

UNICEF Nepal Country Office

Combating Child Labour in Nepal



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1st Annual Progress Report

Grant Number: SC141024

February 2016

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children

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Nepal

1. Grant summary

Donor (National Committee)	Japan National Committee for UNICEF
Secondary donor (if any)	Kanagawa Committee for UNICEF
Grant Number	SC141024
Strategic Plan Outcomes	Child Protection
Funds received (US\$)	\$ 106,954.52
Programmable Expenditure (US\$)	\$ 37,570.37
Unspent balance (US\$)	\$ 69,284.15
Reporting Period	1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015
Date of reporting (PFP)	February 2016
Date of reporting (National Committee)	May 2016

2. Purpose of the donor's contribution and planned results:

The generous contribution by Kanagawa Committee for UNICEF is in support of the Child Protection programme component results under the current Country Programme Action Plan: Outcome 1: By 2017, national policies, legislation, plans, budgets, coordination and monitoring mechanisms are enabling the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents, and women, to be fulfilled with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations.

Outcome 2: By 2017, in selected areas (the most disadvantaged districts and municipalities), social sector systems are providing integrated, quality services to fulfill the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents and women with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations.

Outcome 3: By 2017, in selected areas, children, adolescents, women and men, and all relevant duty-bearers are engaged in social change and action to realise the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents and women with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations.

Specifically, the objective of the contribution is supporting the improvement of the living conditions of children involved in the worst forms of child labour and ensure the protection of children from economic exploitation, abuse and neglect. UNICEF support eight municipalities¹ and the work in this regard focuses on five interrelated components, which are as follows:

1. Information management system on child labour (data collection, analysis, dissemination etc.)
2. Provision of services to working children and families at risk including reintegration and rehabilitation
3. Capacity building and system strengthening of municipalities and other key stakeholders
4. Social mobilisation and communication for behaviour change
5. Coordination, monitoring mechanisms and referral

¹ UNICEF supports eight municipalities along the Terai region to reduce and respond to child labor and traffic. Funds from this grant contribute to overall achievement and support specific activities in a number of municipalities among these eight.

3. Key results achieved and related outputs/activities

During the reporting period, funds from the Japanese National Committee have contributed to the Justice for Children programme component. Due to the devastating April 2015 earthquake and several aftershocks, UNICEF Nepal had to suspend its regular programmes and needed to focus on emergency response (between 25 April to July 2015), which delayed the implementation of some of the activities. In addition to the delays these programmes suffered due to the earthquake, the clashes in several districts in the Terai Region and the blockade between Nepal and the Indian border have further impacted the capacity of UNICEF and its partners to regularly implement the programme between September and December 2015. Since mid-January, activities are slowly re-starting and regaining a normal implementation pace..

Component 1: Information management system on child protection and child labour

With the support of UNICEF, targeted municipalities are continuously updating and revising the data collection and monitoring forms and procedures in line with the recently adopted case management guidelines.

Component 2: Provision of services to working children and families at risk including reintegration and rehabilitation

During the reporting period, within all the eight supported municipalities, of **629** children involved in the worst forms of child labour have been reintegrated; after follow up by social workers, the cases have been closed. These children received various services based on their individual needs such as rehabilitation and reintegration services, psychosocial-counselling and education support to children and mediation with parents and employers.

Partners in Ratnanagar Municipality have identified 102 new cases of child labour. 80 of these children are already receiving support in accordance to the care plans developed by social workers. They have organized several awareness raising activities: school based essay contest, printing and dissemination of information materials and advocacy meetings with key labour sector.

The municipality of Pokhara has successfully reintegrated 65 children with their families. Following regular follow up by social workers, their cases have been successfully closed.

Component 3: Capacity Building and System Strengthening of municipality to combat child labour

40 Government Attorneys' have enhanced their skill on Justice for Children & Women focusing on child victims, juvenile justice, diversion and restorative justice.

With contribution from the Kanagawa Committee for UNICEF, UNICEF has supported the development of a Trainers Manuals on Justice for Children for Judges and Court Officers, Government Attorneys, Police Officers and Defence Lawyers, which aims at strengthening the knowledge, skills, behaviour and capacities of professionals involved in the area of juvenile justice. This will also enhance their capacity to apply a human rights-based approach to their work, with a focus on child rights, gender issues, restorative justice, diversion and alternatives to custodial sentencing. Based on the manual, 50 judges, court officials, government attorneys and police officers were trained. In addition, victim friendly rooms were established in 20 district public prosecutors offices. The establishment of these rooms have enabled the victims to access to justice.

4. Financial utilisation

Key intervention areas/activities implemented	Expenditure (US\$)
District Child Welfare System strengthened	37,570.37
Total	37,570.37

5. Constraints

The programme suffered delays due to the 25 April and 12 May 2015 earthquakes, which caused the interruption of several activities and Government being preoccupied with responding to more immediate needs and priorities. UNICEF, as one of the leading humanitarian organisations in the country, was at the forefront of the emergency response. Although many areas of the country were not directly affected and regular programming was able to continue, capacities were stretched. As a result, some activities were temporarily delayed during the three months of acute emergency following the quakes. Reporting on Government-led programmes has also been delayed. Regular programming was resumed in August 2015 and is running alongside ongoing emergency response.

From August to December 2015, there were widespread political disturbances in the Terai Region, where much of UNICEF's work is focused. This and the blockade of the Indian border, have further impacted the capacity of UNICEF and its partners to regularly implement the programme between September and December 2015. Since mid-January, activities are slowly re-starting.

6. Future Plan

The following are some of the major focus areas of interventions planned for 2016 with regards to child labour and the child protection programme:

- Enhance the capacity of municipalities to better plan, implement and monitor their own resources.
- Support the Government to develop a new plan of action with modified strategy for the child labour programme.
- Support the partner NGOs and the municipalities with Information Management System to improve the data collection, compilation and analysis of child labourers.

7. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF would like to thank the Kanagawa Committee for UNICEF for its continued support, which allowed UNICEF to achieve the above mentioned results for children and women in Nepal.

Appendix: Human Interest Stories
Case1: The story of Manisha: From child labourer to student

Fourteen-year-old Manisha is a former domestic child worker. She was only seven when her father sent her to her first employer’s home because of the family’s extreme poverty. However, it was not only poverty that sent her into domestic labour but also the prevailing attitudes and gender-based discrimination, given that her brother was allowed to stay with the family and was enrolled in the local school. ‘Domestic child labour’ is defined internationally as children working in an employer’s house with or without a wage. Even though the government has identified domestic child labour as one of the worst forms of child labour, the use of such labourers is common in Nepal.

After a year and a half in service Manisha’s father moved her to a second employer, who ostensibly agreed to send the child to school. But although Manisha was interested in studying, she could not attend classes regularly because of the heavy daily workload she needed to complete.

As a domestic worker Manisha carried out a large variety of chores, such as cooking, washing dishes, collecting water, doing laundry, cleaning house, etc. And for all these efforts, Manisha received food and accommodation only, no salary, which is common among domestic child labourers. In addition to the heavy workload, Manisha was verbally and physically abused by the wife of the employer, and on one occasion the woman fractured the child’s hand by beating her violently with a cooking instrument. Manisha recalls that she was in lot of pain, but she was forced not to say anything about the incident to her parents, nor did she receive proper medical treatment. “Verbal and physical violence was very common in the employer’s house and nobody cared about my pain,” she recounts, and she says she still feels acute pain when using her fractured hand.

One day Manisha came into contact with the social worker of a local UNICEF-supported non-governmental organization, who provided her with counselling on the importance of education and the ill-effects of child labour. Furthermore, the social worker talked with her parents and motivated them to keep Manisha with them at home to prevent her from further possible violence and exploitation. After a series of meetings and a situation assessment of the family, the NGO together with the Nepalgunj Municipality were able to reintegrate Manisha into her family – including some economic support to ensure that she attended school.

Additionally, Manisha’s parents have received support from UNICEF and the local NGO to allow them to run a small grocery shop, from which they earn about \$3 per day. Manisha’s father has also started to work in a local furniture factory to further support his family. Today, Manisha is living at home and regularly attending grade eight at the local high school, where she says she plans on becoming a teacher in the future.



Case2: Anup's successful journey from street to family life

Anup is a 15-year-old boy who has been reintegrated into his family after living and working in the streets. His childhood was difficult because his family belongs to the Dalit community, which has been traditionally regarded as 'untouchable' and subjected to caste-based discrimination. In addition, Anup's mother had temporarily migrated overseas for better earning opportunities due to poverty.

Another reason Anup ended up in the streets was because of the difficult relationship with his father, an alcoholic who used to beat his son when he was drunk. Anup was just 14 when he escaped from his home and started a life in the streets by picking rags to earn money. He used to spend his nights at various open places, such as street pavements and in front of market places. During his time on the streets, he would do anything in order to survive. He admits that using substantive drugs as well as smoking and drinking were becoming habits for him, common for many such children. In addition, street children are particularly vulnerable to other risks, such as sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, as well as involvement in criminal activities. Furthermore, they are easy targets for traffickers, drug peddlers, and middlemen looking to exploit them for labour or sexual purposes.

Anup spent almost a year on the streets before he came into contact with the UNICEF-supported drop-in centre run by the organization's NGO partner Diyalo Pariwar. At that point, Anup began to visit the centre regularly, where he received a variety of services, such as psychosocial counselling and information on health and hygiene. Additionally, he participated in the centre's various recreational activities, including games, competitions, and just watching television with other young people. After five months of experiencing the drop-in-centre, Anup felt sufficiently confident to return home.

The centre's staff visited Anup's family to help with their son's reintegration, and also to talk to Anup's mother about her own reintegration after three hard years abroad. Unfortunately, her venture had not proven financially rewarding, having been exploited by the brokers who arranged for her to go to overseas. In addition, psychosocial counselling was provided for both parents.

Despite her setback, Anup's mother expressed her interest in supporting her children financially. And to that end she recently received five days of Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training, supported by UNICEF for families who have reintegrated their children after removal from street life. Anup's mother chose to pursue a micro-enterprise, which involves selling local seasonal items in a pushcart. The programme provided her with a pushcart and some seed money (about \$100) to start her chosen business.

Now Anup's mother is doing well in her business, earning on average \$7–8 daily. At the same time, Anup is studying in class six in the local school and is among the top students. The UNICEF programme also supports Anup in his studies by providing educational materials.



Anup and his mother with her pushcart business.



Anup at the drop-in centre.

Case3: Restoring Asha's childhood and dignity

This is the story of Asha, a 14-year-old girl from Nepal's Dang district who spent four years of her childhood as a domestic servant before she got her childhood back.

Asha's father and mother are poor agricultural labourers who could not afford her school expenses, or that of her two sisters. Poverty, coupled with a culture that generally accepts the idea of young girls working as domestic servants, pushed Asha into child labour in the capital city, Kathmandu. Only nine-years old at the time, for two years Asha washed baskets full of clothes, scrubbed floors, prepared meals, and much more in the home of her landlord. Her day began in the early morning and ended late at night. Afraid, insecure, and alone, she yearned for her home and for the chance to go to school.

Two years later, Asha returned home and begged her parents to let her stay, but due to the family's financial struggle, her father sent her to yet another employer – the home of a local doctor. Her new employer, however, instead sent her to work in a brick kiln. At this point, a new period of backbreaking work began for this little girl of 11 years. Asha had to toil in a very hot environment, while competing with others for earnings. Any money that she earned, she shared with her father. "I cried a lot and felt depressed," admits Asha.

Happily, the story does not stop there. Instead, with the support of UNICEF, the Ghorahi municipality, and a local NGO, Asha has been reintegrated with her family. The NGO met with Asha, her family, as well as the employer and carried out a reintegration plan and assessment for Asha to return home. In addition, she and her family have been provided with counselling and visits from a social worker. One of the key elements of this reintegration process is to raise the family's awareness of the negative effects of child labour. Furthermore, Asha has been provided with school supplies and a school uniform as well as income-generation activities.

Today, Asha helps her mother with the domestic chores, but she also attends school regularly. Asha says she feels that her dignity has been restored by going to school. After completing the non-formal classes supported by UNICEF, she is now studying in grade five at her local school and, most importantly, she is back with her family. Happily, a young girl has had her childhood restored, and now her dream is to continue to higher education.



Poverty, coupled with a culture that generally accepts the idea of young girls working as domestic servants, pushed Asha into child labour at just nine years old. © UNICEF Nepal