



ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

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Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, SIAAP continued to strengthen systems, empower communities, and advocate for rights across Tamil Nadu through a diverse portfolio of projects. The Strengthening Alternative Care System to Promote Family-Based Care project made significant strides in reducing institutionalization of children. By partnering with government agencies, child protection staff, and communities, nearly 4,000 children were reintegrated into families or foster care placements. Policy frameworks, revised SOPs, and cost evidence strengthened the state’s ability to scale sustainable family-based care. Awareness campaigns and knowledge products shifted public and professional attitudes toward the value of nurturing family environments over institutional care.

In urban resettlement communities, the Strengthening Urban Child Protection System project created safer and more inclusive environments for children and adolescents. Through child protection platforms, counseling centers, parenting workshops, and youth-led advocacy, the project addressed violence, absenteeism, and mental health challenges. The results included a notable reduction in bullying and self-harm, improved uptake of SRH services, and stronger collaboration between communities, government, and service providers.

The Promoting the Right to Sexual Consent, LGBTQI+ Acceptance, and Access to SRHR and Mental Health Services project worked with adolescents, parents, and communities in resettlement colonies to break the silence around sexuality, consent, and gender. Over 3,600 adolescents and 2,200 parents took part in learning sessions. Girls’ mobility improved dramatically, with their use of public spaces rising from 41% to 75%. Understanding of sexual consent grew — 90% of adolescents and 98% of parents now see it as a right and know how to report violence. The project also strengthened crisis responses, reduced domestic violence, and helped reduce stigma faced by LGBTQI+ youth. These gains were validated by Amplify Change during their field visit. Two projects supported by international donors advanced LGBTQIA+ inclusion and rights more broadly. With support from Astraea, institutional sensitization, peer counseling, and community networks reduced stigma and improved mental health support for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Through AJWS funding, Pride events, leadership training, and media engagement amplified visibility, fostered unity among subgroups, and contributed to policy gains such as broader representation in welfare boards.

Finally, through the C19 RM Social Protection Grant, SIAAP worked with community-based organizations in five districts to strengthen grassroots leadership and improve access to social protection schemes for female sex workers and their families. Despite training fewer facilitators than planned, outcomes far exceeded expectations: thousands secured ID cards and welfare benefits, while community trust in local facilitators deepened. This project demonstrated the power of well-supported community leaders in bridging marginalized populations with state entitlements.

Together, these projects reflect SIAAP’s integrated approach—combining direct service delivery, capacity building, and advocacy—to ensure children, adolescents, women, sex workers, and LGBTQIA+ communities can claim their rights, access services, and live with dignity. The year’s work underscored that systemic change is possible when evidence, policy, and community voice come together.

Project name: Strengthening Alternative Care System to Promote Family-Based Care

Introduction

This project focuses on giving every child the chance to grow up in a family, not in an institution. Many children in Tamil Nadu are still living in childcare institutions, but research and experience show that children do better in safe, loving family environments. Through this initiative, we worked with government departments, child protection staff, and communities to strengthen family-based care systems, prepare families and children for reintegration, and create clear policies to guide the process. The project also spread awareness about why family care matters and how it can be supported at scale.

Objectives

1. Establish a technical think tank group with government departments and domain experts to strengthen family-based care policy frameworks.
2. Assist Child Protection Functionaries (CPFs) in implementation of non-institutional care programmes through capacity building and onsite supervision.
3. Conduct high-level thematic consultations to recommend policy guidelines and finalize the revised 5-year (2025–2029) State Action Plan.
4. Improve accountability through monitoring and review of district action plans in 38 districts, with special focus on 15 high-priority districts.
5. Develop and disseminate newsletters, short films, and knowledge products to increase awareness and visibility of family-based care.
6. Generate evidence through cost analysis of institutional care and family-based care to support advocacy and budget allocations.

Interventions

1. Think Tank Group: 13 individual consultations with Protection Officers, CWC members, Regional Probation Officers, domain experts, and CSOs like Miracle Foundation.
2. Onsite Supervision & Technical Support: 12 supervision visits across districts, training 20 CPFs; joint monitoring introduced with DCWSS.
3. Policy Consultations: Workshops conducted to revise SOPs for foster care and reintegration, review of district action plans with 39 PO(NICs) and strategic action plan for family based care.
4. Knowledge Products & Visibility: Quarterly newsletters, revised SOPs, and two short films produced.
5. Evidence Building: Foster care master list developed; cost analysis highlighted family-based care as more sustainable.

Outcomes / Impact

1. 3,997 children (2,327 girls & 1,670 boys) reintegrated into biological families or foster placements with improved stability.
2. Placement stability improved through regular follow-up; reduced re-institutionalization.
3. Revised SOPs for foster care and reintegration and 5 State Action Plan (2025–2029) submitted to the Department of Children Welfare and Special Services

4. 20+ child protection staff skilled in case management, gatekeeping, and monitoring.
5. District-level monitoring enhanced accountability and identified systemic gaps.
6. Short films and newsletters shifted narratives, motivating frontline staff.
7. Cost analysis provided evidence for resource reallocation debates.
8. CSR linkages and sponsorships supported education and reduced school dropouts.
9. Foster care master list enabled smoother inter-district placements.
10. Challenges like foster failures, delayed sponsorships, and staff shortages addressed with policy recommendations.

Donor

UNICEF

Primary Stakeholders / Beneficiaries

Children in institutional care and their families, foster families, child protection functionaries (DCPU, SARA, CARA, CWC, PO-NICs), Department of Social Defence, and community-based support systems.

Project name: Strengthening Urban Child Protection System

Introduction

Children and adolescents living in urban resettlement communities face many challenges such as violence, unsafe spaces, school dropouts, and poor access to health and support services. This project aimed to build a safer and more supportive environment for them. By creating community child protection platforms, training children and parents, offering counseling and life skills support, and promoting sports and cultural activities, the project helped children feel safer, healthier, and more confident. It also encouraged families and communities to take an active role in protecting and supporting their young people.

Objectives

1. Establish coordinated, multi-stakeholder platforms for urban child protection at community level.
2. Build capacities of children and adolescents on safety, mental health, gender equality, SRH, and mobility.
3. Provide community-based psychosocial support through counseling centers.
4. Strengthen positive parenting practices to foster nurturing family environments.
5. Improve access to education, health, legal, and protection services.
6. Empower adolescents and parents to advocate for safer, inclusive, and gender-sensitive community systems.

Interventions

1. Child Protection Platforms: Quarterly convergence meetings with DCWSS, police, education, health, and housing officials.
2. Adolescent Capacity Building: 250+ interactive sessions on life skills, gender, SRH, and mental health; sports and cultural activities.
3. Positive Parenting: 150+ sessions with 300+ parents on non-violent communication, adolescence, and gender roles.
4. Community Counseling Centers: Safe spaces established with counseling, peer support, and entitlements support.
5. Advocacy Training: Formation of adolescent and parent advisory committees; Ilam Mottukkal youth-led advocacy.
6. Education Support: After-school programs and volunteer linkages to reduce absenteeism.
7. Sports & Mobility: Weekly coaching sessions for girls, flash mobs, and awareness events to reclaim public spaces.

Outcomes / Impact

- Safer communities through regular police patrols, better lighting, and dedicated play spaces.
- SRH service uptake among adolescent girls improved by 10%; SRH morbidities reduced by 42%.
- Bullying reduced by 50%; self-harm behaviors decreased from 30% to 14%.
- 58% of adolescents reported improved parenting practices; 99% felt safe at home.
- School absenteeism reduced from 40% to 22%; dropouts re-enrolled through volunteer support.
- 27 adolescents engaged district officials directly through Ilam Mottukkal advocacy.

- Counseling improved children's emotional resilience and reduced stress symptoms.
- Increased acceptance of LGBTQ+ peers; boys contributing to household chores in 40% of homes.
- Advisory committees secured sanitation improvements, police patrols, and safe water access.
- Partnerships with schools and health providers improved adolescent-friendly services.
- Crisis intervention teams prevented escalation in cases of child abuse and domestic violence.
- Youth-led sports and cultural campaigns shifted community attitudes, especially towards girls' mobility.
- 78% of adolescents expressed confidence in completing higher secondary education.

Donor

UNICEF

Primary Stakeholders / Beneficiaries

Children and adolescents in resettlement communities, parents, teachers, police, Department of Social Defence, TNUHDB, Department of Education, and health care providers.

Project Name: Promoting the Right to Sexual Consent, LGBTQI+ Acceptance, and Access to SRHR and Mental Health Services

Introduction

Adolescents growing up in resettlement colonies face many challenges — unsafe streets, limited access to health services, and stigma when they try to talk about sexuality, consent, or mental health. Many parents too are unsure how to support their children on these issues. This project set out to change that by opening up conversations on sexual consent, creating safe spaces for young people, improving access to sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) and mental health (MH) services, and building acceptance for LGBTQI+ persons. By working with both young people and their families, and bringing in schools, service providers, and local authorities, the project made these sensitive topics something that could be spoken about, understood, and acted upon.

Objectives

1. Increase awareness and understanding about rights, laws, and policies related to Sexual Consent among young people in low income urban settlements, parents, teachers, service providers, CSOs, and policy makers.
2. Integrate the Right to Sexual Consent as part of SRHR policies and programmes for young people.
3. Ensure implementation of existing policy to ensure access to safe, hygienic toilets for young people in government schools, especially adolescent girls.
4. Increase knowledge about, access to and utilization of non-judgemental and supportive SRHR and Mental Health services by young people in low income urban settings, especially boys.
5. Increase understanding and acceptance of non-binary sexual and gender orientations among young people in low income urban settings, and their parents.
6. Strengthen reporting of abuse/violation of SRHR related rights by young people in low income urban settings, and establish crisis intervention mechanisms.
7. Introduce pleasure elements into SRHR education for young people.
8. Strengthen organization capacities in advocacy planning, research, Board leadership, fund raising, and digitization.

Interventions

- Learning Sessions: 299 sessions with 3,617 adolescents and 254 sessions with 2,278 parents on consent, mental health, and SRHR.
- Crisis Help: Teams provided immediate response to cases of child sexual abuse, child marriage, and domestic violence.
- Safety Measures: Sports and self-defence classes for girls, better street lighting, and police patrols in unsafe areas.
- Counseling & Referrals: 52 adolescents and parents received counseling; 374 referrals were made; 50 young people accessed psychiatric care through the District Mental Health Programme.
- Advocacy: Consultations with stakeholders, including UN agencies, led to sexual consent being integrated into the Adolescent Education Programme (AEP).
- Community Events: Summer camps, IEC materials (comic strips, fridge magnets, videos), HPV vaccination and cancer screening for parents, and media outreach.

Outcomes / Impact

- Understanding of consent grew sharply: in 2023, 96% of adolescents said they “did not know” about consent. By 2025, only 21% said this.

- 90% of adolescents and 98% of parents now say they understand consent as a right and know how to report sexual violence.
- Girls' use of public spaces increased from 41% to 75%, thanks to sports, safety measures, and patrols.
- 69% of women reported reduced domestic violence, crediting parenting sessions for improving family relationships.
- Over 300 individuals accessed government entitlements with support from the project.
- Parents and adolescents showed greater acceptance of LGBTQI+ identities, with stigma and fear reducing noticeably.
- Crisis teams became trusted and effective in preventing abuse and early marriage.
- A donor visit by Amplify Change confirmed that the project created real impact in the lives of young people and families.

Donor

Amplify Change

Primary Stakeholders / Beneficiaries

Adolescents, parents, LGBTQI+ youth, community leaders, schools, service providers, and local authorities in resettlement colonies.

Project name: General operating support for the LGBTI Program

Objective:

1. Advancing equal rights for LGBTQIA+ people and to achieve significant legal, policy and cultural changes towards equal rights for LGBTQIA+ people.
2. To bring changes in public understanding of LGBTQIA+ issues and communities and/or new narratives by and about historically oppressed people within LGBTQIA+ communities.
3. Building stronger relationships, alliances, and partnerships to advance LGBTQIA+ rights,
4. Strengthening crisis response team and burnout prevention among social workers.
5. Sensitizing mental health professionals about LGBTQIA+ community and enhancing the quality and availability of mental health support services for LGBTQIA+ community

Themes:

Creating awareness about gender and sexual diversity, sex work, and promoting inclusion and acceptance of LGBTQIA+, strengthening mental health support services for the LGBTQIA+, addressing crisis situations and building capabilities of the community groups

Intervention:

- Institutional Outreach: The organization successfully conducted numerous gender and sexuality sensitization programs across various institutions, including educational institutions, government bodies, professional groups, other social welfare organizations, faith based groups, and community organizations. We have continued engagement with institutions and organizations like Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; NIFT, Chennai; CMS college, Coimbatore, MACT, Rajalipatti, etc., while also reaching out to new colleges and institutions, like Don Bosco Theological Centre, Kavarapettai; Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI), Bangalore; Pipal Tree, Bangalore, etc. This has significantly contributed to raising awareness about LGBTQIA+ issues and promoting inclusivity.
- Legal Sensitization: We have sensitized legal professionals and students to promote the legal rights and protections of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Crisis and Community Support: We have provided essential support services to community members, including legal assistance, mental health counseling, and information on livelihood options
- Peer Counseling Training (25 to 28 June 2024): With the aim of building community capabilities and empowering volunteers who wish to help the community, we organized an in-depth peer counseling training program for about 14 trainees (community members and supporters) at Indian Institute of Psychodrama, Chennai.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increased Acceptance and Inclusion: The organization's efforts have contributed to a more inclusive and accepting society, where LGBTQIA+ individuals feel safe, respected, and valued. By fostering an understanding and accepting environment and challenging societal stereotypes and biases, we have helped bring about positive social change and reduced discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals. Hundreds of children and

adolescents enrolled in the SIAAP Malargal project, as well as their parents, have been given sensitization about gender diversity.

- **Positive Impact on Mental Health:** By providing mental health support and resources, the organization has helped to improve the mental health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ individuals.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The organization has successfully collaborated with various institutions, including government agencies, educational institutions, writer's associations, and community organizations. These partnerships have strengthened the organization's reach and impact.
- **Strengthened Community Networks:** The organization has played a vital role in building and strengthening community networks among LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies, providing a sense of belonging and support.

Donor: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Primary stakeholders / Beneficiaries: Queer community members, social workers, children and adolescents from underserved communities, sex workers. etc.

Project name: Promoting Inclusion and Welfare of LGBTIQ Communities

Themes: Inclusive policies for LGBTQIA+ communities, creating unity among the subgroups of LGBTQIA+ community and building capabilities of the LGBTQIA+ and sex worker community groups.

Objective:

To strengthen and empower members of the LGBTQIA+ and sex worker communities, to create awareness, prevent discrimination, and promote understanding, sensitize legal and media persons, create positive media coverage about queer and sex worker communities, facilitate communities to come together, understanding each other through meaningful interactions and discussions, and work toward inclusive policies, raise visibility through initiatives like the LGBTQIA+ Pride month events, to address issues within the subgroups of LGBTQIA+ community.

Intervention:

- Coimbatore Pride month events: We successfully organized several Pride month events with the support of local community groups and allies. In spite of rains and extreme weather conditions, community members and allies actively participated in the cycle rally held on 19 May 2024. Our team members actively engaged with local community members to organize several events throughout the Pride month, culminating in the Queer Art Festival on 15 June, followed by the Coimbatore Rainbow Self-Respect March on 16 June 2025. The celebrations helped showcase the talents of the community, create awareness among the general public, and raise the visibility of the community.
- Chennai Pride month events: We coordinated with local community groups and allies for the Pride month events. Our team members actively participated in the events, providing support to community members from various districts. We took the initiative to organize the Vannangal Pre-Pride Cultural Program in Chennai on 29 June, which was followed by the Chennai Rainbow Self-Respect March on 30 June 2024. In January 2025, we also facilitated a college pride program for the Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai.
- Leadership Trainings: Multiple leadership training programs were conducted in various locations, empowering community members to become effective leaders and advocates.
- Workshops and Consultations: Workshops on gender and sexuality were organized to raise awareness and provide support to community members. Consultations were held to address specific issues faced by the queer community, including crimes against community and livelihood options.
- Gender and Sexuality for Media Persons: Workshops were conducted to educate media professionals about gender and sexuality issues, promoting accurate and sensitive reporting, as well as creating meaningful narratives about the community through stories, poetry, etc. We received very positive feedback for the full day workshop on gender and sexuality facilitated by us for students of Media Studies, Bharathiar University,

Coimbatore, on 23 September 2024, and the department has expressed interest to work with us to conduct such programs on a regular basis.

Outcome / Impact:

- **Successful Organization of Pride Month Events:** The Coimbatore and Chennai Pride month events were well-organized and inclusive, showcasing the strength and resilience of the queer community. In spite of ongoing internal conflicts and divisions, particularly between the transgender community and gay and lesbian groups over the proposed draft of LGBTIQ policy in Tamil Nadu, we managed to foster unity and have one common Pride celebration.
- **Empowerment of Community Members:** Leadership training programs and workshops helped to equip community members with the necessary skills and knowledge to advocate for their rights and address community challenges.
- **Positive Media Reporting:** We have continuously engaged with both media students and media professionals to sensitize them about LGBTIQIA+. We are seeing a small but significant shift in the quality of media reports, like use of accurate terminology. For example, most Tamil print and audiovisual media are now using the words “thirunangai” (transwoman) and “thirunambi” (transman) correctly in the content published by them.
- **Enhanced Legal Rights:** The organization's advocacy work has led to advancements in legal rights for LGBTIQIA+ individuals, such as increased access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and legal protection. Our work, along with those of other groups, has resulted in positive changes in law and policy in Tamil Nadu. For example, transmasculine and intersex communities are now represented in the state transgender welfare board.
- **Increased Awareness:** Awareness programs for media professionals contributed to raising awareness about gender and sexuality issues and promoting more inclusive and respectful reporting.
- **Strong Community Engagement:** By this project, we continued to foster strong relationships with community organizations and individuals, working collaboratively to address their needs and promote social justice.

Donor: AJWS

Primary stakeholders / Beneficiaries: Social workers, Community leaders, LGBTIQIA+ community members and their partners and family members, sex workers, etc.

C19 RM Social Protection Grant

Introduction

During 2024–2025, SIAAP worked with community-based organisations (CBOs) across five districts of Tamil Nadu – Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Theni, Tiruvannamalai, and Madurai. The programme focused on strengthening the capacities of Community Facilitators (CFs), linking vulnerable women and their families to social protection schemes, and supporting CBO leaders in advocacy and service access.

Across the year, SIAAP provided regular onsite support to over 38 CFs, facilitated review meetings, and ensured that applications and service linkages for ID cards, bank accounts, and welfare schemes were completed. Data from the CRF forms was consolidated into the master line sheet, while field visits helped verify service uptake and ensure accountability.

Despite challenges such as delayed salary disbursements and scheme-level procedural barriers, the project achieved significant progress, with most service-related targets not only met but in many cases overachieved.

Major Activities Conducted

1. Training and onsite support: New CFs were recruited and trained in Theni, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Tiruvannamalai.
2. Weekly CF Review Meetings across all partner CBOs to monitor progress, resolve data-entry issues, and provide feedback.
3. Applications by CFs were filed for ID cards, bank accounts, and welfare schemes, with a high conversion of approvals.
4. Field visits were conducted to confirm service delivery and provide troubleshooting support.
5. Monthly and quarterly programme and financial reports were submitted on time.
6. Assisted PR in documentation for pending incentives and ensured compliance with reporting protocols.

Stakeholder Coordination / Advocacy

1. Regular sharing of programme progress with District AIDS Prevention and Control Units (DAPCUs) and Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS).
2. Coordination with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in Tirunelveli for legal and advocacy support.
3. Engagement with KP grant staff to plan district-level advocacy events.
4. Weekly review meetings between PCO and Verification Coordinators (VCs).
5. Weekly meetings between CFs and PCOs to address operational gaps.
6. Monthly team meetings with SSR leadership, finance, and field staff.
7. Quarterly reviews of SSR and CF performance.

Outcomes & Impact

1. Although the training of Community Facilitators (CFs) fell short of the annual target (52 trained against 80), those who were trained and active demonstrated strong commitment, with 38 continuing to support their communities. This indicates a

sustainable pool of grassroots leaders who are gradually building confidence and skills to link people with entitlements and services.

2. The project far exceeded its targets in service delivery. A total of 2,863 individuals received ID cards (179% of target), giving them official recognition and enabling access to a wide range of welfare benefits. This reflects effective mobilization and responsiveness to immediate community needs.
3. While the number of new bank accounts opened (321) fell below target, those who did gain access to financial services marked an important step toward economic inclusion. The experience highlighted barriers that still prevent marginalized groups from opening accounts, offering lessons for more targeted efforts in the future.
4. With 1,313 people accessing government schemes (168% of target), the project demonstrated strong capacity to navigate complex processes and advocate for community rights. This not only improved material support for families but also strengthened trust in community facilitators as reliable intermediaries.
5. Even with fewer facilitators trained than planned, the outcomes show that service-related interventions had a deep impact. Communities reported tangible improvements in their ability to secure IDs, bank access, and welfare schemes, demonstrating that the project effectively reduced barriers to social protection and advanced inclusion at the grassroots level.

Donor: Sangram Sanstha

Primary stakeholders / Beneficiaries: Female Sex Workers