IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Anganwadi Centre (AWC)

The word Anganwadi means "courtyard shelter" in Hindi. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition. A typical aanganwadi centre also provides basic health care in Indian villages. It is a part of the Indian public health-care system. Basic health-care activities include contraceptive counseling and supply, nutrition education and supplementation, as well as pre-school activities. The centres may also be used as depots for oral rehydration salts, basic medicines and contraceptives. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has laid down certain guidelines as to what are the responsibilities of Anganwadi Workers (AWW). Some of them are as follows. These include showing community support and active participation in executing this programme, to conduct regular quick surveys of all families, organize pre-school activities, provide health and nutritional education to families especially pregnant women as to how to breastfeeding practices etc., motivating families to adopt family planning, educating parents about child growth and development, assist in the implementation and execution of Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) to educate teenage girls and parents by organizing social awareness programmes etc., identify disabilities in children and so on.

Bal Bandhu Scheme for the Protection of Child Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest

The ‘Bal Bandhu Scheme for the Protection of Child Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest’ is an intervention programme launched by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi(NCPCR) which specifically addresses the needs of children in such situations. The Scheme has intervened in nine Blocks in nine separate Districts spread across five states of the country. However, the present study examines five intervention Blocks in four States encompassing 93 Gram Panchayats and 796 villages. These include Sukma Block, Sukma District in Chhattisgarh, Cherla Block, Khamam District in Andhra Pradesh, Dhanora Block,Gadchiroli District in Maharashtra and Sidli Block, Chirang District and Kuchugaon Block, Kokrajahar District in Assam. The intervention Blocks not
covered in the report include Patahi Block District East Champaran, Rothas Block District Rohtas, Tariyani Block, District Sheohar and Kharia Block, District Jamui. All the Blocks not examined in the report are in Bihar.

**Bal Bandhus**

They are child rights defenders under the Bal Bandhu Scheme for the Protection of child Rights in areas of civil unrest. These Bal Bandhus engage with the local communities to mobilize community commitment towards child rights, effectuate child rights consciousness and bring stability in the lives of children ensuring their entitlements to protection, health, nutrition, sanitation, education, social safety and well-being through government action. The role of the Bal Bandhus include:-

- Survey and identification of all children in a Gram Panchayat in the 0-18 years age group with their names.
- Involvement of Gram Panchayats and the community in getting every child into schools in their respective Gram Panchayats.
- Encouraging the community to hold meetings in an open and transparent fashion without being threatened by the militant groups, Naxals and/or the armed forces and the Police. Discussion on children and their well-being become a focal point and seen as non-threatening activity that lies beyond politics. In other words, in the process of bringing stability in the lives of children, seeds of renewed hope in harmonizing their society and stabilizing their lives can be seen.
- Community participation in establishing and repairing of schools, cleaning premises and also in reviving schools that have been closed.
- Enrolment of children in 0-6 age group in Anganwadi Centres and monitoring their nutrition and developmental needs.
- Tracing all the adolescent girls and boys (0-18 years) who are usually missing in these areas and creating an atmosphere to bring them back.
- Preparing local bodies such as Gram Panchayats to monitor status of children as well as schools and Anganwadi centres.
Bal Mitr Samitis

It a group of volunteers in the village who act as child rights defenders. The organizational structure in the intervention Blocks include two Resource Persons in each Block, a Bal Bandhu in each Gram Panchayat and a BMS at village level constituted from within the village itself. The BMS forms the basic organizational unit in the village with the Resource Persons and the Bal Bandhus as honorary members of each BMS.

Block

A Block is an administrative division of some South Asian countries. In the United States it refers to a small part of a city or town. It is a district sub-division which is next to Taluk level administration. For planning purpose district is divided into four levels

- Taluks.
- Blocks.
- Gram Panchayats.
- Villages.

Community

The "community" is a group of persons living in a given country or locality, having a race, religion, language and traditions of their own and united by this identity of race, religion, language and traditions in a sentiment of solidarity, with a view to preserving their traditions, maintaining their form of worship, ensuring the instruction and upbringing of their children in accordance with the spirit and traditions of their race and rendering mutual assistance to each other (Greco Bulgarian "Communities", Advisory Opinion, 1930 P.C.I.J. (ser. B) No. 17, at 21.

Civil Unrest

Civil unrest in the thesis refers to situations of protected armed violence existing in States where in the aggrieved communities are allegedly fighting for their right to
secession through self-determination being ethnically or culturally diverse. States in turn have referred to such situations as their internal matters and has sought to exercise sovereign discretion to handle these situations within the domestic mechanism through special legislations while the international community invariably refers to such situations as internal armed conflicts within meaning of the Geneva Conventions. These situations continue to exist in third world States like India (Kashmir, Northeast India and the Left Wing Extremism Areas), Pakistan (Baluchistan), Sri Lanka (LTTE), Nepal (Maoists), etc.

**Gram Panchayat**

These are local self-governments at the village or small town level in India, headed by a Sarpanch.

**Internally Displaced Persons**

Internally displaced persons are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border." (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Introduction, para. 2).

**Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)**

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) is a scheme launched in July 2004, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks of the country where the female rural literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The scheme provides for a minimum reservation of 75% of the seats for girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC or minority communities and priority for the remaining 25%, is accorded to girls from families below poverty line.
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

The Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Mid-Day Meals

With a view to enhancing enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995, initially in 2408 blocks in the country. By the year 1997-98 the NP-NSPE was introduced in all blocks of the country. It was further extended in 2002 to cover not only children in classes I-V of government, government aided and local body schools, but also children studying in EGS and AIE centres. The objectives of the mid-day meal scheme are:

- Improving the nutritional status of children in classes I-V in Government, Local Body and Government aided schools, and EGS and AIE centres.

- Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.

- Providing nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation.

Ramnavami

The festival is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Rama. It falls on the 9th day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra (March-April). It is one of the most important festivals of the Hindus, particularly the Vaishnava sect of the Hindus. On this auspicious day, devotees repeat the name of Rama with every breath and vow to lead a righteous life. People pray to attain the final beatitude of life through intense devotion towards Rama and invoke him for his blessings and protection.
Resource Persons

Resource Persons are specialist child rights defenders who head the Bal Bandhu Scheme for the Protection of Child Rights in Areas of Civil Unrest in the respective Block. Two Resource Persons are recruited in each Block. The qualifications include:-

- Experience of working on child rights issues in the areas of conflict and civil unrest for which he/she is selected.

- Knowledge and experience in all components of social mobilization and protection of child rights, programme monitoring and execution in its totality.

- Experience in working with the Governments as well as the community and Gram Panchayat.

- Experience in carrying out training and orientation programmes for all the stake holders at all levels.

- Experience as a team builder and team leader with a capacity to coordinate and guide all activities up to District level.

- Work experience with required NGOs operating at the National or CBO’s at State level.

Residential Bridge School/ Ashram Schools

The residential bridge program is a short-term intervention program for "out of school" children with a definite focus on preparing children with the necessary competencies for enrollment to schools. Residential schools especially run in the tribal areas of Maharashtra and elsewhere in India are called Ashram Shala or Ashram schools. Educational facilities from first to eighth standards are being made available to them in these ashram schools. Hostel facilities for all the S.C. and S.T. students are also available in these ashram schools. Residential arrangements have been made for the teachers in the premises of these ashram schools.
'Child Soldier' and 'A Child Associated with an Armed Force or Armed Group'

**Child Soldiers.** UNICEF defines a ‘child soldier’ as any child – boy or girl – under 18 years of age, who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity, including, but not limited to: cooks, porters, messengers, and anyone accompanying such groups other than family members. It includes girls and boys recruited for forced sexual purposes and/or forced marriage. The definition, therefore, does not only refer to a child who is carrying, or has carried, weapons. (The ‘Cape Town Principles’, 1997).

The term **Child Soldiers’** has now been replaced by **'A child associated with an armed force or armed group”** [Paris Principles 2(a), (2007)] defined as

**Child Associated with an Armed Force or Armed Group** refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities.