

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### CHILDREN IN DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES: UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY, DEVELOPING CAPACITIES & PROMOTING RESILIENCE

March 08-10, 2021

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM



### Organized By

CHILD CENTRIC DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CENTRE (CCDRR), NIDM  
&  
SAVE THE CHILDREN

### Knowledge Partners

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**CHILDREN IN DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES: UNDERSTANDING  
VULNERABILITY, DEVELOPING CAPACITIES & PROMOTING  
RESILIENCE**  
***"CHILDREN CAN'T WAIT"***

**BACKGROUND**

India is vulnerable to a large number of hazards which is compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics. This poses a serious threat to India's overall economy, its population and sustainable development. Vulnerability from disasters varies from one community to the other and in space. Community's preparedness always plays an important role in reducing disasters and emergency risk and vulnerability.

India's total Child population is (164.5 million<sup>1</sup>) as compared to the total 328.46 million<sup>2</sup> US population; more than half of the total US population. Children are most often neglected and marginalized as their educational, nutritional, physical and psychological safety and overall care and protection is compromised above other considerations in times of disasters and emergencies. In addition to natural disasters, physical hazards and pandemics; there are many other human induced risks that can perpetuate and put children in a vulnerable stance at home, within community, school or outside. Further, gender inequalities existing in society underpins greater vulnerabilities for the girl child.

Children are also most likely to suffer long-term developmental, physical and psychological setbacks following a disaster or emergency situation. Preparing ahead of time to meet children's unique needs at times of disasters and emergencies is critical to their protection. If we do not prioritize children's needs, we will never be able to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for DRR and Hon'ble Prime Minister's 10 point agenda of DRR. Hence, it is essential to ensure that children are safe and secure, thrive, and learn in both developmental and emergency scenarios. **Every child, no matter who they are or where they come from, deserves safety, security, protection, relief and care in times of a crisis situation.**

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, 2011

<sup>2</sup> US Census as on date retrieved on Feb, 24, 2021 <https://www.census.gov/popclock>

## **CHILDREN ARE THE WORST AFFECTED DURING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OR AN EMERGENCY**

There is a lot at stake for children during a disaster or emergency situation. Latest reports suggest that children living in disaster-prone regions in India are twice as likely to be living in poverty. In five major natural disasters from 2000-2016, 17,671 children lost their lives. The 2015-2016 drought in 10 states affected an approximated 330 million people, including 37 million children under five years.

## **CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IS HAMPERED DURING AN EMERGENCY**

Children are unable to maintain the continuity of education during a disaster or emergency situation. In such situations, the lack of resources, alternatives, coping mechanisms, trained teachers and staff to prevent educational disruption often poses a threat meeting children's needs as have been evident during many previous disasters and also during Covid-19 pandemic. Latest UNICEF Report says in India about 1.5 million schools were closed for almost a year in 2020 impacting 247 million children. Additionally, gaps in research and data procurement prevent decision-makers from evaluating the situation and responding effectively.

## **MANY CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED AND/OR ABUSED DURING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

Child trafficking witnesses an increase in the number of cases during a crisis situation. A pressing issue that needs to be responded to is child trafficking in contexts of a humanitarian crisis and in spite of rules and laws lives no gap, how to improve the situation at the implementational level. There is a need to take into account present mechanisms and policies to generate robust protection programmes and relief initiatives; wherein, information and behavioural changes amongst the stakeholders constitute a major concern.

## **CHILDREN SUFFER FROM LACK OF SAFE DRINKING WATER, FOOD AND HYGIENE DURING AN EMERGENCY**

Basic necessities are often denied to children during a crisis situation. Children are subjected to some of the harshest living conditions during a disaster or emergency situation. Most of the people, communities and families put children at last receiver

in times of crisis, most so for the girl child. Lack of food, water, shelter, and medical aid is the bitter realities of lakhs of children and families during a humanitarian crisis.

The challenges and gaps as stated above are multi-dimensional, and involve different stakeholders at different levels in order to take up the challenges and improve the situation. **To amplify the needs of children during emergencies, Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has collaborated with Save the Children, to organise a virtual conference on Children in Disasters & Emergencies: Understanding Vulnerability, Developing Capacities & Promoting Resilience.** During this conference, the well tested approaches for Child-Centric DRR preparedness and response will be discussed to scale.

## OBJECTIVES

- To identify key risk factors for and discuss impact of Disasters & Emergencies on Children.
- To provide opportunity to the policy makers, academicians, practitioners, civil society members, parents, teachers and children to come on a common shared platform to amplify and advocate for prioritising needs of children during disasters and emergencies.
- To share knowledge, tools, and noteworthy practices in the area of disaster preparedness and response keeping children at the centre.
- To strengthen partnerships for child centric disaster risk reduction with and amongst a large range of existing and potential partners and stakeholders.

## ORGANISERS

- Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (CCDRR), NIDM, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India &
- Save the Children

## KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

- UNICEF
- World Vision

- Child Rights and You (CRY)
- Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF)
- Handicap International
- YWCA of Delhi

## **TIME AND VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE**

1. **Date:** March 08-10, 2021
2. **Timings:** 10:30 AM – 01:00 PM
3. **Timeline:** 3 days – (2:30 hours in a day)
4. **Venue:** Virtual platform (Cisco Webex)
5. **Event Link:**

<https://nidmmhaindia.webex.com/nidmmhaindia/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4e96e599c3d4a7439ad47b4aa1bc4ee9>

**Event number: 184 878 2094**

**Event password: 2021**

**Detailed activity plan and timeline for the conference along with domain experts/speakers is enclosed with the document as ANNEXURE 1**

***Note: Certificates from CCDRR, NIDM & Save the Children will be provided to each successful participant who has attended the conference with at least (80% of its duration for each day) for full three days.***

## ANNEXURE 1- Activity Plan/ Timeline

### Day 1: Theme: Understanding Vulnerabilities – Protecting Children in All Context of Disasters & Emergencies

Date: March 08, 2021

Timings: (10:30 AM – 01:00 PM)

Subject/Topic	Speaker/ Domain Expert	Time
<b>Inaugural Session (50 mins)</b>		
Welcome Address	<b>Prof. Santosh Kumar</b> Head, GiDRR & Project Director, CCDRR, NIDM	5 mins
Opening Remarks	<b>Shri Sudarshan Suchi</b> Chief Executive Officer,, Save the Children	10 mins
Introductory Remarks	<b>Shri Tom White</b> Chief, Emergency & Disaster Risk Reduction, UNICEF	10 mins
Keynote Address	<b>Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal</b> Executive Director, NIDM	10 mins
Special Address	<b>Shri P.C. Halder (IPS Retd.)</b> Former Director IB, President PPF	10 mins
Vote of Thanks	<b>Dr. Kumar Raka</b> Programme Officer, CCDRR, NIDM	5 mins
<b>Context Setting Session (45 mins)</b>		
<b>Impact of Disasters &amp; Emergencies on Children : A Multi-hazard Contextual Approach</b>	<b>Prof. Santosh Kumar</b> Head, GiDRR & Project Director, CCDRR, NIDM	15 mins
<b>Underlying Risk Factors for Children</b>	<b>Shri Sarbjit Singh Sahota</b> Emergency Specialist Disaster Risk Reduction Section, UNICEF	15 mins
<b>International Experience: Children's Vulnerability &amp; Capacity. Where Do We Stand?</b>	<b>Shri Salmon Jacob</b>	15 mins

	Head - Climate Change & DRR, World Vision India	
<b>Technical Session – I (45 mins)</b>		
<b>New Education Policy (NEP)</b> Promoting Learning in a Safe & Secure Environment	<b>Prof. Pradeep Mathur</b> Media Academician	15 mins
DM Act, <b>National School Safety Policy</b> and other National & International Commitments towards Safety & Security of Children	<b>Shri Banku Bihari Sarkar</b> Programme Officer, Risk & Resilience, UNICEF	15 mins
Sustainable Development Goals ( <b>SDG</b> ), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction ( <b>SFDRR</b> ) and Climate Change: Gaps & Challenges	<b>Shri Manish Thakre</b> Head of Urban Policy & Programme, Save the Children	15 mins

**Day 2: Theme: Developing Capacities – All Children are Safe, Learn and Thrive**

**Date: March 09, 2021**

**Timings: (10:30 AM – 01:00 PM)**

<b>Subject/Topic</b>	<b>Speaker/ Domain Expert</b>	<b>Time</b>
Recapping of previous day	Dr. Balu I./ Shri Ranjan Kumar/ Shri Mintu Debnath	5 min
<b>Continuity of Education</b> in Disasters & Emergencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education in Emergency (EIE)</li> <li>• Early Child Care and Education (ECCEiD) in Emergency</li> <li>• Role of frontline workers,</li> <li>• Interagency coordination etc.</li> <li>• Role of teacher, education officials, caregiver etc.</li> </ul>	<b>Ms. Rachael C. Fermin</b> Humanitarian Technical Advisor, Education, Asia, Asia Regional Office, Save the Children	20 min
National Policies, Guidelines & Systems for <b>Home to Home School Safety</b> : Preparedness, Response & Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing system and policy</li> </ul>	<b>Ms. Kamal Gaur</b> Deputy Director – Education, Save the Children	20 mins



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe School Common Approach to address the challenges</li> </ul>		
Child Protection in Disaster & Emergencies (CPiDE): Policy and Practices  <b>What States should do: Lessons and Actions for the Future</b>	<b>Ms. Priti Mahara</b> Director Policy Advocacy & Research, Child Rights and You (CRY)	20 mins
<b>Initiatives by Children:</b> National & International Experiences	<b>Child Champions:</b> Ms. Annu Ms. Vaishnavi Khamkar Ms. Humera Firoz Maniyar Ms. Kumari Madhuri Ms. Soni Khatoon Ms. Saraswati Kumari	45 mins
<b>Psychosocial Support and Wellbeing:</b> Understanding & Responding to Mental Health, Psychosocial Issues of Children in Disasters & Emergencies	<b>Ms. Namrata Sharma</b> Clinical Psychologist, YWCA of Delhi	20 mins
Understanding <b>Cyber Security</b> in terms of Child Protection in Era of Online Education System	<b>Shri Prabhat Kumar</b> Deputy Director, Child Protection, Save the Children	20 mins

### Day 3: Theme: Promoting Resilience – Commitment to Reaching the Most Marginalised and Vulnerable Children

Date: March 10, 2021

Timings: (10:30 AM – 01:00 PM)

Subject/Topic	Speaker/ Domain Expert	Time
Recapping of Previous Day	Dr. Balu I./ Shri Ranjan Kumar/ Shri Mintu Debnath	5 min
Initiative taken by Kerala Govt.	<b>Ms. Anupama T. V., IAS</b> Director, Directorate of Women and Child Department, Govt. of Kerala	15 min
Initiative taken by Govt. of Delhi	<b>Ms. Rashmi Singh, IAS</b> Spl. Secretary (Social Welfare), Director (Department of Women	15 min



	& Child Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi	
<b>Gender Sensitive</b> , Child Centric Disaster Response, Trafficking & Safety During Disasters	<b>Ms. Pooja Priyambada</b> Mental Health & Gender Empowerment Advocate	15 min
<b>Children with Special Needs (Disability)</b> : Addressing the Issues & Promoting Resilience	<b>Ms. Annie Hans</b> Disability & Development Coordinator, Handicap International	15 min
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b> : Developing Mechanism for Continuity of Mid-Day Meals in Times of Acute Crisis	<b>Shri Basant Kar</b> Recipient of Global Nutrition Leadership Award	15 min
<b>Climate related Extreme Events</b> – Preparedness & Ways of Safeguarding Children	<b>Shri Ray Kancharla</b> Humanitarian, DRR & Climate Change Expert	15 min
<b>Child friendly infrastructures and WASH</b> (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) in Urban & Rural Context and WASH	<b>Shri Chandan Kumar</b> Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Manager, Save the Children International	15 min
<b>Valedictory Session (30 mins)</b>		
Concluding Remarks	<b>Shri K.M. Singh, (IPS Retd.)</b> Former & Founding Member, NDMA; Vice-President, PPF	10 min
Final Remarks	<b>Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal</b> Executive Director, NIDM	10 min
Summary of Discussion (Outcomes)	<b>Shri Mintu Debnath</b> Manager, Save the Children	5 min
Action for the Future & Collaborative Engagement with Partners	<b>Prof. Santosh Kumar</b> Head, GiDRR & Project Director, CCDRR, NIDM	10 min
Vote of Thanks	<b>Dr. Kumar Raka</b> Programme Officer, CCDRR, NIDM	5 min

## Profile of Speakers and Domain Experts

Day 1 - March 08, 2021

### **1. Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal**

Major General M. K. Bindal is presently the Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management. He was commissioned into the Corps of Army Air Defence in December 1985. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Major General M. K. Bindal is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and has attended the prestigious Higher Command Course at the Army War College besides excelling in all other career courses in the army. He holds a masters degree in Defence and Strategic Studies as well as Masters of Philosophy in Defence and Management Studies. During his more than three decades of service he has held important command and staff assignments. Major General M. K. Bindal served as the Provost Marshall in the United Nations Mission in Mozambique where he was deeply involved in the liquidation of the mission. He has been the Director, Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) New Delhi. For three years he was also the Secretary of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres.



### **2. Prof. Santosh Kumar**

A Disaster Risk Reduction, Policy Planning and Capacity Development expert with 25 years of experience in different positions in the Development Planning and DRR Sector. A PhD. in Economics, he studied Gender & Development in IDS, Sussex, UK and received professional training in Disaster risk Management from Israel, backed with International work exposure at The World Bank and Inter-governmental body of SAARC . He has also worked at state levels in different capacities in UP Academy of Administration, Nainital and RIPA, Jaipur. He is an experienced hand in designing, Planning and implementing mitigation and long term disaster recovery plans and projects. He brings with him a rare combination of operations and academia. His experience of working at the grass root to national to international level in all aspects spanning DRR is an added value. His specialization is in disaster management planning, Post-disaster loss and need assessment, Recovery and inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.



### 3. Shri Sudarshan Suchi

Sudarshan Suchi is Save the Children's Chief Executive Officer. He is a seasoned civil society leader with three decades of local to global experience in academics, development and corporate setting; and, an authority in participatory practices to empower communities to lead transformation. An alumnus of St. Stephens College, Delhi and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK, Sudarshan comes with the core competency of conceptualising development programs, development-based business models, efficient resource mobilisation, establishing partnerships, collaboration and coalitions towards issues that impact children's fair access to basic human rights. He has worked with leading organisations like Reliance Foundation, Reliance Life Sciences, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Prior to joining Save the Children, Sudarshan was the Secretary General at SOS Children's Villages of India. He also brings in grass-root experience from his association with small NGOs like Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD).



### 4. Shri Tom White

Tom is presently Chief, Emergency and Disaster Risk Reduction UNICEF an experienced humanitarian with an academic background in mechanical engineering design and public health, specialising in emergency preparedness, response and DRR. He comes with more than 25 years' experience leading large teams and programmes with INGOs, UN and donors to respond to major international disasters. His experience includes front line response during the acute phase of disasters ranging from famine, disease outbreaks (including cholera, ebola, anthrax and meningitis); floods, hurricanes and cyclones, and conflict and civil strife. Tom also has experience working at the global level, managing a portfolio of country programmes, as well as providing advisory support to an influential international donor. He has worked in 20 countries across Africa, Asia/Pacific, Caribbean and Europe.



## 5. Shri P.C. Haldar (IPS Retd.)

Pradyot Chandra Haldar joined Indian Police Service in 1970 and was allocated Bihar Cadre. During his career, he remained posted in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and the North East region. He joined the select band of Officers earmarked for the



Intelligence Bureau (IB) and served the IB over three decades before retiring (2008) as the Director, Intelligence Bureau. Recipient of both Police Medal for meritorious service and President's Police Medal for distinguished service, he has, since 2009, served on several National level committees dealing with issues relating to National Security, viz, Task Force for Security set up by the Atomic Energy Commission; Two-Member Committee to review functioning of the Intelligence organisations; the Task Force on National Security set up by the Union Government. He was a member of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) from 2011 to 2015 (two terms). He has vast experience of working in

the Conflict resolution. He was actively involved with the peace process with the Naga groups in the nineties. He has been actively involved with conflict resolution in the North-East region for over two decades successfully bringing a number of militant organisations to the negotiating table. He was the Govt. of India Representative for Peace Talks until 31st December 2016. He is currently heading the Policy Perspectives Foundation. Under his guidance PPF research team has completed a study of "Status of Cases under the POCSO Act, 2012 and Dynamics of Implementation: A Report on Delhi" sanctioned by the Delhi Commission of Protection of Child Rights.

## 6. Shri Sarbjit Singh Sahota



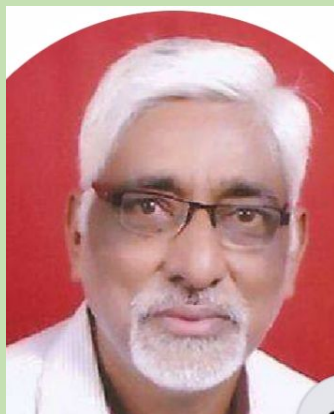
Sarbjit Sahota is an Architect and Urban Planner with over 25 years of professional experience working in frontline humanitarian and development agencies. He currently works with UNICEF as a disaster risk reduction specialist. He is experienced in steering development and humanitarian strategy, leading organisations, programmes and projects with frontline agencies in the domain of community/social development, humanitarian programme management, capacity development, disaster risk reduction planning, urban planning and design.

## **7. Shri Salmon Jacob**



Salmon Jacob is presently working as 'Head - Climate Change & DRR', at World Vision India, based at Delhi. He started his professional career as lecturer in Environmental Science- at Shivaji University, and he then moved into the development sector and worked in different capacities as Disaster Management professional, Environmental Consultant and Climate Change Specialist in different organizations. He is actively involved in developmental programmes at the grassroots across India, on climate change mitigation / adaptation programmes and DRR interventions in communities with special focus on children.

## **8. Prof. Pradeep Mathur**



Prof. Pradeep K. Mathur belongs to the tribe of media persons who took to the profession in the firm belief and with the conviction that media has to be viewed basically as an input in development in the context of a developing country like India. First as a working journalist and editor for nearly 25 years and then as a media educator for the next 22 years he has actively tried to help focus on issues which will generate awareness and will be of vital importance to society. This social consciousness took him from the exciting field of political journalism in search of basic communication problems and strategies whose answer can lead to sensitize people about issues like environment, health, education, and cultural development. The quest keeps him going on.

## **9. Shri Banku Bihari Sarkar**



Banku is working with UNICEF as Programme Officer, Risk and resilience in UNICEF providing technical assistance to Govt of Bihar in the policy and programme formulation and its implementation. He assisted Govt. of Bihar in the development of SOPs on Floods, Drought, Fire Safety in Hospitals for improved preparedness and emergency response. Development of guidelines on Heat Action Plan, Drowning Prevention Plan, Boat Safety Plan, District Disaster Management Plans (DDMPs). Banku played a key role in the development of the Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 of GoB. He is also assisting GoB in the implementation of the Chief Minister School Safety



Programme covering all the government and private schools in the state reaching to approx. 30 million children. Banku initiated DRR e-Academy in collaboration with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) so as to continue the DRR and resilience building in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **10. Shri Manish Thakre**

Manish Thakre works as the Head Urban Programme and Policy at Save the Children India. He provides ongoing technical support to the 12 State Project Offices to



ensure quality implementation of urban programs. He oversees regular performance review of the strategic targets in relation to Urban Resilience programmes. Working with Research, Advocacy to build and implement / undertake research, advocacy and campaigns linked to the issues of urbanization and its impact on children. He has over 17 years of experience in the social and development sector. He holds a Master and M. Phil. Degrees in Applied Geography from the Centre for Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences,

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He is an external mentor (2020-21) to India Smart Cities fellow (an Initiative of Ministry of Housing And Urban Affairs, Government of India) on project "Monitoring of Crimes against Children in urban areas through Data Integration". Currently, he is working on a collaborative research study with Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA) on 'Urban Humanitarian Response and Planning' which is being supported by Save the Children India.

**11. Ms. Rachael C. Fermin**



Rachael Fermin is the Regional Advisor for Education in Emergencies at Save the Children's Asia Regional Office and a part of the Asia Pacific Humanitarian Technical Surge Team. The HTT is a team of humanitarian Technical Advisors (TAs) mandated to support all Country offices in the Asia-Pacific to prepare for and respond to emergencies, enabling a quality response and reducing Children's vulnerability to crises. Rachael's role in the HTT is to ensure a quality education program during humanitarian response and build the capacity of country offices in Asia Pacific and Asia region to embed education in their response to various emergencies. Part of her function also is to support country offices and advocate for Save the Children to fulfil its commitment as the global education cluster co-lead. Rachael has been involved in humanitarian work in the Philippines (Haiyan 2013; Hagupit (2014) and Haima (2016), and the Marawi City siege (2017); as well as the Rohingya crisis response in Bangladesh. In her role in HTT, she supported the Central Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami response in Indonesia (2018), Rohingya refugee response, Afghanistan humanitarian response, and Save the Children's Cyclone emergency response (2019) in Mozambique.

**12. Shri Prabhat Kumar**



Prabhat Kumar Leads Child Protection with Save the Children, India. With 18 years of experience in child rights in his roles leading Save the Children programmes in Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab & Haryana. He has dedicated practice of quality child rights and gender sensitive programmes in the field, building partnerships on child protection and gender, influencing policy changes and strengthening child protection systems in the country. Prabhat has worked with civil society and governments on key policies on children – relating to child labor, preventive sexual and gender based violence, children on move (refugees, street connected children, migrants rights and internally displaced populations) and robust implementation of Juvenile Justice Act. As a passionate facilitator for embedding child safeguarding protocols in institutions he has supported several institutions and organizations in making it safe for children.



### 13. Ms. Kamal Gaur

Ms. Kamal Gaur is a development sector professional with M.Phil degree in Social Work from University of Delhi. She is currently working as Deputy Program Director - Education in Save the Children. She has 28 years of experience in Education



planning, management, appraisal, evaluation and administration ranging from Primary Education to the Higher Education sector. She has worked with District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Technical Cooperation Agency (DFID funded) for both SSA and RMSA. She has also worked closely with international agencies such as European Union, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JBIC, DFID, etc. She has been part of the World Bank Team for Education and has worked on Implementation Completion

Report for UP-Basic Education Programme-I & II, Secondary Education Technical Programme-Maldives. With the India-EU Study Centres Programme (IESCP) on higher education project she facilitated the first ever Higher Education Policy Dialogue between India and EU in Brussels. She has worked closely with higher education institutions in Germany, France, Poland, Denmark, Netherlands and Italy. Her work with DFID for assessment of DFID's global contribution to Gender, Equity and Women Empowerment has been appreciated globally.

### 14. Ms. Priti Mahara

Priti Mahara has nearly two decades of experience, working on different aspects of child rights, across India, South Asia and South-East Asia. She is currently the



Director for Policy Advocacy and Research at Child Rights and You- CRY. She takes forward deliberations on behalf of CRY with various Ministries such as Ministry of Finance, Labour and Employment, Women and Child Development and Education and statutory bodies such as National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, National Human Rights Commission, NITI Aayog etc. to highlight children's issues based on strong evidences generated through research as well as CRY's field experience. Her core skills are on evidence based research, policy advocacy, program management and capacity building.

Prior to joining CRY, she has worked with organizations like Plan International and SOSCV International and has also provided advisory and consulting services to many Bilateral, International, National and Grass root NGOs, corporate and companies.

### **15. Ms. Namrata Sharma**

Namrata Sharma is a counselling psychologist by profession. She earned a Master's degree from DU in Applied psychology with specialisation in Clinical psychology. She is also a Diploma holder in Guidance and Counseling from NCERT. I have years of counselling experience with children, teenagers, young adults in schools and hospitals as well as from various socio-economic backgrounds. Currently she is working for YWCA of Delhi at the post of a Counselor where she provides counseling services to women in shelter homes from various sectors of society dealing with mild to severe psychological and psycho-social problems. She also interact with the girls of Women's training institute which is run by YWCA of Delhi and provide these young girls with personal as well as group counseling sessions and occasional workshops on psycho-educational topics such as prevention of sexual harassment, life-skills, domestic violence etc.



### **Child Champion Speakers:**



**16. Ms. Annu**



**17. Ms. Vaishnavi Khm**



**18. Humera Firoz Maniyar**



**19. Kumari Madhuri**



**20. Soni Khatoun**



**21. Saraswati Kumari  
Dhanuk**

**22. Ms. Rashmi Singh, IAS**

Rashmi Singh is an IAS officer who has worked extensively for pro-poor governance reforms and women empowerment issues at policy and programmatic levels. Presently she is Spl. Secretary (Social Welfare) & Director (Department of Women &



Child Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. She has conceived and implemented several innovative strategies towards poverty alleviation, and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Her career spans working in the state government of Delhi, UT of Andaman and Nicobar islands, Ministry of Women and Child, Govt of India to the Urban Local bodies in Delhi. As Secretary of the New Delhi Municipal Council she introduced a new culture of civic engagement over issues like sanitation, environment protection, and value education for children. As the founder Director of

Mission Convergence- Samajik Suvidha Sangam in Delhi, she was instrumental in laying the foundations, structures and processes which define this internationally acclaimed program which created new paradigms of governance by aligning government policies and delivery mechanisms to reach out to the vulnerable, and building effective public-private-community partnerships for social inclusion. As the Executive Director for the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), Govt of India (2011 - 2014), she was instrumental in building a national action plan for saving the girl child in India. '*Beti Bacho Beti Padhao*' is a visible outcome of these endeavors.

**23. Ms. Anupama T. V., IAS**



Ms Anupama T V is an IAS officer from Kerala and presently Director of the Women and Child Development Department, Government of Kerala. She is B.E in Electrical Engineering. Ms. Anupama had secured 4th rank in the Civil Services Examination in 2009. She had earlier held the posts of Assistant Collector, Kozhikode; Sub Collector, Kasaragod; Sub Collector, Thalassery and Special Officer, Aralam Tribal Development Mission. She is known for her bold steps against politically powerful people. She served as district collector of Alappuzha

district in 2017.



#### **24. Shri K.M. Singh, (IPS Retd.)**

KM Singh (IPS 1968 Maharashtra) served in the Intelligence Bureau (GoI) for nearly three decades, in the Indian High Commission London as Minister, Coordination from 1996 to 2000 and as Director General, CISF from 2003 to 2005. During his tenure in IB he served in J&K for 7 years. After retirement in 2005 he was appointed Member of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with the status of Minister of State in the Union Govt. He served in this capacity in NDMA for over 8 years till 2014. He has been responsible for conceiving and raising the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) from scratch to its present status. Presently, he is Vice President of Policy Perspectives Foundation, a Delhi based think tank. He is the first recipient of 'Subhash Chandra Bose Apada Prabandhan Purashkar' in 2020.



#### **25. Ms. Pooja Priyambada**

Ms. Pooja Priyamvada is an author, columnist, professional translator, online content and social media consultant. She is also a bi-lingual blogger, formerly also radio announcer and lecturer. She offers Psychological and Mental Health First Aid in India and has experience of participating and mentoring several peer support groups working in the psychosocial space. She has an M.Phil. in English Literature from Panjab University and speaks vociferously about issues of gender, identity, and marginalization at a wide variety of platforms and mediums. She has trained MBBS students in UCMS Delhi, for Disability Competencies using poetry. Her areas of work are mental health, disability activism, sexual wellness, gender, and marginalization, and her favorite mediums remain poetry and theatre. A single parent and fibromyalgia survivor, she believes that she derives her strength from being a voracious reader and a tea connoisseur.



#### **26. Ms. Annie Hans**

Ms. Anne is Disability and Development Coordinator with Handicap International. Have been working for over 15 years, on Disability Inclusion in Development and Emergency contexts in India, South Asia and South-East Asia. I have been working particularly on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction since 2009 - with HI, piloting a disability inclusive DRR project in Odisha. Since then with HI, I have expanded my understanding of vulnerability, intersectionality and inclusion.



## **27. Shri Basant Kar**

Fondly known as "Nutrition Man" Mr Basanta Kumar Kar is an international development professional who has won numerous accolades and has a broad



experience of leading and managing large country and regional programs in South and South East Asia with demonstrable results. For nutrition and poverty eradication endeavours; he was conferred with the most prestigious Sight and Life Global Nutrition Leadership Award(2019), Banega Swachh And Swasth (Clean and Healthy) India 'Hero of the Decade' recognition (2019), 'Transform Nutrition Champion' Award for India and Bangladesh(2016) and Odisha Living Legend Award (2016).He was also recognised by the Government of India for his contribution to the POSHAN Abhiyaan). He holds a Management degree from

the Institute of Rural Management Anand(IRMA) and a degree in English Literature and Law.

## **28. Shri Ray Kancharla**

Having spent 30 years in Development, Humanitarian, Media Profiling and Resource



Mobilisation, and 15 years of mounting 40 Humanitarian Responses out of which 12 years have been Child Centred Integrated Humanitarian Response and Risk Reduction; across Children, Communities, Schools and Governance, Shri Kancharla have been blessed with a knowledge and practice in delivering triple nexus agenda. He is a strategic planner with comprehensive engagement with APEX Leadership, Governance, Donor institutions towards policy, planning, resource mobilisation, strategic partnership and accountable governance. He has also represented and presented numerous presentations in national and international fora. He expertises in Integral Human

Development, Planning and Programme Management, Capacity Enhancement, Organizational Development Process and Management.

## **29. Shri Chandan Kumar**

Shri Chandan Kumar is a humanitarian and development professional, currently working with Save the Children International as WASH Manager in Nigeria and managing programmes to make lasting difference in lives of children and community living in poverty. He has been instrumental in facilitating and implementing WASH integrated programmes in reputed international organizations such as Save the Children International, Splash International, Save the Children India,

Oxfam, ACTED. Chandan has proven track records of managing projects and responded to more than 14 diverse humanitarian crises in India and currently managing refugees and IDP response in Nigeria. He has represented and published many technical papers on WASH and Humanitarian in International conferences such as United Nations-WHO Conference in Geneva, Humanitarian conference in Australia, World Water Congress in Mexico, World Disaster Congress in IIT Mumbai, India, World Aqua Congress in Delhi, India, etc. He is an experienced practitioner; Graduate in Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University, Australia, National NGO Programme in Humanitarian Leadership from Harvard University, USA, Post-graduation in Disaster Management from Annamalai University, Tamilnadu.



## **PROGRAMME CONVENOR**

### **Dr. Kumar Raka**

Dr. Kumar is a Social Scientist and a reputed Disaster Management Expert. He has completed his Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has also earned a Masters in Disaster and Emergency Management from Tel Aviv University, Israel. He has more than 15 years of professional experience in Disaster Risk Management. His contribution is significant towards establishing the National Disaster Reduction Force (NDRF) in its early years. As Planning Specialist & Head of Department, Disaster Management, Noida Authority he established a vibrant Disaster Management mechanism in twin-cities of Noida and Greater Noida. A Mega School Earthquake Evacuation Drill was successfully organized and coordinated under his leadership in which over 1,00,000 children, teachers and staff from 110 Schools participated “on the Same Day at the Same Time”. This was the first of its kind mega drill to be conducted in the country and earned a place in Limca Book of World Records in 2018. At present in lieu of visionary initiatives of the Executive Director, NIDM and Project Director, CCDRR; Dr. Kumar is proactively engaged in establishing Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Centre of NIDM as ‘Centre of Excellence’.



## PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

### Shri Mintu Debnath



Shri Mintu Debnath is a humanitarian professional with 20 years of experience including 7 years in Government. Presently he is working as Manager Safe School, Save the Children. His association with the sector is mainly with expertise in planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of large-scale Disaster Risk Reduction, School Safety programmes and Humanitarian Response in India and neighbouring countries. He has experience of working across a range of social and cultural environments, with different organizations ranging from grassroots level organizations to International organizations. While working with I/NGOs, he was part of several emergency response operations from 2000 to till 2019.

### Dr. Balu I.



Dr. Balu. I. is working as a Project Associate in Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Centre, NIDM, Govt. of India. Previously he served as an Assistant Professor at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. He has two years of research experience from National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (NIRD&PR). Overall he has ten years of experience in the development and disaster management sector. He has received his PhD in Sociology from Madurai Kamaraj University. He has coordinated various National level workshops and training programmes on different themes. He has published two books and more than 25 papers in National & International journals.

### Mr. Ranjan Kumar



Shri Ranjan Kumar is presently working as Project Associate in CCDRR Centre, NIDM, Vijayawada. He has done MSW, MSc, L.L.B and Postgraduate Diploma in Preparedness, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. He has 12 years of professional experience in the development sector in core areas of risk reduction, integration of DRR and climate change adaptation, recovery and reconstruction and hands-on experience in project management, policy planning, training and capacity building, research and data analysis. Previously, he has worked with SDMC, NIDM, UNDP, UNICEF and other national organizations of repute.