



Save the Children's Operation Day's Work 2022 application

Youth of Karnali: Agents of Change

Sammendrag av Søknaden

Navn på organisasjonen: Redd Barna

Tema for programmet: styrking av ungdoms medvirkning, beskyttelse mot skadelige tradisjonelle rutiner, styrking av lokalt samfunn

Samarbeidsland: Nepal

Artikkel 12 i barnekonvensjonen slår fast at alle barn og unge har rett til å uttrykke sine synspunkter og bli hørt i alle forhold som berører barnet. Barn og unge utgjør en stor del av verdens befolkning, og når de får medvirke, bruke og videreutvikle egne ressurser, bygges lokal kapasitet og et mer bærekraftig samfunn. God medvirkning styrker barn og unges selvfølelse, mestringfølelse og opplevelse av å ha betydning.

Prosjektet Redd Barna ønsker å gjennomføre i Nepal har ungdoms deltakelse som den viktigste komponenten. Gjennom deltakelse fra jenter og gutter skal vi bygge lederskap slik at ungdommene kjenner til sine rettigheter og kan delta i politiske

prosesser som angår dem selv. Ungdommene skal få økt kjennskap om seksualitet, identitet og spørsmål om kjønn. De skal også få økt digital kompetanse, et ønske ytret av ungdommen etter perioder med nedstenginger som konsekvens av COVID-19 pandemien. Hele prosjektet er basert på ungdommenes tilbakemeldinger til Redd Barna om hvilke utfordringer de ønsker å jobbe med. Ungdoms deltakelse fra planleggingsprosessen vil gjøre at ungdommene i sterkere grad vil bidra i kampen mot vold og diskriminering i samfunnet og de vil kunne si nei til skadelige tradisjonelle rutiner.

Det å kunne bestemme over egen kropp og eget liv vil være noe norske ungdommer vil kjenne seg igjen i. I en verden der seksuelle rettigheter ofte innskrenkes vil dette prosjektet være et forsøk på å gjøre det motsatte, for en gruppe som ikke vanligvis kan si sin mening. Spesielt den tradisjonelle behandlingen av jenter som menstruerer - chhaupadi - tror vi vil engasjere norsk ungdom til å bidra til å få slutt på.

Situation Analysis

The youth of Karnali, one of the poorest states in Nepal, are facing serious threats to their wellbeing and rights on multiple levels. Save the Children (SC) regularly engages with these youth through different forums to understand their situation and concerns and to identify ways the youth wish to be supported. Since the onset of COVID-19 and strict lockdowns in Nepal, it has become increasingly pertinent to give youth opportunities to voice their challenges and influence their situation. For this reason, SC has continued to consult with youth through remote means, digitally and through telephone conversations, from May 2020. Since then, consultations have been held in three phases with a total of 430 children and youth, aged 12-19, in Karnali state. Out of them, 210 were girls.

The concerns and stories shared by the youth are worrying. Child marriage¹, teenage pregnancy, school drop-out, seasonal migration for labour, substance abuse and domestic violence are all challenges identified. A lack of opportunities and arenas for youth to participate in decision making, inadequate access to information, as well as gender-

discriminatory social norms were cited as root causes that have led to these conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already challenging situation. Many parents and families have lost their incomes, which has pushed youth to drop out of school to join the labour force or enter into marriage. In Karnali the child marriage rate was already high but has now increased further during the pandemic². Furthermore, a 2020 assessment conducted by SC indicates an alarming 37% increase in violence against children and youth. The assessment also highlights the long-term effects the pandemic will have due to changes in social structures, infringements of rights, loss of key services and rising poverty levels.

Regarding child marriage SC has identified a concerning new trend in Karnali. Findings from a recent survey show that 96% of all child marriages in Karnali are initiated by youth (13-18 years old) themselves³, a trend very different from the recent past when marriages were forced upon youth by their parents. Youth have identified peer pressure and the influence of friends, poverty and the urge to escape dysfunctional family relations as main reasons for this development. The negative

¹ The term child marriage is used in this proposal for the sake of simplicity and refers to child and early marriages.

² Survey from Ward level child protection committee

³ Baseline survey for Sahayatra II (Norad funded); Save the Children Nepal, 2020

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consequences are often the same as for child marriages arranged by parents and are particularly affecting girls. Most married girls quit school due to added household responsibilities, limiting their career and income earning opportunities. Many become isolated and get pregnant early with subsequent risk of complications, and girls who marry early are more often subject to partner violence. If the self-initiated child marriages do not last, the boys often remarry whereas the girls are left behind stigmatized and socially isolated, which impacts their psychosocial wellbeing and their chances of getting married again.

For children and youth in the region, the lack of comprehensive sexuality education is also a challenge they want to solve. They experience that topics such as sexual orientation, gender identity and safe sexual relationships are taboo at home, in the community and at school, and most teachers refrain from teaching them in the classroom. The lack of discussion around these issues creates misinformation and misunderstandings around sexuality and gender and contributes to high rates of teenage pregnancies.

Menstruation is another social taboo, which has resulted in a harmful and discriminatory practice called *chhaupadi* perpetrated against girls. Menstruating girls are forced to stay overnight in cow sheds for at least four days each month. Every year at least 10 girls are reported to have died in such sheds. Exact numbers are difficult to obtain, as many fatalities and injuries go unreported, but while sleeping in the sheds girls are at risk of snake bites, physical assault, freezing temperatures and suffocation due to lack of ventilation. While practicing *chhaupadi* has been legally prohibited through law, it is still deeply rooted as a societal norm in this area and is therefore still widely practiced⁴.

"I want to see child marriage, chhaupadi, and all harmful practices end in my community. I want to see my society educated. I see myself as a part of this change as I am part of a club which helps raise awareness about these ills in the community. I think my participation is integral to ending these harmful practices from my place."

– Youth in Karnali

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of online safeguarding and digital literacy, both among children and youth, as well as adults. During this increasingly digitalized period of time, youth spend significant time online but are not always prepared to decipher the accuracy of the information, nor the quality and constructiveness of what they see. Furthermore, with little or limited knowledge of how to identify and report on risks and threats on online platforms and social media, the youth are vulnerable to become victims of grooming or online abuse. Data collected by SC suggests that Youth in Karnali are influenced by what they are exposed to on social media platforms, and examples have been shared of youth feeling pressured to enter into marriage by people they communicate with online. During our consultations, the youth expressed that they would benefit from improved skills in constructive and safe online communication, participation and accessing information.

"During the lock down period, me and my friends are mostly on social media, and there are cases of harassment. For example, one of my friends was approached by a stranger on Facebook, and they started talking. But now this boy is threatening her. If she tells her parents, then they will react very negatively, and rather than helping they will blame my friend."

– Youth in Kathmandu

Faced with all the challenges presented above, youth have expressed frustration with the limited opportunities they have to participate in and influence local decision making processes addressing issues affecting them, such as community or local government planning processes. They are eager to raise their concerns directly in relevant forums. However, they experience they are not seen as capable of forming their own views or making their own decisions, and there are few informal or formal platforms for expressing their opinions and participating in changemaking. With this lack of venues and arenas for youth to discuss their concerns with local leaders and government decision makers, the youth are not consulted or listened to and their concerns are not addressed in decision making processes. The innovations, creativity and enthusiasm of youth are not given a chance to flourish and influence, and the challenges youth face persist.

⁴ National Human Rights Commission Report, 2020

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Based on our consultations with the youth, we have grouped their challenges as follows: (i) the youth experience violence, harmful traditional practices and discriminatory gender norms that negatively impact their wellbeing; (ii) the youth have few possibilities to make their voices heard and participate as change agents.

Anticipated Changes

This project will enable youth in Karnali state to engage in decision making processes regarding issues affecting them, so that they can play an active role in improving their own lives. The focus will be on enhancing youths' leadership skills, agency, and voices so that they can bring their concerns and demands to the attention of family and community members as well as government decisionmakers through dialogue and discussions.

Overall goal: To empower the youth of Karnali state to reduce harmful social norms, discrimination, abuse and violence in their families and communities

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Youth improve their life skills and reject harmful practices

The project will work through youth clubs where girls and boys can meet to discuss problems and solutions to their challenges. Among the leaders of the youth clubs and networks, male and female youth champions will be identified. These champions will be prepared to support their peers to make constructive decisions when faced with daily challenges including conflicts, discrimination, economic pressures and schooling. The youth champions will be trained on leadership, critical and creative thinking, decision making, problem solving, effective, inclusive and safe communication, and mental health training such as coping with stress and emotions. They will also receive awareness training on gender equality and harmful social norms and be trained in digital literacy to help them identify useful resources and information online. Youth information centres will be established in target municipalities with representatives from community-based youth clubs and in collaboration with the government's National Youth Council. These centres will be run by trained youth champions who will cascade to other

youth what they have learned from trainings on life skills and combating harmful coping mechanisms.

Furthermore, the youth champions will be encouraged to use their leadership skills to design and facilitate activities to equip and empower their peers for social change. Sports and other outdoor activities will be used to bring youth together and build their team-working and leadership skills. Both youth clubs and outdoor activities will provide girls and boys with a setting to discuss harmful norms and practices that affect their rights, autonomy, and well-being, as well as encourage them to come up with actions, plans and ideas to influence change. Local media, including print and radio, as well as public plays and speeches will also be used for youth to voice their views and ideas. Equal participation of girls and boys in all activities, including in sports, will help fight gender stereotypes that limit the participation of girls and boys in certain arenas.

Outcome 1 will be measured by one indicator: % of youth (m/f) who have knowledge of life skills.

Outcome 2: Youth enhance their knowledge on sexual orientation, gender identity and healthy relationships, and fight against harmful traditional practices including *chhaupadi* and child marriage

The project will work with the youth to ensure that they and their families are informed and prepared to address issues related to sexuality, gender and gender identity, child marriage and *Chhaupadi*. With the support of SC, youth will work with and influence schools, health facilities and communities to fight misinformation and misbeliefs related to these topics. Given that misconceptions about sexuality, gender and gender identity exist in all age groups, the project will start with youth and build their knowledge, understanding and acceptance through trainings, orientation sessions and debates. Next, as the understanding of the youth is enhanced, they will actively seek to spark discourse on these topics in their families, schools and communities through events such as community dramas and debates. The goal will be to remove the taboos around sexuality and gender identity and instead make such matters be seen as essential discussion points for healthy youth development.

To address harmful practices such as *chhaupadi*, child marriage and domestic violence, a social and

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behaviour change communications approach will be used to mobilize resistance. Campaign messages will be designed together with youth champions to ensure that the voices of affected girls and boys are heard. Approaches will include a variety of youth-led outreach initiatives such as youth rallies, youth bulletins, interactive street dramas, inter-generational dialogues and discussions, radio programs and jingles. Youth will also collaborate with traditional healers, religious leaders and justice service providers, such as Nepal Police, for community outreach and work towards declaring their communities as child marriage-free and *chhaupadi*-free zones. The project will also provide training in digital literacy to youth so they can safely and effectively use online devices and platforms as avenues for learning and participation in decision making. Finally, the project will initiate a Karnali-wide campaign combining online and in-person activities, to mobilize government leaders at local and state level against *chhaupadi*, child marriage and domestic violence. Male and female youth champions will be actively involved in the design and dissemination of the campaign messages.

Outcome 2 will be measured by three indicators: (i) % of youth who have basic knowledge of sexuality and gender identity; (ii) % point decrease in child marriage; and (iii) % point decrease in women/girls who are subject to *chhaupadi*

Outcome 3: Youth hold the local and state governments to account on their rights

This project will bridge the gap between youth and government decision makers by organizing 'Youth Kachahari', or platforms for girls and boys to discuss their specific issues with duty bearers. Digital and physical spaces will be used to facilitate dialogue. *Youth Kachahari* will resemble SC's tested and proven intervention of 'Bal (child) Kachahari', which has successfully facilitated constructive dialogue between children and government decision-makers. *Youth Kachahari* will be organized on a sequential basis where youth participants will have the opportunity to discuss their challenges and suggest policy solutions before government representatives as well as keep these representatives accountable for delivering on youth issues. In addition, youth champions will be connected through *Youth Radio Dialogue* series where they will interview influential community leaders, leaders of school management committees, leaders of parents-teachers

associations and peers to discuss social issues related to youth and encourage positive actions to address their challenges. Similarly, a *Mayor with Youth* program will be used to create space for youths and systematically engage young people in planning and executing policies and programs at local government level, including budget preparation. The aim will be to prepare youth champions as local advocates for desired change.

In addition, the project will organise 'youth parliament', where youth will mimic parliamentary procedures and discuss issues that concern them. The youth want to use this as an opportunity to practice raising their voices, presenting their issues convincingly and advocating for issues that affect them. The youth will also hold dialogues with youth wings of political parties to influence the parties' election manifestos and local strategies/plans to the benefit of youth. Finally, youth will work with the local government to pilot a 'youth charter' that will display information on what the government is doing for youth as well as upcoming political process that youth can get involved in. Through this project, the capacity of Karnali youth will be built so that they can co-design the 'youth charter' together with the local government. Once the charter is public, the youth will monitor its implementation and provide their feedback to the government on a regular basis.

Outcome 3 will be measured by two indicators: (i) # of policies and programmes endorsed by local governments that are informed by the youths' engagement and participation; (ii) % point increase in the allocation and expenditure of public budget on essential services for youth

Target group

The primary target group of the program is youth aged 13-19 in the Karnali state of Nepal. The project will be implemented in three palikas (municipalities) – Tilagupha, Shubhakalika and Gurans, of two districts – Kalikot and Dailekh. Deliberate efforts will be made to ensure equal representation of girls and boys and that marginalized groups, including youth with disabilities, LGBTQI youth, Dalits and other minorities actively participate and engage. For example, male and female youth champions will be identified using criterion based on inclusion principles, with at least 30% inclusion from marginalized groups. Mothers and fathers, other caregivers and families, teachers and local and state

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government authorities will be included as secondary target groups, as they play important roles in ensuring the wellbeing of youth and addressing their concerns. Based on figures from our ongoing work in Karnali, we estimate that the project will involve approximately 16,000 youths (9,000 girls and 7,000 boys), and 2,500 adults (1,000 males and 1,500 females). These figures are based on municipalities' databases.

Gender equality

Many of the problems to be addressed by the project (e.g. *chhaupadi* and child marriage) particularly negatively affect girls. Therefore, girls' active engagement is crucial. Girls in Nepal, however, often face more challenges in terms of being allowed to participate in out of school activities. This is due to traditional norms and gender roles, as they often have more domestic chores than boys and safety concerns are greater. Furthermore, when participating, girls do not always feel free to voice their opinions as openly as boys due to gendered expectations in the society. Therefore, the project will actively work with parents and other caregivers, as well as with the girls themselves, to ensure girls' active participation. The project will also actively facilitate the participation of girls and boys with different gender identities and expressions. At the same time, to enhance gender equality among the youth in Karnali, it is of great importance to also involve boys in fighting harmful gender norms and discrimination. The project will therefore work deliberately to enhance the skills of boys to be champions to address harmful gender norms and work for gender equality.

Youth participation

Children and youth's right to express themselves and influence decisions that concern them is embedded in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), and in SC we work to ensure children and youth have opportunities to express their views, that their views are taken seriously, and that they have opportunities to influence decisions. Participation is a way of working and an essential principle that cuts across all our programmes and activities, and we work to strengthen children and youth participation in all arenas – from homes to government, from local to

international levels. To ensure the quality of our work, we follow the nine basic requirements for inclusive, safe and voluntary participation at all stages, as put forward by the Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC) in their general comment 12⁵.

The design of this project is based on four consultations with 430 youth representatives (210 girls and 220 boys) from Karnali. The consultation workshops were facilitated by SC's child participation experts and followed a youth friendly methodology, which ensured safe and inclusive problem analyses as well as prioritization and visioning exercises. Prior to attending the workshops, the youth representatives had discussions with other youth in their respective areas whose views were also carried and represented by the youth participants. The participants had diverse backgrounds in terms of gender, age, caste/ethnicity and disability.

Most activities in this project will be led and implemented by the youth themselves, and the project will be overseen by a Youth Project Steering Group. This group will consist of representatives selected by the youth themselves. Quota measures will be put in place to ensure representation of marginalized groups, and that the activities are inclusive and accessible to all. The steering group will meet at least quarterly to review progress and challenges in project implementation. There will be a focal point in the group whom youth can share their concerns and suggestions with, and this person will be responsible for consolidating and presenting this information to the whole steering group for discussion. The steering group will recommend and enforce project adjustments when necessary. It will also regularly update youth clubs and networks about project progression and changes made.

The project will be based on child rights programming principles, with an aim of (i) empowering the rights holders - the youth - to claim their rights and (ii) strengthening the duty bearers - the governments - to fulfil their duties towards the youth. This will help ensure sustainability of project results beyond the lifetime of the project.

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<https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-GC-12.pdf>

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Local partners and national authorities

In Nepal, SC is the leading organization working to fulfil the rights of children⁶. One of our most prominent strengths is that ensuring participation of children and youth is at the core of our project design and implementation. SC is recognized as a strong partner for local civil society, including the children and youth we work with, as well as for the government at local, state, and national level.

Our main partners for this project will be the municipality level youth networks. SC has long worked to facilitate the formation of child and youth clubs and networks at schools and ward level (lowest administrative unit) and continue to do so as we have witnessed the important role these forums play in the lives of young people. By working with community groups (clubs and networks), project activities will be embedded in existing local structures and project results can be sustained beyond the life of the project.

Since the project will be implemented in two different districts, we will have two local implementing partners. Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) will be responsible for activities in Kalikot district, and Social Service Centre (SOSEC) will implement activities in Dailekh district. KIRDARC will also be responsible for state-wide activities that will include youth from both districts. Both organisations are SC's existing partners and have sound experience from working in the sectors of participation and empowerment, community mobilization, political influencing as well as holding local governments accountable. SC selected these partners following a mapping of NGO partners in the target location and determined that these were the most promising in terms of experience and capacity needed to achieve the changes envisioned by the project. We will also explore partnerships with organizations specializing in social and behaviour change communication to address negative norms and beliefs, and we will collaborate with Internet Service Providers for ICT support and digital learning tools for youth leadership. We will also collaborate with media partners to elevate youth discourse at a wider level within the Karnali state.

The authorities directly involved in this project will be the municipal governments of the three target *palikas* and the Karnali state government, mainly the Ministry of Social Development and the Office of the Chief Minister as well as the Karnali state parliament. The municipal governments will be advocacy targets whom the youth will seek to influence on design and development of new policies/programs to address their issues. SC's programmatic approach is designed to ensure a smooth project exit and sustainable project impact. By focusing on capacity building, the project builds knowledge, behaviours and skills that will remain with participants after project completion. By mobilizing, organizing and empowering youth and communities to demand action from local government, the project also builds ownership and establishes a government accountability mechanism that will remain beyond the life of the project.

In Norway, SC Norway's youth organisation Press will be our partner during the information campaign. With its 1000 members and 15 local chapters spread around Norway, Press will aid us in holding the project lecture and getting the word out about the project. Press is experienced with information campaigns, and each year visits a great number of schools through its Golden Barbie campaign.

Risk assessment

The project's feasibility is mainly dependent on three factors: youth's willingness to participate, parents' approval/acceptance of youth's participation in the project interventions and the local government's willingness to engage with youth. During the project design, we consulted with all three types of stakeholders, and all have shown great enthusiasm about the project and have committed to engage. This makes us confident that the project will be feasible. While COVID-19 has had a major impact on SC's ability to implement its programs in 2020 and 2021, we anticipate that the situation will be under control by 2023 and that project implementation can move as normal. The following are some of the other risks identified together with the youth and the corresponding mitigation measures:

⁶ The Children's Act of Nepal, 2018 defines everyone below the age of 18 as a child.

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The youth will need to travel and sometimes stay away from homes to participate in activities.

The youth and the partners will be oriented on child safeguarding policy and they will be provided with a hotline number to report any incidences. Youth below 18 years will be accompanied by chaperones in case of travel and staying overnight away from home.

Limited youth participation due to youth migration, household chores, or lack of parental consent.

The youth and their parents will discuss mutual expectations. Local youth and local NGO staff will act as role models with whom both the youth and parents can identify. Youth who migrate seasonally will have an opportunity to participate when they are back. Extra efforts will be made to ensure parental consent for girls to be allowed to participate.

Local political parties mobilise the youth for political purposes (e.g. election campaigns).

All active local political parties will be informed about the project's goals and the need to remain neutral/impartial from political agendas. The parties will be requested to publicly commit to respect the goals and the nature of the project.

Resistance from community, religious and political leaders to support changes in gender norms.

Traditional healers and religious leaders will be engaged to support messaging on the negative consequences of harmful traditions. Local leaders, including local governments, will be oriented to eliminate all harmful gender norms including *chhaupadi* and child marriage. Youth will be assisted to take leadership to collaborate with local government and community leaders. This will help to create conducive environment for project implementation.

About Save the Children

SC is the world's leading independent organisation for children. Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Our mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

SC is comprised of 29 member organisations that work for the fulfilment of the rights of children in 120

countries across the globe. Both the member organisations and the country offices share a common vision, mission and values. SC has a joint strategy, 'Ambition for Children 2030', which leads our work towards achieving three major goals, namely that by 2030: no child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday (survive), all children learn from a quality basic education (learn), and violence against children is no longer tolerated (protection). Our ongoing global campaign 'Every Last Child' operationalises the goals set out in the strategy.

Our values

Accountability: we take personal responsibility for using our resource efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners, and, most of all, children

Ambition: we are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children

Collaboration: we respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children

Creativity: we are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children

Integrity: we aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interest of children

SC Norway is a democratic organisation led by its 4,900 members who are organised in local chapters and local activity groups. Press, SC's youth organisation, is an independent organisation but is represented on SC Norway's Board of Directors. SC Norway has five regional offices in Norway covering the whole country. Our regional staff are our local representatives who mobilise volunteers and members from across the country. Our volunteers lead activities with and for children and youth and represent the organisation in various forums and campaigns, including as part of earlier Operation Days Work (OD) campaigns. Press also has volunteers ready to get involved in the upcoming OD campaign.

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At SC Norway headquarters in Oslo there is a communication unit responsible for external relations. The unit will help prepare communication materials, media, web and social media content, and other type of support for the OD campaign. For the current application and in the upcoming campaign we will utilise our experience from earlier OD participation in 2006 and 2013. We will plan and budget to ensure the appropriate resources are allocated to the campaign, which will include hiring an OD coordinator as well as establishing an internal working group that will support OD through 2022.

Programme experience

SC has vast experience from working with youth in Nepal to address the issues impacting their lives, including *chhaupadi*, child marriage and pregnancy, as well as domestic violence and violence at schools. We have experience from working with youth to increase their understanding and knowledge of these topics and to empower them to raise their voices and claim their rights. From similar programmes in Nepal and other countries, we have evidence that youth are strongly motivated to work towards the change they want to see, if only they are given the chance.

SC uses proven approaches such as peer-to-peer counselling to empower adolescents. Priority program areas relevant for this project include for example engaging parents and communities on adolescent health; puberty education and menstrual hygiene management; comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents; community mobilization to delay marriage; challenging gender norms and expectations of boys and girls; and approaches that support girls' retention in school. SC also uses innovative approaches that facilitate dialogue between children and decisionmakers, where e.g., children can hold government representatives accountable by raising their concerns with them and demanding action. Such forums have resulted in concrete results, including increased funding for relevant children and youth policy issues.

We also see that an important aspect to achieving long-lasting change is empowering civil society to challenge existing gender norms and harmful practices. Civil society plays a crucial role as co-advocate for required changes in policies and laws as well as enforcement of these.

Expertise and experience with youth participation

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that every state has the responsibility to fulfil the rights of children. Although most of the countries in the world have ratified the Convention, they may still lack the capacity or willingness to meet the standards as outlined in the Convention and ensure that children have their basic rights fulfilled. Child Rights Governance supports the fulfilment of the rights of children. It means that the state has the structure(s) and the institutions necessary to ensure that the rights-holders' demands are met by the duty-bearers. SC has vast experience in working to strengthen systems and Child Rights Governance both in Norway and overseas. In Nepal this has been a priority area throughout several decades, and slowly the country and its young citizens are observing noticeable changes.

SC has a vital role to support, develop, strengthen and work with civil society. Working closely with youth as civil society actors is an important way to ensure that their rights are fulfilled and their voices heard. Together with civil society, we hold duty-bearers –the states– to account and ensure that youth have the opportunity to share their opinions, participate and contribute to processes that relate to them. This way, we develop strong future leaders capable of raising their concerns and fighting for their rights, and at the same time, we support the duty-bearers in the process of accepting and fulfilling their obligations.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Child Safeguarding

SC has a Gender Equality Policy and a GESI strategy that guides our work across all programmes, both in Norway and globally. The strategy helps us to identify and address discrimination due to e.g. gender and ensure that both girls and boys have the same opportunities to live, learn and feel safe. We are also considerate of the various and different factors that influence how girls and boys experience their life situation.

Social exclusion on the bases of poverty, gender, ethnicity, caste, religious, disability, sexual identity, religion and geography is common in Nepal. In our work we aim to provide equal opportunities for participation to all.

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SC has zero tolerance towards abuse and exploitation of children and youth by any of our representatives and we are equally committed to doing everything within our power to avoid unintended harm or accidents to children and youth as a result of any of our activities. In our daily work we apply a set of standards, procedures, guidance and tools to ensure that every child and youth feels safe and respected.

Procedures for monitoring and control

SC has established procedures for following up our programmatic work. Dedicated staff, with sound knowledge of country context, programme content, donor compliances and financial routines, are responsible for follow up of all grant contracts. For this project SC Norway will collaborate closely with the Nepal country office, engaging in frequent communication as well as in-country support and monitoring of programme progress. Both SC Norway and the SC Nepal country office have dedicated thematic advisors and measurement and evaluation (M&E) staff that will help ensure the project reaches set targets and is adjusted throughout implementation to achieve desired results.

Since 2018, SC Norway has made efforts to build a targeted, integrated programme in selected geographical areas in Nepal. Karnali state is one of two focus areas. This means that different projects complement each other in specific locations, and we utilize available resources in the most effective and

efficient way, filling gaps and avoiding duplication. The OD project will build on and expand our work in the target locations, providing both SC staff and our local partners a platform to exchange knowledge, experiences and enhance the cross-programmatic linkages for the best benefit of youth in the region.

SC takes a 'zero-tolerance approach' to fraud, bribery and corruption, which means that the organization is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance, fiduciary duty, responsibility and ethical behaviour. Both internally and internationally, we have established whistleblowing routines and sound system for follow up on any alerts. In case of justified suspicion of fraud, SC is obliged to inform the donor, here – OD immediately.

Our control routines aim to reduce any possibilities of fraud. These include, but are not limited to, transparent communication about the aim, cost and participants of activities, as well as approval of supporting documentation for all expenditure by managers at appropriate level. Our partners submit financial reports to our country offices on monthly or quarterly basis, and our Finance Department have access to financial system of SC country offices to validate the level of expenditure at any time. Annual or end of project audit is conducted on the majority of projects, according to the donor requirements. Additionally, SC Norway's overall financial statements are subject to annual audit by a certified auditor.

Budget:

Organisation	LoE (%)	2023	2024	2025	Total (NOK)
Save the Children Nepal	30.0%	1,558,528	1,571,944	1,662,700	4,793,172
<i>Personnel costs</i>	21.1%	1,041,910	1,124,416	1,215,173	3,381,500
<i>Equipment & supplies</i>	0.4%	69,091			69,091
<i>Programme activity costs</i>	2.4%	127,619	127,619	127,619	382,857
<i>Support costs</i>	2.6%	141,089	141,089	141,089	423,267
<i>MEAL costs</i>	2.6%	136,545	136,545	136,545	409,636
<i>Travel costs</i>	0.8%	42,274	42,274	42,274	126,821
Local Partner in Nepal	60.3%	2,563,609	3,763,609	3,313,609	9,640,828
<i>Program support cost-Partner</i>	8.5%	405,258	405,258	555,258	1,365,775
<i>Programme activity costs-Partner</i>	51.7%	2,158,351	3,358,351	2,758,351	8,275,053
Total costs in Nepal	90.2%	4,122,138	5,335,553	4,976,310	14,434,000
<i>Technical Advisor from SC Norway</i>	1.5%	80,000	80,000	80,000	240,000
<i>Travel costs</i>	1.5%	80,000	80,000	80,000	240,000
<i>Audit</i>	0.2%	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Total costs SC Norway	3.2%	170,000	170,000	170,000	510,000
<i>SC Norway admin costs</i>	6.6%	352,000	352,000	352,000	1,056,000
Total costs in Norway	9.8%	522,000	522,000	522,000	1,566,000
TOTAL		4,644,138	5,857,553	5,498,310	16,000,000