

Out-of-the-Box Social Policy



Nepal NCO
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Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section



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Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section
UNICEF Nepal

Acknowledgements

This report serves as a handover documentation of the programs I conceptualized and initiated during my tenure in UNICEF Nepal Country office as a Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis. I am hoping this effort will be an asset for NCO as well as other country offices seeking to explore new models to engage in upstream Social Policies, equity-focused and evidence-based research and data credibility programs, advocacy programs, innovation programs and emergency response Social Policy programs.

I would like to thank Ko Woon (Cori) for the excellent and creative documentation of the different programs listed in the document. I was honored to work with a dedicated and hard-working team that indeed formed the backbone of these initiatives, including: Dr. Alok Rajouria; Thakur Dhakal; Nick Mathers; Sunil Rajbhandari; Tomoo Okubo; Ko Woon (Cori) Park; Aruna Pant; Kazutaka Sekine; Abhishek Paudel; Maria Schwarz; Sardar Karim; Aryaa Rajouria; and Maliha Fairouz. A number of organizations and individuals contributed extensive support with planning and coordination of programs, conducting research and implementing numerous programs acknowledged in this report. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in research papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNICEF or of the United Nations.

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ACRONYMS

ACNS	American Clinical Neurophysiology Society
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Center
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CA	Constituent Assembly
CFRDP	Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
CG	Child Grant
CIAA	Commission for the Investigation of the Abuses of Authority
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPN	Community Party of Nepal
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWISH	Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights
DDC	District Development Committees
DWA	Dalit Welfare Association
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMS	Electromagnetic Spectrum
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSRG	Graduate Student Research Grant
HDDS	Hazards Data Distribution System
HDI	Human Development Index
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IT	Information Technology
IVC	Interactive Virtual Classroom
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
KUSOM	Kathmandu University School of Management
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIC	Microsoft Innovation Center
MOFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MSFP	Multi-Stake Holder Forestry Program
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCO	UNICEF Nepal Country Office
NCED	National Center for Education Development
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NDWA	Nepal Disabled Women Association
NEPAN	Nepal Participatory Action Network
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRRC	Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
NSPF	National Social Protection Framework
NSCSP	National Steering Committee on Social Protection
OAA	Old Age Allowance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment

PHC	Primary Health Center
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCRD	Resource Centre for Rehabilitation and Development
SPEA	Social Policy and Economic Analysis
SMS	Short Message Service
SSMK	Saathi Sanga Manka Kura
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VaRG	Valley Research Group
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization



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Equity-focused, Evidence-based Research and Data Credibility Programs

- 01 Working Papers
- 02 Disability Research Center
- 03 Graduate Student Research Grant
- 04 Institutional Assessment Study
- 05 Urban Multidimensional Poverty
- 06 Data Enthusiasts



01 | Working Paper Series

*Series of working papers published on topics of:
Nepal's fiscal envelope, child grant, child grant and nutrition,
child marriage and social protection framework*

UNICEF implemented equity-focused and evidence-based operational research and data credibility programs to influence national policies and budgetary allocation.



UNICEF implemented selected equity-focused and evidence-based operational research and data credibility programs to influence policies and budgetary allocation. Examples include: assessment of Nepal's fiscal envelope; strategies and options for scaling up and enhancing child grant nationally in Nepal; survey on the nutritional impact of the child grant; the cost of inaction of child marriage; and social protection institutional arrangement analysis.

1. Assessment of Nepal's Fiscal Envelope

A solid analysis of Nepal's Fiscal Space with an emphasis on possible areas that can be freed to fund social sector investments. The analysis was widely shared and used as an input in a set of advocacy meetings with the Ministry of Finance.

2. Strategies and Options for Scaling up and Enhancing Child Grant Nationally in Nepal

An analysis of a set of options to scale-up the Child Grant (CG), a cash transfer program for children under age five introduced by the Government of Nepal (GoN) in 2009. The paper provided concrete evidence on costing now and over the horizon of a set of options, their potential impact, and analysis on how the policy can be funded within Nepal's fiscal envelope.

3. Nutritional Impact of the Child Grant - An Evidence from Karnali Zone

A survey that UNICEF commissioned to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the child grant implementation on child nutrition in the Karnali Zone. Survey revealed that the coverage of the child grant reached 78 per cent and birth registration of under five children reached 90 per cent.

4. The Cost of Inaction of Child Marriage

A study estimated the national economic loss in terms of potential cash flow from the labor market that could have been generated had girls delayed their marriage until the age of 20. Research was highly received and invited to present at the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly's Panel Discussion on 'Child, Early and Forced Marriage Worldwide, including the Elaboration of Post-2015 Development Agenda', UN Headquarters, New York, September 5, 2014. Further, UNICEF deputy Executive Director cited this evidence in her OPEd for Aljazeera online, April 10, 2015.

5. Social Protection Institutional Arrangement Analysis

An important evidence and input to Nepal's sought objective in finalizing the National Social Protection Framework. This work provided a better understanding of how the system of social protection operates in Nepal from the policy formulation to the delivery of the various benefits. Specific emphasis on areas where the system can benefit from synergies and cost effectiveness through the consolidations of benefit as well as the delivery mediums.

Paper 1.

Strategies and Options for Scaling Up and Enhancing the Child Grant Nationally in Nepal | *Authors: Amjad Rabi, Gabriele Koehler, Tomoo Okubo, Thakur Dhakal*

The objective of the study was to offer to the Government of Nepal (GoN) a set of reflections and options regarding the continuation, scale-up and enhancement of the Child Grant (CG). Cash transfer is a program provided for children under the age of five introduced by the GoN in 2009. While the original intention was to provide grant to all children nationally, the first phase of the implementation was geographically targeted to children in five Karnali districts, the poorest districts in the country, and to under give children from poor Dalit families across the country.

The context of this paper is the National Social Protection Framework, which the GoN is in the process of finalization. This framework uses the life-cycle based social protection floor approach, and posits a right to social protection for all. CG is integral to this approach as it covers income security and social protection for children and families.

Evidence suggests that the CG has been effective. In the Karnali Zone where it is designed to reach all children under five (with a cap of two children per family), the coverage rate reached almost 80 per cent and this led to a phenomenal increase in birth registration to 90 per cent compared to the national average of 42 per cent. On the other hand, the first round of evaluation suggests that the benefit level under the CG program of NRs 200 (USD \$2) per child per month is too small to have any durable impact on family income. Another limitation is that it is universal only in the Karnali region, albeit the poorest region of Nepal, and limited to low-income Dalit families in the other regions.

This study therefore proposes an enhancement of the CG in two ways: in terms of the coverage, a government decision to universalize the CG to reach all children as quickly as possible; with regards to the design of the program, an increase in the benefit level and improvements in delivery and monitoring. Conceptually, the argument for a universal coverage stems from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as from the commitments made in other government policy statements. In light of the intersecting inequalities facing children, the case for universalization also derives from the difficulty to single out particularly disadvantaged communities, or to limit the grant only to the lowest wealth quintiles, as the majority of the population lives close to the USD \$2 poverty line.

In order to show the economic rationale and fiscal viability of this proposal, the study provides a detailed costing of a variety of conceivable options and its combinations. One set of options is to maintain the current age limit (under the age of five), but to expand nationally to all children and increase the benefit amount. Another set of options is to modify the age criterion to the first 1,000 days (i.e. from pregnancy to age two) - the period of greatest vulnerability for the survival and development of children and possibly increase the benefit amount.

The cost for each option is projected taking into crucial fundamental factors such as changes in demography, inflation and economic growth. Analysis of the fiscal envelope presents several options to create additional fiscal space for the scale-up.

From an impact point of view, a universalized CG with a higher benefit level would be more effective than the current CG. From a policy coherence point of view, it could be the cornerstone of Nepal's National Framework for Social Protection. From a child- rights point of view, it is imperative.

Summary Results from the Projection of Costs and Numbers of Beneficiaries

Eligibility	Amount (NRs, monthly)	Number of Beneficiaries (in thousands)		Expenditure (Billion NRs)		Expenditure (% of GDP)	
		2014	2020	2014	2020	2014	2020
Under 5	200	2,282	2,229	6.57	9.54	0.34	0.26
	300			9.86	14.31	0.5	0.39
	500			16.43	23.85	0.84	0.65
1000 Days (From Pregnancy until Under 2)	500	1,315	1,392	7.63	11.97	0.39	0.33
	750			11.46	17.95	0.59	0.48
	1000			15.28	23.94	0.78	0.64

Paper 2.

Constitution Making Process in Nepal: Citizenship Discourse Impact on Women and Children | Author: Indu Tuladhar

With the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Nepal and the CPN (Maoists) in 2006, the Nepalese political history turned significantly ushering the political paradigm from a constitutional monarchy to a democratic republic. Since then, Nepal has continuously undergone a political transition. Following the CPA, the Interim Constitution of Nepal in 2007 affirmed the Nepalese people as the sovereign power and recognized them as the inherent source of the state authority. The Interim Constitution reiterated full commitment to democratic values and norms including a competitive multiparty democracy, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, freedom of the press, an independent judiciary, and the rule of law as the governing standards of the democratic republic of Nepal (Preamble, the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007) .

With the engagement of Nepali politics in the constitution making process since 2008, the Constituent Assembly (CA) has got full plate of issues. Some were addressed with political consensus and some have eluded any political consensus within and outside the CA. Among them, from the CA -I to the CA -II, the proposed provision on citizenship has constantly appeared as one of the consensus issues. Despite the fact that it has been discussed as a consensus topic, the proposed provision is regressive, discriminatory, and patriarchal in its nature and content.

In this context, this paper analyzes the citizenship provisions proposed by the CA -I and CA -II from the children and women rights perspectives. It argues that the gendered biased nature of the existing and proposed provisions on nationality and citizenship rights in Nepal is unjustifiable since it perpetuates discrimination between women and men with the idea of reinforcing patriarchy in the background. Thus, it has become urgent to redouble the efforts in making provisions to ensure gender equality and prevent the statelessness of the children in the new Constitution of Nepal.

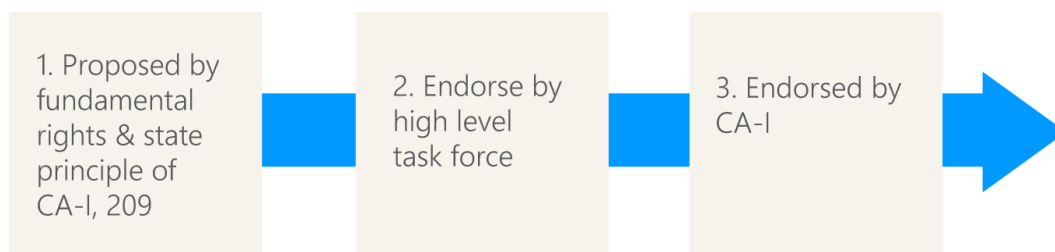
Proposed Provisions on Citizenship by the CA-I and CA-II

The concept paper prepared by the Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles (CFRDP) 2009, of the CA -I, provided a basis for the development of proposed provisions on citizenship in the new constitution. The concept paper had clearly emphasized on the principles of non-discriminatory and consistent citizenship policy framework in order to address the problems constantly faced by the people on acquiring citizenship. The entire concept paper analyzed on the international conventions and treaties that require a member country to develop legal regulatory mechanism in ensuring equal citizenship rights irrespective of gender, and to end the situation of statelessness. The concept paper had also carried out a comparative analysis on the practices of other countries, Nepal's historical and existing constitutional and legal frameworks, and the decisions of the Supreme Court of Nepal on citizenship along with the institutional weaknesses of the state apparatus.

Despite all these analyses, comprehensible knowledge about the democratic concept of equal citizenship rights, and global practices and strategies in preventing and reducing statelessness, the concept paper at the end unfortunately endorsed restrictive citizenship provisions in the new constitution. It emphasized and recommended that Nepal should adopt a strict citizenship policy referring to Nepal's unique geo-political context, i.e., country's open border and the cultural connections with India (CFRDP 2009/2010).

Currently, the proposed provision on citizenship is being considered as an agreed issue by the plenary of the CA – II. The plenary had sent the proposed provisions to the Drafting Committee to adjust the language. The Drafting Committee finalized the draft, which adopted the same provisions without any changes to the previously proposed provisions by the CA -I (The Report of the Sub - Committee of Preamble and Definition, 2014).

Development of Citizenship Provisions in the CA *(by Author)*



Analysis of the Impact on Women and Children of the Proposed Discriminatory Provisions

A serious attention from stakeholders has been drawn towards the political economy and implications of such discriminatory provisions. Discussions are primarily focused on the three major provisions:

- To acquire citizenship by descent in Nepal, both father and mother should be Nepali citizens at the time of receiving citizenship
- A person who was born to a Nepali woman in Nepal and has been residing in Nepal, but the whereabouts of whose father is not known may acquire descent citizenship as per the prevailing laws of Nepal.
- If a foreign man married to a Nepali citizen, wants to obtain naturalized citizenship on the marital ground, he should be permanently resided in Nepal for at least 15 years, whereas the same requirement is waived to a foreign women married to a Nepali man (Indu Tuladhar, 2014).

Observing the discussions and debates on the proposed provisions, two clear and strong schools of thought on citizenship discourse in Nepal are witnessed: a) Standing for substantive equality and non-discrimination; and b) Rigid -nationalists. Both schools of thought have different rationale in regard to citizenship issues in Nepal. Interestingly, these two schools exist within every political party, inside and outside the CA, academia, civil society organizations, and among general public as well.

Conclusion

The main concerns on the proposed provisions on citizenship by descent and naturalization are issues those deny the substantive equality of women and children. The requirement of both parents to be documented as Nepalese citizens and their children to be permanently reside in Nepal to acquire the citizenship by descent will heighten the risk of statelessness of the children. If one of the parents is undocumented, unsupportive, or unavailable to support the child's application for citizenship, the chances of refraining from acquiring citizenship are exponentially high.

All these concerns have stimulated genuine debate and discussion on the citizenship issues among academics, politicians, rights activists, former and serving bureaucrats, journalists, lawyers, and other stakeholders. From the rights perspective, the concerns are based on realizing the implementation of substantive equality between women and men and avoiding the potential risks of statelessness of the children. What is more, the proposed provisions will continue to reinforce the stigma of second-class citizens against women and children for generations to come.

In the pretexts of nationality, open border or other unreal claims, in order to prove the justification of the proposed draft constitutional provisions on citizenship, the CA of Nepal is pouring the energy and resources unnecessarily upon the non -issues by violating the minimum standards to be ensured in the constitutional provisions based on substantive equality between men and women. The proposed provisions, as discussed above, are patently against the universally established provisions of human rights of women and children. The rigid provisions not only delay the constitution making process, but also make the nation detainee of indecision. Certainly, questions on Nepal’s commitment to equality and inclusive state remain unresolved aggravating for another cycle of political instability.

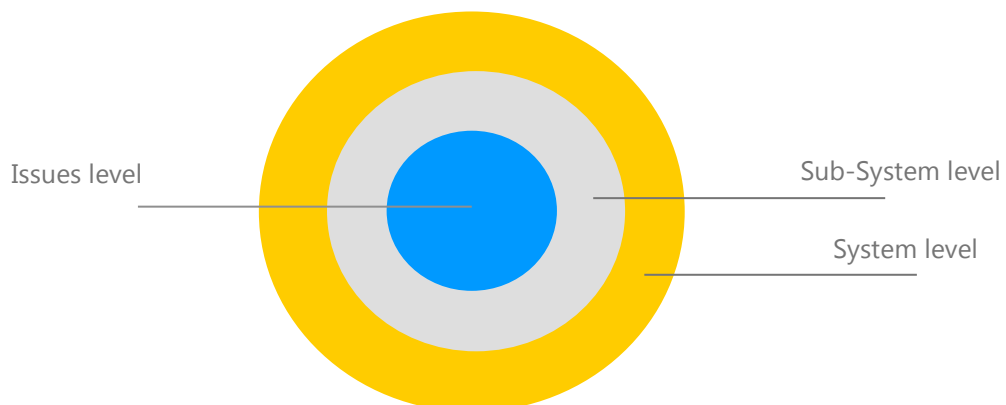
Despite the welcoming declaration that the Nepalese people are the sources of the state powers and sovereignty, due to the historically perpetrated discrimination and the erroneous proposed provisions, has become phony because women are placed in no position to feel as the equal and sovereign people. The whole idea of nationhood, sovereignty, and state power is reflexive of the male perspective alone. The right to citizenship, which is one of the most important determining factor in ensuring equality and the roadmap of connecting people with the state is based on discrimination and inequality. Under such situation the Nepalese women shall be deprived of exercising the legal, political and psychological rights as the equal citizen and being the sources of state powers. The political leadership and policy makers should take these concerns seriously; otherwise, the political changes will be meaningless for the women who consist the half of the population.

The implications of the proposed provisions of the upcoming constitution for political and social inclusion will be extremely harmful. The message that all people are sovereign but not equal will be deeply misleading. The relation between the women and the state constructed differently than that of the relation between the men and the state will be counter-productive. The gendered prone state - society relationship is undesirable. What will be bitterly memorable is that the state powers, citizenships, nationality, sovereignty, democracy, inclusiveness and similar other forward -looking concepts will only be reflexive of the male -centered projects, including in the CA.

Recommendations

Nepal and the Nepali citizens must find ways to address the risks posed to Nepal’s nationalism by the proposed faulty provisions. Efficiency in the administrative system, wise policy options on the regulation and monitoring of the open border, development of diplomatic relations with neighboring countries on the basis of self -respect and equality, commitments to the transformation of the administrative machinery entrenched in the corrupt practices of selling citizenship, and the emancipation from the thinking that only men are the sources of sovereignty may provide some practical solutions to the problem.

To address the vulnerabilities posed by the male cognition of nationality, the proposed recommendations should be incorporated into the constitutional, legal, and procedural mechanism of the state. The solutions are proposed at three levels: system, sub-system, and issues.



Need to Develop Clear Understanding on Indo-Nepal Open Border Relationship (Issues Level)

- The open border with India is not only taken for granted as a challenging issue for the protection of Nepali nationality, but it also serves as a safety valve for the rigid citizenship policy in the country. Thus, there should be taken a holistic approach in analyzing the issues of the open border, which should not cause discrimination between men and women in the country.
- If unorganized open border is one of the major challenges for ensuring women's equal citizenship rights and avoiding statelessness, the perceived dangers to our nationalism and national border should enter into bilateral dialogue with India. In fact, the open border is equally a problem of India as well and a cooperative policy from both countries is the reasonable way out in the interest of both countries.

Administrative Measures (Sub-System Level)

- The government should introduce a provision for grassroots mapping and adopting the system and approach of maintaining scientific data on the number of villages/settlements by VDC or ward, the number of households, families and family members in settlements, women and men, and should develop a system of regular data updating.
- Develop a comprehensive vital registration and statistics system such as events of birth, marriage, migration and death

Since the acquiring of Nepali citizenship by foreigners is attributed to political indulgence and weaknesses in the bureaucracy, it is imperative to make the Commission for the Investigation of the Abuses of Authority (CIAA) impartial, independent and efficient to investigate and prosecute to those involved in citizenship selling scandals.

Constitutional Provisions (System Level)

Maintain a clarity and consistency in constitutional, legal and policy framework regarding citizenship, which should respect substantive equality of individuals and prevent statelessness.

- Provisions should be made to grant citizenship by descent to a person whose father or mother is a Nepali citizen at the time of his/her birth.
- Provisions should be introduced that if any foreign woman or man initiates the process for renouncing her or his citizenship of her or his country of origin, she or he should be eligible to apply for the Nepali citizenship. If it is necessary to lay down the precondition of domicile, it should be the same for all foreigners marrying Nepalese citizens. A foreign citizen who has a marital relationship with a Nepali citizen may acquire the naturalized Nepali citizenship if he/she so wishes according to the prevalent laws of the country. If the residency in Nepal is a precondition in order to test the commitment to Nepali nationality, it should be of a minimum duration in reference to the global standards and should also commensurate with the standards of other South Asian countries. The provisions of granting citizenship should be just and equal to all foreigners who are married to the Nepali citizen.

- Provisions of special measures should be introduced to offer children in their territory for additional protection from becoming stateless. For this, there should be constitutional provisions to ensure citizenship and national identity on the following conditions: 1) If the child's parents are stateless, have undetermined nationality, or are unknown, 2) If the parents possess foreign nationalities, but the countries of the parents' nationalities do not transmit citizenship to the child, and 3) If the failure to grant the nationality to the child would render the child stateless.

With the forthright implementation of these recommendations, the democratic polity of Nepal can experience the beginning of an era of equality between women and men. The sense of equality will produce immense power and strength to women and allows them to be the real sovereign citizens.

** Full report of the Working Paper can be found on UNICEF Nepal website (<http://unicef.org.np/media-centre/reports-and-publications/working-paper>)*

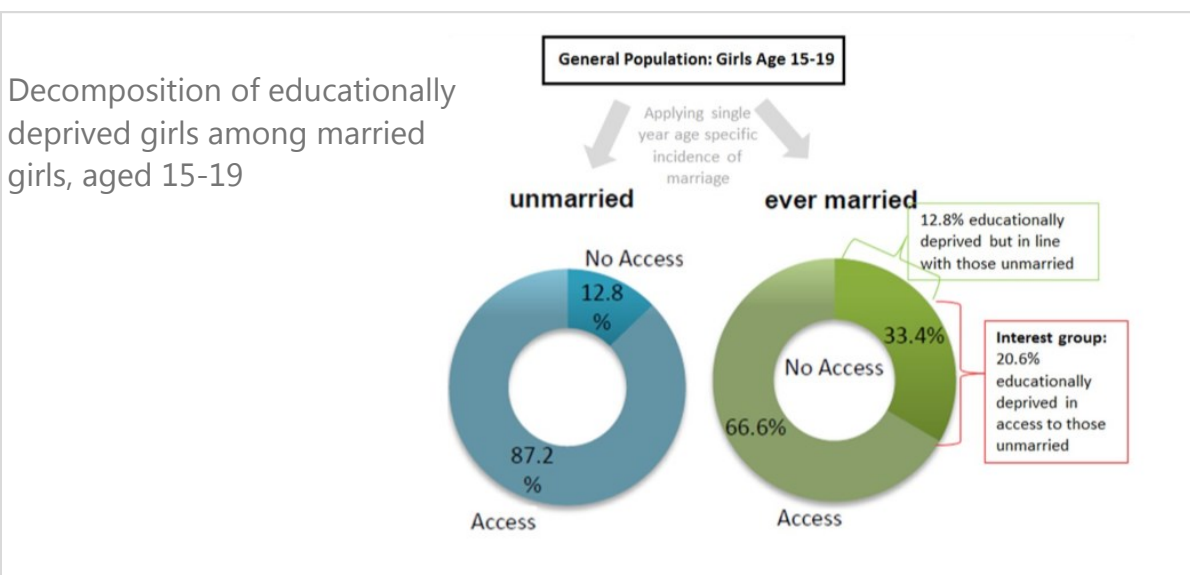
Paper 3.

Cost of Inaction: Child and Adolescent Marriage in Nepal

| Author: Amjad Rabi

Nepal's transitioning population pattern has produced favorable demographic conditions characterized by declining dependency ratios and expanding working-age population. This demographic environment represents a window of opportunity for Nepal's long-term path of economic growth. However, acceptable levels of investments and a mix of sound policies are required to improve productivity and upward mobility in the production chain for Nepal to reach its full potential.

With a prevalence of child and adolescent marriage at 28.8 per cent in Nepal, this paper examines and estimates the national economic loss in terms of potential cash flow from the labor market that could have been generated had girls delayed their marriage until the age of 20. The model developed for this purpose traces a cohort of married girls age 15-19 over the next 36 years. Under a set of conservative assumptions, the cost of child marriage considered only from the labor market perspective is estimated to amount to 74,498.53 million Nepalese rupees (NRs). This represents 3.87 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2014.



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Future cash flow that could have been generated if married

Age in 2014	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025	2035	2049	2050
15	0	0	0	0	0	264	287	449	976	2,585	2,776
16	0	0	0	0	474	515	554	863	1,873	4,956	5,323
17	0	0	0	679	737	793	851	1,323	2,875	7,597	8,158
18	0	0	876	953	1,025	1,100	1,180	1,831	3,986	10,522	11,300
19	0	1,159	1,264	1,375	1,480	1,588	1,852	2,800	5,756	15,170	10,426
Total	-	1,159	2,141	3,006	3,716	4,260	4,725	7,266	15,466	40,829	37,983

It is important to understand how this number can be interpreted. It does not mean that if Nepal's girls delay their marriage until age 20 the country will immediately gain 3.87 per cent of GDP. However, it does suggest that if girls delay their marriage until 20 years, the possible cash flow over their productive years will be on average higher than seen in the current situation. Discounting the differential between these cash flows amounts to 3.87 per cent of GDP, a very large number in economic terms.

As education contributes to increasing the productivity of the labor force, child marriage - a significant constraining factor to education outcomes - has substantial policy implications. Consequently the study focused on educational deprivation and consequent loss in earnings as a result of child and adolescent marriage. However, child and adolescent marriage has other important costs in the areas of health, mortality, psychological deprivation among others. This fact, coupled with the conservative assumptions used in the study, give grounds that the study's estimate only represents a lower bound to the possible far higher cost of child and adolescent marriage in Nepal.



This paper was highly received globally. Amjad Rabi, Chief of Social Policy & Economic Analysis was invited to present at the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly's Panel Discussion on 'Child, Early and Forced Marriage Worldwide, including the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda', United Nations Headquarters, New York, September 5, 2014. Further, the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director cited this evidence in her OpEd for Aljazeera online, April 10, 2015. Requests from other Country Offices were received, which the author replicated to Indonesia.

** Full report of the Working Paper can be found on UNICEF Nepal website (<http://unicef.org.np/media-centre/reports-and-publications/working-paper>)*

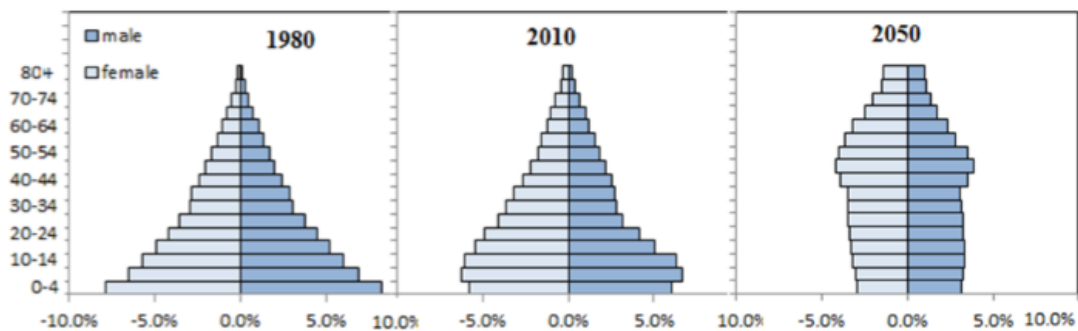
Paper 4.

Assessment of Nepal's Fiscal Envelope | Author: Amjad Rabi

This study analyzes the fiscal envelope in Nepal with an emphasis on identifying possible areas to free fiscal space to fund increased allocation to key social investment. It hopes to contribute to the on-going debates about future policy directions and further initiate a broader and inclusive dialogue that will ultimately arrive at the optimal policy mix that maximizes the society's social welfare.

Nepal's transitioning population pattern produces a favorable demographic situation in which working age population has expanded in proportion to the general population. Nepal has not been able to adequately translate this demographic window of opportunity into higher economic growth rates. This in particular highlight the necessity of timely and relevant public investments in key social sectors to ultimately improve productivity and generate employment for the working-age population bulge. While the government of Nepal has significantly stepped up its planned spending for fiscal year 2014/15, the projected public spending is uneven across the different sectors and even per capita spending on education is budgeted to decrease in real term.

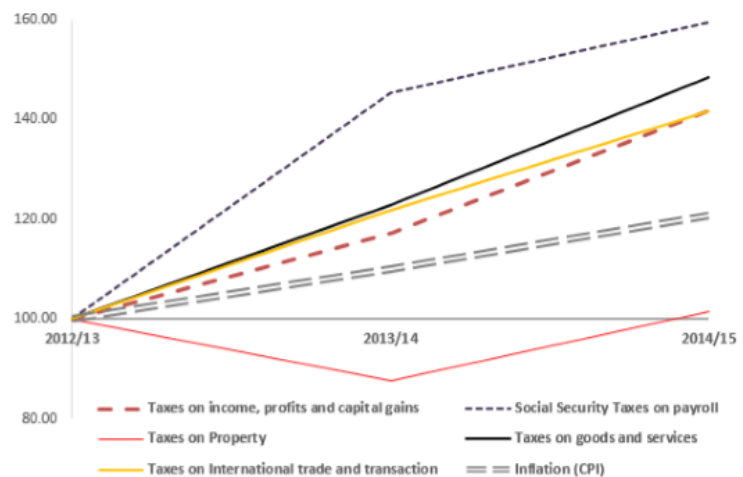
Population Pyramid, 1980-2050



Source: Own calculation based on data from on UNDESA, 2013

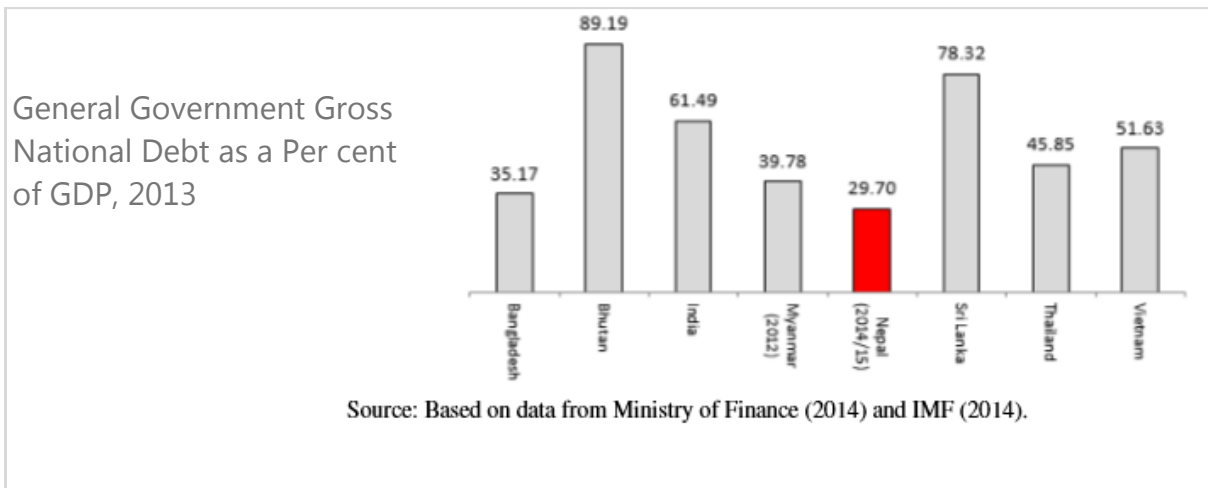
The tax system in Nepal is characterized by high share of indirect taxes on goods and services. Further, these taxes have been increasing at a higher rate than the direct tax items, indicating a possible welfare loss and increased regressivity of the tax system in Nepal.

Different Taxes & Inflation
Growth Rates
(Base year 100 in 2012/13)



Source: Based on data from Ministry of Finance (2014).

Nepal enjoyed over the past couple of years a budget surplus due to improved taxation but also due to low budget execution, especially expenditure on the capital budget. As a result, Nepal enjoys a low public debt projected to decline to only 29.7 per cent of GDP by end of fiscal year 2014/5 (Ministry of Finance, 2014), which is half of the ratio of around 60 per cent a decade ago (IMF, 2014). It also compares favorably with regional comparators. Given the low public debt in Nepal, the IMF's recent assessment indicates a modest expansion is affordable without endangering debt sustainability.



Foreign exchange reserves are very high in Nepal and have continued to build up benefiting from sustained growth in remittance inflows.

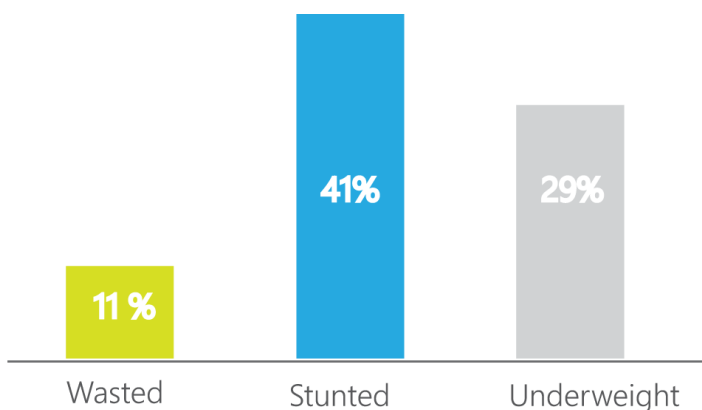


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Paper 5. Nutritional Impact of the Child Grant: An Evidence from Karnali Zone, Nepal | Author: Tomoo Okubo

This study investigates the effect of the Child Grant (CG), a cash transfer program for children under five years of age, on child nutrition in the Karnali Zone, Nepal. While the program has reached over 550,000 children in Nepal and over 90,000 children in Karnali districts, there has been little evidence of the impact of CG, especially on nutritional outcomes. Based on a survey of 3,750 households with at least one child aged under five years in Karnali Zone, this research analyses quantitatively the changes in the three indicators of undernutrition (i.e. underweight, wasting and stunting) associated with the CG.

While Nepal has achieved significant progress in poverty reduction since 2004, the nutritional status of children remains as a major concern (World Bank, 2014). According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey in 2011 (NDHS), 29 percent of children under five years of age are underweight, 11 per cent are wasted and 41 per cent are stunted. The situation is even more worrying in the Karnali Zone, one of the poorest and most remote area in the Mid-Western Development Region of Nepal. 39 per cent of the under five children are underweight, 12 per cent are wasted and 58 per cent are stunted (GoN, UNICEF and VaRG forthcoming).



Source: NDHS 2011

The Government of Nepal (GoN) first introduced the Child Grant (CG) in fiscal year 2009/2010, in the context of an expansive set of social protection policies. As stated in the national budget speech of the fiscal year 2009/2010, the objective of this program was specifically to improve the nutrition of children (MoF 2009). Eligible children, up to two per family, are entitled to a benefit of NRs 200 per month per child (almost equivalent to USD \$2). While the government initially indicated its intention of scaling up the program nationally to reach all children under the age of five, the coverage was limited to five Karnali districts (Jumla, Humla, Kalikot, Dolpa and Mugu) and to children from poor Dalit families, a marginalized caste group formally known as ‘untouchables’, across the country due to limited resources. Since the introduction of the program, none of the design elements have been revised and the benefit amount has not been raised.

Two surveys have been conducted to assess the implementation of the program and its impact on a range of outcome indicator. A cross-sectional survey on nutrition and social protection was conducted by the GoN, UNICEF and Valley Research Group (VaRG) to assess the implementation status of the CG in the Karnali zone. The study found relatively high coverage rate for a remote area. 78 per cent of eligible families had received the CG in the previous year and 83 per cent reported having ever received the CG. Some positive changes associated with the CG were also documented, includ-

ing the increase in birth registration rate - 90 per cent in Karnali against the national average of 42 per cent (GoN, UNICEF and VaRG, 2014). On the other hand, constraints and challenges were revealed, such as the low level of benefit, low coverage among under-two children, and delay in cash delivery.

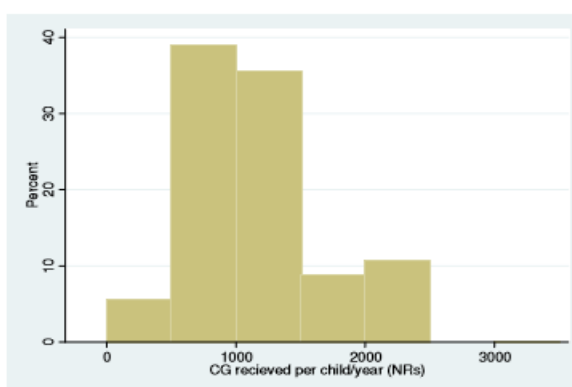
Another study was conducted by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN) to analyze the effect of the CG on social inclusion (Adhikari et.al., 2014). Using propensity score matching method, the study compares several outcomes across the treatment group (beneficiary of the CG, children aged 0-4 years) and the control group (non-recipient of the CG, children aged 5-10 years). Overall, the study did not find any statistically significant on expenditure and food security score, leading to suggest an increase in the benefit amount.

This research fills the gap in scientific evidence that sheds light on the possible impacts of CG in the following three ways.

First, the study evaluates the nutritional impact on under-five children based on anthropometric measures. This is in line with the primary policy objective of CG, which is to improve the nutritional status of under-five children. To further study the theory of change, linkages between CG amount received and the immediate causes of undernutrition (i.e. inadequate dietary intake and disease) were analysed, building on UNICEF nutrition framework.

Second, this study breaks down the treatment group (the actual recipients of CG) by the amount of CG received in the twelve months preceding the survey. This is an important consideration, given the fact that the amount of CG received varied across households. While the formal rule states the annual transfer to be NRs 2,400 per child, more than half of the recipients in the sample received less than or equal to NRs 1,000 and the average amount received among the beneficiaries was NRs 1,045 per child (with standard deviation NRs 579). While the underlying causes of payments that are lower than stated in official rules are not yet fully understood, the previous studies point out the implementation issues on the supply side, such as delay in delivery, irregularities in the application process and infrequent payments (Adhikari et. al., 2014; GoN, UNICEF and VaRG, 2014).

Amount of Child Grant Received Per Child



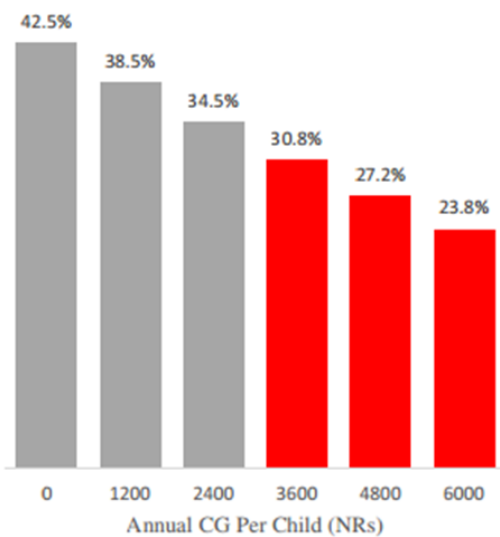
Source: Author's Calculation based on GoN, UNICEF and VaRG (2014)

Third, the study adopts multivariate Probit model in order to control for the observable characteristics and to conduct prediction of outcomes with the increase in CG amount. This enables us to control for the impact of demographic and socioeconomic characters of the households and to eliminate any biases associated with systematic difference in the characteristics between the recipients and non-recipients of the CG. For example, coverage rate of the CG is significantly lower among the children under one year of age since the birth registration process was delayed (GoN, UNICEF, VaRG 2014). For this reason, age of the child was controlled.

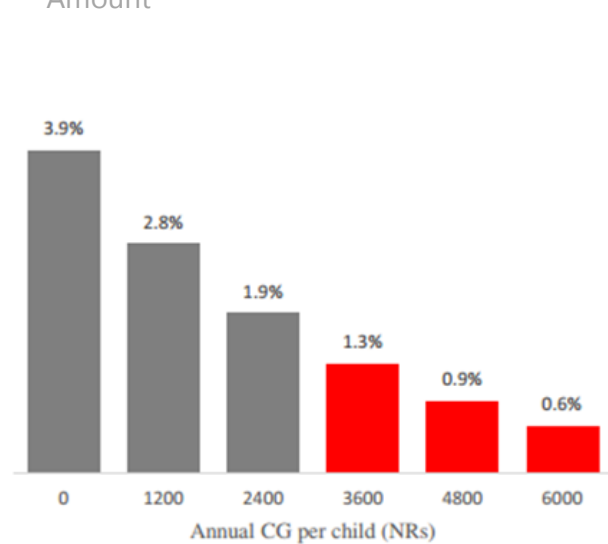
Results

Since the actual amount of transfer varied widely among the recipient households due to weak implementation, the study uses the amount of the CG received per child in the 12 months preceding the survey as the main independent variable of interest. It was revealed that higher amount of CG is associated with reduction in underweight and severe wasting. For instance, the prevalence of underweight decreased from 42.5 per cent for non-recipients to 34.5 per cent for children who received the full amount of CG, a decrease by 8 percentage points (18.8 per cent). The model projects that, if the amount of CG increases to NRs 500 (USD \$5) per month from the current NRs 200 (USD \$2), the prevalence of underweight will decline to 23.8 per cent. This finding is supported by the analysis of the immediate causes of undernutrition, which revealed that the recipient households of CG were more likely to obtain desired amount and frequency of meals. Based on the findings, this study suggests scaling up the CG, as well as increasing the benefit amount to improve child nutrition in Nepal.

Simulated Prevalence of Underweight by CG



Simulated Prevalence of Severe Wasting by CG Amount



** Full report of the Working Paper can be found on UNICEF Nepal website (<http://unicef.org.np/media-centre/reports-and-publications/working-paper>)*



02 | Disability Research Center

Interdisciplinary resource & research center established to contribute new knowledge on disabilities

The Disability Research Center will be an interdisciplinary resource and research center aiming to contribute to the advancement of new knowledge on disabilities



Background

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) guarantees the fundamental rights of every child regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs, family income, physical attributes, geographical location or other status. It holds governments accountable for respecting and ensuring children's rights with specific mention of discrimination on the basis of disability. Furthermore, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that “*children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.*” However, the WHO's global report on disability indicates that people with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. Also children from poorer households and those in ethnic minority groups are at significantly higher risk of disability than other children.

Consistent and accurate information on children with disabilities will help clarify the extent and level of impact of disabilities on the fundamental rights of disabled children and their access to essential social services. However, the national data survey tools available in Nepal do not provide data on people with disability. According to the Nepal Census 2011, the incidence of disability in Nepali population is estimated at only 1.94 per cent. However, according to the WHO, 15 to 19 per cent of the population is affected by some form of disability. The gap between the two data set may be due to the limited definition of disability used in the census. But also, the high degree of stigma associated with disability in Nepal may influence parents and other family members reluctant to report on their child if he/she has disability.

Concept

UNICEF is committed to helping realize equity among children by identifying those who are deprived; analyzing the patterns and drivers of inequity; and understanding the necessary policies and programs that address inequities. Against this background, UNICEF envisions to help establish a research center on disability in Nepal that is capable of making best use of the newly made available data and sustain disability-related studies and researches for the benefit of the affected children. This is because either they are living with disability or living in a household headed/affected by a person with disability. In addition to creating reliable evidence on access to fundamental rights by children, other socio-economic issues can also be highlighted. One example is the interplay between disability and poverty.

Poverty and disability reinforce each other, contributing to increased vulnerability and exclusion. Children and adults who are disabled are more likely to be poor and remain poor throughout their lifetimes, due to lack of education, exclusion from preparation from apprenticeships or job training programs, and exclusion from employment and micro-credit efforts. Failure to recognize the rights of people with disabilities can lead to enormous cost.



Program Objectives

Main objective is to establish a research center on disability at a local university. The center will enhance research training capacity and contribute to the advancement of new knowledge about disabilities and its impact on access to rights and basic services by children, individuals and families, evaluation and efficacy of different policies, interventions and support methods, and provide policy recommendations to the Government of Nepal.

Also to:

- Develop evidence base for understanding the nature, magnitude and socioeconomic impact of disabilities
- Contribute the factors that affect the lives of people with disabilities
- Generate interdisciplinary basic and applied research outputs (evaluations, public policy analyses, policy formulation)
- Pursue South-South & North-South cooperation with other disability research institutions
- Organize training modules on application of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) recommended by WHO
- Run short course training modules on disabling conditions & inclusive development
- Develop Masters Course in Disability Management & Research
- Develop innovative modalities for identifying people with disabilities based on Washington Group on Disability Statistics
- Advocate at appropriate congregations and forum for disability inclusive development
- Assist and influence policy development initiatives for mainstreaming disability
- Collaborate with national/other partners in disability related research, training, education and practice



Institutional Arrangements and International Collaborations

As an interdisciplinary resource and research center, it is best that this center be placed at an academic institution. This will ensure long-term sustainability and systematic approach on this issue. It will also allow research to evolve across multiple disciplines benefiting from access to experts on a range of areas such as statistics, economics, health, sociology, planning and human development. Broader engagement with national institutions will also be sought such as, but not limited to, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, National Federation of Disabled Nepal, Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA) and Resource Centre for Rehabilitation and Development (RCRD). In addition, there are opportunities to create linkages and cooperation with research centers in many countries, which is very important in terms of learning from the international experiences and sharing knowledge on the concerned topics.

Launch of the Disability Research Center

A Disability Research Center nested in the School of Arts, at Kathmandu University was launched on August 5th, 2015. The Research Center has been established to capacitate the School of Arts to seek and promote new knowledge about disability in children and adults, the impact of disabilities on children, individuals and families, evaluation and the efficacy of different policies, interventions and support methods. The inauguration of the Center was couched in a half-day Stakeholder Workshop on Disability attended by various organizations working the field of disability, as well as representatives from governmental and non governmental agencies and chaired by the Honorable Member of the National Planning Commission (NPC) Dr Bimala Rai Poudyal. Dr Ram Khanta Makaju Shrestha Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University launched the Research Centre by clicking to launch the website of the Disability Research Center in the School of Arts web portal.



Participants at the Stakeholder Workshop on Disability on 5th August, 2015/© UNICEF Nepal/2015

Speaking at the function Dr Bimala Rai Poudyal stressed on the need for society to be more sensitized on the special needs of persons with disability as well as the ‘diversity’ of disability. “The government has started many programs for the benefit of persons with disabilities including Disability Audit of public buildings.” She also said that the Government and the NPC would be happy to collaborate with the Disability Research Center to better disseminate success stories, information about disability, validation of different findings as well as organizing policy discourses regarding disability. Dr Rowank Khan, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Nepal pointed out that UNICEF was at the forefront on disability work, working with the government and other partners to ensure that the daily lives of persons with disabilities could be improved. “Simple intervention such as adding a ramp, and to establishing disabled-friendly WASH facility in every school can make a lot of difference,” she said. “UNICEF is very pleased to have collaborated with Kathmandu University, School of Art to establish the Research Centre and will continue to work closely in the future too.”



03 | Graduate Student Research Grant

Grants provided to students to endeavor further studies related to women and children

The GSRG Program aimed to empower **40 graduate students** to further **endeavor studies related to women and children**



Concept

The Graduate Student Research Grant (GSRG) program aimed to award grants and mentoring services to a total of 40 graduate students in the course of two years (20 students each year) for their thesis and dissertation studies on issues related to UNICEF's mandate. Currently, there is lack of research support to policy-centric studies that directly affect the development of adolescents and children in Nepal. This initiative created an incentive for the new generation of researchers to take interest in research questions related to the access to fundamental rights by women and children. This opportunity could ultimately shape their career choices and create a valuable source of new information on development policies and programs, and a valid source of evidence on policy performance. The selected 40 researches will be further developed through close mentoring sessions from academic advisors to be presented to high level decision-makers through a National Conference. Furthermore, publication of the studies will be disseminated to stakeholders.

Process

The stages of the GSRG Program are as follows:



Outreach

The program was announced through major media outlets including print advertisement, as well as social media, e-mail and phone marketing. Personal visits and communication activities were implemented to several national academic institutions to inform on the opportunity. The academic departments targeted were within the social science disciplines engaged in research initiatives that ultimately benefit the development of the youth and adolescents in terms of developing new information and evidence to build better policies around social sectors.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a current master's/MPhil/doctoral degree student in a university in Nepal, or a Nepali national studying abroad. Studies conducted through this grant can be used as a thesis in partial fulfillment of the degree being pursued. The focus of the study must be relevant to the priority areas of UNICEF. Interested students were encouraged to write a project proposal including: introduction with literature review, rationale/ justification for the study, key objectives of the study, methodology, outputs and deliverables, duration of study, and the budget pertaining to the study.

Call for Proposals

Call for proposals were announced in major newspapers. To ensure that target audience are well informed on the opportunity, information was sent directly to relevant/selected universities so that faculty can encourage students to participate.

See Annex 1 for List of Submitted Proposals

Shortlisting

For the first year of the program, about 40 proposals were submitted of which 14 were shortlisted by the steering committee. The shortlisted proposals were selected on the basis of the innovativeness in their research topic, methodologies and outcomes keeping in mind the mandates set by UNICEF. Majority of the proposals were submitted by students studying various subjects in colleges affiliated with Tribhuvan University, Curtin University Australia, Graduate School for Social Research, Warsaw, Poland and School of Public Health, SRM University Kattankulathur, Kanchipuram District, India.

The applicants were required to make a final presentation to the steering committee judges, elaborating their research topic, methodologies and answer to the questions from judges.

Mentorship

The selected total 40 researches will be further developed through close mentoring with academic advisors to be presented to high level decision-makers through a National Conference marking the end of first and second year of the Program. Furthermore, publication of the studies will be disseminated to stakeholders.

Presentation at National Conference

Marking the end of first and second year of the program, shortlisted students will have the opportunity to present their work at a national conference inviting high level decision-makers in the government and relevant area of study. Their work will also be published and disseminated to stakeholders.

The GSRG program is a financial assistance to students to conduct pre-approved research work. Evaluation studies of previous student research grant programs on a competitive basis implemented in Nepal does not exist. While most scholarship programs in Nepal target students from marginalized communities, the GSRG does not target any specific community or ethnic group, but rather is open to all students. The awards are made on the basis of merit of the research topic and its potential implications on policy and future research. Creating an incentive for the new generation of researchers to take interest in research questions related to children will ultimately shape their career choices and provide a steady flow of bright researchers in this under-researched area.



04 | Institutional Assessment Study

Study carried out to implement the Draft National Social Protection Framework

An Institutional Assessment study was carried out for the implementa- tion of the Draft National Social Protection Framework for Nepal



The Initial Assessment report presents the findings of the Institutional Assessment study for the implementation of the Draft National Social Protection Framework (NSPF). The objectives of the report are threefold:

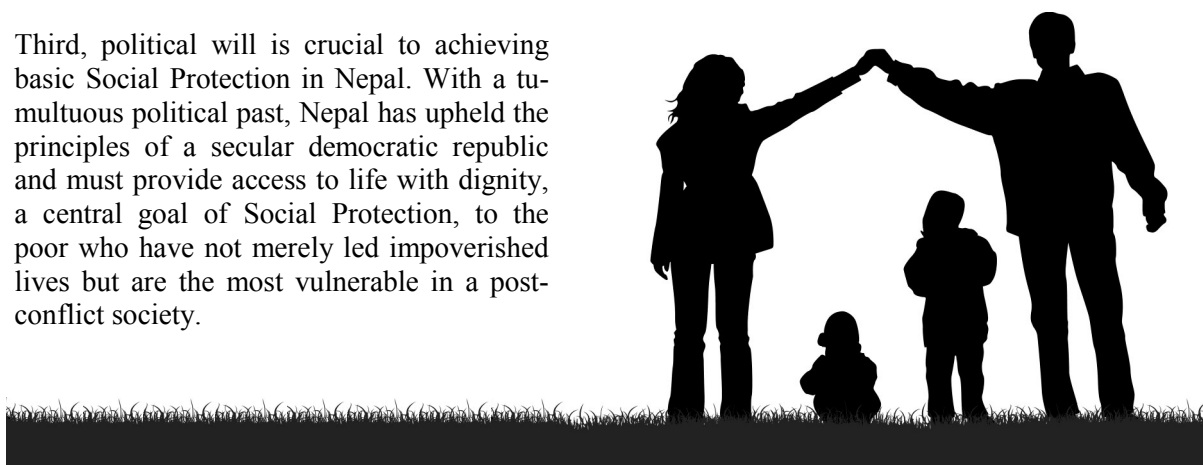
- 1) To assess current organizational structures, systems and processes for planning, implementing, and the monitoring of Social Protection
- 2) To tailor examples of good practice from across the globe in order to address the specificities of the Nepali context in implementing effective Social Protection; and
- 3) To propose future directions of Social Protection in Nepal.

The report sought to identify gaps and propose institutional arrangements to ensure the effective implementation of Nepal's draft NSPF prepared in May 2012. The report primarily focused on the institutional mechanisms required for cash transfers and public works programs. These mechanisms feature most prominently in Nepal's NSPF and, as the report show, these two types of measures are also the most common across the world.

Through this assessment, multiple recommendations have been given on the proposed directions of Social Protection framework in Nepal. These recommendations can be operationalized if certain basic conditions are met. There is an urgent requirement to hold local body elections; the primary condition is the holding of elections of local bodies for effective Social Protection. The absence of elected members of the community has created policy feedback gaps and insurmountable program implementation hurdles. Despite the efforts of several INGOs and NGOs, most of which have been project based, sustaining development activities has remained a big challenge.

Second, the budget share of Social Protection has to increase. While taxation is one way of financing Social Protection policies, it cannot be the only financial source for Social Protection. The Government of Nepal and its development partners have to commit to increased expenditure on Social Protection; with different strategies as options.

Third, political will is crucial to achieving basic Social Protection in Nepal. With a tumultuous political past, Nepal has upheld the principles of a secular democratic republic and must provide access to life with dignity, a central goal of Social Protection, to the poor who have not merely led impoverished lives but are the most vulnerable in a post-conflict society.





05 | Urban Multidimensional Poverty

Evidence-based survey conducted to assess the urban poor

*Specialized survey was conducted in selected **urban communities** that highlighted the **issues faced by poor urban dwellers**.*



Children, as one of the most vulnerable members of any community, disproportionately suffer the negative effects of poverty and inequality. UNICEF, as a global advocate for children, has a unique role to play in ensuring that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop, and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias, or favoritism. This interpretation is consistent with the CRC, which guarantees the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs, income, physical attributes, geographical location, or other status. UNICEF is committed to an equity-focused country program that identifies children who are deprived, analyzes the patterns and drivers of inequity, and understands existing policies and programs that address inequities. It works with partners to help identify, advocate for, and support the implementation of strategies to address the causes of inequity and to reach deprived children with basic services, care, and protection.

The Urban Poor

While on average urban children are consistently exhibited in national statistics to be better off as compared with their rural peers, the heterogeneity in urban communities would likely make these averages mask inequities and severe deprivations (when its indicators averaged with close-by richer urban communities). For instance, children residing in high-density urban communities in Nepal are visible, and therefore widely believed to be, among the most disadvantaged and poorly integrated into broader urban society and opportunity. Their communities are poorly built, highly dense, low standards of services, and at significantly higher risk for public health hazards.

However, it is difficult to assess the level of access to rights based on data available. In addition to the average issue mentioned above, such data often fails to include those without formal addresses or permanent homes, illegal or temporary migrants, children on the move, street children and other poor urban residents. But they are the ones at higher risk of poverty and deprivations.

Limitations in Survey Data

It is further noted that the sample sizes used for the national surveys in Nepal are often too small to permit conclusions about a particular sub-group. For example, examining the 2011 NDHS data to



better understand the situation of children residing in high-dense urban communities is not permitted by the sample size. While there is enough grounds to suspect the existence of significant disparities within urban communities, these disparities have not been adequately captured by the national surveys. Therefore, the necessity to develop specialized surveys or to over-sample relevant population groups is highlighted. Qualitative research methodologies and data can also be used to supplement survey data and strengthen the analysis of the situation of the children in poor urban communities.

Objective

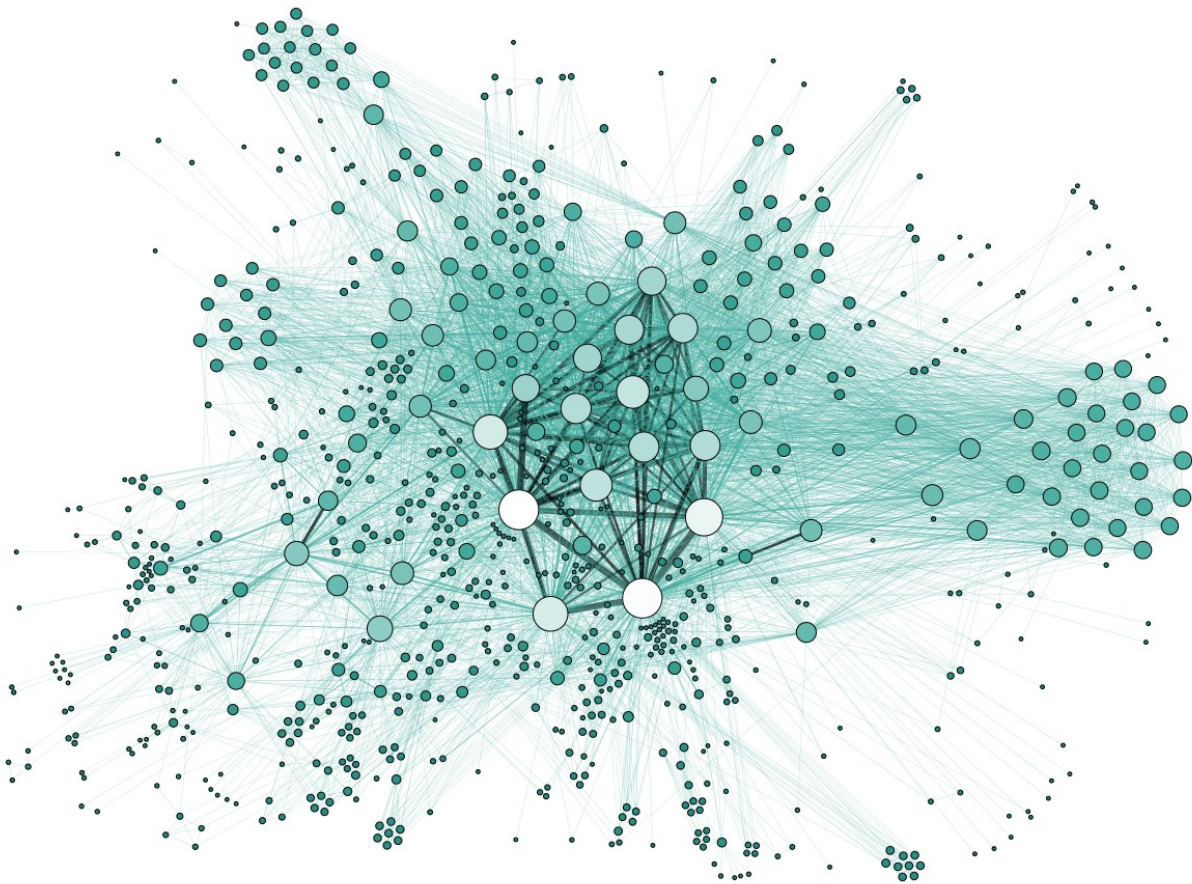
This program aims at contextualizing urban poverty by looking at three well-selected poor urban communities from three different municipalities and vertically analyze the level of deprivations, access to rights, and children's integration into broader urban society and opportunity. This has been done by means of specialized survey and rigorous quantitative analysis. Qualitative research methodologies and data were also used to supplement survey data and strengthen the analysis of the situation of the children in poor urban communities.

Ultimately, the knowledge base resulted from this project will be used for promoting equitable and evidence-based public policies related to multi-dimensional poverty in urban communities. This would help in tackling the social misconceptions about marginalized children in society and setting general framework to put national strategies and policies to reduce child deprivation and disparities based on evidence and analysis.

Concept

A Project Steering Committee will be responsible for overseeing the project, selecting the poor urban communities and supervise the group working for this program. The geographical areas to conduct the survey will be designated using GIS techniques to clearly define the boundary of the selected poor communities. Data on multidimensional poverty and deprivations related to children will be collected from 1,000 households surveyed with children residing in the selected community. In addition, interviews will be taken from about 100 street children for data accuracy.

Equity-based quantitative and qualitative analyses will be used for data analysis, including the calculation of multidimensional poverty rates. Qualitative analysis will include the opinions and the voices of the urban children from the surveyed communities. The findings from the survey are to be presented through a seminar, and disseminated to promote equitable and evidence-based public policies related to multi-dimensional poverty in urban areas.



06 | Data Enthusiasts

Data Visualization used as powerful communications tool

Data visualization combined with storytelling is a powerful and effective means of communication tool.



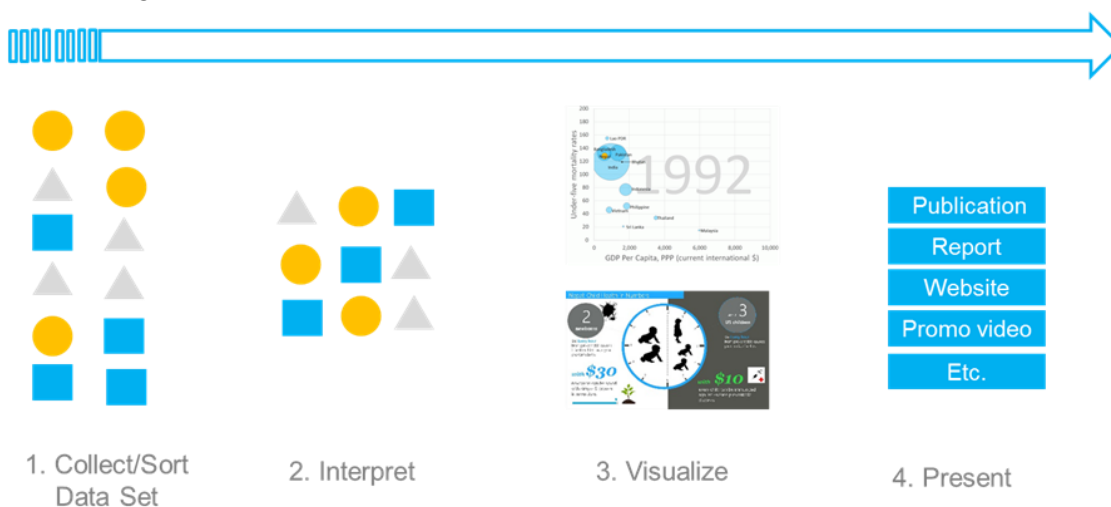
We are surrounded by a world flooded with data. Never in the history of the world has there been so much data available, including data on children’s situation in developing countries. Following this trend, the Government of Nepal and its partners are increasing data availability and analysis about children in Nepal. However, the efforts to improve the accessibility of published data and to portray them in a way that is helpful and easier to interpret are critically scarce.

Data visualization is the presentation of data in a pictorial or graphical format. Animated data visualization combined with storytelling is a very powerful means of communication in delivering the meaning extracted from data visualized in a simplified, but engaging way. A good example is the striking presentation tools used by the globally renowned data visionary, Hans Rosling. The animated bubble graphs used in his presentations draws millions of viewers across the world.

Data Enthusiasts

In this context, UNICEF Nepal decided to explore an innovative and attractive way to present data from multiple sectors to demonstrate the progress and achievements made, as well as the work needed to be done for the children, adolescents and women in Nepal. A data enthusiasts’ group was formed in UNICEF Nepal as a voluntary group composed of staff members from different program sections who were keen to learn and practice innovative and fascinating methods of data/information interpretation, visualization, presentation and dissemination for the benefits of thematic program. The group gathered to foster sharing of interesting, viable ideas, good practice and lesson learned among different sections in relation to use of available data. The group also worked towards in producing an end product, which is the animated data visualization, particularly related to MDG indicators.

The following flow chart shows the activities involved:



Animation as Means to Increase Investment in Children

One of the main reasons behind creating a visually impactful animated product was to encourage the Government of Nepal to sustain or increase investment in children, as well as to advocate for the enactment and implementation of equity-based national policies and plans in multiple sectors. Main target audience is the decision-makers in the Ministry of Finance and other ministries concerned with children, adolescents and women. Animation is designed to focus on the challenges and issues such as quality and equity while highlighting the success story such as the progress and achievements made in the sectors. The most recent data around children, adolescents and women in the animation will hopefully bring out the reality and challenges of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups so that they can have equitable access to basic essential social services.

The goal of the animation production is to communicate data findings such as trends, correlations and consequences, context, to government counterparts and other stakeholders in a visually effective and engaging way. Through this program, data available from multiple program sections will be compiled, analyzed and presented through an animation depicting the progress and achievements made, as well as the work still to be done for the children, adolescents and women in Nepal.



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Advocacy Programs

- 01 Constitution-Making Process in Nepal
- 02 Think Tank
- 03 International Day of Persons with Disability
- 04 Scaling Up Child Grant



01 | Constitution-Making Process in Nepal

A look back of the achievements in 2014-2015

Despite political uncertainties, significant achievements have been made in advocating child rights in the new constitution.

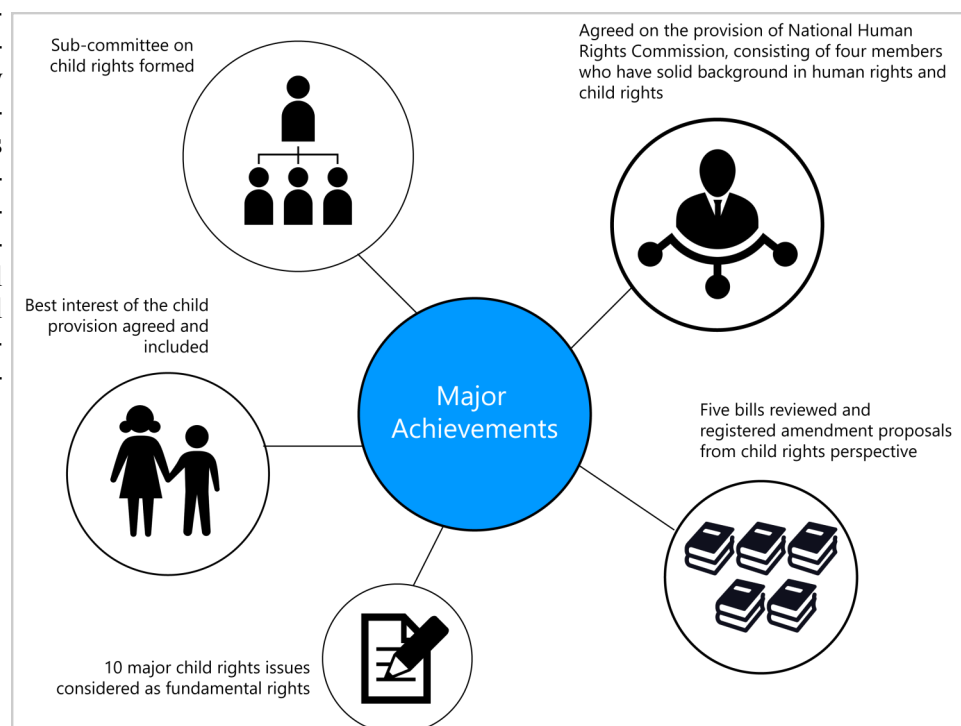


The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) concluded between the Government of Nepal and the CPN Maoist in November 2006 opened a new era of political transition in Nepal. Since then, Nepal has been making important efforts for political stability and sustained peace in the country. Nepal held its first Constituent Assembly (CA) election in 2008, which lasted for four years. However, it was unfortunate that the CA could not promulgate a new constitution and dissolved in June 2012, which created a constitutional and political void in the country until the Second CA was constituted.

New hope for stability and ending the phase of a long political transition was renewed with the successful conduction of the CA-II election on November 19, 2013. Total 30 political parties and two independent individuals have been representing the second CA. Nepali Congress, CPN (UML) and CPN (Maoist) are the three largest political parties, respectively. With the endorsement of the Constituent Assembly Rules, 2014 and the Constituent Assembly (Conduct of Business of Legislative Parliament Rules, 2014), five thematic committees have been formed under the Constituent Assembly: i) Committee on Constitution Drafting, ii) Committee on Constitution Records Study and Determination, iii) Committee on Civic Relations and Constitution Suggestion, iv) Committee on Capacity Development and Resource Management, and v) Committee on Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus. Further, a working calendar and timeline for the CA-II have been published, with an agreed date to conclude the process by Magh 8, 2071 (January 22, 2015). However, the Constituent Assembly failed to bring the first draft of the constitution within the stipulated timeframe.

Despite the political uncertainties, there has been significant achievements in ensuring child rights in the first draft of the new constitution, the Constitution of Nepal, 2072 (2015). This has been a result

of UNICEF's continuous and intensified advocacy together with various child rights networks and organizations in Nepal with the exceptional technical support by Himal Innovative Development and Research Pvt. Ltd.



UNICEF has engaged with nine various child rights networks and alliances representing over 100 child rights organizations across Nepal through the technical support of Himal Innovative Development and Research Pvt. Ltd. for advocacy on child rights in the CA. The child rights network and alliances have heavily engaged in public consultation for child rights. In 56 districts, these network and alliances together with district child club members have appealed and shared their concerns on the missing child rights provision in draft constitution.

On 25 April and 12 May, 2015, Nepal was struck by two powerful earthquakes with magnitude of 7.8 and 7.3 on the Richter Scale. Over 2.8 million lives have been affected in the 14 most affected districts, of which 1.1 million (40 per cent) were children under the age of 18. As of mid-July, the number of casualties reached 8,897 people dead and 22,310 people injured (Ministry of Home Affairs, July 15, 2015). The devastation had instantly brought the political parties together to process the long awaited constitution writing process promptly. After relentless efforts, the CA successfully prepared the first preliminary draft of the Constitution, “The Constitution of Nepal, 2072 (2015).” The CA had also endorsed a proposal to distribute the draft constitution across the country for public consultation and collection of opinion by July 8, 2015.

Some substantive achievements included in the Draft Constitution, 2072 (2015) follows: 10 major child rights issues have been considered as fundamental rights of the children. In addition, the right to education, right to health, right to social security and the protection of the best interest of the child are also noticeable. A provision has also been included in the draft constitution to have a National Human Rights Commission comprised of four persons who have high reputation, actively been involved in the field of, and rendered to an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights and child rights, or various sections of human life.

Further, the Legislative Committee on Women, Children, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare has formed a sub-committee on Child Rights. Other important developments have been observed in the legislative framework and parliamentary process that are important for making child friendly legislative framework and parliamentary discourse on child rights, including: a review of the various child rights related provisions to ensure they are aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), and whether they sufficiently address child rights issues. Additionally, the revised bills (46 on civil code, 34 on criminal code, 5 on sentencing bill, 7 in criminal procedural code and 8 in civil procedural code) have been registered in the Legislation Committee of Legislative Parliament, mobilizing the CA members.

Against the background, UNICEF Nepal has a unique and historical opportunity to ensure that the fundamental rights of children in Nepal are included in the new constitution, bills, and legislation. Through its continuous and intensified engagement with the CA and legislative parliament, the main objective is to mainstream the child rights agenda in the new constitution and legal frameworks with a broader parliamentary awareness and actions through various parliamentary and CA committees.



02 | Think Tank

Think Tank is being established to provide space for discussion on issues of importance to nation

Policy think tank is in the process of being established where high level leaders can meet and debate on issues of importance to the nation.



Policy Think Tank of multidisciplinary thinkers, policy makers and practitioners is in the process of being established where leaders of the nation can engage and generate knowledge with a view to contribute to the governance and policy frameworks, focusing on policy issues. It is a forum for policy study, research, dialogue, and policy intervention on the agenda of children, youth, women and marginalized people. Simultaneously, it will also be engaged in the areas of social, political, economic and legal dimensions associated with nation-building process. The forum aims to enhance a tri-partite (academia-policy-practitioner) commitment in contributing towards policy-building and examining their effects.

Objectives

The main objective of the “Council of Thinkers,” or the think tank, is to produce a non-partisan and objective knowledge-based for helping key stakeholders, especially the central and local bodies of government agencies in designing effective policies and programs for achieving and performing: the institutionalization of democracy with equal citizenry practices, developing and managing job and market opportunities, promoting the rule of law, strengthening social protection, enhancing State interactions with international and regional communities amidst the growing phenomena of global governance and constitutionalism.

Key Activities

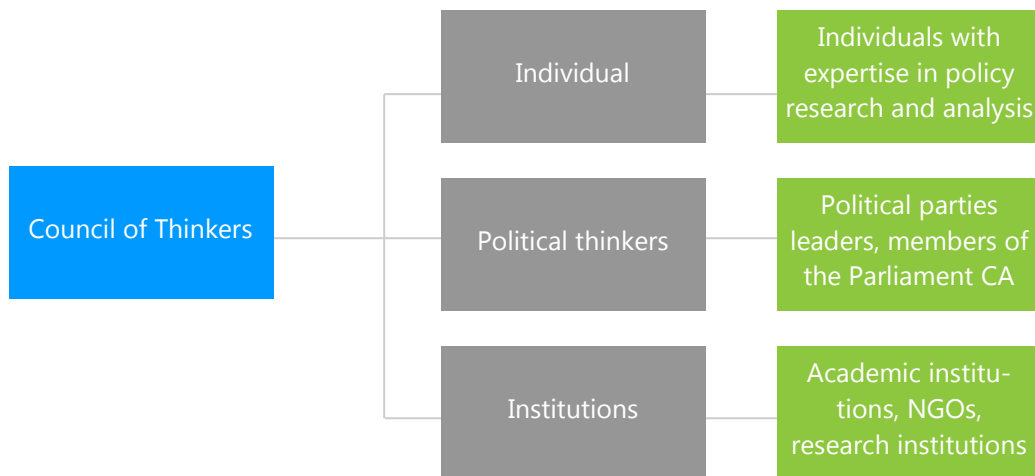
The Council of Thinkers will engage in the following three activities:

- **Research:** Activities include studies, data collection, data analysis, and preparation of papers, reports, booklets and books.
- **Dissemination:** Activities such as organizing talk programs, conferences, seminars and publication of papers, reports, booklets and books.
- **Networking:** Activities involve partnership building with different institutions, academics, policy analysts, social scientists, policymakers, leaders, diplomats and social figures in both national and international levels, including establishing the Council of Think Tank.

Institutional Structure

The institutional structure of the Council of Thinkers, or the think tank forum consists of individuals with expertise in policy, research and analysis. Since political actors play key roles in policymaking, activities enabling them for better policymaking is urgent in the Nepalese context. Therefore, political thinkers are also included as the key components of the institutional structure of the Policy Think Tank. Finally, institutions matter for better delivery and implementation of the policy goals. For this reason, some key institutions are also included as part of the institutional structure of the Council.

Broadly, the think tank forum will engage in activities such as research, knowledge dissemination and networking. The launch of this forum is scheduled to be held in August 2015.





03 | International Day of Persons with Disability

"It is all about Ability."

On *December 3rd*, UNICEF recognized persons with disability through engaging in a *sports event*, followed by a *documentary screening*.



The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated around the world on December 3rd to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues pertaining to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. On December 3rd, 2014, UNICEF Nepal Country marked this day to recognize persons with disability by celebrating through a sports event with interaction with guests from Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre, who provided important insights on living with disability. The celebration continued with a documentary screening and talk event from persons with disabilities.

A Day Celebrated through Sports

The International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated within the UN premises on December 3rd, 2014 through the close collaboration of UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator (RC)'s Office. UNICEF and the Vulnerable Group Champion for people with Disabilities as identified in the UNDAF, had taken lead in organizing this event in partnership with the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre, a specialized non-profit organization. This event was conducted with the aim of sharing experience on how it feels to be a person with disability. This meaningful day was comprised of wheelchair races and other games jointly participated by persons with disabilities and UN staff members. Volunteers with disabilities from the Centre were joined by UN staff members to form teams that competed with each other.

The event kicked off with an opening remarks from Tomoo Hozumi, UNICEF Representative, on the need of accurate data to plan for better programs and activities that would benefit the persons with disabilities. He also highlighted on the need to change the society not only in Nepal but also in many other parts of the world so that we can build a better community which is disability friendly.

Following the opening remarks, volunteers and staff members participated in a day full of games to experience how the life is like for persons with disability. Some were blind-folded and asked to find their way to their office while others were asked to use sign language to communicate.

“Though I was helped in the beginning, I could not go all the way upstairs to my office because I was blindfolded. I have understood how difficult it is to be blind,” said one of the UN staff member.



UN Staff member experiences how it feels to be blind / © ARabi/2014

The wheelchair race in which the UNICEF Representative also participated, became the highlight of the event. While the wheel-chair bound volunteers covered the distance with great ease, it was a challenge for the UN staff members to cover the same distance. The snatching object game was full of fun and joy. Each participant was busy collecting the ribbon of the other participant, which hung behind their wheelchairs. The winner was Ms. Laxmi Ghimire from the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre. The rescue game was interesting as well as challenging.



Participants from the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre expressed their gratitude towards UNICEF and the RC's office for organizing such an opportunity where they were able to show that they also had ability. They also thanked the UN House for creating disabled friendly space.



Wheelchair Race during International Day of Persons with Disabilities / © ARabi/ 2014

The two hour program was concluded with remarks from the Head of Resident Coordinator's office, who ensured that with the event, the UN commitment was made stronger and that UN will be ensuring that disability day is celebrated everyday by making UN House more disable friendly.

Celebrated through Documentary Screening and Personal Stories

Following the Sports Event on December 3rd, 2014, a documentary screening and experience sharing from people with disability was organized on December 5th. The program started with a presentation by Mr. Ram Bahadur Tamang, who travelled from Namobuddha to Lumbini in 26 days on a wheelchair. He shared that his motivation was to spread awareness to people who needed to know on spinal injury related disability. He shared experience on how he was encouraged by the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Center and multiple organizations throughout his journey, but also faced obstacles along the way. The song written and sang by Tamang in a typical folk lore touched the hearts of many as it talked about the road accidents caused by harmful driving practices which has increased the number of disabled people.

The story shared by Mr. Bimal who is visually impaired was equally strong. He shared his experience on how he was discriminated in his community, school and society, because he was born visually impaired. Despite the challenges he went through, Bimal is supporting in conducting a study on disabled index. He raised a valid question on employability of disabled people in the UN system. Despite the available policy, he raised concerns on the environment inside the organization. He pointed out whether we were ready to welcome disabled people into the workplace, such as disability friendly parking lot, stairs, working space and restrooms.

Ms. Devu also had a powerful story to share. Although she was not discriminated being born as a daughter in a family with two elder brothers, her struggle started from the aftermath of suffering from polio. Despite the defect on her leg, she was encouraged by her family to go to school and pursue her studies. Her parents carried her to school everyday. However, due to the unfriendly environment that was not supportive of people with disability like the lack of disabled friendly toilet facilities, she at times felt dropping out of school. Though she is working at the National Federation of

Disabled, Nepal she shared her struggle to get employed.

Mr. Sudharsan Subedi, President of the National Federation of Disabled, shared how incomplete and inaccurate data hinder in making good programs for the disabled people. He emphasized on improving the environment, ensuring policies to be implemented and encouraging the disabled people. He stated a strong sentence, “if one youth supports one disabled person by motivating him/her, then that would help in creating a better environment for the disabled people”.



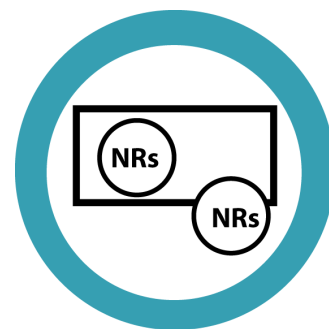
International Disability Day celebrated at UN House / © ARabi/ 2014



04 | Scaling Up Child Grant

Protecting Children during their Critical Period of Development

Government of Nepal introduced Child Grant, a cash transfer program for children under age five in Karnali districts and poor Dalit families across the country.



Building on UNICEF supported policy analysis and evidenced based advocacy, the Government of Nepal (GoN) announced the introduction of child grant in 2009. The grant is geographically targeted to all under 5 children in the five Karnali districts and from poor Dalit family across the country, with a cap of two children per family. Eligible children receive NRs 200 per month. UNICEF has provided technical inputs in preparing the child grant implementation procedure, organized capacity building activities and supported implementation of complementary activities to “kick off” the child grant implementation.

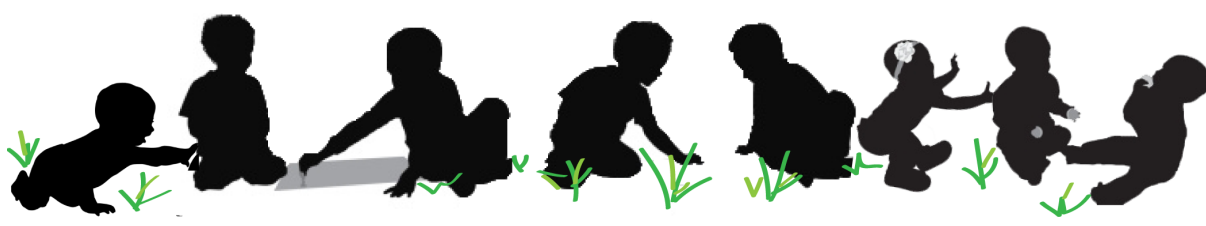
Child Grant Program

The Child Grant uses the same registration and delivery mechanism as Nepal’s other cash transfer programs, such as social pension, transfers to people living with disability, the education grants and others. At the central government level, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)is responsible for implementation. Registration and delivery of the grant are managed by the Village Development Committees (VDCs) with supervision from the District Development Committees (DDCs).

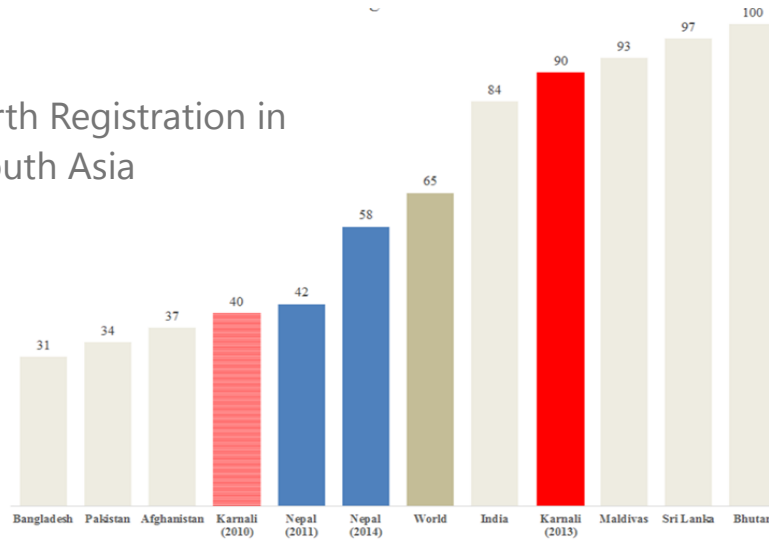
Evidence on the Achievements

A recent survey conducted in five Karnali districts by the GoN, UNICEF-Nepal and Valley research group reveals that the child grant coverage rate of children in Karnali zone was 77 per cent. Nationally, MoFALD reports that over 551,000 children have benefited from the child grant. Compared to early-phase outcomes of child benefits programs in other countries, and considering Nepal’s economic challenges as a least developed country, this can be considered a remarkable achievement, in terms of the absolute number and share of child population reached.

The Child Grant has yielded an important secondary effect of increasing birth registration (GoN, UNICEF and VaRG, forthcoming). Birth registration for children below 5 years on average increased to 90 per cent in the Karnali districts, which is more than double the 2010 rate of 42 per cent for the same districts (UNICEF and NTAG, 2012). The figure below shows high birth registration rate in Karnali in comparison to national average as well as other countries in South Asia.



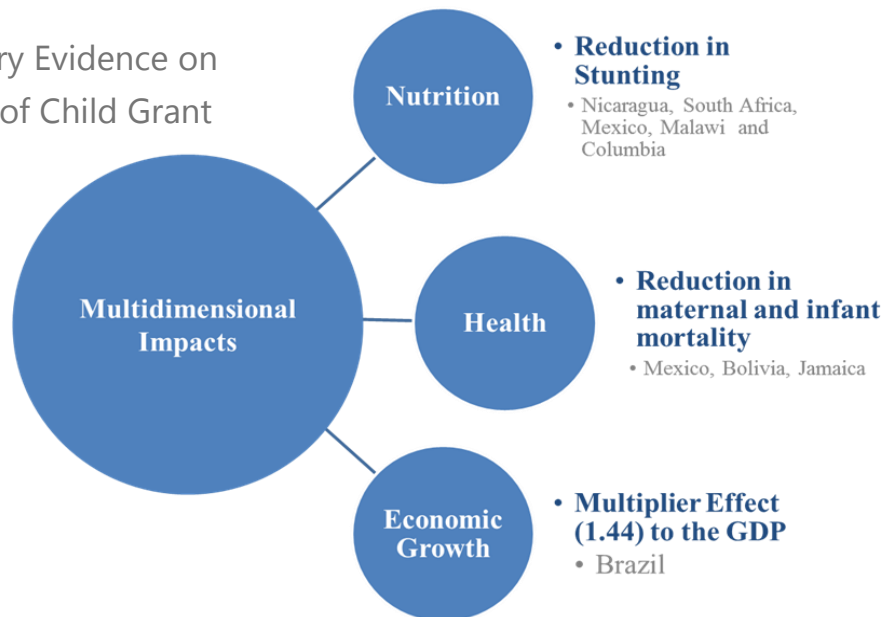
Birth Registration in South Asia



Source: Based on MICS (2014), DHS (2011) and UNICEF Global Statistics (2014)

Multidimensional impacts of child grant on children's lives are well established globally. The chart below summarizes some of the international evidence related to nutrition, health and economic growth (UNICEF 2010). While a quantitative analysis on the nutritional outcome in Nepal also shows improvement in some aspects of child nutrition, transfer amount was too low to have drastic impact on the overall nutritional status of the children. (Okubo 2014).

Cross-country Evidence on the Impacts of Child Grant



To further enhance the efficiency of the social protection programs in Nepal, UNICEF plans to conduct further analysis on the overall social protection system and provide necessary support for more effective implementation of the social protection schemes.



Way Forward

The achievements and success of child grant in Nepal is appreciated in many ways, and brought positive results. However there is still need to put effort on increasing the coverage. It is to be noted that coverage of child grant among children below 12 months is significantly low. This is mainly due to the delay in registration and payment. UNICEF and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development are putting effort in strengthening the system and increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Coverage of the grant among children below 12 months must be increased to overall coverage. Almost 98 per cent mothers are aware of the grant and its benefits. Demand side is strong, however, the supply side need. On this note, UNICEF continues its advocacy efforts and meets with the GoN on the possibility of scaling up the child grant.



Innovation Programs

- 01 Idea Studio
- 02 Innovathon
- 03 Talk Innovation
- 04 Dalit Life through the Lens



01 | Idea Studio

Innovative platform that unlocked Nepalese potentials and ignite social change through social innovation.

UNICEF collaborated with central pillars of the society to ignite social change and unlock young potentials through social innovation.



Despite difficult geographical terrains, prevalence of poverty, complexities in socioeconomic structures and a decade-long civil conflict, Nepal made great strides in the substantial number of areas for social development over the last few decades. At the same time, given the level of development it had set off, there is still a long way to go for a higher-level Human Development of the country. Nepal ranks 145 out of 185 countries according to the Human Development Index (HDI) as of 2014. Against this background, there has been an increasing recognition that the conventional approaches to development alone may not be sufficient to realize accelerated as well as equitable development and to capture the "demographic window of opportunity" when the demographic architecture of the country's population is young and the percentage of people able to work reaches its height. Innovative approaches with equity in mind could pave new and effective ways.

UNICEF Nepal Country Office collaborated with the central pillars of the society-government, academia, business houses, media, and development actors-with the ultimate objective to ignite social change and unlock young potentials to achieve sustainable development through social innovation. This goal was embedded in launching of the Idea Studio, a platform to turn promising ideas into practical solutions to the social issues faced in local communities.

Concept

Idea Studio is a platform to turn promising ideas into practical social solutions. If a girl from the remotest village has a brilliant idea to strengthen the agriculture business of her community through an innovative method or product, but was unable or unwilling to come forward, she will be encouraged to turn her idea into reality through this platform. If this idea is shortlisted, it will be refined during a mentorship program and has the opportunity to compete for an investment broadcasted on national television. The effects of the television program will ignite the anticipated movement of encouraging entrepreneurship and stimulate young Nepalese to act on their dreams that helps their communities.

Idea Studio is different from other fragmented programs. The project is scaled out on a national scope, establishing a clear and complete value structure. This platform maximizes the opportunities for young innovators to see their ideas changing their communities. The linkages with the private sector are very visible. Mentoring by business leaders are key attractive points. These mentors are experts in their field, supportive, and willing to invest in promising ideas, which are all attractive points for innovators to understand the real-world issues. Further, innovators can learn the art of innovation tied with entrepreneurship by shaping their initial ideas into solutions to challenge the problems faced in the social sector. The television program will give innovators a huge lift to share their innovative ideas to the whole nation. This national exposure is expected to create a new wave of belief in the idea of entrepreneurship, social innovation, and discover the hidden potentials of the country.

The Idea Studio Model

Idea Studio followed a five step process: a) Outreaching for innovative ideas from all Nepalese, b) Shortlisting best ideas for mentorship and the chance to pitch to investors on national TV program, c)

Mentoring the shortlisted innovators at the new Idea Studio business innovation incubator by renowned academicians and business leaders, d) Producing a national reality TV program to showcase the best ideas to the public and investors, and to win investment from the investors, and e) Implementing the invested ideas as the next sustainable solutions. Ideas submitted but not selected during the shortlisting process will be recorded and managed in the Innovation Idea Bank available for other



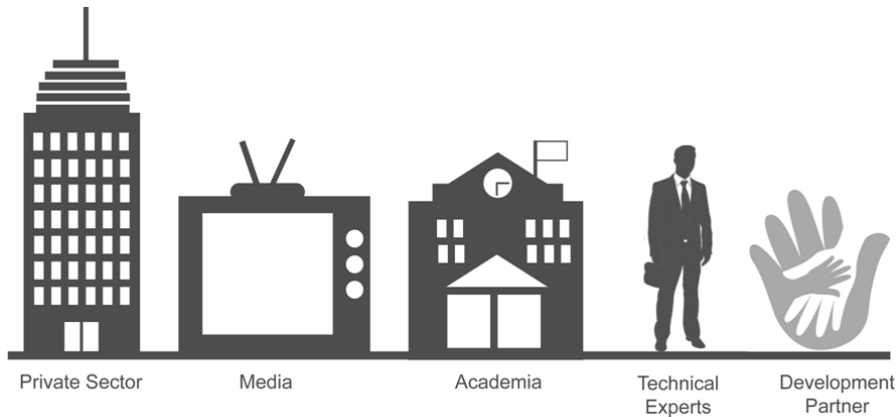
existing participatory mechanisms at national and local levels.

Commitments can be through multiple outlets - contributing as mentors at the incubator, participating as a jury panel during the TV audition round, or seated as an investor during the final pitches on TV. In this context, private sector involvement included Megabank and Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal

where the organizations were in the investment ideas and crowdsourcing ideas Studio.

organizational involvement of

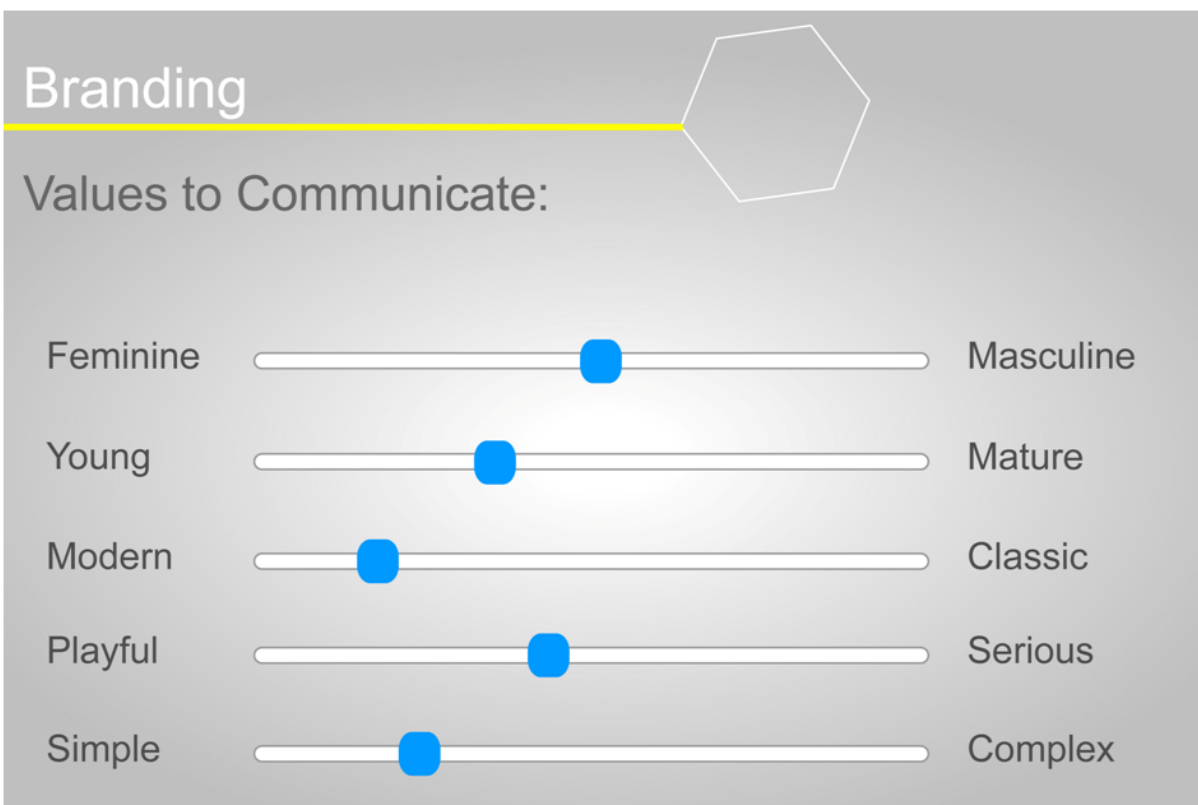
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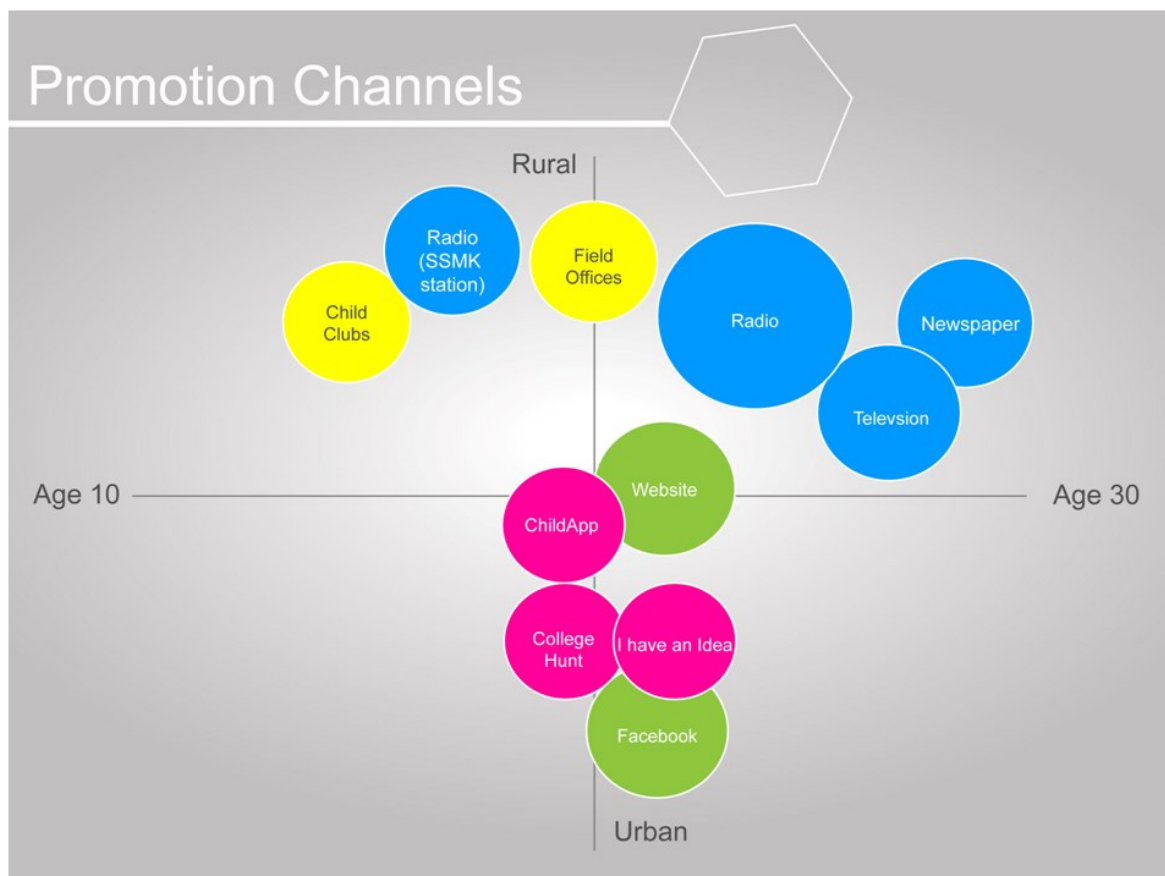
Outreach

From radio, television, to Facebook, Idea Studio was promoted through a combination of promotion mechanisms to achieve maximum exposure. A holistic marketing and media approach was formed to achieve maximum exposure to all regions of Nepal. Marketing and media plan were strategized and developed to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote inclusive participation
- Drive high number of idea submissions
- Promote branding and messaging associated with the overall objectives of Idea Studio: “Ignite social change” and “Unlock young potentials”



Outreach period	June 28th~ July 31st, 2014
Marketing goal	About 500 idea submissions
Target audience	Open to all Nepalese
Outreach channels	Online: Website, Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) Offline: Schools, child clubs, various events, field offices Conventional Media: Radio, newspaper, TV



1. Mass Media

Celebrity Public Service Announcement (PSA)

Series of one minute public service announcements featuring renowned celebrities were produced to raise massive awareness on Idea Studio, and direct the audience towards participation in this social initiative. Six national celebrities who were well recognized and socially responsible participated as the celebrity ambassadors for Idea Studio.

- **Ani Choying Drolma**, Singing Nun and UNICEF Nepal National Ambassador
- **Paras Khadka**, Captain of National Cricket Team
- **Madan Krishna Shrestha** and **Hari Bansha Acharya**, renowned Comedians and Actors
- **Anil Shah**, CEO of Megabank
- **Deepuk Bista**, Olympian in Taekwondo



PSA Shooting of Ani Choying Drolma/ © Ani Choying Drolma

PSA Clip (All celebrities): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFILXCDanfMelevision Network>

Television Network

Television networks were used as the medium to broadcast PSA advertisements during the promotion period of Idea Studio. PSAs were secured in four different channels and broadcasted daily. Particularly Nepal Television is the network most viewed with the widest coverage to all districts in the country. Interviews of Idea Studio team and advocates were broadcasted on several channels (Himalaya TV, Mountain TV, and Avenues TV). These interview series were intended to clearly communicate the message of Idea Studio to target audience- the motive, process, and expected outcome. Television was a strong medium that also portrayed every critical process of Idea Studio. A full coverage of the Press Meet that signified the launch of Idea Studio was aired 30 minutes during local news time, and started a powerful wave from the start of Idea Studio.

Radio

Radio is the number one information source in Nepal, especially among the rural population. To maximize this media source, radio jingles of the PSA, as well as interviews of the Idea Studio organizers were constantly aired through a broad radio network across the country. 11 interviews featuring Idea Studio team and advocates were broadcasted on FM radios. Parallel with Television interviews, interviews through radio communicated a consistent messaging of emphasizing the importance of the initiative and making sure the process and intentions were communicated in a clear and effective way.



Radio Interview at SSMK with Professor Rupesh Shrestha / © Priyanka Shah

One of the radio channels, SSMK (Saathi Sanga Manka Kura), is UNICEF sponsored program that covers a vast region of Nepal by airing its program through 40 different broadcasting partners. It is widely known among the adolescents for its vast range of topics related to this age group. Aired once a week for 45 minutes, the program attracts about 8.4 million listeners in central and far-western/rural regions of Nepal. One of the unique positioning about the program is its youth participatory system. A toll free SMS and phone line is set-up where over 1,500 SMS texts and calls are received per episode. Idea Studio was featured in episode 681 of this show with an interview of Professor Rupesh Shrestha of KUSOM, one of the key partners of Idea Studio.

2. Print Media

Newspaper Publications

Newspaper was another media source used to advertise Idea Studio through editorials and advertisements. Standard pictorial advertisements were regularly placed in major publications to advertise to call for submissions. Periodic editorials and news written by journalists were featured on the papers. These news featured major events and milestones in Idea Studio such as the Press Meet and promotion activities like ChildApp Appathon, I have an Idea open house, and the launch of Idea Studio business innovation incubator, etc.

3. Digital Marketing

Website

A website in both English and Nepali was designed and launched to host information about the initiative online. Visitors can quickly learn about the initiative, as well as easily find information and resources on the program, eligibility criteria, rules, incubation program, and contact channels. Visitors can track real-time process and advancements in Idea Studio through image gallery, and through social media links. Interested participants can also download and submit their applications. With the internet penetration rate rapidly increasing, many interested participants were able to access information mainly through website and Idea Studio Facebook page.

Facebook

With 4.1 million users in 2014, Facebook is one of the most popular communication networks in Nepal. The increasing trend proves the peak in internet penetration rate in Nepal. The official Idea Studio Facebook page was launched June 27th, 2014 as a direct interaction channel to communicate real-time news and progress with target audience. In general, four types of Facebook updates were posted: videos, website links, photos, and real-time status on Idea Studio. Of those, video contents received maximum post clicks followed by real-time status updates. 50 per cent of Idea Studio website visitors were from the Facebook page.

YouTube

YouTube is an essential platform to share video clips online. Idea Studio Nepal channel was created to serve this purpose, as well as to build a solid online database for the next season of the TV series, 'Idea Studio Nepal.' YouTube channel was created to host celebrity PSAs, event footages, and each TV episode from Season 1.

4. Direct Promotion

ChildApp Appathon

Innovative ideas can be sourced through different channels, and one of them can be through technology. To crowd source innovative solutions from the young and technology savvy part of the population, the concept of an appathon was thought of. An appathon is a type of competition that aims to develop solutions to a problem using technology in a limited amount of time, usually between 24 to 72 hours. UNICEF Nepal, Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal, and Childreach Nepal joined hands in organizing the 'ChildApp,' appathon, seeking innovative solutions for problems around children in Nepal. This event was open to Nepalese of all ages with skills and interests in programming tied in with social interests. 10 problem statements such as birth registration, teacher absenteeism, water and sanitation, were selected and presented for the participants to take a challenge on.



After Closing Ceremony / © UNICEF Nepal/2014SManandhar

During the promotion period, special boot camp sessions were offered to the interested participants. At the boot camp, applicants learned developing skills in the Windows platform, and learned the problem statements in detail by sessions organized by UNICEF staff. College road shows were conducted to reach out to more talents in the urban area. Social media channels like Facebook and Twitter were also integrated. Indirect promotions through other special events hosted by Microsoft Innovation Center like 'TechMela 2014' was successful in getting the message out. The concept of 'ChildApp' was to have the final 5 teams from the competition to have direct access to go through the incubation program under Idea Studio, and eventually pitch their ideas to potential investors on 'Idea Studio Nepal' TV show.

I have an Idea

An opportunity to further explain and promote about Idea Studio to the direct target audience was necessary. A grand open house with the campaign title 'I have an Idea' was organized, attended by over 2,000 people mainly comprised of college students in Kathmandu. The objectives of this event was to inspire, motivate, and encourage potential innovators to step up and share their innovative ideas that can help change their society. 'I have an Idea' was designed as a speaker series, inviting four celebrities to talk about how holding onto their one idea have led them to who they are now. After each celebrity shared their story on stage, questions and answers session followed for the audience to share their comments and stories. By hosting an event of this type, this showed the audience that Idea Studio is a unique platform that is genuinely interested in the thoughts and ideas of the people, and that it is willing to hear and make a change out of it.



I have an Idea event atmosphere / © BSangat/ 2014

College Idea Hunt

College Idea Hunt was another type of promotion method to crowd source innovative ideas from colleges. Designed as an inter college idea competition, about 50 orientations were given to colleges throughout the Idea Studio promotion period. The idea was to have colleges compete with one another on the ideas they presented, and have the best 2 teams from College Idea Hunt to participate in the business incubation period and have the seats to pitch ideas on 'Idea Studio Nepal' TV show.



Professor Rupesh Shrestha giving orientation to college students on Idea Studio/ © Meeting Point /2014

Shortlisting

Shortlisting process immediately followed after the deadline for idea submissions. Number of application submissions were more than expected. About 600 ideas were received from Nepalese throughout the Country and abroad. This number exceeded the initial goal of 500 idea submissions and a testament that the concept was received well by the target audience. Participants of all ages, status, social and economic background, including Constituent Assembly (CA) Parliamentary member participated with their single innovative idea that might help change the society.

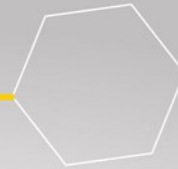
Shortlisting process followed a comprehensive criteria that focused on ideas with new solutions to the existing social challenges, or existing solutions applied to new challenges. Innovativeness, creativity, and sustainability were some key factors. Out of the pool of ideas, 63 of the most innovative and feasible ideas were shortlisted in Phase one by the Idea Studio Selection Committee. From this pool, about 30 ideas were further shortlisted for incubation through the audition rounds with a jury panel from various industry sectors like agriculture, health care, manufacturing, etc. Including the top five finalists from ChildApp and the two finalists from College Idea Hunt, total 37 teams were shortlisted for incubation at the Idea Studio incubator.

See Annex 2 for the shortlisted ideas.

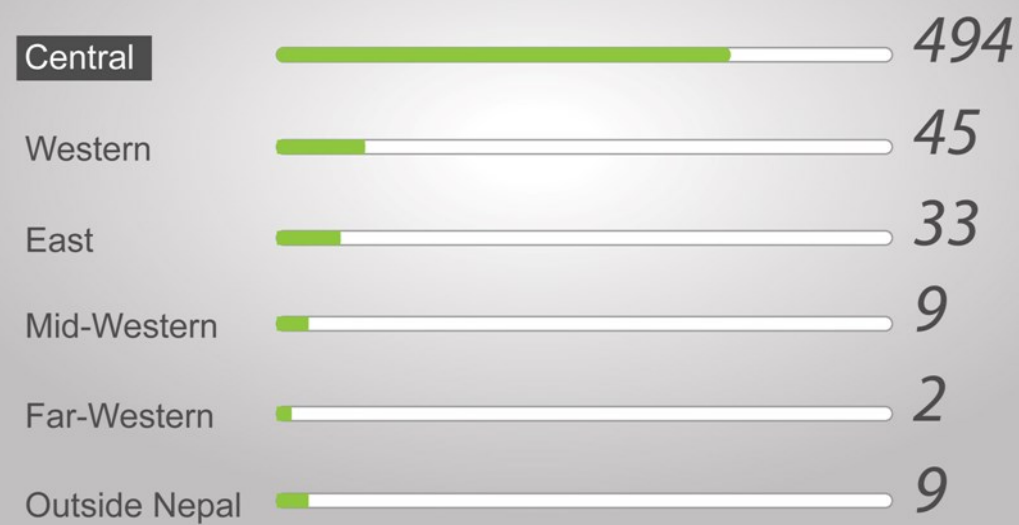
Submission Channels



Idea Submissions



By Geographical Region



Ideas were received relating to 24 different industry sectors. Majority of these ideas were in the areas of agriculture, waste management, and social entrepreneurship and primarily focused on solutions to the social and economic problems within the field. Almost 18% of the submitted ideas were agriculture-based concepts and 26 per cent of the ideas submitted outside of the Kathmandu valley were agriculture-related.



Participants Occupation

From students to pharmacists, participants from various professions and occupations participated in Idea Studio. Encouraging observation point was the active participation from females. Many female entrepreneurs expressed their interests in Idea Studio and submitted ideas. Calls were also received from women living in different parts of the Country, showing their enthusiasm to participate. In fact, 20 per cent of the participants of ChildApp were female, indicating the increasing number of women in technical fields.



Innovation Idea Bank

Innovation Idea Bank was created as an online data space to store and manage innovative ideas submitted through Idea Studio. Ideas that were not shortlisted does not mean they are of less value or potential. They can be used for a better timing and purpose. The database will be stored and managed at the KUSOM innovation incubator and be an incredible resource for the center. A stakeholder who is in search of new ideas in improving agriculture practices may consult the Incubator for innovative ideas that are readily available. If there is a match in the Idea Bank, this idea can be linked to the stakeholder to see if it can be a viable solution. The Innovation Idea Bank is to build and maintain a robust and credible data source. It will not be a one time project that will only hold ideas sourced through Idea Studio. Ideas sourced through other channels after the competition can also be stored in this database as well and be a sustainable research asset for KUSOM innovation incubator.

Mentorship

“The state-of-the-art incubation centre provides participants with theoretical and technical business skills that help them develop their models into reality.” - Rupesh K. Shrestha, Marketing Professor, KUSOM



The Idea Studio innovation incubator was established with the objective to provide a state-of-the-art space and platform for nurturing the nation's prospective entrepreneurs, and to be positioned as the nation's focal research center for innovation. Named 'KUSOM Idea Studio,' the incubator provides a working space for innovators and experts from academia, the private, technical and development sectors, to collaborate and transform innovative ideas into socially-conscious business solutions. The 37 shortlisted innovators from Idea Studio are the first group to be working in this space for three weeks, before they make the final pitch to the investors through the Idea Studio TV program.

Idea Studio inaugurated the first-of-its kind business incubation center, 'KUSOM Idea Studio,' at KUSOM on September 19th, 2014. Distinguished guests, including UNICEF Representative to Nepal Mr. Tomoo Hozumi, Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, UNICEF National Ambassador Ani Choying Drolma and others, along with shortlisted innovators gathered to celebrate the milestone of another advancement in the progress towards innovation and development.



Innovators work in Idea Studio space/ ©KPark/2015


During the three week incubation period, innovators were paired with business experts from the academia and business world to shape ideas into working business models. The curriculum was designed to shape the innovators and their ideas to be better equipped for their grand pitch on national television program, in front of industry experts, prospective investors and business personalities.

TV Show

Idea Studio Nepal show was conceptualized as a national reality TV show. After the three week incubation period, innovators were ready to appear on national Television to present their refined ideas to socially responsible business leaders, or the potential investors. These business leaders who are interested in the ideas can partner or invest in the idea to put sustainable solutions in place. A winner is anyone who can make a sell to one of the business leaders around the table. The Show hosted by nationally acclaimed celebrities, Malvika Subba and Vivek Singh Thakuri, was first aired on national television September 24th, 2014.

Season one of Idea Studio Nepal is a 13 episode series divided into three progressing phases: audition round, incubation round, and the final presentation or the investment round. The audition round introduces the shortlisted candidates presenting a quick look of their

Program Format



TV Show: Idea Studio Nepal

Broadcasting Channels:
Nepal Television - Wed, 9:30pm
Himalayan Television - Sat, 9:30pm

Episodes: 13 episodes

Program duration: 25 minutes per episode

Language: Nepali

First episode: September 24, 2014



Candidate presenting her idea to the jury panel/ © Meeting Point/2014



Final pitch shooting site / © ARabi/2014

Implementation

Every shortlisted idea was turned into professional business plans during the incubation period and reviewed by the business leaders during the final pitching rounds. Many ideas received positive feedback, and a number of these were selected for investment or to be supported in various ways to help unlock creative potentials. Once an investor decided to invest in an idea, innovators and investors agreed on a work plan and prepared to have the ideas implemented to put sustainable solutions in place. As of end of January 2014, the list below details the implementation progress of these shortlisted ideas and may be modified as innovators proceed in transforming their ideas in real business environment.

Prakash Bajgain

Goat farm

Prakash needed funds and a proper plan to build enclosures to house his cattle. Through the mentoring in Idea Studio he has been able to create a long term sustainable business plan to expand his operations. Rastriya Banijya Bank agreed to provide a loan of 50 lakh at a highly subsidized rate of 6 per cent per annum. Possibilities are being explored whether Idea Studio microfinance program can be applied to his goat farming business.

GV Hydro

Micro hydro plant

Rabin Dhakal, Sagar Dhakal, Greejesh Prakash and Khusboo Gupta have been working hard to implement a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of their innovative design. They were able to create a detailed business plan with financial forecasts during their time at the Idea Studio incubation center, and were able to acquire a grant of 15 lakh from AEPC (Alternative Energy Promotion Center). They will soon begin construction of the project at Sundarijal.

Mani Prasad Bhusal

White feldspar mining

Mani already acquired the license to extract white feldspar from the mine at Parbat region that is rich in resource. He created a detailed project plan after the incubation training period and presented his plan to the banks partnered with Idea Studio that agreed to finance the project during the operation stage. At the moment, Mani is in the process of preparing the environmental assessment report.

Shivaram Poudel

Public toilets

For a few years now, Shivaram has been very successful in running free highway restroom business. Despite his great success, he has not been able to reap the economic benefits since his projects were financed with personal loans at extremely high interest rates. Mentorship at Idea Studio helped him create a detailed project outline along with financial plans. As a result, he was able to secure material aid such as pipe and construction materials from Panchakanya group. Shivaram is currently trying to build another restroom in Dhalkebar, Janakpur along the east-west highway.

If you want something new,
you have to stop doing
something old.

Peter F. Drucker

Prerana Joshi

Old-age recreation center

Prerana is looking for a suitable site to start her new venture. After showing her Siphali site to a number of engineers, they unanimously told her that a site renovation is not a practical solution. Prerana has been actively trying to resolve the location problem. One of the Idea Studio mentors and investor Mr. Ujjwal Shrestha from Panchakanya Group has agreed to assist Prerana in the renovation as well as provide medical assistance through Nidan Hospital. Idea Studio is also providing engineering and architectural assistance to renovate the site for Club 60.

Nara Bhupal Magar

Bamboo trees

Nar Bhupal has been trying to get funds to start his manufacturing plant in Birgunj. He developed a very attractive business plan during the incubation process, and was able to secure funding to purchase the land and building for the site. He is now looking for funding to acquire machineries for his factory. For this purpose, he created a proposal and submitted it to MSFP (multi-stake holder forestry program) and the Ministry of Forestry as his project will greatly contribute towards the reduction of deforestation.

Krishi Guru

Agriculture retail stores

The team of Binay Regmi, Suman Subedi and Benup Poudel have been hard at work trying to expand their business. They were able to develop networks during their time at Idea Studio and now have started to supply fresh vegetables to Metrotarkai, another participant at Idea Studio. They are trying to move up a step in the supply chain and open a wholesale shop at the Kalimati vegetable market. This will allow them to get vegetables at a much cheaper rate thus allowing them to supply to a customer base in their locality. Through the help of Idea Studio, Krishi Guru is in the process of obtaining a collateral free loan to make this expansion a reality.

Birendra Bahadur Aidi

Trading in Kalikot

Through the incubation period, Birendra decided to scale down his future business model after he learned that his cost structures were not sustainable. He is currently trying to start his operations with only 3 types of products: brown rice, apples and beans. He also plans to barter the items with essentials for Jumla residents such as blankets and stationary. If the plan is successful in the medium run, he will expand to other items such as walnuts and sunflower seeds. Idea Studio will continuously work with Birendra to market these products from Jumla using its network.

Ngima Sherpa

Chiraito and mushroom plantation

Ngima is trying to expand his Chiraito cultivation from 20 ropanis to 200 ropanis. He is currently farming mushrooms in his hometown, Bhojpur. Idea Studio helped him to connect with Mr. Rajendra Singh from the Trade and Export Promotion Center who has given him valuable advice on how he can export them to China. Following the advice, Ngima is in the process of registering his company.

Rajendra Adhikari

Poultry farming

Rajendra Adhikari is trying to expand his poultry business. Idea Studio planned to create a multipurpose microfinance fund to boost his community based model. Mega Bank and Civil Bank both showed interest to finance his community based project to construct an egg hatchery which will include an incubator. During his time at Idea Studio Rajendra was able to develop his business plans and also obtain a business license to sell wild breed of chickens.

Metrotarkari

E-commerce and home delivery of grocery/vegetables

Anil Basnet and Bishesh Shrestha have been trying to work out a lower cost and a more efficient operation model to run their fresh vegetable delivery service. They partnered with another participant, Krishi Guru, to obtain their vegetables at low cost. Metrotarkari have been trying to acquire a delivery vehicle but was not able to put a down payment or collateral as a guarantee. Idea Studio is in the process of working out an agreement with Mega Bank to see the possibility of Idea Studio, as an entity, to assure the loan.

Daya Laxmi Lama

Sunrise powder

Daya Laxmi, a local level entrepreneur, has been trying to promote her self-developed washing product for brass, silver and copper utensils. A number of investors are interested to invest in her project. Ujjwal Shrestha from Panchakanya Group has agreed to use his distribution channels to sell the product. Other investors have agreed to set up a small scale manufacturing plant to mass produce her formula at a cost effective rate to compete with other (mostly foreign) brands. The agreement is expected to be signed within a few months.

Madindra Aryal

Lets go robotics

Manindra is currently working under one of Idea Studio's mentors and investor, Mr. Bal Joshi, co-founder of Thamel.com. Although he was not able to secure investment for his research hub, he is very satisfied with the employment opportunity that he got as a result of participating Idea Studio incubation program.

Bhaskar Bhattacharya

KTM 360⁰

Bhaskar is working with one of Idea Studio's investors, Mr. Yogendra Shakya, to develop his project. Mr. Shakya will be assisting him to develop his trail and send tourist groups in the circuit to promote its use. Bhaskar will also be designing a mobile application for hikers that will guide them along the trail and also highlight nearby attractions as well as facilities and services.

Saurav Sharma

Agro-tourism resort

Saurav is working alongside Mr. Yogendra Shakya to develop an agro-tourism model at one of Mr. Shakya's resorts in Nagarkot. Unfortunately, the soil tested negative for vegetable cultivation at Nagarkot, therefore Saurav and Mr. Shakya are looking for an alternative location to begin their project.

People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe.

Simon Sinek

Long-term Sustainability

Idea Studio was conceptualized following a snowball approach. It aimed at creating a core committed partners who identify themselves with the idea itself and the vision for the future of Nepal. This small group used its enthusiasm and networks to reach out to a wider crowd who shares the commitment and values. Idea Studio indeed progressed into a social movement. UNICEF's role was to ignite this movement through Idea Studio and strategically pulled back gradually allowing partners to take the lead and move forward. The long term sustainability of Idea Studio is guaranteed and based on two important factors:

1. Engagement of the Academia

This was a key design principle of the concept of Idea Studio. From the beginning, UNICEF searched for an academic institution to host the physical Idea Studio incubator, document knowledge created, and fully institutionalize the initiative through its programs and within the faculty members' research and teaching. Students will use the platform to test ideas and challenge themselves to 'ideate' and get their ideas through a rigorous model testing and validation. The platform will be open to partners and communities to benefit for the wide services provided to move their ideas into full business proposals.

2. Media investment

As mentioned earlier, a key success factor for Idea Studio initiative was the incentive structure including the Media partner's investment using their own resources. The set up costs were relatively high and it is extremely unlikely for the media partner to breakeven with one season. The media partner understood this well and it entered this with a long-term vision. It has already started discussing season two and lessons learnt for even a bigger show in 2015.

Lessons Learned

Idea Studio was an innovative idea in itself. Its underlying intention to create a 360° platform that can turn promising ideas into business solutions was a new challenge that no organization has attempted before in Nepal. Idea Studio was successful in terms of brining a new wave of courage to step up for an idea, new hopes for a promising and supportive society, and the curiosity to understand the link between innovation and entrepreneurship. Three key factors attributed in this thriving launch: building a unique partnership with the core pillars of the society, providing a complete value chain, and focusing on win-win for every stakeholder to get involved.

Success Factors

1. Unique Partnership

One of the key factors behind the successful implementation of Idea Studio was due to its strong and unique partnership formed from the very beginning. In order for the project to be a nationally owned sustainable platform, a reliable partnership was needed. There needed to be collaboration among the partners to fully execute this project at a national level. The partnership was to be formed with representations from each of the core pillars of the society, who were willing to make their investment in the hopes to ignite social change and unlock the young creative potentials of Nepal. Each partner brought their expertise to the table, as well as their time, skills, knowledge, and resources. The idea of 'investment' rather than charity, was a strong driving force behind Idea Studio.



2. Complete Value Chain

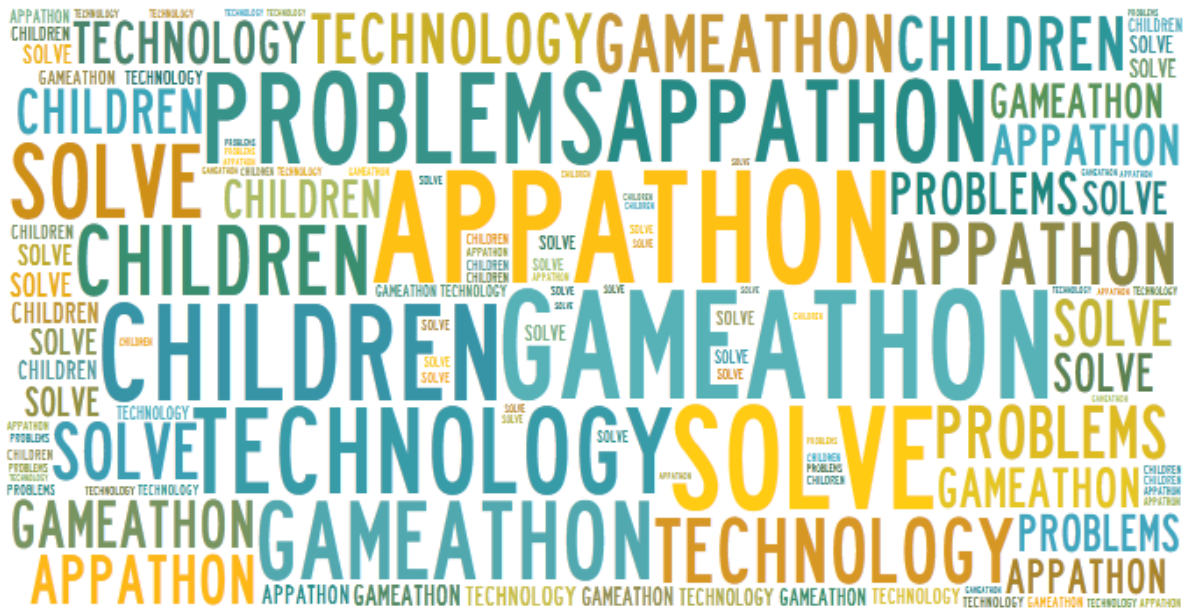
Idea Studio offers a complete value chain, from crowd sourcing ideas to nurturing them, and to help these ideas be implemented and sustained. Idea Studio is an open platform inviting all innovative ideas from anyone regardless of age, social and economic background, gender, or with disabilities. Ideas sourced are then nurtured through a comprehensive mentorship program at the business innovation incubator, incubating them to grow and mature as implementable solutions. These solutions are then not left alone, but given the opportunity to be invested by creating the connection between the innovator and the investor. Unlike other competitions with similar concept, Idea Studio provides the needed resources, space, and network for the entire lifecycle of an idea: from beginning to end.

3. Balanced Incentive Structure

Idea Studio is not the usual UNICEF-vendor relationship where UNICEF seeks services and in return pays for the services received. It is rather focused on creating a win-win formula for those engaged. With the exception of resources allocated to establishing the incubator physical space and for coordination, there was no money transferred from UNICEF. This simple fact assured to get only the right people on board. If a potential partner does not see what they can get by their involvement, Idea Studio is not for them. This factor enormously ensured the success of this initiative. For instance, the fact that the media partner invested their own resource urged them to work hard to recover costs through advertisement revenue, along the way maximizing viewership- a key success component. The more advertisement revenue, the more popular the show, and hence Idea Studio succeeds. Similarly, the private sector's willingness to invest in ideas stems from the need to showcase in a popular program that they are socially responsible and ready to invest in the future of Nepal. For the academia partner, it is an opportunity to give its students the real-life exposure as well as increasing the rank and recognition of the school. For our implementing partner, it was an opportunity to differentiate itself and gain recognition, especially in a very crowded NGO field. For our student volunteers, gaining an experience like this invaluable and also a sellable item in their resumes and make them stand out in a very competitive employment market. Finally and most importantly, for our 'ideators', it is a life time opportunity to get mentorship at a renowned academic business school, enjoy TV publicity of their projects, and get investment to materialize their dreams.

In this context, it must be also pointed out that a common denominator across all stakeholders was the sense of responsibility and desire to contribute meaningfully to the development of Nepal.

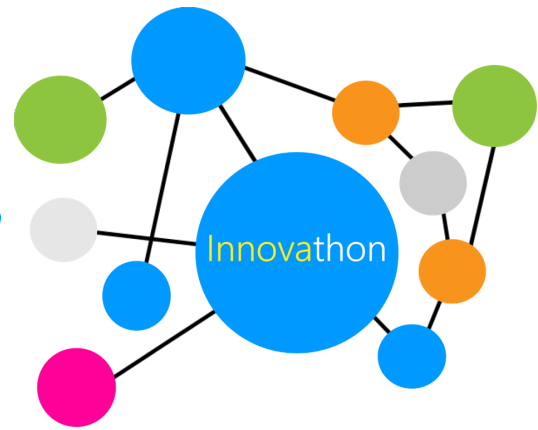




02 | Innovathon

Marathon of innovative appathons solved problems around children in Nepal using technology

Innovathon is a marathon of innovation events pursuing technological innovation with the youth of Nepal.



Over the last few decades, Nepal made significant advancements in social development despite its ongoing socioeconomic complexities and geographical challenges. The data visionary and global health expert, Hans Rosling quoted in his recent visit to Nepal, "Never before in the history of the world has any country made so much social progress with so little money." However, there is still a long way to go for a higher-level Human Development of the country. Nepal ranks 145 out of 185 countries according to the Human Development Index (HDI) as of 2014. Against this background, there has been an increasing recognition that the conventional trickle-down approach alone to tackle development may be insufficient in realizing accelerated as well as equitable development. The realization for the need to find new solutions to the challenges facing societies has led social innovation to take a central stage supported by decision-makers at the highest levels worldwide. This is coupled with the wave of technological advancements and the enormous expansion of the possibilities frontier brought about the new technologies. At the center of the emergence of social innovation movements worldwide, and especially in Nepal's demographic architecture are the young and motivated new generation. They are technological savvy, ambitious, willing to think differently, and willing to take risk.

In this context, this case study documented the planning and execution of 'Innovathon,' a marathon of different innovation events pursuing technological innovation with the youth of Nepal. Two events under this project, 'Child Gameathon' and 'ChildApp' appathon were implemented to crowdsource homegrown innovative ideas to help solve issues related to children using technology.

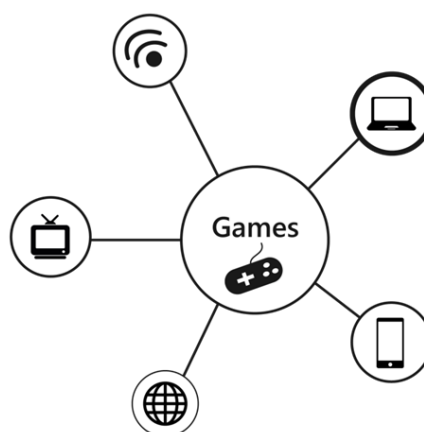
A joint initiative by UNICEF Nepal and Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal, Child Gameathon was an appathon to develop innovative and fun game applications that improve children's learning outcomes. Inspired on the idea "learning by playing," the event was held in Nepal April 17th-19th, 2015. 101 young developers, programmers, and designers came together as 29 teams and competed in the 54 hours game development race. The winning game applications were games to educate children on healthy foods, a motion-sensing game that enhances creativity, and a three-dimensional interactive game about girl trafficking.



Similarly, ChildApp Appathon was an application development race organized by UNICEF Nepal, Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal and Childreach Nepal on June 2014 to seek innovative solutions for problems around children in Nepal such as birth registration, child marriage, water sanitation, etc. Total 560 applicants registered and of those 102 young developers into 29 teams were selected to participate in the 54 hours application development race. Applications such as assessing real-time water quality, interactive visual learning, and SMS for birth registrations etc. were some of the winning solutions. Innovathon aspires to become an innovative model that pursues accelerated development of Nepal through technology led by youth.

Child Gameathon

Games play a vital role in the development of the children. It is not only good for child development but also helps in educating them about a subject or develop a particular skill in them or learn about healthy habits. Games can teach a child about what is good and what is bad in an interactive way.



UNICEF Nepal and Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal collaborated to make an effort that identifies and develops an innovative model to develop interactive and interesting games that can improve children’s learning outcomes. The first step towards this goal was organizing a Child Gameathon, an appathon where game designers, developers, strategists and project managers who want to make a difference through technology gathered and worked in an unnering, challenging and fast paced event setting to develop many innovative game solutions. Child Gameathon, an ambitious and transformative initiative, leverages on the capabilities of challenging development professionals to create an innovative game solution with technology.



In the Gameathon, game developers, designers, programmers and technical people team up and compete against each other in an energetic race of programming to develop innovative game applications. Prior to the grand competition, outreach efforts through college roadshows, technical boot camps, and ideathons were conducted to reach maximum target participants. Out of the over 275 registered applicants, 101 individuals were shortlisted to compete in the Gameathon. This group visited the field in Kavre district to have first-hand experience on the problems and struggles in rural villages. The shortlisted teams came together on April 17th-19th, 2015 to compete in the 54 hours to development race. Winning teams will receive three months of intensive training at MIC Nepal to help them finalize and scale up their game applications into sustainable business solutions. At the end of this three month period, the finalists will again compete against each other for cash prizes of NRs. 2,00,000, 1,00,000 and 50,000 as the first, second, and third prize respectively.

Problem Statements

Nine problem statements were proposed by each Program Section from UNICEF Nepal. These problems were the most pressing challenges to the development in Nepal related to children, and ones that may be improved through technology. In addition, an open statement was offered to the participants. If the participant thought that other problems than the ones proposed were more pressing issues, he or she can choose to tackle this problem at the Gameathon.



Outreach

1. Ideathon

Ideathon was a brainstorming session open to public to crowd source innovative game ideas that can be developed that will be beneficiary for children. The main purpose of this session was to create an idea with a basic proof of concept with a rough user interface designs. Titled 'Child Ideathon,' 2 sessions were provided on March 12th and March 23rd, 2015. Over 100 participants participated in the creative race of coming up with innovative ideas for the children of Nepal.

2. Boot Camps

Child Gameathon boot camps were organized for the interested participants to learn how to develop games in three to four days. Led by MIC, the free training sessions gave students the opportunity to gain knowledge of practical skills on game development built on Microsoft's platform. The skills learned at the camp were to be used to develop games in Gameathon. Domain experts from UNICEF also attended every camp to elaborate more on each problem statement. This was to give students more data on each problem, interact with them, as well as to help students to understand the problems at a deeper level. Total 5 boot camps were conducted with exposure to about 207 participants.



Students learn game developing skills / © Sonika Manandhar/2015

5
Camps

150+
participants

2. College Roadshows

Child Gameathon roadshow was a series of outreach events conducted at different IT colleges in the Kathmandu Valley. During February through March, total 15 roadshows were conducted attended by over 703 participants. The event not only promoted about the opportunity to participate in Child Gameathon, but also a time to educate students about the pressing issues regarding children.

15
Roadshows

703+
participants



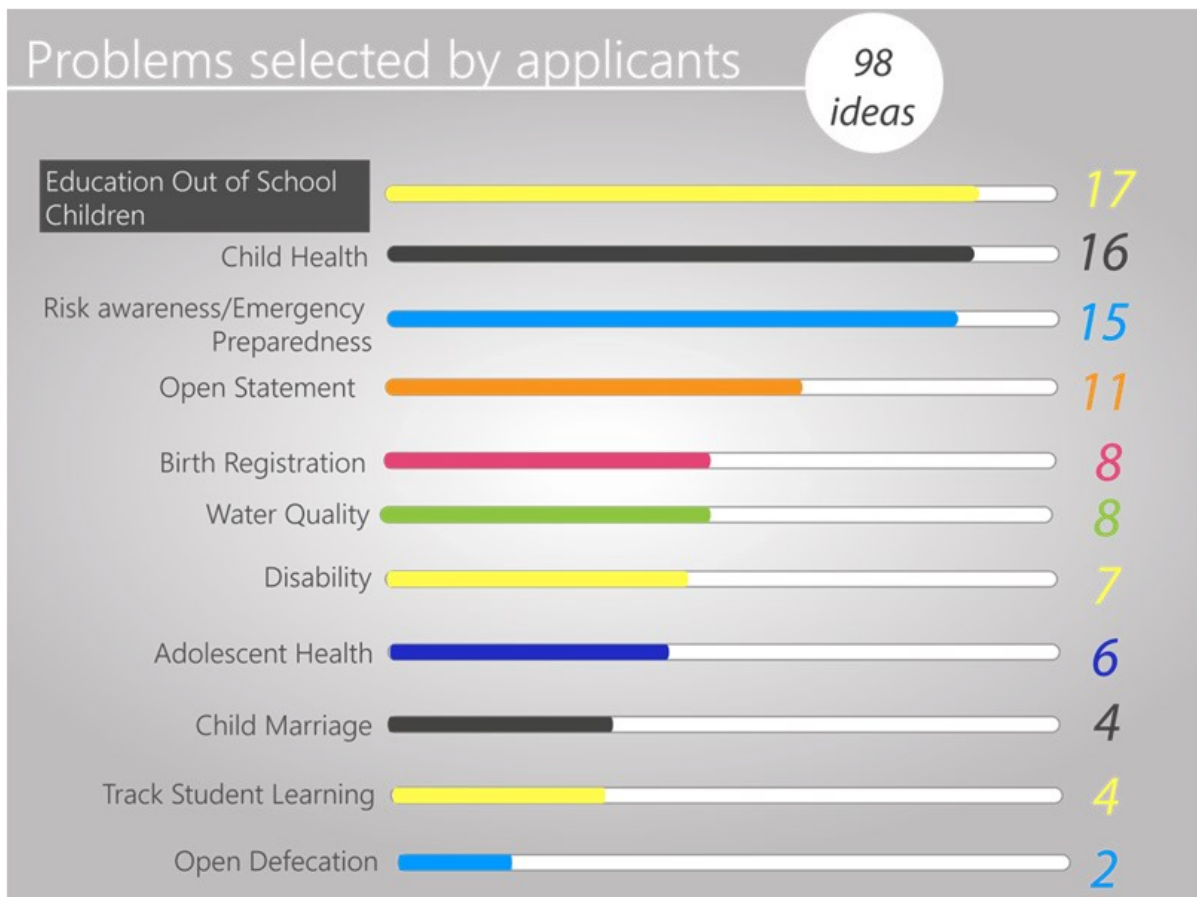
ChildApp Roadshow at Prime College/ © Sonika Manandhar/ 2015

Shortlisting

Over 275 individual applicants into 74 teams registered to compete in the Child Gameathon. Of this pool, 101 individuals in 29 teams from 20 different colleges were shortlisted. More than half of the participants were under age 21. The problem statements that received most attention by the applicants were child health, and education.

Open Statements some applicants identified as other problems to tackle:

- Canvas (free hand platform)
- Child labor, child nutrition, and social etiquette
- Cleanliness
- Sanitation, attention deficit, and environment protection
- Child labor and women health related to pregnancy
- Sanitation
- Sanitation and health
- Entertainment
- Recycling wastes
- Open world game



Shortlisted Participants learn issues first-hand

In order to give teams more exposure and in-depth understanding of the problems they wish to solve, all the shortlisted participants of Child Gameathon visited the local school and primary health care center in Panchkhal in Kavre district before the competition. The teams were expected to meet and talk with the residents, discover their problems, and think of how they find solutions to their problems through developing game applications.



Child Gameathon developers visit Kavre district/ © MIC Nepal/2015

Participants first visited the Shree Sarba Mangala Higher Secondary School. Meeting the Principal, Damodar Adhikari, students learned about the major problems prevailing in rural schools. Some problems he mentioned were students moving to cities resulting in unequal gender ratio, students missing classes for months to help parents' work, and also the communication gap between students and parents due to mobile phones. Next destination was Kavre Primary Health Center (PHC) to hear on health issues in the rural areas. Developers met with Narayan Krishna Shrestha, Senior AHM Officer. Some problems faced at PHC were lack of medical equipment, lack of types of drugs, and malaria. Most common problems among children were diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition and measles. Shrestha added that internet has helped in spreading awareness to another level in reaching the beneficiaries.

Grand Appathon

Child Gameathon was held April 17th to April 19th, 2015 as a 54 hours race at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort in Dhulikhel, Nepal. 101 developers came together as 29 teams and participated in the 2 nights, 3 days race to take the challenge in developing a working game prototype within the limited time.

Child Gameathon was inaugurated with a welcoming speech by MIC Nepal Country Director, Allen Bailochan Tuladhar. Allen emphasized that innovation is key to the development of Nepal and stated, "The important part is to solve the problems in the community through the help of these devices and the application and games developed for these communities," and added by leaving the remark "**bring it from lab to land.**" The challenge lies in not only developing a fun game, but a game that can actually be implemented in schools in rural villages. Following Allen, Ani Choying Drolma, National Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF



Child Gameathon opening ceremony / © MIC Nepal/ 2015

know to the people needed in Nepal. After blessing the ceremony with her song, final speaker, Tomoo Hozumi, Country Representative of UNICEF gave speech. He mentioned that "We in UNICEF believe that learning should be fun and not a dreading task. Games can be used in most effective ways. Youngsters trying to help the young child in solving their problems, this is how Nepal will develop. We at UNICEF are committed to help and support you hand-in-hand."

Once everyone was briefed on rules and schedule, the race started and the 29 teams split across the event venue and went straight to work. For two nights and three days, teams accelerated in developing their application prototypes with guidance from 30 domain and technical mentors from UNICEF, development sector, IT sector and private sector.



Teams working late in the night at Gameathon / © MIC Nepal/ 2015

MEET THE MENTORS



Little mentors
Avishi Pant (10) & Sarasi Khadka (7)

Little mentors Avishi and Sarasi went from table to table talking with the teams. When asked by a team on how to respond during an earthquake, Avishi answered they should hide under the table or bed. "If both aren't available, we should go outside of our house," - Avishi. When the two girls visited a team developing a game on first aid, the two defined first aid as the immediate attention given to the parents.

Technical mentor
Raju Maharjan, IT Manager at ICT System, UNICEF

Raju went from one team after another guiding and motivating them to complete their game applications. He advised that teams need to study the market first and that their solutions will be sought after if they make the right product. For example, if students understand their audience are from the rural areas and may be illiterate, then they can pinpoint the issue and meet the objectives of the event.



Technical mentor
Rajendra Man Banepali, UN Information Center

Once a computer science and engineering student himself, Rajendra sees technology should be taken side by side to support the needs of the society. On asking what encouraged him to be a mentor, he said the satisfaction he gets by supporting the youth through technology was the reason. Rajendra suggested the participants to focus on the social problems and use it for their game development.



Photo credit: Child Gameathon/©MIC Nepal/2015

A closing ceremony was organized, marking the end of the competition. It was the moment to celebrate the two and a half day's of hard work for all participants and to announce the winners of Child Gameathon. Three teams were awarded with first, second and third among the 29 teams.

Team Enigma of Softwarica College won first place. Their game, Healthy-I is a game easy to play and one that helps children learn about healthy food. "Since children are very attracted towards junk food instead of health food, we are trying to solve this problem with the help of our game," stated the team lader Bhuwan Acharya. Creatu Developers of National College of Engineering won second place. The team developed a motion-sensing game that enhances children's creativity. Finally, third place went to "Octavian" comprising of students form Kantipur Engineering College for the team's three-dimensional interactive game about girl trafficking. All three winners, along with four other top performed teams will receive three months of intensive training at MIC Nepal to help them final-ize and scale up their game applications into sustainable business solutions. At the end of this three month period, the seven teams will again compete against each other for cash prizes of NRs. 2,00,000, 1,00,000 and 50,000 as the first, second, and third prizes respectively.



First Place: Team 'Enigma' - Bhuwan Acharya, Amrit Sapkota, Basanta BK, Ankur Lamichhane/ © MIC Nepal/ 2015



Second Place: Team 'Creatu' - Raju Shrestha, Mohan Singh Thagunna, Rabi Shrestha, Nishesh Tamrakar/ © MIC Nepal/ 2015



Third Place: Team 'Octavian' - Sangnam Shrestha, Amir GC, Sunil Lama/ © MIC Nepal/2015



Group shot at the Closing Cermeony/ © MIC Nepal/ 2015

GIRLS MAKE DIFFERENCE WITH TECHNOLOGY



Interview with Team Kite Learners

Samikshya Maharjan
Sarmistha Das
Sushma Shrestha
Asmita Shrestha

Solution Name: Playmate

Each year there is an increasing number of girls participating in technology driven competitions like ChildApp Appathon and Child Gameathon. This positive change gives a statement that girls are capable to make a difference in the development of the country. Female participants have set a prime example that girls, like boys, are fully capable in changing the society by contributing their technical knowledge.

A team of four girls participated in this Gameathon. They put their minds and passions together to help solve issues in child health. Samikshya Maharjan, the team leader of "Kite Learners," shared her experience when forming her team.

"When we heard about Gameathon we got really excited and thought to participate. As everyone of us was good in some or other fields, we decided to form a team. We are proud to be the only team with all girl participants."

Team 'Octavian' reaches World Finals of Microsoft's Imagine Cup 2015

Team Octavian has been selected as one of the nine team who will be competing in the World finals of Imagine Cup 2015 for Games Category. This is the first time that Nepal has participated in the Games category and the second time in all. Octavian started their journey for this game from Child Gameathon, an Appathon organized by UNICEF in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal. There they were the second runners up team. The team continued working on the game and then participated for Imagine Cup National Finals where they won the national finals.

About the Game

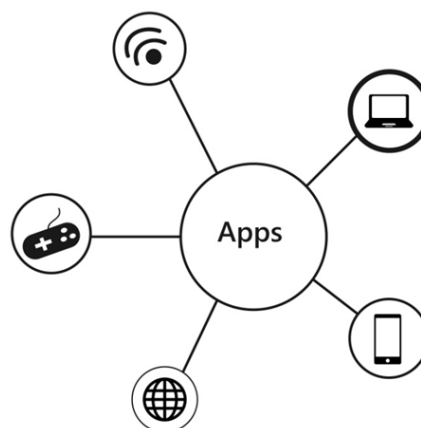
DYD is 3 Dimensional graphical game which focuses on stopping the poaching of animals. The game can be played with Kinect or even without it. Until and unless the player kills all the poachers, she cannot progress to next level. To make the game more interesting, there will be lots of weapons and vehicles unlock.



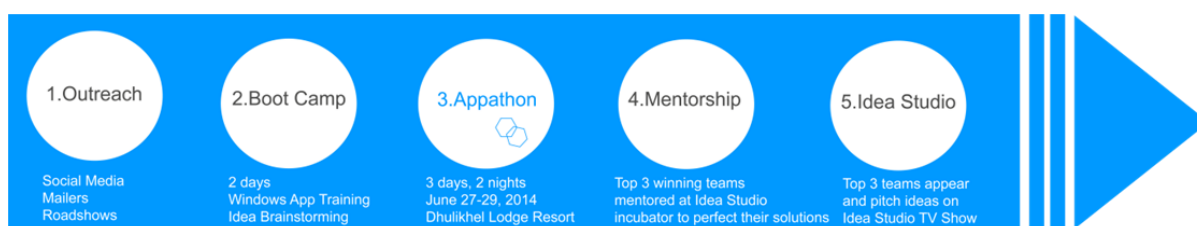
Team Members: Amir GC, Sunil Lama and Sangnam Shrestha

ChildApp

UNICEF Nepal Country Office, Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal, and Childreach Nepal collaborated in a partnership to identify the common issues related to children and help solve these issues through technology in the form of an appathon.



ChildApp was designed as a thematic appathon. Themes were based on the selected problem statements in various sectors. Developers, designers, programmers and technical people team up and compete against each other in an energetic race of programming to develop innovative applications that provides possible low cost and scalable technology. The Appathon targeted for participants to join in a 54 hours race to develop their solutions to develop best solution for children. ChildApp was planned to be residential, 3 days and 2 nights. In the Award Ceremony, the first place winner team was to receive Nrs. 100,000 second place winner team NRs. 50,000 and the third place winner team NRs.10,000 as a reward for developing the best solutions. The best solution will be selected by the panel of judges on the basis of pitching and demos of the solution/prototypes that each team developed at ChildApp.



Problem Statements

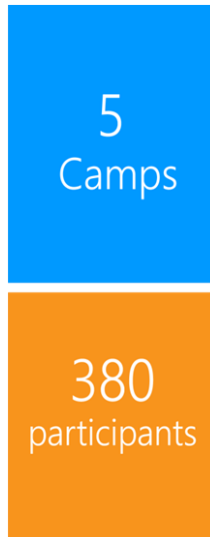
Each UNICEF Program Section was encouraged to identify and prepare a problem statement for ChildApp; a problem that is a bottleneck to the development in Nepal related to children, and one that can be enhanced with technology. 10 problem statements were submitted by the Program Sections. In addition, an open statement was offered to the participants where applicants can propose other problems they see as more critical to Nepal.



Outreach

1. Boot Camps

Interested participants of ChildApp had the option to participate in free technical boot camps hosted at Microsoft Innovation Center. Boot Camp was a three day session to learn various programming skills, as well as to be further briefed on the ChildApp problems by UNICEF domain experts. It was great opportunity for UNICEF colleagues to interact with the students, receive and answer to questions from the audience on the problem statements proposed for ChildApp. 380 applicants who submitted applications for ChildApp were trained in the boot camp. Most were engineering students in college.



ChildApp bootcamp, during questions and answers session/ © Sonika Manandhar/

2. College Roadshows

ChildApp roadshows were held in colleges mainly in Kathmandu from May 1st until June 15th, 2014. Presentations were given on the nature of ChildApp, competition flow, and the proposed problem statements

3. Stakeholder Meetings

Partners and organizations working on issues related to children were invited to UNICEF office. A presentation was given to this group on the motives of ChildApp, as well as to seek opportunities on how the stakeholders can further engage technology in solving the existing issues around children in Nepal. Organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision, World Education, SathSath, Women Lead Nepal Board, Yuwa, Global Action Nepal/National Campaign on Education for All, CWIN, and Terres des Homes attended the meeting.

4. Tech Mela 2014

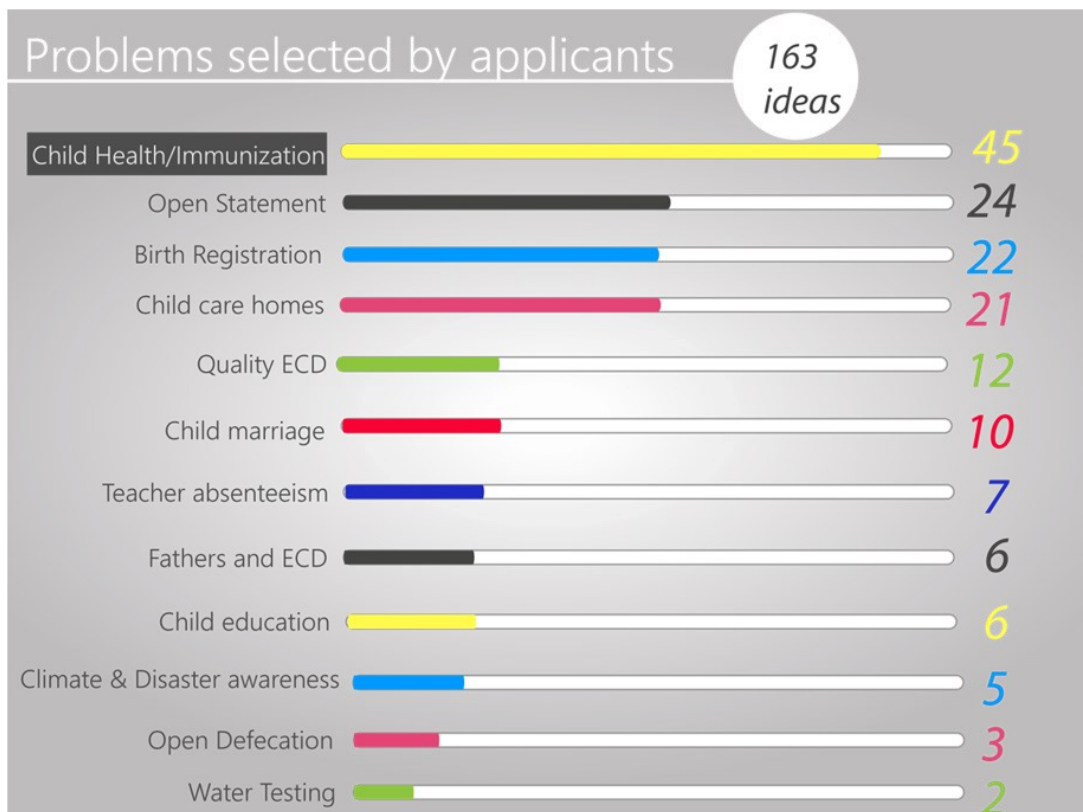
Tech Mela 2014 was an event organized by MIC to create a platform where different Information Technology (IT) communities can network, as well as discuss on the future and high-end technologies of Microsoft and beyond. Amjad Rabi, Chief of Social Policy & Economic Analysis at UNICEF Nepal Office was invited to speak in the panel discussion on the theme, “Role, challenges, and issues of Information Technology in non-IT sectors.” While explaining the role of IT in UNICEF, it was an appropriate timing to introduce ChildApp, where technology can play pivotal role in solving the development issues around children in Nepal. ChildApp was also promoted through TV and newspaper interviews through this event.

Shortlisting

Total 560 applicants submitted applications to participate in ChildApp. Of the 560 applications, 380 were trained in the boot camps to be more equipped with technical skills, as well as to learn more about the problem statements. Of this pool, 102 young developers, programmers and designers were shortlisted to attend the 54 hours Appathon race, who then came together as 29 teams.

Open Statements some applicants identified as problems to tackle:

- Street children
- Social development of autistic children
- Girl trafficking
- Marriage registration for love marriage problems (family pressure or runaway marriage)
- Emotional value
- Food problem in orphanages for orphans
- Donation to child care
- Information on child abuse
- Addressing different problems related to child protection such as: child labor, child abuse, child exploitation, etc. by providing transparency to larger mass and concerned authorities
- Child sexual abuse
- Education for disabled children
- Autonomous, distant as well as interactive learning
- Malnutrition
- First aid
- Encouraging children to be aware of environment and sanitation
- Infant mortality
- Finding foster homes and parents
- Child security from kidnapers
- Child sponsorship



Grand Appathon

ChildApp was held June 27th to June 29th, 2014 as a 54 hours race at Dhulikhel Lodge Resort in Dhulikhel, Nepal. 29 teams participated in the 3 day race and took the challenge to develop a working prototype during the limited time.

Inaugurating the meaningful event, Chief Guest, Hanaa Singer, former Representative of UNICEF, enlightened everyone with her inspiring and motivation speech on “Yes, we can!” Audience roared at her powerful yet encouraging statement emphasizing that the participants are the future of Nepal. An MoU signing took place between UNICEF Nepal and Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal. The two parties agreed to develop their collaboration in the areas of creating a platform for IT population to share and develop technology solutions for the social challenges related to children in Nepal; contribution of technology resources in the Innovation Incubator for the Idea Studio to foster innovation and growth; mentorship of social innovators in areas related to information and technology; and the promotion of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among young people.

Once teams were invigorated with the official start of the competition, the 29 teams split across the event venue and worked day and night with the guidance from about mentors in developing their applications to present at the final pitch. About 30 mentors from UNICEF, Childreach Nepal, Women Lead Nepal, as well as private sectors volunteered to dedicate their time to mentor the teams.



ChildApp Appathon atmosphere / © KPark/ 2014



ChildApp Appathon atmosphere / © KPark/ 2014

ChildApp
Mentors from UNICEF

Miku Watanabe, ADAP

Hyung Joon Kim, C4D/Health

Tomoo Okubo, Social Policy

Majja Liakka, Child Protection

Raju Maharjan, IT

Mentors interacting with teams / © KPark/ 2014

Marking the end of the two night and three days program, a closing ceremony took place to congratulate everyone's hard efforts. The top five finalists, including the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were announced. 1st place winner received NRs. 100,000, 2nd place NRs. 50,000, and 3rd place NRs. 10,000. All top finalists were awarded with tickets to go straight to the Idea Studio incubation program and the opportunity to pitch in TV show, without going through additional shortlisting process.



First Place: Team 'Engineering ADDA' (Milan Karki, Darpan Pudasaini, of Nepal Engineering College / © Tomoo Okubo/ 2014



Second Place: Team 'Etechneers' (Bibek Sharma Chapagain, Samira Sharma, Sanjita Sharma and Bikram Awale of National College of Engineering) / © Tomoo Okubo/ 2014



Third Place: Team 'Rising Coders' (Abhishek Paudel, Arun Kumar Agrawal, Manish Chandra and Nabin Bhattarai of Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk) / © Tomoo Okubo/ 2014

Meeting the UNICEF Team

Meeting objectives were to give teams another opportunity to present their applications to the domain experts and receive valuable insights and feedback, and incorporate them when perfecting their applications. In addition, it was to explore whether the creative applications developed by the young generation can be actually placed as sustainable solutions. If sections should be further interested in the possibilities to scale the applications, they were welcomed to collaborate with the teams and integrate them into their existing programs.

Several program sections were interested in taking this further step. WASH colleagues invited two teams (1st place winner on water testing, and another team who developed application to track and monitor open defecation) to present their applications at meeting with stakeholders. Social Policy & Economic Analysis section hired one of the winning teams to rollout RapidPro software at its sponsored SSMK radio program. Finalists also met with Dr. Sharad Sapra, Principal Adviser and Director of the UNICEF Global Innovation center and presented their innovative ideas.

In addition, the winning team 'Engineering Adda,' who developed the application for real-time water testing, met with the United States Embassy and explained their initiatives and product.

Apps Launched on Windows Store

Teams were encouraged to take their prototypes further and develop into full working applications and launch on Microsoft's Windows Store. Some teams that finalized in taking the further step were the following.

Team: Etechners (2nd place winner)

Application Name: Interactive Virtual Classroom (IVC)

Area: Education

Description: Interactive Virtual Classroom is an application that creates a virtual classroom through which children can learn, interact and build up their personality, confidence and creativity.

The traditional method of teaching is not sufficient for the intellectual development of today's children. Bringing active participation in the classroom is growing to be more difficult. This is because knowledge through pencils and paper does not seem to motivate children. Although technology is advancing beyond our imagination these days, it is not effectively being used for educational purpose. Interactive Virtual Classroom (IVC) tries to focus on such problems seen in today's education system and develop modern, interactive learning methods. Through this app, learning is brought to life with active engagements and experiences for students. IVC is primarily focused on exploiting the features of Game Based Learning (GBL). The application helps children to learn with physical involvement using Microsoft's Kinect which makes learning fun and exciting. Using GBL, students will get a positive experience about learning, memorizing concepts, reinforcing and consolidating knowledge in a friendly environment and understanding the consequences of their choices. This kind of learning corresponds to "doing", "reflecting", "understanding" and "applying" with the help of interactive games.

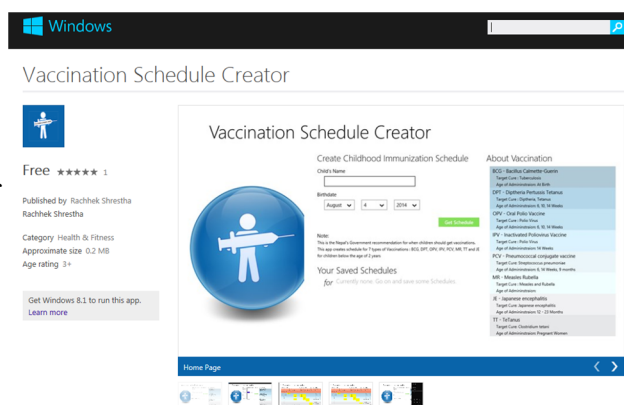


Team: Arion

Application Name: Vaccination Schedule Creator

Area: Health

Description: Application creates vaccination schedule for a newborn baby or children under age 2. users are able to find brief introduction to the different types of vaccines and their effects. The application automatically generates which days of the year the child needs to get vaccine.




Team: Disaster Saver

Application Name: Disaster Saver

Area: Disaster Recovery

Description: Application to raise awareness for children and educate them on the effects and actions to take during natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides. It is equipped with game and video tutorials easily showing and teaching how to be safe during natural hazards.



The screenshot shows the Windows Store page for the 'Disaster Saver' application. At the top, the Windows logo and 'Windows' text are visible. The application title 'Disaster Saver' is prominently displayed. Below the title, there is a red icon with a white figure. The price is listed as 'Free' with a 1-star rating. The publisher information includes 'Published by Ravi Mandal' and 'Copyright © 2014, Ravi Mandal'. The category is 'Education', the size is '1.7 MB', and the age rating is '7+'. A note indicates that Windows 8.1 is required to run the app, with a 'Learn more' link. The main content area features a large image of a volcanic eruption and a smaller image of a flooded area. Text on the page describes the application's purpose: to educate children on natural disasters and provide safety instructions. It also includes a section titled 'Situation of Disasters in Nepal' which states that Nepal ranks 11th in terms of risk from earthquakes and 30th in terms of flood risks. A video player is visible at the bottom right of the main content area.

Latest Appathons

Wearables Appathon

UNICEF furthered its innovation program in series and scale. A third Appathon was organized with Microsoft Innovation Center of Nepal focused on developing wearable technological solutions. From July 10th to July 12th, 2015, 103 developers, programmers, designers and program managers came together for a two-day race to develop wearable technological solutions in areas like health, education, HIV/AIDS, social inclusion and among others. The solutions from winning teams were the following: Team naviTech (first place) developed a solution using touch sensor on shoes. Once the sensor is installed, it will then be connected to an application on a mobile phone where the user can track all foot-related activities. The technology pulls data from Google, and allegedly creates a sensation while the user takes turns when walking, riding or trekking. Team TechManiac (second place) developed an application that creates energy. It is a technology where it stores energy produced by our legs while running or walking onto a rechargeable battery for further use. Lastly, team EDGE (third place) built a solution called “smart gloves” for physically challenged individuals. When these gloves are worn by individuals, the gloves will display and send messages that the user wants to communicate to the nearby caretakers, nurses and related people.



Teams developing prototypes/ ©MICNepal/2015



Amjad Rabi, Chief of SPEA coaching teams during mentor sessions ©MICNepal/2015

Assistive Appathon

The Appathon on assistive technologies was a collaborative initiative between UNICEF, Google and Microsoft Innovation Center of Nepal. During the Assistive Appathon, developers, program designers, strategists and program managers who want to make a difference for persons with disability have gathered to develop innovative solutions that could assist them to overcome their limitations.



The first place went to Team Termor with their “Move with Head” application. The solution allows persons with disability to have control over a computer mouse cursor. The technology tracks their head movements and eye signals to enable clicking features which allows the individuals to use computer more easily. Team Pychowk won second place with their ‘Travel Buddy’ application. The application enables users to gain information access of the public transportation vehicles in their city. Further, with the cooperation of drivers, the users can be picked—up from a public transportation station with few clicks, or via voice commands on their mobile phones. Third place went to Team See_Sharp with their “Register Me” application. This application registers and stores personal information like name, age, gender, address, etc. as well as any medical information such as blood type, disability information and other necessary inputs. These information will then be cross-checked with hospitals, care centers and NGOs in order to provide accurate data, and be made accessible to the public through website or mobile application. The purpose behind this application is to provide information of the individuals to any concerned parties, potential donors and government to help persons with disabilities for support and even employment based on their qualifications.



Teams developing prototypes/ ©MICNepal/2015



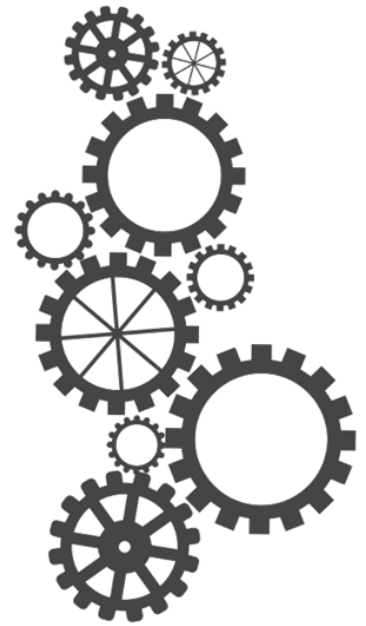
Winning teams with UNICEF Social Policy ©MICNepal/2015



03 | Talk Innovation

Series of talk events on innovation motivated Nepal and its youth to find new solutions to the existing societal problems

'Talk Innovation' was series of inspirational *talk events on innovation by renowned influencers from worldwide.*



'Talk Innovation' was a series of inspirational talk events by distinguished influencers in their respective fields, to share knowledge on innovation and its significant role in development. The heart behind this initiative was found on the goal to inspire and motivate the country and its youths that solutions to their community's problems are found within themselves and not from the outside. The power of innovation has vast potentials to unlock new social and economic opportunities and lead to sustainable development. UNICEF Nepal is committed to supporting and working towards meeting the challenges of today and shaping a better future for Nepal.

Talk 1.

I have an Idea | *Innovating to ignite social change and unlock potentials*

In the morning of July 13th, 2014, over 2,000 young people were standing in line for hours at Nepal Academy Hall.

Despite the scorching sun, the crowd gathered to be the recipients of the first-come first served entry passes for I have an Idea event. I Have an Idea, under the Idea Studio innovation initiative, was an opportunity to bolster the message of Idea Studio: ignite social change and unlock young Nepalese potentials through social innovation. The event was intended to build momentum for the Idea Studio competition. Initiated by UNICEF Nepal Country Office, the Idea Studio was a collaborative work with the central pillars of the society-government, academia, business houses, media, and development actors-to create a platform for Nepalese potential innovators to turn promising ideas into practical solutions to the social issues faced in local communities. Conceptualized as a nationwide competition for all Nepalese, Idea Studio aimed to crowd source home grown innovative ideas with social cause that can be the next solutions to today's problems.



I have an Idea event atmosphere / © BSangat/ 2014

I have an Idea focused on inviting the next generation of leaders in Nepal, mostly college students, and motivate this group that future of Nepal lies in their hands by submitting ideas that can create social impact. The event was divided into a four-part speaker session. Four respected national celebrities (UNICEF National Ambassador and Nepal’s singing nun-Ani Choying Drolma, National Cricket Team Captain-Paras Khadka, Actress-Nisha Adhikari and CEO of Megabank-Anil Keshary Shah, talked about their personal stories, reflecting on how their one promising idea turned them into who they are now. Speakers also engaged with the audience during questions and answers session, challenging and inspiring them to turn their creative ideas into action.



Ani Choying Drolma, UNICEF Nepal National Ambassador/
© BSangat/ 2014



Anil Shah, CEO of Megabank / © BSangat/ 2014



Nisha Adhikari, Actress / © BSangat/ 2014



Paras Khadka, Captain of Nepal National Cricket Team / © BSangat/ 2014

Talk 2.

Dr. Hans Rosling | *Innovation for better investing on children*

90 per cent of world's data was generated over the last two years.

Data visionary, global health expert, and innovative presenter, Hans Rosling was invited by UNICEF to share his insights on Nepal's present situation on development. Rosling is known for his stunning presentations on the observations of the world's broad social and economic trends, particularly tracking global health and poverty. Most famously known for his expertise in transforming dull statistics into illustrative and animated method, Rosling gave an assessment on Nepal's development progress. Although impressed by achievements made on child mortality and primary school enrolment rates, he predicted the country is posed for change, but more needed to speed development.



Hans Rosling presentation in Nepal, 'Investing for Children'@UNICEF Nepal/2014/Panday

"Never before in the history of the world has any country made so much social progress with so little money." - Hans Rosling

Over 500 audience of policymakers in government, diplomats and heads of development agencies, CEOs of the country's largest financial institutions, and students and academics filled the large hall for Rosling's presentation on "Investing for Children."



Audience attentively listens to Hans Rosling presentation on 'Investing for Children' / ©UNICEF Nepal/2014/Panday



Hans Rosling presenting on 'Investing for Children' in Nepal/ ©UNICEF Nepal/2014/Panday

HANS ROSLING

Hans Rosling is a professor of International Health at Karolinska Institutet, the medical university in Stockholm, Sweden. His 20 years of research on global health concerned the character of links between economy and health in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Rosling has been an advisor to WHO and UNICEF, co-founded *Medecines sans Frontier* in Sweden, and published a textbook on Global Health. He has also co-founded Gapminder Foundation, which promotes a fact based global trend by by converting statistics into animated graphics through its very own Trendalyzer software that Google acquired in 2007. With this, Rosling gave innumerable lectures on the past and contemporary economic, social and environmental changes in the world.

"Rosling believes that making information more accessible has the potential to change the quality of the information itself." - Business Week Online

Rosling called on the National Planning Commission and development agencies including UNICEF, to develop innovative income generating programs for women, and also invest more in creating jobs that can provide sustainable livelihoods. All in all, by doing so will be investing in children, the next generation of leaders in Nepal.

When Rosling was not on stage, he travelled Nepal with his wife, Agneta. This was their second trip to the country since their last visit in 1972. They spent time with pre-school children at an Early Childhood Development Center at the Pragati Primary School, and also visited a birthing center in Chatrebajh VDC in Kavre District to meet with community health workers and women's paralegal committees.

Talk 3.

Professor Jonathan Chang | *Innovation to Prosperity*

Innovation paired with entrepreneurship is the key to prosperity.

UNICEF in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC) Nepal organized the 'Innovation for Prosperity' talk event with Professor Jonathan Chang on March 19th, 2015 at Hotel Shanker. The 'Innovation to Prosperity' talk event emphasized on how Nepal can keep talented youth in the country: investing in innovation and entrepreneurship. According to the Nepal Foreign Employment Promotion board, around 1,800 employable youth leave the country everyday for job opportunities abroad. It is about time Nepal uses its hidden resources and create opportunities in house. For this purpose, Professor Jonathan Chang was invited to share his expertise and knowledge on entrepreneurship and how investing in innovation is the key to prosperity. 135 participants attended the three hours conference among which were from the public sector (Ministry of Education, Department of IT, Department of Water Supply, Constitutional Assembly Members, National Planning Commission, etc.), academics, administrators from different IT background, business universities and colleges, social initiators working on entrepreneurship, development sector including INGOs, start-ups, pre-accelerators, etc.

In his keynote address, Jonathan pointed out the three lessons learned in his entrepreneurial career. First was "separating serious from the curious." Investing in the right partnership is critical for a company to be successful. It can make or break the company so having the right people on board is essential. Second point was to "hire slow and fire fast." It's to keep the like-minded people close to you and need to let go of those who does not share the same vision. Last lesson he shared was to "dream the impossible before impossibility becomes a nightmare."

Following his speech, the conference continued with a panel discussion. Panelists included Jonathan Chang, Amjad Rabi, Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis at UNICEF, Dr. Chandra Mani Adhikari from National Planning Commission, Radhesh Panta, Executive Director at Nepal Investment Board, and Birendra Mishra, Director General of Department of IT at Ministry of Science and Technology.



Event atmosphere at 'Innovation to Prosperity' conference/©MICNepal/2015

The discussion focused on how innovation can play a distinguished role in developing and solving the current issues Nepal is faced with today, and what could be the immediate next steps. One of the questions raised was 'what drives innovation?' To this question, Jonathan answered it is the comfort of being okay to fail. Many times, it is the fear that stops us from going further. Pushing the boundaries and understanding that not every idea will be successful and being content with it is the key. On the point "dream the impossible, before impossibility becomes a nightmare," panels agreed that this can be related to the policies and constitutions in Nepal which sometimes can be roadblocks in realizing innovation in reality. However, as one panel mentioned, it is important to be focused on where you want to be and this will help overcome all hurdles.



Jonathan Chang on 'Innovation to Prosperity' in Nepal/ © MIC Nepal /2015

JONATHAN CHANG

Jonathan Chang, Assistant Professor and Director of Lien Center for Social Innovation at Singapore Management University, is also a social entrepreneur having founded and co-founded 4 technology startups across multiple industries. Prior to relocating Singapore from the United States, Jonathan co-founded a social enterprise distributing healthy organic and non-GMO foods to corporations and schools. He was also in Rwanda through a fellowship from Columbia's Earth Institute, teaching social entrepreneurship and conducting research on whether entrepreneurship can be used as a tool for social change.

His published works also studies on the field of entrepreneurship and innovation: a case study on entrepreneurship in rural India for Stanford Graduate School of Business, and book on government and innovation with Esko Aho, the former Prime Minister of Finland.

Jonathan earned his degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Talk 4.

Dr. Sharad Sapra & Tanya Accone | *Fostering Innovation to Prosperity*



Innovation is **willing to take risk** and find something which others have not found."

-Dr. Sharad Sapra, Director of Global Innovation Center, UNICEF

On April 1, 2015, 115 participants were seated waiting to hear the talk on 'Fostering Innovation to Prosperity,' a conference organized by UNICEF Nepal in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC) Nepal. The two parties recognized the vital role of entrepreneurs in transforming the society and have been continuously working together to unlock the potentials of the youth. This event aimed to bring stakeholders from different industry sectors together to discuss on how to build a supportive environment for the enormous number of potentials in Nepal.

After a welcome speech by Allen Bailochan Tuladhar, Regional Director of Microsoft and Country Director of MIC Nepal, a keynote address followed by Dr. Sharad Sapra, the Director of UNICEF Global Innovation Center, on how innovation is key in helping a country prosper. The audience comprised of policymakers, administrators for academic alliances, financial institutions, stakeholders working on entrepreneurship and start-ups were deeply inspired. Sapra moved the audience



Dr. Sharad Sapra keynote address at 'Fostering Innovation to Prosperity' conference/ @MIC Nepal/2015



Event atmosphere at 'Fostering Innovation to Prosperity'©MICNepal/2015

by emphasizing innovation is not a job, or a post, or a section at your office- it's an attitude and a mindset that one must have.

Following Dr. Sharad's presentation, a panel discussion was organized. Panelists included Dr. Sharad Sapra, Director of Global Innovation Center/UNICEF, Tanya Accone, Senior Adviser on Innovation/UNICEF, Amjad Rabi, Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis/UNICEF, and Bal Joshi, Founder of Thamel.com. The main discussion was on how innovation can help in developing and solving the current issues to create a prosperous country,

and what is the immediate step.

The audience was particularly interested in the stages from transforming an idea into innovation, as well as the difficult phase in carrying it out where most people give-up. Other questions raised were the three things one should avoid in pursuing innovation and whether education is parallel with innovation. Dr. Sharad Sapra and Tanya Accone explained the role of education in innovation and that innovation can be enhanced due to education. The inspirational and motivational event ended with a vote of thanks by Tomoo Hozumi, Representative of UNICEF Nepal.



Dr. Sharad Sapra on 'Fostering Innovation to Prosperity' in Nepal/ © MIC Nepal /2015

SHARAD SAPRA

Dr. Sharad Sapra is the inaugural Director of UNICEF's Global Innovation Center. Dr. Sapra believes the role of an innovation team is to bring people (rather than problems) together. His goal for innovation is that each innovation labs around the world can hone in one and deploy the best solutions to localized challenges. His aim is to find solutions the stumbling blocks in delivering services, reducing inequities and achieving results for children. When these solutions are proven to be successful, they can be adopted and adapted by others and scaled to address the most pressing challenges around the world.

Dr. Sapra began his career with UNICEF India Office in 1983 after completing his degree in Medicine and Surgery and his post-graduate degree in Preventive and Social Medicine from Jiwaji University in India. After his post in India, Dr. Sapra served in various positions in UNICEF across the globe including posts in Maldives, New York, Iran, Kenya, Afghanistan and Uganda.



Tanya Accone, Senior Adviser on Innovation, UNICEF

TANYA ACCONE

Tanya Accone is the Senior Adviser on Innovation at UNICEF. Accone established and led UNICEF's global human capital futures and analytics portfolio in her role as Chief of Strategic Planning and Operations. During her career, she has nurtured various innovation and technology for development initiatives, spearheaded the development of Internet businesses and content portals throughout the African continent.

Her career focused on helping international public and private sector organizations understand how to amplify their impact through the convergence of innovation, communication and technology.

Accone has a Journalism degree from Rhodes University and completed her Master's Degree in Public Communication at American University.

Talk 5.

NASA-JPL/Image Cat | *Innovation in Disaster Response*

Remote-sensing technology and map data products give rapid disaster assessment.

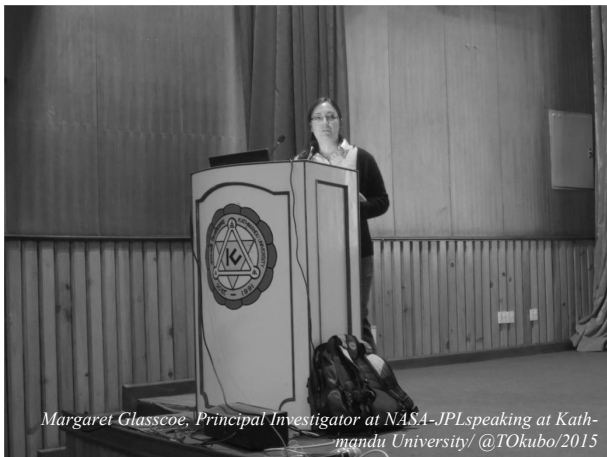
Since 1958, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) launched Earth's first satellite and have been using aircraft to explore the land, sea, atmosphere, and more. NASA JPL uses cutting edge technology to make moderate to high resolution observations of global climate change, atmospheric phenomenon and land surface change. Their unique tools provide framework and products to support with disaster response and decision-making.

A fact-finding mission by NASA and ImageCat, two globally known leading organizations, was organized from November 3rd to 7th, 2014 in partnership with UNICEF Nepal Country Office. During this mission, Principal Investigators from each organization interacted with key stakeholders in the field of disaster risk assessment and analysis, including government agencies, donors and research organizations to build partnership for future collaboration in identifying the research gaps related to risk assessment and analysis.



Event atmosphere at Kathmandu University/ ©TOKUBO/2015

During their stay in Nepal, the mission team visited Kathmandu University to give a talk to the faculty and students at the School of Engineering and Geomatics. Principal Investigators Margaret Glasscoe with NASA-JPL and Shubharoop Ghosh with ImageCat talked about the increasing opportunity for research in this area enabled by the open data and analytic models. Glasscoe introduced the various ways JPL supports with disaster assessment. With JPL's map data products and remote-



Margaret Glasscoe, Principal Investigator at NASA-JPL speaking at Kathmandu University/ @TOKUBO/2015

sensing technology, data can be rapidly assessed and delivered through deformation maps which are observed by GPS, radar, thermal, etc. This cutting edge technology gives decision support and an end-to-end data system to rapidly deliver processed deformation maps and actionable information products in the event of an earthquake and other natural disasters. Students and young researchers were inspired and challenged to learn how the latest technologies can overcome existing difficulties. The lecture was broadcasted on national television through News 24 program.



04 | Dalit Life through the Lens

Photo Story as told by Dalit Children

Young photographers from *Dalit community* captured their everyday life through simple camera lens

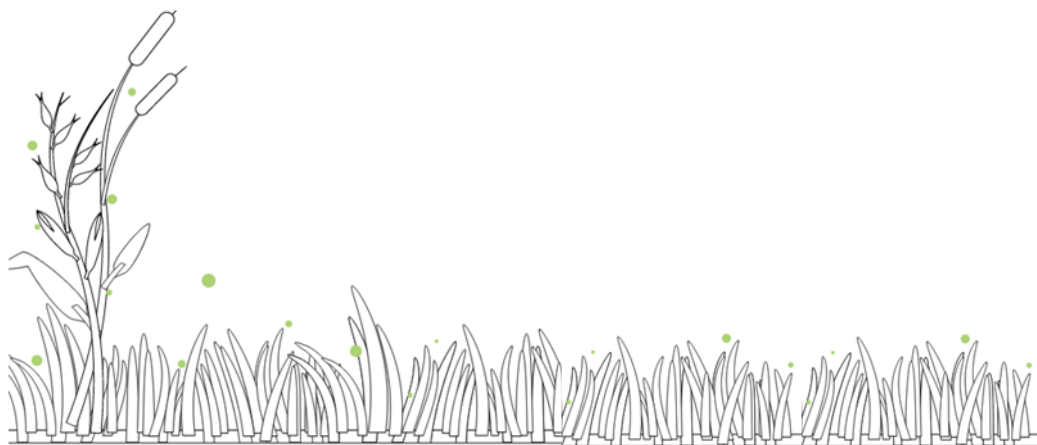


Children-initiated photography and visual methods are effective means of capturing children's experience in their everyday life and their interaction with their immediate environments. Children's eye on earth can be quite different compared to adults' perspective on the same subject. UNICEF Nepal and Dalit Welfare Association (DWA) partnered to conduct participatory photography training to children from Nepal's Dalit community and ask them to depict the communities they live in the way they see it through camera lens. The Dalit community is the lowest of the caste groups in Nepal who live as the most disadvantaged community compelled to be placed at the bottom of the social hierarchical structure for centuries. According to World Bank, Dalit communities have the lowest human development rankings in the country, where almost half of the group live below the poverty line.

Participation from children was encouraged from the Dalit communities at two locations, Theimandu, Baitadi district and Janakpur, Dhanusha district. Total 30 participants, 15 participants from each district, took part in this project. They attended in a three day orientation on basic photography taking techniques and camera handling. Special sessions were held on taking portraits, human and animal subjects as compared to natural scenes and architectural objects. The orientation program also covered sessions on more philosophical topics like how photography can impact human emotions and thoughts. By the end of the orientation, participants gained good understanding to photography as an effective medium for delivering message and expressing feelings and thoughts. They also learned that good photography skills allowed the photographer to share with others social reality and geographic objects the way they see them.

Following the orientation, each participant received a Samsung point-and-shoot camera and had 30 days in their community to take pictures. They were instructed to submit their 50 best pictures, but ended up in receiving more than 10,000 photos. The photos taken provided a 360 degree depiction of way of life in these communities. Photos were arranged in meaningful categories including poverty, child marriage, nutrition, child labor, education, health, hygiene and sanitation. UNICEF invited a panel of judges from various background representing photographers, youth and other professions, who dedicated their time shortlisting the best photos to the ones exhibited here.

This initiative brought insights of children and adolescents, and will be used as advocacy tools feeding into the planning process at local and central levels.



The 17 photos exhibited were taken by the children from Dalit background in the communities of Baitadi and Dhanusha districts. More than 10,000 photos were received, providing a 360-degree depiction of way of life in these communities.







"Art is the child of nature in whom we trace
the features of the mothers face."

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow







"When words become unclear, I shall focus with
photographs. When images become inadequate,
I shall be content with silence"

-Ansel Adams









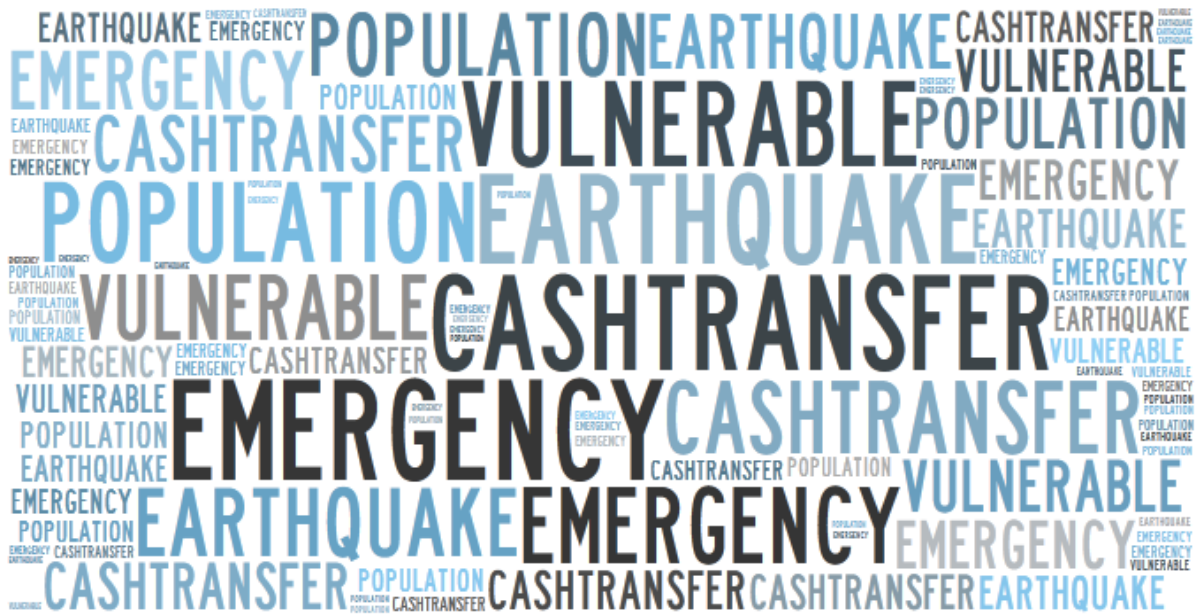
“You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.”
-Ansel Adams



© UNICEF Nepal/ 2014/ JLawad

Innovation in Emergency

- 01 Cash Transfers for Earthquake-affected Population
- 02 Actionable Data for Efficient Response
- 03 Active Citizenship and Citizen Reporting
- 04 Autism application in light of emergency



01 | Cash Transfers for Earthquake-affected Population

Vulnerable people in 19 severely affected districts received emergency top-up to regular social assistance grants.

Emergency top-up payment has been added to the regular cash grants to be received by about 400,000 vulnerable individuals across 19 worst earthquake-affected districts.



Three months after the great earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May, children continue to face multiple risks as their families have been pushed deeper into poverty and they remain in need of aid. UNICEF is providing technical and financial assistance to the Government of Nepal to deliver emergency cash transfers through established social assistance programs. The specific objective of the program is that 400,000 vulnerable individuals and their households in earthquake-affected districts are better able to meet basic needs and to increase their resilience to negative outcomes.

An emergency top-up payment of NRs. 3,000 (USD \$30) has been added to the regular cash transfers to be received by an estimated 400,000 vulnerable individuals including Dalit children under age five, people with disabilities, widows, senior citizens and single women above 60. Originally intended to cover the 11 most affected districts by the earthquake, the Cabinet decided to expand the program to cover 19 earthquake-affected districts, in line with the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). In addition, cash transfer recipients will receive information booklets designed to help households cope with the impacts of the earthquake and enhance the well-being of children.

An agreement was signed July 15th, 2015 between the Representative of UNICEF Nepal Country Office and the Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance for a \$15 million worth of direct cash transfers in 19 districts most affected by the earthquakes. The first cash distribution started on July 9th in Sindhupalchowk District, with more districts underway.



Maiya Ramtel belongs to the socially marginalized *Dalit* community, considered to be at the bottom of the 100 Nepali castes. In the past Ramtel had to walk down the hill from her home for about 30 minutes to the village ward office to receive the money provided under the Government's Social Allowance grant for *Dalit* children. But today the local social mobiliser came to her village and handed the money out. Today was also different for Ramtel because she received a little more than her usual NPR 800. "The fact that I didn't have to walk down the steep hill was already a blessing, when I heard that I was going to get an extra NPR 3,000 as a top up to the Child Grant, I was relieved."

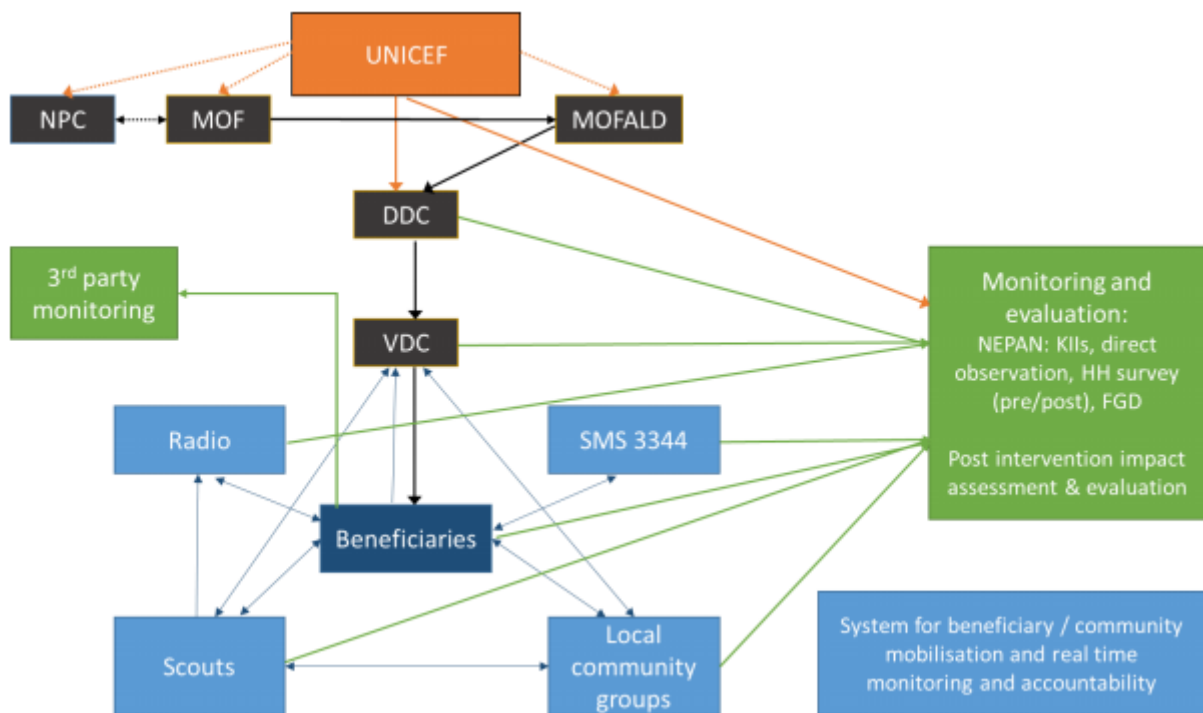
Ramtel understands that this extra cash is for her four-year old daughter Prativa and is already planning on spending it on food and extra clothes for her. "I also have this small one," she says as she cradles her four-month-old Angela, "I have to eat high protein food for her so she gets enough nutrition through my milk." Ramtel's husband and their four-year old daughter have prepared a list and are planning on going to the market to buy some eggs, chicken and some fresh vegetables.

© UNICEF Nepal/2015/NShrestha

Implementation Arrangement

The main concept behind the operational modality is that UNICEF will support and fund cash transfers through the existing government system. This involves the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) at the national level, and District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village or Municipal Development Committees (M/VDC) at the district level. The Scouts Association and a number of community-based Associations, combined with communications platforms such will provide the means to strengthen the flow of program information, support community mobilization and provide additional local level accountability. Along with the implementation, a national research institute, NEPAN and UNICEF's own third party will provide real-time and periodic program monitoring.

Institutional arrangement for the emergency cash transfer through social assistance



Monitoring and Evaluation

A monitoring and evaluation for the program has been designed to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To provide real-time information and feedback loops to immediately enhance program effectiveness.
- 2) To deliver periodic objective monitoring data for ongoing learning and adaptive management of the program.
- 3) To understand program impacts and effectiveness to provide lessons for future emergency cash responses and to strengthen the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system.

A systematic program monitoring will be conducted by a local research institute, NEPAN. NEPAN will have a permanent representative in all 19 districts to facilitate information flows, as well as a data collection team to undertake at least two phases of program monitoring following the first and the proposed second distributions. A mixed methods approach is being taken to ensure representativeness and statistically sound data, as well as quantitative experiences and perceptions on the delivery and effects of the program from different perspectives.

A representative household survey will cover 880 households in 11 of the 19 earthquake-affected districts providing data at different time points (pre and post-earthquake and post intervention). The survey will cover basic household information, the effects of the earthquake, access to social assistance and relief and experiences of the emergency top-up program. Other data collection methods include focus groups with beneficiaries (at least two FGDs in each of the 11 districts), selected case studies and interviews with key informants from the delivery mechanism, community groups and other actors. A representative of NEPAN will also be present at the DDC throughout the intervention to provide real time feedback, facilitate information flows and coordinate field teams.

One initial monitoring report will be produced within two weeks of the first round of distribution to help inform and strengthen any subsequent distributions. A final report including lessons learned will be produced after the second payment. In addition, UNICEF's third party monitoring for the overall emergency response will complement the program-specific monitoring. A post intervention evaluation, using case-control methods if possible, will aim to identify program impacts for beneficiary households as well as comprehensively review program effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Combined with the real time and objective monitoring, the evaluation will document lessons learned for future emergency cash programs, feed in to finalization of Nepal's social protection framework, and help to strengthen existing systems to be more shock responsive.

Future Plan

To support the sustained recovery of vulnerable households affected by the earthquake, UNICEF plans to take the following actions:

1. Ensure the delivery of emergency top-up payments and behavioral change messages in all remaining districts and follow up with systematic monitoring and evaluation focused on the impact of the program and effectiveness of delivery.
2. Subject to the availability of funds, help make at least one additional round of emergency top-up payments to go beyond addressing immediate needs and allow beneficiaries to rebuild their livelihoods.
3. Engage in policy debate to strengthen and expand the Child Grant and, based on experiences from the emergency cash transfer program, begin development of a shock-responsive model for social transfers that works both in regular development and emergency contexts.



02 | Actionable data for a measured and efficient response

Using science in earthquake response.

UNICEF in partnership with NASA developed a *unique multivariate, multitemporal index* using imagery data to locate the *affected children from different levels*.

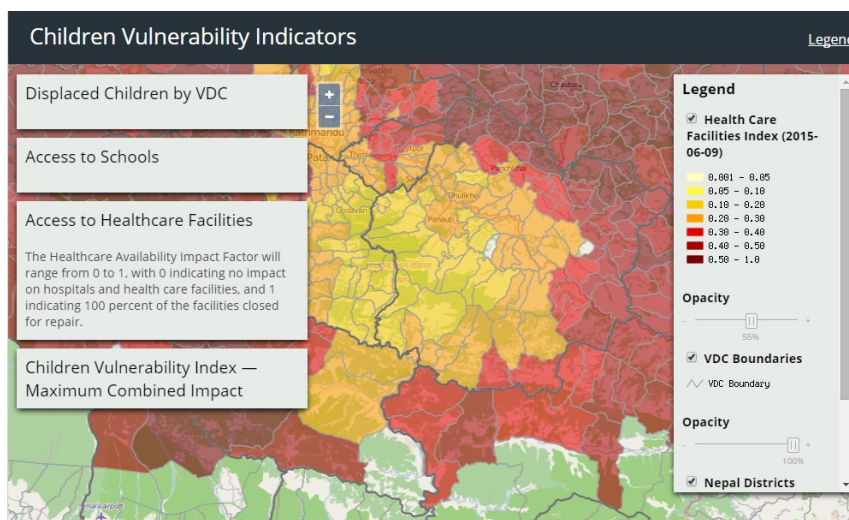


A large number of children and adolescents in Nepal have been affected by the 7.8 earthquake of 25 April, 2015 and its many aftershocks including the 7.5 earthquake of 12 May. Thousands of children, adolescents and vulnerable people have been displaced from their homes, unable to attend schools, lacking access to health care facilities and suffered from psychological trauma from the event. The already vulnerable population has been weakened by the earthquake events and currently faces multiple imminent perils: the constant threat of more aftershocks and the possibility of flooding and more deadly landslides from the monsoon rains.

Since the earthquake of April 25, 2015, a large amount of data has been generated by multiple actors. This has created a challenge that is quickly emerging as a result of the tremendous amounts of data and imagery available for post-event analysis, and overload on response agencies and decision-makers. However, with timely threat-identification and proper preventative action, some of these threats can be lessened or alleviated.

Against this background, UNICEF in partnership with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and its collaborating organization, ImageCat, created rigorous data products for the earthquake response teams and the Government of Nepal. A unique multitemporal, multivariate index that dynamically characterizes vulnerability of children and adolescents in Nepal based on high frequency remote sensing data has been developed to mainly achieve the following objectives:

1. Filter the most useful information for all relevant parties and stakeholders.
2. Co-register various data layers so that access to all information for a particular area can be done easily and quickly.
3. Create a unique Multitemporal, Multivariate Index to dynamically characterize the vulnerability of children and adolescents in Nepal.



Publication of Post-Earthquake Map and Imagery Data on UNICEF Disaster Viewer Platform

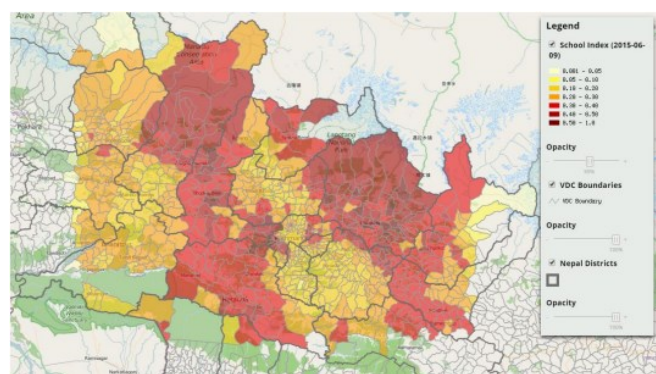
Prior to the earthquake, the team went on a fact-finding mission from November 3-7, 2014. During this mission, Principal Investigators interacted with key stakeholders in the field of disaster risk assessment and analysis, including the government agencies, donors and research organizations to build partnership for future collaboration and to identify the research gaps.

Multitemporal, Multivariate Index

The main added value for this index in comparison with other work on multidimensional deprivations indices (Bristol, MODA, OPHID, etc) is the ability to update the index real time (or near real time) as it uses high frequency and remote sensing data input in comparison with the traditional way of waiting few years until MICS and other survey tools are conducted. It is further disaggregated at the Village Development Committee level. The following describes the type of basic tasks for preparation of the data to best inform the individual child vulnerability indicators and the hazard indices that are used to develop the final children and adolescents Risk Index:

1. Vulnerability

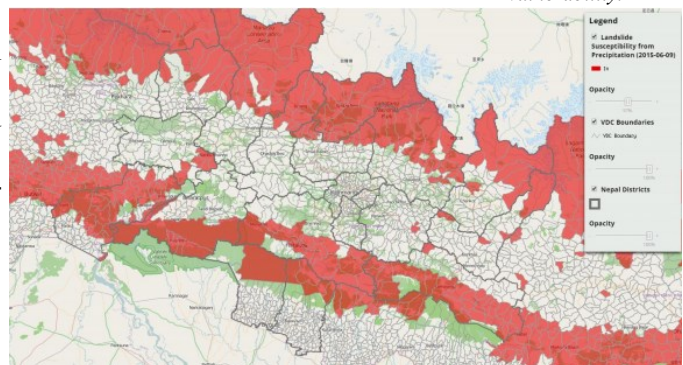
- Displaced population (children and adolescents) impact factor
- School availability impact factor
- Healthcare availability impact factor
- Maximum combined factor



Map showing school availability impact factor. Darker reds show a higher vulnerability score, with light yellows showing areas of least vulnerability.

2. Hazard

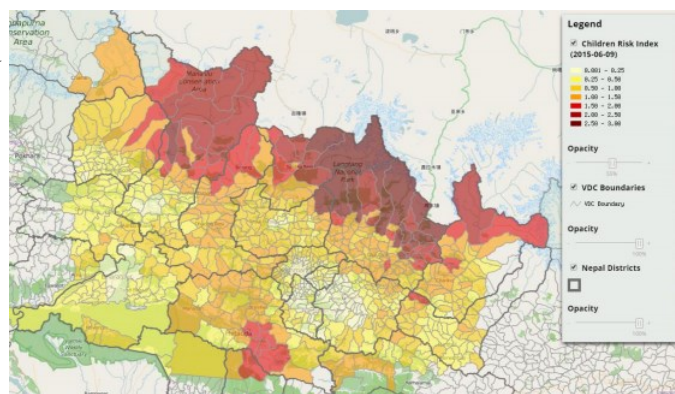
- Landslide potential given precipitation and flooding
- Landslide potential given seismicity and aftershock forecasts
- Existing landslides in post-quake conditions



Landslide potential given precipitation at the VDC level. Vulnerability is shown by a binary In/Out determination. VDCs in red are deemed to be vulnerable to precipitation-induced landslides.

3. Children and Adolescents Risk Index

This is developed as a product of the combined vulnerability index and the total hazard score.



Map showing children risk index

UNICEF Priority Areas for Selection of Imagery and Data Products

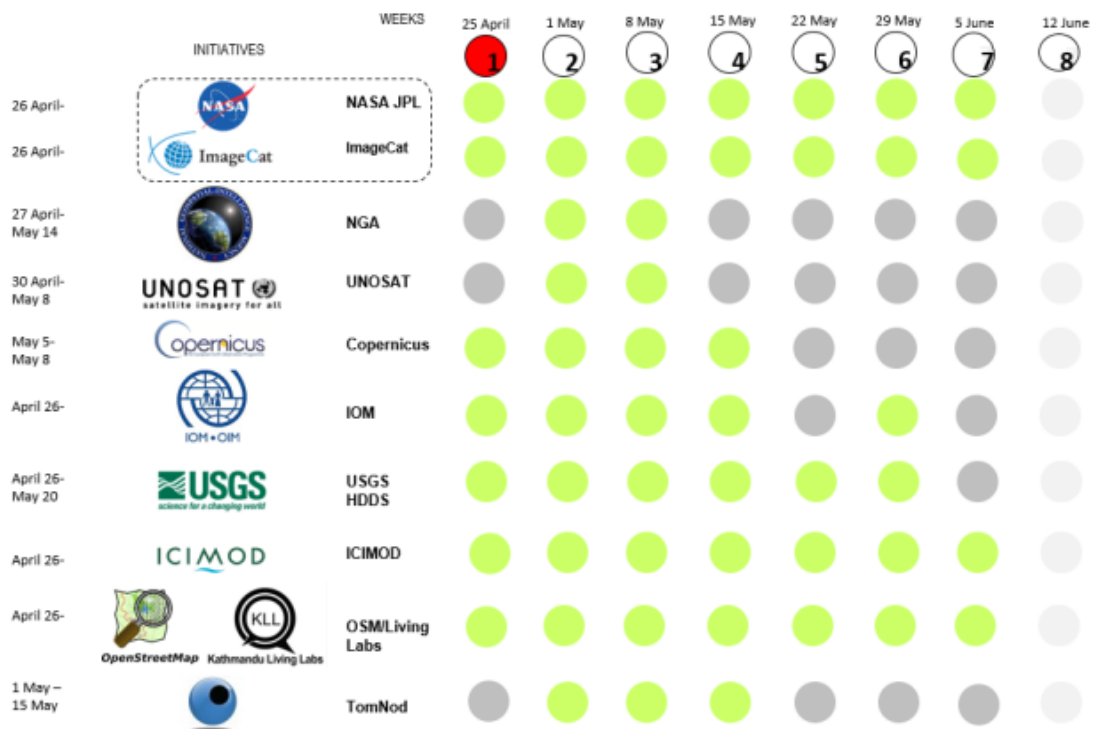
Data product type and acquisition timing are crucial choices for emergency response in any major disaster event. These choices have to be informed by end-user needs and final purpose of data usage. The products and information that the team collected and reviewed for publication on the UNICEF Disaster Viewer consisted primarily of imagery and map data. These products are used to determine the extent and severity of earthquake-related hazard and damage. The criteria for searching sources were driven by UNICEF Nepal priorities and activities in support of decision-making following the earthquake on April 25th in the Gorkha District and the major aftershock that followed on May 12th in the Dolakha District.

The following were the highest priority areas identified for this event as well as from a general disaster response perspective:

- Impact on various social sectors
- Affected population, particularly children
- Patterns of population migration
- Damage assessments
- Impact on schools and medical facilities
- Quality control of data and validation of reports
- Validation of current condition to provide linkages for fundraising efforts

Data Sources

For several days and weeks following the disaster, the NASA JPL and ImageCat team monitored major data initiatives to filter the most useful information and process various data layers to publish on the Disaster Viewer. The criteria to filter the data and imagery was informed by UNICEF Nepal priorities and program activities in support of decision-making.



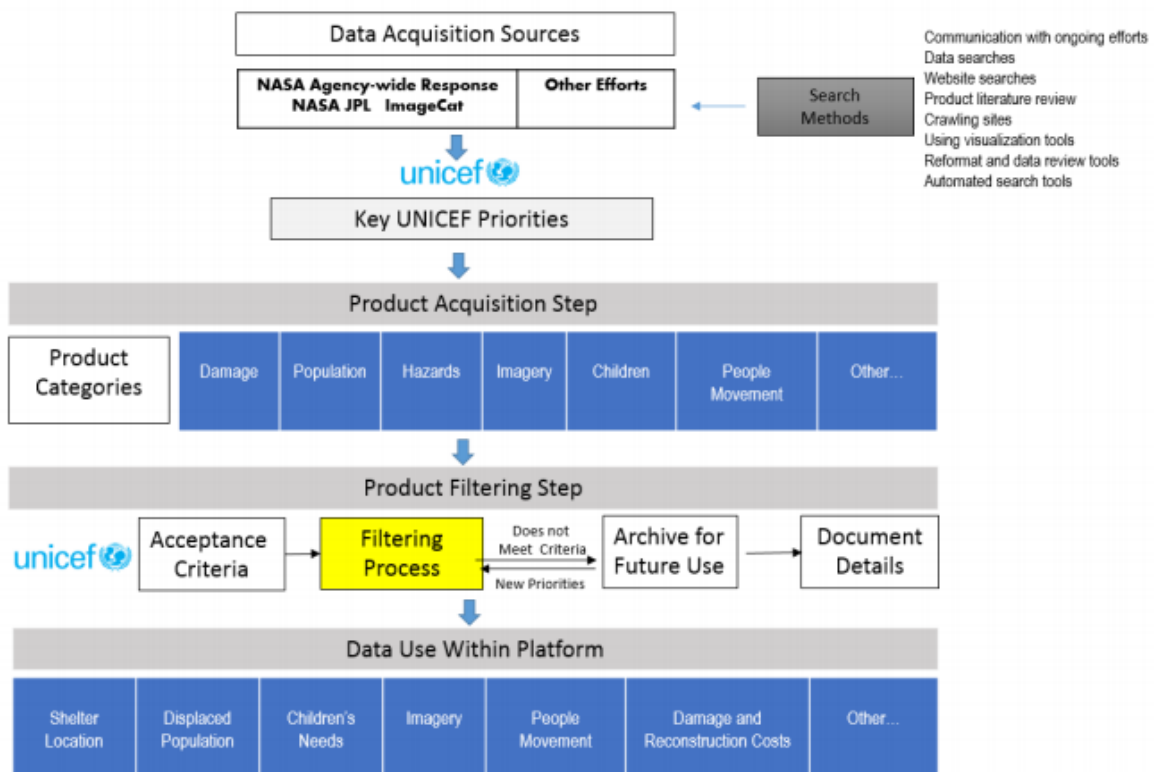
Major Data Initiatives Monitored

Product Review Process

The product review process involves a number of key steps that begins with the selection of the data sources. These steps help the users make decisions based on relevance and appropriateness of the data and categorizes the data in different bins for use within the Disaster Viewer.

Step 1. Data Acquisition Sources

The primary data acquisition sources include a number of major response initiatives: 1. NASA agency wide response (NASA JPL, ImageCat), 2. US National Geospatial Agency, 3. Imagery from USGS HDDS, 4. International Disaster Charter, 5. Imagery from Google Crisis Mappers, 6. UNOSAT effort on damage mapping, 7. International Organization for Migration (IOM), 8. Open Street Maps, 9. Kathmandu Living Labs, 10. ICIMOD, 11. Copernicus EMS Activation EMSR125 effort, 12. TomNod effort on crowdsourced mapping.



Step 2. Product Acquisition

Identification and data collection is an ongoing process. It entails constant communication and linking with ongoing efforts, searching data that are useful and relevant, website searches, product literature review, downloading data samples to check quality, reformatting for viewing on 8 software tools. All these search methods and tools are required for data collection, manipulation, and interpretation in order to establish which of the sources are producing actionable information from an end-users perspective.

Step 3. Product Filtering

Data products and imagery available under the categories or bins listed in Step 2 were rapidly assessed to understand their usefulness for UNICEF to make actionable decisions.

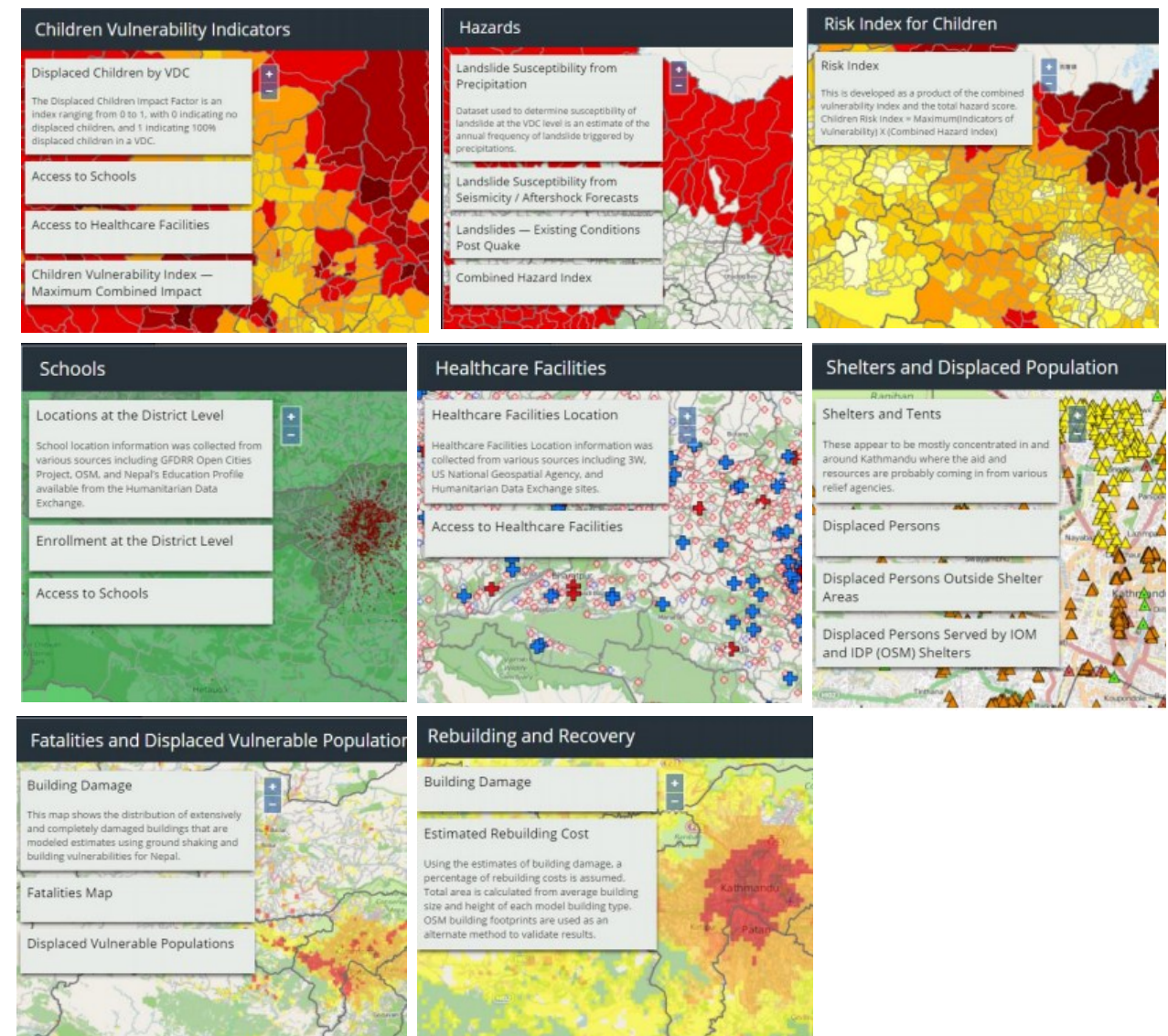
The following provide three broad categories and number of factors that must be used to select the data or products in order to best serve UNICEF needs and priorities:

- **General Criteria:** A set of general but rigorous criteria are applied to examine the data
- **Temporal Criteria:** A set of criteria looks at the data from their potential usefulness at the different stages of disaster response – from rapid response to long term recovery.
- **Specialized Criteria:** Specialized data such as building damage, population movement, hazard, and imagery are examined in regards to how they could potent

Products published on UNICEF Disaster Viewer

Final datasets in the first found of launch are organized under the following major UNICEF priority categories:

- Children and Risk
- Schools and Healthcare Facilities
- Shelter and Displaced Population
- Fatalities and Vulnerable Population
- Rebuilding and Recovery

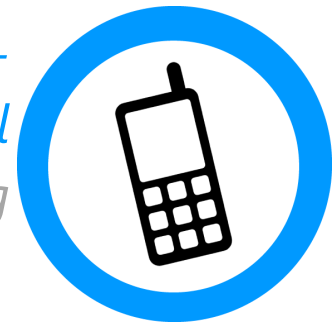




03 | Active Citizenship and Citizen Reporting

Real-time feedback mechanism established to communicate with earthquake-affected beneficiaries

RapidPro was used as a communications platform and data analysis tool to engage with beneficiaries during the emergency response period.



The Government of Nepal in its Post Disaster Needs Assessment stated that the earthquake recovery strategy will be guided by the principles aimed at improving the quality and impact recovery, emphasizing equity and inclusion, and promoting risk reduction. Strong political will, sustained resource mobilization and continuous engagement with the affected communities are some of the most important pre-requisites in having a successful recovery program.

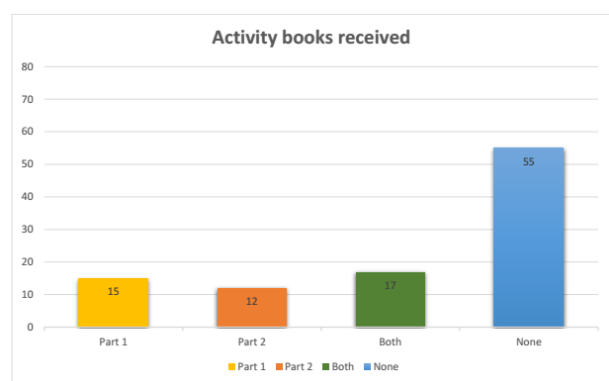
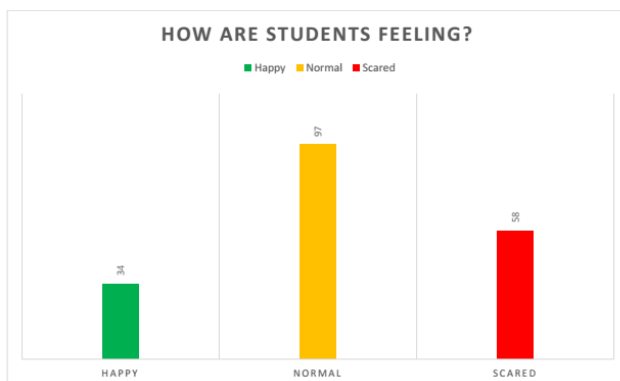
In this context, UNICEF Nepal has mobilized innovative approaches in its emergency response program, one of it being the set-up of a dependable feedback mechanism with the affected communities. RapidPro, an interactive SMS application has been set-up to engage in real-time conversation with the affected population, as well as to be used as internal monitoring system. The platform is instrumental in conducting SMS polls, campaigns, audience surveys and public opinions, among many other possible uses.

The following describes how RapidPro has been integrated in emergency programs and used as communications tool to engage with beneficiaries.

RapidPro to track educational supplies

The Hero Teacher Network (Aguwa Shiksha Sanjal in Nepali) is a SMS-based teacher network jointly developed by the National Center for Education Development (NCED) and UNICEF. Through the use of SMS messaging, the network tracked the distribution status of activity books (Education in Emergencies) to schools in the earthquake-affected districts. The network intends to initiate a teacher network through SMS, providing teachers with a sense of community across the earthquake-affected districts through the sharing of information. Over 500 teachers have been registered in the network.

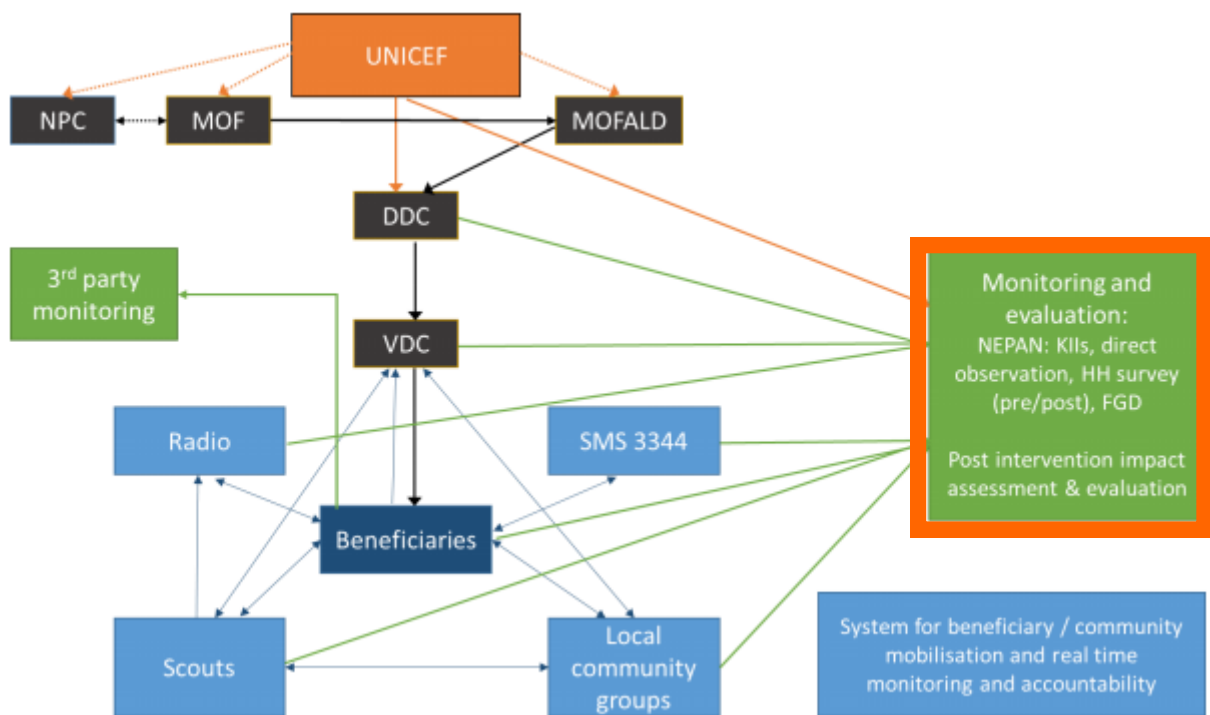
Short polls with teachers have been ongoing to understand the status of schools, temporary learning centers, teaching conditions, community mobilization efforts and any needed support. Examples of questions asked to teachers included the following:



RapidPro for real-time monitoring

RapidPro has also been integrated in the emergency cash transfer monitoring mechanism to achieve one of the key objectives of the program: to provide real-time information and feedback loops to immediately enhance program effectiveness.

A representative household survey will cover 880 households in 11 of the 19 earthquake-affected districts providing data at different time points (pre and post-earthquake and post intervention). The survey will cover basic household information, the effects of the earthquake, access to social assistance and relief and experiences of the emergency top-up program. One initial monitoring report will be produced within two weeks of the first round of distribution to help inform and strengthen any subsequent distributions. A final report including lessons learned will be produced after the second payment. In addition, UNICEF's third party monitoring for the overall emergency response will complement the program-specific monitoring. A post intervention evaluation, using case-control methods if possible, will aim to identify program impacts for beneficiary households as well as comprehensively review program effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Combined with the real time and objective monitoring, the evaluation will document lessons learned for future emergency cash programs, feed in to finalization of Nepal's social protection framework, and help to strengthen existing systems to be more shock responsive.



RapidPro has also been integrated in other emergency programs such as being used as an internal communication system for UNICEF staff travelling in the field.

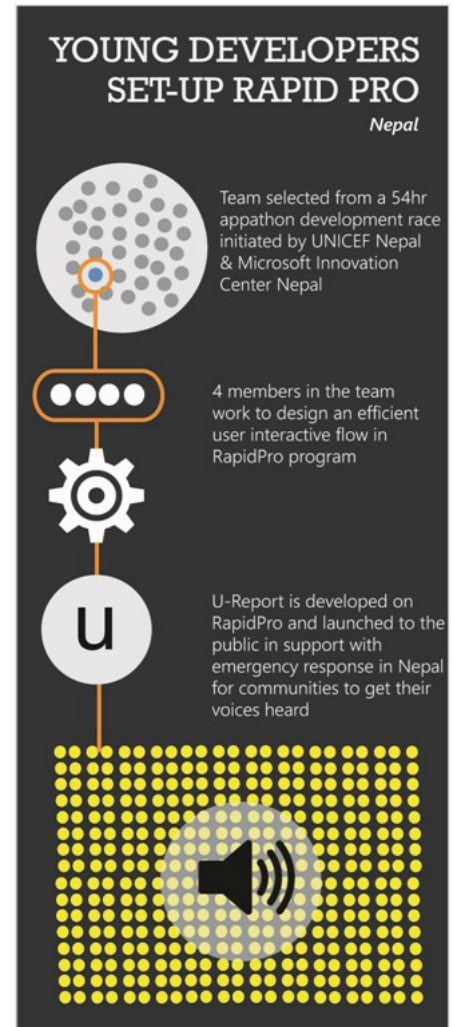
Young People at the Center of Emergency Response

RapidPro in Nepal was set-up by a team of talented young Nepalese developers and programmers. A team of four college students, Abishek Paudel, Arun Kumar Agrawal, Nabin Bhattarai and Manish Chandra was the third place winner in ChildApp Appathon, an application development competition initiated by UNICEF Nepal and Microsoft Innovation Center Nepal. ChildApp was organized to identify the common issues related to children and help solve these issues through technology.

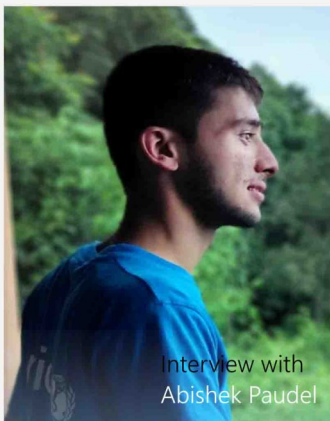
In ChildApp, this team of four came up with an application in 54 hours development race that resembles many features of RapidPro. Their winning solution "SMS Care," gives user information on prenatal and post-natal care of mother and child through SMS. Through this technology, pregnant women can receive vital information on prenatal care throughout the pregnancy.

The young developers contributed their technical skills to build capacity of UNICEF Nepal's partner organization, Equal Access, to incorporate RapidPro in its radio program "Saathi Sanga Man Ka Kura (SSMK)" (Chatting with my best friend). SSMK, a youth radio program with up to 6 million listeners nationwide mainly adolescents, uses SMS and IVR (Interactive Voice Response) to conduct audience polls and feedback. One of the key responsibilities of the team was to design efficient user interactive flows for RapidPro that serves the SMS polls and campaigns of its SSMK radio program. The team's involvement in RapidPro also included setting up U-Report Nepal, which is to be used as a promising survey tool during earthquake emergency response.

Further, SPEA established a program during the earthquake response for journalism students to go to the field and report on stories from the communities affected by the earthquake.



INTERVIEW WITH A YOUNG DEVELOPER



Interview with
Abishek Paudel

Abishek was one of the team members to develop the RapidPro platform in Nepal. Young and talented, his contribution was significant in setting up the platform.

1. What was your role in rolling out Rapid Pro program?

We were all working in a team and our skills were quite similar. So, basically instead of each person focusing on specific task, we were all sharing our knowledge and skills to develop efficient programs. Above all, I was also coordinating to understand the requirements of the program and guiding the team accordingly.

2. What do you think is most innovative about Rapid Pro?

RapidPro is a seamlessly powerful system. With an android phone and a local SIM card, anyone can instantly setup RapidPro anywhere. Furthermore, developing applications on RapidPro requires no advanced coding skills and hence anyone can develop them. I think this is what makes RapidPro most innovative.

3. How do you think the platform will best help during a natural disaster?

I think the best part of it is that it is based on SMS. Every mobile phone can be used to participate. At the time of natural disaster when people panic, communication through mobile phones can be very helpful to know the situation of people affected by the disaster and then support them in various ways.

4. Some memorable moments from developing the program?

During the initial phase when we were developing flows for radio program 'Chatting with my best friend', we also had to listen to the sorrowful stories of people. The story of a girl who was raped by her own so-called boyfriend is still fresh in my mind. Such memorable moment has also taught me to be responsible for the society.

5. What did you learn from this experience?

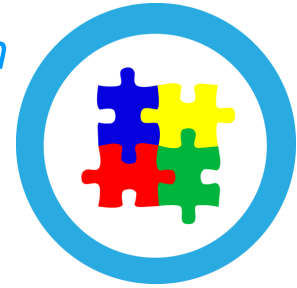
The whole journey was a great learning experience for me. From connecting with new people and sharing innovative ideas in a team to understanding and addressing the issues of children, adolescents and women, I was learning to live and understand the lives of other people everyday.



04 | Autism application in light of emergency

*Application for children with autism to assist in
Developing communication skills*

An application for children with autism has been designed to assist Nepali children to adjust better in their society.



Children affected with autism encounter difficulty in communication and maintaining eye contact with adults and other children. Communication skills especially in children with autism is imperative during times of emergency so that they can effectively express their feelings and thoughts. In this context, UNICEF partnered with the Autism Care Nepal to develop an Android application for children with autism. This project will help develop communication skills among children affected with autism.

Objectives

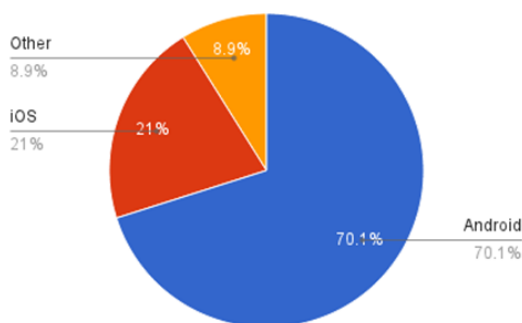
The overarching objective of this project is to contribute to help children with disabilities realize their rights. This project focuses on helping children affected with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) develop social and communication skills through innovative technology and parent groups. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To help children with Autism develop social and communication skills.
- To facilitate the communication of children with Autism and their parents.
- To provide access to use Application at American Clinical Neurophysiology Society
- To form parents network groups.

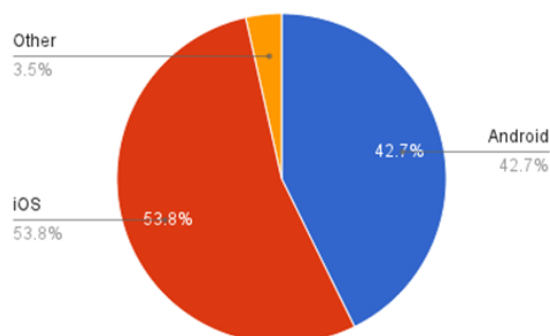
Application Development

With the smart phone revolution, technology and the world of ASD have gone far beyond traditional assistive devices and programs. During an application development race “ChildApp,” organized by the Microsoft Innovation Center, Childreach along with UNICEF in June 2014, one crowdsourced idea from this competition was to assist children and parents to help children with Autism develop social and communication skills. This unique idea was awarded as a top five finalist, with team members Er. Anup Karki, Er. Prashna Kumar Gyawali. The application designed in this particular program will follow the product design outlined by the team in ChildApp.

IDC worldwide smartphone shipments, Q4 2012



IDC tablet shipments, 2012



Application will have two parts: one for the child, and the other for the parent..

1. Section for Children

This is the part of the application where the child interacts with the activities provided. The application consists of stories, games, music, camera function and other study materials. The main function of this part is to engage the child with creative activities. The child will receive new knowledge through stories and the study materials. Another function is to help the guardian know the interests of the child. The child engages with the application according to his/her interest, whether it may be games, stories, music, and colors. As the child continues to interact with activities in the application, the application automatically upgrades the contents and helps parent know how far the child has progressed. The contents are developed to make the child more friendly towards her social surroundings, for example, keeping eye contacts with adults, knowing the family members better, understanding social rules and norms, avoiding accidents etc.

2. Section for Parents

The main function of this part of the application is to monitor the activities of the child, and to understand how best to interaction with the child. The application provides a log report of the activities completed by the child. Through the log the parent/caretaker will have access to know how the child is interacting with every activity, and will be able to understand what their child is interested in. The application also gives information on the list of activities to be completed. As the child completes each activity, parents can release more games and stories for the child to further engage in. Through the log report, the guardian/caretaker is able to know what are the interests of the child, where the child needs development, and what are her strengths and other areas that help the parent/caretaker better understand the child. From this information, the parent/caretaker will be able to take necessary measures to create a better social environment for the child.

Point of Difference

Most applications designed to help children with autism usually focuses only the child. This application is not only created for the child but for the parents/caretaker as well. Both the child and parent can login to their individual accounts and independently interaction with the application. Once a child logins, most activities are designed as pictorials and activity-based. For parents, the application is more informative that shows the progress report of their child. The application also focuses on the social tasks that will help to develop the relationship between the child and the family.

Designed for Nepali Children

Most applications designed to help children with autism are available in either English or other languages other than Nepali language. This application focuses on the Nepali context and available in Nepali language. The contents and tasks are based on the local culture, social values and norms. A socially more family-oriented application helps the child to socialize with people around him or her more easily. This helps the child not only interact with family members but also with the other members of the society. In Nepal, no statistical data has been researched or developed on children with autism. However, the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) has claimed that population affected with autism is around 30,000 in Nepal. On the basis of estimated statistics, it is obvious that the demand for the autism applications is high.

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Annex 1. Research Grant

List of Submitted Proposals

Name	Degree	College	Topic of Research
Bimisha Rai	M.Sc	St. Xaviers	Renal Impairment associated with Antiretroviral Therapy amongst HIV/AIDS Patients Visiting National Public Health Laboratory
Anisha Khanal	M.Sc	Central Dept.of Sociology/Anthropology	Domestic Violence against the Bhrahmin Women.
Sagar Aryal	M.Sc	St. Xaviers	Role and Characterization of Rotavirus causing Diarrhoea in Children in Kathmandu, Nepal
Bhumidatta Poudel	Masters in Sociology	Sanothimi Sikhya Campus, Sanothimi, Tribhuvan University	Senior Citizens Policies and Practices in Nepal
Manisha Ghimire	M.Sc Microbiology	St. Xaviers	Molecular Diagnosis of Chlamydia Trachomatis (CT) /Neisseria gonorrhoea (NG) in women at high risk of sexually transmitted infections attending STIs Clinic
Sapana Karn	Msc Microbiology	St. Xaviers	Reference Value of Lymphocyte Subsets in Healthy, HIV Negative Children in Nepal
Anju Pariyar	M.A	Bhaktapur Multiple Campus, Bhaktapur , Tribhuvan University	Socio-Economic Status of Footpath Tailoring DAMAI Community in KMC
Sanju Ku. Sabariya	M.A	Tribhuvan University	An ethnographic study of the sabariya community of the Harinagar VDC in Sunsari District
Harish Pd Bhatta	MSc. Dairy Technology	HICAST, Ktm Nepal	Preparation of Quality Evaluation of Beverage from Mozzarella Cheese Whey
Pushpa Maharjan	Ph D.	Tribhuvan University	Knowlegde Management on Creativity and Innovation in Hospitality Industry in Nepal
Yubak Dangol	Ph. D	Pulchowk Central Campus	Sesimic Hazard Assessment and Risk Management by earthquake resistance building Design in KTM, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur
Byapak Yagol	Masters in Geology	Tribhuvan University	The Study of Copper Deposits in Bhare-Shantipur area, Eastern Part of Buri gud Fault, Western Nepal

Chetnath Timilsina	Masters 2nd year	Tribhuvan University	SOS balgram sanothimima Aashrit aanath balbalikaharu ko saichhik tatha aawasiya stithi ko samajshastriya addhyan
Dipak Thing	Masters 2nd year	Tribhuvan University	Bipanna Tamang Janajaatima balbalika ko Samrakchyan ra Shahabhagitako ek addhyan
Gauraab Karki	MSc	St. Xaviers	Synergy between HSV-2 and HIV Infection in Nepal
Dr. Dilli Bdr. Pun	MD in Physiology	NMC	Correlating the vital capacity with Maximum chest expansion in umdergraduate medical studenmts of Nepal medical college, KTM
Sunil Shrestha	Pharm. D	Kathmandu University	Multicenter Study on pattern of adverse drug reactions due to cancer chemotherapy
Binod Raymajhee	medical Microbiology	National College, Tribhuvan University	Inducible clindamycin resistant Staphylococcus aureus among the clinical isolates from patients visiting Sukraraj Tropical Hospital, Teku
Prapanna Maskey	M. Phil	Tribhuvan University	Issues of Social Security Scheme and citizenship. A Case study of senior Citizens in the KMC
Vishnu Khanal	M.Phil Public Health	Curtin University, Australia	A cohort study of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rates and Infant Feeding practices by mothers Using Traditional Birth Attendants and Health Workers in Western Nepal
Nilam Sharma	Msc Microbiology	St. Xaviers	Sero Prevalence of Hiv infection among pregnant women
Dipesh Kumar Batsa	MBA	Pokahara University	Impact of Economic liberalization on Employment in Nepalese context
Dr. Reet Poudel	MD	Universal College of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital	Prevalence and co-morbidity of psychiatric and personality disorders in persons making suicide attempt: a case control study.
Tilak Bishwakarma		Tribhuvan University	Citizenship and Social Security of Landless Dalits
Amit Tamang	Masters of Arts in Sociology	Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus	Influence of Development Projects on the sociocultural life of Chepangs in kaule
Mr. Chudamani poudel 'kundan	M.Phil. in Economics	Tribhuvan University	Measuring extra cost associated with physical health care maintenance of spinal injured people in Nepal
Dr. Khushbu Adhikari		Universal College of Medical Sciences	Estimation of vertical transmission as a risk factor in periodontal diseases - A Prospective Study in Lumbini zone of Nepal
Garima Adhikari		Department of Sociology /Anthropology Tribhuvan University	The Tharu Transgender of Bardiya: A study on the social and cultural aspects of being a transgender in the Tharu community
Jugmaya Chaudhary	Masters of Arts in Psychology	Tribhuvan University	Psychological well-being among the freed kamhalari girls in Dang district of Nepal
Kamala K.C	Padmakanya Multiple Campus	Tribhuvan University	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices and nutritional status: of 6-59 months children: an exploratory study in Pida V.D.C., Dhading district of Nepal."
Krishna Prasad Gya-wali	Central Department of Education	Tribhuvan University	Impact of Female education on fertility status among muslim and mushar community in triveni susta VDC, Nawal Parasi District
Laxmi Bakhadyo	LLM 2nd year	Kathmandu School of Law	Analytical study on juvenile justice system of Nepal: With reference to children victims victimized by juvenile delinquent

Poojan Sharma Choulagai	Master of Nursing	Tribhuvan University	Stress, anxiety and depression among adolescent students of public schools of Kathmandu
Prakash Adhikari	Pulchowk Engineering Campus	TU	Optimization of road Network: A case Study of Makwanpur District on Agriculture and tourism perspective
Prakash B.K		The Centre for Social Studies, Graduate School for Social Research Warsaw, Poland	The resistance of dominant groups over the social transformation in Nepal- a case study of Dalit community
Sabeeta G.C	MPH Ist Year	School of Public Health SRM University Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram District	Prevalence of Malnutrition and Its Associated Factors among Under 5 Children In Me-thinkote VDC Of Kavre District, 2014
Shila Sharma	MN 2nd Year (Women's Health and Development)	Maharajgunj Nursing Campus	Factors influencing the choices for place of delivery among postnatal mothers attending at outreach immunization clinic of Bardiya district."
Babu Ram Bhusal	Master in Public Health	Institute of Medicine	Prevalence and predictors of Postnatal Depression among mothers attending in tertiary level health care facility in Kathmandu
Dipesh Maharjan	Msc. Microbiology	Shi-Gan College of Science and Technology	Intestinal parasitic infection, related risk factors and possible impact on nutritional status of public school children
Rashmi Paudel	Master of Public Health	Maharajgunj Medical campus	Alcohol Consumption among pregnant women and its fetal outcomes: A cross sectional analytical study in Sindhupalchowk
Dr Shekhar K.c	Resident MD	Dhulikhel Hospital	In Vivo Cutaneous Allergy Tests Among Children with Atopic Dermatitis in School of Nepal.

Annex 2. Idea Studio

Shortlisted Ideas

	Industry	Idea Owner	Name of the Idea
1	Agriculture	Ashmita Adhikari	उन्नत घाँस उत्पादन (Grass Production)
2	Agriculture	Balkrishna Sharma	कोदो फापरको प्रवर्दनात्मक परिकार विकास परियोजना (Buckwheat/Millet development project)
3	Agriculture	Birendra Bdr Aadi	राजधानी मा ग्रामीण ईलाकामा उत्पादीत खाध्य, फलफुल तथा जडीबुटी सामाग्रीहरूको संकलन तथा बिक्री केन्द्र (Fruits/Herbs sales center in rural areas)
4	Agriculture	Bishnu Maya Ghale	Mauri paalan (bee Farming)
5	Agriculture	Dipesh Aryal	Mushroom project
6	Agriculture	Dr. Bibek Bandhu Regmi	Commercial Rabbit Farming
7	Agriculture	Krishi Guru	Krishi Guru
8	Agriculture	Krishna Bdr Khadka	माछा प्रतिमा निरमान (Fish)
9	Agriculture	Madhav Timilsina	Kimu Farming
10	Agriculture	Nabin Karki	Insect Farming
11	Agriculture	Nima Sherpa	Chiraito and Mushroom Plantation
12	Agriculture	Pradip Kumar luitel	सन्स्थागत र ब्यवसायिक नमुना कृषि (Agriculture business model)
13	Agriculture	Prakash Bajgain	Cattle farming and research in Tanahu
14	Agriculture	Rajendra Adhikari	Empowering locals through poultry farming
15	Agriculture	Ram Govinda Yadav	Community Fish Farming
16	Agriculture	Roshan Babu Ojha	Use of Earthworm in Field maintaining soil Fertility
17	Agriculture	Sanjaya Dhonju Shrestha	Silk Farming
18	Agriculture	Shital Gurung	वैग्यानिक कृषि ब्यावसाय मा जोड
19	Agriculture	Sibjan Chaulagain	ICT For Agriculture
20	Agriculture	TILAK BHANDARI	Expanding natural rubber agroforestry in the Terai region of Nepal.
21	Agriculture	Trilok Bhatta	Aloevera Farming
22	Disaster management	Pusp Raj Bhatt and Kapil Dev Bhatta	Saving Thousands of Lives : A Certain mega Earthquake
23	Education	Nisha Shrestha	READ Park
24	Energy/Waste Management	Ayush G.C/ Anjeena Chawal	Wind powere electricity
25	Energy/Waste Management	Kedar Sharma	Sajilo Chulo
26	Energy/Waste Management	Khusboo Gupta	G.V Micro Hydro Plant
27	Energy/Waste Management	Prasanna Shrestha	Pellitization
28	Energy/Waste Management	Sunil Babu Pant	Recycling Tyres
29	Entertainment	Sudan Basnet	COMICS NEPAL
30	Environment	Navaraj Neupane	Clean and Green Village : दुग्ध जन्य मिठाई उत्पादन

31	Finance	Satkar Babu Adhikari	Throw Cash
32	Food and Culture	Karma Sangpo Gurung	restaurant training center and exchange
33	Food and Culture	Rusha Adhikari	Cafeteria Chain
34	Food and Culture	Suvash bikram shah	momo shop chain
35	Health Care	Dr. Araniko Pandey	Vision for Vision
36	Health Care	Dr. Suman	Health Mobile
37	Health Care	Raghu Rana	Snake bite situation
38	IT & Software	Anamol Rajbhandari	Mobile app based personalized tutoring with customized curriculum content in the Cloud.
39	IT & Software	Anish Shrestha	YELLOW NEPAL
40	Manufacturing	Daya laxmi Lama	Sunrise Powder
41	Manufacturing	Kishor Nepal	Parikalpana
42	Manufacturing	Nar Bhupal Magar	Bamboo
43	Manufacturing	Shreejana Timilsina	Chemical Fertilizer Producing Factory
44	Manufacturing	Sophia Sharma	Alcohol Free Sanitizer
45	Manufacturing	Sunil Maharjan	नेपाली ब्राण्डको तयारि पोशाक (Housework dress)
46	Media	Sumit Agrawal	Car Tainment
47	Mining	Mani Prasad Bhusal	Milki White Feldspar - Mining
48	Service	Anil Basnet	E-commerce and home delivery of grocery and vegetables
49	Social Entrepreneurship	Kalyan Subedi	Retirement Home, Assisted living or full assist living home
50	Social Entrepreneurship	Paribesh Koirala	Ek Soch Ek Kartavya
51	Social Entrepreneurship	Prerena Joshi	Old-age Recreation Center
52	Social Entrepreneurship	Shivaram Poudel	देश व्यापी सर्वाजनिक सौचालय बनाउने (Public bathrrom)
53	Social Entrepreneurship	Subarna Shakya	Leading, Training, Branding and effective analysis.
54	Social Entrepreneurship	Yugen Maharjan	Empowerment of the differently abled person- Electrical Vehicle project
55	Techology	Amrit Raj Nepal	Computer Temperature Controller
56	Techology	Madindra Aryal	Lets go Robotics
57	Techology	Vikram Sahani	SkyWifi
58	Tourism	Bhaskar Bhattacharya	KTM 360
59	Tourism	Mr. Rudra Prasad Giri	MICOTAB (Mordern Integrated Comercial Organic Tourism Agro Business)
60	Tourism	Ram Krishna Dahal	Water Kingdom (Ocean Hotel)
61	Tourism	Saurav Sharma	Agro-tourism resort
62	Tourism	Yam Raj Kunwar	पर्यटनको बिकासबाट रोजगारी श्रीजना (Tourism development)
63	Transport	Ankit bhattacharai	Mundre yatayat
64	Transport	Prashamsa Pokhrel	Electric train



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"If you want something new,
you have to stop doing something old."

- Peter F. Drucker



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