

204

BUTTERFLIES CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Butterflies, with the support of Misereor (Germany) initiated its programs from January 2005, and from March 2005 with the support of Save the Children (UK) initiated its programs in the islands. The main objective of the intervention was '*accomplishing the right of the child to attain the best standard of health and its facilities*' and to '*Empower children for Protecting Rights and for Participation in Development*'. At present CIAI Onlus is supporting the programme '*Towards a protective environment for children in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during post-tsunami reconstruction*'. To begin with, Butterflies started its intervention in the non-tribal areas and later initiated the project activities in the tribal areas of Nicobar district after soliciting the approval of the government. **Butterflies has been working in Car Nicobar since May 2005 till date.** To engage the children and the community, Butterflies acted in swift and appropriate manner and organized educational, recreational and cultural programs. Butterflies started Activity Centres at the request of the Department of Education. Activity centres played a major role among children to resume schooling and getting in to their normal lives.

Existing socio-economic conditions of the island renders some children vulnerable and more at risk to abuse, exploitation and neglect. Every island has its own set of characteristic problems. However during the intervention throughout 2005 to 2008, Butterflies identified many child protection issues to be negatively impacting children's lives for eg. poor quality of education in schools, child marriage, alcohol consumption, substance use, corporal punishment in schools, physical, sexual & emotional abuse in domestic places, are impinging on child rights or their protection, and are thereby in need of getting addressed.

OPERATIONAL AREA OF BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies initiated its '*Child Protection Programme*' in ANI in March 2005 and from Little Andaman it moved on to South Andaman and then Campbell Bay. With time, Butterflies sought permission from the Tribal councils of Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of Islands and following their approval, Butterflies initiated its programmes there as well from May 2005.

Butterflies established Children's development centre (CDC) to promote children's collectives as strategy to over all empowerment and equip them with necessary skills to enhance participation in their development and protection of their own rights. CDC conducts activity based teaching and also provide platform to bring out and enhance the talents of the children in ANI.