



Nepal

Annual Pathfinder Progress Report

May 2021-April 2022

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Introduction

Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve the objectives of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are committed to accelerating efforts and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn to support Target 8.7's urgent deadlines. Pathfinder status is open to any country, regardless of development level.

As of April 2022, 29 countries globally have manifested interest to become pathfinder countries. Out of these 18 have established detailed roadmaps identifying priorities for action to achieve target 8.7.

To record pathfinder progress against established national roadmap priorities, the Alliance 8.7 SDG monitoring working group structured a voluntary reporting process for the Pathfinder countries. Through their 'Alliance 8.7 national focal points' pathfinder countries can respond to a set of 12 questions related to the implementation of their roadmaps.

This report provides the overview of Nepal's responses to these questions. It is divided in 4 sections:

1. **Annual progress against roadmap priorities:** The first section looks into the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's pathfinder country report. Pathfinder countries provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. **Evidence of achieved progress:** This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.
3. **Value of the Pathfinder process:** The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows countries to report on how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2021 and April 2022.
4. **Way Forward:** This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised.

Annual progress against Pathfinder's roadmap priorities

The first section looks at both the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's Pathfinder Country report. Pathfinder Countries are asked to provide short feedback on all their stated priorities and next steps. Moreover, this section allows Pathfinder Countries to report upon challenges they have encountered over the past 12 months.

Question 1a: What progress has been made against the national roadmap priorities since May 2021?

- ▶ **Align federal laws related to child labour with national laws by 2019 and ensure coherence between child labour policies and education laws, in terms of children's ages, to establish a coherent countrywide legal framework.**

Progress

In the recent Act Relating to the Children, 2018, Child Labour Free Local Level Declaration Guideline, 2020, and the Constitution of Nepal 2015, a child is considered a person below 18 years of age. The age of children has to be aligned between child labour policy and education law. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2000 has to be aligned with the federal constitution. The act is in the revision process. The role of provincial and local governments in addressing child labour will be clarified in the act.

- ▶ **Establish committees for child labour inspection at the federal, provincial and local levels, to complement workplace inspection systems.**

As envisioned in The Act relating to Children 2018, there is a Provincial Child Rights Committee in each province and each local level has the provision of a Local Child Rights Committee. The Provincial Committee is chaired by the Minister of the province and the Local Child Rights Committee is chaired by a member of the rural/municipalities designated by the Deputy Mayor of such rural municipalities.

The labour office can assign any of its employees to monitor industries to inspect and ensure that there is no child labour. The government of Nepal has established a child labour elimination committee to ensure children's health, safety, training, and vocational education. The secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security heads the committee. Child Labour Elimination Fund also exists. The fund is established to minimize the practices of appointing children as child labour. Since most of the children from the rural areas are found in child labour, rural municipalities/municipalities have the responsibility to monitor and prevent children in child labour.

- ▶ **Enhance monitoring capacity and establish local committees for child labour monitoring and rescue.**

Capacity-building activities such as orientation and sensitization to the representatives of the local governments and provincial governments were carried out during this reporting period. Such sensitizations were held in Province 1 (provincial and local level) and Province 2. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security has a continuous plan to expand it to the other provinces. The sensitization will be conducted in all provinces. In July, it is planned to organize in Province 3 and Province 5.

Rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration were conducted and protection support was provided for the vulnerable children during this period. National Child Rights Council (NCRC) has been mobilized in these processes. In the year 2021/2022 (2022/2078 B.S.), 15,644 children have received protection support. Among that, the Balbalika Khojtalash Kendra-children's identification center (104) has supported 3619 children, Child Helpline has supported (1098) 10,348, and National Child Rights Council has provided protection support to 1657 children.

- ▶ **Declare ten child labour-free municipalities by 2020 to serve as examples for other municipalities.**

A ten-year (2018-2028) Master Plan on child labour prevention is being implemented in Nepal. Triveni, a rural municipality in Rolpa, has already been declared a child labour free rural municipality. And 64 municipalities/rural municipalities are in the process since the Ministry is looking over the proposals received from them. Development partners such as UNICEF, World Vision International, and ILO have also supported this process. But during the declaration process, MoLESS has learned that the declaration guideline will have to be revised and simplified because the data collection process is complex. So, the guideline is under revision. The declaration procedure will also be simplified and the fund distributed to the local government will be increased too. For the revision, we are conducting consultative meetings with other development partners like ILO, FAO, SAVE the Children, and UNICEF through an Inter-Agency Working Group formed to enhance better coordination and intervention in addressing child labour.

- ▶ **Revise the foreign employment act of 2008 and other related acts, to eliminate loopholes that leave room for abuse.**

Foreign Employment Act 2008 is in revision process considering the emerging trend of people going on foreign employment. There were a few amendments already. For eg: the government has extended the compensation claimed period.

- ▶ **Establish bilateral agreements with destination countries to formalize a shared responsibility for labor recruitment issues and to protect migrant workers.**

Bilateral agreements were made with several destination countries during the reporting period. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been done with the United Kingdom regarding sending manpower for nursing jobs. The decision has been made for labour recruitment between Seychelles and Nepal but MoU is yet to be done. With Israel, the Government of Nepal has drafted an implementation protocol. The diplomatic letter has been exchanged with the Maldives. The government of Nepal is also considering Serbia for sending migrant workers. Such agreements ensure equal wages, good working conditions, and access to justice. And the workers are aware in advance of the type of work they will do, the remuneration they will get, and are also aware of legal avenues.

- ▶ **Mainstream forced labour and human trafficking into regular data collection and integrate database for an informed policy response.**

The establishment of the integrated database on Child Labor, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking is underway. The data will be collected from different sources including Nepal Police's trafficking database and the Anti-trafficking Section of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens. The Ministry and Alliance 8.7 Secretariat will be the admin of the database. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security in collaboration with ILO and Swatantrata Abhiyan, has begun its work by developing Terms of Reference for an integrated database on Human Trafficking, Forced Labour, and Child Labour. Alliance 8.7 Secretariat will support collecting and uploading data on the software. The Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens is also developing a separate software to document the cases of Human Trafficking.

- ▶ **Establish labour committees and ensure their functioning needs.**

The formation of the labour committee is envisioned in Labour Act 2017. The Government has the provision that if any workplace has ten or more workers, a labour committee should be formed. There is also a provision that the committee ensures the working environment of the workplace, and makes an effort to settle any grievances in the discussion of the concerned party. Similarly, if there are 50 workers working in one place, a child care center should be established. Trade unions also work to ensure labor rights.

- ▶ **Map and constantly monitor high-risk groups to identify where interventions are most needed.**

There are some particular areas where child labour is prevalent as per the report developed jointly by ILO and the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal. For eg: agriculture has been identified as the sector with the highest number of child labour with approximately 87% occupancy¹, brick kilns, the transportation sector, and industries. In the coming year, UNICEF and ILO will be supporting the government's intervention in declaring child labour-free brick kilns in Nepal. Similarly, FAO is supporting the national government's efforts, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, for addressing the root causes of child labor in agriculture, making the policy environment favorable, and strengthening the institutional capacities for the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture, supporting decent rural youth employment in the context of Alliance 8.7 and implementation of the Second National Master Plan (NMP-II) on child labour (2018-2028). Similarly, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare has regularly conducted monitoring, capacity-building programs, and other reintegration interventions in the communities which are more vulnerable to human trafficking. In coordination with Non-Government Organizations, the government is running shelters in 10 districts of Nepal including the district in the border areas of Nepal and India. The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens also provides compensation if the trafficking victims win the case in court.

Question 1.b: What progress has been made against the next steps that Nepal identified for the period May 2021-April 2022?

- ▶ **Next Step 1- Enhance the roles of Alliance 8.7 Secretariat -**

Achieved

Alliance 8.7 Secretariat was established in December 2021 at the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security. The aim of the Secretariat is to coordinate Alliance 8.7 intervention and to provide administrative and other support to the Child Labor Elimination Cell of the Ministry. Two staff are appointed where they work on a regular basis. The staff is selected jointly by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, and ILO but the human resource cost will be covered by ILO. The Secretariat supports the Ministry in organizing regular meetings like Inter-Ministerial meetings and Inter-Agency meetings. The Secretariat anticipates establishing itself as a resource center. The Secretariat has operated social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The links are

¹ 2021 Child Labour Report based on the dataset of the Nepal Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2017/18

<https://www.facebook.com/alliance8.7nepal>, <https://twitter.com/Alliance87Nepal> and <https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/sdgalliance8.7nepal/> Through these pages, the Ministry shares its information in relation to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The Secretariat organized an inter-ministerial meeting on April 22 for developing an action plan for the National Coordination Committee meeting. Representatives of other Ministries and representatives from the Trade Union, and Employers' organizations had participated in the meeting. The Joint Secretary will look into the matter of Labour relations and the Social Security of MoLESS has been appointed as a focal person for Alliance 8.7 in Nepal.

- ▶ **Next Step 2- Develop an integrated work plan for 2022 coordinating with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, and Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation, and other related organizations.**

Ongoing

To develop an integrated work plan for the year 2022, the Inter-Ministerial preparatory meeting was held in the coordination of Alliance 8.7 Nepal Secretariat at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security in April 2022. There were 12 individuals from the ministries including the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Trade Unions, and Employers organization. The meeting discussed the need of developing a work plan for integrated intervention and to avoid duplication. The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security has received updated information from the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, and Ministry of Land Management and Poverty Alleviation about their ongoing work and future plan. An integrated plan has been drafted. It is planned that the final work plan will be prepared in July. Wider collaboration with other sectoral ministries will also be prioritized going forward.

- ▶ **Next Step 3- Continue public awareness campaign to end child labor, forced labor, and trafficking**

Ongoing

In addition to developing policies, implementing programs, and coordinating regularly, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens develops policies, conducts campaigns, shares informative videos, conducts sensitization programs, and carries out field-level orientations to prevent vulnerable people, mainly women, and girls, from various risks including trafficking and modern slavery. The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security as well as the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Security disseminate relevant information. Rehabilitation

centers have been established in 10 districts that support the survivors in their rehabilitation in society however is no immediate plan to expand the rehabilitation center at the moment.

The Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens has conducted shoe-manufacturing training programs at PD Footwear for 25 rescued women (from trafficking) in this reporting period though the overall number of rescued women was bigger. The Ministry selected 25 people based on their interest and availability. The women received skill-based training in shoe manufacturing and all of them have received an appointment letter from the company from where they learned the skill. The Ministry has conducted other skill-based training programs for young girls. They already completed counseling training. Online cyber safety training will be organized this June. Women and girls were found to be vulnerable to online platforms and they were more susceptible to exploitation and trafficking. Taking this into consideration, the ministry has developed an ongoing plan to sensitize people who are most at risk.

Similarly, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security has given priority to sensitizing stakeholders and capacitating the local government officials on the elimination of child labour. Recently, capacity-building activities were conducted at the province level (Province 1 and the local). There was the participation of provincial police, civil society organizations, local government representatives, media personnel, and legal officers. Similar orientation programs will be conducted in other provinces as well.

There are various mechanisms to address the prevalence of child labour. For e.g.: the establishment of the National Child Rights Counsel, Provincial Child Rights Committee, Local-level Child Rights Committee, and Child Helpline 1098 which is operational in 18 places in Nepal. Children at risk identification center 104 is established in 73 districts in Nepal. 3619 Children at risk received protection support from 104. 10348 children received protection support from child helpline 1098. Similarly, National Child Rights Council supported 1657 children.

A national committee to control human trafficking and transportation exists. The district committees are also established. The rehabilitation center has been established in 10 districts.

Nepal Police Trafficking Bureau looks into specific trafficking cases in Nepal. The police personnel go to the communities and sensitize community people on types of trafficking, methods of trafficking, risks of trafficking, etc. Nepal Police conducts

such programs in the community schools too. Each police unit has a mandatory provision for conducting sensitization programs throughout Nepal

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security in collaboration with the International Labour Organization developed IEC material regarding the elimination of child labour in this reporting period. Other organizations such as FAO, UNICEF, and WINROCK international are intervening to minimize the risk of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

▶ **Next Step 4- Intensify labour inspection and monitor compliance at the province level**

Ongoing

1803 industries were inspected in this reporting period regarding labor law compliance. 1762 child labor inspections were conducted. Labor supplier industry inspections were carried out in 23 industries. Complaints regarding labor laws implementation were registered through first come first serve. Their concerns were handled by maintaining confidentiality. Complaint boxes have been established in various offices and monthly review meetings are continuously carried out.

The Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens have rescued 76 children who were in child labor. The children were provided counseling services, temporary protection, and family reintegration. In this reporting period, actions have been taken against 6 individuals who employed children in the labour force.

▶ **Next Step 5- Declare at least 20 municipalities as child labor free municipalities in collaboration with all concerned stakeholders**

Ongoing

Nepal has been implementing 10 year-long National Master Plan (NMP II) on Elimination of Child Labor from 2018 to 2028. As part of this Master Plan, the government of Nepal has initiated declaring child labour-free municipalities/rural municipalities. The municipalities conduct baseline surveys and send proposals to the government to get technical and financial support for a child-labor-free municipality declaration. Once their status is verified by child labour elimination cell of the Ministry through in-person or online verification, the federal government releases the required budget and the local level is declared a child-labor-free zone. Tribeni rural municipality of Rolpa already declared child labour-free municipality and more are following. The task of monitoring, evaluating, and reporting lies with the Child Labour Elimination Committee. Clear and systematic indicators will be established for program implementation details, planning and execution.

- ▶ **Next Step 6- Establish a district-level committee on human trafficking and transport control in accordance with Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Regulation, 2065**

Ongoing

District-level committees on human trafficking and transport control have been established in 2021 as per the guidelines of Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Rule 2008 in three districts- Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk and Kaski. Chief District Officer is the chairperson of the committee and the District Police Office and Women Development Officers are among the members of the committee. The government will be establishing similar committees in 7 other districts and at the provincial level too. These planned districts are Banke, Parsa, Rupendehi, Surkhet, Chitwan, Kailali and Jhapa. Lumbini Province is also under consideration in the first phase. These committees will be established in the districts where the rehabilitation centers were already established. One of the duties of the committee is to monitor the rehabilitation shelters.

- ▶ **Next Step 7- Continue implementation programs in partnership with development partners to reduce vulnerabilities to child labor.**

Ongoing

The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security has established the Inter-Agency Working Group which comprises different International Non-Government organizations in Nepal. These agencies included ILO, UNICEF, FAO, Save the Children, WINROCK International, Saphla Neer, etc. The working group meets every month, shares their progress and updates, and finds the avenues to collaborate for their joint intervention in the Elimination of Child Labor. The government of Nepal works very closely with several United Nations Agencies including International Labor Organization. Similarly, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens has been working with WINROCK International to develop software for maintaining a database on Human Trafficking cases. FAO is collaborating with Agriculture and Forests University and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development for capacity development action targeting national and provincial agriculture stakeholders on the causes and drivers of child labour in agriculture, hazards and risk of child labour, and effective policies and interventions to address them and promote decent work opportunities for young workers in agriculture. In 2022, FAO initiated working with the Agriculture and Forests University, to provide support for strengthening the policy environment and institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development for the prevention and elimination of child labour and promotion of decent rural youth employment in agriculture in the context of Alliance 8.7. It also raises awareness for decent employment of youth

through reducing child labour hazards and risk and OHS through sessions and tailored tools for advocacy.

Question 2: Overall, looking at the progress made vis-à-vis your roadmap priorities, how would you classify your progress over the past 12 months?

We have achieved progress toward our roadmap priorities. We have a National Master Plan 2018-2028 and we work with five strategic objectives.

- Policies revision and their implementation
- Capacity building of the stakeholders
- Rescue and rehabilitation of children who are in child labor
- Provide income generation and other necessary support to children and their families
- Maintain coordination, collaboration and establish networks as needed

Question 3: Looking at your progress regarding your national priorities and next steps, what are the main successes between May 2021 and April 2022 you would like to highlight?

a) The placement of the human resources to run the Secretariat is one of the major highlights of this reporting period. The Secretariat is located on the premises of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security with two full-time staff. They are Secretariat Facilitator and Secretariat Associate. They work with ILO Nepal, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, and the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation. The financial cost is covered by ILO.

b) The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security with support from Alliance 8.7 Nepal Secretariat maintains its Facebook Page, Twitter Account, and Instagram where it regularly shares information on Child Labor, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking, and modern-day slavery. The aim is to disseminate information and make people aware of these issues. The social media content includes global and national forced labour, child labor and trafficking issues, current global status, international instruments, and efforts to combat these issues globally and nationally.

c) In terms of addressing forced labour in Nepal, by 2022 April, in total, 27,021 Kamaiya families were rehabilitated. Kamaiyas are agricultural bonded laborers. Similarly, 12,820 Haliya were rehabilitated. Haliya is the one who plows the land of the landlord and works as a bonded labour. 2352 Identity cards were distributed to

Kamlari. Kamlaris are those girl children who work in the landlord's house since their childhood.

In collaboration with ILO, more than 1000 families were supported through skill-based interventions in districts Kanchanpur, Bajura, Surkhet, Jajarkot, Saptari and Siraha. During the mid-line survey, 87.6 percent of skill training participants reported that they had used the skills they learned. Some of the training areas were carpentry, house painting, plumbing, tailoring, house wiring, beauticians, poultry, and masonry.

Question 4: Would you like to mention other meaningful successes and opportunities toward the achievement of the target 8.7 that are not part of the main roadmap priorities (e.g. laws enacted, events, partnership arrangements, additional resources)?

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nepal's children's enrollment in primary education remained stable. The world bank data atlas records a 97 percent enrollment rate in the year 2016. And regarding secondary education, a number of dropouts have been observed.

Question 5: What challenges, including COVID-19 if relevant, did you face to implement the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

COVID 19 frequent waves alarmed the country which affected the government's intervention as well. Women and girls became more vulnerable to human trafficking since many of them lost their employment and some sought new jobs and children were also found in the labor market because there was no one to feed the family. COVID 19 aggravated the situation.

To tackle these problems, especially to control the trafficking cases, Nepal Anti Trafficking Bureau accelerated its intervention through community and school awareness programs throughout Nepal. However, due to COVID- 19, direct community awareness programs were less possible. Nepal Police conducted online programs. However, not all the communities had access to the internet. So, the target was hard to meet.

On the other front, the trend of Human Trafficking took another form. In the past, women and girls were found to be trafficked to the neighboring countries mainly India for sexual exploitation. But recently, women and girls seem to be vulnerable to trafficking to the Arabian Countries and African Countries under the disguise of joining the labour force. The women and girls are transported to these countries not by the registered recruiting company but by individuals such as labor

intermediaries. However, the Government of Nepal has introduced various measures to counter these challenges for eg: In the period of two months (March and April 2022), immigration authorities of Nepal found 92 cases of women who were on their way abroad in the name of foreign employment. They were going illegally and without proper documents. They were returned and handed over to Nepal Police. Nepal Police organized counseling programs for them thereafter.

Evidence of achieved progress

The second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Nepal to provide insights into how the progress that occurred between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.

Question 6: How have you examined the progress against the national priorities identified in the Pathfinder country roadmap priorities?

A formal evaluation process was conducted for roadmap priority assessment. The questionnaires were asked in three different areas of interventions of SDG 8.7. We received information in the form of a datasheet and asked questions based on intervention questionnaires. It is realized that in the coming year, more stakeholders, not only the government but the development partners, CSO should participate in the evaluation process.

The officials in various Ministries were consulted, their reports were reviewed, and data were collected and verified. In most of the offices, in-person visits were made, and officials were interviewed for e.g.: the report writing team visited the Anti-Trafficking Bureau of Nepal Police and discussed with the Police Superintendent the prevalence and response mechanism of human trafficking. Follow-ups were carried out as necessary. For the next year, we have made a plan for more frequent communication and visit to gather evidence.

▶ **Did you encounter challenges in gathering evidence to assess your progress?**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was difficult to go to the field and receive data. So, field missions and necessary research and reviews could not be carried out as planned.

Question 7: Were any other stakeholders like government agencies/ social partners/ civil society organisations involved in assessing progress?

There were different Ministries, UN Agencies, and International Civil Society Organizations involved in assessing the progress. In the coming year, the

representatives from workers, and employers' organizations, CSO will also be involved in assessing progress.

Value of the Pathfinder process

The third section provides an opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help put the reported results into context. This section allows Nepal to report how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progress towards their national priorities between May 2020 and April 2021.

Question 8: What are the main highlights around the pathfinder process for Nepal?

▶ **Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with international partners**

United Nations (without ILO)

FAO is supporting national government's efforts, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, for addressing root causes of child labor in agricultural sector, making the policy environment favorable and strengthening the institutional capacities for the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture, supporting decent rural youth employment in context of Alliance 8.7 and implementation of the Second National Master Plan (NMP-II) on child labour (2018-2028) ensuring the participation of Agriculture related ministries and other agricultural stakeholders in national policy and legislative frameworks, action plans and inter-ministerial collaborations on the prevention of child labour; enhancing capacity of agricultural stakeholders and communities to adopt safe agricultural practices and labour-saving technologies in order to improve occupational safety and health, reduce the dependency on child labour and provide decent employment opportunities for adults and youth; fostering systemic behavioural changes at community level through participatory methods and rural education to abandon child labour practices; improving data collection and knowledge generation on child labour in the different sub-sectors of agriculture, i.e. aquaculture, forestry and livestock in order to inform tailored responses. In 2022, FAO initiated working with the Agriculture and Forests University, to provide support for strengthening policy environment and institutional capacity of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Development for the prevention and elimination of child labour and promotion of decent rural youth employment in agriculture in the context of Alliance 8.7. Preparation of a rapid assessment report on the prevalence of Child Labour, working conditions and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) challenges faced by young workers (14-17 yo) in agriculture. FAO raised awareness for decent

employment of youth through reducing child labour hazards and risk and OSH through sessions and tailored tools for advocacy. National and provincial agriculture stakeholders capacitated through the training on the causes and drivers of child labour in agriculture, hazards, and risk of child labour

ILO

The Government of Nepal works with ILO for child-labor-free municipalities, awareness, and capacity-building programs among many others. Through the Bridge project, ILO supports increasing knowledge, awareness, and ratification of ILO conventions. It increases efforts to collect data in order to carry out research and share knowledge. It establishes partnerships with the government and local organizations to improve livelihood programs and services to the victims of bonded labour. Forced Labour Advocacy Group (FLAG) has been established at national and local levels. With ILO support, law enforcement agencies and justice system officials are trained in law enforcement, prevention, and victim assistance.

International civil society organization(s)

The Government of Nepal has been working jointly with SAVE the Children, PLAN International, Shapla Neer, WINROCK International, Global Fairness Initiative, World Vision International, etc. World Education works to build the capacity of NGOs to more effectively detect and control child labor in Nepal's brick, embroidery, and carpet weaving sectors, and to facilitate the provision of services to those affected. It also works to improve the capacity of civil society to identify and document the nature of child labour in these areas. Municipal leaders were also provided technical assistance developing child protection guidelines and child fund guidelines to support children in need. Municipal leaders were also provided technical assistance on developing child protection guidelines and child fund guidelines to support children in need s. It also raises awareness. The Sakriya project of World Education facilitated the formation of the Local Child Rights Committee (LCRC) and Ward Child Rights Committee (WCRC) in the working municipalities.

World Vision International is contributing to Chandagiri municipality and Kirtipur Municipality to support the child labour free declaration campaign as per the operation guideline, capacity building of child labour monitoring among the local government staff, and strengthening child protection mechanism. It is also working in Brick industries focusing on safer and decent working conditions, running early childhood development sessions, linking children at risk to formal education, and coordinating with labour offices for the monitoring of the brick industries.

- ▶ **Nepal supported sub-regional/regional/global initiatives outside of the country on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking**

Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with domestic partners

The Government of Nepal has been collaborating with employer organizations, workers' organizations, civil society organizations, and different Ministries. Several meetings were held in this reporting period. Trade unions and employers' organizations were consulted in developing programs for joint intervention. The Ministry of Land Management has formed a study committee to study the practices, and challenges of forced labour such as Haruwa (who plow the land) and Charuwa (cattle herders). For that, Collaboration with the International Labour Organization has been done. Other non-government organizations such as Swatantrata Abhiyan, Child Development Society have been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security in addressing Alliance 8.7 focus areas.

Increased capacity of institutional support services

Capacity building of provincial and local government representatives has been conducted. Labour officers have been trained on labour inspections. Rural/Municipalities are strengthened with financial and technical support. The municipality representatives were trained on areas of intervention, the process of implementation of local-level child labour free municipalities, and the monitoring process. Through World Education's Sakriya Project, municipal leaders were provided technical assistance in developing child protection and child fund guidelines to support children in need. The Sakriya team of World Education facilitated the formation of the Ward Child Rights Committee in 385 wards in 45 municipalities.

Future /Now what ?

This section allows pathfinder countries to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised and to have an outlook on the next steps to achieve your priorities on a 12-month horizon. The next steps will be used for the pathfinder report next year.

Question 9: Is there a need to revise the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

Not Applicable, at present, the pathfinder country roadmap priorities seem relevant.

Question 10: What next steps are you planning to undertake until April 2023?

▶ **Next step 1: Fully functional Alliance 8.7 Secretariat (Area: Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking)**

Target- Secretariat operates smoothly with human resources and financial/operational resources

Evidence- Regular coordination among Ministries, Development Partners, and Civil Societies. A number of inter-agency/ inter-ministerial meetings, availability of resources at the Secretariat, and the joint integrated plan will be prepared.

▶ **Next step 2:: Declaration of Child Labor Free Municipalities (Area- Child Labour)**

Target- One rural municipality has already been declared as Child Labour Free. Last year, the Ministry of Labour released a budget for additional 26 municipalities and 38 municipalities this year. The child-labour-free declaration guidelines will also be revised with the government incorporating feedback from the members of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG).

Evidence – Child Labour won't exist in the targeted municipalities. A revised copy of the guideline will be available.

▶ **Next step 3:- Awareness Program (Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking)**

Target- Nepal Police will organize community awareness programs and orientation sessions at different schools, and communities to prevent them from crimes including the risk of human trafficking. Local government officials are sensitized to international instruments and constitutional and legal provisions on child labour. Non-government organizations like AATWIN, Biswas Nepal, Paurakhi Nepal will continue supporting the government and work on preventing and reintegrating trafficking survivors through awareness programs and shelter support. Awareness-raising programs such as prevention from the risk of falling victims to the criminals and social and other costs of trafficking, riskier jobs, reaching police personnel, and vulnerabilities in online space will be held through different media, through training, orientations, and publication of the informational materials.

Evidence-Trafficking cases are expected to be reduced in vulnerable communities. Child labor will be prohibited.

▶ **Next step 4: Capacity Building (Child Labor, Human Trafficking)**

Target- 300 Police personnel will be trained in identifying and prosecuting human trafficking cases. Provincial and Local government officials will be oriented and sensitized to making child labour-free municipalities.

Evidence- 50 Police Personnel will be trained in Training of Trainers (TOT) and 250 policemen will attend regular training on investigating and addressing human trafficking issues. Local government representatives will be oriented on the issue of child labor and forced labor.

▶ **Next step 5:- Developing and revising the existing acts and laws and regular labour Inspection. (Child labour, Human Trafficking)**

Target- National Action Plan (NAP) for combating Human Trafficking will be developed and finalized by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens within a few months. Foreign Employment Act will be revised to address emerging trends in trafficking. Child Labour-free municipality declaration guidelines will also be revised by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security with support from Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) members. Regular labour inspection will be conducted.

Evidence-NAP will be ready. Foreign Employment Act and child labour free declaration guideline will be revised. Industries such as brick kilns, carpets, and garment industries commit to prohibit child labour and their workplace will be child labour free.

▶ **Next step 6:- Partnership with development partners (child labor, forced labor, human trafficking)**

Target- Inter-Agency Meetings will regularly take place and they will continue to address the issue of child labor jointly. The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security as well as the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizen work together with the development partners such as World Vision International, Plan International, FAO, WINROCK International, World Education, and others. ILO and UNICEF will make a comprehensive intervention to protect and prevent child labour in Brick Kiln Sector in the coming year. The program will provide livelihood support to poor and vulnerable families through multi-sectoral interventions to address the family-based and individual drivers of child labour. It also aims to support private-public sector collaboration on child labour prevention and response.

Evidence- Number of the meetings held, evidence of joint intervention.

- ▶ **Next step 7:- Development of integrated database and coordinated work plan (Child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking)**

Target- The inter-ministerial meetings will be held, and an integrated work plan will be developed. Based on the integrated plan, action steps will be developed. The data and the information regarding Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking will be stored in the integrated database, and it will be established at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security.

Evidence- The integrated plan will be in place. The database will be operational.

- ▶ **Next step 8:. Develop Child Labour Master Plan- Action Plan**

Target- Child Labour Master Plan II action plan will be developed and the action plan will guide the activities in eliminating child labour. The action plan is already drafted and consultation was held with other government Ministries and relevant stakeholders to give it a final shape.

Evidence- Implementation plan will be in place.

Question 11: Support needed to achieve the priorities on the roadmap?

Nepal requires financial support from the development partners in implementing activities to realize its roadmap.

Question 12: 2021 was the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Please, in a few lines, describe the major outcomes from your action pledge.

Pledge title: Extend the Child Labour Free Local Level (Government) Declaration program in 50 Municipalities.

Pledge page see [here](#).

2021 was declared the international year for the elimination of child labor. Nepal's action pledge was an extension of the child labor free local level (government) Declaration Program in 50 municipalities. To fulfill this pledge, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security accelerated its work. Tribeni Rural Municipality from Rolpa District declared a child labour-free district. 64 other municipalities are in the process of labour free declaration. However, during the implementation process, it was identified that the budget and the procedure needed to be adjusted. So, the declaration guideline is in the revision process.

The tasks of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting lies with the Child Labour Elimination Committee. Clear and systematic indicators will be established for program implementation details, planning and execution.