

INNOVATION DAY 2 – Experience grid

Name and function of the person who fills the grid: **Daniel UMI, Director of Migration & Education, AEA South Asia**

1. Name/title of the innovation	Child Vulnerability Assessment and Planning (CVAP)
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2. Context and issues

In India, the state is the primary duty bearer for the protection of rights of children. However, the parents, community, faith leaders, local people's representative, various government institutions all play a pivotal role in the wellbeing, care and protection of children at the village level. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS, an Indian government-sponsored scheme) mandates the State to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms to identify, prevent from harms and link vulnerable children with effective government social protection, health, nutrition, education and various childcare services.

Migration thematic unit of Aide et Action entered into a partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Children, Government of Odisha, India to facilitate CVAP (Child Vulnerability Assessment & Planning) in some targeted villages spread in three districts (Balangir, Bargarh and Nuapada) in the state of Odisha. The aim of this process is to build capacity of frontline government officials and to demonstrate participatory identification of vulnerable children and planning. The participatory tool has been instrumental in identifying vulnerable children such as, migrant, out of school children, orphan, disable, malnourished, working children and other high-risk children, and in helping connecting them with key government entitlements, services, and child centric institution. The demonstration is yielding wonderful results and has rich potential for replication.

3. Type of innovation (tick the corresponding box)

Technological or practical innovation (tool, practice, technique, etc.)	
Institutional, organizational or methodological innovation (regarding processes, organizational models, relationships between stakeholders, project management, etc.)	X
Political innovations (new policy measures, regulations, rules, etc.)	

4. Description of the innovation

Child Vulnerability Analysis and Planning (CVAP) is a community tool to enhance community participation (parents, villagers, self-help groups, village council members, children, community organisations like youth clubs, etc.) and involvement of government in identifying, assessing, planning, incorporating, implementing, tracking and monitoring access to social protection entitlements and safeguarding rights of vulnerable children.

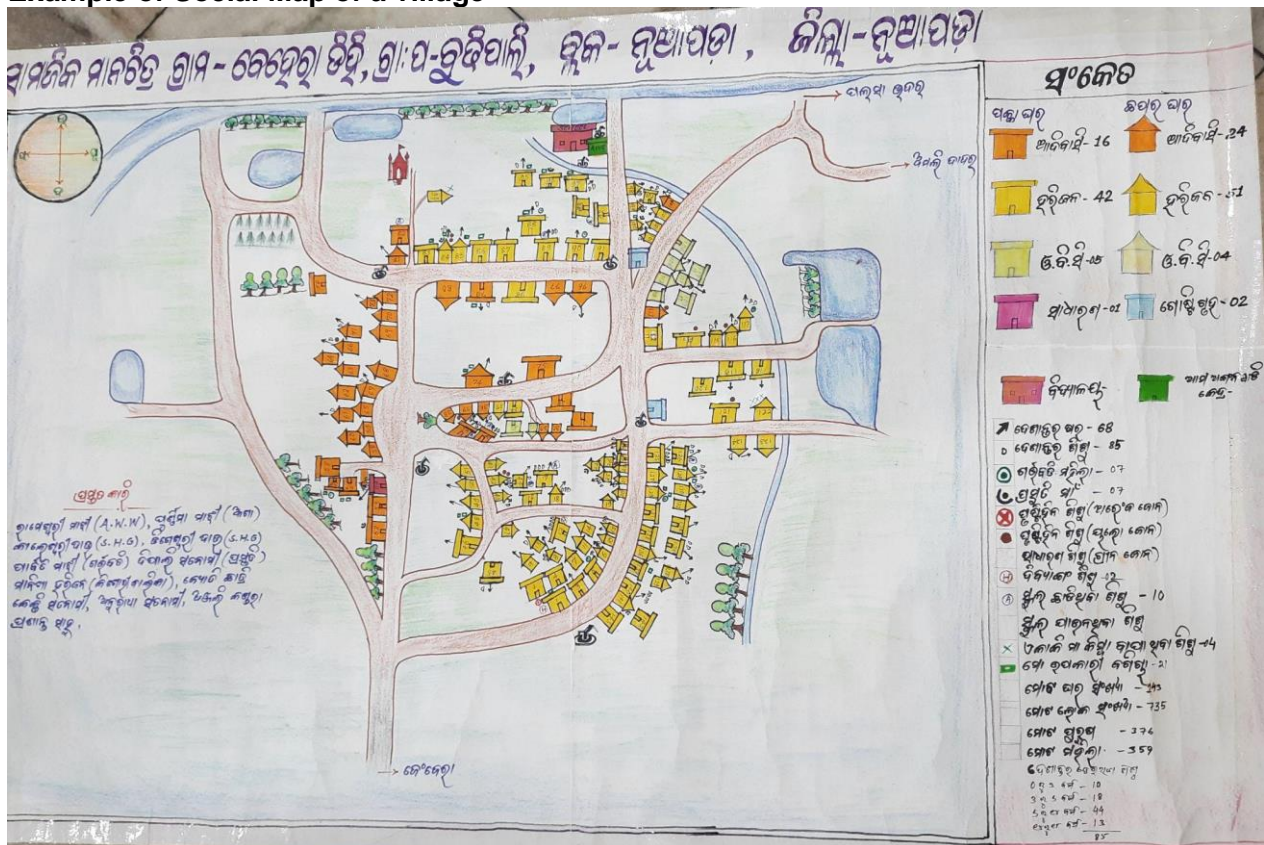
Objectives:

- To equip and strengthen community processes to identify, analyse, plan, implement and monitor the protection of vulnerable children at the village-level
- To develop community-based tracking and systems for implementation of community-based child protection mechanisms
- To strengthen and build capacity of the existing Panchayat/Village level child protection committee for implementation of child friendly plans
- To integrate with GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan/District Planning process)

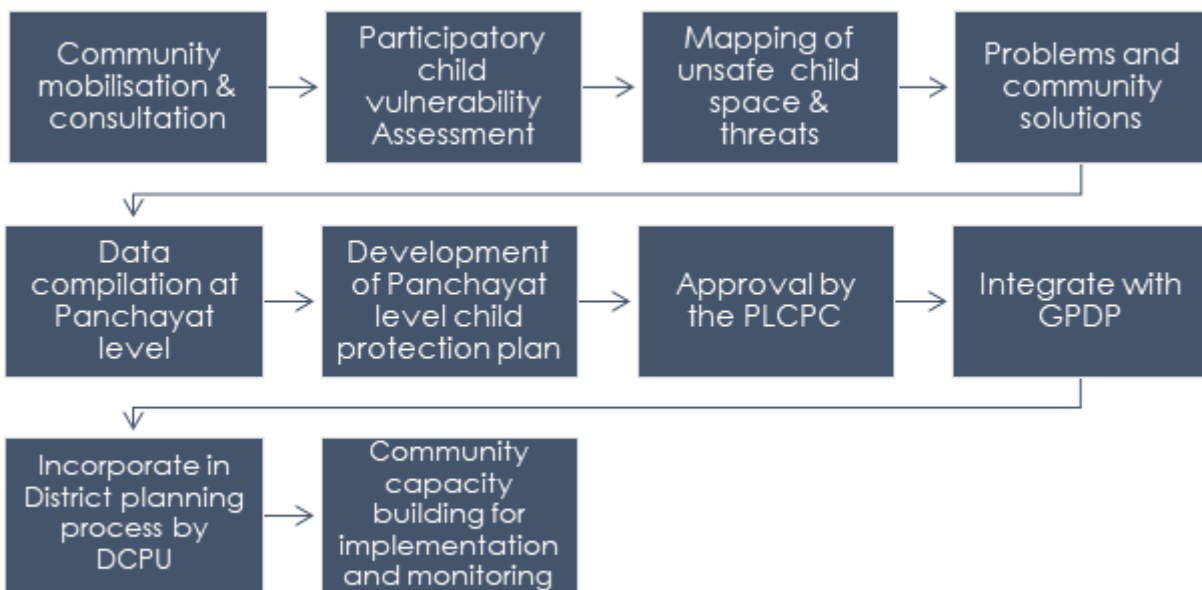
Social Mapping participatory rural appraisal tool is used to identify the most vulnerable children. Based on this mapping, the community investigates and prepares a plan of action to address the identified vulnerabilities of the children with the help of local governance members and government frontline workers.

The prepared plan is presented before the Panchayat (Local Self Governance Council) with the presence of the Sarapanch (LSG council leader), Block Development Officer, officials of department of education, labour, women & child development etc. to respond to the identified issues.

Example of Social Map of a village



Presentation of the key steps for facilitating CVAP:



Environment building and community mobilisation:

It is imperative to create healthy environment and awareness on the need and impact of CVAP. Participation of parents, community leaders, PRI members, caregivers and government frontline workers are central to the success of the CVAP process. Young volunteers are identified and trained to understand the entire process of vulnerability mapping, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organising community dialogue.

Who will facilitate CVAP?

The participatory child assessment is facilitated by the young volunteers assisted by the Aide et Action field staff. Prior to the mapping, village-level data on demographic profile of the villages, and listing of nearby child centric institutions (primary and secondary school, child care institutions, child recreational centers, nutrition and health centers) and their status is collected from the government sources.

Participatory Child vulnerability Analysis and mapping:

Social map is the only Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tool being used to identify and map the households having vulnerable children and subsequently segregated as per different categories of vulnerabilities (school dropouts, never-enrolled children, children with disabilities, orphans, migrant children, working children, etc.). The social map uses different symbols and signs to distinguish gender and types of vulnerabilities. The social map also identifies key child centric institutions and services available for children in the village. After the vulnerable children are identified and plotted on the social map, a household visit is conducted to interact with parents and key informants to prepare profiling of the vulnerable children (their situation, status and needs assessed either through digital or pre-designed survey format).

The second category of analysis using social maps will focus on the unsafe spaces and risks associated with the children in the villages. For example: unsafe and dilapidated school, Anganwadi (early childhood centers), health and other child centric infrastructure, lack of proper playground, hazardous barriers on the way to schools, unsafe and high-risk public space for children, post natural disaster risks and threats, instances of organised crime and trafficking of children are some of the threats and risks that will be discussed to create a child-friendly space for children.

Vulnerability reduction and child protection planning:

Once the vulnerability profiling of the child is done, stakeholders consult involving the parents, community members, government frontline workers, child rights experts, social workers to help and develop a comprehensive action plan for each of the vulnerable children.

The action plans have component such as, what action will be taken by parents, community, frontline workers, institutions and district or state governments to amicably address the issues: nutrition, health and referral services, special education, financial support, counselling, access and inclusion into government entitlements, legal support and preventing conceivable threats and risk on children in the villages and create a healthy and child friendly space.

Panchayat Level Child Protection Plan:

The consolidated village level vulnerability reduction and child protection plan is shared with the Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee (PLCVC) for endorsement and acceptance. After receiving the plan, the PLCVC convenes a special meeting involving the committee members, government officials to discuss and take it forward at the block level for effective implementation and redressal. Each Panchayat or local body prepares and implements its own development plan known as GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) on a wide range of developmental issues concerning the Panchayat. The Panchayat Child Protection Committee monitors the implementation of the plan by coordinating with the Gram Panchayat. AEA supports the implementation process by constantly following-up with the Panchayat and government officials.

5. Results/changes

- The process provided a learning space for communities on the prevalent child right issues in their villages.
- Community response was overwhelming and showed commitment to take this up with the Panchayat (Local Self Governance Council) for further action.
- Some of the identified issues were solved instantly during the process. For example, the CVAP process at Gunsar GP of Balangir district, the following issues were solved:
 - 51 returnee migrant children were linked to School, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Khusi Schemes.
 - Out of 38 drop out student identified, 15 children were enrolled in their village school
 - Out of 9 malnourished children, all the children were linked to ICDS and are getting Take Home Ration (THR) and presently they are not in malnourished category anymore

6. Key elements to capitalise/document

- The CVAP can be used as a community tool to identify vulnerable children in rural area and create conducive child friendly environments for their basic care, health, education and protection through community and government collaboration.
- The current initiative is well accepted by the grassroot government functionaries and the local bodies, and emphasises their attention for the development of children.
- The village level database is collated and compiled at the Panchayat level to help better planning for the government and local bodies for addressing children's need.

7. Who to contact for more information

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