

Annual Report

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION (CDA YOUTH)



Message & Organisational Overview

Message from the Executive Director

The year 2024–25 was a defining period of growth and transformation for the Centre for Development Action (CDA). As we navigated rising youth vulnerabilities, social tensions, and digital polarisation, our commitment to peace, dignity, and justice remained steadfast. This year reaffirmed our belief in the extraordinary potential of young people: they mobilised communities against armed violence, strengthened social cohesion through dialogue, expanded safe spaces, and generated evidence that informed local solutions. At CDA, we know that peace cannot be delivered—it must be built with communities. Our initiatives, from cross-border collaboration to gender-inclusive peacebuilding and school-based safety interventions, were grounded in partnership and shared responsibility.

We move forward inspired by thousands of young leaders whose courage and resilience shaped our work. I remain deeply grateful to our staff, partners, and community champions for their unwavering support as we continue building futures rooted in dignity, safety, and opportunity.

— Executive Director, Centre for Development Action

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About CDA

The Centre for Development Action (CDA) is a youth-focused peacebuilding organisation dedicated to reducing armed violence, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting inclusive community development across South Asia. Our work is grounded in the belief that young people—when empowered with skills, platforms, and opportunities—become transformative agents of peace and resilience.

CDA combines grassroots engagement, research-driven insights, and collaborative partnerships to address interconnected challenges such as armed violence, gender-based violence, digital misinformation, youth mental health, and climate-linked insecurities.

Operating across border regions, urban settlements, tribal districts, and conflict-sensitive rural communities, CDA builds networks of youth peace ambassadors, supports community-led solutions, and strengthens local systems of protection and resilience. Our programs integrate evidence, action, and dialogue to ensure long-term, sustainable impact.

CDA envisions a society where peace is locally owned, youth-led, and grounded in justice and dignity for all.

2024–25 Highlights at a Glance

2024–25 was a milestone year for CDA, marked by expansion, innovation, and measurable impact. Key achievements include:

- 4,500+ youth mobilised as peace leaders, researchers, and community facilitators
- Youth-led early-warning systems activated across 22 border and high-risk regions
- Successful cross-border cooperation between youth networks in India, Nepal, and Myanmar
- Deepened gender-inclusive peacebuilding, with 54% women and girls participating in leadership activities
- Community-based evidence studies addressing SALW risks, GBV, and social tensions
- New interfaith dialogue platforms strengthened trust in diverse and divided communities
- 20+ School Safety & WASH Clubs formed to promote dignity, protection, and peaceful school environments
- Mental health and psychosocial support services delivered to 3,200 youth in conflict-affected communities
- Football for Peace initiatives bringing together youth from conflict-prone neighbourhoods

Together, these achievements reflect the growing strength of CDA's youth-led peacebuilding architecture and our expanding partnerships with communities, civil society, and local institutions.



Theory of Change & Strategic Priorities

CDA's Theory of Change is grounded in one core principle: peace and resilience flourish when young people lead solutions and community co-own outcomes, and evidence drives action. Our approach is built on three interconnected pillars:

Youth Agency & Leadership

CDA strengthens young people's ability to prevent violence, foster dialogue, build trust, and advocate for systemic reforms. When youth have skills, confidence, and platforms, they become powerful drivers of peace.

Inclusive Community Systems

Peace is sustainable only when communities — including women, persons with disabilities, tribal groups, and religious minorities — participate equally in decision-making, safety planning, and local governance.

Evidence, Learning & Innovation

CDA embeds research and participatory learning into all programs, enabling real-time adaptation, accurate early-warning, and targeted interventions that respond to emerging risks.



Strategic Priorities for 2024–27

- Prevent armed and communal violence through youth-led SALW mitigation, early-warning systems, and interfaith cooperation
- Strengthen gender-inclusive peacebuilding, addressing GBV linked to conflict and insecurity
- Build mental health resilience, delivering accessible psychosocial support for youth
- Enhance digital peace ecosystems, countering misinformation and hate speech
- Advance climate-resilient youth livelihoods, linking peace, environment, and economic opportunity
- Promote school-based safety and WASH systems, ensuring dignity, equality, and protection for all students
- Expand cross-border peace partnerships in the India–Nepal–Myanmar region

Youth in Peacebuilding

1. Youth Leadership in Peacebuilding

In 2024–25, CDA placed young people at the centre of peacebuilding across border regions, tribal belts, and peri-urban settlements. More than 3,800 youth were trained as peace ambassadors, conflict mediators, and community connectors. Their leadership reduced tensions, bridged divides, and strengthened solidarity within communities.

Youth-led Conflict Mediation

CDA-trained 726 youth mediators facilitated 214 local peace dialogues across sensitive districts of Assam, Manipur, Odisha, and Jharkhand. 76% of disputes—including land boundary issues, marketplace tensions, water-access disagreements, and inter-group misunderstandings—were resolved peacefully within 30 days. Community leaders observed reduced retaliatory behaviour and stronger peer-led conflict management.

Success Story – Assam:

During tensions over festival arrangements, youth mediator Samuel Teron (19) led a facilitated circle dialogue involving elders and youth. Within 48 hours, both groups co-developed a shared festival plan, preventing prolonged division. Samuel now mentors 12 mediators and leads monthly youth dialogue clubs.

Non-Violence Campaigns

Youth networks led 67 non-violence and harmony campaigns across six states, focusing on misinformation reduction and identity-based tension prevention. These efforts reached 51,000 people, generated 412 counter-narrative posts, and established 80 village Peace Notice Boards.

Success Story – Odisha (Malkangiri):

Amid misinformation-linked fear, youth launched a “Stay Calm, Stay United” campaign, verified facts with police, and produced Odia infographics. Fear reduced within 72 hours, and elders praised youth for preventing community fragmentation.

Peace Ambassador Initiatives

CDA trained 250 youth peace ambassadors in communication, leadership, and documentation. They engaged 18,00 peers, organised 23 inter-community exchanges, produced 21 digital stories, and supported women’s groups and local governance institutions.

Success Story – Jharkhand (West Singhbhum):

Adivasi youth Varsha Kispotta (17) trained 40 adolescents, reducing school bullying by 40% and increasing girls’ participation. Her model inspired replication in 22 nearby schools.

2. Youth-Led Prevention of Armed Violence

CDA strengthened youth capacities to prevent armed violence in border and high-risk districts. In 2024–25, 250 youth were trained in arms-risk identification, early-warning, and safe reporting. Community consultations mapped 18 micro-risk zones, and youth contributed to 3 safety action plans.

Community Awareness on Armed Violence

Youth-led outreach reached 90,000+ villagers through awareness drives and 350 dialogue meetings. Schools across Odisha, Assam, and the Northeast adopted monthly Peace & Safety Days.

Success Story – Manipur (Churachandpur):

Youth produced bilingual safety posters, reducing panic and improving inter-group communication during local unrest.

Youth Safety Planning

Youth supported the creation of safety plans identifying safe spaces, risk routes, and emergency contacts. 58 youth task forces were formed, and 41 schools integrated safety planning.

Success Story – Odisha (Koraput):

Youth mapped unsafe forest routes used by schoolgirls, prompting improved lighting and patrols, which boosted safety and attendance.

Local Early Response Mechanisms

CDA trained 123 early-warning volunteers who issued 411 alerts, with 70% triggering timely interventions.

Success Story – India–Nepal Border (Uttarakhand):

Youth alerts on a grazing dispute enabled immediate mediation, preventing potential clashes and resulting in a shared grazing schedule agreed by both communities.



Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) Risk Mitigation

Small Arms and Light Weapons continued to shape the safety dynamics of India's border districts, migration corridors, and conflict-sensitive regions in 2024–25. Illegal firearms — from country-made pistols to trafficked factory-made weapons — fueled interpersonal disputes, heightened risks for women and girls, and exposed youth to coercion and criminal networks. CDA strengthened youth capacities across 42 high-vulnerability villages in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and border-adjacent clusters near Nepal and Myanmar. A total of 365 youth peace volunteers were trained in SALW risk mapping, early-warning triggers, rumor-verification, and ethical documentation, forming one of the most active youth-led SALW mitigation networks in the region.

1. SALW Impacts & Youth Action

Border Vulnerabilities

Porous borders with Nepal and forested corridors near Myanmar created routes for illegal weapon movement, intensifying insecurity in fringe communities. Many youth reported that even a single firearm could escalate minor disputes into dangerous confrontations.

What CDA Found in 2024–25

- 27% of surveyed youth witnessed or heard of firearms being displayed during local disputes.
- 13 illegal-entry hotspots were mapped in UP–Nepal and Bihar–Nepal belts.
- 3 trafficking routes were identified near Sonauli and Raxaul through participatory mapping.

Success Story – Uttar Pradesh–Nepal Border

During a CDA youth mapping exercise in Maharajganj, volunteers detected suspicious night movement along a canal route. Their discreet alert enabled authorities to intercept a small-arms consignment bound for Gorakhpur. Officials later credited the youth's risk map for the timely interception, strengthening trust in youth-led vigilance.

Youth-Led Early-Warning Systems

CDA supported volunteers to track social tensions, rumours, intimidation, and abnormal mobility through early-warning mechanisms.

Key Outcomes (2024–25)

- 18 youth-managed early-warning groups established.
- 112 alerts issued; 41 triggered preventive action by panchayats or police.
- Rumour response time reduced from 7 hours to 1.5 hours.

Success Story – Bihar–Nepal Border

A doctored festival-time video alleging imminent violence spread rapidly. CDA-trained youth verified it as fake within 20 minutes, alerting both communities. Rapid response prevented mobilisation of a youth mob, with elders acknowledging that “our children saved us from a fight none of us wanted.”

Arms-Risk Advocacy Campaigns

Youth leaders amplified advocacy on arms-free spaces, trafficking awareness, and gendered forms of intimidation.

Achievements (2024–25)

- 7 district-level dialogues with police and panchayats.
- 42 youth-led street campaigns promoting arms-free neighbourhoods.
- 11,000+ people reached through BCC activities.

Success Story – Uttar Pradesh (Shravasti)

Youth documented harassment in dimly lit lanes and submitted a memorandum for community lighting. Within four months, 42 solar lights were installed, leading to a 65% reduction in harassment incidents.

2. Community-Driven SALW Awareness

CDA emphasised that preventing arms proliferation is a shared community responsibility. More than 6,800 students and teachers were reached through school modules integrating peacebuilding, GBV prevention, and digital safety.

Success Story – UP Border Village

After Class 8 students found cartridges near their school, youth volunteers mobilised 300 residents into a parent–youth vigilance circle, significantly reducing night-time suspicious activity.

Public Sensitisation & BCC

Impact (2024–25)

- 8 SALW street theatre shows
- 21 wall murals on peace and safety
- 4,000+ residents reached via rallies and audio vans

Success Story – Bihar

A Maithili folk theatre performance on the impacts of a single illegal pistol moved the community to adopt a resolution declaring the village “violence-free and weapons-free.”
Overall SALW Impact (2024–25)

Indicator	Result
Youth trained	165
Villages covered	42
Early-warning alerts	32
Awareness participants	1,000+
Hotspots mapped	06
Community action plans	06
Students reached	2,800+

CDA’s integrated, youth-centred approach helped reduce tensions, prevent violence, and promote a culture of collective responsibility for peace.

Youth-Led Research & Community Evidence

In 2024–25, CDA deepened its youth-led research model, placing young people at the forefront of evidence-building in India, Nepal, and Myanmar. A total of 427 youth researchers were trained in ethical documentation, conflict analysis, and participatory tools. Their efforts produced 38 community evidence reports, documented 214 grievances, and reached 18,500+ community members through evidence-sharing dialogues. These youth-generated insights strengthened early-warning systems, informed district responses, and amplified voices often excluded from decision-making spaces.

1. Participatory Community Research

Evidence Gathering on Conflict Drivers

Youth researchers identified key conflict drivers—including misinformation, political tensions, SALW presence, unemployment, caste bias, gender insecurity, and resource disputes—using peace mapping, observation logs, and focus groups.

Key Findings (2024–25):

- 36% of conflicts stemmed from misinformation.
- 22% linked to SALW intimidation.
- 19% emerged from caste/identity tensions.
- 14% related to gendered risks.
- 78 micro-conflicts resolved early through youth monitoring.

Success Story – Bihar:

Youth mapped three hidden tension points around water sources fuelling caste-based disputes. Their evidence prompted the panchayat to install additional taps and introduce a usage schedule, reducing tensions within two months.

Documentation of Grievances

CDA equipped youth with structured tools to document grievances such as harassment spots, unsafe pathways, intimidation, rumour zones, and trafficking concerns.

2024–25 Achievements:

- 34 grievances recorded.
- Youth-led grievance cells established in 3 districts.
- 61% of grievances resolved through community or official action.

Success Story – Uttar Pradesh:

Youth documented 8 testimonies from women facing harassment on an unsafe road. Their evidence led to solar lighting, increased patrolling, and student escort systems.

Ethical Community Documentation

Ethics remained central to the research model. Youth followed strict consent-based frameworks prioritizing confidentiality and survivor protection.

Ethics Achievements (2024–25):

- 57 youth trained in ethical research.
- 100% of cases documented with consent safeguards.

Success Story – Jharkhand–Bihar Corridor:

Youth safely documented migrant-worker intimidation using coded identifiers, enabling authorities to dismantle an extortion group without endangering workers.

Youth-Generated Digital Evidence

Youth strengthened community trust by producing digital evidence through films, photo essays, reels, and counter-narrative content.

Digital Storytelling

2024–25 Outputs:

- 32 digital stories produced.
- 6 screenings facilitated community dialogue.

Success Story – Manipur:

The film “My Village, My Peace” showcased women reopening a market after months of tension. It reached 50,000+ viewers and led to the formation of a Market Peace Committee.

Counter-Narrative Documentation

Youth debunked misinformation and harmful narratives that threatened inter-community relations.

Achievements (2024–25):

- 24 misinformation incidents countered.
- 04 debunking videos created.
- 05 rumour-verification groups active.

Success Story – Uttar Pradesh:

Youth exposed a manipulated video that threatened communal violence, preventing mobilisation and earning police commendation.

CDA’s youth researchers transformed evidence into action and action into peace — proving that when young people lead, communities become safer, informed, and united.

Youth Empowerment & Livelihood Development

Young people remained central to CDA's mission of building peaceful, resilient, and economically secure communities. In 2024–25, CDA advanced an integrated peace–livelihood model across conflict-affected and border districts, ensuring that youth became both peace mediators and dignified earners capable of shaping their communities' social and economic future.

Youth in Peacebuilding

Participation as Peace Leaders

CDA strengthened youth as frontline peace actors through training in conflict transformation, non-violent communication, rumor management, facilitation, and ethical documentation. Trained youth led community dialogues, early-warning systems, interfaith engagement, gender-safety initiatives, and SALW risk-reduction efforts.

2024–25 Achievements

- 145 youth trained as Peace Leaders across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Nepal border areas.
- 18 youth-led peace actions conducted, including mediations, rumor verification, audits, and trust-building events.
- 41% women among youth leaders, many breaking traditional gender norms.
- 9 conflict-prone panchayats formally recognized youth groups as community safety partners.
- 71 youth joined CDA's Youth Peace Ambassadors Network.

Success Story – Bihar–Nepal Border:

A rumour-led mob formation was prevented within 45 minutes after a CDA-trained youth verified misinformation, mobilized the Peace Circle, and issued counter-communication. Local authorities acknowledged the team as the fastest first responders.

Leadership-Building Initiatives

Youth participated in experiential learning, mentorship, digital literacy, and interfaith dialogue programs that built confidence, ethical judgment, and public leadership.

2024–25 Data

- 118 peer mentors trained.
- 93 girls took leadership roles in peace clubs and safety committees.
- 11 learning exchanges facilitated cross-district understanding.
- 64 Peace Ambassadors produced 47 peace media outputs.

Success Story – Odisha:

A 19-year-old graduate of CDA's leadership program convened an interfaith dialogue that restored communication in a polarized village, inspiring more young women to assume public roles.

Livelihood Improvement Programs

CDA addressed economic vulnerability and conflict risk by enhancing youth employability, entrepreneurship, and market access.

Income-Generation Skills

112 youth were trained in tailoring, mobile repair, digital content creation, bakery, eco-friendly crafts, and repair services.

- 68% reported income increases within six months.
- 61% women used skills for self-employment.
- 41 youth received toolkits to start micro-enterprises.

Success Story – Manipur:

A youth bakery collective earned ₹18,000–₹22,000/month, becoming a neutral space for peaceful interaction.

Market-Linked Opportunities

- 76 youth connected to employer networks, digital platforms, and schemes such as PMEGP and MSME clusters.
- 19 youth enterprises launched through the CDA Youth Seed Fund.
- 11 producer groups formed; 28% promoted cross-community collaboration.

Success Story – Manipur:

A youth-run courier service reconnected two divided neighbourhoods, completing 30–40 deliveries/week while rebuilding trust.

Conclusion

CDA's 2024–25 youth initiatives proved that peace and prosperity reinforce each other. When youth gain leadership confidence and sustainable livelihoods, they become anchors of stability—preventing conflict, strengthening social cohesion, and building pathways to resilient, peaceful communities.



Entrepreneurship Development for Adolescent Girls

Adolescent Girls' Skilling

In 2024–25, CDA deepened its focus on adolescent girls, recognising them as catalysts of community wellbeing, economic resilience, and peace. Across schools and border communities, girls moved from passive participation to active leadership—becoming entrepreneurs, innovators, and safety advocates. CDA's integrated skilling, leadership, and WASH-linked empowerment programs strengthened girls' agency, dignity, and economic capability.

Entrepreneurship Capacity Development

CDA enhanced girls' entrepreneurship readiness through training in technical skills, financial literacy, digital safety, and value-based leadership. Girls gained confidence to initiate small ventures, manage finances, and influence household decision-making.

2024–25 Results

- 442 girls trained across Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, and UP border districts.
- 87 micro-enterprise plans developed across beauty services, tailoring, snacks, eco-friendly crafts, bookbinding, and digital micro-work.
- 126 girls launched or joined income activities.
- 32 micro-groups formed for collective production and savings.
- 21 villages established girls' entrepreneurship clubs.

Key Training Areas: entrepreneurship basics, pricing, digital literacy and safe online selling, financial behaviour, customer relations, negotiation, and gender rights.

Success Story – Odisha:

A 15-year-old Class 9 girl set up a millet-based snack kiosk near her school with two friends. In three months, she earned ₹250–₹300 daily, saved ₹4,800, and received official school approval. “Children call me Didi Entrepreneur,” she shared, inspiring more food-based girl enterprises.

Life-Skills & Leadership

Entrepreneurship training was paired with communication, problem-solving, rights awareness, safety strategies, MHM, and conflict resolution.

2024–25 Life-Skills Impact

- 312 girls completed the curriculum.
- 92% reported higher confidence in public speaking.
- 67% demonstrated stronger decision-making related to education and safety.
- 100+ girls became peer mentors.

Success Story – Bihar:

A 16-year-old used her rights and leadership training to stop a child marriage by informing teachers and mobilising community groups. She now leads peer advocacy on girls' education and safety.

Girls' Leadership in School Safety & Hygiene

Adolescent girls played a pivotal role in improving school sanitation, safety monitoring, and GBV prevention under CDA's Safe Schools & Hygiene Leadership Program.

Participation in School Hygiene Committees

Girls influenced school sanitation systems, maintenance practices, and safety audits.

2024–25 Outcomes

- 261 schools formed/strengthened SHCs.
- 1,200+ girls engaged in hygiene monitoring and audits.
- 47% increase in girls' SHC representation.
- 53 Hygiene Captains conducted toilet inspections and cleanliness drives.

Success Story – Jharkhand:

Girl-led SHCs documented unsafe toilets and advocated for repairs. Within weeks, doors, locks, and solar lights were installed, reducing fear and absenteeism. "We made the school safe for every girl," they shared.

WASH-Linked Leadership Roles

Girls led MHM awareness, safe water practices, and hygiene campaigns.

2024–25 Highlights

- 300+ girls served as peer MHM educators.
- 51 girl-led campaigns used theatre, posters, and assemblies.
- 30% reduction in menstrual absenteeism in targeted schools.
- 5 schools adopted girl-led "Red Dot Days" for menstrual dignity.

Success Story – West Bengal:

Girl leaders held open sessions on menstruation for boys and girls, leading to installation of disposal units and improved gender respect. One boy stated, "Dignity belongs to everyone."

Overall Impact: Adolescent Girls' Empowerment (2024–25)

Indicator	Result
Girls trained in entrepreneurship	442
Micro-enterprise plans	87
Girls starting income activities	126
Life-skills graduates	312
Schools with strengthened SHCs	261
Girls in SHCs	1,200+
Hygiene Captains	53
Girl-led WASH campaigns	51
Menstrual absenteeism reduction	30%

Conclusion

CDA's 2024–25 Entrepreneurship Development & School Safety Leadership initiatives proved that when adolescent girls are empowered to lead—economically, socially, and within school systems—they transform their communities. Their enterprises strengthened household resilience, their leadership reshaped school culture, and their confidence redefined what meaningful girl-led change looks like across India's most remote and vulnerable regions.



Disability Inclusion & Protection of Vulnerable Groups

CDA recognises that peace is sustainable only when the most vulnerable—youth with disabilities, adolescents from marginalised identities, migrant youth, and children in border communities—are empowered as equal actors. In 2024–25, CDA embedded disability inclusion and community protection across all programs, ensuring that young people who are often unheard became peace leaders, researchers, and community mobilisers.

Disability Inclusion in Peace Programs

Youth with Disabilities as Peace Actors

CDA challenged the notion that youth with disabilities (PwD) are merely beneficiaries. Instead, they were positioned as trainers, documenters, peace circle leaders, and early-warning responders.

2024–25 Achievements

- 56 PwD youth engaged across Odisha, Jharkhand, UP, and border districts.
- 32 trained in ethical documentation, rumour verification, and conflict mapping.
- 11 assumed leadership roles in peace circles, WASH committees, and early-warning groups.
- 70% reported higher confidence and public-speaking ability.
- 2 disability advocacy groups formed at village level.

Success Story – Jharkhand:

A deaf youth created visual early-warning posters explaining rumor verification, SALW risk signs, and reporting steps. Displayed in 17 villages, the posters were praised by teachers and police for being “understandable to everyone.”

Accessible Participation Platforms

Accessibility became central to CDA’s peace architecture.

2024–25 Accessibility Enhancements

- 11 accessible training spaces created.
- Materials adapted into large print, pictorial guides, tactile diagrams, and audio formats.
- 3 sign-supported training sessions held.
- Inclusive mixed-groups ensured equal participation.
- Transport assistance and accessible digital tools provided.

Success Story – Odisha:

A 17-year-old girl with a locomotor disability facilitated a community peace forum after CDA ensured accessible venues. She is now part of the district youth advisory panel.

Community Protection for At-Risk Youth

Mentor Networks

CDA built mentor networks—teachers, alumni, social workers, women leaders, and artisans—to support vulnerable youth.

2024–25 Impact

- 112 mentors (including 44 women) trained in disability inclusion, conflict sensitivity, and trauma-informed care.
- 320 at-risk youth supported with guidance on education, safety, and mental health.
- Border mentors trained in rumour verification and safe referral.
- 22 PwD youth paired with peer mentors.


Success Story – UP Border:

A mentor intervened when a boy with mild intellectual disability dropped out due to bullying. Within three weeks, he returned to school.

Safe Spaces & Referral Pathways

CDA expanded safe physical and digital spaces for learning, counselling, and crisis support.

2024–25 Achievements

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- 28 Safe Youth Spaces across five states.
 - 600+ adolescents accessed these spaces.
 - 122 referrals made to health, counsellor, and child-protection services.
 - Girls-only safety circles in 31 villages.
 - 3 disability-friendly safety kiosks in border communities.
 - Crisis protocols activated three times, preventing self-harm, harassment escalation, and trafficking.

Success Story – Bihar:

A trafficking survivor regained confidence through counselling and tailoring training, later joining a collective and becoming a peer safety advocate.

Overall Impact: Disability Inclusion & Protection (2024–25)

Indicator	Result
Youth with disabilities engaged	56
PwD youth in leadership roles	11
Accessible training spaces	11
Mentors trained	112
At-risk youth supported	320
Safe spaces created	28
Adolescents using safe spaces	6 00+
Protection referrals	122
Disability advocacy groups	5

Conclusion

CDA’s 2024–25 disability inclusion and youth protection strategy demonstrated that sustainable peace grows when the most vulnerable lead it. By creating accessible platforms, strengthening protection pathways, and amplifying the leadership of PwD and at-risk youth, CDA transformed marginalised young people into champions of peace, dignity, and justice across India’s most fragile communities.



Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to affect adolescents across conflict-affected, border, and marginalised regions. In 2024–25, CDA advanced an integrated approach linking peacebuilding, sanitation safety, and youth engagement to address the root causes of GBV. By equipping adolescents, strengthening school systems, and shifting harmful norms, CDA helped create safer spaces where girls, women, and gender-diverse youth could thrive.

GBV Prevention in Conflict-Affected Areas

Links Between Weapons and GBV

CDA’s work revealed strong correlations between Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and heightened GBV risks—restrictions on girls’ mobility, coercion, and escalation of domestic violence during tensions. CDA integrated SALW awareness with gender-transformative training.

2024–25 Results

- 4,200 adolescents and community members sensitised.
- 286 youth trained in gender-sensitive conflict response.
- 16 border villages formed joint GBV–SALW vigilance groups.
- Peace clubs in 23 schools integrated GBV modules.
- 39% of youth leaders in vigilance groups were girls.

Success Story – Manipur:

A CDA-trained Youth Peace Circle intervened in a weapon-linked harassment case, verified the facts, mobilised elders, and facilitated a restorative dialogue. The incident de-escalated, and the boys later joined CDA’s gender training.

Youth-Led GBV Awareness Campaigns

Youth challenged discriminatory norms through art, street theatre, media, and digital storytelling.

2024–25 Achievements

- 39 youth-led campaigns.
- 1,500+ adolescents reached.
- 46 boys trained in masculinity and respect-building.
- 13 youth media productions created.

Success Story – Odisha:

A street play titled Na Chhua (“Do Not Touch Without Consent”) reached large rural crowds, prompting the district education office to request performances in 22 schools.

School-Based GBV Prevention through WASH

Safe Sanitation Reducing Bullying & Harassment

CDA strengthened school sanitation to reduce harassment hotspots and ensure dignity for girls.

2024–25 Impact

- 61 schools improved sanitation safety plans.
- 700+ students oriented on gender-sensitive WASH behaviour.
- 19 schools redesigned toilet areas for privacy and lighting.
- 31% reduction in toilet-related harassment.
- 18% increase in menstrual attendance.

Protection-Oriented School Clubs

CDA created clubs promoting safety, respect, and peer support.

2024–25 Achievements

- 26 clubs active.
- 500+ students participated.
- 176 girls took leadership roles.
- 41 teachers trained.
- Digital safety modules in 19 schools.

Success Story – Jharkhand:

Initially sceptical boys co-led a “GBV-Free Campus Week,” creating codes of conduct and promoting respectful behaviour.

Overall Impact (2024–25)

Indicator	Result
Adolescents sensitised	4,200+
Youth-led campaigns	39
Schools with GBV–WASH systems	19
Students in protection clubs	800+
Girls in leadership roles	176
Reduction in toilet harassment	31%
Increase in menstrual attendance	18%

CDA's integrated peace–gender–WASH model has emerged as a best-practice approach for building safer, more gender-equitable communities.

Climate Change Mitigation & Tribal Livelihood Security

Resilience Building with Tribal Youth

Climate Adaptation Training

India's tribal communities—living in forested, hilly, mining, and border regions—face severe climate impacts including erratic rainfall, water scarcity, soil degradation, and livelihood loss. In 2024–25, CDA advanced an integrated Climate–Peace–Livelihood framework that positioned tribal youth as frontline climate resilience leaders. Through practical training, eco-livelihood strengthening, and community education, CDA supported tribal communities to build secure and sustainable futures.

2024–25 Results

CDA trained 1,140 tribal youth in climate adaptation across Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and the UP–MP forest belts. Of these, 268 youth gained skills in water harvesting, soil-moisture conservation, and spring protection. Another 431 youth were trained in climate-smart agriculture (CSA), including millet-based nutrition farming, organic manure and pest management, multi-layer farming, and drought-resilient crop cultivation. Additionally, 87 youth learned disaster preparedness and early-warning systems, while 14 tribal youth groups began tracking rainfall, crop cycles, and forest risks. These young leaders emerged as “Climate Sentinels,” guiding families on sustainable choices.

Success Story: Reviving a Dying Stream in Odisha

Nine tribal youth used CDA's spring protection and contour trenching skills to revive a nearly dry stream. With community mobilisation for desilting, small check dams, and bamboo plantation, the stream flowed again within six months—benefiting 38 households with drinking and irrigation water and reducing crop losses. A village elder shared, “Our youth brought the water back.”

Livelihood Security in Fragile Regions

Tribal livelihoods—minor forest produce (MFP), gathering, and rain-fed farming—are highly climate-sensitive. CDA strengthened livelihood security by promoting diversified, climate-resilient, and market-linked eco-livelihood options.

2024–25 Livelihood Impact

A total of 612 youth gained skills in diversified eco-livelihoods, including MFP value addition (sal leaves, tamarind, mahua, siali plates), eco-tourism micro-enterprises, mushroom cultivation, bamboo crafts, and drought-proof vegetable gardens. 18 youth-led green micro-enterprises were established, while CSA demonstrations reached 320 households, contributing to an average 27% income increase among trained youth.

Success Story: Bamboo Craft Collective in Jharkhand

A collective of 17 young tribal women trained by CDA improved bamboo product design, secured market linkages, and strengthened branding. Their monthly income rose from ₹3,000 to ₹19,500, and they planted 2,100 bamboo saplings to ensure sustainability.

Community Climate Risk Education

Youth-Led Environmental Awareness

CDA empowered tribal youth to lead culturally rooted climate awareness campaigns using songs, folk art, theatre, and forest walks. In 2024–25, youth reached 5,800 community members, while 384 youth were trained in climate communication. CDA activated 91 school eco-clubs, formed 14 community forest protection committees, facilitated the plantation of 7,400 indigenous saplings, and supported the preparation of 52 village climate risk maps.

Success Story: Folk Songs for Climate Action (Chhattisgarh)

Adivasi girls revived traditional folk songs with new climate-conscious verses. Their performances increased village participation in forest patrols and reduced tree-cutting incidents, turning the girls into “cultural climate ambassadors.”

Conclusion

CDA’s 2024–25 climate resilience programme demonstrated that when tribal youth lead, communities adapt faster, restore ecosystems, and strengthen livelihoods with dignity. Youth-driven action revived water sources, greened landscapes, protected forests, and preserved indigenous ecological knowledge—establishing tribal youth as guardians of land and ambassadors of resilience.



Youth-Led WASH & WASH-Plus

School WASH for Peace & Safety

CDA's WASH and WASH-Plus initiatives in 2024–25 placed dignity, safety, and community harmony at the heart of sanitation and hygiene systems. The School WASH for Peace model demonstrated that improved water, sanitation, and hygiene directly strengthen respect, reduce bullying, and promote a peaceful school environment.

Water & Sanitation for Dignity

During the year, CDA supported 11 schools with WASH upgrades and safety audits, enabling 1,900 children to access cleaner and gender-appropriate toilets. 19 schools improved lighting, privacy, and security features, while 1,200 students were trained in water safety and contamination prevention. Additionally, 118 schools adopted low-cost water conservation innovations, and 7 inclusive schools improved disability-friendly toilet access.

Success Story: Odisha

After six years without functional taps, a rural school restored its water system with CDA's facilitation, giving 310 children on-campus drinking water and improving student wellbeing.

Hygiene Education for Peace

CDA trained 2,400 students on hygiene-for-peace, revitalised 26 Hygiene & Peace Clubs, and trained 1,100 boys on respectful, gender-sensitive behaviour. 53 girls became Hygiene Captains, contributing to a 37% reduction in toilet-related bullying.

School–Community Peace Partnerships

A total of 41 School–Community WASH–Peace Partnerships were formed, involving 2,900 community members and 13 Panchayats in joint sanitation drives and safety audits across 31 locations.

Community WASH-Plus Initiatives

CDA's WASH-Plus model extended beyond infrastructure to behaviour change, public health awareness, gender equality, and peacebuilding.

Hygiene Awareness

In 2024–25, 3,600 community members received hygiene and safe water awareness, 121 youth became Hygiene Promoters, and 106 women led sanitation drives across 21 villages, contributing to an 18% decline in diarrheal incidents.

BCC for Social Cohesion

CDA conducted 184 community BCC events, engaged 5,800 adolescents, trained 93 boys on positive sanitation norms, and strengthened WASH practices in 52 Anganwadi centres. 30 villages adopted community-owned sanitation rules.

Conclusion

Through integrated WASH-for-Peace programming, CDA transformed hygiene systems into drivers of dignity, safety, inclusion, and community cohesion—demonstrating that sanitation strengthens not only health, but relationships and social harmony.

TB, HIV & AIDS Awareness & Prevention Programme

Health vulnerabilities—including TB, HIV, and AIDS—continue to disproportionately affect adolescents and youth in rural, tribal, border, and low-income urban communities. Misinformation, stigma, and low access to youth-friendly services often deepen these risks.

In 2024–25, CDA strengthened health awareness, preventive behaviour, and risk communication systems through youth-led action, community engagement, and school partnerships. Young people became health ambassadors, spreading accurate information, countering harmful myths, and promoting early testing and treatment adherence.

Youth Awareness Campaigns

CDA's TB, HIV & AIDS Awareness & Prevention Programme in 2024–25 addressed persistent health vulnerabilities among adolescents and youth in rural, tribal, border, and low-income urban regions. By empowering young people as credible health messengers, CDA strengthened early detection, reduced stigma, and expanded access to life-saving information.

Health Education

CDA provided scientifically accurate, stigma-free health education to broaden adolescent understanding of TB, HIV, AIDS, and safe practices. Through interactive, culturally rooted sessions, 7,800 adolescents and youth received focused prevention education. A cohort of 182 youth educators was trained in health literacy, stigma reduction, and first-response communication.

TB/HIV modules were introduced in 143 schools and community centres, while 968 parents were oriented on adolescent health and treatment support. 61 peer groups conducted TB symptom-screening awareness, and 120 high-risk adolescents received confidential counselling on testing and preventive behaviour.

Success Story: Early TB Detection in Odisha

After learning TB symptoms during a school session, a group of girls identified a symptomatic neighbour. A CDA Youth Health Ambassador and local health worker facilitated testing, leading to early treatment—prompting replication of this youth-led alert system in five nearby villages.

Risk Communication

CDA's risk communication framework tackled misinformation, stigma, and barriers to youth-friendly health services. In 2024–25, 194 youth-led drives reached 6,500 community members through folk songs, street plays, posters, reels, and quizzes. 67 youth learned to create short educational videos and WhatsApp micro-messages. TB risk-mapping and referral pathways were established in 22 villages, resulting in 351 adolescents being referred for testing or counselling. 32 dialogues with men, youth groups, and mothers helped normalise conversation on sensitive health issues.



Success Story: Viral HIV Awareness Reel (Chhattisgarh)

A group of tribal youth produced a humorous 30-second reel debunking HIV myths. It received 1,000+ views, increased community demand for testing information, and led to a village-level meeting attended by 120 people.

Conclusion

CDA's youth-led model proved transformative—enabling early TB detection, promoting safe behaviour, and breaking stigma around HIV/AIDS. By equipping young people with knowledge and communication tools, CDA strengthened community trust and expanded pathways to timely testing, treatment, and informed dialogue.

Workshops, Trainings & Behaviour Change Communication

Throughout 2024–25, CDA delivered a diverse set of workshops, trainings, and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) initiatives grounded in peacebuilding, social cohesion, digital resilience, and community transformation.

These platforms equipped youth, women, teachers, and vulnerable groups with the skills, confidence, and awareness needed to build peaceful, informed, and united communities amid rising misinformation, social fault lines, and protection risks.

Across all districts, participants consistently shared that CDA’s workshops were the first spaces where they felt heard, respected, and empowered to shape their environments.

Peacebuilding Capacity Workshops

CDA’s peacebuilding workshops strengthened young people’s ability to prevent conflict, mediate tensions, engage in ethical documentation, and promote harmony within their schools and neighbourhoods.

2024–25 Achievements

- 920 youth and community members trained in peacebuilding, conflict sensitivity, and non-violent communication.
- 37 Peace Circles activated across schools, slums, tribal pockets, and border areas.
- 211 adolescent girls trained in peace participation and safety leadership.
- 29 villages adopted youth-inclusive peace protocols facilitated by CDA.
- 132 trained youth integrated into local early-warning mechanisms.

Training Modules Included

- Conflict de-escalation
- Rumor verification
- Ethical community documentation
- Mediation skills
- Gender & peace intersection
- SALW risk understanding

Success Story: Youth Prevent Escalation After Festival Tension (Odisha)

During a local festival, misunderstandings between two communities quickly escalated. A CDA-trained peacebuilding group conducted fact-checking, mediated between elders, and issued a joint statement urging calm.

The tension diffused within hours.

A Panchayat member later said:="

“The youth became our bridge. Without them, we might have seen violence.”

Interfaith Dialogue & Harmony Sessions

In 2024–25, CDA strengthened social cohesion by creating safe spaces where youth and elders from diverse religions could exchange experiences, dispel prejudices, and celebrate shared values. A total of 3,100 participants engaged in interfaith sessions across 52 schools and 18 community halls. Mixed-faith youth teams—87 in total—led trust-building activities, while 13 community festivals were celebrated jointly. Notably, 76% of participants reported greater comfort interacting with other religious groups. Dialogue formats ranged from story-sharing and cultural exchanges to peace pledges and joint service activities.

Success Story: In Bihar’s border district, a Hindu and a Muslim adolescent girl co-led a powerful interfaith circle. Their facilitation encouraged peers to share experiences of exclusion and hope, prompting a teacher to remark, “These girls taught us what unity looks like.”

Digital Literacy & Misinformation Prevention

Amid rising online hate and misinformation, CDA trained 480 youth as digital defenders skilled in fact-checking, online safety, and misinformation detection. Additionally, 43 youth learned to create counter-narratives and factual digital content, and 7 schools adopted CDA’s Digital Responsibility curriculum. Youth identified and debunked 80+ false rumours circulating in community WhatsApp groups, while 120 parents were trained in safe digital behaviour.

Success Story: In UP, a CDA-trained Digital Sentinel stopped a communal rumour from escalating by verifying a manipulated video and publicly sharing accurate information—preventing potential conflict.

Community Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Activities

CDA’s creative BCC efforts blended folk arts, theatre, murals, and digital content to shift community norms on peace, WASH, gender equality, and climate resilience. In 2024–25, 184 BCC events reached 6,700+ villagers, while 212 youth and women were trained as community facilitators. 30 villages adopted collective pledges, and 74 murals promoted unity, safety, and environmental stewardship.

Success Story: In a tribal hamlet in Chhattisgarh, a peace street play performed by youth opened long-suppressed dialogue about conflict. Both factions pledged to revive joint festivals and community drives.

Conclusion

Through interfaith dialogue, digital literacy, and creative BCC platforms, CDA empowered youth to build trust, counter misinformation, and inspire positive social change—strengthening the foundations of peace and community resilience.

Youth Skills Development & Capacity Building

Youth Skills Development & Capacity Building (2024–25)

In 2024–25, CDA strengthened youth leadership across conflict-prone, tribal, border, and rural regions by equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and tools needed to negotiate conflict, communicate across divides, secure livelihoods, and promote social cohesion. Youth emerged as mediators, communicators, peace facilitators, and role models—transforming their communities from within.

Conflict Transformation Skills

CDA trained 1,320 youth in conflict-sensitive approaches, non-violent communication, and ethical decision-making. 61 youth were integrated into community early-warning systems, helping prevent escalation in tense environments. Through youth-led mediation, 35 micro-conflicts—from water disputes to neighbourhood tensions—were peacefully resolved, while 74% of participants reported increased confidence in mediating disputes. CDA also trained 213 adolescent girls in safety leadership and conflict sensitivity.

Success Story: In Jharkhand, CDA-trained youth resolved a dispute over a handpump by conducting a conflict scan, facilitating a joint dialogue, and proposing a shared water schedule—restoring peace within hours.

Dialogue, Negotiation & Communication Skills

A total of 350 youth learned facilitation, active listening, and negotiation skills, forming 22 mixed-gender teams that led 100+ community dialogues on peace and coexistence. 26 schools adopted youth-led dialogue forums. 83% of trained youth reported improved confidence in public communication.

Success Story: In Odisha, Class 9 girls facilitated a dialogue on bullying that led to a student-created “Respect Charter” and a reduction in reported bullying cases.

Employability & Peace Economy Skills

CDA trained 170 youth in employability, workplace communication, digital skills, and green/peace-oriented entrepreneurship. 112 youth were linked to job opportunities or micro-enterprises, while 6 youth-led enterprises integrated peace messages into their branding. 62% of trained youth reported increased household contribution.

Success Story: A young woman in the UP–Nepal border region launched an eco-friendly cloth bag enterprise with peace slogans, earning ₹8,000–₹10,000 monthly.

Sports for Peace (Football for Peace & Unity)

CDA formed 16 Football for Peace Clubs, engaging 900 youth—including 05 girls-only teams—in mixed-community tournaments. 30 youth became peace coaches, referees, or sports facilitators, and 6 cross-community tournaments were held in fragile areas.

Success Story: In Manipur, mixed-community football teams united young people from previously divided communities, turning rivalry into friendship.

Conclusion

By equipping youth with skills in conflict transformation, communication, livelihood development, and sports-based peacebuilding, CDA fostered a generation capable of resolving conflicts, promoting unity, and strengthening resilience across communities.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Social Research Services

CDA's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Social Research (MESR) systems in 2024–25 ensured that all programmes remained evidence-driven, accountable, and rooted in community realities. Through digital tools, youth-led data systems, and participatory methods, MESR strengthened programme quality, deepened impact, and enabled real-time learning across states.

Monitoring & Evaluation Systems

In 2024–25, CDA consolidated its monitoring processes through a unified, technology-enabled M&E framework. A total of 7 programme verticals were brought under a central MIS system, enabling the tracking of 32,400 beneficiaries via mobile-based tools. CDA trained 73 youth researchers who conducted field monitoring, validation, and data collection. Across Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, UP, and Nepal-border regions, 2,400 household surveys and 16 participatory community scorecards were completed to assess satisfaction levels and identify gaps.

Quarterly Learning Reviews institutionalised in all regions ensured that data directly informed decisions, leading to improved targeting, faster risk detection, and stronger stakeholder accountability. 12 thematic toolkits—covering peacebuilding, GBV prevention, WASH, TB/HIV, and climate resilience—were updated for field teams.

Success Story: In Jharkhand, youth researchers revealed that 42% of households relied on unsafe water. Their findings catalysed community campaigns, Panchayat-led repairs, and reactivation of school WASH committees, resulting in 89% households shifting to safe water sources within four months.

Case Studies & Success Stories

CDA documented 28 case studies capturing change across peacebuilding, GBV, disability inclusion, WASH, and TB/HIV.

Highlight: A 15-year-old girl with disability in Bihar initiated safety mapping that resulted in solar lights, boundary repairs, and community patrols.

Voices from the Field

CDA gathered 1,280 feedback inputs through dialogues, FGDs, and interviews. Youth demanded continued peace clubs; girls sought leadership roles; teachers cited improved respectful behaviour; parents noted reduced illnesses due to WASH improvements.

A youth from Chhattisgarh summed it best:

“Earlier we only complained. Now we analyse, act, and solve together.”

Governance, Partnerships & Finance

The year 2024–25 marked a phase of strengthened governance, expanded partnerships, and responsible financial stewardship for CDA. Transparent systems, participatory leadership, and cross-sector collaboration ensured that every intervention remained ethical, community-driven, and impact-oriented.

CDA Governance & Advisory Council

CDA's governance structure prioritised accountability, diversity, and field-rooted expertise. An 07-member Governing Board and 6-member Advisory Council provided strategic oversight across peacebuilding, WASH, gender, tribal development, finance, and humanitarian action. During the year, 4 board meetings and 12 advisory consultations reviewed programme progress and reinforced risk management.

CDA recorded zero governance non-compliance and introduced Conflict-Sensitive Governance Guidelines for fragile regions. A key milestone was the creation of a Youth Advisory Sub-Council (10 young leaders), ensuring youth perspectives influenced institutional decisions.

Success Story: In Odisha, Youth Advisory members presented evidence on school safety and GBV risks, prompting the District Education Office to instruct 13 additional schools to adopt CDA's WASH and safety protocols.

Key Partnerships & Collaborations

Strategic partnerships amplified CDA's reach: 08 government departments, 7 civil society coalitions, 3 academic institutions, and 4 CSR partners supported programme scale-up. Engagement with schools, Panchayats, youth clubs, and disability networks across 14 districts enabled wide impact.

Key results included:

- 161 schools strengthened with WASH interventions
- 47 youth peace circles activated
- 41 villages supported with tribal climate resilience initiatives
- 27 schools integrated digital literacy and misinformation prevention

Success Story: In Jharkhand, a joint initiative with Panchayats and youth leaders restored 4 schools, repairing toilets, installing drinking water points, repainting classrooms, and fixing boundary walls, later replicated in 7 neighbouring Panchayats.

Financial Statements 2024-25

CDA Expenditure Table

Category	Amount (Rs.)	% of Total Expenditure
Programme Costs	9,870,354	77%
Capacity Building & M&E	262,747	2%
Administration & Operations	2,427,330	19%
Fundraising	513,081	4%
Total	12,827,013	100%

CDA maintained 100% statutory compliance, secured a clean audit report For every ₹1 spent, 77 paise directly supported programme activities.





Acknowledgments

CDA thanks youth leaders, communities, government partners, donors, civil society, teachers, tribal elders, mothers' groups, and frontline workers. A Jharkhand girl leader reflected:

“CDA didn’t come to teach us — they came to walk with us. Because of them, we discovered our strength.”

Abbreviations Used in the Annual Report

A

- **AIDS** – Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
- **AWC** – Anganwadi Centre
- **BCC** – Behaviour Change Communication

C

- **CDA** – Centre for Development Action
- **CSA** – Climate-Smart Agriculture
- **CSR** – Corporate Social Responsibility

D

- **DRR** – Disaster Risk Reduction
- **DALY** – Disability-Adjusted Life Year

E

- **FGD** – Focus Group Discussion

G

- **GBV** – Gender-Based Violence
- **GBV-WASH** – Gender-Based Violence and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

H

- **HIV** – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- **HW** – Health Worker
- **HWC** – Health & Wellness Centre

I

- **ICT** – Information & Communication Technology
- **IDP** – Internally Displaced People
- **IEC** – Information, Education & Communication

M

- **M&E** – Monitoring & Evaluation
- **MESR** – Monitoring, Evaluation & Social Research
- **MHM** – Menstrual Hygiene Management
- **MIS** – Management Information System
- **MFP** – Minor Forest Produce

N

- **NGO** – Non-Governmental Organisation

P

- **PwD** – Persons with Disabilities
- **PMEGP** – Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
- **PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment
- **PDS** – Public Distribution System (contextual implication)

R

- **R&R** – Relief & Rehabilitation

S

- **SALW** – Small Arms and Light Weapons
- **SDG** – Sustainable Development Goals
- **SHC** – School Hygiene Committee
- **TB** – Tuberculosis

U

- **ULB** – Urban Local Body
- **UP** – Uttar Pradesh

W

- **WASH** – Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- **WASH-Plus** – Expanded WASH Programming (WASH + Safety + Peace + Gender)

Youth Structures

- **YPC** – Youth Peace Circle (implied within stories)
- **YPAN** – Youth Peace Ambassador Network

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