

# The Declaration Action Agenda 2018-23

State Level consultation  
Dalit Children's Education & Nutrition

15-16 March 2018 | Patna, Bihar

# Preamble

## **Caritas India & Partners,**

- Recognise the violation of child rights in the form of caste based discrimination and vulnerabilities affecting Dalit /Mahadalit children in and outside schools;
- Recognise the multiple marginalisation with the intersection of caste with gender and religion;
- Believe that children are rights-holders and persons with ability to influence and make decisions;
- Committed to realising child rights as defined in the Constitution of India and United Nations Convention on Rights of Child and other national policy/legal frameworks;

Caritas India and Partners together commit to  
create and enable a safe and dignified  
environment for Dalit children to reach their  
potential.

# Holistic approach

## **Caritas India and Partners will,**

- Work in the area of early childhood care and protection by promoting awareness for behavior change, home based provisioning and strengthening public services like Anganwadi.
- Advocate and work with local stakeholders in enabling discrimination-free education in schools, and effective utilisation of budgets for RTE and Nutrition.
- Promote and strengthen dialogue on Expanding the scope of RTE to higher education for meaningful career options to children
- Promote and strengthen Equity based processes in Mid-Day-Meals; retentions of children, teachers' training (overall quality education)

- Collaborate with CSOs to develop a life cycle approach to children's development through education, food and nutrition security & WaSH.
- Activate/strengthen PRI level committee, Vidhyalaya Shiksha Samiti, Social Justice Committee
- Strengthen representation of Dalit women and men in monitoring of schools/services
- Develop and promote Dalit children and youth collectives /leadership to speak on their issues
- Foreground Equity and Vulnerability focus in the National Nutrition Mission & Policy
- People's Manifesto- aspirations of Mahadalit community
- Mahadalit Sammelan in next 6 months

# Methodology

- Work through empowerment animation and develop a language of Change with people's ownership
- Promote platforms for Dalit communities to speak, participate in public spaces; and federate them into collectives/sangathans
- Adopt and support models like Social Equity Audit of public services to hold them accountable to the community and empower them.
- Build linkages between social audit with Panchayat committee to strengthen MDM and school functioning.
- Engage with duty bearers, policy makers with wider child rights organisations & CSOs on the issue of Dalit children's education and nutrition.
- Support and work for strengthening capacities, adaptability, transparency, progression, roles and responsibilities of concerned officials/Govt bodies.

# Role Models and Child Ambassadors

- Promote good practice model like “Roshni Ki Toli” with boys and girls as Role models for their community
- Strengthen campaigning and awareness among stakeholders on rights and entitlements of children
- Promote and strengthen children and youth volunteering and leadership
- Facilitate dialogue between Children-GO-NGO-Community
- Create platforms for child and community change ambassadors to interface with wider stakeholders and community

# Recommendations

- Training on monitoring of schools in districts through organisations like PRATHAM; connecting with District Resource Units of CARE
- RTF Lok Manch in 8 districts of Bihar
- Sambodhi- ragpickers' community children's education in Danapur and nutrition on mushrooms in Patna, Munger, Lakhimpur (health & economic)
- Dalit Manav Adhikar- ICM sisters- Buxar
- Domestic workers' network in Patna
- Ekta Parishad- homelessness and land issues/titles – can share data on landless families (Gaya)
- PGVS- on education
- NEG Fire- TLM to be taken for CECs
- Livelihood based approach to combat malnutrition
- IZAD-include Pasmada Muslims /Tribals suffering marginalisation based on religion and caste- share the work and knowledge
- IGSSS working on fisheries, goatry etc. in Purnea which can be linked with for livelihood/nutrition- platforms for sharing on livelihood /nutrition options between organisations



**THANK YOU!**