughout the consultation, various barriers associated with the implementation of NFSA, 2013 in Kerala were highlighted. Moreover, it played a crucial role in bridging communications between the State Food Commission and Civil Society. The consultation, comprising four distinct sessions, was inaugurated by the former Chief Secretary of Kerala.

National Level Stock Taking on Food Systems at Ranchi, Jharkhand

A CSO consultation was held on 18-19 July at Ranchi, Jharkhand with 23 participants where CCL facilitated an Action Track to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all as part of Food Systems Dialogue leading to recommendations for Stock Taking on food systems transformation





Team Capacity Building

At the CCL, we prioritize the continuous enhancement of our internal team capacities to effectively fulfil the Centre's goals and dedicate our focus on strengthening our capabilities through targeted capacity-building initiatives. We aim to equip our teams with the latest knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to navigate the complex landscape of child welfare, protection, and food security. Additionally, combined activities help us retain the multi-disciplinary nature of our engagements and are designed to keep ourselves updated on emerging trends, research, and best practices in our respective domains, thereby cementing our position as recognized experts in the field.

Conducting cross-examinations in the JJ System: Also as part of our internal capacity building initiatives, Advocate Geeta Sajanshetty, and Member- Juvenile Justice Board, Kalburgi conducted an online session in August for the external lawyers empanelled with CCL and the Child Protection team (10 members) on conducting child-friendly cross-examinations in the JJ System.

KoboToolBox training: CCL team members attended a 4-day web-based training on

KoboToolBox in May 2023. This was organised by the Philippines Social Science Council. Later, the participants subsequently conducted a training in June to impart their learning to their colleagues.

Academic Writing and Publishing for Journals: Ms. Nishtha Vadera, Editor, NLSIU held a workshop in November to help the team focus on enhancing research writing skills. The session covered academic writing conventions, research design, literature review, paper structure, clear and concise writing, citation styles, peer review, ethical considerations, and publishing strategies. Ms. Vadhra also conducted hands-on exercises to illustrate effective communication strategies tailored to policy research organizations like CCL.

Working with Legal Data Sets, Online Data Mining and Analysis: In January 2024, CCL team members attended an intensive, hands-on 2-day workshop conducted by Civic Data Labs at NLSIU. The sessions helped the participants learn concepts of extracting and mining datasets available through html, PDFs etc and to understand tools and processes around data collection, data processing, data exploration, visualization and analysis.

Internships



Internships at CCL in 2023

During our reporting year of 2023, CCL facilitated internships for 29 students from various law colleges and universities from across India i.e., Assam, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Karnataka. Our interns can opt to work on either thematic area of Child Protection and/or Right to Food to prepare for their internship projects or deliverable which demonstrate the intern's contributions and learning during their internship.

Interning at CCL provides valuable hands-on experience, allowing students to contribute to real-world policy projects, develop analytical skills, and gain insights into the policymaking process. In turn, CCL equally benefits from the students as we gain fresh perspectives, avail additional human resources for research projects, foster a culture of learning and innovation, and potentially nurture future talent for the organization.



Partnerships





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