



## CLEAR II Nepal: Bringing prosecutors and labor inspectors together to address child labor



CLEAR II training participants get energized before the start of the training.

Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce (CLEAR) CLEAR II is a United States Department of Labor-funded project implemented by Winrock International with partners Lawyers Without

Borders and Verité. The project enhances government capacity to reduce child labor. In July 2017, the CLEAR II project collaborated with the Nepalese Department of Labor and the Nepalese attorney general's office to implement two trainings that further prepared labor inspectors and public prosecutors to identify and convict child labor cases. According to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, in Nepal 37% of children between the ages of five and fourteen were working in 2014.<sup>i</sup> As the ones to identify and prepare cases against child labor abuses, the Nepalese labor inspectors and public prosecutors are key to eliminating child labor in Nepal.

### CLEAR II Training

A priority area identified in earlier CLEAR II workshops with labor inspectors was improving the partnership between labor inspectors and public prosecutors. Based off these workshops, CLEAR II partner, Lawyers Without Border, developed the training, "Building Good Child Labor Cases for Prosecution," to bring together labor inspectors from the central and district inspectorates and public prosecutors in the attorney general's office to improve the partnership between the two. Over the course of the three-day training, 42 participants



CLEAR II facilitators and training participants pose for a photo to commemorate their hard work and the final session of the training.

from organizations leading efforts to end child labor attended the training. Participants included prosecutors from district and central offices of the attorney general, inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and Employment, and representatives from the District Police and Child Help Line. Together they learned to build prosecutable child labor cases and strengthened the coordination between the labor inspectorate and the public prosecutors. The training equipped participants with skills in the Nepalese prosecution process, standard international prosecution practices, chain of custody, evidence collection and case reporting.

## Building Stronger Child Labor Cases

The trainings addressed child labor issues by building the capacity of the participants to prepare strong child labor cases for prosecution. Just as importantly, these trainings promoted knowledge

sharing, coordination across organizations, and a discussion about the responsibilities in addressing challenges related to child labor. This participatory process allowed participants to better understand one another work and the challenges they are facing.

By the end of the training, investigators, prosecutors and other stakeholders working on child labor prevention had developed a framework to guide them in preparing strong cases on child labor. The framework clarified roles and responsibilities, while motivating participants to work collaboratively to review all child labor cases in their district. Moving forward labor inspectors and prosecutors will be working with the project in selected regions to create coordination plans based on the framework they developed during the training.

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<sup>i</sup> *Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Labor Force Survey, 2014.*

*Funding provided by the United States Department of Labor under Cooperative Agreement number IL-26260-14-75-K. These statements do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.*