

#ItTakesAVillage: VCPC toolkit

Leher has been implementing a [pilot community led child protection](#) intervention in the [District of Madhubani, Bihar](#), since 2014, using participatory processes to test and learn the potential of local leadership of communities in demanding and securing child rights and protection. Leher's vision is a society where caring families, alert communities and a responsive government work together to ensure rights and protection for every child.

In June 2017, Leher developed a "Virtual companion aka a VCPC Tool Kit" in partnership with the State Government of Maharashtra, Maharashtra State Child Protection Society (MSCPS) and UNICEF, to build synergy (linkages and relationships) between communities, young people and the child protection system. This VCPC Tool Kit is a knowledge kit aimed at strengthening community-led child protection mechanisms. It helps bridge the gap left by the dearth of human resources and assumes that communities must take up this work by themselves. The VCPC toolkit handholds grassroots child protection workers and members of VCPC as they begin a journey towards social change. The tool kit aims to provide a foundation for VCPCs to build their mandate and work.

The VCPC toolkit comprises [8 films](#) and 5 IEC materials which speak to VCPC and community members. It also includes a training manual with more than 30 hours of training for trainers who have the opportunity to train, interact, orient VCPC such as the District Child Protection Units (DCPU) staff, community mobilisers from NGOs/government, youth volunteers, and VCPC members themselves.

Leher believe this VCPC toolkit would catalyze and accelerate work towards strengthening community based monitoring and oversight of child rights. The contents travel with ease through social technology networks such as WhatsApp, YouTube. Online training platforms can be utilized in building capacities of those interested in initiating this work in districts.



The first four films help build perspective on childhood and child rights, laws of children, child protection problems in the village, role and responsibilities of VCPC.

[Let's Set up Village Child Protection Committees](#)

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) stipulates the set up of a Child Protection Committee in every village. The film succinctly sums up how to effectively set up a Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC). The 7-minute 40 sec film explains the process of setting up VCPC in a participatory manner--identifying the right members, ensuring it is inclusive and finally the process of formal announcement and introduction of the VCPC in the community. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Let's set up Village Child Protection Committees! is the first episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

[The Role and Work of VCPC](#)

Demonstrating through lively folk music, this film illustrates the role and responsibility of the Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) in creating safe spaces for children within the community. It articulates the need to be alert and watchful in identifying child protection issues within the community, working in close collaboration with the existing child protection system and all stakeholders. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. The role and work of VCPC is the second episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

[Child Protection Problems in Our Village](#)

Having understood how to set up a Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) and its role and responsibilities through our previous films, this film provides a guide on how the VCPC can commence its work on child protection through a simple set of exercises that help community members identify and acknowledge child protection issues prevalent in their village and prioritize which of these issues they need to address. Participative and simple, both the exercises help identify root causes and possible solutions to child protection issues, with ease, giving the newly formed VCPC the confidence to move ahead. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Child protection problems in our village is the third episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

[Let's Understand Child and Childhood](#)

An engaging conversation between members of a community brings to life concepts of childhood and child rights. Members reminisce about their childhood and reflect how it defines a child's later life as an adult. From understanding rights of children and the nuances of childhood, this film focuses on basic definitions of who is a child, as a starting point for taking on their protection. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Let's understand childhood and child rights is the fourth episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

The fifth and the sixth film talk about the functional aspects of setting up a VCPC and conducting effective VCPC meetings.

What's in the Law for Children?

This film, presents the importance of being aware of existing legislations and understands how the law protects children. Using the metaphor of rail tracks that steer trains on their path, the film illustrates how equipped with information on laws communities can get on their journey to keeping children safe. Through some widely prevalent child protection issues the film informs the viewer of legislations -Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, 2015, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006), The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986, as amended in 2016), The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) and CP mechanisms the VCPC can reach out to for support. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. What's in the laws for children? is the fifth episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

Effective Meetings of Village Child Protection Committees

Effective meetings of the Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) are a sign that the committees are functional. The film offers a detailed guide on how to conduct meetings in a structured manner, from following an agenda and process of discussion, assigning responsibility and decision making, reporting actions taken, follow ups and documentation. With a focus on documentation, as a key to track progress, the meeting discussed logistics, attendance and time management too. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Effective Meetings of Village Child Protection Committees is the sixth episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

The seventh and the eighth film are about building skills to create Alert Communities and Coming Together for Justice.

Building Watchful and Alert Communities

The end goal of effective Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) is to build watchful and alert communities that can ensure a safe environment for children. To ensure such a safe environment, the VCPC needs to continually track child protection in communities through open discussions and dialogue, regular visits to village services and other public spaces that children frequent within the community. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people, an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Building watchful and alert communities is the seventh episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

Together for Justice

Having understood how to set up a Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) and its role and responsibilities through our previous films, this film provides a guide on how the VCPC can commence its work on child protection through a simple set of exercises that help community members identify and acknowledge child protection issues prevalent in their village and prioritize which of these issues they need to address. Participative and simple, both the exercises help identify root causes and possible solutions to child protection issues, with ease, giving the newly formed VCPC the confidence to move ahead. Recognizing a significant resource in the inherent inclination of families and communities to nurture their children, and the use of social networking technology to reach people,

an experimental piece of work was undertaken to equip child protection committees at the village (VCPCs) with technical knowledge, information and skills. Child protection problems in our village is the eights episode of an 8 part audio-visual series set in the back drop of rural Maharashtra.

The films demonstrate that no problem is too big to solve if a community is prepared to come together to understand, think and do-it-themselves.

Beyond the 8 films the kit contains IEC Aids and Tools. Details below:

1. IEC material for the public at large in the village.
 - a. Child Protection Systems from Village to District headquarters (Wall Painting)
 - b. Role and responsibility of VCPC MP3 Song
 - c. Child Protection Flip Chart
2. Tools for VCPC to understand and gather information.
 - a. Child Protection issue cards to establish village baseline
 - b. Deeper Dive into child protection issues
3. Manual for training DCPO/NGO staff to support VCPC.



For more information on the VCPC toolkit - <https://leher.org/blog/frequently-asked-questions-about-your-vcpc-tool-kit/>

Leher offers these resources towards any collaborative initiatives with communities. Should you have any questions or feedback, feel free to reach them at contact@leher.org