

Report on Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms supported by Plan in Nepal



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I. Executive Summary

Plan started its work in Nepal in 1978 to improve lives of Nepali children. Plan Nepal's vision 'is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect peoples' rights and dignities'. Its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) has identified child protection and participation as programme goals. Plan Nepal is engaged in establishing and strengthening community based child protection structures; carrying out situational analysis to map out the protection risks; collaborating with government and civil society organisations to build alliances and networking for enhancing the child protection system; and advocating for policy reform.

Plan Nepal's protection work focuses on four areas; i) protecting the rights of working children; ii) reducing the incidents of trafficking of girls and women and other forms of gender-based violence; iii) ensuring birth registration; and iv) promoting meaningful participation of children. At the community level, Plan Nepal's priority is prevention, accomplished by spreading awareness, establishing and strengthening community based protection groups such as Vigilance/ Surveillance Groups, Para-Legal Committees and Children's Groups and Women's Groups . In addition, Plan is providing educational support to girls and boys who are at risk and providing livelihood support to households and individuals who are at high risk. Other CBCP structures established and supported by Plan Nepal include: i) Child Protection Committee; ii) Freed Kamlari *Bikash* (Development) Mancha; iii) Youth Group/ Clubs; iv) Adolescents Groups (BLOP), and v) Women's Cooperatives.

Among the child protection structures, Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs), Para Legal Committees (PLC), Women's Protection Groups and Vigilance/Surveillance group are following up on individual cases related to child protection. Depending on the nature of the cases and the CBCP structure, cases are either referred to district level federations of agencies and organisations for services or they are referred to the District Child Welfare Board so the authorities can forward the case formally. However, this requires a focal child protection structure in the community with clear linkages. CBCP structures are not capacitated to provide specialized protection services and/or case management processes. CBCP structures do not have the necessary resources (human/technical, financial and material) for case management for systematic follow up of each individual case.

Child Club and Network members can represent their clubs/networks in CBCPM. Child club members advocate to address child protection risks and violation of children's rights in their communities. Moreover, the members of Child Clubs and their Networks are actively interacting with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and District Development Committee (DDC) to secure budgets allocated to address children's issues. Children's representatives do participate in VDC and DDC Councils meetings, as well as engage proactively in the bottom up planning process in the VDC.

Plan Nepal is trying to mainstream its activities with government partners and is strengthening the capacity of community based child protection structures. Plan Nepal is also supporting CBCP structures to be federated and become self-reliant, and to be able to access funds from local government bodies (VDC, Municipality and DDC) to implement programmes that support to children who are at risk / victims of harm.

Plan Nepal's PU staff have responsibility to monitor the progress of CBCPMs. In the M&E process, children, men and women in the communities, representatives of community groups and stakeholders have an active role. The M&E of CBCP structures generally aims to assess; i) the range of activities

carried out by the CBCP structures; ii) number of child protection cases dealt and the process of dealing of the cases; iii) number and types of training capacity development opportunities provided to the members of CBCPMs, and iv) activeness and functional aspects of the CBCPMs (regular meetings, keeping minutes, documentation and reporting of the work done).

In order to sustain its efforts, Plan Nepal should continue to enhance the capacity of Village and Municipal Child Protection Committees by collaborating with the relevant government authorities to improve their networking for child protection, monitoring, case identification, referral and follow up. Moreover, Plan Nepal should proactively work with VDCs and Municipalities to make them responsible in promoting child rights and ensuring child protection in the VDC/Municipality areas. Plan Nepal has gained experiences from its efforts to make child friendly VDCs. This could be mobilized to ensure child protection in the community context.

II. Introduction

Plan is an international Child-Centred Community Development organisation. Plan works in 50 countries around the world. Plan started its work in Nepal in 1978 to improve lives of Nepali children. Plan Nepal is currently one of the largest children's development organizations in Nepal. Plan Nepal's vision 'is of a world in which all children realise their full potential in societies that respect peoples' rights and dignities'.

Plan Nepal started its child protection work in 1986. Plan Nepal started its pilot project to support street based children and also started with an anti-trafficking programme by providing support to Nepali girls and women rescued from Indian brothels. In 1999/2000, Plan Nepal started establishing and functionalizing child protection committees. At present, the Child Protection programmes of Plan Nepal aim to protect all children in Plan target areas, particularly children at risk, from exploitative working conditions, trafficking and gender-based violence, and to promote children's rights to identity and participation. As such, the child protection work of Plan Nepal is guided by the following objectives:

1. To protect working children from exploitation and provide opportunities for formal education or better employment,
2. To prevent the trafficking of women and children and to protect those who are trafficked,
3. To protect women and girls from gender-based violence,
4. To promote children's right to an identity through birth registration,
5. To promote children's and youth's right to meaningful participation in decisions that affects their lives.

Plan Nepal is engaged in establishing and strengthening community based child protection structures; carrying out situational analysis to map out the protection risks; collaborating with government and civil society organisations to build alliances and networking for enhancing child protection system; and advocating for policy reform.

Plan Nepal was among the 5 field study countries selected to inform the comparative analysis of community based child protection mechanisms supported by Plan in the Asia region. This report provides an overview of community based child protection structures supported/promoted by Plan Nepal as a contribution to the regional analysis.

III. Methodology

The field study in Nepal was carried out in June 2012 in three geographical locations: Makawanpur (Mid hilly region), Sunsari/Morang (Eastern Terai) and Banke/Dang (Western Terai). For each of the locations, schedules for field visits were discussed and agreed¹ with Plan focal points and activities/events were organised accordingly.

During the field visits, a series of interactions/discussions were held with different child protection groups, actors and stakeholders at the community and district levels using child/user friendly participatory tools, interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and observation. A total 171 adults (63 male and 108 female) and 176 children (53 boys and 123 girls) aged between 10-19 years, participated in the interactions/FGDs and the consultation workshops². The following paragraphs share the activities accomplished and the processes followed along with the core research tools used.

Meeting/Interview with PUM and Programme Coordinators: At the beginning of the field work in each location, a meeting/interviews with Programme Unit Manager (PUM) was conducted (in case of Morang PU and Sunsari PU, a joint interview was done with the two PUMs) and a separate interview was conducted with the Programme Coordinator, Gender and Child Rights (total 3 staff members). These meetings/interviews provided the consultant with a better understanding of the context of child protection work being carried out under the PUs. These interviews also offered some critical information to be considered while interacting with particular group and/or CBCP structures.

Consultation workshop: one day consultation workshops were organized in Makawanpur (on 5th June) and Morang/Sunsari (on 22nd June) involving representatives of CBCP structures, representatives of Child Clubs, concerned staff of partner organizations and Plan Nepal. As such, 2-4 representatives from - i) Adolescents groups (BLOP), ii) Women's/Mother's Groups (Mahila Adhikar Sanjal and Aawaj Nepal in Morang/Sunsari), iii) Nigarani Samuha (in Makawanpur), iv) VCPC, v) District level network of Child Clubs (including representatives of working children's club in Morang/Sunsari), vi) Child Helpline 1098, and vii) 3-4 Key partner organizations of Plan Nepal working under Gender and Child Rights/protection theme attended the workshop. In both the workshops, at least 2 Development Coordinators (DCs) and 2-3 Thematic Coordinators (GCRPC, Education, Health, Livelihood, and WASH) were present.

Interaction with district level authorities: Interviews were conducted with Child Rights Officers of District Child Welfare Boards (DCWB) in Makawanpur, Morang and Banke districts separately. An interview was also done with Women Development Officers in Sunsari in Biratnagar. An observation visit was made to the 'Information Desk' set up in District Administration Office (DAO), Makawanpur and discussion was held with the concerned staff. Interviews took place with the Secretary of Tettaria VDC in Morang, and Chief of Social Development Section of Biratnagar Municipality in their offices.

Interactions/FGD with child protection structures in the communities (and in the districts): The following are the groups/structures that the researcher interacted with:

- i) Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC)- one group in Makawanpur, one group in Morang/Sunsari and a group in Dang district
- ii) Para-legal Committee (PLC)- one group with community level and district level network of PLC in Banke district
- iii) Staff members of Child Helpline 1098 in Makawanpur and in Morang/Sunsari,

¹ Reference is made to Annex 3 for further detail activities of the field visits.

² Reference is made to Annex I for the detail list of participants of the study.

- iv) Women's/Mother's Group and Women's Protection Group—one community level group in Makawanpur and district level network of women's protection group in Morang and Sunsari,
- v) Vigilance/Surveillance groups—Nigarani Samuha in Handikhola VDC in Makawanpur, *Mahila Sramik Uddhar Samuha* (Working Women Rescue Group) in Sunsari and one interaction with the councillors in the surveillance booth in Nepal-India border in Banke,
- vi) Members of Better Life Options Group (BLOP)—one group in Ambhyangang VDC of Makawanpur and one BLOP group in Inaruwa of Sunsari, and
- vii) Members of Youth Clubs in Makawanpur; members of Freed Kamalari Development Forum in Lamahi, Dang district,

Interaction/FGD with Child Clubs: In Makawanpur, representatives of child clubs were gathered in Hetauda to discuss child protection policy and this opportunity was utilized to interact with 35 members of child clubs from 26 VDCs. Moreover, the consultant met with a child club formed in Handikhola VDC of Makawanpur. Also a child club in Sunsari was interviewed and a separate interaction meeting was organised with the members of working children's child clubs in Biratnagar. A brief discussion was held with the rehabilitated freed Kamalari in their Hostel in Narchi in Dang district. Participatory tools were used with members of child clubs to explore their perspectives regarding child protection issues and concerns.

Visit to Child Friendly VDC in Tettaria in Morang and comprehensive discussion with the VDC Secretary: An **observation visit was made** to observe Child Friendly VDC in Tettaria of Morang district and a discussion was held with the Secretary of the VDC about the plan, processes as well as the indicators set to declare a VDC as child friendly VDC.

Interview with staff of partner CBOs/NGOs: Interviews with staff of partner CBOs/NGOs were done in each field visit locations. A separate meeting/interaction took place with the members of —i) district chapter of Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP), and ii) anti-trafficking network of organizations in Makawanpur district.

Interaction/discussion with teachers and members of SMC: Interaction/discussion with head teachers and members of School Management Committee (SMC) of 6-7 schools in Tettaria VDC in Morang district took place.

The following participatory research tools were used in the interactions/consultations:

- visual mapping of protection issues affecting girls and boys in their commune (from girls, boys, women and men's perspectives);
- Venn mapping of community based child protection mechanisms and their links to other structures enabling referral and support (from girls and boys, village collaborators and local government officials/ Child Protection board members perspectives);
- 'H' assessments of the strengths/ achievements, weaknesses/ challenges faced in their CBCPMs and their recommendations to strengthen the CBCPMs.
- Stories of Most Significant Change to share case stories that illustrate the achievements of their CBCPMs

The participatory tools were effective in enabling girls, boys and adolescents to reflect, analyse and share their views, experiences, insights and lessons learned on the community based child protection systems. The one day consultative workshops supported child protection structures coming together to analyse (with H analysis) the achievements, weaknesses and to come up with recommendations for improvement in the future. Also, participants reflected on the work that CBCPMs are engaged in since their formation.

Ethical guidelines have been applied throughout the study, particularly in preparing for, undertaking and following up to the field work to ensure safe, ethical and inclusive participation of girls and boys with attention to issues of: informed consent, assessment of risks, and opportunities to report on protection concerns relevant to Plan's child protection policy.

IV. Introduction to the Country Context³

a. Land and Ecological Regions

Nepal is a landlocked country between China to the north and India to the east, west and south. The country is divided into three eco-geographical zones: the Terai (flat land or plains) in the south, the Hills in the middle and the Himalayas in the north.

b. Population

The population of Nepal reached 26,620,809 in the year 2011 which shows an increase of population at the rate of 1.4 percent per annum. The population is extremely diverse: over 103 caste and ethnic groups speak 92 languages and practice nine religions (UNDP 2004).

Population by Religion: As per the census 2001, majority of population are Hindu (80.62%) followed by Buddhist (10.74%), Islam (4.20%), Kirat (3.60%), Christian (0.45%) and others (0.39%) (Nepal in Figures 2011, CBS).

Child population: Of Nepal's population of nearly 29 million, 45% are under 18. The infant mortality Rate (per 1000 live birth) is 46 and under five mortality Rate (per 1000 live birth) is 54 in 2011. Mean age (years) at marriage is 21.9 for male and 19.5 for female (in 2001) (Nepal in Figures 2011, CBS).

c. Economic Situation

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in Asia. 'The preliminary estimate of per capita GDO at current prices stands at NRs 46615 (US\$ 642) for the year 2010/11. The economic growth of the country measured by GDP is 3.47 per cent per year in the year 2010/11. About one fourth of the population (25.16%) lives below poverty line as per the National Living Standards Survey 2010/11 and the Ginni-Coefficient; which indicates inequality in income distribution, is 0.328. According to Nepal Labour Force Survey II, there are only 2.1 per cent unemployed labour in Nepal'. Average Life Expectancy (as per 2006) is 63.6 for male and 64.5 for female. (Nepal in Figures 2011, CBS). The disparity between urban and rural poverty rates—10% and 35% respectively—is striking. Out of 177 countries, Nepal ranks 136th in terms of the UNDP's Human Development Index.

d. Literacy and School Education

According to the National Labour Standard Survey 2010/11, the Literacy rate (in %) is 72.2 for male and 51.4 for female and 60.9 for total. As per the data of 2010, there are 32684 primary schools (having 167216 teachers and 4951956 students), 11939 lower secondary schools (having 46032 teachers and 1699927 students) and 7266 secondary school (having 247083 teachers and 7463793 students).

e. Health Services and Health Status of Children

The health service has expanded very fast in last five years through the public sector, non-government sector and private sector. The Government is running 99 hospitals at national, regional, zonal, district

³ Input from Plan Nepal incorporated in the text.

and sub-district levels. While the private (for profit) and non-governmental (not for profit) sector is running 162 hospitals and of them, at least six are specialized hospitals for women and children. There is at least one modern health care facility (primary health-care centre, health post or sub-health post) in each Village Development Committee (VDC) which is the lowest political unit covering between 3,000–20,000 population in average. Each ward of every VDC has a Mother's Group consisting of at least ten women, of these, one woman is trained as a Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) to support health care of mothers and children. However, there is a challenge particularly in geographically remote areas to fill the positions as well as deploy health professionals (Para 31 of the Initial report of Nepal of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1).

Nepal's under-five and infant mortality rates have decreased from 91 to 54 and 64 to 46 (per 1,000 live births) respectively between 2001 and 2011. The proportion of fully immunized children increased from 66 per cent in 2001 to 85 per cent in 2006. The proportion of children who are malnourished and underweight decreased from 57 per cent in 2001 to 49 per cent in 2006 and 48 per cent in 2001 to 45 per cent in 2006 respectively.

f. Recent Political Development

In 2006, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed ending a 10 year long armed conflict in the country. In 2008, the election of Constituent Assembly (CA) was held to write a new constitution. The CA declared the country a democratic federal republic and ended 240 years of monarchy. The country is in a phase of political transition. However, the CA was dissolved on May 27th, 2012 without promulgating a new constitution and leaving the country in a state of political uncertainty.

g. National Plan and Decentralization

Since 1957, development in Nepal has been governed by a series of five-year (and three-year) national plans, developed by the National Planning Commission (NPC). The current Three Year National Plan (2010-2013) is applied from the centre downward to Nepal's 14 zones and 75 administrative districts, each governed by a District Development Committee (DDC) and sub-divided into 3,900 villages and 58 municipalities, which in turn are governed by Village Development Committees (VDCs) and municipal authorities respectively.

h. Context of Children's Rights in Nepal

i) Ratification of CRC and its Optional Protocols: Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 in 1990 and has also signed the two Optional Protocols—i) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000 in 20 Jan. 2006 and ii) on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict 2000 in 2007. Nepal has adopted national legislation and policies to implement the principles and provisions of the CRC and its Optional Protocols.

ii) The Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007: The Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 (hereafter called 'Interim Constitution') specifically grants children the rights to identity, health and security and protects them from exploitation. For the first time in the constitutional history of Nepal, the Interim Constitution has incorporated children's rights as fundamental rights.

iii) Enactment of Legislation:

The government has enacted the Children's Act 1992, Child Labour (Prohibition) Act 1992, and Juvenile Justice (Procedural) Rules 2006. These all mention safeguarding the rights of children, but in practice, violations of the rights of children are widespread, owing to the weak enforcements of laws and policies.

The Human Trafficking (Control) Act 2007 (2064 BS) has been enacted with the objective of controlling the sale and trafficking of human beings and to protect and rehabilitate the victims and survivors. The Act was adopted by the Interim Legislature-Parliament on 20 July 2007.

The Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009 and its Regulation, 2009, have specific measures to control violence within the family and make such violence punishable, and provide protection to the victims of violence.

'The government has framed Gender Based Violence Elimination (Operation) Rules, 2009, to offer assistance to victims. The government has also framed a "Guideline for Controlling Sexual Harassment against Working Women" to protect female workers employed in 1,200 Cabin and Dance Restaurant and Massage Parlors' (Para 30 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1).

iv) Formulation of National Plan of Actions: The following National Plan of Actions (NPA) concerning children have been adopted and are being implemented:

The NPA for Children⁴ (2004-2014): The NPA for Children has incorporated strategic plans under different thematic areas including the promotion of the rights of children, health, education, protection, and HIV and AIDS. The protection theme covers issues concerning protection of children from abuse, exploitation and violence. The following objectives have been set to address these different forms of abuse:

- To protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, sale and abduction by improving the existing laws, implementation of the legal provisions and raising awareness targeting the concerned groups;
- To eliminate traditional harmful practices that push women and girls into sexual exploitation;
- To ensure security and social protection of children who are rescued from sale and trafficking and from the situation of sexual exploitation by providing relevant services and support for their social rehabilitation; and
- To promote helpline/hotline like 'Save our Soul (SOS)' to provide emergency support to the children in need of protection and security". (Para 14 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1)

The NPA against Trafficking in Children and Women for Sexual and Labour Exploitation: The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) has completed the process of reviewing the NPA against Trafficking in Children and Women for Sexual and Labour Exploitation, in close collaboration with development partners and key stakeholders. The NPA has been formulated to control crimes related to human trafficking through effective implementation of Nepal's obligation to the international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the provisions of the Human Trafficking (Control) Act, 2007 and its Regulation, 2008. The revised NPA, which would be valid for a period of 10 years, has incorporated the following objectives:

- To adopt measures to control human trafficking within and across the country by having a wider definition;
- To strengthen the mechanisms and structures that are responsible for effective prevention of human trafficking;

⁴ The GoN conducted a mid-term review of National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children 2004/05 to 2014/15 in 2010 by inviting an independent team of experts and with technical support of UNICEF Nepal. The review team traced out some concrete results and made some recommendations for the remaining period. The GoN has finalized the process of revising the NPA for Children and has submitted it to the Council of Ministers for its approval.

- To enable the capacity of concerned agencies mandated to control human trafficking and to support the organisations working to combat human trafficking;
- To implement activities for family care, support and social protection targeting the most marginalized and deprived communities;
- To ensure coordination, support and collaboration among the concerned agencies to address human trafficking as per the international and regional commitments expressed by the country;
- To ensure access to justice by eliminating impunity by enforcing the criminal justice system effectively and through applying appropriate legal processes to control human trafficking (Para 17-19 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1)

National Master Plan on Child Labour: The Ministry of Labour and Transport Management (MoLTM), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), reviewed and updated the National Master Plan on Child Labour in 2010 and has set a new target to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and other forms by 2020. The Master Plan has been harmonized with other NPAs, in particular with the NPA for Children, the NPA against Trafficking in Children and Women for Sexual and Labour Exploitation, and the NPA against HIV and AIDS (Para 20 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1).

i. Major Protection Concerns Regarding Children in Nepal

Although the Interim Constitution has outlawed discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, and disability, centuries of practice as well as legislation now repealed has resulted in a social system in which hierarchical relationships prevail and a mentality of inferiority and superiority is entrenched. In the bottom strata fall women, children, *Dalits* (the so-called untouchables of the Hindu caste system), religious and ethnic minorities, and the disabled. These groups are marginalised and socially excluded and are often denied their rights.

The following sub-sections highlight some child protection concerns and groups that are at risk.

Child Labour: 'Of the many harms that Nepali children are exposed to; the most pervasive is child labour. 'The National Labour Force Survey of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) shows that among the total of 4,900,000 children aged between 5–14 years, about 2,000,000 (41 per cent) children are found engaged in work force in one way and other' (Para 79 of the Initial report of Nepal of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1). Approximately 2.6 million children aged between 5 to 16 are child labourers and 127,000 (0.05%) work in the worst forms. Half of all child labourers are domestic workers and nearly two-thirds of these are younger than 14. The greatest propitiations of child labourers are found in the Mid and Far West districts. Working conditions are exploitative: hours are long and pay, low' (p11, Country Strategic Plan, July 2010-June 2015).

'Seven work sectors have been identified as the worst forms of child labour in the context of Nepal in which a total of 127,143 children are involved.

The availability of a foreign labour market also increased the possibility of trafficking due to nexus between trafficking and migration'. This led to a greater shift in types of victims, forms of exploitation and/or trafficking and countries of destination. Consequently, the victims of trafficking are not only children and women, but include men.

Kamalari: 'The phrase, *Kamalari*, is used in Western Nepal for thousands of Tharu girls who work as indentured servants for 14 to 18 hours daily, often receiving nothing but two meals a day in return. The practice has been declared illegal by the government in 2000, but various sources revealed that there were around 13 thousand *Kamalari* girls, out of them around 11 thousand have been either returned their home or rehabilitated and living in hostels. Among the Tharu it is tradition that young girls take part in the *Kamalari* system of bonded labour. As *Kamalari* the young girls have to perform domestic chores and agricultural labour, including washing clothes, cleaning the house, fetching water, taking care of the owner's children, cooking, taking the owner's livestock to a pasture and collecting fodder for it. Physical, verbal, and sexual abuse by the "owners" are common' (p2, Info Sheet published by Plan Nepal).

Child protection issues/concerns in our communities

(Perspectives of 35 members/leaders of 27 Child Clubs and their Networks in Makawanpur)

- Child labour exploitation (hotel workers, domestic workers and children in circus)
- Physical, verbal (name calling and negative words) and sexual abuse of children (at home, in the community and in school)
- Sexual exploitation of children (especially girls from rural areas who are brought to urban cities)
- Torture against children (beating at home, school and workplace)
- Abduction of children (for ransom, for trafficking and for employing them in circus)
- Sexual harassment of girls in the school and in the marketplace
- Caste based discrimination in the community
- Sex based discrimination (discrimination between son and daughter in terms of schooling, work at home and early marriages)
- Drug abuse—the number of children going into drugs is increasing especially in Hetauda and surrounding villages
- Physical punishment against children at school
- Adults (parents and elders in the family and community as well as teachers in the schools) do not listen to children and disrespect of views of children
- Children's participation is not well institutionalized as norms in the community as well as at the district level,
- Many children are denied to access to education and thus, forced to go into child labour and to migrate to urban areas
- There lacks awareness about children and their rights in the community, and among the authorities at local and district levels,
- Incidences of children getting married earlier than that of the legal age is in increasing trend (however, it is not because of parents forcing them to marry earlier but many children are into love affairs and elope on their own choice).

'Tharu communities have very few resources and depend largely on manual wage labour to earn a living. They have to compete in the agriculture labour market for low wages and acquiring basic necessities such as food, housing, clothing and education is an all consuming task for such families. The problem is further complicated by the low levels of literacy, a weak economic status, and the limited access to basic government services. This forces them to send their children to work instead of to school' (p2, Info Sheet published by Plan Nepal).

Human trafficking: Trafficking of adolescents girls and children mostly to India and Gulf countries, often for sexual exploitation, circus and unskilled hazardous works, are a pressing problem. 'ILO estimates that victims number 12,000 a year. Almost two-thirds are either *Dalits* (22%) or marginalized hill ethnic groups (43%) and half the districts in the country are source. Economic deprivation is the main reason

for these exploitative situations, although family disharmony, lack of awareness, demand for cheap labour and peer pressure are other factors, as is government inaction' (p11, Country Strategic Plan, July 2010-June 2015).

There are instances of cross-border trafficking of children (boys and girls) from Nepal for the purpose of using them as bonded labourers, using them in circus, begging and for the sale of organs. The situation and exact number of children trafficked for such purposes are difficult to identify. According to an international NGO, it is estimated that about 500 children under the age of 14 are trafficked to Indian cities for the purpose of using them in circus. Of the number, 233 children were rescued and brought back to the country and reunited to their families by the same organization. Among the rescued children, 217 are girls and 16 boys. (Para 71 of the Initial report of Nepal of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1).

Gender-based violence: Gender-based violence is rooted in Nepal's patriarchal system and is an increasing trend. 'About 1,000 cases are reported annually and one-fifth of girls are married by the age of 16 though the average age at marriage has increased (19 and 21 years). In Western Nepal, segregation of women (and adolescent girls) when they menstruate or give birth and caste-based prostitution among the Badi are common' (p11, Country Strategic Plan, July 2010-June 2015).

Sexual exploitation: Sexual exploitation in the entertainment industry is on the rise. A total of 160 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children were reported in 2009. A total of 172 children (167 girls and 5 boys) were reportedly victimized. Out of 160 cases, only 87 cases were filed in court (Para 6 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1) .

According to an ILO study, about 5,000 girls aged less than 16 years are involved in commercial sex work³¹ in Nepal. Studies show that many children and adults engaged in sex work are those who migrated from rural to urban areas in search of employment opportunities (Para 76 of the Initial report of Nepal of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1).

A study conducted by MoWCSW in 2006 (2063 BS), estimated that 40,000 female workers aged between 12–30 years are employed in 1,200 Cabin and Dance Restaurant and Massage Parlors in Kathmandu valley. The study reveals that these female workers are vulnerable to trafficking. In response, the government has already initiated a process of drafting a regulation particularly to protect female workers from sexual and other forms of exploitation and abuse. The Government has formed a monitoring team for regular monitoring. (Para 77 of the Initial report of Nepal of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/1).

Disability: 'Disability is a pressing concern. An estimated 4.4 per cent of the population is with disability and most of them live in rural areas and one third are children. About half of all disabilities are caused by disease or accidents. Rates of disability are particularly high among the most marginalized children because of the lack of nearby health services, reliance on traditional healers and poverty. Because of stigma and ignorance, children with disabilities are often left in squalid conditions and deprived of health care' (Country Strategic Plan, July 2010-June 2015).

j. Conclusion

Certain vulnerable groups of children, including girls, *Dalits*, *janajatis*, the disabled, and the poor⁵ fare much worse than the national averages on human development indicators, which themselves are

⁵ Dalits are the so-called untouchables at the bottom of the Hindu caste hierarchy. They constitute 12% of the total population. *Janajati* are the several dozen indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. They constitute 37% of the population (UNDP

shockingly low. The rural-urban gap is also considerable, as are regional disparities⁶. In terms of health, maternal mortality rates are very high and child mortality, while declining, has seen little improvement among newborns⁷. HIV & AIDS has surfaced as a problem among rural women married to migrants and their offspring⁸. Sanitation covers less than half the population and the drinking water supply is both insufficient and of poor quality⁹. Literacy is low and the dropout rates, especially between primary and lower secondary and higher secondary levels are high¹⁰. Poverty and gender discrimination deny many children access to education. The quality of education also serves as a disincentive. Schools are not child-friendly enough: classrooms are overcrowded, schools lack trained teachers, corporal punishment is widespread, and there is little community involvement in school governance. Opportunities to generate sufficient household income are few.

V. Overview of Plan's Strategic Child Protection Works and the Scope of CBCPM work ¹¹

a. The Current Country Strategic Plan (CSP)

The current strategy is the Third Country Strategic Plan (CSP) of Plan Nepal for the period of five years (July 2010-June 2015).

The CSP has set five programme goals—1) improving health, particularly that of mothers and newborn and the disabled, and addressing HIV and AIDS, and sanitation 2) increasing access to and improving the quality of basic education (up to grade 8), 3) increasing household income, 4) promoting child protection and participation, and 5) introducing child-centred disaster risk management. All these programmes are interconnected and designed to protect and promote children's rights.

Under the programme goal on **education**, Plan Nepal is working to improve access and retention by providing scholarship and transition of "out-of-school" children into the formal education system. Plan Nepal is concentrating on children at risk, such as *Kamalari*, *Dalits* and children with disabilities, who are often not reached by the government. To improve educational quality, Plan Nepal is working to support teacher's training in child-friendly and non-violent teaching methods and is helping to mainstream Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres in the government system.

Under the programme goal on **household income**, Plan Nepal is continuing its efforts in establishing and strengthening women's saving and credit groups and providing them with microfinance to start up enterprises. To address high rate of youth unemployment, Plan Nepal is introducing youth cooperative schemes.

2009). Of the total population, 31% live under one dollar a day (Nepal Living Standard Survey, 2004) and the total population of disabled is estimated at 4.4% (New ERA/UNICEF, A Situation Analysis of Disability in Nepal, 2001)

⁶ For example, rural poverty is 35%; urban, just 10% (Central Bureau of Statistics 2005); and people who live in the Karnali Zone in the Mid- and Far-West mountains lag far behind.

⁷ MMR is 281/100,000; <5MR, 55/1000 and newborn MR 33/1000. (Health Information Bulletin 2001 and Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2006)

⁸ HIV incidence among wives of migrant workers is now 3% (UNGASS Country Progress Report 2007) and they constitute 20% of the total infected population. Approximately, 450-810 newborns are infected each year (National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, 2009). Some studies claim that infection rates among male migrants are as high as 40%.

⁹ 60% still defecate in the open (South Asian Conference in Sanitation III Country Paper, 2006) and 22% still do not have access to clean drinking water (Dept of Water Supply and Sewerage 2007).

¹⁰ 54% literacy and net school enrolment at the lower secondary level is 57% and at the secondary level 37% (Dept of Education 2009)

¹¹ Input from Plan Nepal incorporated in the text.

Under the programme goal on **child protection and participation**, Plan Nepal is working to ensure the rights of working children, where necessary, and rescue and provide educational opportunities, rehabilitation and reintegration to children at risk. One of its programme areas concerns gender based violence, which includes trafficking, child marriage and sexual abuse and exploitation. The scope of community protection groups will be broadened to cover rights violation of children including gender violence as well as trafficking. Moreover, Plan is continuing its efforts to promote children and youth clubs, helping the government to improve its vital birth registration system and ensuring that participation of children is meaningful.

Under the programme goal on **child centred disaster risk management**, Plan Nepal is intending to have child centred disaster risk management. Moreover, Plan Nepal is putting its efforts to incorporate risk reduction as an integral element of its health, education and protection programmes.

b. Plan's Programme Strategies

Plan Nepal has used its right-based child centred community development (CCCD) approach, providing an appropriate balance of—i) targeted services, ii) capacity development, and iii) advocacy. In regards to services, Plan Nepal is concentrating to fill gaps in services, stepping in to support children where the government and other service providers fail. Plan Nepal is focusing on marginalized children, particularly girls, people/children with disabilities (P/CWD), *Dalits* and *Janjatis*. Plan Nepal is organizing children and community men, women and children to better claim their rights and is supporting duty-bearers to be more responsive. Plan Nepal is concentrating on result oriented and strategic advocacy efforts for amending laws, policies and practices by working closely with the government agencies. Moreover, Plan is actively engaged in promoting gender equality, the inclusion of excluded groups, and the meaningful participation of children and young people.

Plan Nepal's Programme Strategies are-

- Including the most marginalised and socially excluded children and community men, women and children in decision making;
- Immersing itself in the world of children and their communities;
- Increasing the capacities of both right holders and duty bearers;
- Promoting advocacy at the national, district and local levels; and
- Integrating initiatives.

*

c. Six Key Principles of Plan Nepal's Working Approach

Plan Nepal's working approach incorporates the following six key principles:

1. Plan Nepal's programmes focus on children, because they are disproportionately affected by poverty, abuse and exploitation;
2. Plan Nepal's programmes are guided by international human rights principles and regional conventions;
3. Plan Nepal works for and on behalf of children in order to enable them to claim their rights. Plan Nepal also support those with a duty towards children to deliver on those obligations, and hold the duty-bearer to account;
4. Plan Nepal's programmes promote an environment of social inclusion, and protect children from discrimination, particularly children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, and those from isolated communities;
5. Plan Nepal's programmes promote gender equality. Gender based discrimination within society undermines individual's power to create change; and
6. Plan Nepal's programmes maximize the free and meaningful participation of children in the decision that affect their lives, bearing in mind their evolving capacity to understand and contribute.

d. Plan Nepal's Target Districts

Currently, Plan Nepal is working in 13 districts (out of 75) namely Morang, Sunsari, Sindhuli, Rautahat, Makawanpur, Pabari*, Myagdi*, Baglung, Dang*, Banke, Bardia, Kailali, and Kanchanpur* (the districts with * mark are specific project districts). These programme districts are being managed under 6 Programme Units (PUs)—i) Sunsari Programme Unit, ii) Morang Programme Unit, iii) Makawanpur Programme Unit, iv) Rautahat Programme Unit, v) Banke Programme Unit, and vi) Sindhuli Programme Unit. Plan Nepal has decided to phased-over Rautahat in 2013. Sindhuli is relatively new for Plan (started in 2011). The following table presents the districts as well as the VDCs and Municipalities covered in each district:

Plan Nepal's Programme Units and working districts and VDCs/Municipalities

District	VDC/Municipality Covered	Remarks
Sunsari Programme Unit		
Sunsari	17 VDCs and 2 Municipalities	Core project
Morang Programme Unit		
Morang	26 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Core project
Rautahat Programme Unit		
Rautahat	27 VDCs	Under core project but Plan Nepal has supported formation of CBCPM in all 43 VDCs
Makawanpur Programme Unit		
Makawanpur	29 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Under core project but Plan Nepal has supported formation of CBCPM in all the VDCs of the district.
Sindhuli Programme Unit		
Sindhuli	19 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Protection groups not formed yet- will be formed soon
Banke Programme Unit		
Dang	10 VDCs	Freed Kamalari Project is being implemented
Banke	28 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Core project and Freed Kamalari Project
Bardia	31 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Freed Kamalari Project is being implemented in all but core project is implemented in 12 VDCs only.
Kailali	42 VDCs and 2 Municipalities	Freed Kamalari Project is being implemented.
Kanchanpur	19 VDCs and 1 Municipality	Freed Kamalari Project is being implemented.

As shown in the table above, currently Plan Nepal covers a total of 229 VDCs and 9 Municipalities through its programme support. In the VDCs and Municipalities, one or more forms of community based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs) have been established--some are project specific in nature and others are regular types of mechanisms. Roughly, the percentage of CBCPMs supported by Plan Nepal in rural and urban communities is 86% and 14% respectively.

Moreover, during the current CSP period, Plan Nepal aims to implement specific grant-assisted programmes in six districts outside the plan Nepal core districts, addressing specific issues such as abolition of the *Kamalari* practices and the inclusion of *Dalits* and the P/CWDs.

e. Plan's Response to / Focus on Child Protection and Working Modalities

The protection intervention of Plan Nepal has

Child Protection programme aims to protect all children in Plan working areas, but particularly children at risk, from exploitative working conditions, trafficking and gender-based violence, and to promote children's rights to identity and participation.

Country programme objectives

1. To protect working children from exploitation and provide opportunities for formal education or better employment,
2. To prevent the trafficking of women and children and to protect those who are trafficked,
3. To protect women and girls from gender-based violence,
4. To promote children's right to an identity through birth registration,
5. To promote children's and youth's right to meaningful participation in decisions that affect their lives. *

been focusing on four areas—i) protecting the rights of working children, ii) reducing the incidents of trafficking of girls and women and other forms of gender-based violence, iii) ensuring birth registration, and iv) promoting meaningful participation of children—using a similar overarching strategy. At the community level, Plan Nepal's priority is prevention, accomplished by spreading awareness, establishing and strengthening community based protection groups such as Surveillance Groups, Para-Legal Committees and Children's Groups and Women's Groups etc.; providing educational support to girls and boys who are at risk and providing livelihood support to households and individuals who are at high risk.

Plan Nepal is working with child labourers in a case-sensitive fashion, reintegrating them into their families and offering them formal education, wherever possible, or improving their working conditions and their chance of better employment. All children whom Plan Nepal intercedes on behalf of, will be encouraged to join child clubs and to take advantages of the opportunities these provide to exercise their rights.

Working Modalities: Plan Nepal is working in partnership with community based self-help groups (Plan Nepal names them as "organic groups") and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As such, Plan Nepal works with partners, who work directly with the Child Protection Groups/Committees. The training and capacity development of child protection groups is mainly done by partners. Plan Nepal works directly with these structures particularly in raising awareness in the community where there is magnitude of child protection issues.

Plan Nepal intends to establish time-bound partnerships with external NGOs as a process of developing capacity of community based organizations. Plan Nepal's partnership with government bodies mainly aims to create a supportive policy environment, replicating successful initiatives, and leveraging funds for scaling up. Moreover, Plan Nepal is working on building the capacity of government child protection agencies, functional at district and community levels as well as institutionalisation of child protection systems (or mechanisms in the communities). Moreover, Plan Nepal works at national level for policy advocacy in partnership with the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee (JJCC) and the National Committee on Anti-Trafficking, formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW).

f. The CBCPMs Supported by Plan Nepal

There are several forms and structures of CBCPs that have been supported by Plan Nepal. Some of them are project specific and thus, address the project specific issues whereas the others are regular and address a wider range of protection concerns in the community. The different forms of CBCP structures established and supported by Plan Nepal are presented in the following chart and are described in the following sub-paragraphs:

Community level child protection mechanism (I)—Promoted/Supported by Plan Nepal



- i. Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees: Village Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees (previously known as Village Child Protection Committee-VCPC), are established under the guidelines adopted by the government with the responsibility of promoting child rights and protecting children against any sorts of harms (This report uses the term 'VCPC'). As per the data from the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), VCPCs have been established in 1,051 VDCs of 46 districts. VCPCs work closely with District Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committees (previously known as District Child Protection Committee-DCPC) and are supervised by the District Child Welfare Board (DCWB). Plan Nepal works with the VCPCs, by collaborating with DCWBs in its target districts, particularly to establish new VCPCs and to strengthen the capacity of VCPCs (as well as the members of the Committee) to improve child protection in target communities. In some districts, Plan Nepal has signed a formal MoU with the DCWB in order to establish VCPCs in all the VDCs of the district and to strengthen their capacity to take on child protection work effectively.

Besides supporting the VCPCs, Plan Nepal has established its own Child Protection Groups/Committees in 6 districts: Bara, Rautahat, Makwanpur, Morang, Sunsari, Banke and Dang (in 10 VDCs) districts. As of June 2012, a total 314 VCPC and CPG/Cs were formed and strengthened and of them, in FY 2012 Plan Nepal formed and capacitated altogether 84 community protection groups. The total number of members in these groups is 10,057; 87 per cent of whom are women¹².

¹² Annual Report of Plan Nepal, 2012. The report says that out of the total 314 protection committees, the capacity of 22 per cent is good, of 33 per cent medium, and of 45 per cent weak.

- ii. Para-Legal Committees: Para-Legal Committees (PLCs) have been established and functional in many communities (as per the data of 2009, over 979 PLCs were functional) of 59 districts (efforts are currently underway to expand them to the remaining 16 districts as well). There are two levels of structures—community level PLC and district level network (also known as District PLC Resource Group and/or District Network of PLCs). The PLCs are engaged in raising awareness on issues concerning women and children's rights; they provide immediate and front line support to victims and facilitate the referral of cases to the relevant authority at the district level. The PLCs receive approximately 10,000 cases per year related to different forms of violence against women and children. Plan Nepal has been working with PLC¹³ in Banke district. There are PLCs at Ward level, VDC and district level.

Both the VCPC as well as PLCs are supporting, among others, to report cases; to assist child victims, women and families to lodge complaints; to assist children in their rehabilitation process; and to claim rights on behalf of victimized children, women and families.

- iii. Child Helpline 1098 and National Centre for Children at Risk-2006: The Government of Nepal has started Child Helpline¹⁴-2006 with a toll free number 1098 in 2007 and has established the 'National Centre for Children at Risk-2006' with a toll-free number 104 for protection of children at-risk. A centre has been established in Kathmandu for the management of Child helpline 104 whereas Child Helpline 1098 is run in 14 urban cities across the country including Kathmandu valley. Both of these helplines provide 24 hour hotline telephone services with the aim of receiving timely and prompt information regarding crimes against children. The government has developed operational guidelines to run and manage Child Helpline 1098 and has adapted the policy to allow interested and capable civil society organisations to run Child Helpline 1098 service. Plan Nepal was one of the partners and has supported the CCWB to establish the National Centre for Children at Risk-2006 as well as the Child Helpline 1098. Besides, Plan Nepal also supported CWIN-Nepal to establish Child Helpline 1098 in Morang and Makawanpur districts.
- iv. Vigilance/Surveillance Groups: Vigilance/Surveillance Groups are created by Plan Nepal with the objective to prevent trafficking, to promote safer migration and to protect adolescent girls working in cabin restaurants. Vigilance/Surveillance Groups are functional in Makawanpur, Bara and Rautahat and are engaged in monitoring the situation of migration (in Banke there is interception booth nearby the Nepal's border to India), and in running anti-trafficking campaigns in the communities. In a typical example in Sunsari, a Surveillance Group called Shramik Mahila Uddhar Samuha (Working Women Rescue Group) has been established by the ex-workers of cabin restaurants with the aim of protecting adolescent girls who are employed in the cabin restaurant (particularly in Ithari town).

¹³ Plan Nepal is working with District Level Network of Women's/Mother's Groups (most of the members of the network are the member of PLC) in Sunsari and Morang.

¹⁴ The National Center for Children at-Risk-2006 was established in 2006 and Child Helpline 1098 was started in 2007 as a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), CCWB, Nepal Police and I/NGOs (Save the Children, Plan Nepal and CWIN-Nepal).

- v. Women's/Mother's Group, Women's Cooperatives and their Network: Women's/Mother's Groups have been formed in almost every VDCs (and Ward level as well) across the country. The members of Women's/Mother's Group meet and discuss not only their rights and other issues/ concerns they have, but they also take up agendas of the development of their villages. The members of Women's/Mother's Group collectively try to explore ways to address the problems faced by children, women and men in the community. Women's/Mother's Group used to taken up issues concerning women's protection as well as economic improvement of women in the community. Thus, they are presenting themselves as functional self-help groups in the community and are proactive in responding to problems encountered by women and children. Women's Cooperatives are established and functional with the primary objectives of an improved economic status of women through women's savings and credits.

Plan Nepal has a long history of supporting Women's/Mothers Groups in all its target areas. While working with Women's/Mothers Groups, Plan Nepal has started delivering 'Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) sessions'. Plan Nepal implements BCC sessions through CBOs such as women's groups, community protection groups, and special groups such as parents of former *kamalari* girls at 502 centres. 'Altogether 2,243 women and 2,213 men participated in the sessions, which include pictorial messages about gender equality, women's legal rights, child rights, child marriage, constitutional rights, and other issues'¹⁵.

- vi. Women's Protection Groups (or Committees): Women's Protection Groups have been formed and functional in Morang and Sunsari districts with the primary purpose to address the situation of rights violation of women and children. Women's Protection Groups have committees in VDCs and have a district level network. In Morang, the district level network is called *Mahila Sanjal* (Women's Network) whereas in Sunsari the network is called AAWAJ (the voice). The Women's Protection Groups (WPG) are formed in all the Programme Units (PUs) of Plan Nepal. The WPGs¹⁶ are running BCC programme targeting women in the community to raise awareness on child and women's rights. The BCC sessions run by WPG have brought positive changes in their behaviour towards their children, including allowing children to pursue education, to work less and to marry later.
- vii. Adolescents Groups (also known as Better Life Options Programme-BLOP): 'Adolescents suffer from a number of social problems like widespread early marriage, early and frequent child bearing, unsafe abortion, spread of STI/HIV and AIDS and substance abuse, dowry related violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation. The problem of adolescents, however, varies by gender. Girls lack choices and options more than boys do, due to the persistent gender discrimination in basic needs and entitlements in Nepalese societies. As a result, girls have low self-esteem, little supportive peer relationships, low decision-making power and negotiating skills and little access to resources. In Nepalese society, boys also lack choices and options primarily due to poverty, social exclusion and lack of access to services and resources. The Better Life Option Programme (BLOP) was implemented by Plan Nepal as an integrated approach to address the issues

¹⁵ Annual Report of Plan Nepal 2012

¹⁶ Besides, there are Pregnant Women Groups that are formed only in some working districts of Plan Nepal. This helps to protect child and mother from mortality and morbidity and some disease and disability in some case such as polio etc.

encountered by adolescent, particularly girls. The BLOP aims to expand the choices that determine adolescents' futures and aims to develop the capabilities of the adolescents (girls and boys age between 11-19 years) to make choices.' (p.viii, An Exploratory Research on BLOP Implemented by Plan Nepal, October 2008). These BLOP groups raise awareness in their community, family and among their peers on various life skills education. They are also involved in the enrolment of out of school children and in stopping child labour and child marriage.

Plan Nepal supports adolescents to organize in BLOP groups in all target areas and runs nine-months life skills classes for adolescents. In FY 2012, '426 centres, 399 for girls, 15 for boys and 12 for mixed groups, were in operation and 11,704 adolescents, 94 per cent of whom were girls, attended. Forty-five percent of participants were indigenous nationalities, 14 per cent dalits, and 7 per cent Muslims. Only 2 per cent of all BLOP graduates did not continue their formal education; these 246 most vulnerable adolescent got Plan's support to initiate livelihood activities. The participants organised 119 parental awareness events to promote equal opportunities for girls'¹⁷. The BLOP life-skills session are conducted based on the modules and contents of the manuals published by CEDPA, Choose a Future. Issues and Options for Adolescents Girls and boys are offered separately to girls and boys. "There are 12 modules and 48 sessions for girls and 16 modules and 68 sessions for boys.

- viii. Children's Clubs (and their Networks at VDC and district levels): With Nepal's ratification to the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) 1989 on 14 September 1990, the concept of supporting children organized in child club evolved. The Child Clubs are established by organizing children aged between 8 to 18 years. The very purpose of Child clubs is to promote their and their peers' rights and for children to be proactive in the rights realization process. There are two types of child clubs: school based and community based. The child clubs have their networks at VDC and district level. Many programmes have been implemented through children's initiatives including the promotion of child rights (such as wall newspaper publication, public awareness programmes, competitions, etc.), coordination and cooperation with different stakeholders at local level, personal and environmental hygiene, activities to bring out talents of children, etc. Child Clubs are regarded as one of the organisations operational at local level for the promotion of child rights and child participation. These child clubs are actively involved in protecting child rights and in advocating against violations of child rights such as child marriage, child labour, and sexual abuse of children, school drop-out, corporal punishment etc.

Moreover, Plan Nepal is supporting the establishment of Child Friendly VDCs (16 in numbers), is promoting Learn Without Fear (LWF) in schools and is running Birth Registration campaigns. The five-year plan of Child Friendly VDCs has many indicators related to child protection and aimed at ensuring children's rights to protection.

The Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) has been implementing Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) programmes that incorporate components of child survival, child development, child protection and meaningful participation of children. The CFLG National Strategic Framework and Guidelines have been adopted by the GoN and efforts are underway to declare 'Child Friendly Village Development Committees (VDCs), Municipalities and Districts' by attaining the minimum indicators set. The CFLG initiative aims at handing over responsibilities for promotion of the rights of the child and protection of children to Local Bodies (i.e. VDCs, Municipalities and District Development Committees-DDC) as these bodies are close to the children, their families and communities.

¹⁷ Annual Report of Plan Nepal 2012

The GoN has adopted a policy of earmarking at least 10 per cent out of the 'block grant' (capital grant) for funding projects for children (promotion of children's rights, empowering children and ensuring child protection). It has authorized VDCs to allocate up to 25 per cent of their capital grants for programmes that directly support the fulfillment of children's rights and empower children, women and socially excluded groups and of the criteria set by CFLG National Strategic Framework and Guidelines (Para 34-35 of Written Replies of Nepal, CRC/C/OPSC/NPL/Q/1/Add.1).

g. Main strategy and goal for supporting CBCP mechanisms

The strategies and goals are as follows:

1. To raise awareness and change attitudes at the community level towards the violation of women's and children's rights.
2. To identify women and children who are at risk and take early action to protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation.
3. To provide an accessible mechanism for responding to the individual violations that occur, either by local mediation or through referral to the appropriate authorities and service providers and by providing support and follow-up to the women and children concerned.
4. Vulnerable and survivors are also referred or linked with education and livelihood option/ skill training.

In operational terms, Plan Nepal is supporting CBCPMs to strengthen their capacities to:

- Prevent children and women from abuse, exploitation, and violence,
- Raise awareness in the community on the issues,
- Monitor and document the cases,
- Vigilance and work as watchdog/pressure group,
- Respond to the cases of abuses/violence,
- Report to federation, networks, police, DCWB, local authority as needed,
- Referral to local authority or concerned NGOs for medical treatment, counseling, shelter, legal aid. *

Conclusion:

There are mainly three different ways of creating CBCPMs: i) groups and structures are created by the specific project (i.e. Freed *Kamalari* Development Forum, Child Protection Groups, , ii) child protection groups that have been formed with specific guidelines by the government and/or owned by government and non-government actors (i.e. VCPC, Child Helpline 1098, Para-Legal Committee), and iii) groups and structures created by Plan Nepal (and/or other child focused organizations) for the empowerment of children, adolescents and women (i.e. Child Club and their network, BLOP and Women's/Mother's Groups etc [Paralegal and surveillance groups should come under this category]).

VI. Structural and Functional Aspects of CBCPMs and Children's Groups

6.1 The objectives and activities of CBCPMs and children's groups

The following are the objectives of CBCP structures supported by Plan Nepal:

- Prevent children and women from all sorts of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect
- Raise awareness on the child protection issues and concerns in the community
- Create a vigilance groups in the community to work as watchdog and/or pressure group to be proactive towards child protection issues and concerns
- Take immediate response to cases of abuses, exploitation, violence and neglect and refer the case with concerned agencies for providing support to the victimized children and women as well as penalize the culprit

- Report the incidences of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect to concerned authorities (Police, Local Govt bodies, DCWB) as well as to the federation, networks and alliances at the district level as needed
- Monitor the situation in the community to prevent incidences of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect and document the situation and cases
- Refer the cases of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect to service providing agencies (including local authority) and concerned NGOs for ensuring medical care/treatment, counselling, shelter, legal aid to the victimized child.

6.2 Roles and Functions of different CBCPMs

V/MCPC: The functions, duties and rights of the V/MCPC, as stipulated by the Guideline, are as below:

1. Gather and update data concerning the children in need of special care and protection in the concerned VDC/municipality, and submit it to the DCWB.
2. Prepare lists of the organisations, child clubs/forums/groups, child protection committees, paralegal committees, etc. operating in the village and conduct promotional works on child rights in coordination and cooperation with such agencies.
3. Carry out necessary coordination with different governmental agencies and development partners to support formulation and implementation of community based programmes as per the need of local children; and conduct supervision and monitoring of programmes relating to children.
4. Conduct awareness raising activities for protection and promotion of child rights.
5. Encourage local organizations to work in children's sectors and provide necessary advice, suggestions and guidance for programme implementation.
6. Refer the reports received from concerned agencies about violation of child rights and coordinate to address the issues raised in such reports.
7. Arrange for the provision of emergency assistance to children as required.
8. Advocate for child protection and help DCWB to be effective in child protection.
9. Submit progress report on activities/programmes implemented in the community to VDC/Municipality.

Paralegal Committee: The PLC mainly works in the following areas for protection of women and children:

- i) Prevention:** Raise awareness and share information about legal provisions concerning rights of women and children in the community through discussions and campaigns, etc. to make people aware of abuse, exploitation and violence against women and children.
- ii) Early-Identification:** PLC collects information through its network and the community workers, e.g. health workers, teachers, community facilitators, and so on, about women and children who are in vulnerable situations. Based on that, it adopts protection measures in early stage by mobilizing community structures.
- iii) Follow up of a Case:** PLC participates in resolving disputes of general nature in the community by providing psychosocial counselling, mediation and reconciliation services to women, children and their families. Likewise, it facilitates the provision of services to child and women victims on time to meet their specific needs and it conducts regular follow up. The PLC collects information about specific cases and coordinates with service providers to ensure required services to women and children are made available.
- iv) Monitoring and Reporting:** The PLC records the cases of exploitation, abuse and violence and tracks the processes and progresses made to ensure protection of women and children. It shares the report with the District Resource Center (of PLC) and other district stakeholders.

Child Helpline 1098 and 104: The primary objectives of the 'National Centre for Children at-Risk-2006' are to discourage and minimize criminal activities against children. The centre and Child Helpline

1098 run 24-hour telephone services with the aim of receiving timely and prompt information regarding missing and found children as well as incidences of crime against children to facilitate early intervention to save children. The Centre is actively working on protecting children who are missing, abducted, children found without care and child victims of criminal acts. It supports family reunification of these children with their families. The Centre documents the necessary information and is engaged in raising awareness among children, parents, schools, community and concerned NGOs as a means of preventing and minimizing criminal acts against children.

Vigilance/Surveillance Groups:

The Vigilance group (*Nigarani Samuha*) in Handikhola VDC of Makawanpur was established to run anti-trafficking campaigns in communities to prevent children and adolescents from being trafficked. The Vigilance Group in Banke is running a monitoring booth at the border point nearby Nepal-India border to prevent girls from being trafficked and to ensure safer migration. The three councillors (all women) are providing information regarding safer migration by running one-to-one sessions as well as through the distribution of information sheets and IEC materials to the girls and women who are going to India and abroad. The Surveillance Group called *Shramik Mahila Uddhar Samuha*¹⁸ (Working Women Rescue Group) in Sunsari has been providing counselling, vocational training and self-employment opportunities to girls working in cabin restaurants in Itahari, Sunsari.

A study of missing and migrated children was conducted in three wards of Handikhola VDC of Makawanpur District, with the active participation of the local Surveillance Group. Of the 520 residents who have migrated, 125 (24%) were children and of them 38 were girls. The migrated children were from the age of 10 but most of them were 14-17 years old. Around 10% of the children were migrated for their study. Most (74%) of the children migrated within the country; 18% have gone to India; 3%, even some under the age of 18, to other countries; and it is not known where the remaining 5% are. They work in hotels and tea shops, in people's homes as domestic servants, and carpet factories. Many do menial labour or work in the metal or transport sectors. (Source: Annual Report, 2011)

Women's/Mother's Groups, Women's Cooperatives and their Network: Being a self-help group, Women's/Mother's Groups and their network are proactively taking on child protection issues and are supporting the filing of abuse and exploitation cases with the government judicial system. Plan Nepal is targeting the women members with BCC sessions, which have helped in bringing positive changes in their communication with their children. This has resulted in more children accessing education, and better health, and in children having to work less.

Women's/Mother's Groups can perform (and are performing) the following activities for child protection:

- Conduct awareness raising activities or disseminate information, which could support prevention processes, appropriate response to cases and redress procedures.
- Offer factual information about the incidences in the local community (e.g. what is happening? Why and how did it happen? How to move ahead for improving the situation? etc.)
- Support as mediator for settling disputes in the community.
- Provide emotional support (as a form of informal psychosocial counselling) to the individual and family affected by incidents to enhance their self-esteem.
- Coordinate with and refer to the service providing agencies and take initiative for it by creating a formal/informal network.

(Source: Child Protection, Resource book, published by CCWB and Institute for Child Rights Studies (ICRS), 2010, p??)

BLOP and Child Clubs: Please refer to section 5 and 9 of this report for detailed information about the functions of BLOP and Child Clubs and their Networks.

¹⁸ The group was established by girls and women who used to/were working in cabin restaurant with the aim of protecting adolescent girls employed in the cabin restaurant in Itahari, Sunsari. Plan Nepal supported this group through its AWASHAR project.

Children can perform (and are performing) the following activities for child protection through their Child Clubs:

- Raise awareness and disseminate information through different activities such as street drama, children's songs, rallies, child wall newspapers, etc.
- Conduct discussion and carry out activities for supporting and appropriate empowerment of the children affected by an incidence through the peer group.
- Provide support to children for preparing them to be self-defence or safeguarding against incidences pertaining to child right violations.
- Create an environment for open discussion about the case or conditions of risk and to prepare children for reporting of such incidences to the appropriate structures in the community.
- Act as pressure groups for making concerned individuals or agencies for managing cases appropriately.
- Conduct extensive discussions about child protection concerns by involving the affected children in their groups.
- Express their opinions or ideas about the child protection cases with the service providing agencies available at the local level.

(Source: Child Protection, Resource book, published by CCWB and Institute for Child Rights Studies (ICRS) 2010)

Child Protection related functions of some other structure in the communities:

VDC and Municipality: VDC and Municipalities are local government bodies that are mandated to implement different roles related to child protection. VDCs and Municipalities are given the responsibility to function as local registrar's offices and thus, have a crucial role in the birth registration campaign. VDC and Municipality are given responsibility to identify and recommend children without family and/or parental care for alternative care models. The plan and budget of the government is channelled through VDCs and Municipalities. Thus, invited children, women and men are participating in the planning process as well as in allocating the budget as per Govt. rule to specific target groups. Most importantly, VDCs and Municipalities have a coordination role with other child protection agencies and they also monitor the process and progress made. The Chair of VDCs and Municipalities is designated to be the Chairperson/Convenor of V/MCPC.

The VDC and Municipalities can carry (and are carrying) out the following tasks for promoting child rights:

- Enhance knowledge, skill and attitude of duty bearers and individuals, organisations and agencies, to make them more responsible for the promotion of child rights at local level.
- Collect realistic data about the overall situation of child rights (fulfilment or violation) in its geographical areas to ascertain which children's rights have been violated for what reasons.
- Formulate plan and action plan at local level (the district and centre levels could also be mobilised for that purpose) to address the situation of child rights to bring about positive change in children's lives; and
- Function as a linkage between children, their parents and the structures at communities and district levels.

Similarly, the VDC and Municipalities can perform (and are performing) the following tasks for CP:

- Identify the forms of protection risks to children in its geographical areas and timely address those risk factors.
- Enhance awareness of children and their families and adults and organisations on child protection risks and urge them to actively join hands to address those risks.
- Create institutional mechanism at VDC and Municipality levels and operationalise it to work for child protection.
- Ensure and/or increase access to services and facilities including legal redress for children who are at risks and subjected to abuse, exploitation, discrimination, neglect or carelessness and violence and their families ;
- Support bringing perpetrators within the framework of justice, etc.

(Source: Child Protection, Resource book, published by CCWB and Institute for Child Rights Studies (ICRS) 2010)

School: School (along with SMC, PTA and Child Clubs formed in school) are gradually coming up with their roles in child protection. The government has adapted the concept of school as zones of peace¹⁹ in 2011. Several efforts have been made to promote child centred learning, learn without fear, learning with dignity and to ensure protection of children in school environments. In VDCs where Plan Nepal works, most schools have developed a Code of Conduct for SMCs, Teachers and students to ensure the protection of children in school. Moreover, schools are providing the necessary environment for child clubs and are providing scholarship to needy children including those who are at risk.

Health Post: Health posts provide health education, care and treatment and run immunization and nutrition programmes. They are mandated to provide reproductive health education and services targeting children and adolescents.

Police Office (at community level):

- Takes action to catch the perpetrator through obtaining information about incidences of abuse/exploitation against children (Implement the provisions of law)
- Provides protection to children in contact with the law who have lost their family
Pays special attention to child victims and takes necessary actions to protect juveniles

NGOs and their network and alliances (including partner of Plan Nepal):

- Conduct Situational analysis: assess the risks in the community and plan and implement awareness raising and prevention programmes
- Strengthen Children's Club: i) form and strengthen children's club to enable them to be self-dependent, ii) provide financial and technical support to child-led-activities, iii) empower members of child clubs to raise awareness on child rights in general and child protection in particular
- Build the capacity of CBCPM members: i) provide opportunities to CBCPMs to participate in different capacity building trainings, workshops, and ii) conduct trainings on child rights, child protection, gender based violence, awareness etc
- Assist child victims: i) recommend provision of scholarships to children at risk, children rescued from harmful work situations and child victims so they can continue their education, ii) coordinate with service providing organisations to give legal assistance to children affected by abuse and exploitation,
- Build Networks and alliances: network with likeminded organisations and forums on district/higher level to improve outputs and impact, ii) lobby for policy advocacy related work at national level, and iii) lobby and advocate for budget allocation to child focussed programmes

6.3 Plan Nepal's Support for the establishment and functioning of CBCPMs

Initially Plan Nepal supported CBOs, self-help groups and partner NGOs to raise awareness about child protection issues and concerns in the communities and to mobilise the community to form Child Protection structures. While doing so, a mass gathering is organised in the community by inviting men, women and children. Then, the very purpose of the CBCPMs is clarified and volunteers are invited to be in the structure representing certain groups (teachers, community leaders, child rights activists, women leaders etc.). Then the members participate in capacity building opportunities particularly in line with the expected roles of the structure. As discussed earlier, partner organisations of Plan Nepal conduct these trainings most of the times, Only certain specific trainings are directly facilitated by Plan Nepal. Then, CBCPMs are facilitated to federate at the VDC as well as in the district level. Once the CBCPMs are federated, Plan Nepal emphasises capacity building at the federation level along with the service providers and other stakeholders so that functional collaboration as well as networking are developed.

¹⁹ A guideline have been developed and implemented by the Ministry of Education.

In the past, Plan Nepal used to form CBCPMs based on the specific issue like trafficking or child labour but now the scope of work is gradually expanding to cover overall protection concerns related to children and women in the community. However, Plan Nepal is yet to come up with a clear strategy to work across the thematic areas and/or to create/strengthen structures in a comprehensive manner.

In Plan Nepal's working communities CBCPMs are formed at VDC level by having representatives from all the Wards of a VDC. But, in the case of self-help groups (i.e. Child Club, Women's/Mothers Groups, Women's Cooperatives etc.) support is provided to form groups on Ward levels and to federate at the VDC level (and at the district level).

Generally, the CBCPM members conduct monthly meetings. But if there are issues and agendas to discuss urgently, the structure meets as and when required. Most of the VDC and district level networks of CBCP structures keep minutes of their meetings and prepare report on an annual basis. Plan Nepal is providing logistic support to the VDC level structures such as stationary, basic furniture and in some cases tea and snacks for the meetings. No individual level incentives are given to the members of CBCP structures.

6.4 Roles of individual members of CBCPMs

Ideally all the members in CBCPMs are responsible to take forward the mandated roles and functions of the structure. All the members, adults and children, have a responsibility to keep on eye or monitor the situation of their respective ward/community, inform the structure if there are any cases of protection risks. The members are to support implementing prevention activities; responses to child protection cases and are to participate in the meetings regularly.

However, the chairperson or the coordinator will have overall responsibility to lead the structure; s/he will take a lead in addressing the reported cases; in contacting service providing agencies or organisations to provide support to children at risk and to mobilise the members. Generally, the chair or coordinator represents the structure in the federation or in other meetings.

6.5 Representation and inclusion in membership (women, men, girls, boys, local officials, teachers etc) and CBCP membership selection processes

V/MCPC and DCPC: Originally, the concept of V/MCPC emerged to set up a structure at the community level to protect children during the time of armed conflict. The scope of V/MCPC has changed following the changed political context. V/MCPCs are now mandated to protect children against all sorts of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect. As shown in the box, the V/MCPC is formed under the leadership of a Chairperson of the VDC or Municipality and/or a VDC official designated by the chair. There is representation from community leaders, teachers, women health workers, child club members, women activists, and child rights workers. In the amendment made in the later guidelines, the committee itself is given the authority to select its coordinators and member secretary (however, in practice VDC Secretary (who is also acting as VDC Chair in absence of elected bodies) is chairing the V/MCPC in the VDC.

Village/Municipal Level Child Protection and Promotion Sub-Committee

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Representative of VDC/Municipality | Member |
| 2. Teacher | Member |
| 3. Women Health Worker | Member |
| 4. Women Activist | Member |
| 5. Representative of Child Rights Workers or Civil Society organizations | Member |
| 6. Representative of Ilaka (sub-district) Network of Child Clubs | Member |
| 7. Three Representatives representing as possible the Indigenous, Ethnic, Minority, Dalit and Backward Classes and communities | Member |

The Coordinator and Member-Secretary of the Sub-Committee shall be elected from amongst its members.

*

Similarly, the DCPCs formed under the DCWB include the following as members: Women Development Officers -WDO (who is also designated as the Child Welfare Officer-CWO), representatives of District Education Office (DEO), District Health Office (DHO), District Development Committee (DDC), Human/Child Rights Activists, District Chapter of Federation of Journalists, District Bar Association, Nepal Red Cross Society etc.. In the district with Child Rights Officers in the DCWB, s/he is working as member secretary of the DCPC.

Paralegal Committee²⁰: The PLC works to safeguard the rights of women and children and to protect them. The PLC formed at the village level consists of 13 to 15 members representing all the wards. The PLC, in most places, have women members only (there are very few committees with male members). Structurally, the committee has a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer and the rest members. The members of the PLC comprise leaders of the society, such as teachers, health workers, social workers, elected women representatives of VDC, etc. Women of marginalised classes, indigenous ethnicities and *dalit* communities are also included with priority.

The formation of PLC goes through three stages. In the first stage, a District Resource Group (DRG) is formed consisting of 12 to 15 legal professionals and social workers advocating actively for the protection of women and children in the district. The selection of members of the DRG is carried out in consultation with local government agencies, e.g. District Administration Office, WDO, DCWB, etc., and NGOs. In the second stage, an orientation meeting between government officers, community leaders, social workers, and women and men representing all the wards is conducted usually during three days. WDO and members of the DRG facilitate the orientation on problems and cases concerning women and children. Then, a PLC is formed by the end of the orientation meeting.

Membership selection/election process: Each structure has their own process of selecting members and/or renewal of membership. Generally, there are certain criteria provided by the guideline or rules of procedures for selecting the members of CBCPMs. Respecting the procedure, members are selected or elected under each category of members by organizing a mass meeting in the community a workshop but in the case of ex-officio the concerned office is asked to nominate their representative to the committee. Duration of membership varies between the structures and once the tenure is completed the reform process is initiated.

The Household Questionnaire was jointly developed by Plan Nepal and *Mahila Sakshamata Manch* with the objectives of analysing the trend of children going out of the community for various reasons. The eight pages long questionnaire is divided into four broad sections—i) the introductory page seeks general information provides information about coding, date of interview and consent etc., ii) section two seeks information about the household such as total number of family members, their names, ages, gender, educational status, occupation and explore whether any of the family members have gone out of their family for work or study or any other reasons (it has twenty-five questions to trace out the detail information on missing person/children), iii) the third section intend to record general information of respondent, families and others, and iv) the last section explore whether there are children who came from other places to live with the family. The questionnaire is developed in such a way that the information can be easily tracked through the code number (given in each section) and can be analysed easily.

Active men, women and children are considered while selecting or nominating members of the CBCP structure. The same rule applies in selecting or nominating representatives of Teachers, Social Workers,

²⁰ UNICEF Nepal had launched training for PLC in 14 districts for the first time in 1999 in partnership with Legal Research and Resource Center. Since then, UNICEF Nepal had been forming and building capacities of PLCs as a part of its programs against trafficking. Later on, UNICEF Nepal, expanding the work of the PLC, included the goal of addressing all forms of crime against women and children including violence, exploitation and abuse. From 2002, it has been promoting PLC as a supporting mechanism for child protection at the VDC level.

Child Club leaders, Mothers'/ Women's Group, and Female Mother and Child Health Volunteer (FCHVs).

6.6 Functions (and activities) of CBCPMs

The activities are discussed under the following sub-headings:

- ✚ **Understanding child protection risks:** CBCPMs as well as child clubs supported by Plan Nepal have taken part in situational analysis and in monitoring the situation of child rights violations in the community. Plan Nepal has encouraged members of the CBCPMs to conduct situational analysis as a process of understanding risk situations in the community. In Handikhola VDC in Makawanpur district, for example, the local CBO and CBCPMs have conducted a household survey to find out the number of children who have left their homes for work. The survey was conducted in two Wards of the VDC in 2011 and four Wards in 2012 by filling out the format in each and every household (please refer to the box for information about the format).
- ✚ **Awareness Raising:** Awareness raising is one of the major activities of CBCPMs. They are targeting

सोचिक सूचित भण्डारी

परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

घ.नं.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
सं.नं.	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)	परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

1. परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

2. परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

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9. परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

10. परिवारिक विवरण (Household Roster)

children, adults and institutions to communicate child protection related messages. The CBCPM members are using street theatre, door-to-door visits, campaigns and media mobilisation²¹ as a means of raising awareness among the targeted groups in the community. A number of campaigns have run in the communities and VDCs where Plan Nepal is implementing its programmes. They include, i) school enrolment campaign (back to school), ii) birth Registration campaign, iii) campaign against child marriage, iv) campaign to ban physical punishment (beating) of children in school and at home, v) advocacy campaign for the promotion of the concept of schools as a zone of Peace (CZOP), and vi) campaign to promote the concept of child friendly local governance (particularly in Makawanpur and Morang districts). In such campaigns, child clubs,

As of June 2012, Plan has established 1,544 child clubs in which over 62,211 children, half of whom are girls, participate. Currently, girls constitute 30 per cent of chairpersons, 64 per cent of treasurers and 32 per cent of secretaries. Of the total membership of 62,211 children, 14 per cent are dalits, 46 per cent are members of indigenous nationalities, and 6 per cent are Muslim. Plan also formed child clubs of working children. A mapping of the capacity of the child clubs revealed 40 per cent were good, 35 per cent medium, and 24 per cent weak.*

(Source: Plan Nepal's Annual Report 2012)

²¹ There are at least few members in each child clubs who are provided training on child journalism and a significant number of child clubs are producing wall-magazine. Some of the graduates of child clubs are running radio programme with local FM Radios.

youth clubs, mother's groups, protection committees, CBOs, schools and VDCs (in some cases) are mobilised. Moreover, efforts are made to empower children and adolescents to protect themselves from sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, and trafficking as well as to prevent them from drug abuse and involvement in drug trafficking. Plan Nepal has been successful in reaching thousands of children and adolescents through its child participation (child clubs) and BLOP programmes. And BCC sessions are given to men, women, adolescents and children.

✚ Coordination with service providers: CBCPMs are coordinating with service providers at the community level, as well as in district to target support to vulnerable children (for example support for school admission, provision of text books, stationary, and school uniform). For example, CBCP groups in Makawanpur, coordinated to provide vocational training and income generating support to adolescent girls who have been returned from a circus (in India). At the same time, saving and income generation support is also given to the families who are in need.

✚ Training and capacity building: CBCPM members are conducting training and capacity building to develop the competences of their own members to enable them to address child protection issues and concerns. They are empowering community women, men and children to understand the child protection issues and to be able to protect themselves. Efforts are made to: i) develop a knowledge base on various issues including HIV and AIDS, protecting children from sexual abuse, exploitation, discrimination and neglect; ii) enhancing skills on leadership and organizational management; iii) enhancing knowledge and skills on conducting situational analysis, documentation and case reporting; iv) providing immediate support to the child survivors of abuse/ exploitation and referrals and coordination for ensuring access to basic services; and v) enhancing knowledge base to take forwards the child protection cases (defining and accepting code of conduct, maintaining confidentiality, and developing network and alliances for prompt services etc.).

The CBCPM members are also conducting training and capacity development to empower children, adolescents and their family by enhancing their knowledge and understanding and enhancing skills to protect themselves from harm. Moreover, parents (and/or family members) are made aware of their responsibilities to ensure basic rights (such as education, health, care and protection etc.) to their children without discriminating them on the basis of sex, ability and so forth.

✚ Rescue and reintegration: There are examples where CBCPM members have rescued children from exploitative situations and reintegrated them to their family and communities. In most of the cases, CBCPMs coordinate with district level agencies and organizations (network and federations) for rescuing children from exploitative conditions.

As of June 2012, a total of 3,028 *kamalari* had been rescued and rehabilitated and 633 (21%) in the FY 2012 alone. Today, with Plan support, 1,837 attend school and 59 are pursuing higher education (two, their Bachelor's). Plan also helped 526 other vulnerable girls get an education. As of this period, 146 *kamalari* child clubs have been formed (17 (12%) in this reporting period with a total of 395 members, 272 (69%) of whom are girls). Forty BPOP centres for *kamalari* were operational this FY and 1,082 girls attended. They enjoyed the sessions, which facilitated their reintegration. The project also organised 2,177 former *kamalari* and their mothers into 65 savings and credit SRGs. A total of 142 former *kamalari* attended computer courses.

In total, 349 out-of-school working children (151 boys and 243 girls) were enrolled in flexible centres. Of them, 130 (50 boys and 80 girls) later joined a school. Scholarships were provided to 501 children (224 boys and 277 girls). Of them, 96 children (48 boys and 48 girls) passed the SLC. Children working in hazardous conditions were provided with alternatives to earn a livelihood. In total, 121 children (58 boys and 63 girls) were provided with vocational training.

Source: Plan Nepal Annual Report 2012

✚ **Media mobilization:** As discussed earlier in the report, all the child clubs supported/facilitated by Plan Nepal have received training in journalism and are producing their own wall magazine. Some of the members of media groups of child clubs (example in Hetauda) are also producing children's programmes in the local FM Radio. Plan Nepal is mobilizing media to raise mass awareness on child protection issues through broadcasting Jingles on Anti Human trafficking and safer migration in collaboration with local radio stations. Moreover, notice boards are placed in public place with messages related to child protection. In addition, posters, pamphlets, and comic books sharing child protection information have been produced and distributed among children and adults.

✚ **Prevention, monitoring, response, rehabilitation and reintegration by the CBCPM:** As discussed above, the functions of CBCPMs are especially focused on prevention (situational analysis, awareness raising and capacity development of structures at different levels). The CBCPMs are providing direct response (or early intervention in the cases or incidences of child abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect). There are examples of collaborative efforts made by agencies, organizations and CBCPMs for providing services and referrals, as well as reintegration of victimized child in the community. Monitoring and follow up of the cases is however limited.. A systematic approach to child protection case management is lacking.

6.7 The process by which child protection concerns are identified and followed up

In rural communities, the committee members are generally aware of child protection related issues and concerns. In most of the communities where Plan Nepal is working there is a system of conducting situational analysis to ascertain child protection concerns. Members of some CBCPMs carry out monitoring visits. The members of child clubs organize door to door visits in order to run specific campaigns to promote child rights. In the community, people are generally aware of the CBCPM, and they do inform the members of such child protection committees if they notice child protection issues/concerns. Children in the committee also report to concerned CBCP structure if they notice some issues and concerns. Beside, the self-help groups established and functional in the community also refer child protection cases to CBCP structures as per the mandate of each structure.

The main protection issues that the CBCPMs are taking in the community are-

1. Violence against children and women
2. Child marriage
3. Gender based discrimination and violence
4. Child labour
5. Children in debt bondage like situation (i.e. *Kamlari*)
6. Sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children and women
7. Child trafficking

Most of the CBCPMs are actively taking part in the campaigns run to promote rights of the children . In the working VDC and Municipalities of Plan Nepal several campaigns are run concerning: i) child marriage, ii) violence (including domestic and gender based violence) against women and children, iii) 'Learn without Fear' (targeting to school and teachers), iv) child labour exploitation v) *Kamlari* practices (among Tharu Communities in Dang, Kailali and Bardia district in particular), and vi) unsafe migration, trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Most of the CBCP structures and community based self-help groups have taken anti-child marriage as an issue, as it is increasing in most of the districts where Plan Nepal is working. In the past, child marriage was rampant as the parents used to force their daughters to get married early due to their religious beliefs. The scenario has now changed and parents increasingly want their daughters to get certain levels of education and to marry later. However, some young people are eloping for their own various reasons (especially as a result of increased internet and mobile communication among young people). The CBCPMs have targeted efforts to raise awareness among children, young people and adults and have been successful in preventing child marriages in the communities.

The Para Legal Committees and Women's/Mother's Groups are taking issues related to gender based violence and reportedly such issues are most easily prevented/reduced. Because of the nature of PLC and Women's/Mother's Groups, they have taken very few child protection cases (roughly 15 per cent of the total cases) as the members have not got adequate training to address child protection issues. However, the KAP programme reportedly was able to rescue thousands of girls from bonded labour and as such was very successful. Rescue and rehabilitation of *Kamalari* girls were done as collaborative efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations, and CBCPMs.

Most of the CBCPMs have found it difficult to prevent or resolve the case in which children or women are abused by family members (e.g. sexually abused by father, violence by husband or in laws). It is particularly difficult for CBCPM members to respond to when such cases have to go to the court. The reasons it is difficult include: i) the case might take many years in the court, ii) there is an issue of protecting the victimized child and providing him/her with all the basic rights for some years which has resource implication, iii) dealing with such cases requires human/technical resources which are not available within communities and CBCPMs, and iv) the system of referral is yet effectively established as a comprehensive child protection system is lacking.

6.8 Overview of strengths, weakness of CBCPMs and recommendations for improvements

The following chart provides a generalized overview concerning the strengths and weakness of CBCPMs, and recommendations to improve CBCPMs in the future²²):

Child Protection Concerns and Vulnerable groups (As identified by participants of the workshop in Hetauda and Morang/Sunsari)

- Family Breakdown, Domestic Violence/Abuse (H)
- Corporal Punishment at the school (H)
- Human Trafficking (also in forms of foreign employment) (H)
- Children living on the streets (H&M/S)
- Child labour/worst form of labour/ children involved hotel/restaurant (H&M/S) but children involved in construction work is very high in M/S
- Sexual abuse and Exploitation
- Child marriage/under age pregnancy
- Gender violence/ Female foeticide
- Caste discrimination
- Neglect
- Abduction
- Children who trafficking of materials illegally (M/S)

Vulnerable Groups

- Children from Musahar Ethnic community, Dalit Community, Haruwa-Charuwa family (M/S)
- Children out of school and Children from illiterate family (H&M/S)
- Children with disability (M/S)
- Children affected by armed conflict (H&M/S)
- Children living nearby Nepal-India boarder areas (M/S)
- Children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS (H)
- Children who are without parental caring (H)*

²² This chart brings together information shared with the consultant by CBCPM stakeholders in Makawanpur, Morang, Sunsari, Banke and Dang districts.

Strengths

- Conduct situational analysis to assess the issues of children and household survey to find out missing children
- Run campaigns: School Enrolment (with scholarship support), Birth Registration (100 percent birth registration in 33 (of 43) VDCs in Makawanpur district), Immunization, for Ensuring Equal rights to son and daughter and against child marriage, exploitation, physical punishment.
- Rescued children who are involved in child labour and Supported them to rehabilitate and for continuing their school (i.e. scholarship, educational materials, encourage children to go school regularly, and IG support to the family).
- Reintegration and rehabilitation of children who lost their family (by Police)
- Organized children in child clubs and other fora to enhance meaningful participation of children
- Supported the adolescent girls rescued/returnee from circus to run entrepreneurship after vocational training
- Formation of child protection committee, developed and implemented child protection policy (CPP) and Code of Conduct (CoC) for CBO, CC, SMC, for teachers and for students and awareness raising in community and district level
- Lobby with VDC for budget allocation for children and collaboration with NGOs and GO for implementing child related programme
- Activities planned for promoting Child Friendly VDC/Municipality concept
- Provided training and capacity building opportunities for adults and children on various themes.

Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms

- Village child Protection Committees
- Child Club/their Networks
- VDC/Municipality
- School, Health Post
- Police
- Community Based Organizations.

Suggestions

- Establish and functionalize child protection committee in all wards of every VDC
- Govt agencies should have focused programme for child protection and implement existing policies, laws and plan of actions.
- Local government bodies should incorporate children's issues in their plans (local political leaders should not interfere to divert budget)
- There should be participation of children at the policy making level
- There should be effective coordination among organization working for child protection.
- Should implement the provision of free education.

Weaknesses

- Child protection committees have not been formed in all the VDCs of the districts
- There is no facilities to provide longer term care support to the children without parental care
- Lack of proper coordination among child focused agencies and organizations (implementing CBCPMs) for mutual sharing and learning
- Lack of trained human resource to take child protection work in the community
- Lack of effective measures to implement the laws related to children (e.g. child marriage),
- Some VDCs have not yet allocated the budget for children as per the rule
- There lack proper support system (i.e. assistive device) to children with disability
- In many schools, code of conduct has been developed, but its implementation is weak.
- CBOs and NGOs have covered limited geographical areas in the districts and are taking limited issues (of CP) only
- Children do not have access to influence at the policy making level
- Lack of system process to collect and compile data of children at risk.

VII. Case Management

7.1 Case Management Approach of CBCPMs

Process of raising child protection concerns: There are many different ways through which child protection concerns are raised in the community. They include:

- If a member of self-help groups, child clubs or CBCPMs comes to know about child protection issues and concerns, he or she raises it to the concerned structure/s (including CBOs and NGOs) in the community.

- ii) The child whose rights have been violated directly shares his/ her concern to members of the child protection structure or raises the issue in the child club. The Child Club members then bring the concern to the concerned child protection structure/s).
- iii) Family members and men, women and children in the committees who identify child protection cases/concerns make contact with the concerned structure/s for taking action/response. The level of assertiveness about child protection concerns are increasing as the result of the efforts for promoting rights of the children in the community.
- iv) In the community where situational analysis (or household survey) is done child protection cases have been found through that process. For example, as household survey was done in Handikhola VDC in Makawanpur, it was found that a significant number of children were gone to urban areas for work.

Child rights situational analysis (CRSA) training was carried out in all PUs and community level plans were made on the basis of the analyses carried out. A total of 49 trainings in the human rights-based approach were carried out for partners and children. (Source: Plan Nepal's Annual Report 2011)

- v) Child protection issues and concerns within the school context are raised by the child or children who are represented in School Management Committee, and/or by the leaders of child clubs established in schools. There is also an increasing practice of putting a complaint box within school premises (or in each class) to enable students to share their concerns. In schools and communities where Plan Nepal has launched the Learn without Fear campaign there is a process of developing a code of conduct for teachers. School Management Committee members and students monitor its progress. This process has contributed in creating a favourable environment for discussing child protection issues and concerns more openly.

Plan Nepal organised 197 orientations on human trafficking and safe migration. Plan has been involved in rescuing 10 girls and 2 boys at the Nepal-India border. In addition, it provided livelihood support to 39 young people, referred 48 persons in difficult circumstances to other places for support, supported the rehabilitation of 331 persons in the community, and reintegrated 12 children with their families. Nine psycho-social counsellors were trained and they counselled 229 persons in need. Crisis support was provided to 82 persons, most of them children. (Source: Plan Nepal's Annual Report, 2011)

- vi) As Child Helpline 1098 is in operation in 14 cities (including Morang, Makawanpur and Banke where Plan Nepal is working) in Nepal. Children and adults are calling to this toll free Child Helpline 1098 to report about child protection cases they are aware of.

Victimized girl was supported to live a new life

Radha (name changed) is 18 years old and is the eldest child in her family. She has got five younger brothers and sisters. Her family was living in Udayapur District. The family was economically poor. Her father was an alcoholic man and her mother was sick. From her younger age, Ruku took the responsibility of looking after her sibling and family on her shoulder.

Radha does not want to remember the night of 14 *Falgun* (Feb-March), 2062, the night her drunken father raped her. That year, Radha was studying in grade VI. After raping his pubescent daughter, her father threatened to kill her if she told anyone about what has happened. Though she didn't tell anyone else weeping uncontrollably, Radha told her mother what had happened. But her mother said, "Don't tell anyone; it'll bring shame to the family." She didn't have the courage to say anything against her husband. She was terrified that society would turn the situation around and lay the blame on her daughter. Because no one said anything, her father became even more daring and over the next year and a half raped her 13 more times. Each time, he threatened her, "If you tell, I will kill you."

Then, Radha got pregnant. But he didn't stop raping her. When the community saw her growing tummy they knew, but they still blamed her saying that it was her fault. When they saw her pitiful state, the staff of a

community based organisation took her to a residential center run by Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal in Biratnagar. She was both physically and mentally weak and was under a great deal of stress when she was brought to the center.

She did not want to have the baby. But, had she aborted at such a late state (of seven months), she would have been in even greater danger. So she had to give birth to the baby, and she did so. And she gave the baby to an organization for raising as she had no means to raise her by herself.

After counselling, she realised that it wasn't her fault that she'd been raped. Now, she is living in the WOREC Nepal's shelter. She continued her education and now she has reached to grade X. She got to participate in vocational skills training. Radha's father is in Jail. Radha has started to visit her mother and her siblings whenever she finds time.

However, despite such efforts, a proper accessible and child friendly system or mechanisms for children and family members to share child protection concerns is still lacking.

Number of cases reported and/or referred (in 2011): The number of cases reported and/referred in 2011 are as follow²³:

- A total of 76 vulnerable women and survivors were provided with shelter and 23 were provided with skill training.
- The project continued to support two information booths along the Nepal-India border and one in a district administration office. The three booths provided information on safe migration to 7446 persons, 22% of whom were children. They referred 104 children and adults for rehabilitation and reintegration. A total of 617 community people and survivors and 1161 children of child clubs received counselling services and sessions.
- This year 117 cases of children in conflict with the law were filed; 64 were handled in child-friendly hearings and 53 are still pending. In partnership with Plan Nepal, A total of 32 child benches and 16 child-friendly interview rooms have been established in district courts and police offices.
- The KAP rescued nearly 656 Kamalari in Kailali (505), Kanchanpur (125) and Dang (26) districts. Of them, 24 were provided with emergency and humanitarian support and six with legal aid and counselling.
- The district level federations were instrumental in rescuing 33 children and women at risk.

A child rescued from hazardous work

A fourteen-years-boy was found working in Hotel Baishali in Hetauda. He had to sleep in the goat-shed and wake up before four o'clock in the morning. If he fails to wake up on time, the owner used to pour cold water on his body and sometimes they poured wax of burnt-candle. The hotel owner used to beat him for any small causes like eating meat, breaking down the glass by mistake and losing of plate in the wash basin; and they used to deduct the losses from his salary.

Child Welfare Society (CWS) is implementing Project on Elimination of Worst form of Child Labor in Hetauda Municipality in partnership with Plan Nepal. The field staff of the project came to know about the case and brought the boy to the centre meant for child labourer run by CWS. His situation was discussed in the district level stakeholders' meeting where representatives from Plan Nepal, CWS, Him Rights, Hetauda Municipality, district Office of labour Affairs, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN), Association of Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Hetauda, District Development Committee-DDC, and Police Office participated. The meeting decided to rescue him from the hotel and re-unite him with his family. A team formed under the leadership of Child Rights Officer (CRO) of District Child Welfare Board (DCWB), met with the hotel owner and discussed the case. The hotel owner threatened the team members but in return, the team members reminded him about the legal provision and the possibility of putting the owner inside the bars on the crime of exploitation of the under aged boy child.

²³ Reference is made to Plan Nepal's Annual Report 2011 for further details.

After a series of discussions, the hotel owner agreed to provide compensation to the boy and pay his full salary for the period he has worked in the hotel. Plan Nepal and CWS reintegrated the boy in his family and provided him psychosocial support as well as offered him scholarship to continue his education. Now, the boy is living with his family and studying in the school in his community.

Five girls were rescued

Five adolescent girls with two men of Rukum district were arrived at a home of locals in the Dalaipur village of Kamdi VDC in Banke district. The locals were suspicious about the girls with the men and without delay they suspected that they are at the risk of being trafficked.

Then, the members of Women's Group whispered among each others about what they have suspected for and planned to organize a *Lok-Dohari* (singing song program) in the evening. They managed to take photographs of the man with digital camera and record the voice as well during the time when they were singing and dancing. And then, after the singing programme was over at mid-night; all the members of Women's Groups went their home and some of the members gathered in one members home secretly. They had been able to record the suspects' plan while they were in singing and dancing mood. The plan was to cross the border the next day taking all the girls one by one. For the same, they would manage to have some bicycle to ride on for crossing the girls across the Nepal-India boarder in the interval of 30 minutes each.

In the early morning, members of the Women Group shared the information with proof to concerned staffs of Social Awareness Centre (SAC) Nepal, a partner NGO of Plan Nepal and requested them to support preventing the girls from being trafficked to India. They printed the photo and provided it to the surveillance booth run by Maiti-Nepal (a national NGO fighting against human trafficking) nearby the border-point. With all these collaboration and the planned efforts, all the suspects were caught red-handed. The rescued girls were re-united to their family.

7.2 Roles and Responsibilities for case Management

The child protection structure functional in the community is the one to make an initial response to any child protection concerns. Such child protection structures include the VCPC, PLC, Women's Protection Groups and Vigilance/Surveillance group. Depending the nature of the cases, the CBCP structure either makes referrals to district level federations of agencies and organizations for services or makes referrals to the District Child Welfare Board for formal response to the case by the local authorities.

In juvenile justice related cases, Police Officers carry out the necessary investigation and their report is forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for filing the case in the court. The partner organizations coordinate with service providers (including of NGOs) to ensure that necessary support is given to the child (and his or her family) in need. Plan Nepal generally provides financial support, particularly micro finance, education programmes, and income generating activities in line with the project activities.

Community based child protection mechanisms are supporting awareness raising and early interventions programmes (such as, vocational training and income generation support; parenting skills; linkages and referral to services; and counselling services). However, the CBCPMs are not capacitated to provide specialized protection services and/or in child protection case management processes. The CBCPMs do not have necessary resources (human/technical, financial and material) for case management for systematic follow up of each individual case.

Case Reporting Format (of Plan Nepal)

Plan Nepal uses a format for incident/case reporting. The format is filled up by PU as and when the incident/case occurred by 'Child Protection Focal Person' at PU and reported to Programme Unit Manager (PUM) and to country office (on case per case basis). And each PU compiled child protection cases and filled the 'Top Level Child Protection and Unannounced Visits Reporting Form' annually to update on the situation of child protection in its internal child protection system.

The format asks to provide more details for each Child Protection Incident where there is involvement of Plan Staff, Associates and Visitors. The Sheet is divided into nine rows that includes data/information such as: a) incident no.; b) type of abuse/ Incident such as sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and/or neglect or others forms of abuse; c) alleged perpetrator's affiliation to Plan staff, and Plan Nepal's Office Volunteer; d) action taken; e) internally reported to (as per the Child Safeguarding Policy); f) case status (what is the status of case at this point); g) outcome; h) brief analysis of the weaknesses that have been identified to occurring and/or leading to this incident; and i) whether the weaknesses identified have been addressed (by the time of reporting).

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VIII. Children's Participation and Involvement in CBCPM

8.1 Children's Representation in CBCPMs

In VCPC (or MCPC): The VCPC guidelines²⁴ development by the government in 2004 (amended in 2065 BS) has mandated to have two representatives (generally one boy and one girl) of child clubs and their Network in the VCPC (or municipal level child protection committee-MCPC) as members. As per the guidelines, children's representation in VCPC structure is mandatory and this rule has been respected in practice as well.

In Para-Legal Committees: There is no provision and/or practice of inviting children to be member in Paralegal Committees²⁵ (PLC) formed at the village level. However, if PLC is dealing a case concerning children (and/or related to children), they do consult with child clubs and their network establish and functional in the village on case-by-case basis.

In Child Helpline 1098: There is no provision of representation of children in the organizational structure of Child Helpline 1098. This service is established by the Government to provide immediate service to the children who are in need. But, children can call to the helpline to inform if they are at risk, or they are aware of other children are at risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect. According to a report²⁶ of CWIN, Child Helpline receives 10 per cent calls from children in an average.

In Vigilance and Surveillance Groups: The Surveillance Group in Banke is providing information and/or counselling service for safer migration and proactively works to preventing adolescents girls being trafficked to India. The Vigilance Group in Makawanpur is raising concerns about children and adolescents girls who are outside their home. The Vigilance Group in Sunsari (called *Sramik Mahila Uddhar Manch*) has put its effort in protecting adolescents girls employed in cabin restaurant from being exploited. They invite adolescent girls working in cabin restaurant to be member in the group and provide them skill training and support them to be self-employed. The Vigilance and Surveillance Groups do not invite children to be member in the mechanisms but they are working closely with child clubs and their network on specific issue/agenda.

²⁴ The Guideline has also defined roles and functions of VCPC (or MCPC) besides formation of this structure.

²⁵ PLC formed at village have 13 to 15 women members (PLCs have only female members with few exceptions) representing all 9 wards in a VDC. Whereas the district level 'Resource Group' (of PLC) have both male and female as members, and invite experts (e.g. Lawyer, doctors, etc.) to be in the team as well.

²⁶ Annual Report of Child Helpline 1098 in 2011. CWIN manages Child Helpline in Kathmandu valley, Biratnagar, Hetauda and Nepalgunj as per the guideline developed by the Government.

In Women's/Mother's Groups: There is no provision and/or practice of awarding membership to children in Women's/Mother's Group. But, in most of the communities Women's/Mother's Group have developed functional collaboration with child clubs and their networks. They do run awareness raising activities and campaigns jointly on issues concerning to children and women. In some cases, Women's/Mother's Groups get support from members of child clubs (especially girls) for taking minutes and keeping account of their expenses.

In Adolescent Groups (BLOP): The girls and boys aged between 11-19 years can be the participants of BLOP classes run by Plan Nepal and its partner organizations. The BLOP sessions²⁷ aim to empower girls and boys to understand the issues concerning them and to be able to cope up with difficult situations. For which, training (such as Life Skills) and capacity development opportunities are offered to the participants on top of regular sessions.

In Child Clubs and their Network at VDC and District levels: Plan Nepal is providing facilitation support to form and strengthened Child Clubs and their network at VDC and district

levels. Children age between 8-18 years are invited to be member in Child Club and their Network. In FY 2011, Plan Nepal interacted with a total 61,843 children (of them 13 per cent are *Dalits*, 44 per cent are *janjatis*, 7 per cent Muslims, 0.5 per cent CWD) organized in 1,349 Child Clubs and their Networks in its working districts. Moreover, a total 115 Child Clubs (having 2,731 members; of them around 48 per cent are girls) of children working as child labour have been established²⁸.

In Child Friendly VDC structure (e.g. in Teteria VDC of Morang): The VDC Council invites representatives of Child Club and their Network in the VDC Council meeting. There is a practice of inviting children as 'observer member' in the committee to be formed by the VDC to finalize the planning request received from different stakeholders. The children who represent their club in the committee provide their input on the activities aimed at addressing the issues of children. Moreover, the Child Friendly Local Governance Strategies, 2011, approved by government in July 2011, has incorporated provision (as one of the indicators) of ensuring participation of children age between 12-18

Activities of Agencies and organizations engaged in child protection work in the district

(As identified by 35 members/leaders of 27 Child Clubs and their Networks in Makawanpur)

- Support to organize street drama, exhibition, cultural program to raise awareness among parents and children
- Conduct poem & story writing competitions on themes such as child labour, human trafficking and drug abuse
- Publication of newspapers and child-wall magazine (by child clubs) to raise awareness on child rights issues
- Scholarship support to the children who are from economically poor family, and children at risk
- Awareness raising for prevention of human trafficking (in the communities)
- Awareness raising on HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted disease (targeting to adolescent and youths)
- Training on the rights of the child to children, youths and adults in the community
- Conduct clean environment campaigns in the schools (and campaign to keep school enrolment clean)
- Campaign against child marriage, human trafficking and gender based violence,
- Lobby and advocate to make the VDC allocate budget for children (as per the provision VDC should allocate 10 per cent of capital fund on children's issues)
- Construction of school building, class-rooms, drinking water facilities and toilet (in schools)
- Orientation for formation of (Village) Child Protection Committee
- Facilitate to establish child club and mobilize them for promoting child rights in the communities.

²⁷ Plan Nepal provided nine-month BLOP sessions to 8,205 adolescent girls and boys in FY 2011.

²⁸ These Child Club are supported to organize different programmes and events particularly to make working children understand about the rights of the children and to help raising awareness in the community.

years in the decision making process of local government bodies by creating an appropriate institutional mechanism.

As discussed above, there are representations of children in some structures as a means to promote their participation and to provide opportunities for children to work with adults. But, there is issue of how to empower children to be able to represent their club and the Network, as well as how to ensure that participation of children is done in an ethical and meaningful manner.

8.2 Opportunities for Children to engage with CBCPM and their Roles

As discussed in the earlier sub-section, the majority of self-help groups and CMCPMs work in collaboration with Child Clubs and their Network particularly running campaigns and awareness raising programmes. Children, on behalf of their Club and the Network, have an opportunity to work with CBCPMs - lobbying to address child protection risks and to address violations of children's rights in their communities. Moreover, children represent their Clubs and Network in the district and national level fora. The members of Child Clubs and their Network are actively interacting with the VDC and District Development Committee (DDC) to allocate budget to address children's issues²⁹. Children's representatives participate in VDC and DDC Councils meeting as well as engage proactively in the bottom up planning process in the VDC.

"Almost all the clubs informed that they have organized and participated in rallies to encourage sending children to school and to discourage early marriage. In a few cases, the clubs had approached the parents to prevent early marriage, discrimination between sons and daughters, and to motivate sending their children to school. Child Club members have talked over with the school teachers and parents against giving corporal punishment to children."

(p.24-25, Child Participation in Plan Working Districts: A Study Report, Plan Nepal, Jan 2012.)

In some cases, members of Child Clubs are invited to be part of child rights situational analysis in their communities and also taking part in the monitoring the processes as well as the progresses of projects that are implemented to support the realization of the rights of the children. Plan Nepal and its partner organizations are engaging children in situational analysis and monitoring process as well. This would also support children to be active in the community in the process of rights realization.

Advantages of engaging children in CBCPM: Children know better than adults about the problems that children are facing in the communities. In line with the kind of training children have got to participate in, they are capable to identify, report to and follow up on child protection cases within their communities. For which children could mobilize Child Clubs and their Networks, schools, VCPCs and other community based child protection structures.

"Plan Nepal has developed ways and means to ensure participation of children in its program cycle, either through partner CBOs/NGOs or directly with children. Likewise, representation of child clubs in decision making entities at local bodies and service providers has increased in Plan working areas. Child clubs and their VDC and district level networks have been empowered to raise the voices and concerns of children. Child clubs are playing dynamic role in ensuring participation of children."
(p.34, Child Participation in Plan Working Districts: A Study Report, Plan Nepal, Jan 2012.)

Work/Activities of Child Clubs: Children also actively run campaigns to stop child marriage, encourage parents for birth registration, and

enrol their children to school (welcome to school campaign) and to ban sending children out of the community to work as child labour. Members of child clubs are actively engaged in raising awareness among children and adults in the community through the medium of performing street drama,

²⁹ As per the guidelines of local government bodies (VDC, Municipality and DDC), 10 per cent of capital fund should be allocated for children's issue.

conducting rally, organizing home visits, running interactions/orientations and publishing child-wall magazine.

The following table provides examples of works of Child Clubs and their Network for Child Protection:

Self-empowerment Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Child Club in communities and schools and strengthening their capacities • Understanding about child rights, issues related to children and implement activities to realize children's rights • Training and capacity building of members on child rights and child protection; life skills • Participate in BLOP sessions to empower him/herself • In the meeting, discuss about the protection risk against children and develop plan of actions on behalf of child club.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness among children and adults in the community on child rights and children's issues • Formulation of code of conduct on child protection • Household survey to find out migrated children from the community (e.g. Handikhola VDC in Makawanpur) • Campaign for birth registration and school enrolment • Campaign against child marriage, discrimination, abuse and exploitation and human trafficking • Participate in developing code of conduct in school and support in 'Learning Without Fears' campaign • Promote the concept of children as zones of peace
Reporting/Complaining and Documentati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report the cases about abuse and exploitation to the CBO/NGO that are supporting to child clubs • Share the information in the meeting of VCPC through the member who represent their club • Prepare case stories of the intervention made by child club and share with the CBO/NGO that are supporting to child clubs
Immediate/Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop child marriage on the spot with the support of local CBOs • Lobby for providing support (family reintegration, educational support) to the rescued and rehabilitated child/ren • Lobby with VDC to allocate budget on children's issues (or plan) as per the Govt's guidelines • Encourage/invite children who are at risk as well as who are victimized to be member in child club.
Referral to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer the cases of abuse and exploitation to the concerned agencies (or CBCPMs) through the supporting CBO/NGO • Recommend for scholarship support to rescued children from hazardous work situations • Vocational training and IG support to adolescents who are at risk and their families
Follow Up & Participation in CBCPMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following up the process and progress of the cases of abuse and exploitation referred by Child Club • Representation of child clubs and their network in VCPC • Working in collaboration with other groups in the community to promote children's agendas

8.3 Training provided to members of Child Clubs

The members of Child Clubs are provided various trainings related to rights of the child and child protection. The list of training offered to members of Child Clubs include,

- Training on the Rights of the Child,
- Training on Child Protection
- Training on Child Labour (including the Worst Forms of Child Labour)
- Training on Legal provisions as well as ways to stop early marriage
- Training on Children's Rights to education
- Training on Journalism (especially focusing to child journalism and wall-magazine production)
- Training on Legal Provisions against Domestic Violence
- Training on Raising Awareness on Rights of the Child and Issues related to children
- Training on Situational Analysis of children in the community and monitoring rights violation
- Training on Leadership

"Capacity building of child clubs and networks:

The tendency to plan and act on ad-hoc basis when resources are available is found amongst most of the Clubs/networks. Many child clubs have been collecting saving regularly each month and some have been receiving budget allocated from VDC too. Children could develop 'money' mentality. Plan Nepal has discontinued training on child rights and other capacity building matters, which are basic for the clubs and their networks since children graduate as they attain the age of 18 years and new children join the clubs and networks."

(p.31, Child Participation in Plan Working Districts: A Study Report, Plan Nepal, Jan 2012.)

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Besides the above mentioned training, boys and girls age between 11-19 years are provided nine-month long BLOP sessions as a process of empowering them. The BLOP sessions are primarily based on life skills, addressing the risks and help the participants to take better options in life.

Roles of children and communities (in internal processes of Plan Nepal)

Plan Nepal makes the maximum effort possible to ensure that children participate in all its interventions and places children at the centre of those interventions. Members of child clubs and BLOP participants and graduates take part in planning and implementation. They promote awareness about human trafficking and gender-based violence and fight against social evils such as child marriage, dowry, witchcraft, alcohol-related violence and violence against children. Children are the main performers in street dramas to raise awareness against child marriage.

Children under 18 are actively involved in BLOP sessions for their better life skills. They participate in extracurricular activities and select those of their peers who they feel ought to participate in various trainings, consultations, and other activities.

Children, their parents and community members are all involved during the planning phase of all programmes. Women's groups, community protection groups and their networks, and BLOP graduates implement various activities to protect and promote the rights of children, women and disadvantaged families. They are consulted and their opinions are sought during planning. Representatives of child clubs are invited to the annual planning and the review and reflection meetings of VDCs and DDCs.

(Source: Nepal Country Programme Progress Report FY 2011)

8.4 Some Observations regarding children's participation in CBCPM and challenges

Increasing level of awareness about rights of the child in the community: Awareness on the Rights of a Child has increased not only among children, but also amongst family members and community at large. Children are reaching out to the other children in the community through child club activities including awareness raising activities; campaigns; organizing competitions; and through child led media initiatives. Child Club has been an important avenue to promote sense of 'we' feeling. As a result a sense of collective confidence is increased.

Establishment and Functioning of Child Clubs and their Network: Child Clubs and their Network is providing fora for children to be active for child rights realization, asserting their rights and concerns. There are several examples of children persuading and influencing duty bearers, particularly the VDC officials and school management committees (to less extent in DCWB) to respect the rights of children.

Capacity development of members of child clubs and their Network: The level of empowerment of children involved in the child clubs and their networks is evident. Children no longer fear or hesitate to put forward their views, opinions and emotions in front of adults. Their self-confidence has grown and they claim their rights. The members of Child Club could lobby for their collective rights but they are still not confident enough to their individual issue/rights in their family, school and community.

Representation of children in community based strictures: Representation of children has increased at different levels in the community, including VDC office during Village Council, meetings of VCPC, SMC and even in meetings of community organizations. Many organizations at the community have been inviting opinions of children through the child clubs, which is a good symptom of evolving participation of children in decision making. However, it is in question to what extent the two representative children could influence in the decision making of an adult's structure/forum.

Challenges:

Respecting to views of children: Traditionally, children are looked down upon and their views are not listened to and respected in the Nepali society. For example, when children approach parents to stop child marriage or other issues, adults do not listen to them or the adult do not give importance to what they are saying and rather they scold to them. In such context, the project aiming to empowering children needs to focus equally on developing capacity of duty bearers for addressing children issues/agendas in the community.

Issues related to internal management: Children find difficult to manage their time to engage in child clubs even more actively as they have to go to study as well. There lacks culture of responsibility sharing among members in Executive Committee and the general members. As such, the Chairperson or the Secretary is supposed to attend majority of meetings where the Clubs is invited. In many cases, children might not be in position to influence in the decision making process as they do not have the access.

Facilitation support and capacity building of facilitators: The members of the NGO/CBO partners have been working facilitating and supervising the child clubs and their networks. However, most of the facilitators require improving/upgrading knowledge and skills on facilitating children, especially child participation, and the supervisors also need strengthening of their supervision skills.

Institutionalization and overall management of Child Club: There lacks specific guidelines and /or common understanding among the facilitating organization/s regarding establishment, capacity development and functioning of Child Club. Many often, there is discussion regarding representation of children and Child Clubs in the adults' fora but there is not much discussion about having role of adults structures in the functions of child Club. Setting up an 'advisory body' of Child Club having representatives of adults' structures in the community might be one option for the same.

IX. Capacity and Support Systems

9.1 The main approaches used by Plan Nepal to help CBCP structures to develop their capacity

- a) **Training as a process of capacity development of CBCPMs:** Organizing and delivering issue specific and thematic training has been the main approach to develop capacity of CBCPMs. The following models have been used in delivering training to CBCPM members:

i) Training delivered by Plan Nepal and its PUs directly to CBCPM members:

1. Specific trainings on child rights and child protection (including sharing the provision of national and international laws)
2. Trainings related to gender based violence, human trafficking (and the provision of national and international laws)
3. Training on child/human rights based approaches in working with children, women and men in the community
4. Training on dealing with child protection cases, support to the victimized children and their families and follow up as well as documentation
5. Trainings on advocacy and policy influencing

ii) Training delivered by Plan Nepal and its PUs to district level networks to conduct training to CBCPMs:

1. Specific trainings on child rights and child protection (including sharing the provision of national and international laws)
2. Trainings related to gender based violence, human trafficking (and the provision of national and international laws)—including 5days long Training of Trainers (TOT)
3. Training on child/human rights based approaches in working with children, women and men in the community
4. Training on dealing with child protection cases, support to the victimized children and their families and follow up as well as documentation
5. Trainings on the functions and responsibilities of CBCP structures (i.e. CPGs, PLC, child clubs, Women's Protection groups etc.)
6. Training on building linkages with concerned agencies of the government and other service providers
7. ??

iii) Training delivered by partners of Plan Nepal to CBCPMs:

1. Specific trainings on child rights and child protection (including sharing the provision of national and international laws) [for CPC/G, Women's Groups and Child Clubs]
2. Training related to gender based Violence [for CPC/G, Women's Groups and Child Clubs]
3. Training on Journalism and Wall magazine production [for CPC/G and Child Clubs]
4. Training on advocacy and policy influencing [for CPC/G, PLC and Women's Groups]
5. Training on information collection (regarding the situation of Kamalari) [for CPC/G working in KAP project areas]
6. Training and hands-on support on psychosocial counselling [for VDC/ Municipality level PLC and Women's Groups]
7. Training on Ant-Human trafficking and legal provisions [for PLC, Women's Groups, Vigilances/Surveillance groups]
8. Training on safer migration and legal provisions [for PLC, Women's Groups, Vigilances/Surveillance groups]
9. Training on Community mobilization [for CPC/G, and Women's Groups]

iv) Plan Nepal's support to district government line agencies (i.e. DCWB, district office for Women and Children) to deliver training to CBCPMs: Plan Nepal has been providing training to CRO of DCWBs and Child Welfare Officer³⁰ particularly on the following topics—

1. Training on Principles and provisions of CRC and its practical applications
2. Training on child protection
3. Training on Juvenile Justice and Role of CRO/CWO to support in the JJ process (in case of 32 districts where there is programme to strengthen Juvenile Bench)
4. Training on collection, compilation of children related information and producing district level status report by using the Child Rights Management information System (CR-MiS) [The CR-MiS is also known as 'CRC

³⁰ Right now, the Government has designated Women Development Officer (WDO) of district Office for Women and Children to work as Child Welfare Officer.

- b) **Network and alliance building for mutual learning and sharing:** As discussed section 11 of this report, Plan Nepal has made deliberate efforts to encourage both government agencies and civil society organization to establish district level federation or network to share expertise and resources for having wider impact of child protection work. Such network also provides opportunities for partner organizations—including and self-help groups and CBOs from the communities to link up the cases to the district through district level networks.
- c) **Development of tools, procedures and processes:** Plan Nepal and its partners have developed— i) household survey tool/format for collecting information of missing children in the community, ii) tools/ processes for Child Rights Situational Analysis (CRSA), iii) tool to report on child protection cases/incidences (this tool is for the use of Plan Nepal internationally), and iv) process for developing referral mechanism (in Makawanpur).
- d) **Ongoing support through active M&E and contacts with the different CPGs:** Hands on support to CBCP structures and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the work and processes of child protection structures are carried out in a regular basis as a process of capacity development.
- e) **Exposure visits:** the members of CBCP structures are offered opportunities to visit other CBCP structures in and outside the district for mutual sharing and learning.

9.2 Areas that needs to be strengthened within CBCPMs:

- a) **Capacity development on case management:** the members of CBCPMs should get training on the aspects of case management: case identification/detection, documentation/reporting, assessment/verification, emergency response, assessment/planning, referral and follow up/review. Likewise, concentrated efforts are needed to enhance the capacity of CBCPM members to access, and/or to make referrals to specialized protection services (such as management of social/case work, psychosocial support, para-legal support etc.). At the same time, it would be worth to invest in developing specialized human/technical resources for psycho-social support in the community.
- b) **Establishing emergency fund:** many CBCPMs are managing/ mobilizing local resources to follow up on individual cases and to provide support to children who are at risk. The VCPC are accessing fund from VDC/Municipality as well as getting some budget from DCWB and CCWB. Moreover, VCPC are allowed to access to the Child Protection Fund established at DCWB and CCWB/Ministry level to support in child protection cases. But, it would be wise to crate emergency child protection fund at the community level and allow the CBCPMs to access the fund (by developing guideline).
- c) **Capacity development on linkages and referral:** the roles and function of CBCPMs need to be clear. CBCPMs need to develop linkages and referral options with higher level child protection structures. Systematic linkages between the CBCPMs at community level and with government mandated structures at the VDC/Municipality and district levels are essential. A systematic process for backstopping and monitoring of work of CBCPMs as well as and a 'support system' should be in place.

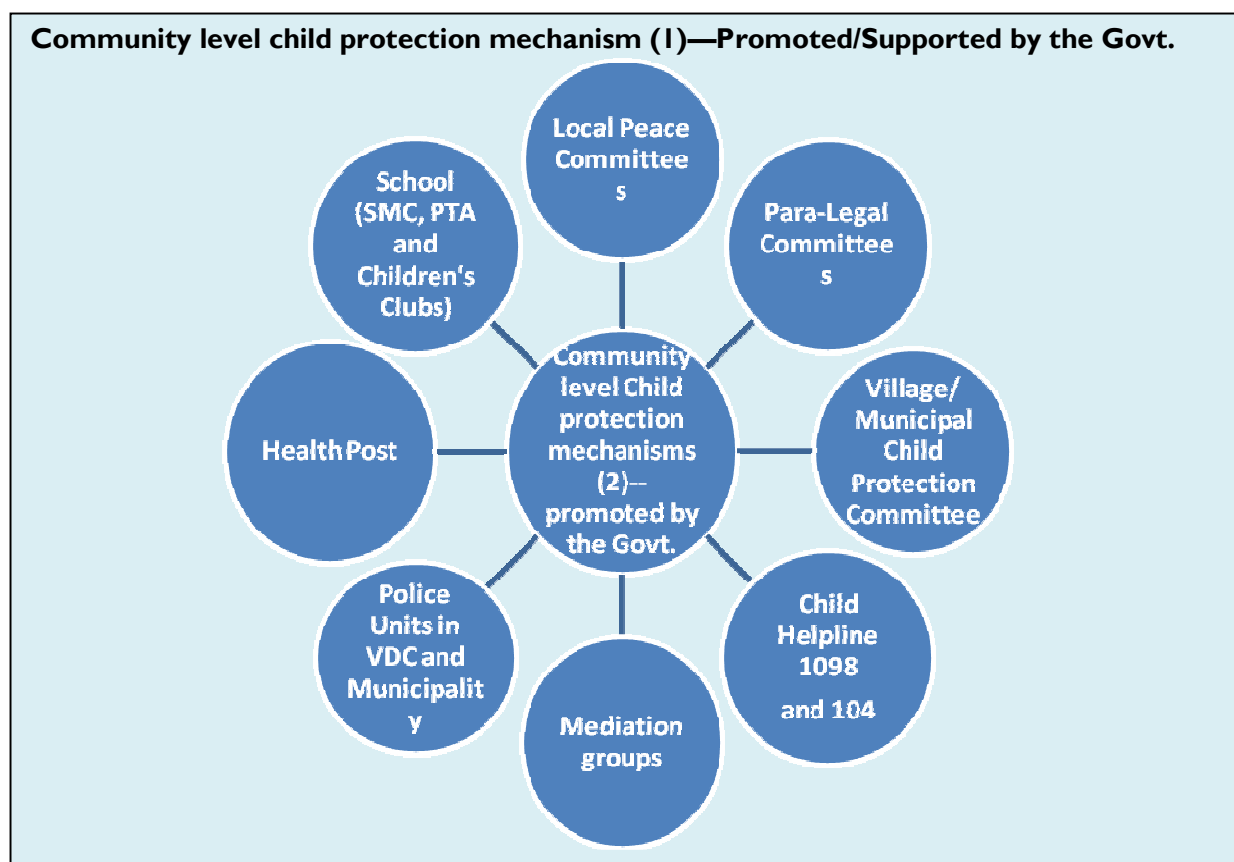
X. Linkages with civil society and Government

10.1 Plan Nepal's internal mechanisms for ensuring child protection

Plan Nepal has its own- i) child protection policy, ii) code of conduct and iii) reporting and responding mechanism. These are policy documents are binding to all its staff, consultants/volunteers and partner organizations. The reporting and responding mechanism is being used by more than 100 partner organizations including child clubs to report case of child abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect.

11.1 Overview of CBCP structures promoted by the Government at community level

The following chart provides different types of child protection structures of the Government at community level:



As shown above, there are mainly three structures promoted by the government at community level for child protection- i) V/MCPC, ii) PLCs, and iii) Child Helpline 1098. In addition, Local Peace Committees and Mediation Committees are formed by the Government as per the need. The Peace Committees are working towards promoting the peace process and conflict transformation, whereas Mediation Committees are mandated to settle the disputes informally outside the judiciary with the authority and involvement of court. The Government has initiated a process of mainstreaming the function of the Para Legal Committees under the Department of Women and Children and the District office for Women and Children. Moreover, Police Office, Health Posts and Schools are basically promoting rights of all children (universal) with some responsibility to prioritize services to children at risk or victimized children and women.

The V/MCPCs are emerging as focal structure for child protection at the community. Most of the V/MCPCs have functional linkages with VDC/Municipality and are accessing budgets from the VDC/Municipality. But, VDCs/Municipalities are also working with other child protection structures, including self-help groups as per the local context. Concerned agencies are increasingly focusing their efforts to strengthen the Village /Municipality Child Protection Committees to function as the focal structure to take child protection issues and cases - prevention, awareness raising, capacity development, referral and reunification of children in the community.

Local Peace Committees: District and VDC/Municipality level Peace Committees have been formed for realizing the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Accord with the mandate to create an environment conducive for restoration of sustainable peace by resolving the remnants of conflict at the local level and systematically promoting the processes of peace and reconstruction through mutual goodwill and unity.

The Chief District Officer (CDO) is responsible to organize a consultation meeting of political parties active in the district, individuals and civil society members who have significantly contributed for promotion of peace to form a district level committee. Due attention is given to ensuring representation of different communities, including women, *Dalit*, indigenous/ nationalities, Muslims, *Madhesi*, oppressed, neglected and backward areas/groups in the 23-members committee. Likewise, VDC/Municipality level Peace Committees are formed as per the need by having a maximum of nine members. The VDC Secretary or the Executive Officer of the Municipality will function as the Secretary of such Committee. The committees mobilize VDC/Municipality resources to contribute in peace building process and facilitate peace promotion; monitor the reconstruction programmes; collect data on conflict affected individuals, families, and structures; and monitor the political and social developments processes at the local levels.

Mediation Groups (in Community): Dispute is interrelated with human life and many methods and processes are being designed for managing disputes on time. The State settles disputes through judiciary or semi-judicial authority while many efforts are being carried out informally. The process of dispute resolution through informal process such as dialogue, mediation, reconciliation or coordination is in practice in Nepal and it is recognized by regulations. Mediation is one of the significant alternatives to resolve dispute in the community. It is believed that mediation will lead to prompt justice, is less expensive, gives psychological satisfaction, is simple in approach, fulfils inner interests, is confidential, consists of voluntary participation, enhances access to justice, and results in win-win situation to the disputing parties.

10.2 Plan Nepal and its partners' work with CBCP structures

Plan Nepal and its partners (local CBOs/NGOs) are working with different CBCP structures³¹ and are collaborating to form and reform the structures to enhance their capacities. In most of the cases, the partner CBO/NGOs that are implementing particular project are collaborating themselves for synergy to achieve wider impact of their work (including of the CBCP structures), for example--

- Society Welfare Action Nepal (SWAN), Dang is the major partner of Plan Nepal for implementing Kamalari Abolition Project (KAP) and it has developed functional relationship with Backward Society Education (BASE) in Kailali and Freed Kamaiya Women Development Forum (FKDWF) in Kailali and Dang and Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) in Kanchanpur district.
- Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), organization implementing anti-trafficking project (FACT) in Morang/Sunsari districts have developed functional relationship with Underprivileged Children's Association (UPCA) in establishing 'Working Women's Forum' in Sunsari to implement protection programmes targetting to adolescents girls and women working in Cabin/Restaurant.
- FORHEN, a NGO, in Morang is offering facilitation support to the Tole Level Organizaiton, a group of working children in Biratnagar Municipality in collaboration with Biratnagar Municipality.

³¹ Please refer to sub-section 5.6 of this report for detail information about CBCP structures supported by Plan Nepal.

- *Mahila Sanjal* (network of women's groups) in Morang and *Aawaj* (meaning 'Voice'), a network of women's groups in Sunsari) have their membership in most of the VDCs of the district and are working to protect children and women against violence, abuse and exploitation. Likewise, *Mahila Dababa Samuha* (meaning 'women's pressure group') in Rautahat is also functioning as a network of women's groups formed and functional in the community and VDCs.
- SAATHI (meaning 'friends'), a national level NGO which has office in Banke, is facilitating with the PLCs formed and functional at the communities and VDCs at the communities as well as the network (of PLC) at the district. SAATHI is running a booth at Nepal-India border point and have mobilized three counsellors for interception of girls and women from being trafficked and provide them information about safer migration.

Plan Nepal continued to support two information booths along the Nepal-India border (in Banke and Morang districts) and one in a district administration office (in Makawanpur). The three booths provided information on safe migration to 7446 persons, 22% of whom were children. They referred 104 children and adults for rehabilitation and reintegration. A total of 617 community people and survivors and 1161 children of child clubs received counselling services and sessions.*
Source: Plan Nepal Annual Report 2011

Likewise, most of the self-help groups (such as child clubs, youth groups and women's/mother's group) have representatives in the CBCP structures established in the community, along with representation of local CBO/NGOs, community leaders and the local authorities. The specific roles given to each groups (of members) in the CBCP varies pending on organization's capacity. The roles ranges from awareness raising, providing information, linkages with the service providers, facilitation/communication for behaviour change, case reporting and referral, psycho-social support (counselling) etc.

10.3 Collaboration with child protection structures at district level

The following chart provides different types of child protection structures with whom Plan Nepal and its partners are collaborating with at the district level:

District level Child Protection Structures (I)—Supported/Collaborated by Plan Nepal



Among the structures established at the district, i) DCWB (and DCPC), and ii) Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee are created/established by Children's Act 1992 and Juvenile Justice (Procedural) Rules 2007 respectively. Plan Nepal has made a partnership agreement with CCWB to strengthen CCWB and DCWB as well as Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee both at district and national levels. Plan Nepal is one among the development partners who have agreed to 'basket funding' to strengthen DCWB in all 75 district by appointing Child Rights Officer (CRO) and providing fund to each DCWBs for implementing core programmes.

The DCWBs are supporting the formation of district level networks of child. In some districts, DCWB is providing office space to the Child Club network for regular meetings. Plan Nepal and its partners are providing technical, programmatic and financial support to the district level network of child clubs.

Anti-Trafficking Network of NGOs are established in Makawanpur, Morang, Sunsari and Banke districts as an informal and issue specific network of like-minded organization. The very purpose of such collaboration is to consolidate their efforts, and to support each other by sharing expertise available within the organizations to have better and wider impact. Besides, there is a system of cost sharing among the members of the network while addressing a case as well as provide necessary support to the victimized children and women.

In Makawanpur, Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HimRights) is leading the Anti-Trafficking Network formed in the district to protect women and children from being trafficked. There are more than 12 NGOs in this network and they have set up an information desk at the District Administration Office (DAO), Makawanpur with the purpose of providing information to the women and adolescent girls who wish to go for foreign employment (and they come to DAO for getting their passport).*

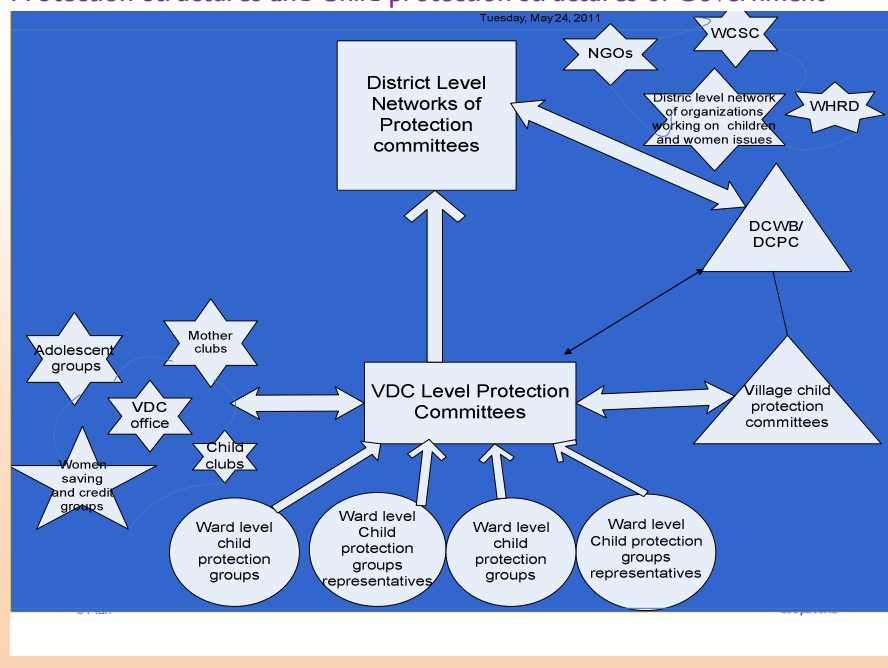
Plan Nepal and its partners are members in the district chapter of Children as Zones of Peace (CZoP) in Makawanpur. Plan Nepal itself and most of its partners in the districts, are member in Consortium of Organizations Working for Child Participation (Consortium), a national level network of over 61 child focused organizations formed in 2000.

10.4 Interaction and linkages between Child Protection structures supported by Plan Nepal and Government structures

Plan Nepal has very strong communication with child protection structures at community, district and national levels and uses its contacts for referral (refer the box for modalities of interactions and linkages).

In most of the working districts of Plan Nepal, deliberate efforts have been

Overview of interaction and linkages between Plan Nepal supported Child Protection Structures and Child protection structures of Government



made to encourage both government agencies and civil society organization to establish district level federation or network to share expertise and resources for having wider impact of their work on child protection. Such network also provides opportunities for the representatives of one CBCP structures to meet and interact with other structures. This also provides opportunities for partner organizations - including and self-help groups and CBOs from the communities to link up the cases to the district through district level networks.

These networks (of agencies and organizations) are working for policy advocacy, ensuring immediate services and referral, filling of case and support in prosecution process and offer long term support to survivors and their families. There are several examples of collaboration made by Plan Nepal and its partners to strengthen child protection structures promoted by the Government, such as:

- Plan Nepal and its partners are working in collaboration to support Child Helpline 1098 in Banke, Makawanpur and Morang/Sunsari which is managed by CWIN by acquiring permission from the Government as per the guideline.
- In leadership of DCWB, Makawanpur a information sheet³² has been published with the brief description of children related programmes and services as well as with contact list of Government and Civil society organizations that are engaged in child protection work. As shared by the Child Rights Officer (CRO) of DCWB, this sheet will be updated periodically and will be used in setting up a referral system over the period by bringing in all the actors and stakeholders together.

Plan Nepal is trying to mainstream its activities with those of the government and is strengthening the capacity of community based child protection structures. Plan Nepal is also supporting CBCP structures to be federated and become self-reliant, and to be able to access fund from local government bodies (VDC, Municipality and DDC) to implement programme and to provide support to children who are at risk and are victimized of harm. *

XI. Monitoring and Evaluation System and Process

11.1 Baseline (survey) data

There is no practice of collecting baseline data on CBCPMs. However, the local partner CBO/NGOs conduct baseline surveys to collect data on relevant aspects of a project (this include different sorts of structures that would be created and/or supported under the project including CBCP structures). In the recent past, baseline survey have been conducted in regards to *Kamalari* Ablution Project (being implemented in five *Kamalari* prone districts), the anti-trafficking project (FACT) and an extensive baseline survey was conducted to identifying child labourers and target population under HOPE project. Plan Nepal ensures that funding is available for conducting baseline survey. And pending on the complex nature of a project, external experts are also hired to conduct baseline survey.

11.2 System of Monitoring and Evaluation of CBCP structures

The system of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) differs from one structure to another and one project to the other. Concerned staff of Plan Nepal's PUs as well as the technical teams is given responsibility to monitor the process as well as the progress of CBCP structure. In the M&E process there is an active role for children, men and women in the communities, representatives of community groups and stakeholders:

³² The info sheet shares about—i) the programmes and services available for children in the district both provided by the Government offices as well as civil society organizations, ii) major child protection risks/concerns, iii) list of Govt. offices working for child protection, iv) resources (human and organizational) available, and v) procedures of investigation of crime against children by Nepal Police and judiciary, vi) list of networks concerning children and the sorts of services offered by them.

- a) **Role of Children in M&E:** there is a practice of inviting representatives of child clubs and girls groups in monitoring of activities implemented through child protection structures in the community. Children and communities participate in the review meetings; participate in the focus group discussions, as key informants in the evaluation.
- b) **Role of staff/board members of partner NGOs:** The staff including board members of partner NGOs participate in assessing progress and made recommendations based on the field reality observation.
- c) **Role of district line agencies:** Concerned district line agencies such as DDC, district office for Women and Children, DCWB, DAO, District Agriculture Development Office, DEO, District Forest Office, District Livestock Office are invited (representatives of relevant agencies are invited to be part of evaluation team of relevant project) to participate in the M&E of project implemented by Plan Nepal. Generally, the representatives of district line agencies contribute in M&E by participating in meeting, interaction, workshop, training, advocacy campaign and by making field visit to assess progress and progress of the project and recommendations are made based on their interactions.
- d) **Role of staff of Plan Nepal:** A wider range of staff members from country office and PUs having different responsibilities are involved in the M&E process of project activities. They include, PUM and PUs, Technical staff (staff of M&E unit, thematic coordinators), and members of finance unit. Pending on requirement and nature of the project, external experts are invited to be in the M&E team. Beside, in each project there is a process of field support visits (from country office and PU) in the entire project cycle and the observation and recommendations are shared (in most case in writing) for improving the process of project implementation for achieving better results.

11.3 Indicators for collecting quantitative or qualitative data from CBCPMs

In the M&E of CBCPMs structures, generally aims to assess about—i) the range of activities carried out by the CBCPMs, ii) number of child protection cases dealt and the process of dealing of the cases, iii) number and types of training capacity development opportunities provided to the members of CBCPMs, and iv) activeness and functional aspects of the CBCPMs (regular meeting, keeping minutes, documentation and reporting of the work done etc.). As per the very objectives as well as the expectations of the M&E work, indicators are developed in consultation with the team members.

11.4 Development and Use of Monitoring tools

Plan Nepal has been part of the team to develop Child Rights Management information System (CR-MiS) for the use of DCWB. The CR-MiS was developed by CCWB for the purpose of collecting information and analysing situation of children in the districts. Based on the data compiled through this process, status reports are prepared at district and national level (by DCWB and CCWB) annually. A software has been developed based on the CR-MiS with the financial and technical support from Plan Nepal. Likewise, Plan Nepal has developed tools/ processes for conducting Child Rights Situational Analysis (CRSA) in the communities. *

XII. Sustainability and scale up

The following are some of the approach and/or strategic work for Plan Nepal to scale up and ensure sustainability of CBCPMs established and functional in the community:

12.1 Strengthen V/MCPC to be the focal child protection structure in the community

The Government of Nepal is promoting V/MCPC to be the focal child protection structure in the community. The Government has developed a guidelines to define various aspects of V/MCPC—process

of formation, roles and responsibilities, accessing the funding through VDC and Municipalities, mandate to establish 'child protection fund' under V/MCPC and linkages and functional coordination and collaboration with concerned government offices (including VDC/Municipality). Accordingly, the V/MCPCs have been able to access fund from VDC and Municipality. For example, in 2011, about 96 VDCs in Plan Nepal's working areas have allocated budget for children and child protection structures. Moreover, the V/MCPCs have access to the 'child protection fund' established at the centre by CCWB and the MoWCSW to support child protection cases. However, further efforts should be there to institutionalize the V/MCPC in all the VDC/Municipality across the country. Plan Nepal has the opportunity to work with DCWBs to strengthen V/MCPCs in its working districts.

Plan Nepal should continue to providing training to V/MCPCs in its working communities by collaborating with the relevant government offices/councils to strengthen their capacity so that V/MCPCs could improve their networking for child protection, child protection monitoring, case identification, and referral and follow up. As such, some concrete efforts are needed to develop processes to make the V/MCPCs more functional and proactive to ensure child protection in the community.

12.2 Promote Women's Protection Groups, PLC and the activist groups

Women's protection groups are active in many of the communities to make people alert about child protection issues and concerns as well as are proactively bringing out cases of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect. In the case of Makawanpur the *Nigarani Samuha* (Vigilance groups) is emerging as activist groups to keep on eyes towards child protection concerns and their work have made positive impact in the community. Likewise, the members of PLC in the community are also dealing with protection concerns (however, the function of PLC is concentrated in women's protection). This provides Plan Nepal an opportunity to sustain these efforts by empowering such activist groups in the community for ensuring child protection. Thus, for ensuring greater and sustainable impact of these structures Plan Nepal should hold dialogue with concerned government agencies (i.e. DCWB, CCWB, MoWCSW, Department for Women and Children and district office for Women and children), UNICEF-Nepal (as it is mobilizing PLC) and other child focused international organizations such as Save the Children, and World Education etc. However, the child protection mapping is being carried out in Nepal as a joint effort of inter-agencies (where Plan Nepal is engaged actively) that process also recommend some concrete steps to strengthen child protection structures.

12.3 Working closely with local government bodies (i.e. VDC and Municipality)

Plan Nepal has gained learning from its HOPE project (fighting against child labour) particularly in working with Municipality to enhance their role to eliminate child labour exploitation. All the municipalities, where HOPE project is being implemented, have expressed their commitment to illuminate child labour exploitation in municipality areas. A process is going on to establish a 'child desk' in Dharan and Ithari municipalities in Sunsari district with collaboration of DCWB, the municipalities and other likeminded organizations. The child desk will work as focal unit within the municipality to take forward the efforts on behalf of the municipalities to eliminate child labour exploitation even after the project period is over. Such initiatives will be crucial for making the local government bodies responsible towards the cause. As such, Plan Nepal should proactively work with VDCs and Municipality for making them responsible for promoting child rights and ensuring child protection in the VDC/Municipality areas. Plan Nepal has gained experiences from its efforts of making child friendly VDCs which could be mobilized for ensuring child protection in the community context. There are several examples of efforts made to mainstreaming of activities (under the project run by Plan Nepal) with the VDC/municipality, DEO, District Health Office, DDC and DCWBs.

12.4 Networking and alliance building at VDC/Municipality and district levels

Multi agency collaboration and involvement will provide a strong basis for sustainability of the efforts of CBCP structures. Formation of district level network of child clubs, district level network of Women's Protection Groups (particularly in Morang and Sunsari district) networking of child focused organizations at VDC/Municipality and district levels; and anti-trafficking network of organizations (in Hetauda) are some of the examples where Plan Nepal has made proactive efforts to promote networking and alliance building. In the coming days Plan Nepal needs to work to continue developing network and alliances along with strengthen capacity of these groups to work as catalyst for ensuring child protection.

...district-level groups and federations are actively raising awareness and providing support to those vulnerable to and the survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence. These federations are taking the lead in building the capacity of VDC- and ward-level groups and working as surveillance groups vigilant in their efforts to prevent the violation of the rights of children and women. These federations and groups were instrumental in rescuing 33 children and women at risk. There is now an informal mechanism to deal with protection-related issues at the district level. Of the total VDC-level federations, 46% are capable and function effectively, 27% are moderately able, and the remaining 27% require much more support before they become self-sustaining. Vulnerable children and victims of exploitation are increasingly realising the importance of community-based psycho-social counsellors. Awareness of gender-based violence, trafficking, and unsafe migration has increased among local people, including girls. There is a strong demand from both civil society and the government for developing a comprehensive child protection system at different levels.
(source: Annual Report of Plan Nepal, 2011)

12.5 Collaboration at national level for promoting Child Protection System

Plan Nepal is one of the members of 'Child Protection System Mapping' which is being going on in Nepal as a collaborative initiative of concerned agencies and child focused INGOs and UNICEF. The findings of the mapping would also be linked with the Plan Nepal's initiatives on child protection. Moreover, Plan Nepal is collaborating in developing a national plan of action on adolescents, doing research into the development of a child protection system, and conducting a study on child marriage.

12.6 Establishment of 'Child Protection Fund' at national and district levels

Plan Nepal is also supporting initiatives to establish a Child Protection Fund at a central level under the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) and at district level under DCWB. Plan Nepal provides NRs 225,000 annually to central level fund. Child Protection Fund has been created in all 13 DCWBs (Plan Nepal's working district) and Plan Nepal provides about NRs 32,000 thousand per district annually to the fund. Plan Nepal is exploring possibilities to create Emergency Child Protection Fund at VDC/Municipality level to provide immediate and/or emergency support to victimized child. There is possibility of encouraging VDC and Municipality to allocate budget to this 'Fund' by respective VDC or Municipality.

Plan Nepal is also collaborating with the Department of Education (DoE) for developing minimum standards for school hostels, in which child protection policy will be incorporated. A baseline survey has been conducted in 5 or 6 different types of school hostel run by the government to explore the existing situations and areas to be improved in the future. A write-up committee has been formed at DoE level having representatives from Ministry of Education where Plan Nepal is providing technical support.

XIII. Key Achievements, Challenges and Lesson Learned

13.1 Significant lessons learned

Awareness raising on child rights and child protection concerns: In its working VDC/Municipalities, Plan Nepal and its partners have been successful in raising certain level of awareness among children and adults on

child rights in general and child protection in particular. Several efforts have been made for the same: i) supporting formation and strengthening of child protection groups/committees, ii) organizing targeted training and orientations (i.e. child rights, child protection, parenting skills and life skills training etc.) to children, adolescents, women and men in the community, iii) developing code of conduct for different groups such as school teachers, School Management Committee members, students, members of child protection groups etc., and iv) support in formation of self-help group (child clubs, women's groups, BLOP etc), strengthening their capacity and mobilizing them for raising awareness in the community. Besides, Plan Nepal and its partners are running issue specific campaigns (anti-child marriage, universal birth registration, education for all, learn without fear, and child friendly local government initiatives etc.) which is effective not only in raising awareness of the issues, but also to make the concerned authority responsible. The awareness raising efforts contribute to 'prevention' of abuse, exploitation, neglect, violence, traditional harmful practices and abduction of children. Moreover, awareness raising on specific issues such as child labour, *Kamalaries* are successful in Plan Nepal's working communities and agencies have done a remarkable job in 'rescuing' them.

Educating and mobilising communities: Plan Nepal has made several efforts to educate and mobilise community based groups (including self-help groups), especially among children and women from vulnerable group. This has an impact on reducing the number of incidents of human trafficking and other forms of violence. However, to have a lasting impact the programmes should also focus on the structural causes of trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education and gender-based discrimination. Women who are organised and empowered to raise their voices assertively against inequity and injustice can play a key role in eliminating gender-based violence.

Working closely with local government bodies: In Plan Nepal's working areas, VDCs are consulting with children (especially representative of child clubs and their network) in the planning processes particularly in matters related to children. Among the Plan Nepal's working VDCs, 89 VDCs have invited children in their planning meeting and 95 VDCs have allocated budget for children's issues. Likewise, under the HOPE project, Plan Nepal is working closely with concerned municipalities to bring them on board and held responsible for addressing child labour exploitation. For example, Plan Nepal has been able to influence *Dharan Municipality* to develop policy guideline to take efforts for addressing child labour exploitation. Continuous efforts have been made in defining processes and indicators to make child friendly VDCs. These initiatives could be considered in the wider context of child protection 'system' in the community.

Promoting participation of children through child clubs and their network: Plan Nepal is promoting children's own organizations and their networks at VDC and district levels as a process of promoting participation of children. Moreover, in all seven DCWBs in Plan's working districts include children representatives. 'Of the total child clubs supported by Plan Nepal, 22% are self-sustaining and active, 54% are growing and gaining capacities, and 23% still need a lot of support and backstopping'³³. In this regards, life skills package should be developed and delivered to all the members of child clubs in the project area as a process of empowering children to deal with their life situations.

13.2 Challenges and constraints

Lobby for having mandated child protection structures: The Government agencies and officials are increasingly realizing that there should be a structure and mechanism with clear mandate and adequate human and financial resources from community, district and central levels to promote and protect the rights of children. Though there are laws and policies regarding specific aspects of child protection, there is no comprehensive child protection policy or system.

³³ Annual Report of Plan Nepal 2011.

Capacity enhancement of mandated institutions: Plan Nepal should focus on taking forward a 'system approach' in child protection as opposed to an issue-specific approach. Efforts should be made to bring the mandated institutions and duty bearers close to the children and their families and make them responsible for child protection. Plan Nepal should work in demonstrating concrete examples and approaches ('how to do') and providing them technical assistance and capacity development.

Support in training developing human/technical resources: There is an urgent need to develop trained human resources and/or para-professionals (such as case/social workers, psycho-social counsellors etc.) as front line workers to deal child protection in a comprehensive manner. Plan Nepal has gained experience from its 'Juvenile Justice Strengthening Programme' in supporting the concerned government agencies to develop human/technical resources. Such experiences could be applied and/or replicated in strengthening CBCPMs. Plan Nepal has an opportunity to work in collaboration with the inter agency group (i.e. UNICEF-Nepal, Save the Children International, Terre des hommes etc.) and the government agencies (i.e. MoWCSW, CCWB, DCWB) as Plan Nepal is part of the 'Child Protection Mapping' being undertaken in the country.

Capacity development of staff of Plan Nepal and its partners: Plan Nepal should also plan strategically to develop capacity of its staff, particularly the frontline workers to advocate with and influence with concerned authorities to address child protection issues and concerns, and to strengthen competences at the community level. In this regard, Plan Nepal needs to work through alliances in order to influence the concerned government bodies and hold them to account.

Case management and referral mechanism: Plan Nepal require to develop proper ways of taking forward the entire process of child protection case management services Plan Nepal could concentrate in developing the capacity of social work professionals and/or para-professionals to manage cases of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence and to refer to services as required. Moreover, Plan Nepal is collaborating with service providers (including NGOs) to ensure early intervention and rehabilitation of cases. As shared in previous chapters of this report, Plan Nepal has facilitated the establishment of networks for providing services in a more coordinated manner. In the example of Makawanpur, mapping of services have been done and a process for referral have been practiced. Such efforts need to be replicated and all concerned authorities, actors, and stakeholders required should be mobilized in strategic manner. The Government has been promoting Child Helpline 1098, National Centre for Children at Risk with toll free number 104 and women and children cell at every District Police Office. These mechanisms could be strengthened for first point of contact for child protection case reporting.

Challenges:

- Despite capacity-building training, community protection groups are still weak and lack financial resources to independently run activities designed to halt human trafficking and gender-based violence.
- Most civil society organisations don't have a child protection policy though a recent workshop increased knowledge of its importance and most of the participants have developed policies.
- The rescue and reintegration of working children below 14 years of age remains a challenge as it requires coordinated actions by the police and local and district level government agencies.'

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Monitoring and evaluation work and developing database: Monitoring and evaluation will raise the level of accountability and give us evidence about the outcomes, processes and cost-effectiveness of child protection work. We need mandated duty bearers for M&E. Plan Nepal and its partners have the opportunity to engage to develop a system of data collection, developing a database and mobilize the data for designing intervention. Moreover, it would be worth documenting all the efforts made by Plan Nepal in promoting CBCP structures as well as ensuring child protection.

Annexes

1. Stakeholders involved in the study
2. Case stories
3. Field Visits Plan

Annex-I: Stakeholders involved in CBCPM Study, Nepal

Date and Place	Groups and Locations	Gender		Age Range (if Child)	Total Number
		Male	Female		
Makawanpur PU of Plan Nepal					
1 and 5 June 2012	Interview	1	2		3
Makwanpur, On 2 June 2012	Child Club Members, Makawanpur	16	19	13-18 years	35
	Youth Club Ambhanjyang, Makawanpur	5	4		9
	Adarsha Child Club (Children)	16	24	13-18 years	40
	Nigrani Samuha, Handikhola VDC, Makawanpur	3	11		14
Makawanpur, On 3 June 2012	BLOP groups in Yekhel, Bajrabarahi VDC, Makawanpur		26	13-19 years	26
	BCC Groups in Bajrabarahi VDC	1	13		14
Makawanpur, On 4 June 2012	District Level Network of Organizations engaged in anti-trafficking Groups, Hetauda, Makawanpur	4	9		13
	Meeting/Discussion with Child Protection Committee, Hetauda	2	3		5
Makawanpur, On 5 June 2012	Workshop with the Representatives of CBCP Structures, Hetauda, Makawanpur (Participated by 3 children as well)	10 (2 children)	10 (1 child)	15-18 Years	20
	Total	58	121		179
Morang/Sunsari PU of Plan Nepal					
Sunsari Morang On 21-24 June 2012	Interview, Sunsari & Morang	5	6		11
On 22 June 2012	Workshop in Sunsari/Morang (2 Adolescents girls of BLOP and 4 children-3girls and 1boy)	9	8		17
On 23 June 2012	Women Rescue Group, Itahari	1	11		12
	Child Club in Babiyapur, Sunsari (Children)	13	14	13-18 years	27
	Kirtika Keshari Kendra, BLOP Group in Sunsari	2	21	13-19 years	23
On 24 June 2012	Teachers and SMC in Tettaria, Morang (Adults)	7	1		8
	Mahila Sanjal and Aawaj Sunsari and Morang	0	8		8
25 June 2012	Municipal Coordination Committee of Child of Club of Children involved in Labour (Children and youth)	6	5	13-19 years	11
	Total	43	74		117
Banke PU of Plan Nepal					
Banke, 26 June 2012	Interviews	2	1		3

	Para-legal Committee, Nepalgunj	5	10		15
	Vigilance Group (for Safer Migration), Nepalgunj	1	4		5
	Freed Kamlari Girls, Narti, Dang district (Children)	1	12	13-18 years	13
27 June 2012	Child Protection Committee, Dang	3	5		8
	Free Kamlari Development Forum (FKDF), Lamahi, Dang	2	3		5
	Total	14	35		49
June-July	Interview at Plan Country Office	1	1		2
All Total		116	231		347

Annex-2

Case Stories

I want to help others

I am Deepa (name changed) and staying with my sisters. I could not read and write Nepali language properly as I was born and brought up in India. My mother died when I was young and my father got married after the death of her mother. Due to dispute in my family, I had to drop-out from my school after grade six and came to Nepal.

As I came back to Nepal, I lived with my elder sister who was working in a cabin restaurant in Sunsari. I also started working with her in cabin restaurant and continued the work for about eight months. After sometime, I tried to escape from the job because the owner forced me to entertain the client and have sexual relationship with them. I was compelled as there was no other alternative for my survival.

One day, my sister shared with me about *Awasar* ('opportunity') Project and she suggested me to go and meet the staff there. I did so. I participated in Life Skills training and joined in flexible classes. The training and the class supported me to improve my Nepali language as well and later, I joined to school in grade seven. I was awarded with scholarship from *Awasar* project. In the meantime, I also got to participate in various training on child rights, peer education, job preparedness etc. Getting to know about rights helped me on living a dignified life. I kept on discussing with staff of *Awasar* project and sharing my aim in life and the plan ahead. They supported me for six-months sewing and cutting training and provided me with financial support to start my tailoring shop. Now, I have a small tailoring shop and earning money for my living. I am saving Rs 20 each day in a cooperative. I am associated with *Shramik Mahila Uddar Samuha* that works for the benefit of the adolescent girls working in cabin restaurant in Itahari area.

I want to make my life different

Nilima (name changed), 19 years old is one of the regular participant of alternative education class and Better Life Options Programme conducted under *Awasar* Project in Itahari Municipality. ***“Though she was illiterate prior to joining the class, she has made a significant progress in her study in a very short period of time”*** says facilitator of alternative education programme.

Nilima was taken to India by an unidentified man by making her unconscious. Later she found herself in India with the people whom she did not recognize. Nilima requested the man to take her back to her family. He refused and asked her to marry with him. The man was from her district. She spent about three years in India and returned back to Nepal. She gave birth to a son. Her husband joined to the Armed Force of Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) hoping to get an employment. Few months later, he was killed in a cross fire. Nilima was unable to taking care of her son as she had no means to earn her living. She left her son with other family members and came to the city in search of employment. She found a job in cabin restaurant easily but she was not satisfied with her income.

Nilima came in contact with the project staff of *Awasar* Project and attended to counselling sessions. She immediately decided to give up the job, find other job opportunities and began to live in rented room. She participated in the life skill training and flexible education programme regularly. She also took part in beauty parlour training in her own investment. Now, Nilima is now running her own beauty parlour in Itahari.

Getting ready for New Life

Urmila (name changed) is the youngest among four sisters and has no brother. Her family was illiterate, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

A support staff who worked at Urmila's school was her neighbour and a distant relative. One day, he and a group of five men encircled her and her friend Chandani (name changed), in grove of bamboo and raped the two girls one by one until they fainted. The men thought that the girls were dead and left them alone. Urmila was raped at the age of 15 when she was studying in grade V.

Urmila used to be afraid of the support staff. Even earlier, from time to time he had harassed her and threatened her father, saying, "You have no son, only the daughters, and I can do anything I want." They had a little piece of land and the man had his eyes on it. As such, he was creating problems in Usha's family with the intention of grabbing the land from them.

After he raped Urmila, he put even more pressure on her father, saying he had better not file the case in the court. Her family was very frightened. In response, Plan Nepal's partner organization WOREC Nepal put Urmila in the safer house run by the organization. At the same time, the organization also helped them to file the case against the perpetrator in Sunsari District Court. The organisation gave Urmila's father the courage to go ahead and file the case in the court.

While she was brought at WOREC Nepal, she was in trauma and physically weak. She was worried about her future and had a lot of tensions. Plan partner WOREC Nepal immediately provided her a shelter at Safer House and began medical treatment. After a month's in-depth counselling and regular treatment, she began to forget all her past incidents and came into the normal condition.

Afraid of the perpetrator's threats, Urmila's family left the village. It had become tough to live in the village after Urmila was raped and after the court case was filed, they were afraid that some day he would do something bad again. Leaving the village, they went to the district headquarters. Doing daily wage labour, they managed to meet their needs, and spent their days hoping the court would punish the criminal. So, Usha started living with her family again. Chandani, the girl who raped along with her and left her family displaced and staying in Kathmandu.

Urmila believes that one day the court will provide justice. She's 18 now and she understands that she wasn't at all at fault for what had happened, she is ready to start a new life.

Adolescent girls prevented Meena

Many adolescent girls like Neeta (name changed) would have faced difficulties if there was no *Pragatishil* Adolescent Girls' Group at Thapuwa Village of Manikapur VDC, Banke.

Neeta of age 15 (approx) suddenly came to see at Manikapur village of Banke district who had told that her house was in the opposite side of *Rapti* river. It made curious to the members of *Paribantanshil* Adolescent Girls' Group. Then, they asked details about her. The girl described about her in details—an unknown male brought her for providing a good job. Then, the group members found the male and asked to him. In response of the girls—he told that he had marriage with her in consensus of her family. The difference response of the girl and the male made the group member in doubt.

Then, all the adolescent girls requested their parents to have a meeting to discuss about this issue. A number of parents gathered at a place for a meeting. In the meeting, seeing the huge mass, the man told

the real fact that he was attempting to girl trafficking. And, the villagers reported the police and police contacted to Neeta's parents. The parents came there and were in shock to see their child in such a situation. They thanked to club members and villagers. The culprit was in the custody.

Changing days of Kopila

Pabitra (name changed) of Basudevpur village of Banke district was studying in grade six. Her family was economically poor. So, she had to work in the Brick-Kilns. In the meantime, the son of Brick-Kilns owner had purposed her to marry through her friends as he fell in love with her. Her friends tried to convince her to marry him as the family was rich and that would give her a well-off life. She did decide to marry him and ran away from her house with the man.

Pabitra's parents filed a case in the police against the man for kidnapping her daughter. Police caught Kopila and the man. But, Pabitra told that she loves him and they have already married with having understanding between them. This argument of Pabitra made the police to dismiss the case. But, the members of Youth Club and Adolescent Girls' Group tried to convince Pabitra not to marry in such a younger as by sharing the negative consequences that might bring in her life. They referred her for counselling session. The club members managed to show video documentary against child marriage to make her aware about the issues. Such efforts of her friends made Pabitra to withdraw her decision of marrying the man. Now, she is continuing her school and staying with her family members.

As a result, the overall quality of change during this period exhibits improvements and the incidence of reporting of cases of violence against women, especially domestic violence, is increasing. There are visible changes in the community in terms of decreasing trends in child marriage, lessening discrimination between sons and daughters, and increase in the rates of high school enrolment and re-enrolment, especially of girls. Women are now stepping out of their homes, organizing themselves in groups and taking collective actions against violence against them. Almost all the group members interviewed explicitly said that their level of confidence had become very high and now their voices were heard more seriously. Some women from Rautahat said, 'We used to be very shy, and we were not even allowed to lift *Ghumto* (veil), but now we have become able to lead movements against the dowry system and child marriage.'

**Annex 3: Mapping of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPM)
Visit to Makawanpur Programme Unit of Plan Nepal
01 June to 05 June 2012**

Time	Date/Activity	Remarks
	01 June 2012	
	• Travel to Makawanpur (in the morning)	
1400-1600	• Meeting/Interview with PUM of Makawanpur Program Units of Plan and GCRPC	
	02 June 2012	
0800-0930	• Interaction with representatives of child clubs in Hetauda	
	• Travel to Ambhanjyang VDC	
1030-1200	• Interaction with Youth Groups (Naba Chetana Samaj) form Ambhanjyang VDC	
1300-1430	• Meeting/discussion with Child Clubs in Handikhola VDC	
1500-1730	• Meeting/interaction with Surveillance Groups	
	03 June 2012	
0800-1000	• Travel to Bajrabarahi VDC	
1000-1230	• Interaction with members of BLOP groups	
1300-1500	• Meeting/interaction with members of Behaviour Change Communication Groups	
1500-1630	• Meeting/interaction with Women's Cooperatives	
1645-1900	• Travel back to Hetauda	
	04 June 2012	
	• Meeting with anti-trafficking Network group	
	• Visit to Information booth at CDO office in Hetauda	
	• Meeting/interaction with members of Child Protection Committee	
	05 June 2012	
1000-1600	• Workshop with representatives of child protection mechanisms	
	• Interview with CRO of DCWB, Hetauda	
	• Meeting/interaction with Children as Zones of Peace (CZoP), district chapter	
	06 June 2012	
	• Travel back to Kathmandu	

**Visit to Morang and Sunsari Program Unit of Plan Nepal
21st June to 24th June 2012 (Weekend for enabling participation of school-going children)
Tentative Plan (revised after meeting with Rupa-jee)**

Time	Date/Activity	Remarks
	Thursday, 21 June 2012	
	• Travel to Morang (in the morning)	
1300-1430hrs	• Meeting/Interview with PUMs of Morang and Sunsari Program Units	
1430-1530hrs	• Preparation of the workshop next day and collection of reports and materials related to CBCPMs	
1600-1700hrs	• Interview with Child Rights Officer of DCWB, Morang	
	Friday, 22 June 2012	
0930-1600hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with CBCPM (4-6 hrs) with 24 participants (male and female) • Participants (2-4 representatives, male/female) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adolescents groups (BLOP), ○ Women Groups (Mahila Adhikar Sanjal and Aawaj Nepal), ○ VCPC, ○ District level network of Child Clubs, 	Request to Rupa-jee for inviting the participants, managing logistics and be part in the entire process Materials: Flipchart Paper 30 sheets,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Child Helpline 1098 o Key partners of Plan Morang & Sunsari working under Gender and Child Rights/protection theme o Plan—2 DCs each from Morang and Sunsari, Thematic Coordinators (GCRPC, Education, Health, Livelihood, and WASH) 	Cardboard Paper 20 sheets, Marker pens, Sign-pens, Meta cards 100 pcs, Masking tape, small notebook and pen for the participants and other regular Workshop materials
1600-1715hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Social Protection Section of Biratnagar Municipality 	
Saturday, 23 June 2012		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Sunsari] Field visit to conduct Meeting/interaction with members of Child Clubs and Youth Groups (2hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 20 to 24 members of 2-3 child clubs/and youth groups supported by Plan and/or partner: boys and girls of age between 9 to 18 years; children from ethnic & dalit communities; & children with disabilities. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Sunsari] Field visit to conduct Meeting/interaction with 8 to 12 members of BLOP (or any other Adolescents Girls Groups) supported by Plan and/or partner (1hr30m) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Sunsari] Field visit to conduct Meeting/interaction with 6 to 8 members of Cabin/ Restaurant Support Group (1hr30m) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with CRO of DCWB Sunsari (1hr) 	
Sunday, 24 June 2012		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visits to Tettaria VDC of Morang for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meeting/interaction with members of VCPC (1hr30m) o Meeting with VDC Secretary (1hr), o Observation of CF VDC related activities (1hr), o Meeting/interaction with teachers trained on NVT training (1hr30m) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Morang] Meeting/interaction with Aawaj Nepal, Sunsari and Mahila Adhikar Sanjal, Morang (1hr30m) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Protection Coordinator of Save the Children International, ERO Biratnagar (1hr30m) 	
Monday, 25 June 2012		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with working children's groups in BRT Sub-Metropolitan (2hr) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Protection Officer of UNICEF FO Biratnagar (1hr) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with WDO of District Women and Children Office (1hr) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-briefing at Plan Morang (30 min max) 	

**Visit to Banke Program Unit of Plan Nepal
26th June to 27th June 2012**

Time	Date/Activity	Remarks
Tuesday, 26 June 2012		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Nepalgunj (first flight in the morning) 	
9.30 - 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting/Interview with PUM of Banke Program Units of Plan 	
11:15-12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with Vigilance/Cabin Counseling team (3 persons) 	
1:30- 3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting/interaction with members of district level Para-Legal in Banke (5-7 Persons) 	
3:30-5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting/Interview with Child Rights Officer of DCWB, Banke and WDO of District Women and Children Office, Banke) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of reports and materials related to CBCPMs. 	
	Wednesday, 27 June 2012	
8:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Dang 	
11:00-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with leaders of Mukta Kamalari Bikas Mancha at Lamahi (5-7 persons) 	
1:15-2:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction/consultation (or FGD) with Kamlari girls who are studying in schools using Plan supported hostel at Narti (7-9 persons) 	
2:30-4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting/interactions with Child Protection Committee at Gadhawa VDC (4-5 persons) 	
4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel back to Nepalgunj 	
	Thursday, 28 June 2012	
9:15-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-briefing at Plan Banke 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return back to Kathmandu 	