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Programme



Policies, Partnership, Learning and Local Empowerment (PPLL): A Project on Child Labour in South Asia

January/2025

Children participating in the child labour-free zone declaration process at Panauti Municipality, Kavrepalanchok. © ILO Nepal

► At a glance



Partners

- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS) – Department of Labour and Occupation Safety Health, Child Labour Elimination Cell, Nepal Alliance 8.7 Secretariat
- Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) – National Child Rights Council
- National Statistics Office (NSO) and institutes involved in research on labour rights
- Local Governments (Municipalities and Rural Municipalities) participating in Child Labour Free Zone (CLFZ) declaration-process
- Worker's and Employer's Organizations
- Civil Society Organizations working on child labour and child protection issues



Donor

Japan, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare



Duration

April 2024 – September 2026



Target groups

The project aims to support policymakers, planners and programme implementers. The project will directly impact the communities in various municipalities. Local government officials involved in the CLFZ campaign, child labourers and vulnerable communities will also benefit from project interventions.



Geographical focus

- Policy Issues – Federal level actions cover the whole country
- Provincial focus - Bagmati Province
- Sectors – Woolen carpet and brick production supply chains
- Local Levels – Local governments involved in CLFZ campaign

► Background

The 2021 Nepal Child Labour Report stated that, as of 2018, Nepal had 1.1 million child labourers. Regions with the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) scores, such as Karnali (25 per cent) and Sudurpaschim (21 per cent), reported the highest incidences of child labour. Agriculture accounted for 78 per cent of child labour, with marginalized groups like Dalits (19 per cent) and indigenous communities (18 per cent) having a larger proportion of child labourers.

Child labour exists in at least 17 sectors, with limited updated information. A 2019 survey found 17,000 children in brick kiln industry, 10 per cent of the workforce, mostly from migrant families from India and other districts engaged in seasonal labour lacking basic services and at high risk of trafficking. In the carpet sector, 6.7 per cent of workers were children. Child labour is also linked to slavery-like practices in Nepal, with children from Kamaiya, Haliya, and Haruwa-Charuwa families working in debt bondage alongside their parents as farm labourers.

Occurrence of child labour in brick production and carpet making is highlighted in the 2022 USDOL List of Goods Produced with Child Labour or Forced Labour, along with embellished textiles and stone mining. The COVID-19 pandemic and education disruptions have exacerbated the situation, pushing more children out of school and aggravating an already vulnerable situation in Nepal.

The PPLL Project aims to reduce vulnerability to child labour by supporting the Nepalese government in implementing its National Master Plan (2018-2028) to end child labour. Additionally, Nepal is recognized as a Pathfinder Country under Alliance 8.7, a global partnership dedicated to achieving Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

► Objectives

The PPLL Project aims to contribute to the acceleration of actions against child labour in South Asia.

► Outcomes

Outcome 1: Innovative solutions to tackle child labour will be developed and tested based on learnings.

Outcome 2: Policies and implementation plan on child labour are enforced more effectively.

Outcome 3: Inter-agency collaboration and mechanisms on child labour are functional and active.

Outcome 4: Communities and local stakeholders are empowered in addressing child labour.



A child at the Early Childhood Development Centre in a brick kiln, Kapilvastu. © ILO Nepal

► Key areas of interventions

The project will intervene on different areas/sectors and dimensions that will contribute to attain the above outputs. Specific actions are as follows:

- **Innovative approaches to generate and disseminate knowledge:** Data and information to end child labour will be produced by integrating child labour modules with rigorous methodologies into the Labour Force Survey. Moreover, ensure the exchange of knowledge leading to innovative solutions against child labour.
- **Capacity enhancement for enforcement/implementation of laws, policies and programmes:** Support the government and other stakeholders in effective enforcement of laws, policies and programmes to tackle child labour.
- **Strengthening collaboration and coordination:** Collaborate with stakeholders to implement coordinated approaches to tackle child labour in Nepal. Support will continue through MoLESS for effective coordination using existing structures such as the Inter-Agency Working Group on child labour and the Nepal Alliance 8.7 Secretariat.
- **Local empowerment through holistic approach to tackle root-causes of child labour:** Support government initiatives to strengthen local governments in tackling child labour through the CLFZ campaign. The CLFZ declaration process, guidelines, and post-declaration activities will be reviewed to sustain results. Local stakeholders, including the private sector, particularly bricks and carpet industry, and local unions will be engaged in community and workplace monitoring.

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