

## A Review of the Use of ChildInfo in Nepal



**NEPAL**

**December 2003**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the use of ChildInfo by participants of two training courses undertaken in 1999 and 2001. Of the original 56 participants, contact was made with 29, who agreed to be interviewed. In addition, reports prepared by UNICEF's Division of Policy and Planning, UNICEF Nepal, the Central Bureau of Statistics, and the ChildInfo Technical Committee were reviewed.

ChildInfo is a database for monitoring the situation of children and women in the South Asia region, and can be used to organize, analyse and present statistical data based on various indicators. It was designed with the aim of encouraging children, adults, civil society, government organizations, aid agencies and UNICEF to become involved in democratic dialogue that would contribute towards improving the situation for children and women.

Only four of the 29 people contacted were using ChildInfo. The main reasons for not using the software were that it was not relevant to their daily work and that training was insufficient. Some organizations (Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, and UNICEF's Eastern Region Field Office) are using ChildInfo for cross-tabulation, analysis and generating maps. Although only four people had used the software after training, most participants had demonstrated it to their supervisors and colleagues. However, they had not been able to use it as they wished because they did not receive sufficient encouragement from senior managers. Nevertheless, most people interviewed were impressed with the map-generating capability of ChildInfo. Some people noted that only district-level data are available, and that more useful VDC-level data had to be obtained from their own field workers.

This study concludes that ChildInfo does have the potential to become more popular if (a) up-to-date VDC-level data are made available, (b) senior managers are made more aware of its capabilities and potential, (c) training targets those who use statistical data in their daily work, (d) software enhancement includes the capacity to link or integrate ChildInfo with other software packages, and (e) ChildInfo is launched formally by the National Planning Commission and aggressive promotion is undertaken.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report has received insightful contributions from the Planning Section of UNICEF Nepal, mainly Uddhab Khadka, Eriko Onoda, and Lise Bendiksen. Mr Khadka is the focal person for ChildInfo in Nepal, and provided valuable inputs to this report. I would like to thank the following people for their cooperation and valuable time: all participants of the training courses that I was able to interview; Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Statistics; Rabin Lal Shrestha, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Tribhuvan University and a member of the ChildInfo Technical Committee; and Soma De Silva, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at UNICEF ROSA.

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## ACRONYMS

ADDCN	Association of District Development Committees Nepal
BCHIMES	Between Census Household Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	Central Department of Population and Studies
CERID	Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development
DACAW	Decentralized Action for Children and Women
DDC	District Development Committee
DGO	Development Group Office
DOHS	Department of Health Services
DPP	Division of Policy and Planning
DWSS	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
EAPR	East Asia and the Pacific Region
ESAR	Eastern and Southern Africa Region
GIS	Geographic Information System
GTZ	German Technical Co-operation
HK International	Helen Keller International
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
ITD	Information Technology Division
MHPP	Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning
MLD	Ministry of Local Development
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
MWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health
NFHP	Nepal Family Health Project
NPCS	National Planning Commission Secretariat
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SWC	Social Welfare Council
ROSA	Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF)
TU	Tribhuvan University
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee

## A REVIEW OF THE USE OF CHILINFO IN NEPAL

### 1. BACKGROUND

ChildInfo started in 1992 with the development of the Data Entry Enhancement and Display System (DEEDS) software in UNICEF India. This software was called ChildInfo Version 1, and provided data on child nutrition and development. In 1995, ChildInfo was selected as a base to build a database on children and women that would assist UNICEF in achieving children's and women's rights throughout South Asia. The Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) and various South Asian country offices selected a core list of indicators, and relevant data were collected. In 1997, the *Atlas on South Asian Children and Women*\* was published. This was also issued as part of the database for ChildInfo Version 1.01. In 1998, a South Asian Regional Management Team, with members from all country offices, was established with the aim of enhancing ChildInfo by making it more user-friendly, developing more indicators, and upgrading it to be compatible with the latest data access tools<sup>1</sup>.

ChildInfo was designed with the intention of promoting and encouraging children, adults, civil society, government organizations, aid agencies and UNICEF to become involved in democratic dialogue that would contribute towards improving the situation for children and women. It also serves as an up-to-date database for monitoring the situation for children and women in the South Asian region. This software has the capability to organize and document statistical data, and comes with analytical and presentational tools such as tables, graphs and maps. ChildInfo serves as a repository of all data since 1990 for a core list of indicators. As data remain within the institution regardless of staff rotation, it is a useful reference tool<sup>2</sup>. It is hoped that this software will be used extensively in the future to assess rights violations, and discover what is being done to curtail violations through UNICEF programmes, open forums, and other discussions.

In Nepal, the UNICEF Country Office has been using ChildInfo to collect data on women and children since the 1990s<sup>3</sup>. ChildInfo Version 1.01 was introduced in 1997. All statistics (including basic indicators, nutrition, health, education, demography, economics and gender) from the *State of the World's Children* for 1990 through 1997 for the eight countries of South Asia and all data from the *Atlas of South Asian Children and Women* were uploaded to this version into a database called 'NPL 97' with 94 indicators. Version 2 was published in 1999, and contained a Nepal database known as 'NPL 98' with 159 indicators. An upgraded edition of Version 2 was published in 2001 with a database called 'NPL 2000' with 233 indicators. ChildInfo Version 3.5 was released in 2002, containing the 'NPL 2001' database. In the 1997/98 assessment of ChildInfo, Nepal had received a score of four out of five (zero indicating little progress and five indicating outstanding progress) regarding the uploading of multiple sources for key indicators. It was one of three countries in South Asia that was showing progress<sup>4</sup>.

UNICEF Nepal started introducing ChildInfo to its host country in 1999 by providing training to government officials from various departments including the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), and staff members from UNICEF and INGOs. The first training (using Version 2) for 56 participants was conducted by UNICEF Nepal on 27–28 September 1999. A second training (using the upgraded Version 2) for 18 participants was conducted by the CBS, with support from UNICEF Nepal, on 10–11 October 2001. Training objectives were to demonstrate the usefulness of the software to senior planners and major collaborators, and to provide hands-on training to the focal point representatives in ministries and INGOs<sup>5</sup>. In addition to these training courses, several training sessions were provided for staff members of UNICEF's Country and Field Offices, and for teaching staff and students at the Department of Statistics, Tribhuvan University. UNICEF has provided Tribhuvan University with computers and software from the CBS, and the department has made 122 students capable of using the

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\* UNICEF (1997). *Atlas on South Asian Children and Women*. ROSA: UNICEF.

software<sup>6</sup>. Feedback was gathered from all training sessions with evaluation forms; however, information regarding the use of software after training has not been collected until now.

UNICEF has long-term plans to hand over the administration and management of ChildInfo to the host country; in the case of Nepal, this would be to the CBS, as it falls under the National Planning Commission (NPC). The CBS had been collecting social and economic data through surveys and from several government ministries under the Between Census Household Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System (BCHIMES) since 2000, with support from UNICEF. BCHIMES was developed to provide social indicators on issues related to women and children. A Steering Committee had been formed by the NPC to guide BCHIMES (Annex 1); this committee also serves as the Steering Committee for ChildInfo. In 2000, this committee selected the Social Statistics Division of the CBS to be the focal point for ChildInfo. The CBS, with support from UNICEF Nepal, is responsible for identifying and uploading all sources of data for the core list of indicators, for maintaining the database and providing technical support, for distributing the software, and for providing training. Previously, UNICEF Nepal carried out these functions. In 2001, the CBS formed a ChildInfo Technical Committee to enhance the software and make it accessible to more users as well as to promote it among potential users (Annexes 2 and 3). This committee is responsible for finalizing data quality issues, its usefulness to end users, and suggesting which data should be computerized. Each ministry collects data on their relevant issues. These data are brought to the CBS and the CBS plays a leading role in incorporating them into ChildInfo<sup>7</sup>.

In 2002, UNICEF's Headquarters in New York carried out a global survey to monitor the use of ChildInfo, and assess its potential to become a monitoring tool to measure progress towards outcomes expressed in the World Fit for Children (WFFC) recommendations, UNICEF's Medium-Term Strategic Plan, and the Millennium Development Goals. The preliminary report concluded that among 83 countries, most governments were interested in the software and were in the process of establishing it<sup>8</sup>. Based on this report, ChildInfo was selected as the most appropriate monitoring tool for the above-mentioned targets and goals.

From 2004, ChildInfo will be published as part of DevInfo<sup>9</sup>—in the case of Nepal, this is called NepalInfo—and is 'a collaborative effort between the field and Headquarters that builds on the achievements of ChildInfo'<sup>10</sup>. The UN Nepal Country Team, with assistance from the Interagency Thematic Group on Poverty Monitoring, launched NepalInfo Version 1.0 in 2002 to promote and encourage informed, inclusive dialogue among development partners. NepalInfo provides easier access to quantifiable indicators for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at national and sub-national levels (district levels). It includes data from national surveys and government information systems. NepalInfo is to be used as the 'initial option for addressing the requirements of the Poverty Monitoring Information System [that] the National Planning Commission is presently designing to support the PRSP [Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper] monitoring process'<sup>11</sup>. It is the common UN database, tracking the human development situation in Nepal. It contains 97 social development indicators that can be compared to the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Common Country Assessment, and other key development parameters. It provides up-to-date information on social development and poverty, and can be used for analysis by sub-national regions<sup>12</sup>. The UN in Nepal is planning to 'institutionalize NepalInfo as a database platform to track the performance of core socio-economics development indicators in Nepal'<sup>13</sup>. After its release in 2002, the production and distribution of NepalInfo was handed over to the CBS. As already mentioned, the CBS has been managing the ChildInfo database since 2000, with UNICEF support. In order to avoid duplication of the two databases, the CBS will merge ChildInfo in NepalInfo. ChildInfo will be discontinued, and the CBS will put indicators on children and women into the next NepalInfo to be released in 2004<sup>14</sup>. The CBS is planning to make data available at the Village Development Committee (VDC) level in the next NepalInfo<sup>15</sup>.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this study are to provide information on the use of ChildInfo, and make suggestions on how to enhance the software, training methods and other factors to increase its user population. It should be emphasized that this report does not provide a comprehensive survey but is a means to verify feedback that UNICEF Nepal has received from ChildInfo users and potential users. In addition, it must be noted that the report concerns ChildInfo only, and not NepalInfo. This report will be useful for trainers, the technical committee, and software developers.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

Reports prepared by UNICEF's Division of Policy and Planning, UNICEF Nepal, the CBS and the ChildInfo Technical Committee on ChildInfo were reviewed. Evaluation forms, collected from participants after training on ChildInfo, along with the manuals of the various versions were also reviewed. Feedback from training on NepalInfo, provided in July 2002, was not considered.

Rabin Lal Shrestha, Associate Professor at the Department of Statistics of Tribhuvan University and a member of the ChildInfo Technical Committee, who manages the ChildInfo software and trains students, was interviewed. Soma De Silva, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at UNICEF ROSA, was also contacted regarding the future of ChildInfo.

The Planning Section of UNICEF Nepal and the CBS prepared a set of eight questions. A pre-test was conducted on four UNICEF ROSA staff members, who had received training, before the questionnaire was finalized (Annex 4). Of the 56 participants from the two training courses in 1999 and 2002, 29 people agreed to be interviewed (14 from government agencies, six from INGOs, and nine from UNICEF Nepal) (Annex 5). Most interviews were one-on-one; in some cases, when an interviewee was outside Kathmandu, a phone interview was carried out.

The study completed between 19 November 2003 and 20 December 2003.

## 4. LIMITATIONS

Only 29 people could be contacted in the time available. Those who could not be contacted had, in most cases, changed jobs and left no forwarding address.

## 5. FINDINGS

Of the 29 people contacted, only four are currently using ChildInfo (Table 1). This represents only seven per cent of participants of the training courses; therefore, the findings of this study might not be fully representative.

**Table 1: Number of participants currently using ChildInfo**

	<b>Government</b>	<b>INGO</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	1	2	1	4
<b>No</b>	13	4	8	25
<b>Total</b>	14	6	9	29

### a. Training

Some participants felt that the disparate range of computer knowledge among participants hindered effective teaching of the software. It is clear from the list of participants that some were information technology professionals, some were technical assistants, and some were programme managers. The

information technology professionals were concerned that they wasted time waiting for other participants to complete the hands-on practice. While people at the other end of information technology spectrum felt that they had to hurry and could not fully grasp the ‘how-to-use’ parts. Since the number of participants was high, 3–4 people had to share a computer. This meant that either each participant waited for a turn or the group relied on one person to do all the hands-on practice.

**Table 2: Why are you not using the software?**

Reasons	Government	INGOs	UNICEF	Overall	Percentage
Not relevant for my work	8	2	2	12	37
Insufficient training	6	2	3	11	33
No relevant data	3	1	1	5	15
Software not available	1	1	2	4	12
Lacking technology (computers, printers)	1	0	0	1	3
Difficult to operate	0	0	0	0	0
Very slow	0	0	0	0	0

*Note: This question was answered by the 25 people who had not used ChildInfo since receiving training. Some people have selected more than one reason for not using ChildInfo. The ‘overall’ column shows reasons that were selected most often.*

Table 2 shows that the major reason for participants not using the software is that it is not relevant to their work. Another major reason is insufficient training. Most participants said that if the training duration had been longer—for example, for 3–5 days—they could have understood how to manipulate the software more effectively, and would have become more comfortable using it.

Participants were confused about the objectives of the training. The training was intended to teach participants to use the software for manipulating and analysing available data, and generating presentations. However, some participants complained that they did not know how to enter new data, since they wanted to input their own data and use the presentation or analytical tools from ChildInfo.

Some participants received the software as long as three months after training, and sometimes without a manual. A few participants received the invitation for training on the day of the training and missed half of the first session.

## **b. Application of ChildInfo**

The best use of ChildInfo can be found in UNICEF Nepal’s Eastern Region Field Office in Biratnagar. This Field Office has launched the software in two district-level government offices, the Udayapur District Development Committee (DDC) and District Public Health Office. According to UNICEF staff interviewed, the DDC is using the software extensively for analysis, and has receiving support from the Field Office concerning technical problems and data entry. The Eastern Region Field Office is planning to launch this software in its other Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACA)W districts.

**Table 3: How useful is ChildInfo for your department?**

	Government	INGOs	UNICEF	Overall	Percentage
Very useful	9	1	6	16	55
Somewhat useful	0	4	2	6	21
Not very useful	5	1	1	7	24
<b>Total</b>	14	6	9	29	100

*Note: This question was asked both to people who used (4 out of 29) and did not use (25 out of 29) ChildInfo after training. It also indicates whether the organization benefited from training.*

Some participants felt that although they were keen to use the software and that their department could benefit from its use (Table 3), they were too far down the command chain to promote ChildInfo in their organization.

**Table 4: Have you demonstrated ChildInfo to your supervisors/colleagues?**

Answer	Government Agencies	INGOs	UNICEF	Overall	Percentage
Yes	6	4	3	13	45
No	8	2	6	16	55
<b>Total</b>	14	6	9	29	100

*Note: This question was asked both to people who used (4 out of 29) and did not use (25 out of 29) ChildInfo after training.*

Many participants have demonstrated the software to supervisors and colleagues (Table 4). However, many could not use it as they had wished because they had not received sufficient encouragement from senior managers. Although they had demonstrated ChildInfo within their organization, it was not used because senior managers did not realize its potential. It was found that if the senior manager was interested in computers, the software had been used. Many participants explained that they were overloaded with work, and did not have enough time to explore the software to its full potential.

### c. Participant Selection

A few participants had not installed the software because they did not have direct access to a computer, and their work did not involve using a computer. Most participants had installed ChildInfo and had used it once or twice. In some cases, they could not access data. This might have been a fault in the software. Since the letter of invitation stated that participants in the training should be computer literate, organizations had sent people who did most of their daily work with computers; many participants were information technology professionals or technicians. The information technology professionals were involved in the administration of computer systems, while technicians were responsible for word-processing. Only those who used statistical data found ChildInfo useful for their daily tasks (Table 5).

**Table 5: How useful the software is for your daily tasks?**

	Government	INGOs	UNICEF	Overall	Percentage
<b>Very useful</b>	4	1	1	6	21
<b>Somewhat useful</b>	3	3	3	9	31
<b>Not very useful</b>	7	2	5	14	48

*This question was asked both to the participants who used (4 out of 29) and who did not use (25 out of 29) ChildInfo.*

### d. Software and Database

Geographic information systems (GIS), Excel, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), FoxPro, Decentralized Management Information System developed by the Ministry of Local Development, Health Management Information System developed by the Ministry of Health, and Arc View are some software packages that are extensively used by participating organizations.

Although ChildInfo has presentation tools, people feel that they are limited. It was found that people have to go through several steps to generate a map, and often find that data are not available. This has caused them to stop using the software. Nevertheless, most people were impressed with the map-generating capability (Table 6), and felt that maps are often better at reaching an audience than graphs or tables that can be created using spreadsheets. Maps can be more easily generated with ChildInfo than a GIS.

**Table 6: What do you use ChildInfo for?**

	Government	INGOs	UNICEF	Overall	Percentage
<b>Use</b>					
<b>Create tables</b>	2	3	0	5	29
<b>Create graphs</b>	2	2	1	5	29
<b>Create maps</b>	2	4	1	7	42
<b>Total</b>	6	9	2	17	100
<b>Task</b>					
<b>Reference</b>	3	3	0	6	46
<b>Presentations, reports and proposals</b>	2	0	1	3	23
<b>Self-learning</b>	1	3	0	4	31
<b>Total</b>	6	6	1	13	100

*This question was asked only to participants using ChildInfo (4 out of 29). Most participants have selected more than one use and task. The overall column shows for which task ChildInfo is most used.*

Some people complained that data are only available at the district level, and should be available at the VDC level. Another problem was the lack of an up-to-date database. Participants from INGOs and various ministries said that they could obtain more up-to-date data from their own field workers. To some participants, the data were not useful. For example, for participants working on media and advocacy, ChildInfo does not provide any data. Some participants use data for cross-tabulation. For example, participants from CERID (Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development) compared their own data related to education and with health data extracted from ChildInfo. In the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, ChildInfo is used to generate maps on the mortality rate of children due to water-borne diseases to compare with the department's own data on drinking water supply. Participants felt that the software should be able to connect with other software packages such as GIS and ArcInfo.

Most organizations receive data from the CBS, the ministries they are working with, their own field projects, UNICEF, UNDP, and the World Bank. Organizations, such as the Nepal Family Health Project, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), have their own databases that are specifically designed around their own programme needs and goals. The Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare is planning to develop a database on women.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **a. Training**

Participants should be clear about the objective of the training. It should be made clear that data entry is performed only by data administrators and not by data users; there could be a presentation on how data administrators input data.

The number of participants should be limited to 25–30, and ideally there should be one computer available for each participant (no more than two people should share a computer).

Participants were sent the ChildInfo software some time after training. Some participants had not installed it, and some had installed it but forgotten how to use it. Like all software, practice is essential. Although the software has a well-developed help section, a manual is necessary for all beginners. All participants should receive software and a manual at the time of training. During training, they should be shown how to install the software.

Staff rotation is inevitable. Therefore, training should be provided regularly. Refresher training could be provided after six or twelve months. In addition, feedback should be gathered from participants and

their senior managers a few months after training to gauge the impact of training on the use of ChildInfo within an organization.

## **b. Application of ChildInfo**

The Director of the Development Group Office has recommended using NepalInfo to support national partners<sup>16</sup>. All UNICEF's regional and country offices are required to ensure that DevInfo be used for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, as NepalInfo is being promoted for these monitoring activities, it should be obligatory to use ChildInfo. In the UNICEF Nepal Country Office, it was found that staff members request statistical data from the focal person responsible for collecting and generating data. This focal person supplies the requested data and staff members do not have to use ChildInfo themselves. Therefore, a simple orientation for staff members would let them understand the capabilities of ChildInfo. Resources should be directed more towards launching ChildInfo in partner agencies in DACAW districts, as done by the Eastern Region Field Office.

It would be a good idea to improve orientation for senior managers and promote ChildInfo more aggressively among local bodies. Although participants were enthusiastic about the software, they could not promote it in their workplace mainly because they were not in a decision-making position. Usually, the project officer decides what software is used. If she/he is unaware of the potential of ChildInfo, it will not be selected. Introduction of ChildInfo to a department requires commitment not only from potential users (participants of training) but also from senior managers. A separate presentation package (in the form of a booklet or CD or other feasible format) might be a good idea for promoting ChildInfo. This package should be designed specifically for policy makers, planners, high-level managers and supervisors. It should be easily accessible. The package should present the potential of ChildInfo, and should be clear about what data are available (although Version 3.5 has more data than previous versions). Promotion can be targeted at local bodies and ministries. The orientation package can highlight cases where ChildInfo is used, for example, the UNICEF Eastern Region Field Office, CERID, and the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage. In addition, the orientation can be used to explain to senior managers of government agencies and INGOs how knowledge of ChildInfo can help improve their requests for information from the CBS.

ChildInfo has to be formally endorsed by high-level planners, policy makers and managers. As the survey shows, unless senior managers are aware of the potential of ChildInfo, lower-level managers, who receive training, will not be motivated to use it.

During interviews, people expressed an interest in VDC-level data, as these are often difficult to find in one place. The CBS is planning to generate VDC-level data. To facilitate VDC-level data collection, the CBS might want to consider decentralization of data entry. Each ministry would be able to update data on its own field from its own sources. The CBS can play a coordinating role, and finalize the quality of data inputting. This would require work on forming a data entry network with members from all ministries.

It would be a good idea to generate a comprehensive list of the types of data maintained and the types of databases used by various government bodies and INGOs. This will help the CBS to develop future versions of ChildInfo with more data. For example, some participants complained that ChildInfo does not have data on media and advocacy related to children. If there is a reliable existing database, the CBS could consider using these data. Instead of adding to the competition, the CBS should be trying to benefit from all available databases and data sources. It would be a good idea to network with organizations that are working with similar software to enhance the credibility of ChildInfo and promote its use. This might involve many resources in terms of time, money and human effort but, if networking is done between INGOs, the cost might be spread. Many INGOs, such as ICIMOD and NEWAH, are in the process of creating their own databases, and some ministries already have their own databases. It is understandable that specific organizations will have specific requirements. However, ChildInfo covers almost all development parameters, and could be used by almost all

development organizations. However, it must be understood that data quality is extremely important and should not be compromised at any cost.

Organizing a formal launch of ChildInfo would enhance its promotion. The ChildInfo Technical Committee's third meeting on 19 December 2001 suggested that to make training more appealing, the invitation should be sent from the NPC and participants should receive certification and allowances<sup>18</sup>. This is a good idea. If the invitation is sent from a high-level authority, the training programme will carry more weight. The CBS has already received feedback from participants that they would appreciate an allowance. This issue needs some consideration. However, if a high-level authority endorses ChildInfo, training certification is provided, and the ability to use ChildInfo becomes valuable, then allowances might not be necessary.

### **c. Participant Selection**

During the survey, it was found that most organizations, regardless of their development goals, have a specific division that gathers and generates statistical data. Participants of any training should be members of such a division. The invitation letter for training should be directed at these individuals, and potential participants should be clear about the objective of the training.

### **d. Software and Database**

It is recommended that, if possible, the software should allow users to store their own data temporarily. With this option, they can cross-tabulate data. ChildInfo has the capability to connect to Excel and GIS. Data-linking capabilities or software integration should be improved to attract more users. Mapping has high potential. Other features, such as creating graphs and tables, can be more easily accomplished by using Excel; however, other mapping software is complex compared to ChildInfo. If the mapping feature of ChildInfo can be enhanced, this software will be used more widely.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, ChildInfo has great potential to become more popular, if the following actions are undertaken.

- Data are updated regularly, and made available at the VDC level.
- Senior managers are made more aware of the potential and capabilities of ChildInfo.
- Trainee selection is carefully targeted, and training evaluation by participants and senior managers is carried out effectively.
- ChildInfo is enhanced to link with other software packages.
- Aggressive promotion is carried out by the CBS with a formal launching by the NPC.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX 1: BCHIMES STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(This list is subject to change, if there is staff rotation among the government ministries.)

Ms Puspa Shrestha, Honourable Member, National Planning Commission (Chairperson)  
Mr Bhoj Raj Ghimire, Member Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat  
Mr Ram Krishna Tiwari, Chief, Social Service Division, National Planning Commission Secretariat  
Mr Tunga S. Banstola, Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics  
Mr Vidhan Ratna Yami, Under Secretary, MOH  
Dr Beni Bahadur Karki, Chief, Planning Division, MOH  
Mr Ram Sarobar Dubey, Chief, Planning Division, MOES  
Mr Mukunda Raj Prakash, Chief, Planning Division, MLD  
Mr Pratap Kumar Pathak, Chief, Planning Division, MWCSW  
Dr Tika Prasad Pokhrel, Member Secretary, SWC  
Mr Murari Pd Upadhyay, Executive Secretary General, ADDCN  
Mr Gyanendra Kumar Shrestha, Under Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat  
Mr Krishna Prasad Shrestha, Deputy Director, CBS  
Mr Lok Nath Bushal, Section Officer, National Planning Commission Secretariat (Member Secretary)  
Ms Eriko Onoda, Planning Officer, UNICEF Nepal

## **ANNEX 2: CHILDINFO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr Tunga S. Banstola, Director General, CBS (Chairperson)  
Mr Krishna Pd. Shrestha, Deputy Director, Survey Department, CBS  
Mr R.K. G.C., Deputy Director, Population Department, CBS  
Mr B.S. Niraula, Deputy Director, Publication Department, CBS  
Mr Ravi Kayaste, Deputy Director, Training Department, CBS  
Mr T.B. Dangi, Senior Public Health Officer, DOHS  
Mr Ajit Singh Pradhan, Senior Public Health Officer, DOHS  
Mr Muniswor Mool, Sr. Public Health Officer, DOHS  
Dr Ram Saran Pathak, Associate Professor, TU, CDPS  
Mr Rabin Lal Shrestha, Associate Professor, TU, Department of Statistics  
Representative, Under Secretary, MOES  
Representative, Section Officer, MWCSW  
Mr Bishnu Datta Gautam, Section Officer, MLD  
Mr Lok Nath Bhusal, Section Officer, National Planning Commission Secretariat  
Ms Eriko Onoda, Planning Officer, UNICEF Nepal  
Mr Uddhab Khadka, ChildInfo Focal Person, UNICEF Nepal  
Mr Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director, CBS  
Mr P.R. Regmi, Demographer, MOPE  
Mr Suresh Basnyet, Statistical Officer, CBS (Member Secretary)

### **ANNEX 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CHILDIRFO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

The ChildInfo Technical Committee, comprising relevant technical members from key line ministries, meets 3–4 times a year.

Its main purpose is to review technical inputs of newly entered data, and recommend new sources and new indicators for the Nepal dataset.

Specifically, the committee undertakes the following tasks.

- The committee meets at the beginning of each year to review the previous year's progress.
- The Nepal dataset is reviewed and finalized.
- The decision on dissemination of the Child Info database is made.
- All data quality reports prepared by the ChildInfo focal points are finalized and, if necessary, may be re-written.
- New sources of data are selected for the database.
- The workplan for the coming year is reviewed and finalized.

The committee's output each year is an updated dataset on women and children in Nepal.



## ANNEX 5: PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

<b>Government</b>		
Naresh Khatiwada	Statistical Officer	MOH
Jeewanath Pokharel	Section Officer	MWCSW
Pawan Prasad Regmi	Computer Operator	MLD
Vidhan Ratna Yami	Under Secretary	MHPP
Bindira Adhikari	Technical Assistant	MOA
Meela Shrestha	Technical Assistant	MOA
Dhana Rani K. C	Computer Assistant	DWSS
Ganaga Datta Nepal	Computer Assistant	DWSS
Suresh Bastola	Computer Assistant	MLD
Anand Kafle	Non Gazetted Officer	MLD
Kishori Yadav	Assistant Director	SWC
Raju Manandhar	Statisticien	CERID, TU
Amul Upreti	Librarian	CERID, TU
Dhanendra Shakya	Lecturer	CDPS, TU
<b>INGOs</b>		
R.B. Thapa	Information Coordinator	SCF (Norway)
Dharma Raj Shrestha	Regional Program Manager	SCF (Norway)
Birendra Bajracharya	GIS Officer	ICIMOD
Sharmila Pradhan	Data Processing Officer	HK International
Sushil Karki	Program Officer	NFHP
Dil Bahadur Bhujal	Accounts Officer	NEWAH
<b>UNICEF</b>		
Madhav Baral	Senior Programme Assistant	Pokhara
Sunil Rajbhandari	Senior Programme Assistant	Biratnagar
Anjali Subba Manandhar	Senior Programme Assistant	Kathmandu
Manju Rana	Senior Communications Assistant	Kathmandu
Rajendra Shrestha	Senior Programme Assistant	Kathmandu
Shiv Nath Maharjan	Senior Programme Assistant	Kathmandu
Krishna Sunwar	Information Technology Assistant	Kathmandu
Dilli Basnyat	Programme Assistant	Kathmandu
Yuva Thapa	Programme Assistant	Kathmandu

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>1</sup> April 1999 update: Interregional Work Plan Task 1999/2000 (EAPR, ESAR, SA, Iran).
- <sup>2</sup> Child Info Version 2 User's Guide.
- <sup>3</sup> 2000: CBS/UNICEF Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of ChildInfo Database Programme.
- <sup>4</sup> April 1999: Interregional Work Plan Task 1999/2000 (EAPR, ESAR, SA, Iran).
- <sup>5</sup> 1999: Letter of Briefing/Training on ChildInfo Data Management to Mr Shreekant Regmi, Secretary, MOH.
- <sup>6</sup> Interview with Rabin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director, Department of Statistics, TU.
- <sup>7</sup> 2000: CBS/UNICEF Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of ChildInfo Database Programme.
- <sup>8</sup> UNICEF's Division of Policy and Planning (DPP), 2002: Information on use and support of the ChildInfo software package at county level for monitoring progress on goals and targets.
- <sup>9</sup> 2003: 'DevInfo has been used successfully in India, Tanzania, Benin, Paraguay and other countries' from email sent to all Resident Coordinators, UNICEF, from Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, DGO, UNICEF.
- <sup>10</sup> 2003: Letter sent to Regional Directors/Deputy Regional Directors/Representatives/Assistant Representatives, UNICEF from Saad Houry, Director, DPP, Nepal and André Spatz, Director, ITD, UNICEF.
- <sup>11</sup> 2002: Letter sent to Mr Henning Karcher, Resident Coordinator, UN, from Dr S.M.N Subhani, Director, CBS, regarding NepalInfo.
- <sup>12</sup> 2002: Pamphlet developed by UN Country Team for NepalInfo.
- <sup>13</sup> 2002: Letter sent to Dr. S.M.N Subhani, Director, CBS, from Henning Karcher, Resident Coordinator, UN, regarding NepalInfo.
- <sup>14</sup> 2003: Letter sent to Mr Uwe Sturmman, Head, Poverty Monitoring Unit, GTZ, Nepal, from Eriko Onoda, Planning Officer, UNICEF Nepal.
- <sup>15</sup> Interview with Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director, Social Statistics Division, CBS.
- <sup>16</sup> 2003: Email sent to all UN Resident Coordinators from Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, DGO, UN.
- <sup>17</sup> 2003: Email sent to Eriko Onoda, Planning Officer, UNICEF Nepal, from Soma De Silva, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, UNICEF ROSA.
- <sup>18</sup> 2001: Letter sent to UNICEF from the CBS regarding the third ChildInfo Technical Committee meeting minutes.