



terre des hommes 
stops child exploitation

THE MICA PROJECT

ADDRESSING CHILD LABOUR
IN MICA MINES

WHAT IS THE MICA PROJECT?

Addressing Child Labour in the Mica Belt of Jharkhand in India

“A child is meant to learn, not to earn.”

Jharkhand in India contributes to **25% of the world's Mica supply**. With this shimmer, comes a dark tale of child labour and exploitation.

Due to the informal nature of the Mica supply chain, the wages from Mica scrap collection (Dhibra) are very low. The families' dependence on Mica is so high that this leads to abject poverty where children are forced to work in the mines to ensure the family's survival.

Our project works to address the issue by **providing children with access to quality education, families with additional livelihood and improved access to social security schemes. It also strengthens child protection mechanisms.**

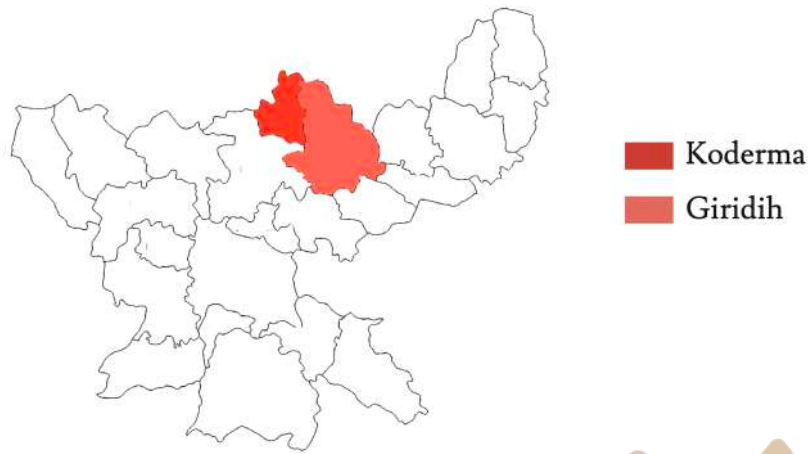
DID YOU KNOW?

As per an NCPCR * survey in 2018, nearly **5000** children under 14 years in the Mica belt of Jharkhand and Bihar are reported to be out-of-school



WHERE DOES THE MICA PROJECT WORK?

The project works in **2 districts** of Jharkhand which are one of the most disadvantaged regions in East India known for Mica dependence.



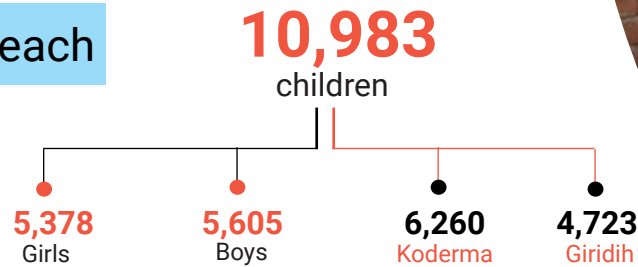
reaching out to
51 remote
villages

DID YOU KNOW?

Children go inside **deep and dark pits** to collect Mica scraps. Many times rocks fall on them, causing **severe injuries**.

THE MICA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2020

Total Reach



DID YOU KNOW?

The cycles given helped children ride to small group learning centres formed by the project during the pandemic.



Early Childhood Education

Ensuring fully functional *anganwadis** for children under 5. During the pandemic, a home-based method of learning was followed where mothers were trained as teachers and household materials were used to learn pre-primary concepts.



Mothers trained as teachers
850 mothers



Children engaged in pre-primary learning
1,010 children



Anganwadi centres facilitated (before lockdown)
30 centres

Academics and Learning

Includes formal education support for vulnerable children and victims of child labour during both pre and post lockdown.



Children given bicycles
186 children



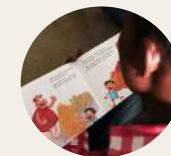
Children enrolled in school
includes new enrollments and re-enrollment of drop-outs
658 children



Access to online and digital education
3,360 children



Children supported with study materials
Upper primary and secondary school
1,954 children



Access to mobile libraries for supplementary reading
4,360 children

HOME-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Children under 5 were joyfully engaged during the pandemic through home-based learning where they were taught pre-primary concepts through available household materials.



THE MICA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2020

Children as Agents of Change

Includes organising children in Children's Clubs where they are trained and sensitised on Child Rights and Child Protection Laws. With this training, they report cases of exploitation, enroll children in schools and initiate child led development activities. Club leaders are selected and in meetings they discuss how to solve village problems.



Life skill training
365 children



Awareness on Child Rights
1,050 children



Training on Child Protection Mechanisms
165 children



Training on leadership and team building
252 children

Access to Social Security

Providing families with awareness on and access to Government social protection and social welfare schemes they are entitled to.



Access to Social Welfare Schemes
2,568 families



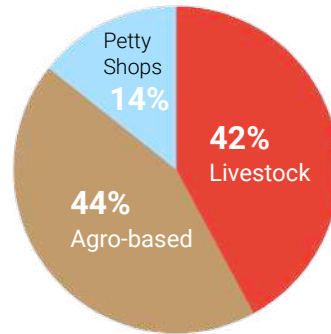
Access to Social Protection Schemes
3,850 families

DID YOU KNOW?

Through Children's Clubs, children have prevented many cases of child labour and child marriage.



THE MICA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2020



% Distribution of Families' Additional Livelihood Engagement



Health and Nutrition

Activities surrounding health, hygiene and nutrition specifically adopted during the pandemic.



Homestead Nutrition Gardening Training
1,680 families



Homestead Nutrition Gardens Established
backyard kitchen gardens
1,068 families supported



Training on Menstrual Hygiene Management
890 adolescent girls

Additional Livelihood and Community Led Socio-Economic Development

Providing financial support to families for investment in additional income generation activities to reduce Mica dependence. The project also helps build their skills in these activities.



Families newly supported in 2020
319 families



Skill Building Agro-based livelihoods
30 centres



Families whose income increased in 2020
1,250 families



Skill Building Livestock Rearing
30 centres



Families added through revolving fund
245 families

THE MICA PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2020

DID YOU KNOW?

The project advocates with the Private sector and the Government for an ethical sourcing of Mica following safe supply standards and decent wages for adult Mica miners in partnership with the Responsible Mica Initiative

Strengthening Child Protection Institutional Mechanisms

Training and capacity building of Child Protection Institutions along with advocacy with respective government departments



School Management Committees Strengthened
35 SMCs



Consultations at Block Level Child Protection Committees
10 consultations



Village Level Child Protection Committees Strengthened
39 VLCPCs



Consultations at District Level Child Protection Committees
4 consultations





ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING CONTINUED

During the pandemic, mobile libraries were well stocked for children with guides and supplementary material. Children were taught in small groups and they accessed academics online via whatsapp group videos and Digi Sath* on YouTube.



THE MICA PROJECT COVID RESPONSE

In **51 villages** from districts of Koderma and Giridih



Children as Change Agents

Children themselves took the initiative to spread awareness through wall writings and ensured social distancing.

960 children



Dry Ration Distribution

A kit contained cereal, dal, spices, oil and sugar for 2 months use

1,602 families

1,117 families through direct project support
to **485** families through facilitation



Psychosocial Care

Children were provided art kits to keep them positively engaged during the pandemic

1415 children

382 families

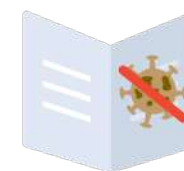
153 families through agro-horticulture based livelihood
232 families through construction of rainwater harvesting structures



Hygiene Kit Distribution

A kit contained facemasks, sanitiser, hand soaps, towel, hand gloves

2,669 families



Awareness on COVID

Awareness was spread through audio messages, posters, community sensitisation and other IEC material.

3,419 community members



Livelihood Rehabilitation Schemes

Families were facilitated to access the Government's COVID-19 flagship schemes.



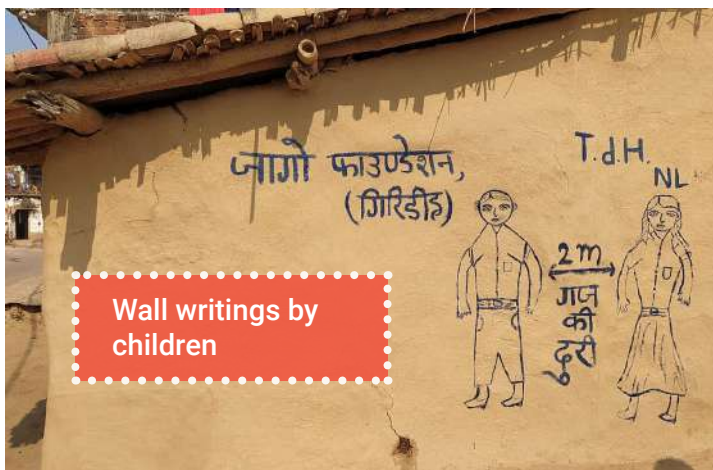
Children reported reduction in stress and panic after using the art kits



The art kit given to each child had charts, crayons, gum and craft papers.



Children caring for each other and being responsible



Wall writings by children

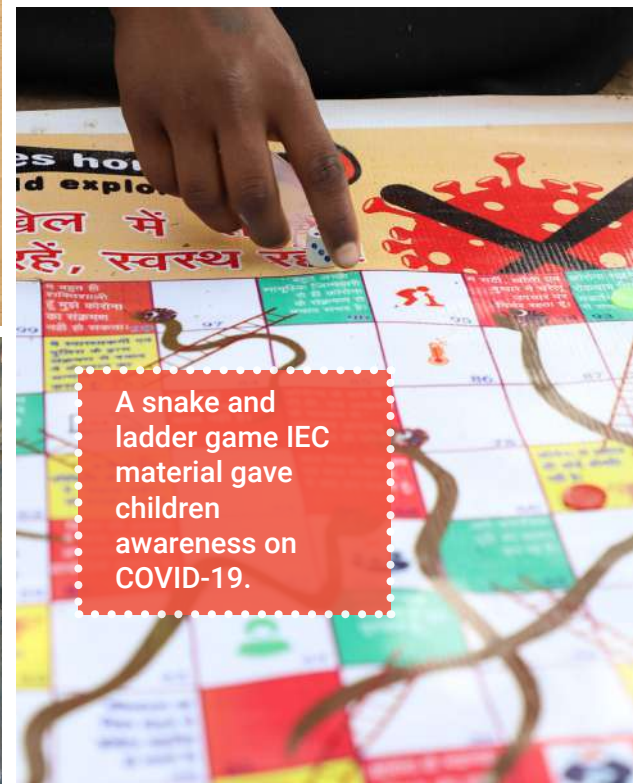


SNAPSHOTS COVID RESPONSE

A child creating way for social distancing in his village.



Distribution time



A snake and ladder game IEC material gave children awareness on COVID-19.

THE MICA PROJECT KEY IMPACT 2020



Childrens' support

by spreading awareness and stopping 28 child marriages, counselling 85 parents to take children out of labour during the lockdown



Effective continuation of education

through home based ECE, provision of study materials, online education and cycles.



IGA helps families increase their income

Despite the economic crisis, families could increase their income and support children.



Communities lead economic empowerment

The repayment of IGA support was 45% against the total support during 2018-2020.



Families avail Government support

through access to COVID and other relief and rehabilitation schemes



ENSURING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

A main reason why girls drop out of schools in the Mica region is due the huge distance between the village and their schools. Provision of cycles has helped solve this issue, increasing girl child enrollment and ensuring regular attendance. In 2020, 156 girls were given cycles, 1,240 girls were supported with study material and 335 girls were enrolled in school.

CASE STORY 2020

**Sabuta,
15 years**

Vulnerable to Child Labour

“My family is fully dependent on income from Mica. During the lockdown, our **survival was tough and my education was at risk**. The **tension** was even more for me due to my **upcoming secondary board exams**.

Finishing my class 10 would be more than a milestone for me and my village.

TdH-NL gave me **guide books and access to recorded online academic sessions through digital learning facilities in my village**. This really helped me and class 10 students in my Children’s Club.

I was also **given a bicycle**. With this, I could go to peer group learning centres where class 10 concepts were taught. I was able to prepare very well for my exams, despite the time of crisis. I’m no more tensed, but confident that **I’ll pass my board exams with flying colours**.

My family is also grateful for the **ration support** which helped us survive during the lockdown.”



FEEDBACK from stakeholders



Mr. Mahesh Prasad Yadav
President, Charadih Gram Panchayat, Koderma

“ After TdH-NL’s intervention, children are more aware of their rights, their hygiene has improved and there is more self confidence in them. ”



Mr. Rohit Kumar
SMC and VLCPC member

“ The TdH team trained us on how to provide children with access to online education. Through this training, we were able to mobilise mobile phones for the children. ”



Ms. Suman Devi
Mother

“ When the anganwadis were shut, my children were beginning to forget what they had learnt. Then TdH-NL taught me how to teach them with household materials. They are now well versed in the concepts. ”



Ms. Malti Devi
IGA Beneficiary

“ My husband lost his job during COVID and we had no income. Then I received Rs.5000 from the Mica Project. With that, I invested in cosmetics and bangles. I sold them and made good money. ”