

COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Volume - 3



COMPILED BY:
AIDA-CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR



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Art by Child Rights Club members during the
Children Creative Activity.

Message from the Executive Director

I am happy to introduce the third volume of **Collections of Stories from the Field** - the real-life stories, capturing the **impact, transformation, and change** brought about by the *Child Friendly Cities Initiative* (CFCI) of **ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA), Dimapur.**

It is truly heartening to see the far-reaching effects this initiative has had on individuals, families, and communities. This volume reflects how Child Rights Facilitators, Duty Bearers and the other stakeholders have empowered children and youth, helping them find their voice and giving them the confidence to stand up for their rights. Through their persistent engagement, they have been instrumental in **resolving social and family issues**, creating safer and more supportive environments for children.

The stories in this collection are a testament to what is possible when **institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, individuals, government departments, and district administrations** come together with a shared vision - a future where every child is heard, protected, and nurtured.

Within these pages, you will find **inspiring narratives of change, hope, and gratitude** — transformative journeys of young individuals who are now becoming leaders in their communities. These stories are not just testimonials of progress; they are calls to action.

May this volume inspire all of us to be part of the change - however small - for our children. Every contribution counts and our **collective effort ensure the sustainability of this noble mission** to make our cities truly child-friendly.

I would like to congratulate and appreciate the Child Friendly Cities team of AIDA, the children, youth, child right facilitators, duty bearers, government departments, district administration, institutions, NGOs, organisations, individuals, all those who have been part of the AIDA-Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

Let us continue to journey together for our children's future.

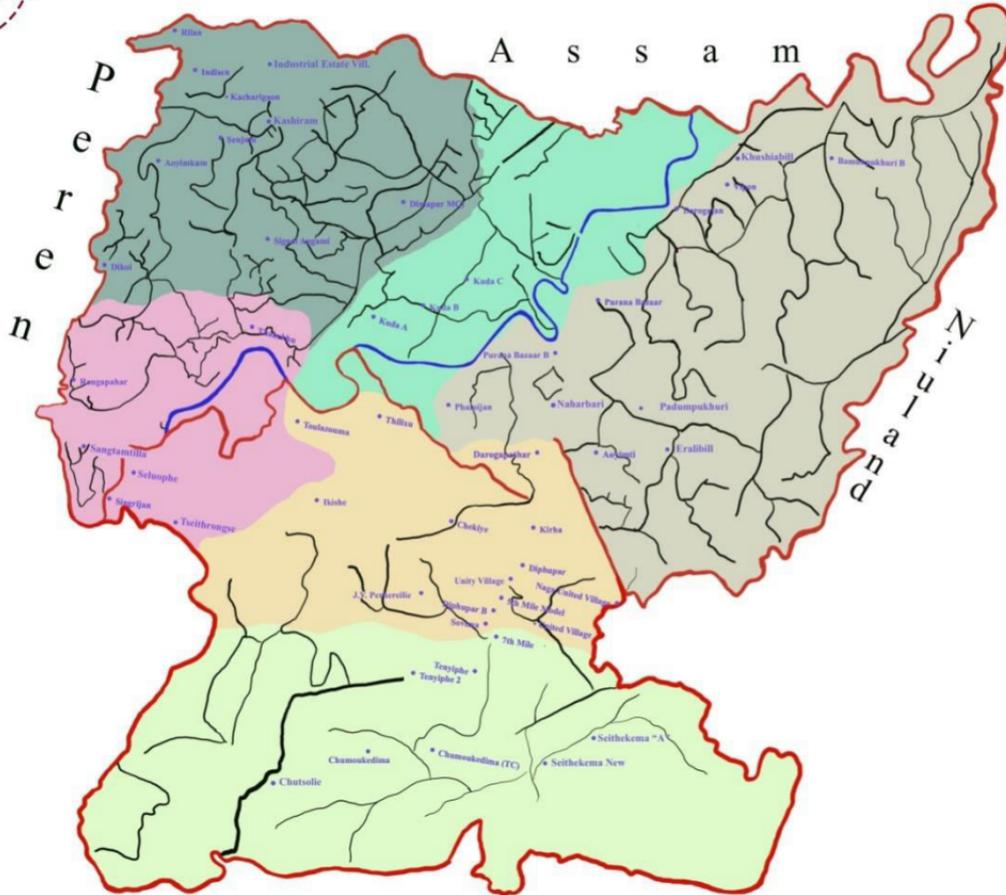
Warm regards,

Rev. Fr. Dr. Roy George SDB
Executive Director, AIDA



AIDA-CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR

Project Areas : Dimapur and Chumoukedima



- Purana Bazaar Area
- Kuda Township Area
- Rangapahar Area
- Dimapur Municipal Area
- Diphupar Area
- Chumoukedima Area

Empowering Voices: Ms. Apsana's Role in Child Protection

Ms. Apsana, a responsible and compassionate Child Rights Facilitator played an important role in protecting and empowering children in Sunrise Colony under Burma Camp. She has been a guide for children who face difficult circumstances.

One of her most notable achievements involves a cyber bullying case, which she handled with courage, ensuring safety and well-being of a vulnerable child.

The incident began when a 16-year-old girl from her locality approached her in distress. For years, the girl had been silently suffering from abuse and cyber bullying by her ex-boyfriend, who was older than her.

The relationship began when she was only 13, during which she faced emotional



manipulation, threats, and exploitation.

However, attending the child rights and child safety sessions led by Ms. Apsana opened her eyes to the fact that what she had experienced was not just wrong but also a violation of her rights.

Empowering Voices: Ms. Apsana's Role in Child Protection

Feeling empowered and supported, the girl mustered courage to confide in Ms. Apsana. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Ms. Apsana immediately contacted the Child Friendly Dimapur (CFD) team for assistance.

The CFD team promptly reached the location and, after hearing the child's story, connected her to ChildHelpline Dimapur.

Ms. Apsana took the lead throughout the process, ensuring child's safety. She accompanied her to ChildHelpline office, where both the victim and the abuser were summoned for questioning.

Understanding how frightened the girl was, especially at the thought of facing her abuser, Ms. Apsana stayed by her side the entire time.

The case was resolved within two days. The abuser was compelled to delete all photos and videos of the child and was issued a formal warning, with clear legal action if he repeated his actions. The child was reassured of her safety.



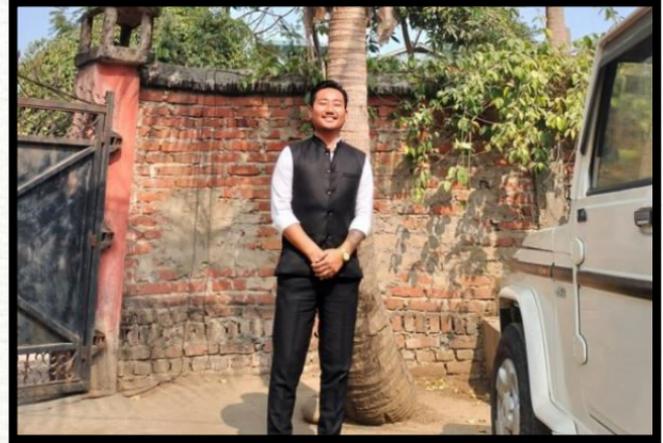
Mr. Phong-i Resolved a Family Crisis with Compassion

Mr. Phong-I, a responsible and committed Child Rights Facilitator who facilitates Child Rights Clubs in Satemo Colony under Signal Angami.

Apart from the consistent follow-ups and sessions with the children, an incident remarkably highlighted his dedication and leadership.

One of the Child Rights Club members of the locality eloped, leaving both families in a state of panic. Unsure of what to do, the child's mother immediately called Mr. Phong-i for help.

Calm and composed, he quickly responded to the situation. Both children were minors, which required immediate and sensitive intervention.



He reassured the parents, calmed their fears, and guided them on the appropriate steps to take. He also contacted the Child Friendly Dimapur team for additional support. Mr. Phong-i put all efforts to coordinate with all possible contacts connected to the children, filed an FIR at the police station

Mr. Phong-i Resolved a Family Crisis with Compassion

and, along with the child's brothers, searched for them in bus stations and railway station for clues.

Understanding the fragile emotions on both sides, he ensured that no harm came to either child. He mediated conversations with both families, preventing misunderstandings and diffusing potential conflicts.

He also counseled both the children, encouraging them to focus on their future and avoid repeating such mistakes. Both children agreed to move forward in their lives, promising to prioritize their goals and avoid further complications.

After two and a half days of tireless effort, he and the child's brother successfully located and brought them back home.

His presence, empathy, and leadership turned a potentially disastrous event into a story of healing and unity for the families and their community in a peaceful manner.



A Collaborative Success in Empowering Children

Collaboration is essential for lasting change, as demonstrated through Children's Day celebration organized by AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School on 9th November 2024. The event brought together institutions and organizations including Dimapur District Legal Services Authority (DDLSA), Dimapur District Administration, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), SANKLAP, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Prodigals' Home, Serendip Guardians, Peace Channel, Can Youth, Assisi Centre for Integrated Development (ACID), Child Rights Movement who has collaborated with us for a shared mission: to empower children, including those with disabilities, through creativity, awareness, and support.

AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur ensured a well-structured program, while government departments and NGOs contributed cash, refreshments, and gifts, with special emphasis on children with disabilities. Their needs were thoughtfully considered, making the event truly inclusive. Specially able children from Prodigals' Home, Deaf Biblical Ministry, and Angel Home played a key role, reinforcing the message of equal opportunities for all.

A significant achievement of the event was securing Smt. Martha R. Ritse, IAS, Secretary for Social Welfare & Mission Director of Mission Vatsalya, as the special guest. Her presence, along with her team from Kohima, Chümoukedima, and Niuland districts, was remarkable, as department heads are rarely

A Collaborative Success in Empowering Children



available for such programs outside the state capital.

With 202 children and over 100 adults in attendance, the event reflected strong community engagement.

Highlights included performances by children with special needs, an extempore speech competition to enhance public speaking skills,

And awareness sessions on children welfare.

This collaboration underscored the power of unity in advancing child welfare, setting a benchmark for future initiatives.

It reinforced the vision of a society where every child, regardless of background or ability, is valued, included, and empowered to pursue their dreams.



Inspiring Change



On 14th August 2024, AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur, organized an impactful walkathon titled "Break Free: Choose Health, Not Harm." This event was held from 6:30 AM to 8:15 AM, spanned from Chumoukedima 2nd Gate to CT Square, Chumoukedima. It aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The walkathon witnessed an impressive turnout of 315 children, youth and adults from

different Government Departments, Civil Society Organizations, Institutions and localities from Dimapur and Chumoukedima to unite their commitment for the cause.

The walkathon was graced by esteemed dignitaries Shri. Kevethito Rose, EAC, Chumoukedima, and Ms. Vitonu Gugu Haralu, Joint Secretary, Naga Mothers Association. Their presence and inspiring speeches played a pivotal role in reinforcing the event's core message of prioritizing health over harm.

They urged the young participants to choose a life free from harmful habits and to stand firm against substance abuse. The collective effort of these individuals highlighted the community's dedication

Inspiring Change



towards promoting a healthier, drug-free future. The encouraging turnout emphasized the importance of the cause and demonstrated strong community support.

The walkathon left a lasting impact on both participants and the wider audience. Media coverage helped extend the event's reach,

allowing the walkathon's message to influence people from diverse communities. The unwavering commitment of facilitators and the support from institutional heads significantly amplified the campaign's impact. This collective effort fostered greater awareness and reinforced the importance of saying "NO" to substance abuse, promoting a healthier and more informed community. In conclusion, the "Break Free: Choose Health, Not Harm" walkathon was a resounding success. It not only sensitized Child Rights Club members but also made a broader impact through community engagement and media coverage, showcasing the power of collective action in promoting a drug-free future and highlighted the importance of choosing health over harm.

Hope in Action

True leadership shines through acts of compassion, especially in times of adversity. This was evident when a devastating fire broke out on 2nd January 2025 in Petla Colony, leaving several families including around 20 Child Rights Club members struggling with the sudden loss of their homes and belongings.

Recognizing the urgent need for support, Ms. Rohima, Child Rights Facilitator took immediate action. With empathy and determination, she reached out to the affected children and their families, ensuring they were not alone in times of crisis.

She quickly mobilized the Child Rights Club members from East Block and also other facilitators to collect essential things.



Together, they gathered some snacks, clothes, and other necessities, offering relief to the child rights club members' family.

Hope in Action

Beyond material aid, Ms. Rohima provided emotional support, ensuring children felt heard, valued, and comforted.

The children shared, *"Having our facilitator come and ask about what happened meant a lot to us. It was a great emotional support. Even receiving a little help made us realize the importance of belongingness and standing together as a community."*

This thoughtful initiative not only brought immediate relief but also strengthened the spirit of unity among the young members of the club.

It stands as the crucial role of child rights facilitators in safeguarding children's well-being.

Through timely intervention and compassion, the initiative brought hope, reinforced the importance of collective support, and inspired the children to embrace the power of kindness and generosity.



Gratitude in Action

The true strength of any organization lies in the dedication of its people which was beautifully demonstrated by the Child Rights Club members of Duncan and River Belt Colony through a heartfelt gesture. Child Rights Club members guided by, Ms. Sorenbeni Ngullie, Child Rights Facilitator of Duncan and River Belt Colony came together to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Director of AIDA and the dedicated staff of Child Friendly Dimapur (CFD).

Their thoughtful initiative was a beautiful reminder that appreciation and teamwork can create a lasting impact. Understanding the value of appreciation, the facilitator encouraged the children to reflect on the support and care they had received from the



organization. With great enthusiasm, children took the initiative to create handmade thanksgiving cards filled with messages of love and gratitude, purchased gifts from the money they collected during the Christmas carol. On 16th December 2024, the club members gathered at the AIDA office and spent quality time interacting with the

Gratitude in Action

Director and staff. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and joy as the children showcased their talents through a short program, sharing songs, dances, and heartfelt words. Their excitement and happiness were evident, making the event not just an expression of gratitude but also a celebration of the strong bond between the organization and the children it serves.



This initiative not only strengthened the relationship between the children and CFD but also instilled in them the importance of acknowledging and appreciating those who

work for their rights and well-being. The day was a testament of how small acts of gratitude can create lasting memories and reinforce the spirit of care, unity, and mutual respect.



Breaking the Cycle: A Family Rebuilds Through Understanding

Since August 2021, Mrs. Smita (not her real name) has served as a Child Rights Facilitator under the initiative of AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur, advocating for children's rights and bridging the gap between the community and the project. However, one day, she made a distress call to the team, sobbing. She was pregnant and claimed that her brother had kicked her in the stomach. The team immediately rushed to her home, unsure of what awaits.

Upon arrival, they encountered a chaotic scene where her mother and sisters were shouting at her brother, blaming him for harming her, while neighbors watched in silence. Tensions were rising, and the situation had the potential to escalate into serious violence.

The team intervened diligently, listening to both sides of the story before further interventions, to de-escalate the conflict. The family accused the brother of being irresponsible and disruptive due to his addiction for alcohol and unemployment, while he, in turn, expressed frustration at constant criticism from the family leaving no positive reason to live.



Breaking the Cycle: A Family Rebuilds Through Understanding

Overwhelmed, he admitted that drinking was his escape from stress. That morning, an argument with his sister had turned physical he had slapped her in anger.

However, emotions had exaggerated the situation, with the family insisting on police action. Through careful mediation, the team helped the family understand each other's perspectives, preventing a legal battle.

Counseling addressed deeper emotional wounds, and the intervention led to a turning point, the brother recognized his need for change. With encouragement, he secured a job as an electrician, breaking free from the cycle of conflict.

This story underscores the power of timely intervention.

By promoting understanding, reconciliation, and second chances, the Child Friendly Dimapur team not only prevented a family from falling apart but also helped an individual rebuild his future.



Transformative Journey

In the quiet village of Sangtamtilla, under Dimapur District, Mr. Rhonbemo Humtsoe has become synonymous with dedication, creativity, and unwavering commitment to children's rights. As a Child Rights Facilitator (CRF), his journey is not just a story of service, but of personal transformation.

Serving as a Child Rights Facilitator for AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur since 1st October 2022, Mr. Rhonbemo has been a constant support to the Child Friendly Dimapur team, actively engaging with the children of Sangtamtilla Child Rights Club. Whether it was training children for major events or assisting them in preparation for performances, his presence has always been reassuring.



His creativity shone through in 2023, when he composed a **theme song for Children, youth and CSO's campaign**, titled *"One step towards creating a clean and safe environment for all children"*, a message that continues to resonate across the city. But behind these achievements lies a deeply personal story.

Transformative Journey

“When I was first given this responsibility, I was unemployed and struggling to find direction in life,” shares Mr. Rhonbemo. “But being entrusted with this role brought a positive shift. It helped me discover new skills and gain the confidence I never had.”

Today, Mr. Rhonbemo works as a teacher in a private school. An achievement he attributes to the growth he experienced as a facilitator. Before joining the program, he admits to having very little understanding of child rights or how to work with children. However, through continuous training and mentorship from AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur, his knowledge grew, and so did his ability to connect meaningfully with children and their families. He stated that his journey indeed had challenges.

There were moments of self-doubt and unfamiliar territory. Yet, each hurdle became a learning experience for him.

“This role didn’t just teach me to work with children. It taught me how to engage with parents, sharpen my communication skills, and handle various situations with maturity,” he says.

Looking ahead, Mr. Rhonbemo is committed to carrying forward what he has learned. He continues to stand as a passionate advocate for child rights who believes in building safe, inclusive spaces for every child and encourages all to be equally responsible towards building child friendly cities.

Learner to Leader

On 21st April 2025, amidst the calm beauty of the River Belt and Tea Garden in Assam, AIDA – Child Friendly Dimapur marked the final session of its child rights intervention with a joyful and unifying Potluck Picnic. While the event celebrated the collective spirit of two child rights clubs RBC and Duncan at the heart of the day's success stood a shining young leader: Ms. Areni, a proud NCC member and student of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School.

As a participant who had shown consistent commitment throughout the sessions, Areni emerged as a role model for her peers. Her leadership was most evident in the planning and execution of the picnic. With deep initiative and generosity, she took the responsibility of sponsoring thoughtful prizes for the games beautifully wrapped in pink and blue papers to ensure every child felt seen and celebrated.



She not only offered financial support but also lent her time and creativity, helping guide the activities and encouraging her friends with positivity and confidence. The picnic itself was a blend of fun and learning, organized by the club leaders including Nitesh and Nchumbemo. From treasure hunts and musical chairs to a quiz on child rights, each element reflected the child's growing understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Learner to Leader

Areni's quiet leadership and sense of discipline, rooted in her training as an NCC cadet, shone through every moment—ensuring that everyone felt included, respected, and safe.

An unexpected but touching gesture came from a retired army man tenant to the facilitator's family who joined in to distribute sweets to the children. His recurring presence during outdoor activities added warmth and community spirit to the gathering.

The day culminated with a shared walk into the tea garden. There, under the open sky, children exchanged homemade meals, stories, and laughter. It wasn't just a picnic it was a celebration of friendship, unity, and growth.

Areni, with her values shaped by Don Bosco's educational spirit and her dedication sharpened through NCC training, exemplified what it means to be an inspiring leader grounded in service and driven by compassion.

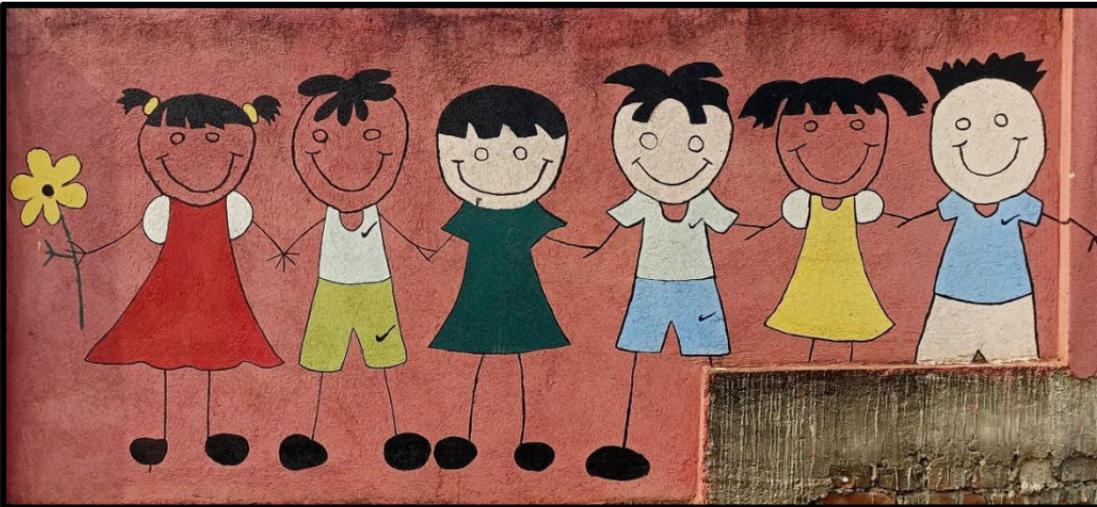
This final session was not an end it was the beginning of something deeper: a generation of young leaders like Areni, ready to uphold child rights and inspire others to do the same.



Creative Activities of children



Creative Activities of children



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Good partnership plays a great role in the implementation of development programs. Reliable and strong support of all our funding partners, donor agencies, individual donors, friends and well-wishers have played a very important role in the activities of AIDA. Reaching out to the most needy and disadvantaged in society and especially in the project areas (Dimapur & Chumoukedima) would not be possible without the big supporting hands of our partners. AIDA acknowledges gracefully the valuable contributions of everyone in shaping a better future in partnership.





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