

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



HELP

SOCIETY FOR HELP ENTIRE LOWER & RURAL PEOPLE

VISION

To facilitate a world with an enabling environment where no girl or woman bought or sold, where each and every girl can realise her potential of creating a safe, supportive and responsive society that upholds the right to protection and dignity of every child in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

MISSION

To combat trafficking of women and girls for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in all its forms especially prostitution. To ensure women and girls are protected from abuse, exploitation and trafficking and enjoying their rights and entitlements making the duty bearers and communities are responsive and accountable to their wellbeing.

Phone

+91 99497 23666 | 085923 56194

Email

helpap2002@yahoo.com | helpap@gmail.com

Website

helpap.org
childprotectioninfo.in

Social Media Handles

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/help-ap-a632a150/>
<https://twitter.com/helpap>
<https://www.facebook.com/HELPAP.NGO/>
<https://www.instagram.com/helpapongole/>

FOREWORD



Dear Friends, Partners, and Well-Wishers,

It is with immense gratitude and renewed determination that we present the Annual Report 2025–26 of the Society for Help Entire Lower & Rural People (HELP). The past year has been one of resilience, collaboration, and meaningful progress as we continued our unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and restoring the dignity of women, children, and marginalized communities vulnerable to trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, and social exclusion.

For more than three decades, HELP has remained steadfast in its mission to break cycles of exploitation through a holistic, survivor-centred, and rights-based

approach. During the year, we further strengthened our interventions across child protection, education, healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, access to justice, sustainable livelihoods, financial inclusion, gender equality, and community empowerment. Every programme we implemented was guided by the belief that lasting change is possible only when individuals and communities are empowered to become active participants in shaping their own future.

One of our greatest strengths continues to be our work with survivors of trafficking and women in commercial sexual exploitation. Through survivor leadership initiatives and the continued strengthening of VIMUKTHI, our state-level collective, women with lived experiences have emerged as advocates, mentors, and community leaders. Their voices have informed programme design, influenced policy dialogue, and inspired countless others to rebuild their lives with confidence, dignity, and hope. This transformation reaffirms our conviction that survivors are not merely beneficiaries but powerful agents of social change.

Protecting children from exploitation and ensuring their right to a safe and nurturing childhood remained central to our efforts. We continued to facilitate access to education, strengthen family and community-based care systems, enhance child safeguarding mechanisms, and provide psychosocial support to children affected by vulnerability and trauma. Through preventive interventions and coordinated action with government departments, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and community stakeholders, we worked towards creating safer environments where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

Recognising that sustainable rehabilitation extends



beyond rescue and protection, HELP expanded initiatives that promote economic independence and financial resilience among women and vulnerable families. Through vocational skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, Self-Help Group strengthening, financial literacy, institutional credit linkages, and livelihood support, many women moved closer to economic self-reliance. These efforts have not only enhanced household incomes but have also strengthened women's confidence, decision-making power, and social participation.

The year also witnessed significant progress in strengthening access to justice and survivor support systems. Our legal aid initiatives, victim compensation facilitation, counselling services, crisis response mechanisms, and collaboration with the Anti-Human Trafficking Units, police, judiciary, and government departments have enabled survivors to access their rights with greater confidence. Simultaneously, our mental health and psychosocial support services continued to provide trauma-informed care that fostered healing, resilience, and long-term reintegration.

Institutional strengthening and collaborative partnerships remained integral to our journey. We deepened our engagement with government agencies, civil society organisations, donor partners, academic institutions, corporate supporters, and community-based organisations to enhance the quality, reach, and sustainability of our interventions. Together, we promoted innovation, strengthened community systems, and reinforced collective action

against trafficking, exploitation, violence, and social injustice.

As we reflect on the achievements of this year, we are equally mindful of the challenges that persist. Poverty, inequality, gender discrimination, unsafe migration, digital vulnerabilities, and emerging socio-economic pressures continue to place women and children at heightened risk. These realities strengthen our resolve to expand survivor-centred programmes, promote inclusive development, advocate for stronger protection systems, and build resilient communities where every individual can live free from violence, discrimination, and exploitation.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, government departments, institutional partners, volunteers, community leaders, and dedicated staff members, whose commitment continues to inspire our work. Most importantly, we extend our deepest respect to the survivors, children, women, and communities who have placed their trust in us and whose courage motivates us every day.

As we move forward, HELP remains committed to creating a society where every child is protected, every woman is empowered, every survivor is respected, and every individual has the opportunity to live with dignity, equality, and hope. Together, let us continue building stronger communities and a future free from trafficking, exploitation and violence.

**With sincere gratitude and solidarity,
Society for Help Entire Lower & Rural People (HELP)**





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OVERVIEW

of the Year 2025-2026

The financial year 2025–26 marked another significant milestone in HELP's journey towards creating a society free from human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and gender-based violence. Guided by a survivor-centred and rights-based approach, HELP strengthened prevention, protection, rehabilitation, access to justice, education, mental health, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women, children, and elderly women across Andhra Pradesh.

Throughout the year, HELP expanded its integrated programmes by working closely with government departments, law enforcement agencies, District Legal Services Authorities, community institutions, and the survivor-led VIMUKTHI Collective. These partnerships enhanced access to legal aid, victim compensation, social protection schemes, psychosocial care, livelihood opportunities, and gender-responsive services for survivors of trafficking and women in commercial sexual exploitation.

A major milestone during the year was the commencement of a three-year partnership with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, which is providing vital CSR support to HELP. Through this partnership, HELP is strengthening comprehensive, survivor-centred services for women affected by Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including survivors of human trafficking and women in commercial sexual exploitation (sex workers). The programme ensures access to legal aid, psychosocial care, victim compensation, crisis intervention, and social protection entitlements. It also focuses on organising and empowering nearly 150 adolescents, the children of women in commercial sexual exploitation, through life skills, protection mechanisms, and community engagement to prevent second-generation trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

A major achievement during the year was the continued strengthening of survivor leadership. Women with lived experience emerged as advocates, community leaders, trainers, and change-makers, leading awareness campaigns, supporting fellow survivors, and actively participating in policy dialogues. At the same time, HELP invested in trauma-informed mental health services, economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and community mobilisation to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to exploitation and re-trafficking.

The organisation also focused on promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence, improving access to education and protection for children of survivors, and enhancing dignity, healthcare, and social security for elderly women living in vulnerable communities.

Across all programme areas, HELP remained committed to strengthening institutional partnerships, promoting community ownership, and ensuring that survivors are recognised not merely as beneficiaries but as leaders shaping solutions for lasting social change. The achievements of FY 2025–26 reaffirm HELP's commitment to building safer, more inclusive communities where every woman and child can live with dignity, security, justice, and equal opportunity. As the organisation moves forward, HELP will continue expanding its impact through innovation, strategic partnerships, and survivor-led development to create sustainable pathways towards freedom, equality, and social justice.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

ACCESS TO JUSTICE		SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP		MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING	
320	Survivors received legal counselling	165	Survivor leaders trained	412	Survivors received psychosocial support
145	Survivors accessed legal aid	24	Leadership development workshops conducted	895	Individual counselling sessions provided
22	Victim compensation applications facilitated	38	Survivor-led community awareness campaigns	64	Group therapy sessions facilitated
24	Legal awareness programmes conducted	11	District-level consultations facilitated	116	Family counselling sessions conducted
12	Multi-stakeholder coordination meetings held	82	Survivor representatives engaged in advocacy	29	Mental health awareness programmes organised
95	Survivor leaders trained on legal rights	14	Self-Help Groups strengthened	138	Frontline workers trained
FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS		GENDER EQUITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION		VIMUKTHI SURVIVOR COLLECTIVE	
286	Women supported through livelihood initiatives	54	Community awareness programmes conducted	450	Active survivor collective members
172	Survivors completed vocational training	5,480	Individuals reached	14	Self-Help Groups strengthened
241	Women linked to banking and financial services	1,620	Adolescents participated	96	Community meetings conducted
118	Women accessed government livelihood schemes	365	Government officials sensitised	218	Identity documents facilitated
63	Small businesses established	214	Community volunteers trained	276	Women linked to social protection schemes
14	Self-Help Groups strengthened			21	Survivor-led advocacy events organised

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)		ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OLDER WOMEN		SURVIVOR HEALTH CARE & SUPPORT	
155	Survivors received integrated support	180	Elderly women supported	1,845	Female Sex Workers reached
25	Women leaders trained as para-legal advocates	240	Nutrition kits distributed	40	MSM & Transgender persons reached
150	Adolescents mobilised into peer groups	12	Health screening camps organised	65	Survivors accessed mental health services
24	Legal aid and counselling clinics conducted	165	Women received medicines and follow-up care	91	HRG members received legal support
8	Stakeholder workshops organised	82	Referrals to government health facilities	97%	HIV testing referral completion rate
20	Community awareness campaigns conducted	68	Old-age pension applications facilitated	25	Hotspot groups formed
300+	Community members reached	95	Women linked to social protection schemes	78%	Condom distribution coverage
		18	Healthy ageing awareness sessions conducted	100%	Regular medical check-ups completed

HELP

a brief note

Society for Help Entire Lower & rural People - HELP is a voluntary organisation established in the year 1993 by a team of senior journalists, academicians and social workers committed to protection of women & children from various forms of violence, Sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking. HELP is an important policy-influencing organization in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is also one of the first organizations of its kind in the state to holistically approach the issue of Trafficking in persons and works on a range of activities as part of its Counter Trafficking Measures - right from Campaign, Advocacy and Sensitisation of various stakeholders on the issue of trafficking, to the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Socio-economic Reintegration of trafficked persons.

HELP's integrated case management approach including above interventions serves the rescued survivors of trafficking with victim/witness protection services that play key role in effective prosecution of the case that results in improving the rate of conviction to the traffickers and other perpetrators involved in the crime.

HELP is an important resource organisation to both government and non-government organisations, agencies and institutions that prepare and disseminate various knowledge/IEC material, also collaborate in imparting capacity building trainings to the personnel from line departments on existing schemes, policies, legislations, Acts as well as GOs on rehabilitation, reintegration and other state support services, social entitlements and also criminal justice services including victim compensation.

Taking in to consideration of its everlasting services for past three decades and its unstinted efforts and commitment to strengthen the Juvenile Justice System, the Government of India honoured HELP with National Award under institutional category in the year 2016 at Rashtrapathi Bhavan, NEW DELHI by Hon'ble president of India.

In addition to the above accolades, Mr Ram Mohan – Secretary, HELP appointed as a member in state level coordination committee on "Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation and also implementation of measures for rescue and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking" by the Govt of Andhra Pradesh. Further, the Crime Investigation Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh appointed HELP as a nodal NGO to combat trafficking in persons in better coordination with Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and swift response to the trafficking cases in the state.

• GOAL •

To significantly reduce the incidence of trafficking of women and girls for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) across Andhra Pradesh, ensuring that survivors are protected, rehabilitated, and empowered to lead dignified lives, while simultaneously fostering accountable communities and duty bearers committed to upholding the rights and safety of every girl child.

OBJECTIVES

- To stop child trafficking and Second Generation Prostitution and young women.
- To prepare underprivileged children (children of women in prostitution and Child labour) for entry into the formal system.
- To prevent STD/HIV/AIDS among women in Prostitution.
- To provide Care & support for HIV/AIDS affected & infected
- To support for dignified life to the women in prostitution and their children through comprehensive social interventions like education, shelter, health, nutrition, recreation, vocational & life skill trainings, personality development, value education, counselling etc.,
- To create a fair, just and gender sensitive society by people's own initiative
- To train local youth & children to protect them from all kinds of abuse and exploitation.
- To undertake Advocacy and Lobbying for implementation of laws and appropriate changes in the legislation and policy & programmes to curb the crime of trafficking in persons.
- To undertake sensitization and training programmes for GOs, NGOs, INGOs and Police personnel and other line departments on anti-trafficking and child rights.
- To support and network with other NGOs with similar Vision and Mission.

WHAT WE DO

- We are basically grassroots level workers who work on the ground for Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Prevention, and Protection, facilitate prosecution and Repatriation of women and child victims of human trafficking and sexual assault.
- Supporting women and child victims of GBV mainly sexual abuse and exploitation and helping them in their fight to access justice and ensuring strong legal representation.
- Working with law enforcement, education department, health department, Panchayats and community groups to ensure prevention of human trafficking and all forms of violence against women and children
- Work with line departments, state/statutory authorities on new reformations and legislations and support the state in implementation of policies, programmes & schemes for the benefit of women and children.
- Undertaking action-oriented research into women and child rights issues to strengthen existing laws and propose necessary reforms towards achieving the constitutional goal of equality.
- We prepare position papers, status reports, fact sheets and backgrounders on various facets of the law vis-à-vis discrimination against Women and Children.
- System strengthening through capacity building training to law enforcement agencies, Police Training & Judicial Academies, NGO's and so on, to ensure effective implementation of laws related to women & child rights.
- HELP has promoted networks and groups. It serves as an umbrella that coordinates and takes direction from its network partners in its work against sexual exploitation/abuse and in support of Child Rights and women's human rights.

Highlights 2025-2026



Programme Area 1

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Ensuring Justice, Accountability and Legal Empowerment for Survivors of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Programme Overview

HELP believes that access to justice is fundamental to the rehabilitation and long-term empowerment of survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. During FY 2025–26, the organisation strengthened legal literacy, facilitated access to victim compensation, promoted survivor-friendly justice mechanisms, and worked closely with legal institutions, police departments, District Legal Services Authorities, and survivor collectives to ensure that survivors could confidently exercise their legal rights.



Programme Overview

Legal awareness programmes
| Victim compensation
facilitation | Legal aid support
| Strengthening referrals with
DLSA and AHTUs | Capacity
building of survivor leaders |
Advocacy with justice
institutions



Impact

Access to legal information and institutional support significantly enhanced survivors' confidence in reporting violence and seeking justice. Improved coordination among legal service institutions reduced procedural barriers and strengthened accountability. Survivor leaders increasingly acted as community resource persons, enabling timely referrals and encouraging more survivors to access statutory entitlements.

Looking Ahead

During FY 2026-27, HELP aims to further strengthen survivor-centred legal support systems, expand collaboration with Anti-Human Trafficking Units, increase access to victim compensation schemes, and promote survivor participation in justice sector reforms.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

320

Survivors received legal counselling

22

Victim compensation applications were facilitated

12

Coordination meetings held with DLSAs, Police, Child Welfare Committees and Anti-Human Trafficking stakeholders

145

Survivors were supported in accessing legal aid

24

Legal awareness programmes conducted across five districts

95

survivor leaders trained on legal rights and justice mechanisms



Programme Area 2

SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

Empowering Survivors as Leaders of Change



Programme Overview

HELP firmly believes that survivors of human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and gender-based violence possess invaluable lived experiences that can drive meaningful social change. Rather than viewing survivors solely as beneficiaries, HELP promotes a survivor-led development model where women become decision-makers, advocates, trainers, community mobilisers, and policy influencers. This approach restores dignity, strengthens self-confidence, and enables survivors to lead initiatives that address the root causes of exploitation within their own communities.

During FY 2025-26, HELP continued strengthening the VIMUKTHI Survivor Collective, enabling women survivors to build leadership skills, participate in governance processes, advocate for their rights, and mentor fellow survivors across Andhra Pradesh.

Programme Interventions

- Leadership and confidence-building training programmes.
- Capacity building on legal rights, public speaking, advocacy, and community mobilisation.
- Formation and strengthening of survivor collectives and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Promotion of survivor participation in consultations, campaigns, and policy dialogues.
- Mentoring emerging women leaders to facilitate community-level interventions.
- Supporting survivors in planning and managing community initiatives independently

Impact

The programme significantly enhanced survivors' confidence, self-reliance, and public participation. Many women who once experienced exclusion now actively facilitate community meetings, support newly rescued survivors, engage with government officials, and advocate for improved rehabilitation services.

The VIMUKTHI Collective has increasingly emerged as a respected survivor-led platform, demonstrating that women with lived experience are best positioned to identify community challenges, recommend practical solutions, and strengthen accountability within anti-trafficking systems.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

165

Survivor leaders trained

24

Leadership development workshops conducted

38

Community awareness campaigns led by survivors

11

District-level consultations facilitated

82

Survivor representatives participating in advocacy platforms

14

District-level consultations facilitated

Looking Ahead

HELP will continue investing in survivor leadership by expanding district-level survivor networks, increasing participation in state and national policy platforms, strengthening youth leadership, and supporting survivor-led advocacy campaigns across Andhra Pradesh.



Programme Area 3

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Healing Trauma, Restoring Hope

Programme Overview

Survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation frequently experience prolonged psychological trauma, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, social isolation, and stigma. Without appropriate psychosocial care, recovery remains incomplete, increasing the likelihood of re-victimisation and social exclusion.

Recognising mental health as a fundamental component of rehabilitation, HELP integrates trauma-informed care into all programme interventions. During FY 2025-26, the organisation expanded community-based psychosocial support services, counselling, peer support mechanisms, and mental health awareness programmes for survivors and their families.



*Healing is not one time event It's a journey
And no survivor should walk that journey alone*

FY 2025-26 Highlights

412

Survivors receiving psychosocial support

895

Individual counselling sessions conducted

64

Group therapy sessions facilitated

29

Mental health awareness programmes

138

Frontline workers trained

116

Family counselling sessions

Impact

The programme improved emotional resilience, reduced social isolation, strengthened family relationships, and enhanced survivors' confidence in rebuilding their lives. Community support groups created safe spaces where survivors openly shared experiences, reduced stigma, and supported one another through the recovery process.

Integration of psychosocial care with legal, livelihood, and rehabilitation services ensured a holistic approach to survivor recovery and reintegration.

Looking Ahead

HELP aims to expand trauma-informed mental health services, establish stronger referral networks with government health institutions, promote community awareness on mental health, and advocate for survivor-specific mental health policies and services throughout Andhra Pradesh.



Programme Interventions

- Individual and group counselling.
- Trauma-informed psychosocial care.
- Peer support groups.
- Family counselling.
- Mental health awareness sessions.
- Referral services for specialised psychiatric care.
- Capacity building of frontline workers on Psychological First Aid.



Programme Area 4

FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Building Economic Independence for Survivors



Programme Overview

Economic vulnerability remains one of the leading factors contributing to exploitation, trafficking, and re-trafficking. Sustainable livelihoods and financial inclusion are therefore central to HELP's rehabilitation strategy.

During FY 2025–26, HELP strengthened survivors' economic resilience by facilitating access to financial services, entrepreneurship opportunities, government livelihood schemes, vocational training, market linkages, and women-led Self-Help Groups.

Programme Interventions

- Formation and strengthening of survivor SHGs.
- Financial literacy programmes, entrepreneurship development & vocational skills training.
- Linkages with National Rural Livelihood Mission and National Urban Livelihood Mission.
- Facilitation of bank accounts, savings, credit, and government livelihood schemes.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

286

Women supported through livelihood initiatives

172

Survivors completing vocational training

14

SHGs strengthened

241

Women linked to bank accounts and financial services

63

Small businesses initiated

118

Women accessing government livelihood schemes



Impact

Economic empowerment significantly improved survivors' confidence, household income, and financial security. Women reported greater decision-making power within their families, improved savings behaviour, and reduced dependence on exploitative livelihoods. Strengthened SHGs also enhanced peer support, collective bargaining, and long-term economic resilience.



Looking Ahead

HELP will continue promoting entrepreneurship, digital financial inclusion, market access, and climate-resilient livelihoods while expanding partnerships with financial institutions and CSR partners.

Programme Area 5

GENDER EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Promoting Equality, Dignity and Inclusive Communities



Programme Overview

Gender inequality, discrimination, harmful social norms and unequal access to opportunities continue to expose women and girls to exploitation and violence. HELP integrates gender equity across all programme areas to ensure that every intervention promotes equality, inclusion, and human rights.

During FY 2025–26, HELP worked with women, men, adolescents, community leaders, government departments, educational institutions and civil society organisations to challenge discriminatory attitudes and promote gender-transformative practices.

Programme Interventions

- Gender sensitisation programmes & community awareness campaigns.
- Adolescent education.
- Men's engagement initiatives.
- Capacity building of frontline workers.
- Advocacy for gender-responsive public services.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

54

Community awareness programmes

5,480

Individuals reached

1,620

Adolescents participating

365

Government officials and stakeholders sensitised

214

Community volunteers trained



Impact

Improved awareness contributed to more positive attitudes toward gender equality, increased reporting of violence, stronger community engagement, and greater support for survivors' rights. Community institutions demonstrated improved responsiveness to issues affecting vulnerable women and children.

Looking Ahead

HELP will strengthen gender-transformative programming, engage more men and boys as allies, and expand gender-responsive community systems across programme districts.



Programme Area 6

VIMUKTHI – SURVIVOR COLLECTIVE

A Survivor-Led Movement for Rights, Dignity and Social Justice



Programme Overview

VIMUKTHI is HELP's survivor-led collective of women with lived experiences of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The collective serves as a platform for mutual support, leadership development, advocacy, financial inclusion, and social justice.

By the end of FY 2025–26, the collective had grown substantially and emerged as a powerful community institution promoting survivors' voices in policy advocacy, livelihood development, mental health, legal empowerment, and community mobilisation.





Impact

VIMUKTHI has become a recognised platform where survivors collectively advocate for dignity, equal opportunities, access to justice, education for their children, sustainable livelihoods, and stronger government accountability. The collective continues to demonstrate that survivor leadership is one of the most effective approaches for preventing trafficking and supporting long-term reintegration.

Looking Ahead

During FY 2026–27, HELP plans to expand VIMUKTHI across additional districts, strengthen institutional sustainability, establish survivor-led enterprises, and deepen engagement with state-level policy platforms to ensure that survivors remain central to shaping programmes and public policies affecting their lives.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

450

Total members

14

Active Self-Help Groups

96

Community meetings conducted

218

Identity documents facilitated

276

Women linked to social protection schemes

21

Survivor-led advocacy events

Programme Area 7

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AMONG SURVIVORS

Protecting Women and Girls through Integrated Support and Community Action

Programme Overview

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to affect women in sex work, survivors of human trafficking, and adolescent girls due to poverty, discrimination, social stigma, and limited access to justice and support services. During FY 2025–26, HELP implemented an integrated, survivor-centred programme in Guntur and Palnadu districts to prevent violence and strengthen protection systems. The programme provided crisis intervention, legal aid, psychosocial support, victim compensation assistance, and community awareness while empowering women leaders and adolescents to promote safety, equality and justice.



Impact

The programme improved survivors' access to legal, psychosocial, and rehabilitation services while strengthening community-based protection mechanisms. Women leaders became frontline advocates for identifying and responding to violence, and adolescent peer groups promoted child protection and gender equality. Increased collaboration with government departments and community stakeholders enhanced early intervention, referral services, and support for survivors, contributing to safer and more resilient communities.

FY 2025-26 Highlights

155

Survivors provided with integrated support services

25

Women leaders trained as para-legal advocates

150

Adolescents mobilised into peer groups

24

Legal aid and counselling clinics conducted

8

Stakeholder workshops on GBV and victim protection

20

Community awareness campaigns organised

300+

Community members reached



Looking Ahead

HELP will continue expanding survivor-centred GBV services by strengthening community protection systems, enhancing leadership among women and adolescents, and building stronger partnerships with government institutions to ensure a safer, more equitable, and violence-free environment for women and children.

Programme Area 8

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OLDER WOMEN IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Restoring Dignity, Health and Social Security for Elderly Women, Particularly Women in Sex Work

Programme Overview

Older women from vulnerable communities, particularly those engaged in sex work, face multiple challenges, including poor health, social exclusion, economic insecurity, and limited access to social protection in the districts of Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu and Prakasam in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Many live without family support and struggle to access pensions, healthcare, nutrition, and mental health services. During FY 2025–26, HELP implemented a community-based programme to improve the health, well-being, and social security of elderly women through nutrition support, healthcare services, psychosocial care, and linkages with government welfare schemes. The programme also promoted dignity, inclusion, and healthy ageing by strengthening community support systems.



Impact

The programme significantly improved access to essential healthcare, nutrition, and social protection services for elderly women living in vulnerable communities. Regular health screenings and timely medical referrals enabled early diagnosis and treatment of chronic illnesses, while psychosocial support reduced social isolation and promoted emotional well-being. Assistance in accessing old-age pensions and government welfare schemes enhanced financial security, enabling many women to live with greater dignity and independence. The programme also strengthened community awareness on the rights and needs of elderly women, fostering a more supportive and inclusive environment.



FY 2025-26 Highlights

180	Elderly women supported through the programme	240	Nutrition kits distributed
12	General health screening & medical check-up camps	165	Elderly women receiving medicines and follow-up care
82	Referrals to Government General Hospitals & PHCs	36	Referrals for mental health counselling & specialised care
68	Old-age pension applications facilitated	95	Women linked to government social protection schemes
18		Awareness sessions on healthy ageing, nutrition and self-care	

Looking Ahead

HELP will continue to expand its Healthy Ageing Programme by strengthening access to healthcare, nutrition, mental health services, and social security schemes for elderly women. The organisation will further promote community-based care, improve government convergence, and advocate for age-sensitive policies that ensure dignity, protection, and quality of life for older women from vulnerable communities.

Programme Area 9

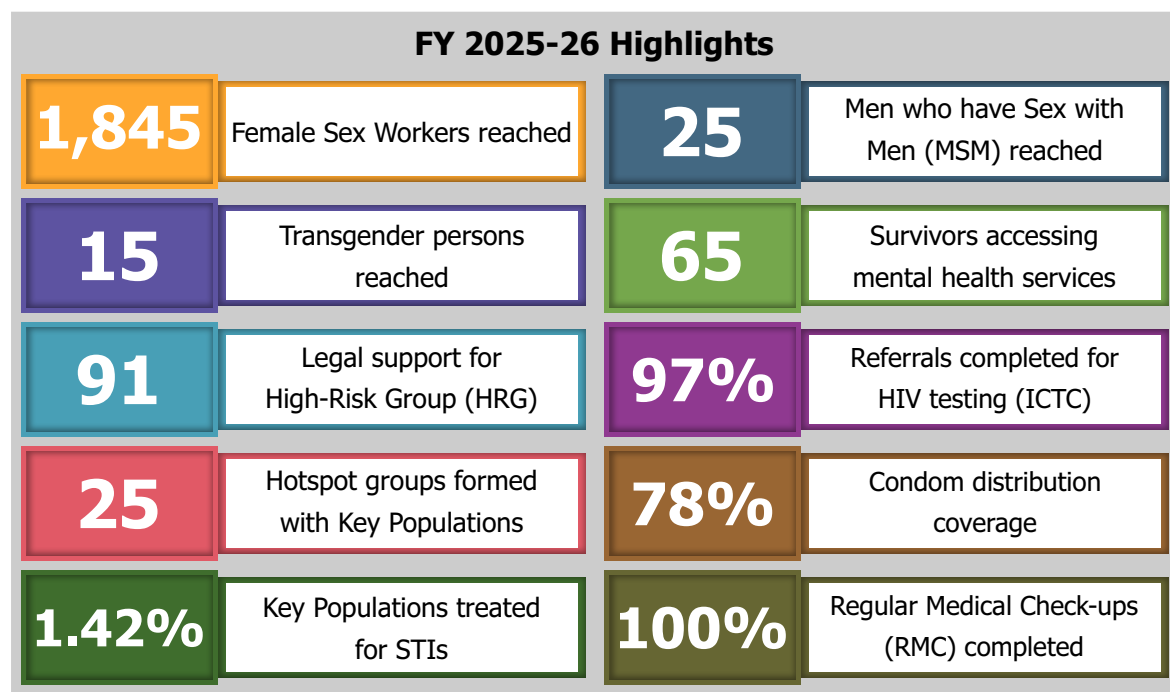
SURVIVOR HEALTH CARE & SUPPORT

Promoting Comprehensive Health And Well-being For Survivors And Key Populations

Programme Overview

Ensuring access to comprehensive healthcare remains a cornerstone of HELP's rehabilitation and empowerment approach. Through its Targeted Intervention (TI) Project, supported by the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS), HELP continued providing integrated health services to survivors of human trafficking, women in commercial sexual exploitation (sex workers), their family members and other key populations. The programme focused on prevention, early identification, treatment, and follow-up care for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV prevention, mental health support, and legal referrals. Recognising that physical and mental well-being are essential for long-term recovery, HELP also conducted awareness programmes on trauma, stress, and mental health while strengthening regular outreach and referral services through Outreach Workers (ORWs).





Impact

The programme significantly strengthened access to essential healthcare services for survivors and key populations by improving awareness, promoting safer health practices, and ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment of STIs and HIV. Regular follow-up by Outreach Workers enhanced adherence to treatment, increased utilisation of health services, and reduced vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections. Integration of mental health counselling with physical healthcare enabled survivors to address trauma and improve their emotional well-being. The programme also strengthened referrals for legal support and social services, contributing to the overall health, dignity, and resilience of survivors and their families.



Looking Ahead

During FY 2026–27, HELP will continue expanding comprehensive health services by strengthening HIV and STI prevention, increasing access to trauma-informed mental health care, promoting healthy lifestyles, enhancing community outreach, and improving linkages with government health institutions. The organisation will also focus on integrating health, legal, psycho-social, and social protection services to ensure holistic rehabilitation and improved quality of life for survivors, sex workers and other vulnerable communities.

Programme Area 10

ADVANCING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING

At the heart of HELP's mission is the commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of every child. Our core programming prioritizes the creation of safe, supportive, and nurturing environments where children are protected from all forms of harm -including abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence - and are empowered to thrive.

Ending Harm Against Children

Our initiative centers on preventing all forms of violence and exploitation against children, advocating for their right to a secure, dignified, and fulfilling childhood. Special focus is given to eradicating harmful practices such as child marriage, child labor, child exploitation, and interrupting cycles of second-generation trafficking and sex work.



Key Outcomes

450

Community members engaged in youth-led awareness campaigns against child marriage, trafficking and labor

350

Parents and caregivers trained in positive parenting techniques to nurture safer family environments

125

Children's groups sensitised and mobilised to identify and respond to incidents of violence within homes and communities



Strengthening Community-Based Child Protection Systems

HELP believes that communities are the first line of protection for children. We invest in community-led mechanisms and local capacity-building to ensure long-term child safety and empowerment. Through grassroots participation and collective responsibility, we are building a culture that values and safeguards every child.

Key Outcomes

450

Community stakeholders participated in child protection mapping exercises across 30 urban slum areas, identifying local risks and support systems





Adolescent Health, Rights and Empowerment

Our Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) program equips young people with critical knowledge and life skills around sexual and reproductive health. We focus on helping adolescents make informed decisions, build respectful relationships, seek appropriate services, and stay protected from abuse and exploitation.

Key Outcomes

255

Adolescents reached through awareness sessions and direct access to adolescent-friendly health services

212

Girls trained in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) to promote health, dignity, and school attendance



Success Stories



PROGRAMME AREA 1: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Case Story 1: Finding Justice, Restoring Dignity

"For years, I believed that no one would listen to a woman like me. Today, I know that justice belongs to everyone, including survivors like me."

Ms. Lakshmi, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation, endured years of violence and exploitation without reporting the abuse due to fear, stigma, and lack of awareness about her legal rights. She believed approaching the police or courts would only bring further humiliation.

Her life began to change after participating in a legal awareness programme organised by HELP. Through individual legal counselling, she learned about victim rights, legal aid, and government compensation schemes. HELP supported her in approaching the District Legal Services Authority, facilitated legal representation, and assisted her in filing an application for victim compensation.

Throughout the legal process, HELP's team provided continuous emotional support and accompanied her during interactions with government authorities, helping her regain confidence.

Today, she actively follows her legal case, has successfully accessed legal services, and encourages other survivors in her community to seek justice instead of remaining silent.

"HELP gave me the courage to speak. Today, I know that my voice has value and my rights deserve protection."

Name: Lakshmi (name changed)

Place: Rajeev Nagar, Vijayawada

PROGRAMME AREA 3: MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Case Story 2: Healing Invisible Wounds

"People could see my smile, but nobody could see the pain I carried inside."

Years of exploitation left Ms. Jayanthi struggling with anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, and constant fear. She avoided social interaction and found it difficult to trust anyone.

Through HELP's trauma-informed counselling programme, she received regular individual counselling, participated in peer support groups, and attended family counselling sessions that helped rebuild relationships at home.

With continuous psychosocial support, she gradually regained emotional stability, resumed community participation, and became more hopeful about her future.

Today, she openly shares her experiences to encourage other survivors to seek mental health support without shame.

"Healing begins when someone truly listens. HELP helped me heal from within."

Name: Jayanthi (name changed)

Place: Ganapavaram, Nadendla Mandal,
Palnadu District

Success Stories

PROGRAMME AREA 4: FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Case Story 3: A Small Business, A New Beginning

"Today, I earn with dignity and provide for my children without fear."

After years of financial hardship, Ms Lakshmi Rajyam struggled to support her family and remained vulnerable to exploitation due to the absence of stable income.

HELP enrolled her in vocational skills training, financial literacy sessions, and linked her with government livelihood programmes. She opened her first bank account and received support to establish a small tailoring business.

Within months, her income became stable, allowing her to educate her children, repay debts, and build savings. Today, she is financially independent and motivates other women to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

"The business gave me income, but confidence gave me a future."

Name: Lakshmi Rajyam (name changed)

Place: Chilakaluripet, Palnadu District

PROGRAMME AREA 6: VIMUKTHI - SURVIVOR COLLECTIVE

Case Story 4: Strength Through Togetherness

"When I joined VIMUKTHI, I realised I was no longer alone."

Following years of exploitation and social rejection, Ms. Subhashini felt isolated and disconnected from society.

Through the VIMUKTHI Survivor Collective, she became part of a supportive network of women with similar lived experiences. HELP assisted her in obtaining identity documents, accessing government welfare schemes, and participating in Self-Help Group activities.

She gradually developed confidence, saved regularly, and became actively involved in advocacy campaigns promoting survivors' rights.

Today, she supports newly joined members and encourages them to believe in their own potential.

"Together we are stronger than the stigma we once faced."

Name: Subhashini (Name changed)

Place: Mangalagiri, Guntur District



Challenges & Solutions

PROGRAMME AREA 1: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Key Challenges	Solutions
■ Stigma, fear of retaliation, and low trust in the justice system discourage survivors from seeking justice. ■ Limited awareness of legal rights, legal aid, victim compensation, and government support. ■ Lengthy legal procedures, inadequate legal support, and fear of repeated victimisation. ■ Lack of identity documents, financial resources, and family support hinders access to justice.	■ Strengthen legal awareness and empower survivors through a survivor-centred, rights-based approach. ■ Provide legal counselling, case management, and facilitate access to free legal aid and victim compensation. ■ Coordinate with DLSA, police, AHTUs, and courts; support FIR filing, legal representation, and documentation. ■ Offer psychosocial support, court accompaniment, and build the capacity of justice stakeholders to ensure survivor-friendly legal systems.

PROGRAMME AREA 3: MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Key Challenges	Solutions
■ Trauma, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and low self-esteem among survivors. ■ Stigma, family rejection, and cultural misconceptions discourage help-seeking. ■ Limited access to affordable mental health and counselling services. ■ Unresolved trauma affects relationships, education, livelihoods, and reintegration.	■ Provide trauma-informed counselling, psychosocial care, peer support, and crisis intervention. ■ Strengthen emotional resilience through regular follow-up and family counselling. ■ Raise community awareness to reduce mental health stigma and promote family involvement. ■ Establish referral linkages with government health services and mental health professionals for specialised care.

PROGRAMME AREA 4: FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Key Challenges	Solutions
■ Limited skills, financial exclusion, and few livelihood opportunities. ■ Poverty, debt, and social discrimination increase vulnerability. ■ Dependence on exploitative work due to lack of sustainable income.	■ Provide vocational skills, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. ■ Facilitate access to SHGs, banking, government schemes, and employment. ■ Mentor survivors to build sustainable livelihoods and financial independence.

Challenges & Solutions

PROGRAMME AREA 5: GENDER EQUITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Key Challenges	Solutions
- Gender inequality and discriminatory social norms limit opportunities for women and girls. - Unequal access to education, healthcare, livelihoods, and leadership. - Early marriage, gender-based violence, and restricted participation in decision-making. - Social stigma excludes survivors from education, employment, welfare, and community life.	- Promote gender awareness through sensitisation, rights education, and community engagement. - Strengthen women's leadership and improve access to education, livelihoods, and welfare schemes. - Engage families, men, boys, and community leaders to challenge harmful gender norms. - Foster inclusive communities that uphold women's rights and equal opportunities.

PROGRAMME AREA 7: ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Key Challenges	Solutions
- Widespread gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation. - Fear, stigma, and financial dependence discourage reporting. - Limited awareness of legal rights and inadequate support services. - Weak referral systems and lack of safe alternatives for survivors.	- Provide survivor-centred crisis intervention, counselling, legal aid, and safety planning. - Facilitate access to protection services, healthcare, shelters, and rehabilitation. - Raise community awareness and engage men and boys to prevent violence. - Strengthen coordination with police, healthcare providers, and government agencies for effective response.



WAY FORWARD

(FY 2026–27)

DEEPENING IMPACT THROUGH INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

As HELP enters another year of its journey, we remain firmly committed to building a society where every child is protected, every woman is empowered, and every survivor of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation has the opportunity to rebuild a life of dignity, security, and hope. Guided by our rights-based, survivor-centred, and community-led approach, our strategic priorities for FY 2026–27 will focus on strengthening institutional systems, expanding evidence-based programmes, fostering survivor leadership, and promoting sustainable community development.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR FY 2026–27

Strengthening Institutional Excellence and Accountability

HELP will continue to strengthen its organisational systems by enhancing governance, safeguarding, financial management, human resource development, digital documentation, and compliance mechanisms. Greater emphasis will be placed on institutional learning through robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems, enabling evidence-based planning, quality programme implementation, and measurable social impact. We will also continue investing in staff development, leadership capacity, and organisational resilience to meet emerging challenges effectively.

Expanding Survivor Leadership And Community Ownership

Building upon the remarkable progress of VIMUKTHI, the state-level collective of survivors and women with lived experiences, HELP will further strengthen survivor-led governance, advocacy, peer mentoring, and community mobilisation. We envision survivors taking an increasingly active role in programme design, implementation, policy advocacy, and monitoring, thereby ensuring that interventions remain responsive to community realities while promoting dignity, inclusion, and self-reliance.

Scaling Up Child Protection and Family-based Care

Preventing second-generation trafficking and ensuring every child grows up in a safe and nurturing environment will remain a central priority. HELP will expand the "A Family for Every Child" model by strengthening family-based care, educational support, child safeguarding systems, and community protection mechanisms. Greater emphasis will be placed on preventing school dropouts, promoting digital inclusion, supporting adolescent development, and enhancing access to government welfare services for vulnerable children and families.

Enhancing Mental Health, Healthcare and Psychosocial Well-being

Recognising the long-term impact of trauma, HELP will expand trauma-informed mental health and psychosocial support services for survivors, women in commercial sexual exploitation, children, adolescents, and vulnerable families. Integrated healthcare initiatives, including sexual and reproductive health awareness, preventive healthcare, HIV-related services, and referrals to specialised medical care, will continue to be strengthened to promote holistic well-being and long-term recovery.

WAY FORWARD

(FY 2026–27)

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion

Economic empowerment will remain a cornerstone of sustainable rehabilitation. HELP will promote entrepreneurship, vocational skills, digital literacy, financial inclusion, producer collectives, and market-linked livelihood opportunities for survivors and vulnerable women. We also aspire to establish community-based livelihood enterprises in areas such as food processing, tailoring, handicrafts, eco-friendly products, and other locally viable income-generating activities that provide long-term economic security.

Advancing Access To Justice and Systems Strengthening

HELP will continue working closely with law enforcement agencies, Anti-Human Trafficking Units, the judiciary, District Legal Services Authorities, Child Welfare Committees, and government departments to strengthen access to justice for survivors. Our efforts will focus on improving legal aid, victim compensation, witness protection, rehabilitation services, and institutional coordination while advocating for stronger implementation of child protection and anti-trafficking laws and policies.

Driving Digital Innovation and Evidence-based Programming

The coming year will witness greater integration of digital technologies into programme implementation, beneficiary tracking, case management, documentation, knowledge management, and impact measurement. HELP also plans to undertake research, policy studies, and action-learning initiatives that generate evidence for improving programmes, influencing policy, and strengthening advocacy at the state and national levels.

Building Strategic Partnerships For Greater Collective Impact

Sustainable social transformation requires strong partnerships. HELP will continue expanding collaborations with government departments, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions, civil society organisations, international development partners, and community-based organisations. These partnerships will strengthen resource mobilisation, promote innovation, and enable the replication of successful community-led models across Andhra Pradesh and beyond.

Strengthening Climate Resilience and Community Preparedness

Recognising the increasing impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, HELP will integrate climate resilience, disaster preparedness, environmental sustainability, and community risk reduction into its development programmes. These initiatives will particularly focus on protecting women, children, and economically vulnerable families from climate-related shocks while promoting sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.

Looking ahead, HELP remains steadfast in its belief that sustainable development can only be achieved through collective action, survivor leadership, community ownership, and strategic partnerships. With the continued trust and support of our donors, government agencies, partner organisations, volunteers, and the communities we serve, we are confident of expanding our impact and creating lasting change.

Together, we will continue working towards a future where trafficking, exploitation, discrimination, and violence are replaced by justice, dignity, equality, and opportunity for every individual



Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance Report

IDENTITY

HELP is registered as a Society (non- governmental organization) under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. (Reg. No. 133 of 1993 Dt. 11th May 1993) with the Registrar, Nellore – Andhra Pradesh. **HELP** administration office at **#36-71-1061 (8-217-18 Old), Rajeev Nagar, Lawyer pet ext, ONGOLE - 523 002. A.P,**

Organization details are available on **HELP's** website: <https://helpap.org/>
Email:helpap@gmail.com, helpap2002@yahoo.com.

HELP is registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and with the Commissioner of Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA Reg. No. 010330068 Dt.4th June 1997).

Visitors are welcome to the addresses given on the “contact us” link on our website: <https://helpap.org/>

Name & Address of main Bankers:

General A/c :	FCRA A/c
- IDBI Bank, Trunk Road, ONGOLE – 1 - AXIS Bank, Trunk Road, ONGOLE- 1	SBI, Main Branch, 11Sansad Marg, NewDelhi 110 001,

Name & Address of auditors: M/s Narotham Madhav & Ramesh, Chartered Accountants,
7-823, Z.P.Colony, Mangamur Road, ONGOLE – 2, A.P, India.

MISSION AND VISION:

Vision: The vision of **HELP** is to create a safe, supportive and responsive society protection rights and dignity of every child in Andhra Pradesh. **HELP** has a long term view of preventing child trafficking, child prostitution and second generation prostitution

Mission: **HELP** strives to prevent trafficking by educating boys and girls in schools and communities in different parts of the state and by training teachers, professionals, police, government authorities and the general public about the harm of sexual exploitation and ways to resist and combat it, through its regional networks, affiliated individuals and groups by serving as an umbrella

GOVERNANCE:

Details of Board Members: (as of March 31, 2026)

sl	Name of the member	age	Sex	Position on board	occupancy	Area of competency	Meetings attended
1	Mr.Prabhakar Rao	66	M	President	Business	Social mobilization	4/4
2	Mr.N.V.S.Ram Mohan	65	M	Secretary	Social worker	Advocacy	4/4
3	Smt. Girija Kumari		F	Vice-president	Social worker	Peoples movement	4/4
4	Mr. Nageswara Rao M		M	Treasurer	Farmer	Social mobilization	4/4
5	Mr.K.N.Murthy		M	Member	Journalist	Advocacy	1/4
6	Smt. D.Vijayalakshmi		F	Member	Social worker	Women mobilization	4/4
7	Ms.Jaya sri		F	Member	Counseling	Counseling services	4/4
8	Mr.B.K.S.Rayudu		M	Member	Soft ware	Advocacy & lobby	4/4

- None of the Board Members are related to each other.
- The HELP Executive Body met 4 times in the FY 2025-26, on 28th Jun 2025, 26th July 2025, 2nd Nov 2025, and 29th March 2026. The Board meetings are documented and circulated.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- No director received salary from the organization.
- Secretary only received Honorarium from the organisation
- No other remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of compensation has been paid since inception of the organization, to any Board members,
- No reimbursements have been made to any Board member,
- Remuneration of 3 highest paid Staff Members Rs 3,60,000/- p.a, Rs. 4,80,000/- p.a,
- Remuneration of the lowest paid full time regular staff member: Rs. 48,000 p.a

STAFF Details: (As at March 31, 2026)

<i>Number of paid workers in the organization</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>
Regular Full time	17
Regular Part time	0
Full time contact staff	0
Part time contact staff	0
Consultants	0
Other paid members include Paid-volunteers	25
Un-paid volunteers	25

* All members are “volunteers” giving their time for organization. They are not included in the details above

* Are any of the staff members related to any Board members? No

DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF (as at March 31, 2026)

<i>Slab of gross salary (in Rs.) plus benefits paid to staff</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>total</i>
Less than <5000	0	25	25
5,000 – 10,000	2	8	10
10,000 – 25,000	6	0	6
25,000 – 50,000	1	0	1
50,000 – 100,000	0	0	0
100,000 >	0	0	0
TOTAL	9	33	42

Total Cost of National Travel by all staff during the year: Nil

Total cost of International travel by all staff during the year: Nil

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT

	Schedule	As at March 31	
		2026	2025
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
<u>Opening Balances</u>			
Cash on Hand			
FCRA		5,106.50	5,106.50
General		11,713.75	12,009.75
Cash at Bank			
FCRA		8,30,335.37	8,45,387.15
General		6,99,824.87	8,50,221.61
Donations			10,974.00
Grants for Project / programmes	A	73,41,472.13	80,10,925.73
Bank interest		56,264.00	74,441.00
Advances (Adj)		60,921.00	6,000.00
<u>TOTAL</u>		90,05,637.62	98,15,065.74
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
SURVIVORS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME -SLP	1	6,63,565.05	44,95,058.00
Strengthening vulnerability communities	2	9,93,300.00	10,38,793.32
Reduction of STI and HIV / AIDS	3	27,15,724.00	19,64,241.00
Supporting survivors of GBV	4	17,87,582.46	0
Victim witness support Programme		2,66,247.52	0
Fixed assets		45,000.00	0
Shakti Project Expenses		0	4,34,700.00
Flood relief		0	81,496.00
Administration Expenses		50,091.75	24,727.06
Fundraising Exp		0	6,000.00
Advances		0	84,750.00
Creditors payments		69,780.00	1,38,319.87
<u>Cash & Bank Balances:</u>			
Cash on hand		9,720.25	16,820.25
Cash at bank		24,04,626.59	15,30,160.24
<u>TOTAL</u>		90,05,637.62	98,15,065.74

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

	As at March 31	
	2026	2025
INCOME		
Online funding	54,694.67	1,24,513.73
Donation	0	10,974.00
Bank interest	45,412.00	20,542.00
Old un dispersed year mark funds	0	2,20,717.05
TOTAL	1,00,106.67	3,76,746.78
EXPENSES		
Administration Expenses	50,091.75	23,345.60
Global social innovation day	28,250.00	0
Flood relief	0	81,496.00
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	21,764.92	2,71,905.18
TOTAL	1,00,106.67	3,76,746.78

BALANCE SHEET

	As at March 31	
	2026	2025
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
CAPITAL FUNDS	45,50,601.48	42,78,696.30
Excess of income over expenditure		
Add: during the year	21,764.92	2,71,905.18
Add: Assets during the year	45,000.00	0
Undisbursed Year marked (Specific) fund	17,86,652.30	9,32,191.87
Sundry Creditors :	47,46,103.00	48,15,883.00
TOTAL	1,11,50,121.70	1,02,98,676.35
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed Assets (at cost)	15,26,142.00	14,81,142.00
Current Assets, loans and Advances		
Sundry Debtors	71,73,803.86	71,73,803.86
Advances	35,829.00	96,750.00
Cash & Bank Balances:		
Cash on hand	9,720.25	16,820.25
Cash at bank	24,04,626.59	15,30,160.24
TOTAL	1,11,50,121.70	1,02,98,676.35

For. Narotham Madhav& Ramesh,
Chartered Accountants

Sd/- x xxxxxxxx

(Ram Prasad)

Proprietor

Media Clippings

Sex workers want to join main stream

68% of sex workers in State are involved in domestic prostitution & 16% lack alternative income sources: Survey

K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR
@Vijayawada

EXPLORING the post-Covid impact on victims of commercial sexual exploitation and survivors of trafficking in the State, a study titled 'Emerging into Light' conducted by an NGO named 'HELP' of Andhra Pradesh revealed that significant majority of commercial sex workers (CSWs) expressed the desire to transition out of the sex work industry.

Data showed that 67% of CSWs have wanted to leave their profession for the last 1-3 years, 19% for the last 4-5 years, 8% for more than 5 years, and 8% for less than 1 year.

The study found that 68% of CSWs in the State are involved in domestic prostitution, underscoring the need for tailored interventions. Various social, familial, and economic factors influence CSWs' decisions to stay in the profession.

About 36.67% face family and

economic challenges hindering their exit. Additionally, 28% fear inadequate government support post-exit, 16% lack alternative income sources, and 14.67% lack the requisite job skills.

Understanding parenthood dynamics among CSWs is crucial for developing targeted interventions promoting parental and child well-being.

Around 86% of sex workers have children, where 42% of these are aged 10-15 and 9% below nine. While only 50% attend school, others lack formal education.

High dropout rates stem from mothers' night work exhaustion, hampering support for children's education. First-generation learners struggle academically due to lack of supervision.

G Jagdish Kumar, Social Development Consultant leading the study, highlighted a significant gap in awareness among CSWs about government rehabilitation schemes, with only 22% aware of such programmes. Willing to come out of flesh trade, CSWs have been seeking diverse rehabilitation measures. While 36.1% of CSWs are urging for livelihood support, 15.16% want stigma reduction and 14.37% seek financial aid.

Other desired measures include skill training and social security. The study also highlighted the profound impact of marital discord and family instability on women's entry and continuation in the profession.

Goode Prasad, a Social Development Consultant who par-

ticipated in the study, noted that 83% of survivors rely on rental housing, emphasising the urgent need for stable housing solutions and addressing broader socioeconomic factors contributing to housing insecurity.

This underscores the need for educational interventions to empower individuals and mitigate risks associated with exploitation and trafficking.

HELP Secretary Nimmaraju Ramnabhan highlighted a holistic approach to supporting sex workers.

"Economically, rights-based programmes should offer flexible vocational training and extra income opportunities without mandating exit from the industry. Legally, amending The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, NHRC direc-



tions, and Supreme Court judgments (Prompt and lawful action by police when sex workers report criminal, sexual, or other offences) to decriminalise sex work will provide benefits and protections. Socially, education and rehab facilities for victims and their children are crucial, along with sensitisation programmes to reduce stigma. Ensuring non-discriminatory access to essential services will safeguard their rights, fostering societal change," he told TNE.

Speaking to this newspaper,

Women's Commission Chairperson Gajjala Venkata Lakshmi affirmed the panel's support for sex workers seeking to leave their profession and reintegrate into society.

She mentioned plans to collaborate with the Women Development and Child Welfare Department for training programmes, empowering them as entrepreneurs while providing rehabilitation. Moreover, counselling services will be offered and will consider assigning a dedicated officer to address their needs.

“Education and rehab facilities for victims and their children are crucial, along with sensitisation programmes. Ensuring non-discriminatory access to crucial services will safeguard their rights” - Nimmaraju Ramnabhan, HELP Secretary

Trafficking survivors express concern over poor rehabilitation, financial aid

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Survivors of trafficking expressed concerns over poor implementation of Victim Compensation Act and rehabilitation of the victims.

The victims poured out their woes at the State level consultation on 'Issues and Challenges Involved in Facilitating Rehabilitation Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking through Shelter Homes'.

The one-day consultation was jointly organised by AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), and NC&O, HELP, here on Monday. SCPCR Chairman K. Appa Rao, Crime Investigation Department (CID) superin-

tendent of Police K.G.V. Saritha, Women Development and Child Welfare Joint Director Sallaja, HELP Director N.V.S. Ram Mohan, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) State coordinator G. Tirupathi Rao, Vimukthi president M. Apoorva and others spoke.

The participants discussed ways to strengthen the Anti-Human Trafficking Units, providing rehabilitation to the trafficking victims, providing legal

and medical aid to the survivors and other issues.

Mr. Appa Rao said the Commission had issued directions to the Education Department to provide admission to the children of trafficking victims in schools without insisting for father's name.

Ms. Saritha said that an online workshop would be conducted soon with the BNC departments, home organisers for better coordination with police, AITU, CID, WD&CW and other departments.

"When we are in the home, our children and families are neglected and are suffering a lot," said a woman.

She urged to free the rescued victims in a short period.

BREAKING SILENCE Stigma and Violence Haunt Survivors

In the bustling lanes of Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam districts, life appears ordinary. Yet, beneath this facade lies a silent crisis endured by thousands of women who have survived human trafficking or remain trapped in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Their stories rarely make headlines, but they reveal a grim reality of relentless gender-based violence (GBV), deep-rooted stigma, and systemic neglect that continues even after rescue. According to the 2024 NACD PMPSR report, Andhra Pradesh is home to an estimated 1.33 lakh female sex workers, making up 12% of India's total. These women live on the margins of society, navigating a daily battle against abuse, social exclusion, and injustice.

A Life Marked by Violence

HELP NGO's 2023 study highlights that 60% of women in sex work faced verbal abuse, 12% physical assault, and 9% sexual violence, often at the hands of clients, partners, pimps, and, shockingly, law enforcement officers. Lakshmi (name changed), a traffick-

ing survivor from Guntur, recalls the trauma of seeking help: "We are treated as criminals for trying to survive. When we go to the police, instead of protection, we face blame and humiliation."

This fear of authorities pushes the trade further underground. Over 55% of sex work hotspots are now home-based, increasing invisibility and vulnerability to violence.

The Weight of Stigma

Survivors do not just suffer violence; they endure lifelong stigma. Nearly 80% of women interviewed by HELP faced rejection from their families and communities. Their children are bullied, denied school admissions, and forced into the same cycle of exploitation.

Kavitha (name changed), trafficked at 11, recounts returning home years later: "My parents refused to let me enter the house. They said I brought shame. I had nowhere to go." Such rejection pushes many women into isolation,



Ram Mohan
Nimmaraju
Secretary
HELP Organisation

with little access to mental health support. Studies reveal that 33% report severe stress, 25% depression, and 26%

anxiety disorders, yet almost none receive counselling or treatment.

Justice Denied, Rights Ignored

India's laws, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), promise safety and dignity. In reality, less than 1% of rescued survivors in Andhra Pradesh (2019-2023) received victim compensation. Custodial harassment, arbitrary arrests, and bureaucratic hurdles leave women feeling more criminalised than protected. "The system treats us as prisoners, not people," says Shanti from Prakasam district.

The Cycle of Exploitation

Economic distress drives most women into sex work. Over 90% enter due to poverty, while 45% have been abandoned by their husbands, leaving them sole providers for their families. More than 64,000 children depend on these women, many facing heightened risks of trafficking themselves. Violence at home, in the community, and from the state forms a triple lay-

er of exploitation, leaving survivors trapped in a cycle that spans generations.

The Call for Change

Amidst this bleak scenario, a movement for dignity and rights is growing. Survivors and sex worker collectives are demanding decriminalisation, rehabilitation, mental health support, fair compensation, and a seat at the policymaking table. Their message is clear: stop treating them as criminals and start recognising them as rights holders.

Lakshmi sums up their struggle in a single line: "The stigma is worse than the violence. If society sees us as human beings, half our battle will be won."

Breaking this silence is no longer optional. It is essential for gender justice. Unless Andhra Pradesh confronts stigma and systemic neglect head-on, its promise of safety, equality, and dignity for all women will remain painfully out of reach.

Global Social Innovation Day to be celebrated on Nov 8

- The day will be celebrated across India to recognise contributions of innovators working for social change, justice, and sustainable development
- "Catalyst 2030 began as a movement and has now evolved into a force in the field of social innovation"

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

NOTED lawyer and human rights activist Elamandala Srinivasa Rao announced that 'Global Social Inno-



A meeting jointly organised by HELP Organisation and Catalyst Now Andhra Pradesh chapter on Wednesday

vation Day 2025" will be celebrated across India on November 8 to recognise the contributions of in-

novators working for social change, justice, and sustainable development. Addressing a meeting

jointly organised by HELP Organisation and Catalyst Now Andhra Pradesh chapter here on Wednesday, he said that the celebrations would continue until November 9, highlighting the importance of social innovation and identifying community-level leaders driving transformation in areas such as climate change, water resources, education, and social justice. Speaking on the occasion, Rama Mohan Nimmaraaju, Secretary of HELP and Andhra Pradesh State Representative of Catalyst 2030, explained that Catalyst 2030 is a global network of entrepreneurs, innovators, and

community leaders working locally to solve social challenges and support sustainable development.

He said, "Catalyst 2030 began as a movement and has now evolved into a force in the field of social innovation. Our goal is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through people-centered, community-driven solutions, in collaboration with governments, businesses, and civil society." Several prominent entrepreneurs, social activists, HELP programme manager Pavan Kumar, and project coordinator V Bhankara Rao also participated.

DECEMBER 10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



RECLAIMING DIGNITY: THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AP

By: Rameshwar Nimmaraaju
Senior Social Worker

Reclaiming Dignity: The unfinished journey of human rights in Andhra Pradesh. The journey of human rights in Andhra Pradesh is a long and arduous one. It is a journey that has been marked by centuries of oppression and discrimination. The journey of human rights in Andhra Pradesh is a journey that has been marked by centuries of oppression and discrimination. The journey of human rights in Andhra Pradesh is a journey that has been marked by centuries of oppression and discrimination.

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Collective Responsibility Key to Protecting Children: AP Official

Amaravati, April 8 | TPN Bureau

Sri Vetukuri A.V.S.S. Raju, Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, stressed that safeguarding children's safety and rights is a collective responsibility of society. Highlighting the growing concern of gender-based violence against children, he underlined the need for widespread awareness to prevent such incidents.

Sri Raju released a poster titled "Understanding and Addressing Gender-Based Violence against Children", developed by the HELP Organization, at his office. He appreciated the organization's efforts to educate both the public and children, noting that such initiatives contribute to positive social change.

He emphasized strengthening child protection systems,



providing immediate support to victims, and encouraging the public to report incidents without fear. Sri Raju called on parents, teachers, officials, and

society at large to collaborate in ensuring every child grows up in a safe and dignified environment. The program was attended by commission mem-

bers Sri V. Gandhi Babu, Smt. K.G. Venkata Padmalatha, and HELP Organization representatives Nimmaraju Rammohan and V. Bhaskar.

Empowering Lives Beyond Walls: The Case for Community-Based Rehabilitation



As India deepens its commitment to human rights and social inclusion, the rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation demands renewed attention. A growing body of evidence suggests that the country's long-standing dependence on institutional care—shelter homes, child care institutions, and aftercare facilities—has too often failed to deliver meaningful reintegration. Instead, advocates are calling for a shift toward non-institutional and community-based rehabilitation, an approach that restores dignity, autonomy, and belonging to some of the country's most marginalized women and children.

A recent national

study by the Bangalore-based Enda Proactive Health Trust, titled "Empowering and Rehabilitating Survivors of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: A Study in Shelter Homes, Aftercare, and Child Care Institutions," highlights the deep-seated challenges within institutional systems. It found that prolonged stays in shelter homes frequently lead to emotional isolation, social stigma, and difficulty adjusting to independent life. The report argues that institutionalization is best used only as a last resort, emphasizing family and community-based care as a more sustainable alternative.

A Outreaching Picture Book, Andhra Pradesh, the survey collective VIMUTHI has carried out its own analysis

through a series of Right to Information (RTI) applications. The findings, compiled in a 2022 report, reveal striking gaps in the state's rehabilitation framework for rescued survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

According to government data shared with VIMUTHI, 1,137 survivors were housed in various shelter homes between 2018 and June 2023. Of these, 1,285 were accommodated in Ujjwala Homes, 447 in Swadhar Homes, and 28 in NGO-run facilities. Yet, despite this scale of institutional support, only 685 survivors formally applied for social entitlements or rehabilitation services—and just 382 actually received them. That means fewer than one in four survivors (32 percent) accessed the benefits and schemes designed for their recovery.

The report also found that many shelter home administrators still view institutionalization itself as the end goal of rehabilitation, rather than a temporary safety net. This mindset contradicts the very spirit of G.O. Ms. No. 1 (2008), issued by the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare (DW-CW) for the explicit purpose of reintegrating rescued women into society through holistic, non-institutional means.

Inside the Walls: The Human Cost of

institutionalization. The Enda study identifies several recurring problems across shelter homes and child care institutions nationwide. New entrants struggle to adjust to rigid routines after the chaos of exploitation, while those restored to their families often face difficulties re-adopting life outside.

The absence of trained counselors exacerbates widespread mental health issues—depression, anxiety, anger, and self-harm tendencies are alarmingly common. Children and women, particularly marginalized, are also at risk of re-traumatization due to the lack of inclusive infrastructure and skilled caregivers. Many residents also face

While over 13.14 crore compensation funds were allocated across 12 districts, none of this was disbursed to trafficked survivors. Similarly, under G.O. Ms. No. 38, which mandates an immediate relief payment of 30,000 to each rescued victim, just 332 survivors—less than 4 percent of the total housed between 2019 and 2023—received the support.

VIMUTHI's analysis suggests that lack of awareness, bureaucratic delays, and poor inter-departmental coordination have all contributed to this breakdown, undermining survivors' rights to justice and dignity.

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signs from local schools and employers own their institutional background becomes known. Others, especially ado-

Rehabilitation. Globally, Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) models have proved both humane and

cost-effective. They focus on reintegrating survivors into family and community life, offering personalized care that addresses each individual's needs and aspirations. In India, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 already embraces this philosophy, emphasizing "non-institutional care" and prescribing alternatives such as foster care, adoption, sponsorship, and family-based placements.

Experts argue that CBR fosters stronger family and community bonds, reduces the psychological damage of institutionalization, and promotes independence through life skills and vocational training. It is also more sustainable than maintaining large state-run facilities. Importantly, it aligns with global human rights frameworks like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), both of which emphasize reintegration as the preferred model of care.

Reimagining the Future

Advocates say the path forward must blend on-

personnel with systemic reform. Government and civil society organizations need to collaborate on strengthening

family-based care, reviv-

ing G.O. Ms. No. 1 (2008), and expanding awareness about rehabilitation entitlements. Community networks and survivor-led groups such as VIMUTHI can play a pivotal role in identifying survivors, linking them to social protection schemes, and preventing re-exploitation.

Investing in mental health support, education, and vocational training remains crucial for building long-term resilience. Training caregivers in trauma-informed practices and ensuring access to legal aid and victim compensation would bring the state closer to fulfilling its obligation under national and international law.

Beyond Walls

Non-institutional Community-Based Rehabilitation is more than a policy shift—it is a moral imperative. As the statistics from Andhra Pradesh reveal, institutional care alone cannot rebuild lives shattered by exploitation. What survivors need is not confinement but opportunity; not dependency but empowerment.

By investing in community-based care and restoring faith in the state's commitment to justice, India can transform rehabilitation from a process of containment to one of true restoration, dignity, and

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Stop child trafficking in the world
Kamonohashi Project





HELP

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HELP Admin Office

36-71-1061 (8-217-18 Old)
Rajeev Nagar, Lawyer Pet Ext.
Ongole - 523 002
Andhra Pradesh

HELP Field Offices

Guntur	Medarametla
87-6-586/1, 2nd Floor	Beside Darga, Opp Church Building,
Behind ZP High School, Nethaji Nagar	Addanki Road
Lalpuram Road, Guntur 522 004	Bapatla Dist. AP.