

## Proposal for Moving Children from CCI's to Adoption

### Context / background

In an attempt to increase the number of adoptions in the country, CSA conducted a study to assess the parental contact status of children living in CCI's

Till date, we have collected & evaluated the parental contact status of 11,190 children living in 190 CCI's in Odisha (Kalahandi & Kandhamal district), Maharashtra (Solapur district and parts of Pune district) and all of Goa. The results show 898 children (8%) were identified without parental contact and another 853 children (7.6%) with irregular parental/guardian contact which needs further investigation.

An encouraging fact is that based on our report to Odisha's Kalahandi district's CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and DCPO (District Child Protection Officer) 44 children are made legally free and another 30 are being evaluated by the CWC.

The below Project is to undertake all the actions required for moving all eligible children in Child Care Institutions to the adoption stream in a systematic manner.

### Project Information

#### Key objectives of the project

The objective of the project is to increase the number of children in the adoption stream by following the below:

- For the data already collected, follow up with local authorities to make all eligible children legally free, establish linkages with an Adoption Agency and have their data entered into CARINGS.
- Extend the study to all other districts of Maharashtra (35 districts remaining) and Odisha (28 districts remaining) and follow the same process.
- Create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will help other CCI's, CWC's and DCPO's to follow a standard/common process.
- Conduct a three tier Training program (at the state, district and block level) to share the benefits of being brought up in a family, how children in need of care & protection should be evaluated for family based care before being placed in a CCI and what each stakeholder needs to do.

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### Geographical area of project execution

State of Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha

### Steps Involved in the process

Broad steps involved in the process of making children legally free are mentioned below

1. **Child data Collection from the CCI's or Using data collected by Childline** - As this data is not recorded, it's important to collect this information in a uniform standard manner, to get the current parental status of Children at CCI's for further action. If Childline has already collected data from a particular district/state, then the data needs to be provided to CSA to evaluate the parental contact status of children.
2. **Analysis of the Data & Reporting** – the Data will then be analyzed to see how many children do not have parental contact and how many have irregular contact that needs further investigation and the list needs to be produced to CWC | DCPU | WCD and CARA
3. **Building awareness & Follow up with CWC | DCPO** – Once district officials are aware of the process they need to start by verifying the data provided with their records and hold a meeting with CCI's to confirm this.
4. **Follow ups** – with CWC's | DCPU's to act promptly on the data provided.
5. **Making Children Legally free for Adoption** – with the close coordination of all the stakeholders, the process of making children legally free including newspaper advertisements, police reports etc.
6. **Linkage with an AA and loading child data into CARINGS** – once child is declared legally free, then the CCI needs to be linked with an Adoption Agency and Child data needs to be uploaded into CARINGS.

### Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of this project:

- All children living in CCI's from Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha and are without parental contact or irregular parental contact are accessed, declared legally free, linked with an Adoption agency and data uploaded into CARINGS. By doing this across three full states, we can declare them free of eligible children languishing at CCI's. This would give all identified children a life altering opportunity of being brought up in a family.
- The workshops & SOP's would make state and district level stakeholders aware on how children in need of care & protection should be evaluated for family based care before being placed in a CCI and the common process to make children legally free.

### Project Timeline

Total timeframe for completion of the project is 4 - 6 months. This could reduce if we were to receive the data collected by Childline and if the data would be sufficient to evaluate the parental contact status of children.

### Project Budget

The cost of data collection from CCI's in Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha and follow-ups with district and state officials to make children legally free would be funded by CSA

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CARA would organize workshops for training & sensitizing stakeholders via SARA/State departments and any costs would be as provisioned by CARA.

There would be no financial implication to CARA.

### **Main proposed terms of MoU between CSA & CARA**

To start work on the Project, there will be an MOU between CARA and CSA.

Both CARA and CSA will appoint a Single Point Coordinator for the project. In addition there will be a Steering Committee that will include the Secretary CARA and President CSA to facilitate time bound action and results.

CARA will commit to push District/State level authorities once data is provided to take required action to achieve results of the Project.

Catalysts for Social Action, Mumbai.

Dated – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016

