



CLEAR II Nepal: Adapting to shifting government structures and priorities

Burkina Faso, Panama, Jamaica and Belize to address child labor issues. Shortly after the launch of the CLEAR II project in April 2015, Nepal experienced a devastating earthquake in which nearly 9,000 people lost their lives and nearly 22,000 were injured. As a result of the earthquake, plans for CLEAR II and government implementation of child labor activities were delayed as government officials turned to prioritize disaster relief and reconstruction.

In the midst of earthquake reconstruction, the government of Nepal was also adapting to shift from a monarchy to a federal system of government which occurred in 2005. In September 2015, the second Constitutional Assembly of Nepal successfully adopted a new Constitution, resulting in a shift in government structure. While the central government remains, provincial government and local bodies now have increasingly more autonomy.

Project Adaptation

As a response to the earthquake, and in light of the increased autonomy of local bodies, CLEAR II adapted project activities to meet relevant needs. CLEAR II entered into a partnership with the Panauti Municipality, a municipality in the Kavrepalanchok district affected by the earthquake to review and update municipal social protection programs and



Panauti municipality representatives participate in a stakeholder mapping exercise led by CLEAR II

The USDOL-funded global Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce (CLEAR) Child Labor II project is a capacity building project that works with host governments in Liberia, Nepal,



Representatives and stakeholders from the Panauti Municipality following a workshop to draft their local disaster management plan

disaster management response plans to address child labor and child trafficking issues.

As part of this effort, CLEAR II and the Municipality coordinated with the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), a Nepalese national NGO working on the preparation of local disaster risk management plans in various municipalities, including the Panauti Municipality. ENPHO provided tools and led break-out sessions that supported participants in developing actionable plans, while CLEAR II staff emphasized practical ways to include child labor and child trafficking countermeasures in disaster response planning.

Through this series of CLEAR II workshops and close coordination with the municipality, child labor and trafficking issues have now been mainstreamed into the municipal disaster risk management plan, the plan has been included as part of the Municipality's annual program, and is anticipated to be endorsed by November 2017.

Best Practices

The Panauti Municipality's example of mainstreaming child labor into disaster management response plans is now considered to be a best practice for Nepal, and a model for other local governments to replicate as a practical means of addressing child labor within existing local programming and structures. It is expected that these efforts, coupled with CLEAR II's ongoing support of the development of a child labor monitoring system for the municipality, will result in district-wide awareness of child labor and child trafficking, and child labor reduction.

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