



## Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR II) Project in Nepal

### Overview

Implemented by Winrock International and partners Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) and Verité, CLEAR II is a global four-year, United States Department of Labor (USDOL) funded project that provides technical assistance to support a global reduction in child labor. Thanks to host government collaboration around the world, CLEAR II is working to bring about meaningful reductions in child labor in Nepal, Belize, Jamaica, Panama, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Honduras. CLEAR II partners with governments to carry out targeted activities that support each country's goals to make meaningful efforts to actualize recommendations described in USDOL's most recent annual child labor report. CLEAR II's four focus areas include: legislation, monitoring and enforcement, national plans of action and policies and social programs.

### CLEAR II in Nepal

To support the Government of Nepal in meeting its child labor reduction commitments, CLEAR II works with the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE), the Attorney General's Office and municipal governments as well as civil society stakeholders and international organizations to implement activities. CLEAR II in Nepal focuses on the following intermediate objectives:

1. Improvements in legislation that address child labor issues, including bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards;
2. Advancements in the monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child labor;
3. Effective implementation of national plans of action on child labor.
4. Improvements in social programs, policies, and/or series to address child labor, including the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

### Project Activities in Nepal

#### Support of Legislative Reform

Having completed a legislative analysis that identified gaps between International Labor Standards and legislation in Nepal, CLEAR II is now working with a consortium of civil society groups to make recommendations to the Ministry of Labor and Employment to amend the Child Labor Act (CLA) so that it aligns with International Labor Standards and clearly defines child and child labor. Major policy changes proposed as part of the legislative analysis include raising the age of a child to include all people under the age of 18, raising the minimum age of employment to 16, increasing penalties, amending the hazardous work list, and specifying the age at which a child is permitted to do light work.

#### Develop Municipal Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS)

CLEAR II is working closely with the Panauti Municipality to draft practical and sustainable municipal CLMS guidelines and resources, and enhance data collection and analysis efforts by

developing data tracking tools on the CLMS. The CLMS will support the municipality's efforts on the identification, referral, protection and prevention of exploitive child labor through the development of a coordinated, multi-sector monitoring and referral process that aims to cover all children living in the municipality.

### **Integrate Child Labor Issues into Labor Inspectorate Training**

In response to the government-expressed need for child labor training for labor inspectors, CLEAR II developed tailored tools and a curriculum on child labor in inspection to strengthen processes within Nepal's labor inspectorate. CLEAR II will train Ministry of Labour and Employment MOLE/Department of Labor, labor office, and municipal trainers to deliver the curriculum to future inspectors. Stakeholders will support the development of local training plans. As a result, the training plan will be mainstreamed into the government's annual plan.

### **Build Coordination to Address Child Labor**

CLEAR II hosted a workshop for prosecutors and inspectors to identify priorities for collaboration between the two agencies, both of which are key to enforcing child labor laws. CLEAR II works in coordination with the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) working together to address the issue of child labor through advocacy with government. As a result, the National Master Plan to Eliminate Child Labour (NMP) has been drafted and submitted to the Cabinet.

### **Provide Technical Assistance for Development of Regional and National Plans to Eliminate Child Labor**

As a leading organization working on child labor issues, Winrock International serves on IAWG with other organizations dedicated to eradicating child

labor and works in coordination with IAWG members to make recommendations to the MOLE to revise the NMP and develop an accompanying implementation plan. CLEAR II also supported the development of the Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of all forms of Child Labour in South Asia (2016-2021).



CLEAR II in Nepal presents the Ministry of Labour and Employment with recommendations to amend the Child Labor Act

### **Mainstreaming Child Labor into Local Disaster Management Plans**

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, killing 8,700 people and destroying homes and schools. The impact of the earthquake on families and education put children at risk for health problems, child labor, and human trafficking. In response, CLEAR II supported the Panauti Municipality in mainstreaming child labor and child trafficking issues into their Local Municipal Disaster Management Plan and is now raising awareness on child labor risks in emergencies. The Local Disaster Risk Management Plan, along with the corresponding budget, has been endorsed by the municipality.

#### **To learn more, please contact:**

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