

# FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

On

**Community Response to Children Affected by Armed Conflict  
in Manipur**

Grant Code No.: 15-A-334

Submitted to:



**Submitted by:**

Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD)

Lamsang Bazar, Near RDO, Imphal West District, Manipur, INDIA

**Final Activity Reports  
On  
Community Response to Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Manipur**

**a. Name of organization:**

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**c. Project name**

Community Response to Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Manipur

**d. Code Number**

15-A-334

**e. Project periods**

November 1, 2015 to November 1, 2016

**f. Aim of the project:**

To reintegrate 200 children into society and make them as role model in peace building process, reducing the school drop-out cases through bridge education and provide economic opportunities through vocational training.

**g. Implemented activity, and its methods:**

Following are the activities that implemented during the project period:

Sl. No.	Activities	Methods
1	Formation of Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC)	To enhance sense of responsibility, ownership, collective efforts in program implementation and monitoring initiative.
2	Identification and selection of 200 children	To identify the selection of 200 children infected and affected by armed conflict from Imphal West District, Manipur.
3	Psychological Counseling Sessions and	In-house psychological and counseling input sessions twice in a week including life skill sessions to the children.
4	Bridge Education	Bridge education classes based on their age/previous educational status and make linkages with existing Government educational facilities.

5	Vocational Training Programs	Vocational training program on Tailoring, Embroidery, Cane, Bamboo and Computer linkages with other government training institutes.
6	Sensitization Programs	In order to activate the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, 4 nos. of community sensitization programs conducted.
7	Youth/Children Events	It enabled to connect with other children and as tool to bring them back in the mainstreaming in the society.
8	Advocacy Activities	To initiate a positive message to protect the children from the conflict and reduce the intensity of the conflict.
9	Network and Linkages	To establish network and linkages with different stakeholders through regular meeting, consultations and visits.

#### **h. General process of implemented activity:**

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##### **1. Formation of Project Implementation & Monitoring Committee (PIMC):**



A PIMC (Project Implementation & Monitoring Committee) was formed on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 comprising representative from different communities, CSOs and social workers. ISRD, aims at collective involvement of the community in terms of planning, implementation as well as Monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The members of the committee meet on or before 10th of every month. Following are the members of the PIMC.

Sl. No.	Name	Profession	Address	Sex
1.	Mr.Dinesh Singh	Secy, ISRD	Lamsang Bazar	M
2.	Miss Lucy Kamei	Social Activist	Taothong Khunou	F
3.	Mr.Martha Kipgen	Secretary, Gun Survivors Network	Lamdeng Mayai Leikai	F
4.	Mr. Saphu	Religious Leader	Eroishemba	M
5.	Mrs. Kabita	Child Rights Activist	Mayang Langing	F
6.	Mr. Abung Kabui	Human Rights Defender	Phumlou	M

7.	Mrs. Kaboklei	Women Activist	Heibongpoki	F
8.	Mr. Tomei	Social Activist	Kharam Thadoi	M
9.	Mr. Albert	Community Leader	Leilon Phaijang	M

### Dates of the Committee Meeting Held from Nov 2015 to Oct 2016:

Particulars	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Date	19	9	9	10	8	9	10	10	9	10	9	10
Nos. of Participants	9	9	8	9	7	9	9	9	8	7	9	9

### 2. Bridge Education:

During the purpose project, 73 children who are school drop-out were provided



4 months bridge education through regular class based on their age/previous educational status and make linkages with existing Government facilities like SSA and RMSA under Right to Education. 90% of the drops out cases occur in the primary category (class III to Class V). They were provided books, teaching aids, bags, stationery items as per requirements.

STATUS OF DROP OUT STUDENTS					
Class III		Class IV		Class V	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
19	15	21	7	8	3
<b>Reasons of Drop out:</b> Lost of the family members, lack of support, poverty, psychological factors, trauma, orphan, single parent, stigma, discrimination and fear.					

### Bridge Educators:

Sl. No.	Name	Address	Qualification	Experience
1	Mr. Salam Johny	Taothong Khunou	Graduate in Education	5 years teaching experience
2	Miss Chongboi Zou	Haorang	Graduate in Science	3 years teaching experience

3	Mr. Albert Kamei	Lamlongei	Graduate in Manipuri	7 years teaching experience
4	Miss Rose Haokip	Tera Urak	Graduate in English	4 years teaching experience

### 3. Psychological and Counseling Sessions:

As an ongoing activity of the project, psychological and counseling input sessions



were conducted twice in a week including life skill sessions. The main emphasis has been given to remove negative mindset, trauma and psychological fear. They were also given importance of education, social norms and roles of youth in democracy so that can lead the peace building initiatives. In the life skills, they were given activity on

self awareness, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, coping with stress, emotions and inter personal relationship.

Counseling	Life Skills Education
Every Wednesday	Every Saturday
8 a.m to 9:30 a.m.	8 a.m to 9:30 a.m.

### 4. Vocational Training Programs:

43 male and 42 females were provided on Skill Painting, Embroidery, Cane, Bamboo, Computer and linkages with other government training institutes. The training



programs were carried out with 3 trainers who joined as volunteers. Skill formation through vocational training among the children will enable them a source of livelihood or economic opportunities.

They may start their own small scale units or employment opportunities in the production houses. Handloom and handicraft products from Manipur have higher demand inside and outside the state and gained many self employment opportunities in the state.

**List of Vocational Instructors:**

Sl. No.	Name	Address	Qualification	Experience
1.	Mrs. Rebika Huidrom	Taothong Mamang Leikai	Diploma in Designing	5 years of teaching and practical experiences in Skill Painting & Designing.
2.	Miss Veronica	Mayanglangjing	Diploma in Embroidery & Tailoring	5 and ½ years of experience in the field of embroidery and arts works.
3.	Mr. Luikham	Haorang Keirel	Certificate holder in Cane & Bamboo arts	4 years of experience in the cane and bamboo works especially in making indigenous based products.



The program was conducted at the local community hall and management committee of the hall has also allowed accessing the venue at free of cost. They took the main responsibilities of providing training programme, designing the course and linking with other productions units in the case of placement opportunities. Although there is potential for self employment and employment opportunities, the children opted for further education. We also encourage education first for the children were they can shape

their future.



## 5. Sensitization Programs:



During the course of project period 4 nos of Community based sensitization program was conducted quarter wise in order to bring out enabling environment and provide support to children for their future.

Sl. No.	Location	Date	Target audiences
1.	Lamsang Bazar	16/12/2015	Meira Paibies (women torch bearers), Civil society organization, local elected representative, Clubs, Legal authority, child rights activist.
2.	Lamdeng Awang Leikai	13/04/2016	
3.	Haorang Sabal	16/06/2016	
4.	Salam Bazar Board	23/09/2016	

## 6. Youth/Children Events:

As a component to interact, motivate and tool to reintegrate the children into their normalcy behavior, 1 children event was organized on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016 at Lamsang Community Hall. All the children were allowed to participate on the event to showcase their skills on the occasion. Different stakeholders were also participated, interact with the children and distributed gifts as a token of encouragement and support.

## 7. Advocacy Activities:

The issue of children's infected and affected by the conflict is a neglected agenda buy the different sections of the society including policy and decision makers. There are limited services and provisions for the welfare and protection to reintegrate and mainstream into society. Many children became vulnerable in their adulthood and sometimes big challenges for the society. We advocated for the free education for children up-to standard of XII and vocational/skill up-gradation provisions in the existing welfare schemes. We engaged with district level decision makers, elected members, pressure groups, Commission for Protection of Child Rights and state social welfare departments.

**i. Achievements of the activities:**

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**Educational Level:**

DETAILS OF CHILDREN UNDER BRIDGE EDUCATION							
Nos. of children	Age (Range)	Nos. Male	Nos. of Female	Reintegrate in formal education under SSA (Primary)		Reintegrate in formal education under RMSA (Higher Primary)	
				M	F	M	F
73	8-12	48	25	23	12	17	9

**Variance:** Out of 73 children, 61 children including 40 male and 21 female were reintegrate into formal education system in 9 government schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhyan (RAMSA), a flagship program of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Under this scheme, they were entitled free admission fees, uniform, bags, books, stationeries and meals. Remaining 12 children needs more care and protection since they belongs orphan. We are initiating with state child welfare board for letting them to get the opportunities to stay at Juvenile Home until they turns 18 years.

**Income Generation/Skill Development Level:**

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Skill Painting	Embroidery	Cane & Bamboo	Computer Education
13	27	23	22 nos. of children were given 6 months free computer education at Government run Community Information Centre at Haorangsabal, Lamsang run by Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India

**Community Level:**

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**Policy Level:** Political parties' commitment for setting up residential schools for children infected and affected by the conflict up-to age of 21 as an election manifesto in upcoming general election of the state which was schedule on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017.



## **j. Gaps and Challenges:**

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### **a. Need for Residential Services:**

Majority of the children not belongs from the same village or locality. They need to travel or walk to attend the classes. It sometimes creates irregularity of attendance and staffs need to outreach again. If we provide residential facilities for boys and girls, it could be a great measure in the performance and efficiency of the project as well as beneficiaries.

### **b. Unrest Situation:**

Manipur has greatest unrest political situation from the last few decades. Curfew, Economic Blockades, Public Protest, bomb blast, cross firing and casualties hurdle day to day activities of the program. Sometimes it restricts the mobility and scarcity of daily consumables.

### **c. Low Prioritization by Policy Makers:**

The evidence shows that there is lack of willingness, participation and priority of the children affected by the armed conflict. In the State Government Plan 2013-14, there is not a single money was allocated to benefit the children but there is a huge budget for the recruitment of 2000 armed police and purchasing of armed and ammunitions to fight insurgency. Ongoing armed conflict can't stop with muscle powers but we witness increasing numbers of new armed groups, fractions and gang groups operating in such a tiny state with a total population 2.7 million.

### **d. Need for Collective Voice:**

Various efforts were made by NGOs, CSOs and CBOs in the state with internal and external financial aid in various human issues and developmental sectors but none of them address the issues of children with armed conflict. There is lack for a common voice, state level platform and child rights groups in the state. ISRD is the only NGO in Manipur addressing for mainstreaming and reintegration of children.

## **k. Future tasks**

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Following are the ongoing strategies of the organization in order to sustain the goal of the project:

- i. Collaboration with state commission for child protection to adopt a proper policy/mechanism to protect the rights of children;
- ii. Collaboration with state child welfare division under social Welfare Department to implement a comprehensive action to reintegrate and mainstream the children infected and affected by conflict in the state;
- iii. To urge the local elected representatives/law makers to formulate specific policy to protect the rights of children and budgetary allocations.