unicef
for every child

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN NEPAL

The situation for vulnerable children in Nepal

In Nepal, significant progress has been made to protect children: the number of child brides is decreasing, there is increased reporting to police of cases of violence against women, cases of trafficking are being intercepted, laws and policies have become more protective of children, and data on child protection is increasingly more available.

But significant challenges remain. The rates of child marriage are not declining. Two in every five girls are married before the age of 18. Violent discipline is a part of almost every child's life in Nepal as parents and teachers have insufficient knowledge on alternative forms of discipline. Whilst reporting of cases of violence against women is increasing, cases of violence against children are rarely reported to police. There are about 2.8 million children engaged in labour, of which almost all are working under hazardous conditions. Nepal continues to be a major source, transit hub and destination country for trafficking,of women and children in particular. More than 25,000 children are living over 500 residential care institutions, instead of with their families, despite that fact that almost all of these children have living parents.

Added to these issues is the fact that Nepal is highly prone to disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts and extreme temperatures, that are likely to increase due to climate change. During such situations, child protection systems are weakened and disrupted, and displacement and separation of families and communities place children and women at increased risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

What are we doing

For 50 years, UNICEF has been working on the ground, in Nepal, to protect children from the many forms of violence that the most vulnerable face every day, these include: violent discipline, child marriage, child labour, trafficking, violence against women and girls, unnecessary placement of children in orphanages, residential care homes and correction homes, as well as insufficient access to child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice.

Married girls in Nepal are

14 TIMES

more likely to be out of school compared to their unmarried peers

1 in 3

children are engaged in **LABOUR**

8 in 10

children are subjected to
VIOLENT DISCIPLINE

Kumari dreams of a life free of poverty for her children

Kumari, 45, has a big smile on her face as she sits with her son Atit, 20. © UNICEF Nepal/2017/SShrestha

Pokhara, Nepal, 2017 – In the tiniest of living spaces, less than 100 square feet, live Kumari Shrestha and her three children. Kumari has crammed in a bed, three tables, a small television, numerous kitchen supplies and the meager collection of possessions she and her children have gathered. The 45-year-old and her three children have lived here for many years. She works at a nearby sand mine on the banks of the Seti Gandaki River that flows through the tourist town of Pokhara in western Nepal. Until a few years ago, her elder son Atit, (now 20), and daughter Ashmita, (now 14), were trapped in child labour at the sand mine.

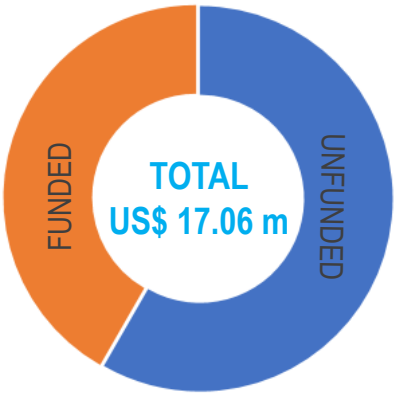
Thanks to the support Kumari received as part of UNICEF's child labour elimination programme in Nepal, things have really improved for the family. Kumari was provided with NPR 15,000 (approximately US$150), which she used to buy a small plot in the sand mine, greatly increasing her earnings. She now earns about NPR 2,200 (US$ 22) a month. Atit, as an older adolescent opted for UNICEF-supported vocational training, which enabled him to become a driver. When asked why he did not want to pursue education he replies "I have to help my mother, she needs more money for my brother and sister to stay in school." He is glad that his siblings are going to school. Ashmita and her younger brother Avishek, (now 8), go to UNICEF supported tuition classes in the morning. For now, this is enough for Kumari. She has high hopes for her children that one day they will be able to break the cycle of poverty that she experienced all her life. She knows that protecting them from having to work and ensuring they get a good education is the best hope.

PARTNERING WITH UNICEF

UNICEF Nepal's child protection programme, one of the six programme components of the UNICEF-Government of Nepal Country Programme 2018-2022, aims at preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children, including in emergency contexts.

US$17.06m
is required to reach the envisaged child protection results, which are well aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and national targets.

US$ 7.1m
funding leveraged from regular resources, development partners, foundations, private sector and UNICEF National Committees



The remaining funding gap is **US$9.9m** for the five-year period.

Your generous support will help:

prevent **600,000** children from growing up in violent environment

prevent **30,000** child and early marriages

reduce the number of children trapped in labour by **400,000**

create a **3,000** strong trained workforce to protect children in contact with the justice system from exploitation

Detailed proposals and concept notes will be prepared and submitted based on donor-specific interests and requirements. For more information, please contact:

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