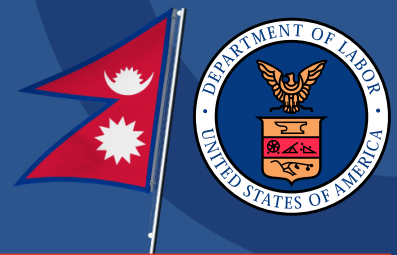


Final Evaluation of the Sakriya Project: Civil Society Action to End Exploitative Child Labor in Nepal

Evaluation Contractor: Sistemas, Familia y Sociedad Ltd. (SFS)



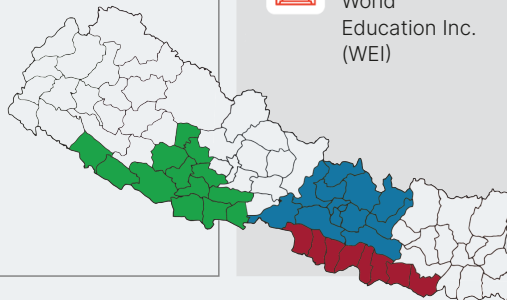
Objective

The objective of the project is to improve the capacity of civil society to better understand and address child labor in the brick, embroidery (zari), and carpet weaving sectors in Nepal.

The project has 3 outcomes: OTC1 - Improved capacity of NGOs to identify and document child labor; OTC2 - Improved capacity of NGO to raise awareness on child labor; OTC3 - Improved capacity of NGOs to implement initiatives to address child labor.

The project works with 15 local Nepali partner non-governmental organizations (NGO) with a strong presence in the targeted sectors. These NGOs are located in 15 districts in 3 provinces of Nepal (provinces 2, 3, and 5). Throughout project life, each NGO worked in 3 municipalities in their district and collaborated with the 3 respective municipal governments.

- **Province 5:** Brick factories, small zari producers (Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Banke)
- **Province 2:** Zari factories (Mahottari, Rautahat, Sarlahi), brick factories
- **Province 3:** Brick factories, carpet weaving, zari (Kathmandu valley)



Period of Performance
October 2018
– July 2022



Funding
\$2,850,000
USD



Implementer
World Education Inc. (WEI)

Partners

- Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN)
- Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN)
- Terre des hommes (Tdh)

Key Findings

Relevance

- The planned design of the Sakriya project aligns closely with the priorities and roles laid out in the Government of Nepal (GON) National Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor (NMPECL).
- The Sakriya project is also aligned with the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security's (MoLESS) program of Declaration of Child Labor-Free Municipalities.

Coherence

- Regular coordination between the project (WEI and the three technical partners), the partner NGOs and the municipalities and their ward offices has been at the center of the project. Joint participation in training and coordinated implementation have strengthened these relationships.
- The partner NGOs have coordinated with their existing network of local community-based organizations (CBOs) and approximately 200 of them have participated in training and have contributed to all three project outcomes.

Effectiveness

The project was effective in attaining most if its expected outcomes:

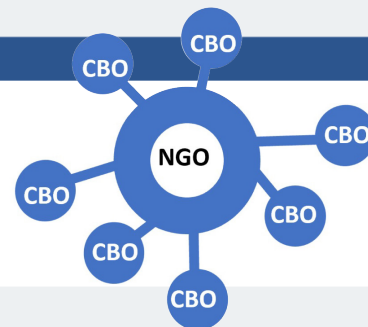
- All 15 of the partner NGOs improved their capacity in at least 3 out of 7 capacity areas related to **identifying and documenting child labor concerns**. Additionally, more than 11,000 child laborers were identified and those most at risk received case management services under Outcome 3.
- All targeted NGO improved their capacity in at least three capacity areas related to **awareness raising for the protection of children from child labor**. 44 awareness campaigns on child labor (188 events) were organized by partner NGOs. All NGOs developed creative briefs, key messages/scripts, outreach materials and chose an appropriate media channel for each campaign based on specific target audience and pretested and implemented the awareness raising programs.
- Regarding Outcome 3, all targeted NGOs made an improvement in at least 3 of 10 capacity areas related to **implementation of initiatives to address child labor**. All 15 NGOs and 45 municipalities developed a **Case Management System** to address child labor through the development and implementation of action plans. All NGOs, in coordination with their respective municipality, provided **emergency services to 1,147 needy children**.
- Support through case management was provided to 1,565 children who were identified through **community-based action research** (CBAR) on child labor and found to be at medium or high risk. They were entered into the case management database and provided with food, sanitation and hygiene items, and school supplies support.



Photo credit: World Education Inc.

Sustainability

The partner NGOs have developed a good level of capacity regarding the identification and documentation of child labor concerns and raising awareness for the protection of children from child labor. The capacity of the NGO partners to carry out case management has been developed to a high level; however, due to the human resource constraints within many of the municipalities, the capacity of the municipalities to manage the case management of vulnerable children is uncertain. The Sakriya project catalyzed the formation of 200+ ward-level child labor committees.



✓ Achievements and Sustainability



Outcome 1 (OTC1)

Improved capacity of NGO to identify and document child labor

Achievement
Sustainability



Outcome 2 (OTC2)

Improved capacity of NGO to raise awareness on child labor



Outcome 3 (OTC3)

Improved capacity of NGO to implement initiatives to address child labor



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic affected the project by diverting the attention and resources of the main partners and other national stakeholders who were forced to address the health crisis, by causing some delays in the implementation of the workplan (a 10-month project extension was approved by USDOL), and by generating an under-expenditure of project funds, given that most face-to-face activities were replaced by virtual trainings.

- Project partners and related NGO provided emergency assistance to households and children who were significantly affected by the consequences of COVID-19. During the period between the 1st and 2nd lockdown, Tdh facilitated the partner NGOs and their CBO networks to carry out data collection to identify those households in greatest need of emergency relief. In total 3,692 households and 799 separate children were assisted through the provision of food, education and medical support related to COVID-19 emergency needs.

Good Practices (GP)

- GP1: Strategic selection of partner NGOs, based on clear criteria.** The selection of partner NGOs provided an opportunity to embed certain project priorities and principles in the structure of the project, which in turn contributed to the project's success.

- GP2: NGOs capacity assessment tool.** An externally facilitated self-assessment of different facets of organizational capacity was a very effective intervention for capacity building.

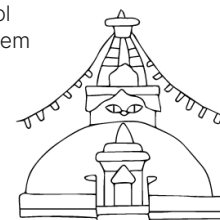
- GP3: The NGOs capacity development process** was a very intensive effort based on a repeated cycle of: Capacity self-assessment – action planning – receiving training – practice with mentoring – capacity re-assessment – action planning, etc.

- GP4:** The project promoted a 'learning-by-doing' approach, not just for the capacity development of the partner NGOs, but also for the project delivery.

- GP5: Using a focal point organization in each municipality.** Providing support to municipalities was managed in each case by a single organization/ NGO, a mechanism which simplified conveying support from all supporting organizations through one focal point.

- GP 6: Localized evidence-based information as an effective basis for engagement with local governments.** The partner NGOs carried out systematic child labor identification within specific wards and municipality areas which provided a basis for advocacy to the municipality and other stakeholders to recognize the situation and to make appropriate plans to address it. As part of the project, local organizations learned how to conduct community-based action research and conducted their own research which they then used to share findings with local governments to inform policy and programs.

- GP7: Working with local community-based organizations (CBOs):** The partner NGOs established networks with local CBOs (e.g., youth groups, women's groups, school management committees etc.), which enabled them to reach into specific communities. Most of the research work was carried out by members of these CBOs; social and behavior change communication (SBCC) was implemented with their assistance; CBOs participated in care and referral activities for child laborers.



Lessons Learned

- **LL1:** Critical assumptions for the theory of change and their level of risk need to be identified in project documents when the theory of change is presented. Identifying these later, when the CMEP is developed, exposes the project to unknown levels of risk.
- **LL2:** The results and sustainability of development projects are often constrained by the limits of the implementation period. If a significant amount of time is lost due to the need for the grantee to make an agreement with the government of the country concerned, then this is likely to have a negative impact on the outcomes.
- **LL3:** Blended approaches to training, where there is a mix of on-line training and face-to-face practical teaching and coaching is a cost-effective approach, although overall effectiveness may be reduced.
- **LL4:** Regular mentoring and coaching are required in order to develop, finalize and endorse new policies and guidelines in institutions, whether it is civil society organizations or local governments.



RECOMMENDATIONS

USDOL

Sakriya Project/
Antenna
Foundation/
Nepal

MoLESS, WEI,
international
cooperation
agencies

1. Ensure that critical assumptions for the theory of change and their level of risk are clearly identified in project proposals and initial project documents. If these are only identified when the CMEP is developed it exposes the project to an unknown level of risk.
2. Where projects are planned in countries where it is expected that there will be a considerable time lapse before approval is granted, then this approval should be obtained prior to the start date of the project.
3. Technical Progress Reports should have an explicit section in the main part of the report where a summary of the outcome achievements is presented. This is in addition to the detailed information contained in the annex on the Performance Monitoring Plan results.
4. The database management information system (DBMIS) for storing SBCC materials developed by the different partner NGOs needs to be made accessible to all the partner NGOs.
5. In future child labor elimination projects that include sectors such as brick kilns and embroidery (where there is a significant number of migrant workers -internal and/or external), a provision needs to be made to promote cooperation between the relevant authorities in both source and destination locations.

✓
USDOL

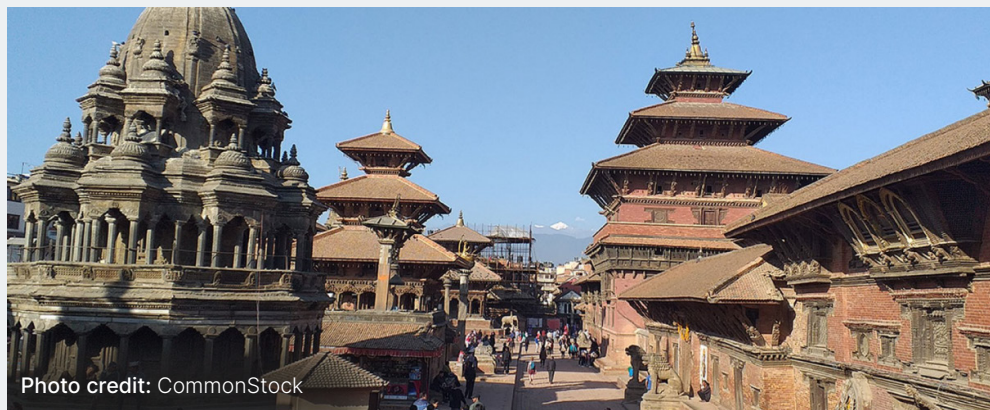
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