Nepal

Child Protection
Thematic Report

January – December 2018

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Contents

A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

C4D	Communication for Development
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CO	Country Office
CP	Child Protection
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBV-WG	Gender-Based Violence Watch Group
HR	Human Resources
HQ	Headquarter
HRP	Humanitarian Review and Planning
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMS	Information Management System
IPSSJ	Integrated Programme on Strengthening Security and Justice
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
MTR	Mid Term Review
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
OR	Other Resources
ORE	Other Resources - Emergency
ORR	Other Resources – Regular
RO	Regional Office
RR	Regular Resources
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey
VCPC	Village Child Protection Committee

B. Executive Summary

There are various manifestations of violence against children and women in Nepal. Children and women are physically, psychologically, economically or sexually abused in different settings, including in their homes, schools, communities, and work environments. The main harmful issues faced by children in Nepal include violent discipline, child marriage, child labour, trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). Other issues of concern include not all children are registered at birth and children subjected to harmful traditional practices. The children in contact with the justice system and those without parental care are further vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation because of a lack of adequate services.

In 2018, UNICEF's efforts to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation focused on strengthening child protection systems and mechanisms in which laws, policies, regulations and services across all sectors were combined with behaviour changes contributing to prevention, early intervention and responses to child protection concerns. By responding to certain manifestation of violence against children and child protection concerns as an entry point to system strengthening, UNICEF's interventions were designed to maximize the contributions to establishing and strengthening different necessary elements of child protection system at federal, state and local levels.

The outcomes of UNICEF's child protection programme include reduction in violent discipline, child marriage and child labour and an increase in referral between social welfare service providers and the justice system. Though the objectively verifiable data dealing with those outcomes will become available only in 2020, progress has been made in all outcome areas. Explicit legal prohibition of all corporal punishment (violent discipline) in all settings has been achieved. Interventions against child marriage have received high priority from the federal and local government. In regard to child labour, the government has endorsed the National Master Plan on Child Labour (2018-2028). Approximately 50,000 people were reached with behavioural change communication interventions challenging the societal acceptance of child labour while 2,500 authorities and service providers from both the government and non-governmental agencies were capacitated to address child labour.

The child protection programme has made significant progress to achieve three outputs (i) increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget for child protection; (ii) improved knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and abuse; and (iii) improved knowledge and capacity to provide child friendly and gender sensitive justice.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Central Child Welfare Board and civil society organizations to influence progressive legislations and policy instruments on child protection. UNICEF's advocacy efforts and technical support over several years contributed to the new and mostly progressive Act Relating to Children (2018) which addresses the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and also establishes the elements of national case management system. In order to strengthen the data for the national child protection sector information system from various sources, the State of Children in Nepal 2018 report has been published by the Central Child Welfare Board with UNICEF's support. Progress has been made to reduce the number of children in institutional care from 23,572 to 23,385 (reduced by 187). The government has allocated budget for 36 psychosocial centres, ensuring sustainability of psychosocial services at community-level which is a key priority under the Protection Cluster Strategic Plan. UNICEF as a co-lead of the protection cluster has revised and updated the protection contingency plan in coordination and collaboration with the Government and cluster members.

In the areas of improving knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and abuse, approximately 25 per cent of all 753 local governments have been sensitized and better equipped to locally plan and budget for prevention and response interventions aimed at reducing child labour, child marriage, violent discipline and other forms of violence against children. Men Engagement Strategy for Ending Violence against Women and Girls has been finalized to address social norms related to gender discrimination and GBV. Approximately 2,000 state and local government representatives were sensitized with key messages on the strategy to promote positive roles for men in ending violence against women and girls and changing harmful social norms and stereotypes about masculinities. In order to address GBV in education settings, Complaint Hearing Procedure (2017) for schools has been adopted. A total of 32,583 students and approximately 2,000 school teachers gained knowledge on preventing gender-based violence and the school-based response mechanism. In addition, 2,725 GBV watch groups and child club members were trained on identifying, safely referring and providing community-based responses to GBV and child protection concerns.

In the matter of justice for children, UNICEF collaborated with the National Judicial Academy, Nepal Police, the Office of the Attorney General, and Child Justice Coordination Committee. The new Act Relating to Children (2018), provides a framework for a number of provisions relating to justice for children, such as diversion, non-custodial measures for children who are in conflict with law, restorative justice, reasonable compensation for the victims; extended time limit for filing cases of offences against children. Capacity building of law enforcement officials and outreach programmes have contributed to approximately eight per cent increase in the number of cases related to women and children reported to the police from 13,573 cases to 14,796 cases, the cases related

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to rape, attempted rape, child marriage, domestic violence and trafficking. A total of 251 (female101 and male 150) security and justice professionals strengthened their knowledge on child friendly justice measures, victim assistance and witness protection, psychosocial support, management of the GBV database and non-custodial measures for children in conflict with law. 521 children (boy 506, 15 girls) in conflict with law accessed, legal support, psychosocial services, and reintegration services. An additional 3,838 children (boys 1630, girls 2208) benefitted from the school-based outreach campaigns by police.

The flexible funding provided by thematic funds was essential to respond to the changing needs and requests for capacity development at federal as well as local levels. UNICEF would like to extend its heartfelt thanks on behalf of the children of Nepal to the donors of the thematic funding pool for child protection. No additional thematic funds were received in 2018; a total of US$ 357,341.58 was utilized in 2018 from the balance of previous years.

C. Strategic Context of 2018

In 2018, UNICEF Nepal signed the Child Protection Rolling Work Plan for January 2018 to June 2020 with the federal government counterparts. The plan provides a framework for child protection interventions in Nepal. Letters of Understanding were also signed with selected local governments within the framework of the Rolling Work Plan. While technical support to State governments was also provided, no formal partnership has been possible with State governments because of the lack of enabling laws. The ongoing transition to a federal system presented both challenges and opportunities for implementing the child protection programme. As part of re-structuring, some structures which the backbone of the child protection system were, and which UNICEF had heavily invested in, ceased to exist. Specifically, the District Women and Children Offices, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Watch Groups were all affected. As a result, child protection services were affected.

Local governments have started assuming important roles in addressing child protection and preventing gender-based violence. UNICEF's analysis of the budget from 121 local governments (out of the 753) shows that most have allocated less than one per cent for addressing child protection and GBV issues. Such allocation for the respective geographic areas in the federal structure is still higher as compared to the unitary system where ten per cent of the local development budget had to be allocated for children and women. The allocation of budget for addressing child protection and GBV has been possible mainly because of the capacity and commitment of former staff of District Women and Children Offices deployed to local governments, training and orientation to elected representatives, regular technical assistance and advocacy by UNICEF and the presence of other actors (including community-based groups) demanding budget allocation.

An important opportunity presented in the current federal system was that local governments now have autonomy to plan and budget for prevention and response to violence against children. Deputy mayors are mostly women and have localized knowledge of the issues affecting children, a sizable proportion of them (34 per cent) have a background as advocates for women and children's rights with prior work experience as members of GBV Watch Groups, Paralegal Committees, Women Cooperatives or social mobilizers (mapping covered 260 of the 753 local levels).

Reporting to police of cases of violence against children and women has increased significantly from 2013 onwards, but it is still lower than compared to the magnitude of such incidents revealed from MICS and NDHS. The major reasons for increased reporting are the increased awareness that violence is a crime. Legal provisions friendly for the victims of violence, presence of women's groups, and improvement in police-community relations are among the other factors contributing to increased reporting. Societal acceptance of violence and inadequate services for the victims are among the factors causing lower reporting.

The overall child protection interventions carried out in 2018 contributed towards SDG Target 16.2. on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. The technical support for addressing gender-based violence contributed to make progress towards the SDG target 5.2 relating to elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation as well as the SDG target 5.3 on elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage. The collaborative works with municipalities on addressing child labour was in line with the SDG target 8.7 on taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and ending child labour in all its forms. The interventions on preventing gender-based violence in school settings enabled learners to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence (SDG target 4.7). Likewise, such interventions also contributed towards SDG target 4.a., for building and upgrading education facilities that are gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, learning environments for all. The interventions on justice for children contributed towards the rule of law at the national levels and equal access to justice for all (SDG target 16.3). On the other hand, the partnership with Nepal Police contributed towards SDG target 16.a., on strengthening relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

D. Results Achieved in the Sector

Outcome Progress

The following important milestones have been achieved to address child protection issues particularly violent disciplining, child marriage and child labour.

Violent disciplining and other forms of violence against children: The Act Relating to Children (2018) prohibits all corporal punishment of children in all settings, which makes Nepal the first country in South Asia, and the 54th globally, to achieve a complete legal ban on violent discipline. The law also specifies that service providers, such as health practitioners and educators, should mandatorily report offences against children, including violent discipline. In addition, the law prohibits those convicted of violence against children and child sexual abuse to work with children in the future. This has created an important platform to integrate child protection issues within other sectors, especially education and health. To address violent discipline, especially affecting young children, UNICEF enhanced the revised parental education package with more information on negative impact of violent disciplines and practical positive disciplining methods which parents and caregivers can practice.

Child Marriage: The new Act Relating to Children (2018) criminalizes not only child marriage, but also the arranging of child marriage. The law also makes the state accountable to provide necessary services to the victims of child marriage on a case by case basis. The second Nepal Girl Summit brought together the Government of Nepal, UN agencies, development partners, civil society (including community and religious leaders) to reaffirm their commitment to end child marriage by 2030. The summit mobilized newly elected local representatives to include ending child marriage as a priority and commit to actions in line with the National Strategy to End Child Marriage (2015).

Child Labour: The Government of Nepal renewed its commitment to end child labour with the endorsement of the National Master Plan on Child Labour (2018-2028). Nepal has also become a 'pathfinder' country of Alliance 8.7, the global partnership to achieve SDG Target 8.7 of eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. Alongside policy-advocacy on child labour, behavioural change communication interventions at selected municipalities to challenge societal acceptance of child labour were implemented, engaging approximately 50,000 people. Approximately 2,500 representatives of key government line agencies which includes representatives from the police and women and children offices are better equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to address child labour and advance the protection of children.

Referral between social welfare and justice system: No data is currently available on the number of local levels where referral system between social welfare service providers and the justice system is established and functional. However, the local judicial committees have started registering and settling disputes that include several cases of GBV and domestic violence.

Progress in the Output Area

Output 4.1: Increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget for child protection
Legislative developments in 2018 demonstrate an increased capacity in state institutions to legislate for the prevention and response to child protection concerns, although further work remains to be done. UNICEF's advocacy efforts and technical support over several years contributed to the new and mostly progressive Act Relating to Children (2018)., The law also brings Nepal closer to full alignment with international standards and recommendations from human rights mechanisms. It lays out a number of provisions that: (i) provide for formal best interest determination in relevant cases; (ii) makes the reporting of violence and abuse of children mandatory for service providers working with children; (iii) extends time limit for reporting violence and abuse; (iv) prohibits the convicts of offences (violence and sexual abuse) against children to work with children. Furthermore, the law also prohibits the unauthorized placement of children in institutional care. Whilst the Act Relating to Children (2018) has brought about positive changes for children, UNICEF is continuing advocacy efforts to amend this law to bring it in line with Nepal Child Protection Systems Mapping Report (2015) and Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations (2016). The required amendments include: (i) increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility which is set at 10 years; (ii) criminalizing child labour; (iii) making it explicit in the law that the government is responsible for provision of services for children who have protection concerns; (iv) making the Prime Ministers' Office responsible for multi-sectoral coordination of children's affairs; and (v) removing gender discriminatory provisions. UNICEF has identified the reforms necessary in a number of other laws, particularly the National Criminal (Code) Act, 2017, National Civil (Code) Act, 2017, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000, and Citizenship Act, 2006 from child protection perspective for which advocacy is ongoing.

A number of recommendations (five additional from the baseline) from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child) relating to child protection have been addressed by the Act Relating to Children (2018) for which UNICEF provided technical support and engaged in advocacy. The new law provides

that the cases of all children under the age of 18 years who are in conflict with law shall be heard by children's court or bench. The law also provides the criteria for alternative care, particularly the definition of children in need of alternative care, the forms of alternative care and the designation of decision making authority. The Act defines and prohibits violence against children and child sexual abuse. With the entry into force of the Act Relating to Children (2018) Nepal has achieved complete legal prohibition on all corporal punishment of children in all settings. The amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2018 prohibits the employment of children under the age of 18 in hazardous work.

Formal best interest determination criteria, which is a key element of national case management system, has been included in the Act Relating to Children (2018), thereby establishing two elements out of the required six elements for the national case management system. The Act provides that best interest determination process shall be adopted while making arrangements for alternative care of a child, separating a child from her/his parents or guardian and deciding upon the custody arrangement for a child at the time of the divorce of the parents.

Administrative data on child protection has been compiled from various sources and published in the State of Children in Nepal, 2018 report by Central Child Welfare Board with UNICEF's contributions. The report serves as a key element of the child protection sector information system and provides data in the areas of services available for children from different sectors, child labour, children in street situations, child marriage, children affected by violence, child dependents of those in custody, birth registration, adoption, refugee children, children with disabilities and children in institutional care.

Progress has been made towards the goal of reducing the number of children in institutional care. The number of children in institutional care has been reduced by 187 from the baseline (23,572). Through regular monitoring of institutional care, with UNICEF's support, children were withdrawn from the institutions that were running against the prescribed standards and they were either reunited with families or placed in more suitable care arrangement. Data collection of children in institutional care has improved through regular monitoring by authorities and the use of web-based tools. One fourth of the 566 residential care institutions throughout Nepal were monitored to ensure that children are not unnecessarily placed in institutional care, and to ensure that the institutional care facilities comply with the prescribed standards of care. Data for one third of children (7,500 out of 23,385) has been entered into the Central Child Welfare Board online information management system.

Psychosocial interventions and prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) are the priority interventions under the protection cluster strategic work plan which have been included in the annual programme of the Department of Women and Children and budgeted accordingly. The government has allocated budget for 36 psychosocial support centres. This helps to ensure the sustainability of psychosocial support services at a community-level for women and children with psychosocial issues. UNICEF, as a co-lead of protection cluster, has revised and updated the protection contingency plan, based on the protection strategic work plan in collaboration with the government and cluster members.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) and engaged in advocacy with the parliamentarians together with civil society organizations on the provisions of the Act Relating to Children (2018) which is the key instrument for implementing the recommendations of the child protection systems mapping report and the concluding observations from the committee on the rights of the child. UNICEF partnered with the Central Child Welfare Board to strengthen the child protection sector information system and to monitor the children in institutional care. The thematic funds enabled UNICEF to enter into partnership with the Central Child Welfare Board to reduce the number of children in institutional care. UNICEF and different alliances of civil society organizations working on child protection engaged in advocacy with the parliamentarians for the necessary amendments in the bills registered in the parliament dealing with child protection. The parliamentary support programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also provided a platform to engage with parliamentarians on child protection related legislations. UNICEF also worked with the actors beyond Nepal. UNICEF provided the information for the Global study on children deprived of liberty, commissioned by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as per the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution 69/157 of 18 December 2014. The Nepal Country Office worked closely with the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia to analyse the legal framework for child protection in South Asia which provides a comprehensive benchmark for legal reform as per the globally recognized standards. The Nepal Office also served as a reference group member on the initiative of the UNICEF Headquarter for developing data collection protocol on residential care facilities.

Certain challenges were faced with regard to the output relating to the protection cluster strategic work plan. The Department of Women and Children has been the key agency to coordinate the implementation of the priority interventions under the protection cluster strategic work plan. Due to the adjustment of government functions and human resources in the process of federalization, the budget and human resources of the Department were drastically reduced in 2018. In this regard, further discussions and adjustments are required to implement the protection cluster strategic work plan in the following years.

Output 4.2: Improved knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and abuse

UNICEF supported orientation of newly elected local government representatives. Approximately 25 per cent of all 753 local governments have been sensitized and better equipped to locally plan and budget for prevention and response interventions aimed at reducing child labour, child marriage, violent discipline and other forms of violence against children.

To address social norms related to gender discrimination and GBV, the MoWCSC has finalized 'Male Engagement Strategy for Ending Violence against Women and Girl's' with UNICEF's technical support. The strategy was used in orientation/interaction for state assemblies and local government representatives in all 7 states during 16 Days of Activism against GBV. Approximately 2,000 state and local government representatives were sensitized with key messages of the strategy in promoting positive roles for men in ending violence against women and girls and changing harmful social norms and stereotypes about masculinities. An orientation film to engage men and boys to address GBV and related posters were also developed to disseminate the strategy. A standard training module on child protection and GBV for capacity development of women and children's workforce at the local and community-based groups has been adopted by the MoWCSC through UNICEF's support.

The school environment has proved a successful platform for scaling up approaches for preventing violence against children. UNICEF's support in this area has resulted in improved interventions in school-based prevention of violence against children. These interventions include the creation of Complaint Hearing Procedure (2017) for schools and referral/linkages with police and other child protection services in the community, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The implementation of government-endorsed '*Rupantaran'* life skills training package has enabled students to speak up if they experience or witness violence as suggested by several case studies. A total of 32,583 (15,356 male and 17,227 female) Grade 5 to Grade 9 students (aged between 11 to 16 years) and approximately 2,000 school teachers gained knowledge on preventing gender-based violence and the school-based response mechanism. The trainings of school actors including Complaint Hearing Committee members, have improved their understanding on the importance of complaint box and they have started to regularly document and address complaints. The impact these efforts are having is captured by the number of students speaking up increasing by 245 per cent (199 complaints in 2017 compared to 688 in 2018). Out of a total 688 complaints, 106 complaints were referred to appropriate service providers resulting in the increase linkages between schools and service providers. In addition, 2,725 GBV watch group and child club members were trained on identifying, safely referring and providing community-based responses to GBV and child protection concerns. In addition, to tackle the issue of violent discipline, especially affecting young children, UNICEF provided technical support to revise parental education package. The package contained more information on the negative impact of violent discipline and practical positive disciplining methods which parents and caregivers can practice.

To address social norms related to child marriage, UNICEF worked with partners at federal, provincial and local levels. Among the girls who are at risk of being married before 18, Rupantaran life skills programme was rolled out with the objective of empowering girls. In 2018, 3,624 girls attended the "Rupantaran" sessions. 2,944 parents of the adolescents reached by the programme received orientation about child marriage, its' harmful repercussions and discussion about how to avert such social evils. They also received information capacity about the changes that occur during adolescence and the negative consequences of child marriage.

One of the key challenges however was a structural change that took place at district level where District Women and Children Offices and its programme through GBV Watch Groups ceased to exist where UNICEF had heavily invested by providing technical assistance. This has caused a significant reduction in the number of protection cases reported to Women and Children Offices as well as the number of GBV Watch Group members trained on prevention and response to violence against children and women. This change led to a lack of clarity on where women and children can report protection-related cases. In light of new opportunities and challenges, UNICEF shifted its focus to work closely with selected local governments by providing orientation sessions to newly elected local government representatives on how to locally plan and budget for the prevention and response to interventions aimed at reduction in child labour, child marriage, violent discipline, violence against children and GBV. As a result of these changes, both the output indicators need to be adjusted accordingly.

UNICEF worked closely with UNFPA within the framework of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage and with Girls not Brides civil society partnership. To address child labour and trafficking, UNICEF worked closely with ILO and UNODC.

Output 4.3 Improved knowledge and capacity to provide child friendly and gender sensitive justice

In collaboration with the National Judicial Academy, Nepal Police, the Office of the Attorney General, and Child Justice Coordination Committee, UNICEF's advocacy and technical support has resulted in government institutions broadening the scope of work on justice for children to address child victims and witnesses of violence in addition to children in conflict with law. The Office of the Attorney General, in its annual plan for 2018/19, has included the establishment of Women and Children Cell in Government Attorney Offices as well as a Central Unit

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for Women and Children. This is expected to strengthen the prosecution of cases involving children and women as victims and support to the victims from the Government Attorney Offices.

The new Act Relating to Children (2018), provides a framework for a number of provisions relating to justice for children, such as diversion, non-custodial measures for children who are in conflict with law, restorative justice, reasonable compensation for victims; extended time limit for filing cases of offences against children. This has been possible through UNICEF's technical support and advocacy to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens as well as the Child Justice Coordination Committee. The training curriculum for judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police personnel have been revised as per the new legal provisions by the National Judicial Academy, Child Justice Coordination Committee, Office of the Attorney General, and Nepal Police with UNICEF's support.

Capacity building of law enforcement officials and outreach programmes have contributed to approximately eight per cent increase in the number of cases related to women and children reported to the police from 13,573 (cases related to rape, attempt to rape, child marriage, domestic violence and trafficking) last year to 14,796 cases. The statistics of violence, as available through surveys such as MICS, is much higher than the current level of reporting; hence, the increase in reporting is a positive development as it indicates that women and children are increasingly seeking justice. This also implies that the police are trusted by the community and that the police are handling cases related to women and children in a more child and gender sensitive manner.

Additional 200 police personnel had opportunities to strengthen their knowledge on justice for children, measures for victim assistance and witness protection, psychosocial support and management of GBV database through UNICEF supported trainings. The school-based outreach campaign for children, 'Police My Friend', reached 3,838 students (2,208 girls and 1,630 boys), aged between 11 to 16 years to raise awareness on the roles of the police and answer their queries on general legal matters dealt by the police.

161 children (150 boys and 11 girls) enhanced their life skills with a focus on psychosocial well-being, sexual and reproductive health and GBV through the collaboration between Juvenile Correction Home and UNICEF. As a result, children are seeking help with regard to their psychosocial issues with the trained service providers of the correction homes. An additional 333 children (321 boys and 12 girls) in conflict with law accessed legal, psychosocial support and social work services while 188 (185 boys and 3 girls) children were reintegrated with their families.

25 district registrars (23 males and 2 females) were better equipped to handle cases related to children in a child friendly manner through a partnership between Child Justice Coordination Committee and UNICEF. In addition, 26 court officials (21 men and 5 women) had opportunities to be familiar with new legislations relating to children including non-custodial measures for children in conflict with law through UNICEF supported training organized by National Judicial Academy.

One of the major challenges faced in 2018 were frequent changes of security and justice professionals; and the vacuum of leadership caused delays to the implementation of planned interventions. To address these challenges, briefings to new officials were provided on a regular basis. As a result, UNICEF has managed to implement jointly defined interventions with the Office of Attorney General, Child Justice Coordination Committee and National Judicial Academy.

Results Assessment Framework

Outcome 4: Child Protection

Outcome 04	By 2022, children and adolescents are better protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation		
Standard Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Target [2022]**	**Progress**
Percentage of children (1-14-years-old) who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	82% (MICS 2014) [6.8 million]	77% [6.2 million]	Data not available annually. The changes in the status will be available from 2020, from MICS 2019 survey results.
% of women (20 to 24 years) married or in union before the age of 18 years	37% (MICS 2014) [520 thousand]	32% [490 thousand]]	Data not available annually. The changes in the status will be available from 2020, from MICS 2019 survey results.
% of children (5-17 years) engaged in child labour, per sex and age group and hazardous conditions.	37% (MICS 2014) [2.8 million]	32 % [2.4 million]	Data not available annually. The changes in the status will be available from Labour Force Survey 2019.
% of local governments where referral systems between social welfare service	0%	13% local levels [100 out of 744]	Data not available currently.

providers and the justice system is established and functional			

Output 4.1

Output 4.1	State institutions and other partners have increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget to prevent and respond to child protection concerns including during humanitarian situations		
Standard Output Indicators	**Baseline**	**Target [2018]**	**Progress**
Number of recommendations from the Child Protection Systems Mapping Report 2015 (66 recommendations) and child protection CRC concluding observation recommendations 2016 (32 specific recommendations) addressed by legislation, policies or plans	12 (8 CP system mapping and 4 CRC)	15	17 [Five recommendations from CRC concluding observations have been addressed.]
National case management system established with 6 required elements (includes referral pathways, standardized criteria and procedures, qualified social work force, defined roles for the relevant actors, formal best interest determination procedure, information management system)	1 (standard criteria and procedures)	2	2
Child Protection sector information management system in place to regularly collect and analyse administrative data related to child protection	No	No	Yes [The Central Child Welfare Board has compiled child protection data in 'State of Children in Nepal 2018' report
Protection cluster strategic work plan priority interventions included in government annual plan	Yes	Yes	Yes [Annual Programme of the Department of Women and Children includes 36 psychosocial centres which is a priority under the strategic work plan]
Number of children in residential care including faith based institutions	23,572	23,500	23,385 [The progress was achieved through UNICEF contribution as well as government's resources.]

Output 4.2

Output 4.2	Children, families/caregivers, teachers, communities and state institutions have improved knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation of children		
Standard Output Indicators	**Baseline**	**Target [2018]**	**Progress**
Number of community groups members (GBV WGs, Women Cooperative, Ward Committees, VCPC, child clubs, adolescent groups) trained on measures to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation (GBV, violent discipline, child labour, child trafficking and child marriage)	4,632 community group members (GBV Watch Group members) have been trained out of a total of 24,969 (19%) in 35 target districts	6,000	7,357 (cumulative) [The indicator was based on the Government's Women Development Programme for ending GBV with UNICEF's technical assistance. Due to federal restructuring the programme was stopped in 2018]
Number of children's and women's cases reported to women and children offices	2,565 per annum in 35 target districts (GBV IMS)	2,600	1,263 [The number of reported cases recorded is low due to the closure of women and children's offices as a result of federal structuring which discontinued the support to community based information management system]

Output 4.3

Output 4.3	Justice/security professionals and social workers have improved knowledge and capacity to provide child friendly and gender-sensitive services to protect children in contact with the justice system		
Standard Output Indicators	**Baseline**	**Target [2018]**	**Progress**
Number of cases of violence against children and women (rape, attempted rape, trafficking, child marriage, domestic violence) registered by the Police	8,784	9,000	14,796 [Exceeded the target by 5,796]
Diversion mechanism in place for children in conflict with the law	No	xx	Yes [The provision of diversion included in the new Act Relating to Children 2018]
Number of justice and security personnel capacitated on child friendly and gender-sensitive justice for children including diversion and restorative justice.	1,500 out of 4731	1,800	1805 [Exceeded the target by 5]

E. Case Studies

"Budgets for women and children at local levels are found to be higher than before"

UNICEF mapped the budget allocation for women and children made by 121 local governments and compared the budget allocation for child protection and gender-based violence against the total budget of the respective local government. It was carried out to understand the implication of UNICEF's efforts on sensitizing the elected local representatives on investing in addressing GBV and child protection. The mapping revealed that though the budget allocation for addressing GBV and child protection in terms of percentage of the total budget is low, the actual amount is higher for the respective geographic area as compared to the unitary system in the past

Background: The Local Government Operation Act, 2017 that defines the functions of the local government, has listed both the exclusive and concurrent roles relating to child protection. Local governments are responsible for addressing harmful practice and child protection concerns, such as child marriage, gender-based violence, child labour and child trafficking. Local governments also have power to allocate budgets for their various functions. The general tendency of local governments was to allocate more towards infrastructure. In this regard, the elected local representatives were sensitized on investing in addressing GBV and child protection.

Rationale: UNICEF has reached approximately 25 per cent of all 753 local governments for sensitizing them and equipping them with necessary knowledge to locally plan and budget for prevention and response interventions aimed at reducing child labour, child marriage, violent discipline and other forms of violence against children and women. Under the adaptation plan of the Integrated Program on Strengthening Security and Justice (IPSSJ) – GBV Prevention Component, UNICEF and the Department of Women and Children had carried out orientations to elected local government representatives. In order to increase local allocation, UNICEF's technical support provided a planning tool that included a number of interventions categorized under certain intervention headings which could be adapted by local governments for planning/budgeting of such interventions. It was necessary to understand the impact of such efforts; hence, it was decided to carry out the mapping of budget allocated by the respective local governments for addressing child protection and GBV.

Strategy and Implementation: A total of 169 local governments (out of 753) were covered by the technical assistance of UNICEF under IPSSJ – GBV Prevention Component. Budget information from 121 local levels were obtained by UNICEF personnel assigned for the respective local levels. The budget information was analysed to identify if there were any interventions for GBV prevention and child protection. The reference for the analysis was the planning guidelines for state and local levels for the fiscal year (2018-19) that was jointly developed by the Department of Women and Children and UNICEF. The interventions for GBV prevention and child protection were categorized under the headings such as: policy formulation and system strengthening, service provisions, capacity development and sensitization, social mobilization and awareness raising, information management and reporting, monitoring and coordination. The budget for the activities that meet the defined criteria were added for each local level and the proportion was calculated against the total budget of the respective local level.

It was revealed that most of the local levels (41 of them) had allocations of less than one per cent for children and women, while five of the local governments had allocated more than ten per cent. Among the allocations made, the highest amount was for raising awareness on gender-based violence and issues such as child labour, child trafficking and violent discipline. Capacity building of community groups on their child protection roles and addressing harmful social norms against child marriage, dowry and witchcraft accusations also received significant allocation. There were also major resources allocated for establishing child protection and GBV victim relief funds as well as capacity building of local Judicial

Budget proportion for women and children against the Total Budget	No. of Local Levels
Below 1%	41
1-2%	38
2-3%	17
3-4%	6
4-5%	3
5-6%	6
6-7%	3
9-10%	2
More than 10%	5
Total	**121**

Committee members on their roles and functions. These findings are only indicative since the complete budget information from the local governments were not available.

Resources Required: The major investment for this exercise was the time of the UNICEF staff members and the logistics in traveling and communicating with the local levels involved in the study. The study was designed by UNICEF in coordination with the Department of Women and Children. The analysis and compilation were also done by UNICEF child protection personnel with the background on information management.

Progress and Results: In the past, before the federal structures came into effect, there were two major sources for funds for programming in the areas of child protection and addressing gender-based violence: the fixed block grant of at least ten per cent by local bodies and allocation to District Women and Children Offices by the central ministry. Even if the percentage allocation by local governments is less than five per cent in the majority of local government, the total amount for GBV prevention and child protection in the respective geographic area is much larger compared to the past due to the increase in the volume of resources that local levels receive from federal and state governments as grants (including equalization and conditional grants) as well as revenue generated by local levels.

Lesson Learned: There were several factors leading to certain budget allocation by local levels for child protection and addressing GBV. In some of the local governments, the capacity and commitment of former staff of District Women and Children Offices deployed to local governments was a factor to highlight GBV prevention and child protection agenda in the local planning process. The training and orientation to elected representatives together with regular technical assistance and advocacy by UNICEF also influenced local budget allocation. There were some political leaders with a background and the will to address GBV. In some areas, other actors were also present, including community groups, who demanded budget allocation for addressing GBV and child protection.

Moving Forward: Advocating for local budget allocation for addressing child protection should be set as UNICEF's larger priority. It is necessary to engage in the planning process at local levels to highlight the protection agenda, even by mobilizing additional resources. If the National Planning Commission's guidelines highlight the need of investment in addressing child protection, the local levels are likely to prioritize accordingly. It is also important to ensure that the local profiles include the child protection concerns that need to be addressed. Having a comprehensive local sectoral plan on child protection would also promote resource allocation on this sector.

F. Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned budget by outcome area

Outcome Area 4: Child Protection
Nepal
Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2018 (in US Dollar)

Programme Outputs	Funding Type[1]	Planned Budget[2]
Output 4.1: By 2022, state institutions and other partners have increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget to prevent and respond to child protection concerns including during humanitarian situations	RR	368,948
	ORR	536,049
	ORE	-
Output 4.2: By 2022, children, families/caregivers, teachers, communities and state institutions have improved knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation of children	RR	99,332
	ORR	1,918,492
	ORE	-
	RR	99,332

Output 4.3: By 2022, justice/security professionals and social workers have improved knowledge and capacity to provide child friendly and gender-sensitive services to protect children in contact with the justice system.	ORR	366,770
	ORE	-
Total Budget		**3,388,923**

¹ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular *(add ORE: Other Resources - Emergency, if applicable)*
² Planned budget for ORR *(and ORE, if applicable)* does not include estimated recovery cost.
³ ORR *(and ORE, if applicable)* funded amount exclude cost recovery (only programmable amounts).

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2018

Outcome Area 4: Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse
Thematic Contributions Received for Outcome Area 4 by UNICEF Nepal in 2018
(in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Total			

Note: Nepal Country Office did not receive Thematic funds for Child protection in 2018 .

Table 3: Expenditures in the Thematic Area

Outcome Area 4: Child Protection
Nepal
2018 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources – Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	974,068	2,554,078	756,775	4,284,921
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	(10,280)	235,534	11,060	236,315
23-03 Access to justice	(17,586)	216,750	286,970	486,134
Total	**946,201**	**3,006,362**	**1,054,806**	**5,007,370**

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*		
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,062,298	210,768	1,273,066
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	-	1	1
23-03 Access to justice	-	173,408	173,408
Total	**1,062,298**	**384,177**	**1,446,475**

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Nepal - 2970
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Expense
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	346,033
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	686,786
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	660,797
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	495,259
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	9,638
23-01-09 Child labour	196,837
23-01-10 Children associated with armed forces and armed groups - prevention and response	-1,117
23-01-14 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - across the life cycle	17,318
23-01-17 Social and behaviour change communication on violence, exploitation and abuse	7,301
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	66,283
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoR/humanitarian sector coordination	96,655
23-01-24 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	9,180
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	848,516
23-02-03 Social and behaviour change communication for child marriage	40,748
23-02-06 Harmful practices - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	78,246
23-02-98 Technical assistance - Child marriage	72,334
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	22,478
23-03-02 Justice sector workforce strengthening and capacity building (including police)	104,184
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	58,909
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	75,501
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	1,147
23-03-99 Technical assistance - Access to justice	65,086
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	7,957
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.)	121,119
26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	3,811
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	31
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	30,345
26-03-02 Capacity and skills development for social behaviour change	12,626
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	33,012
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	179,509
26-03-06 Research, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for C4D	4,759
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	1,982

26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	63,852
26-05-01 Building evaluation capacity in UNICEF and the UN system	8,400
26-06-01 Parliamentary engagement for policy advocacy	25,028
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	52,531
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	520,779
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	33,583
27-01-15 CO programme coordination	935
27-01-16 CO advocacy and communication	61,326
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	-125,804
Unknown	13,464
Grand Total	**5,007,370**

Table 6: Planned budget for 2019

Outcome Area 4: Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse
Nepal
Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget [1]	Funded Budget [1]	Shortfall [2]
Output 4.1: By 2022, state institutions and other partners have increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget to prevent and respond to child protection concerns including during humanitarian situations	RR	379,117.00	399,950.00	20,833.00
	ORR	493,055.00	116,012.00	(377,043.00)
Output 4.2: By 2022, children, families/caregivers, teachers, communities and state institutions have improved knowledge, skills and capacity to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation of children	RR	102,069.00	102,180.00	111.00
	ORR	1,764,617.00	1,045,316.00	(719,301.00)
Output 4.3: By 2022, justice/security professionals and social workers have improved knowledge and capacity to provide child friendly and gender-sensitive services to protect children in contact with the justice system.	RR	102,069.00	102,052.00	(17.00)
	ORR	337,353.00	116,345.00	(221,008.00)
Sub-total Regular Resources		**583,255.00**	**604,182.00**	**20,927.00**
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular		**2,595,025.00**	**1,277,673.00**	**(1,317,352.00)**
Sub-total Other Resources - Emergency		**-**	**-**	**-**
Total for 2019		**3,178,280.00**	**1,881,855.00**	**(1,296,425.00)**

[1] Planned and Funded budget for ORR *(and ORE, if applicable)* excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

[2] Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2016.

G. Future Work Plan

In 2019, the child protection programme will focus on strengthening the scope of the child protection programme within the local government structures, particularly in the areas of designing local child protection interventions, effective responses and referral systems. Engagement with local level authorities, including the elected local representatives and officials assigned for child protection works, shall be scaled up in the target areas particularly in the areas of capacity building on child protection programming and response. Similarly, support shall be provided to local level authorities on planning child protection interventions as per their mandates. UNICEF will also support the selected local levels to develop or update the local profiles with child protection related data with the aim of influencing local budget allocation for the identified issues.

UNICEF will continue the technical support and advocacy for reforming legislations, particularly in the areas of birth registration and child labour. Support shall be provided to the government to develop the rules for implementing the Act Relating to Children, 2018. UNICEF will work with the local governments in selected areas to establish the necessary elements of child protection system, particularly human resources (child welfare authorities), funds, referral system, and information management. In order to address the issue of skilled workforce, UNICEF will continue the advocacy for the recruitment of a professional and dedicated child protection frontline social workforce. In view of the country's vulnerability to disasters, UNICEF will support DRR, CCA and emergency preparedness efforts at all levels through development of standardized training manuals and cascade training through training of trainers as part of capacity development efforts. Based on the experience from the past emergencies including 2015 earthquake, UNICEF will collaborate with the government as the co-lead of the Protection Cluster for system strengthening including coordinating emergency preparedness, mitigation and response. UNICEF and its partners will collaborate for preventing unnecessary institutionalization of children and deinstitutionalization of children residing in residential care institutions.

UNICEF will continue its work on strengthening the enabling environment to protect children from violence and exploitation. Support shall be provided to finalize the implementation plan of the national strategy to end child marriage. UNICEF will also continue to support government and community-based mechanisms to promote positive social norms in an inclusive manner, bringing in men and boys, religious and community leaders (by identifying positive role models) in addressing child marriage and other forms of GBV. The capacity strengthening program on addressing child labour and service provisions for the affected children through municipalities shall be continued. UNICEF will continue the interventions on addressing GBV in education settings and strengthening the response mechanism. Particular focus shall be made on changing existing social norms that sustain or justify violent discipline and GBV through Communication for Development (C4D) strategies and interventions. In collaboration with the education sector, parental education will be enhanced to ensure parents of young children gain necessary knowledge and skills related to positive discipline. This will also contribute to the early childhood development (ECD) of children.

In the areas of justice for children, UNICEF will provide technical support for drafting the Justice for Children Rules under the Act Relating to Children, 2018. Within the framework of the new Rules, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to justice and security authorities for implementing provisions relating to diversion, restorative justice and other child-friendly procedures. As part of evidence generation, UNICEF will undertake assessments and studies to understand the reasons behind the limited access to justice and other services by children and to generate information on linking justice/security with social welfare services. In addition, UNICEF will continue to support capacity development of justice and security professionals, social workers and psychosocial counsellors on child friendly justice procedures. UNICEF will focus on strengthening linkages between justice and security stakeholders with social welfare structures for integration and follow-up services to children. In selected areas, UNICEF will support judicial and security outreach programmes in schools and communities to address legal and procedural barriers that children face in accessing justice systems.

H. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Nepal Country Office is grateful for the thematic funding in Child Protection. This flexible funding is an important contribution that enabled UNICEF to achieve the above mentioned results for children in Nepal, build and strengthen child protection systems to ensure short and long term achievements in the country, and look forward to continued support to advance results for children in Nepal.

I. Donor Report Feedback

In UNICEF Nepal, we are working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions in the form at the link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H5Q3GPB

J. Contacts

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K. Annexes: Human Interest Stories

A victim of sexual violence overcomes the trauma through a case worker's support

Parsa, Nepal – One summer's day in Parsa District in Nepal's southern plains, 11-year-old Rita*, who was home by herself, was raped by her much older neighbour. Rita's parents had been working on their landlord's farm when the incident occurred. Taking advantage of their absence, the 55-year-old man from next door had entered their house and attacked Rita. But Rita's father had arrived home just in time to catch the perpetrator and had beaten him to protect Rita.

The family was able to file a case and get the neighbour arrested immediately. But there was the tremendous effect the episode had on Rita's psyche. She was not coping well; she had become terrified at the very sight of any male figure, and refused to leave the house altogether, including to go to school.

Rita's school is a part of the "Zero Tolerance – GBV Free Schools in Nepal" initiative. A case worker from a local service provider was assigned to Rita, and he started by visiting the police station to collect primary information on the incident. He then met Rita and her family, assessed the situation to identify specific needs and with their involvement, began to develop a 'care plan' in coordination with the Women and Children Service Centre (District Police) in Birgunj.

Based on the identified need, Rita underwent a thorough medical check-up at the nearest One Stop Crisis Management Centre. She was also given a package of high-nutrient food to aid her physical recovery. She hadn't been to class in two weeks, and so to encourage her return, Rita was provided with a new uniform, bag and stationery through her school.

After a series of services Rita went back to her classes. She is now once again regular at school, and her self-esteem is slowly being rebuilt. Her case is being followed up to assess if further needs arise on her situation. "None of this was our daughter's fault," Rita's mother says. "She is a strong girl, and I know she can overcome this."

Support was additionally extended to Rita's parents, who – hailing from one of the most marginalized and poverty-stricken communities in the country – were struggling to keep up with the legal fees related to the case. The Zero Tolerance project offered them financial assistance to appeal to the court and put the perpetrator behind bars. Furthermore, Rita's case was referred to the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), and she has now received an additional cash grant of Rs. 10,000 to help with her studies and other legal costs.

"Rita is a good student, and she should not be deprived of education because of what happened to her," Rita's head teacher says. "We're working to make our school a GBV-free zone. No child should have to go through this."

(*name changed)

Note: "Zero Tolerance – GBV Free Schools in Nepal" is a collaborative effort between USAID and UNICEF to reduce the prevalence of school-related gender-based violence (GBV) in Nepal and establish child- and adolescent-friendly procedures to respond to incidents of GBV. Since 2016, the project is being implemented in 200 schools in four central Terai districts, namely Parsa, Rautahat, Dhanusha and Mahottari. Along with raising awareness on GBV in schools and communities, the project also offers need-based support to GBV survivors through case workers. The case worker mentioned in the story is from Restless Development, UNICEF's local partner organization.