

VOICE



Collaborative approach of CWISH

Over the last two decades, CWISH has been advocating on issues of children and women especially domestic child labour to ensure social protection and justice of children. Established with an aim of promoting human rights especially rights of children, CWISH has not limited its scope within the domestic child labour issues.

CWISH envisions children in Nepal enjoying their rights with dignity therefore it has expanded its work areas in the benefit of children from addressing the issues of children in WFCL to parental care to the promotion of Social Protection guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal. CWISH has been able to reach to more than 40 districts including Manang and Jumla with various services through its running projects and programmes which are based on different themes. Not only children and women, CWISH has always focused on the vulnerable and marginalised groups and has been able to provide support including legal support to the needy people/group.

Be it reaching out to the beneficiaries or advocating on issues, CWISH has prioritised collaborative approach. Integration of programmes within the organisation and collaboration with like-minded organisation has been an attitude of CWISH since the beginning. Currently, CWISH is working at consortium level too with two other organisations along with in partnership with like-minded organisation.

However, the journey of nearly three decades has not been an easy. On top of that, the current pandemic imposed by COVID-19 has been challenging to all of us. Despite all the challenges, we have been successful in continuing our services to beneficiaries and support to our partner organisations. Having said that, the new normal; COVID-19 is not an easy situation. In this context, more hands need to be come together to advocate for the rights of vulnerable communities so that we can achieve our goals and make our community as we have envisioned.

This issue of VOICE highlights CWISH's coordination activities, its reach to the beneficiaries, capacity development of stakeholders and publications like blogs and reports. As an advocate for bringing change in the life if vulnerable communities, CWISH has been able to adopt various ways of advocacy with the growing time. Thus, VOICE is one of its advocacy method to reach out to its beneficiaries with relevant information.

Women leaders of CWISH	
Name	Designation
Bimala Jnawali	Chairperson
Bindu Pokharel Gautam	Vice-Chairperson
Purnakala Sharma	General Secretary
Sangita Baba Chapagain	Treasurer
Shanti Adhikari	Founder Chairperson & Member
Sarada Kumal	Member
Rekha Karki	Member
Anita Pandey	Member
Om Kumari Ramtel	Member

Advancing Social Protection Programme Implementation System in Nepal (ASPRO)

Project Activities:

1. One day Orientation accomplished in Palika's related on Social Protection and online registration:

A one-day orientation program on social protection programs and online registration events has been held in the village municipalities of State no. 2. The training was organized to inform the people's representatives and employees of the village municipality about the status of the implementation of the social security program, existing laws, and regulations related to the registration of personal incidents. Orientation was proposed by the Social Security Program Implementation System Sublimation Project managed by CWISH with the financial support of UNICEF, Save the Children in coordination with the Department of National Identity Card and Registration, Government of Nepal. Director of Registration Department, Anuj Bhandari, Branch Officer Saraswati Bhandari and Meghraj Shankar facilitated. The orientation was attended by 542 people including 180 people's representatives and 362 employees. Since the social security programme reaches to the beneficiaries through the local government, ward secretaries in coordination with the MIS operators, field assistants and bank managers have been carrying out the activities.

2. Completion of online training on key event registration and social security management information system:

The three-day training on the main incident and social security management information system has been completed in six places. The training conducted in the villages/municipalities in Province No. 2 that was attended by MIS Operators, Field Assistants, Ward Secretaries, Heads of Social Development Branch and Registration Branch, and Information Technology Officers of the approached municipalities. The objective of the training was to inform the beneficiaries about the online registration process and methods of personal incidents and social security allowances based on the



ASPRO TEAM MEMBERS	
Umanga Mainali	Project Coordinator
Sujata Chaulagain	Programme Support Finance Officer
Mahendra Karki	Project Officer
Bimala Dahal	Project Officer

existing laws, regulations, and new system. The training was conducted in Rajbiraj of Saptari, Lahan and Mirchaiya of Siraha, Bardibash of Mahotari, Chapur of Rautahat and Kalaiya of Bara from 3rd August, to 19th August 2021. It was facilitated by Assistant Engineers Pradip Bhudathoki, Kailash Kumar Ghimire, and Dapasa Sherpa of the National Identity Card and Registration Department. During the training, the participants shared that the training was helpful in making personal incidents at the village/municipalities more systematic and effective in terms of providing services to the beneficiaries.

3. Television Talk Show program: (5 Episode)

The ASPRO project in coordination with another running project of CWISH by Social Protection Civil Society Network-PAUNCH produced the television program with an objective to engage the stakeholders in informal dialogues relevant to different social protection aspects. The talk program was broadcasted by Kantipur Television, a National Television of Nepal. The program serves as a dialogue platform for civil society activists, professionals, and government officials. Moreover, the discussion comes up with robust ideas and promises which may support further expansion and strengthen the present social protection programs and systems in Nepal.

Project Outputs:

- The one-day orientation benefitted 180 people's representatives and 362 employees of the approached municipalities.
- The three day training was useful in making the personal incidents registration process systematic.



For more details please contact project coordinator at umanga.mainali@cwish.org.np

Child Labour: Action-Research-Innovation in South and South-Eastern Asia (CLARISSA).

Key Activities Conducted:

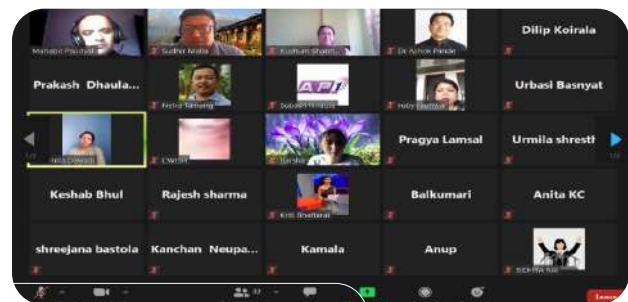
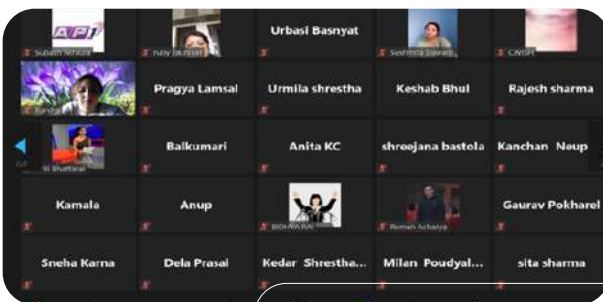
1. Children Advocacy Group: CLARISSA Nepal advocacy component will be framed by a child rights-based approach. A child rights approach to advocacy puts children at the center and encourages meaningful participation of children in all stages of the advocacy work, from programme planning, through implementation to evaluation. Children Advocacy Group (CAG) will be formed with the vision to work directly with the children in WFCL to advocate on the issues of their concern. Before they are able to raise their voice, CLARISSA will empower 16 children particularly those children who are in WFCL and represent or involve in the child clubs, community schools and or from the slum/low rent areas to be vocal on the issues that affect them directly with the concerned stakeholders based on the evidences generated from CLARISSA programme.

2. Children Research Group: With an objective to engage young and adolescent children to conduct research on WFCL as CLARISSA Nepal aims to implement child-led research. Children have an important role in leading research processes, from advising research methodologies, research issues, analysing to dissemination of research activities. . They have a meaningful role in shaping research activities and bringing out issues they want to raise which can sometimes be overlooked by adults. The Children Research Group will be formed with 16 children with the aim of mobilising them in conducting qualitative research.

CLARISSA TEAM MEMBERS	
Kushum Sharma	Advocacy Expert
Ranjana Sharma	Participatory Action Researcher
Sushmita Dawadi	Communications Officer
Kapil Shrestha	Documenter

Participation of children working in WFCL to conduct research on children working in WFCL areas will help prevail empathetic perspective in the storytelling and children voice in the data and findings of research studies. el operational plan including activities for the six months i.e., July to December 2021.

3. After-Action Review (AAR) Workshop: The six-monthly After-Action Review (AAR) workshop was held from 29 and 30 July 2021 virtually. The workshop was participated by staffs and leadership from consortium partners i.e., Voice of Children, CWISH, and Terre des hommes, and joined by IDS, Child Hope UK and CSC staffs. It is the fourth AAR workshop of CLARISSA; the first was held in February 2020, the second in July 2020 and third was in February 2021. The six-monthly AAR is a key feature of the CLARISSA programme's MEL system to reflect and capture learning, challenges, changes and apply them in future. The purpose of the workshop was to review the programme focusing on the theme child centredness and team capacity, generate evidence-based learning and develop the country-level operational plan including activities for the six months i.e., July to December 2021.



Photos from the Virtual Discussions with Media and Children that was conducted during the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June

CLARISSA Spotlight Stories

01. Advocating for change in nepal's adult entertainment sector

Written by Clare Gorman (Alburnum Associates) with input from Kushum Sharma (CWISH), Sudhir Malla (Voice of Children) and Lucy Halton (Consortium for Street Children) and edited by Vivienne Benson. CLARISSA Communications Lead.

02. World Day Against Child Labour Activities in Nepal

Every year the 12th of June is marked as a World Day Against Child Labour. CLARISSA Nepal organised series of activities to mark the day and sensitise the issue of child labour in Nepal as well. Virtual Discussion with children was held on June 7. This discussion was organised to discuss on different aspects of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) they had experienced in the context of COVID-19.

For more details please contact participatory action researcher at ranjana.sharma@cwish.org.np

Dialouge Works

Project Activities: In the last four months, the Dialogue Works team was engaged in conducting activities with children who are the members of CAC. The key activities of the project are:

- To conduct Country Situation Analysis to understand the gaps in child labour and child participation policies in Nepal
- To form Child Advisory Committee (CACs) and support regular meeting of the member for promoting child participation spaces and child led advocacy and dialogue works. Till the month May, one CAC has been reformed with children from one additional school from Kathmandu district and one zero CAC meeting has been conducted.
- Child led advocacy programmes to aware and sensitize the concerned stakeholders to promote effective implementation of child labour and child participation policies.

Dialogue Works TEAM MEMBERS	
Manita Dharel	CAC Coordinator
Kapil Shrestha	Project Advisor

Project Outcomes: The expected outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Anchoring working children's participation sustainably in political and societal processes.
- Children have increased awareness of the effect of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) and are able to generate innovative advocacy and dialogue activities to respond to their own situation.
- National and local stakeholders are more aware of the drivers of WFCL and are engaged in generating innovative solution to reduce the number of children in worst form of labour.

Other significant project updates: The CAC committee conducted meetings to discuss on developing child friendly report in the last four months. The meeting that was conducted in six phases was attended by 30 children. Participant children were from six different schools and they were working as domestic child labour. The schools were:

- Budhanilkantha School
- Buddhanagar School
- Koteswor Saraswoti School
- Bhimsengola School
- Prabhat School
- Tripadham School



During the meeting, participant children expressed their opinions on various ways of publishing child friendly reports such as in the form of comic, children story among others. Some children shared that since the project is about dialogue works, the report should also be in the form of dialogue.

For more details please contact project coordinator at manita.dharel@cwish.org.np

Realizing the rights of children in Nepal through CSSP (PAHUNCH)

"Realizing the rights of children in Nepal through CSSP (PAHUNCH)" is a five years project being implemented in Nepal. To improve the access of the marginalized and vulnerable groups into social protection schemes, this project aims to bring positive changes in the society. There are many schemes that come under social protection for different categories and various disadvantageous groups. Since the gap is realized in accessing social protection schemes that left the vulnerable population behind mainly the children, Save the Children International (SCI) designed this project to CWISH as a resource organization to improve access to social protection schemes and give to the overall wellbeing of the children in the project areas. In this context, SCI is working with local organizations to implement the project. Similarly,

CWISH is also supporting as a resource organization to capacitate different stakeholders to realize child rights and child protection systems.

Project Activities:

- Host a TV-talk shows on social protection
- Publication of social protection journal
- Provincial level advocacy works on social protection
- Training on shock-responsive social protection
- IEC materials related to social protection
- Advocacy for social protection for children
- Training on shock-responsive social protection
- Thesis grant on social protection

PAHUNCH TEAM MEMBER	
Nabin Maharjan	Programme Coordinator

Project Outputs:

- Organized a one-day provincial-level interaction in Hetauda and submitted one CSO declaration on social protection accompanying 68 participants (Chief Guest-Hon. Minister Ms. Kumari Moktan, Ministry of Social Development, 4 MPs, 8 government stakeholders, and other CSOs)
- Accomplished 15 episodic telecast of social protection (around 5 lakh audiences from social media campaign and engaged 15 policymakers, 15 development partners and 15 representatives of CSOs)
- Designated two scholars to help submitted their thesis on social protection and designated one paid volunteer to support daily activities of SPCSN.
- Attended 5 policy-level dialogues with the political leaders, MPs, provincial-federal ministers for lobby and advocacy on social protection.



Project in Media



To read click here

Other significant project updates

The team has taken into account to organize a lobby meeting with the Ministry of Social Development, Hetauda province has a plan to draft working procedure for orphaned child allowance on December 2021.

For more details please contact program officer at nabin.maharjan@cwish.org.np

Promoting Social Protection Floors in Nepal (PROSOP)

The involvement of civil society in the Social Protection (SP) &Public Finance Management (PFM) project being implemented by WSM on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) through two main local partners, Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN)/ Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), and the International Trade Union Confederation - Nepal Affiliated Council (ITUC NAC). While leads have been determined for certain activities between the ITUC-NAC and SPCSN/CWISH, the action very much remains a joint undertaking and responsibility, fostering

better understanding and collaboration between trade unions and civil society.

PROSOP TEAM MEMBER	
Saroj Acharya	Programme Officer

Project Activities:

- Some of the major activities during the period are enlisted below;
- Circulate appeal on child nutrition grant
 - Conduct five-days training on social protection to civil society organizations at Kalaiya, Bara
 - Prepare inception report, baseline study questionnaire and finalized study tools and methodologies
 - Broadcasted public service announcements(PSA) on child nutrition grant.

Project Outputs:

- Advocacy documents
- Appeal Letters on child nutrition grant
 - Prepared Inception report of baseline study on social protection
 - Trained twenty two civil society members of Kalaiya district on social protection.

Project in Media:

Coverage through Public Service Announcements (PSA): SPCSN/CWISH announced a radio jingle through a community radio- CIN. It has covered almost all districts of the country with an expected total online reach-537,486 and view with 138,498 and 108,371 and anticipated to reach above 10 Million through community radio.

For more details please contact program officer at saroj.acharya@cwish.org.np



Preventing Child Separation (PRECHISE)

Project Activities:

1. Develop Training Packages for front line workers and management of NGOs, institutions or agency working in child rights and child protection.
2. Establish online resource hub and hard copy library of information on parental rights, alternative care and de-institutionalization.
3. Create innovative and contextual field methods to address the prevention of local community members enabling or participating in child trafficking: Design a contextual preventive strategy of gatekeeping to prevent unnecessary child separation at provincial and local level.
4. Conduct forum theatre and produce documentary to conduct the "Stop Child Separation" campaign in order to reach out to wider people of Kathmandu valley and beyond.
5. Formation of child protection network, Nepal, Enhance the understanding and application of the UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child and the Alternative Care Guidelines.
6. Mobilize journalists and key members of society to engage in debates regarding parental rights and child protection
7. Conduct a five-day disaster preparedness workshop and form a response network of organisations working within the field of child protection.

PRECHISE TEAM MEMBERS	
Pradipta Kadambari	Project Coordinator
Yadav Kumari Basnet	Programme Officer
Milan Poudyal	Consultant
Prakash Aryal	Web Designer

Project Outputs:

1. Initially 100 members of CWISH and six NGOs in their network working within the field of trafficking / child protection will be strengthened via the new parental rights trainings
2. Five Child rights journalists will also participate in the initial trainings, media core group meetings are enhancing their understanding of children's right and importance of keeping the in families.
3. Twenty news articles related to the issues of child separation will be published in national newspapers and stimulate reflection and public debate and political understanding of the value of providing good child care and the harms of institutionalization of children
4. Five forum theatre will enhance the understanding of harms of child separation and institutionalization of minimum of 100 audience in Kathmandu valley.
5. One video documentary will create a discourse on the importance of advocating for keeping children with families.
6. At least 70 seventy local government representatives along with members of municipal child rights committees including local community police, community leaders and journalist will acquire an understanding on the value of keeping children together, child trafficking and the harms of institutionalization and their role as gatekeepers.
7. Seven core membered organisation and 100 more person as mmultisectoral stakeholders will build their capacity and engaged in the promotion of Alternative Care Guideline and the UNGA resolution.
8. 70 members of CWISH and partner organisations will participate in preparedness disaster management training.



Key Opinion Piece

"If I were not in this project, I would not have realised the importance of raising children with me. I now not only understand the effect of child separation on child development, I can also convince others to not separate their children from them due to the parent's work or child education. I have stopped one of my friends from sending her child to maternal home so that she could work." - Core Media Team Member

Significant Project Updates:

Due to Covid-19 prohibitory order, majority of project activities are put on hold. The project has received no cost extension till October 2021 with revision activities on objective two and three. The new activities included five national level seminars to Enhance the understanding and application of UNGA resolution on the Rights of Child and the alternative Care Guideline of the members of "The child protection network, Nepal "along with the multi-sectorial stakeholders of Nepal. Next is three provincial level advocacy workshops with local government representatives, municipal child rights committee members, community leaders, local police and journalists in keeping family together, harms of institutionalisation, child trafficking and their obligation as gate keeper. Surkhet, Birgung and Dhading have been selected for this activity. Due to Covid-19 situation, project is preparing the local NGOs as key advocates of the issue with two days TOT on the content and conduction of the workshop in their province.

The two training manuals have been reviewed and ready for in-house piloting. This will be carried out in the months of September to October. The activity on the online resource hub development is undergoing. Till now there are 17 articles published newspapers stimulating reflection and public debate on harms of child separation and institutionalization. This public debate has found to be increasing. There are two more of articles published in main streaming newspaper by others as well.

For more details please contact project coordinator at pradipta.kadambari@cwish.org.np

HELPLINE

Project Activities:

- Case followed up for 20 times
- Client counselling for 30 times
- Case statement prepared for 2 times
- Case hearing was done for 10 times
- Supported and co-ordinated in the case related to women trafficking
- Legal and psychological counselling provided to a female through phone
- Co-ordination and sharing meeting with partner organisation for 5 times
- Registration and co-ordination with police at Bhaktapur Jagate metropolitan
- In addition, a boy at risk due to substance abuse was rescued in coordination with National Women Commission. He was rescued from the airport in Kathmandu as he was sent from Sakhuwashabha by a family in support of the villagers. The boy was found mentally unstable and due to his poor economic condition, the villagers supported him to send him by air. He was taken to the Balbatika Khojtalas Samanbaya Kendra 104 and been sent to a rehabilitation centre.
- Client was counselled and co-ordinated with National Women Commission to support for marriage, birth and citizenship certificate. The case was about an Indian citizen who had married a Nepali woman but citizenship certificate was not issued to his two daughters and even wife. The family has been going through domestic violence by the husband.

CASES	Number
Polygamy	1
Citizenship	4
Birth Certificate	4
Marriage Certificate	2
Legal Support	5
Hostel Support	1

- A similar case was in Dhading where the husband didn't get marriage certificate to his wife even after 9 years of marriage instead he ran away with another girl.
- Another case was about inter-cast marriage where the husband physically tortured his wife being alcoholic.
- There was a case in Bhaktapur where a woman working in hotel was urged to work as a sex worker for the guests and when they found that she was 6 month pregnant, she was asked to do an abortion. In this case, coordination was done with Jagate Police.
- Participated in the workshop and training on legal aid and pro-bono service in Lalitpur.
- Assessment of the family affected by the impact of COVID lockdown to support them. CWISH provided grocery for three months to three affected families.
- Prepared the Half yearly report for January to June 2021 of helpline service department

For more details please contact project coordinator at debaki.pokhrel@cwish.org.np

Advocating for Change in Nepal's Adult Entertainment Sector

Background

Authors: Clare Gorman, Lucy Halton & Kushum Sharma

The 'adult entertainment sector' (AES) encompasses a diverse range of formal and informal venues, including restaurants, folk dance bars (known as 'dohoris'), erotic dance bars, massage parlours, guest houses, and hotels. While not all venues in the AES are exploitative or engage children in sexual services, it is a high-risk environment and within the informal sector in which commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is known to take place.

Challenges and opportunities

Nepal has made steady pro's Advocacy Expert in Nepal was easily able to pre-record a video message to share directly with the Human Rights Council. To develop this statement, CLARISSA colleagues from the Consortium for Street Children and Nepal worked closely together to reiterate the need to focus on the worst forms of child labour in the adult entertainment sector and highlighted the importance of a child-centred approach. It has been published in its website: <https://clarissa.global/resource/advocating-for-change-in-nepals-adult-entertainment-sector/>

CLARISSA Recommendation	Recommendations made by State (S)	Recommending States
•Ensure that child labour in the informal sector is incorporated into the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, in line with commitments made under the second UPR cycle.	•Ensure that child labour in the informal sector is incorporated into the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.	Belgium
•Take action to mitigate the risk of children entering the AES sector because of the Covid-19 pandemic, by ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable children and families in policy responses.	•Ensure inclusion of vulnerable children and families in policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic to minimise the risk of children getting involved in child labour.	Croatia
•Develop safe, inclusive and participatory mechanisms for all children to express their views and be heard at all levels, including in developing solutions to the WFCL.	•Develop safe and inclusive mechanisms for all children to express their views, as well as finding the solutions for the WFCL.	Croatia

The Process

CLARISSA shared emerging evidence based on two scoping studies, a research report, a rapid review of children in the AES during the pandemic and the Nepal research team's experiences while collecting life stories. Specifically, during the rapid review the team interviewed two child survivors, four employers, two people based at NGOs working in the AES. All indicate a highly complex set of factors at play. The note focused on:

Omission of the informal sector in national legislation : The AES in Nepal is largely informal which is a barrier to preventing children from being recruited and exploited within it.

Enforcement of counter-trafficking in the AES : There is a need to respond in sustainable and holistic ways that ensure children's protection and rehabilitation. Approaches should be child-centred and include mechanisms that ensure children's voices are listened to, and that children's protection and rehabilitation.

The impact of Covid-19 on the AES : Covid-19 has exacerbated social inequalities in Nepal. Two key consequences have been a lack of financial protection for children employed in this sector and an increase in the numbers of children working in the AES, as a result of the poverty and inflation caused by the pandemic.

Engaging with the UPR Process during the Pandemic: This interaction with diplomats was warmly welcomed and helped to bring the issues to life. Similarly, statements during the Adoption meeting are usually delivered in person in Geneva so CLARISSA's Advocacy Expert in Nepal was easily able to pre-record a video message to share directly with the Human Rights Council in support of Consortium for Street Children and Nepal worked closely together to reiterate the need to focus on the worst forms of child labour in the adult entertainment sector.

Since the start of the third UPR cycle, CLARISSA continued to engage directly with the Government of Nepal and offer its support in addressing the drivers of the WFCL. After several months reviewing the 233 recommendations received, the Government of Nepal returned to the Human Rights Council's 47th session in July 2021 to inform the Council which recommendations it will support, and which it will acknowledge. This is known as an 'Adoption' meeting. Supported recommendations are those which a government pledges to implement; in this cycle, the Government of Nepal supported 196 out of 233 recommendations.

During this meeting, Kushum Sharma, Advocacy Expert, CLARISSA Nepal, addressed the Human Rights Council. All the recommendations developed by the programme, and made to Nepal, have been supported by the government.

CLARISSA delivered a statement during the Adoption meeting, welcoming the Government of Nepal's public commitment to including child labour in the informal sector in national legislation and developing participatory mechanisms for children in the WFCL to express their views and be heard. This is the first step in mitigating the risk of children entering the AES because of the pandemic.

This article is a part of the Spotlight story developed by CLARIS-SA and has been published in its website: <https://clarissa.global/resource/advocating-for-change-in-nepals-adult-entertainment-sector/>

