

**A Critical Review of
Child Workers in Nepal – Concerned Centre (CWIN)
and its Programmes for Vulnerable Children**

August 2008

FORUT, Norway

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Evaluators:

**Meera Pillai
Govind Subedi
Prabina Gopali**

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We place on record our special thanks to Ms. Rashmila Shakya, Programme Coordinator of CWIN's FORUT-funded projects, for her assistance in coordinating the evaluation. Our special thanks to the Management Committee for the frankness of their analyses of various aspects of CWIN's organisational health.

We thank FORUT for the confidence reposed in us as we undertook this process.

Meera Pillai, Govind Subedi and Prabina Gopali

Executive Summary

Child Workers in Nepal – Concerned Centre (CWIN) is the pioneering child rights organisation of Nepal. Started in Kathmandu by a group of students from Tribhuvan University who were concerned about the children in the country, CWIN has grown from an informal interest group into an organisation with a national and international presence, and a respected voice with an authority based on recognized skills and resources for realizing child rights in Nepal. It is at once an ally of the government in developing child-friendly policies and programmes, as well as one of its strongest critics whenever the rights of children are violated, and the state proves ineffectual in preventing such violations.

This evaluation was commissioned during the project period of 2004-2008, to review and assess the programmes by looking at all standard performance aspects, including efficiency, effectiveness, impact, relevance and sustainability, apart from issues like gender equity and social inclusion. The learnings from the evaluation seek to feed into the new partnership agreement between FORUT and CWIN.

A range of qualitative methodologies were used to gather data relevant to: (a) A standard project follow up evaluation addressing the progress of the project and the results achieved; and (b) Learning – to look at the partnership programmes with an intention to learn from past experience in order to improve their effectiveness.

Summary of findings

CWIN is a strong and exemplary organisation, with an impressive array of activities, programmes and policy advocacy initiatives to protect the rights of vulnerable children in Nepal. Engaging with industry and government to tackle difficult issues related to children, including child labour, child sexual exploitation and children in conflicts situations, CWIN has become a national resource centre on such issues, and strategies to counter these for the community, the government and donor representatives.

Strong and effective leadership, dedicated and skilled staff and a willingness to walk the talk with respect to child participation and meaningful stakeholder involvement, buttressed by strong administrative and financial management systems, and the patience to build and nurture strategic alliances have all contributed to CWIN's

successes. Stakeholders at every level expressed their satisfaction with CWIN's work and acknowledged its leadership role in promoting child rights in Nepal.

A major challenge for CWIN will be to determine a suitable model to frame, plan for and channelise its growth over the next decade.

Summary of Recommendations

The summary of recommendations is as follows:

- CWIN should continue to serve as a laboratory/crucible for testing new and relevant models and strategies for supporting sub-groups of vulnerable children in Nepal
- The organisation should review its current internal partnering responsibilities and rationalise them
- The organisation should take the lead in improving mental health and psychological support facilities and environments for vulnerable children as there is a significant dearth of these
- CWIN should use the historical opportunity to “build a new Nepal” to bring about a conducive policy environment to support vulnerable children and advocate for greater resource allocation to realise this, in all parts of Nepal.

Chapter 1 Introduction

CWIN

Child Workers in Nepal – Concerned Centre (CWIN) is the pioneering child rights organisation of Nepal. Started in Kathmandu by a group of students from Tribhuvan University who were concerned about the children in the country, CWIN has grown from an informal interest group into an organisation with a national and international presence, and a respected voice with an authority based on recognized skills and resources for realizing child rights in Nepal.

Location of the project:

Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-cultural, secular and democratic country. It covers an area of 147,181 square kilometers. Ecologically, the country has three zones: the mountain (35.2% area), the hills (41.7%) and the Tarai (23.1%). Administratively, the country is divided into five development regions, 14 zones, 75 districts and 58 municipalities and 3,915 Village Development Committees (VDCs).

CWIN's central office, as well as several of its institutional support centres, are based in Kathmandu. As an advocacy organisation, CWIN's message covers the entire country. However, it mainly focuses on 37 out of 75 districts in Nepal. Its working districts include:

| <u>Eastern Region</u> | <u>Central Region</u> | <u>Western Region</u> | <u>Mid-western Region</u> | <u>Far-western Region</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Jhapa Morang Sunsari Khotang | Ramechhap Sindhuli Chitawan Dhading Bhaktapur Lalitpur Kathmandu Nuwakot Makwanpur Sindhupalchok Dolakha Kavre Rautahat Bara Parsa | Nawalparasi Baglung Palpa Kaski Parbat Arghakhanchi Kapilbastu | Surkhet Banke Mugu Dailekh Jajarkot Rolpa Rukum Salyan Dang | Kanchanpur Kailali Achham |

Purpose of / reasons for the evaluation:

This evaluation was commissioned as an evaluation during the project period of 2004-2008. Commissioned to review and assess the programmes by looking at all standard performance aspects, the review is seen as contributing to the legitimacy of CWIN as well as helping to theorise the existing working modalities of CWIN. The learnings from the evaluation will feed into the new partnership agreement between FORUT and CWIN. The Terms of Reference for the evaluation lists the following issues to be covered:

Efficiency

Examine the relationship between quality and quantity of results achieved, and the resources and means to achieve them.

Effectiveness

To what extent the project has achieved or is likely to achieve its objective, including an analysis of processes that have facilitated or prevented this.

Impact

Analysis of positive and negative effects in society, whether foreseen or not, relating to all parties affected by the project. Analysis of causes and processes to explain the impact of the project.

Relevance

Overall assessment of whether the objectives of the project are still worth pursuing, including an analysis of the consistency of project design

Sustainability

Assessment of the likelihood that benefits generated by the project will continue beyond the time of the donor's involvement – i.e. durability of the success. Further, the evaluation was also to consider the sustainability of the issue – whether the impact of the programme influences policy matter, the social environment, awareness leading to the lives of children and young people.

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

Assessing to what extent gender equity and social inclusion aspects in terms of class, caste, ethnicity and location have been dealt with by the project at programme and organisational levels, including gender parity in participation, decision-making, well being, etc

Conflict Sensitivity

Assessment of the conflict sensitivity of the programme, the adjustments made according to conflict situation, maximizing positive impacts and avoiding unintended negative impacts

Partnering

Collaboration with like-minded organisations, policy makers and local stakeholders to make a bigger impact

Organisational Learning

Teamwork, information-sharing and capacity for generating and disseminating information that leads to improvement of the situation of vulnerable children

Methodology

The methodology used in the evaluation of CWIN was as indicated in the terms of reference, and was carried out over a period of three weeks. Initially project documents were shared by CWIN. This was followed by an on-site evaluation of ten days, followed by further document review. The methodologies were largely qualitative, and included:

- **One on one interviews with key informants.** Such key informants included:
 - the Secretary of the organisation,
 - the Founder President of the organisation, who is now a member of the National Human Rights Commission,
 - a board member who did not participate in the organisational capacity assessment
 - a representative of another major funding partner, Save the Children Norway,
 - Representatives of partner NGOs, including Shakti Samuha, an organisation which was incubated by CWIN, AATWIN, the Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children, Research and Legal Aid and

Consultancy Centre (LACC), and Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC)

- a representative of the multilateral organisation, UNICEF
- two senior government officials (of the ranks of Undersecretary and Joint Secretary) of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
- **Group interactive exercises with a large cross-section of the staff.** The staff worked together to build a collaborative timeline of the organisation. On the one hand this served as a rapport building exercise by allowing the staff time to revisit the path taken by their organisation to reach its current position, on the other it allowed the evaluators to understand the critical events that had shaped the organisation's history and the important values and strategies that gave the organisation its unique culture.
- **Project presentations, followed by group interviews of project staff.** Staff associated with different projects made presentations related to the vision, objectives, history, and major achievements, and challenges of the project. This was followed by group interview of the project staff by the team for clarifications, challenges of assumptions, understanding constraints, etc.
- **Extensive interviews with senior management, related to organisational capacity assessment.** Detailed interviews were carried out with the senior management team, including several members of the board to understand historical, strategic and context-related issues, as well as to undertake a participatory assessment of organisational capacity.
- **Focus group discussions with children and young people.** Focus group discussions were held with several groups of children and young people, including residents of Balika, Hamra Sajha Thalo, the Self-Reliance Centre, as well as in field locations.
- **Participatory exercises.** The younger children at Balika used drawing as an entry point to talk about their impressions of Balika, and young people at the Self-Reliance Centre used skits to describe both their own empowerment, as well as the ways in which they used their empowerment to carry messages on various topics of social justice to the larger community.
- **Field visits.** Field visits were made to representative project areas in Kathmandu city and the valley. Given the paucity of time, it was not possible to schedule visits to the outlying districts. This was definitely a shortcoming of the

evaluation. A future evaluation should schedule sufficient time to study the implementation of the project in the districts, in particular, issues of management efficiency and information flow.

- **Sharing of findings.** The evaluators shared the major findings from the evaluation on the last day of the evaluation.

Chapter 2

CWIN: A Timeline of its Activities

Over the twenty years of its existence, CWIN transformed itself from an informal initiative by a group of students to recognise and respond to the violation of the rights of a very vulnerable segment of Nepal's citizens, namely, its children, to an internationally respected organisation which is in the forefront of the child rights movement in Nepal. It is at once an ally of the government in developing child-friendly policies and programmes, as well as one of its strongest critics whenever the rights of children are violated, and the state proves ineffectual in preventing such violations.

Through an interactive exercise involving staff from all its projects, both from the field and administrative sections, from the pioneers to the new stalwarts, a timeline of its activities was built up.

Over a period of time, CWIN has established a series of support programmes for vulnerable children, including emergency care and support, rescue from exploitative labouring conditions, temporary residential support, legal and medical support, training in child rights, adolescent education, vocational training and placement support, as well as created dozens of creative ways for vulnerable children to participate in their own development and civic affairs. Likewise, every year, CWIN carries out dozens of training programmes for other stakeholders who play important roles in realizing child rights. These include parents, teachers, elected government representatives, government officials at various levels, other civil society organisations. These activities are seen as the foundation of CWIN's work, and for the most part, are not represented in the timeline.

| Year | Milestone |
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| 1987 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group of students at Tribhuvan University, concerned about children, especially children living and working in risk situations in Nepal, undertake research on and delivery of basic support services on the street for street children in Kathmandu.• Translates the draft UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Nepali and begins to make people aware on it. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to publish a children’s magazine called “Voice of Child Workers”, the first magazine in Nepal dedicated to the rights of children and the issue of child labour. • Denied permission to formally start an organisation, but group themselves as Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN). • Carries out preliminary study entitled “The Street Children of Kathmandu :A Growing Urban Tragedy”, “Shoe Shining Boys of Kathmandu” • Carries out study on “Condition of Child Workers in the Carpet Factories of Kathmandu”. • Helps strengthen an international forum, Child Workers in Asia |
| 1988 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWIN organizes the first South Asian Workshop on Working Children which concluded with the formation of the South Asian Forum on the Rights of the Child, the first networking group in South Asia of its kind. • Begins a non-formal education programme for street children • Registers as a non-profit organisation with the Cottage Industry Board • Carries out survey studies “Hotel Kanchha in Kathmandu” and “Young Rag Pickers in Kathmandu”. • Completes a field study in Calcutta looking at young women and children who were initially trafficked into India from Nepal |
| 1989 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts Street Children Support and Socialisation Programme, more popularly known as the “Common Room” at the demand of street children for a space for children to rest and refresh themselves. It offers medical support and savings deposit locker programmes. • Encourages children to move off the streets, finds them placement in government /boarding schools • Translates the Convention on the Rights of the Child into Nepali. • Works to get the government to ratify the CRC |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carries out researches “Major Causes to be Child Workers in Nepalese Hilly Villages”, “ Bonded Child Labourers in Nepal” and “Urban Child Labour in Nepal” |
| 1990 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the People’s Movement, and its leaders are arrested • Part of the leadership, in exile, seeks international support for CWIN’s work and human rights • Carries out research on children working in stone quarries entitled “Child Workers in the Stone Quarries” • Carries out research entitled “Lost Childhood: survey study on the street children of Kathmandu” on the violations of street children’s rights, especially police brutality against street children and publishes a report. • Carries out research into the trafficking of Nepali children and publishes a report which lays bare the nexus between politicians and mafia in this process. • The Government ratifies the CRC, becoming one of the first 12 countries to do so • Conducts a national art competition on child labour issues. An exhibition of art works from the competition travels to all the big cities of Nepal and raises a lot of public awareness and interest. • Establishes the CWIN Information and Documentation Centre on Child Rights • Starts Educational Support Programme (ESP) for underprivileged children |
| 1991 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates a National Election Campaign for Child Rights and appeals to all political parties to make commitment to work for the rights of the children. • Presents 20 recommendations on children’s issues to be included in the new Constitution of Nepal • Advocates for first Nepali Children’s Act. Helps to create the draft of the first Children’s Act of Nepal. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • The “Common Room” expands its ambit, starts Kitchen Club as children demand to be allowed to cook there, so that they can save money that they would otherwise spend at eateries. • A “Sick Room” with a paramedical support person begins to serve the needs of street children using the Common Room • CWIN formally registers itself under the Social Service National Coordination Council and with the District authorities as a child rights activist and advocacy organisation • Carries out research entitled “Child Workers in Tea Estates of Nepal” and discloses the reality of child workers and their parents. • Initiates to form Child Concerned Committees to implement programmes that would benefit these children and provide education to working children. • Publishes research based book on the trafficking of girls in Nepal entitled” Trafficking in Girls in Nepal ; Realities and Challenges. |
| 1992 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens advocacy work further • Advocates for ratification of ILO convention 182 • Carries out research on children in the carpet industry and faces threats entitled “ Misery Behind the Looms : child labour in carpet factories in Nepal” • Starts a literacy programme in the mountain village of Mahankal in Sindhupalchok district. • Government ratifies ILO Convention No. 182, prohibiting and committing action towards elimination of the worst forms of child labour • Carries out researches “ A Survey Study on Child Workers in Brick Kilns of Kathmandu”, “Voices from Tea Shops”, |
| 1993 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins publishing a monthly newsletter on child rights issues in Nepali, <i>Bal Sarokar</i> • CWIN encourages the formation of the National Association for |

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| | <p>the Protection of Children and the Environment, a broad-based forum of representatives from industry, government and civil society organisations working against child labour in the carpet industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts a Volunteer Community Initiative to build community assets for communities in poverty benefiting children • Raises awareness on trafficking in girl children and women in Sindhupalchowk_district • Facilitates formation of the Children at Risk Networking Group, an alliance of organisations working for the children living in the most difficult circumstances. • Facilitates in the formation of the Women Defend Pressure Group and helped to prepare the Sankalpa Prastab (memorandum) against rape, trafficking of girls and child marriage in the House of Representatives. • Carries out a survey entitled Bonded Child Labour:Slavery exists in the Kamaiya System and Child Workers in Listi, Sindhupalchowk, a case study of Trafficking in Young Women, Mahankal Village, Sindhupalchowk; a brief study on Untouchable Sarki Children in Naikap Bhanjyang. • A child worker from CWIN participates in the International Child Labour Conference in Amsterdam |
| <p>1994</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of Parliamentary elections, CWIN lobbies for the inclusion of children’s rights issues in the manifestos of political parties contesting • CWIN establishes a Transit Centre_for children at risk; Balika, a programme for girls at risk to provide temporary residential care and social reintegration services for children at risk and Social Marketing Programme as a fund raising initiative. • Opens a library in Common Room. • Organises primary health care and first aid training for carpet worker with cooperation with the Public Health Concerned Trust (PHECT-Nepal) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carries out Survey Research on Urban Domestic Child Workers in the Kathmandu Valley, Child labour in Nepalgunj, Newspaper survey on Trafficking in Girls in Nepal (1991-95), Newspaper Survey on Rape Incidents in Nepal, Survey study on the status of girl children in the Squatter Areas of Kathmandu, Survey Study on the status of the Girl Children in Khokana VDC |
| 1995 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes the Self-Reliance Centre – for providing vocational skill training and job placement support • Expands institution-based activities outside Kathmandu and establishes the Socialisation Centre for street children and children at risk at Pokhara • Initiates advocacy on the rights of child coordinating with teachers, social workers and trade unions. • Calls upon the Prime Minister Manamohan Adhikari to discuss the problem of the child labour and children at risk and submits a paper on the elimination of child labour and children in servitude. As a result, the Prime Minister asks his advisors to go through the recommendations and submit a report on the solution of child labour problem. • Similarly, CWIN submits a letter of memorandum to the chairperson of the Citizenship High Commission to draw the government's attention to the fact that street children are deprived of their rights to name and nationality. • Conducts survey study on Children at Risk in Pokhara • Carries out survey on Situation and problems of Tempo Conductor Boys in Kathmandu • Conducts a case-study survey on Child Marriage in Nepal |
| 1996 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with 6 other organisations, lobbies with the government to secure the return of 142 Nepali girls rescued from brothels in Mumbai. • CWIN arranges for and accompanies the girls who wish to return to Nepal |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports girls who wish to return home to do so, while others are supported to secure alternative livelihood options • Presses charges against perpetrators of trafficking • Organises the South Asian March against Child Servitude. • CWIN appointed to the National Steering Committee for the Elimination of Child Labour and for the National High Level Task Force on the Child Development. • Carries out research on rape of minors in Nepal • First court case related to child labour filed in the case of a tortured domestic child labourer. Historically, CWIN wins the case and secures compensation for the former child worker • Facilitates the creation of Child Rights Forum, collectives of children to raise rights issues in rural and urban areas • Preliminary Study on Health Hazards of Autorikshaw (Transportation) Child Labourers in Kathmandu |
| <p>1997</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWIN provides valuable inputs to frame the first Child Labour Act in Nepal • CWIN organises a national symposium on the roles of different stakeholders and their commitment towards children. • Publishes the first annual report of the State of the Rights of the Child in Nepal. • Carries out research on children working as conductors in tempos (three wheeler public vehicle) • Community conscientisation programme on child rights carried out in 8 districts • Training for child rights for elected representatives, Village Development Committees • Lobbying for the formation of District Child Welfare Boards (DCWB) in 75 districts for which there was provision in the law, but had not been implemented • Publishes concept paper on the possible structure and working modalities of DCWBs • Provides technical training and logistical support to DCWBs so |

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| | <p>that the these bodies could function to protect child rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises awareness about the use of children by both security forces and Maoist rebel forces as messengers and advocated for children to be protected from processes and impacts of armed conflict • Plays an important leadership role to establish AATWIN – Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children • <u>A</u> child representative from CWIN participates in the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children |
| 1998 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becomes the Regional Coordinator for South Asia of the Global March Against Child Labour • Establishes CWIN Helpline Programme with hotline telephone, ambulance service, counselling, emergency shelter, medical and legal services for children at risk. • Purchases CWIN Central Office with FORUT support and sets it up • Commissions CWIN website www.cwin-nepal.org (now www.cwin.org.np) • Establishes CWIN Sunrise hostel for students without parental care • Reorganises CWIN's Information and Documentation Centre and establishes National Resource Center on the Rights of Children • Works to create a manual establishing minimum standards in the management of child care homes • Starts CWIN Local Action Programme, a knowledge based programme against alcohol and drug use. • Facilitates Child Rights Forums in 10 districts to advocate the importance of child participation |
| 1999 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carries out research on children migrating into Kathmandu city for labour entitled Far Away from Homes • Establishes Contact Centre for children migrating into the city at the main bus terminal |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes blood bank for children at risk • Draws attention to the issues of paedophilia and child sex tourism with a national campaign. Assists police in the arrest of a foreign national running a supposed “child care” home and sexually abusing children • Carries out fact-finding missions on child rights violations perpetrated by both sides during the armed conflict. Lobbies for protection of rights of children in armed conflict. • Organises an election campaign to make the political parties sensitive towards child rights • Carries out first national research entitled Alcohol and Drug Use in Nepal. |
| 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organises national workshop on Young People’s Participation against Commercial Sexual Exploitation • Collaborates with UNESCAP and World Education to organize training on psycho-social counseling for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation • CWIN’s Founder President recognized by UNICEF as one of the world leaders in promoting the best interests of children • Organises a review workshop –Decade of Ratification of UN CRC: implementation and achievements of our commitment. • Publishes a booklet entitled Our Rights, Our Responsibilities and a briefing kit on the role of District Child Welfare Boards. • Starts Adolescent Education classes for empowerment of girls from slum and urban poor areas. |
| 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following CWIN’s research and advocacy on using children as tempo conductors, a joint working committee involving transport business associations, traffic police and government is set up • Children rescued from exploitative situations in the sector and assisted to obtain education • Organises a workshop on protection of child rights by child care homes in collaboration with the Central Child Welfare Board |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum standards manual shared with Child Home Net, the network of organisations running child care homes in Nepal and adopted by many homes • Joins the “Say Yes for Children” campaign. 150 children create a mural on cloth on the themes of the Say Yes for Children Campaign • Carries out research on alcohol and drug use with reference to children [resulting in two reports: Glue Sniffing (Among Street Children in Kathmandu Valley) and Impact of Alcohol and Tobacco Advertisements on Children: A Study in Five Major Cities in Nepal)] • Works on sensitizing different stakeholders so that inputs that are child-sensitive can be made into the tenth five-year plan for the country • Organises a regional workshop on Children’s Housing Rights in Kathmandu. • Two young people from CWIN participates in the II World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Yokohama, Japan. • Organises Saha Srijana, unique programme to promote children’s participation in literature. • Organised a stage show to celebrate Meena Day to release the 14th episode of the Meena Cartoon series on domestic child labour and to sensitise the public on the issue of girls through the Meena series. |
| <p>2002</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts children’s workshop on housing rights and children in collaboration with AHURA Bhutan, Lumanti and HIC • Participates in the UNGASS on Children and a Bhutanese refugee girl presents children’s declaration. • Leads National Campaign Against Exploitation of Children in Domestic Labour • National Human Rights Commission issues guidelines to civil servants not to employ child labour |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the 15th anniversary of CWIN, the organisation facilitates a signature campaign on Children for Peace to put pressure to end the armed conflict and produces a musical album – Aasha Ka Kiranharu (Rays of Hopes) to promote children’s issues through popular songs. • Facilitates the formation of Street Net – a network of organisations working with street children • Facilitates the formation of Community Net – a network of community based organisations and those involved in community policing initiatives • Publication of “Effect of Armed Conflict on Children” • Presents child rights information through mainstream children’s magazines • Carries out research on juvenile justice in Nepal |
| <p>2003</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a concept paper for a campaign on “Children as Zones of Peace and gets consensus from 40 rights-based organisations to organise campaigns jointly. • Develops advocacy materials for the campaign. The first campaign poster is signed by the main leader of the Maoist forces. • Carries out research on child sexual abuse – 5000 children participate in survey • Starts the Children in Armed Conflict programme in the three most conflict-ridden districts • The Common Room intervention evolves into an residential empowerment programme for street children – Hamro Sajha Thalo (Our Common Space) • Child helpline extended to Biratnagar, east Nepal • CWIN becomes the coordinator for the Global Campaign for Education in Nepal • Establishes the Shanti Griha – a home for children affected by conflict • Local action work of CWIN evolves into a full fledged |

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| | <p>programme on Alcohol, Drugs and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organises national workshop entitled Alcohol Use and Nepali Society: reflection on children and publishes directory of organisations working on the issue. • Releases CD of songs by popular artists on children’s issues to bring children’s issues into the mainstream • Develops a code of conduct for staff on alcohol and drug use and distributed to other NGOs • Holds the first winter camp for street children in Kathmandu • Carries out research on glue sniffing among street children • Develops a campaign against glue sniffing • Facilitates a children workshop on the role of adolescents in preventing violence against girls • Girls groups (Kishori Samuhas) with a focus on gender empowerment formed in schools and vulnerable communities • Publishes a report entitled Silent Suffering based on research in Kathmandu Valley • Carries out study on Child Sex Tourism in Nepal |
| <p>2004</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescues working girls from circuses in India • CWIN Founder President is appointed as the President of the Central Child Welfare Board, the first time a member of civil society organisation has been so honoured • A massive campaign “Exploitation to Education” to move children out of labour and into school carried out • CWIN assists CCWB to secure extensive inputs from children of all the major regions of Nepal to develop National Plans of Action on children • A significant number of staff from all levels visit other child rights organisations in India as part of an exposure programme • Through lobbying action, political parties make a written commitment acknowledging children as zones of peace • Prepares the Alternative Report on the CRC and presents it at the UN CRC Committee in Geneva. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becomes a member of the task force on Juvenile Justice • Uses radio as a medium to promote the concept of children as zones of peace • Carries out study on Impact of Conflict on Adolescent Girls in Nepal |
| 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWIN President Gauri Pradhan arrested as part of state repression. CWIN files a writ of habeas corpus, after which the Supreme Court orders his release. This sets a precedent to secure release of several other human rights activists who were illegally detained. • Actively supports and facilitates the South Asian Convergence of Working Children • Produces a documentary on child labour and education • Child helpline extended to Nepalgunj • Boys Peace Hostel established to address the special needs of children associated with armed conflict • Completes a study called Anti Alcohol Campaign and its Impact on Children and Impact of Alcohol and Tobacco Advertisement on Children and launches it at a national meeting with celebrities and media in Kathmandu. • Publishes book on Child Protection in Nepal and an advocacy book on Child Labour and Education in Nepal. • Organises an interaction programme with religious leaders, scholars and child rights activists addressing the role of religion in children's development. Publishes a book on "Religion and Children" and another book on "Experiences of Children's Participation" • Completes study on Violence against Children: No more Suffering and Exploring Positive Impacts |
| 2006 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates actively in the Second People's Movement to restore democracy to the country, particularly monitoring human rights violations against children • Organises consultations with children so that their inputs can |

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| | <p>go into the formation of the interim plan for the period 2006-2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active work on reintegration of children involved/affected by conflict into society • Nepal ratifies the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control • Organises National Workshop on Child Protection Issues for the Constituent Assembly to bring voices of children to the Constituent Assembly • Organises National Working Girls Forum to highlight issues of working girls in Nepal • Strengthens emergency support and referral programme for street children • Completes study on Child Labour in Transportation Sector in Nepal, Children in Conflict in Nepal |
| <p>2007</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation with children, CWIN develops a concept paper revising the Children as Zones of Peace concept for the changed context in Nepal • Provides significant inputs for the revision of the country's anti-trafficking law • Initiates a campaign on "Let's build new Nepal with children" to ensure children's issues have a major focus in policies and programmes under the new dispensation • Social reintegration work for children associated with armed forces and groups continues actively • Undertakes an internal review of all major policies of the organisation – Child Protection, Gender and Social Inclusion, HR and Recruitment, Administration, Media Policy • Organises National Workshop on issues of children with cognitive disabilities • Assists a Child led organisation (Jagriti Bal Club), to file a court case to get itself registered as an independent organisation to undertake social development work but did not obtain official |

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| | <p>permission, to get legal support to approach the Supreme Court. They were then allowed to register with the District Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organises the national consultation on the draft National Child Protection Policy • CWIN Founder President Mr. Gauri Pradhan is appointed a member of the National Human Rights Commission • Initiates the national campaign: "Lets Build New Nepal with Children" |
| <p>2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carries out national campaign on Constitution Assembly to ensure proper space for child rights in the manifestos of political parties, prevent use of children in the elections • Monitors CA election to prevent violations of child rights during election campaign • Joins election observation teams during the election • Initiates the Peace Dividend programme to promote livelihood options through support of entrepreneurship and microbusinesses • Consultations on child-friendly elements to be included in the new constitution. Publishes 20 point recommendations to concerned stakeholders on children and the constitution • Organises national consultation of children representing all 75 districts of Nepal. Children prepare memorandum and present it to the President of Nepal and the political parties, appeal for recognition of their rights in the new constitution of Nepal • <u>Carries out study on Boys prostitution in Nepal</u> |

CWIN: The Context of its Work and an Overview of the FORUT-Funded Programme

This chapter provides an overview and assessment of the work undertaken by CWIN. The structure of the chapter is as follows: A general introduction to the socio-economic and political context and of the state of children in Nepal provides the context for CWIN's work, and the relevance of CWIN's programmes in the current policy context is discussed. This is followed by a general overview of CWIN's major initiatives and programmes, succeeded by a more particular assessment of FORUT-funded projects.

Background for CWIN's work

General Socio-economic Context of Nepal

The total population of Nepal in 2001 was 23.15 million with an annual population growth rate of 2.25 per cent in between 1991 and 2001. The 2001 Population Census listed 101 caste/ethnic groups in Nepal. Broadly, these groups can be categorized into i) Hindu caste groups, ii) *Janajati* - indigenous nationalities, iii) *Dalit* – the extremely marginalized groups previously regarded as “untouchable”, and iv) religious minorities like Muslims.

An overwhelming majority of the population resides in rural areas (85%) and a majority of them depends on agriculture. The per capita income of Nepal is USD 240. According to Nepal Living Standard Survey 2003/04, the poverty incidence of Nepal is 31 per cent with an absolute number of 7.64 million people in poverty. The poverty incidence is much higher in rural over urban areas (34.6% vs. 9.6%), in hills over valleys, and the Tarai, the mid-western development region, over other regions. Of the total poor, 96 per cent reside in rural areas. Further, the income poverty also varies by social groups, the highest being among *Dalit* (45.5%), followed by *Janajati* (44%) and least for other caste groups (18.4%) (CBS, 2006).

The adult literacy rate is 48.6 per cent with 65.5 per cent for males and 34.9 per cent for females. The life-expectancy at birth is 61 years, being slightly higher for females (61.5 years) compared to males (60.5 years). The Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.47 in 2004 with the lowest index for the *Dalit* community, (0.40) and the Gender Related

Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) for Nepal were estimated to be 0.452 and 0.391, respectively indicating that Nepal falls behind South Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries except Pakistan.

The Contemporary Political Context of Nepal

CWIN's programmes have been implemented in a situation where the country's social and economic development has been stagnant and the polity has been unstable for almost the entire period of the organisation's existence. The country has just passed through a 10-year armed conflict (1996-2006). During the conflict period, there was significant child migration from rural areas to urban areas and even to India and the vulnerability of children trafficking and sexual exploitation was very high. There were more challenges in reaching out to the needy children, social reintegration of children, their follow-up and providing appropriate and timely services.

There continues to be some political instability in the country even in the post-conflict situation. More than a dozen small armed groups have emerged in the Tarai region and the rights of children have been grossly violated. Further, there is also a need to support children who have been affected physically, mentally and emotionally due to participation in the conflict, internal displacement or impact in other ways during the 10 year armed conflict period. As part of the process of building peace in the country, the Constitutional Assembly (CA) election was held in April 2008 and the CA has declared the country as the Democratic Federal Republic of Nepal. New political parties have emerged victorious in the political process in the country, the largest being that of the former "rebel groups", the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and other regional parties. The country is in the process of drafting a new Constitution – with a pressing need for advocacy and lobbying for securing the rights of children in the new Constitution in conformity with Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Besides, the country's social and economic development is slow and access to development is unevenly distributed. Poverty, gender inequality, social exclusion and violation of human rights continue to be major challenges in the country, and these social anomalies have a direct impact on the lives of children.

Children's Situation in Nepal

Child population is very high in Nepal: 39 per cent (or more than nine million) are children under 14 and 43 per cent (or about 10 millions) are children under 16s (CBS, 2003). This high proportion of children puts pressure on the ability of the state to provide access to schools, health services and support and care systems.

With regard to availability of health services in Nepal, there are five central hospitals (in Kathmandu), 11 zonal hospitals, 62 district hospitals, 188 primary healthcare centers, 697 health posts and 3,120 sub-health posts. Besides, a number of NGOs and private sector actors also provide health services, mainly in urban areas and in many district headquarters. Despite these facilities, the health and health services are under tremendous resource constraints and the overall quality and availability of health care to children is seriously inadequate, especially among poor families, in rural and remote areas and among Dalits. The 10-year armed conflict (1996-2006) severely damaged the health delivery system, both because of the restrictions imposed on the supply of medicines in some parts of the country and because of the reallocation of the development budget for security measures. There have been continuing threats to the survival and development of children by preventable diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and measles. Further, little attention is paid to address the particular health vulnerabilities or needs of children at risk like street children, orphan children, trafficking survivors, conflict affected children and HIV/AIDS positive or affected children.

Regarding education, primary education is free but not compulsory in Nepal, resulting in a significant number of children being illiterate and out of school. According to the 2001 Population Census, the literacy rates among children aged 6-9 years and 10-14 years were 55 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively. There is a gender difference in literacy rates, which are far lower for girls over boys in both age groups (58% for boys and 51% for girls in the age group of 6-9 years; and 84% for boys and 73% for girls in the age group of 10-14 years) (CBS, 2003:304). Similarly, the overall Net Enrolment Rate at the primary level is 87, but this figure sharply declines to 52.3 in lower secondary and to 34.7 in secondary level. At each educational level, the NER for girls is consistently lower compared to that of boys (Ministry of Education and Sports' Flash Report 2006/07). Besides, there are high dropout rates (25% for boys and 16% for girls in grade one) and

repetition rates (20% for boys and 19% for girls in primary level). The low enrolment rates, high drop-out and repetition rates mean that a large number of children remain out of school and these children are mostly from the poor and deprived families and families living in rural remote areas. A large proportion of these children also come from non-standard families – involving stepparents, alcoholic parents, parents involved in drug abuse and violence against children.

A General Overview of CWIN's programmes

Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) is one of the leading non-governmental organisations working for child's rights and against child labor exploitation in Nepal. It is an advocate for child rights, focusing on children living and working under the most difficult circumstances, namely, child labourers, street children, bonded labourer, child survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation, children affected by armed conflict and children in conflict with the law.

CWIN sees itself as actively working to create a New “Nepal, which is democratic, inclusive, just and prosperous to all and sensitive to the rights of children.” Its stated mission is to work as a resourceful national organisation which aims to fulfill its historical responsibility by offering its services to ensure the rights of the children, especially for children at risk. According to the organisation, its main objectives are to contribute to “i) mainstreaming child rights concepts into the national development planning and programmes; ii) developing indicators and mechanisms to monitor the implementation of such child-friendly national laws and policies; iii) developing national child policies in collaboration with the government and other like-minded organisations; iv) developing policies and mechanisms for emergency humanitarian services, reconstruction and reintegration of children at risk including children affected by armed conflict and v) strengthening the capacities and mechanisms of the state, civil society organisation, and community-based organisations to ensure the fundamental rights of children by focusing on the prevention, protection and social reintegration of children at risk.”

CWIN channelises the voices and needs of children through lobbying, campaigns and pressure tactics applied to the government to protect and promote child's rights in the country and to end all kinds of exploitation, abuse, violence and discrimination against children. Its programmes of action range from support for children at risk to advocacy to

networking and alliance building . The major programmes undertaken by CWIN are as follows:

Support for Children at Risk: CWIN supports children at risk by providing emergency help, psychosocial support, socialization services, education support, capacity building for social reintegration and empowerment. The direct support for children at risk is provided through multiple mechanisms and support systems. These include:

- i) Child Helpline (in Kathmandu, Hetauda, Nepalgunj, Pokhara and Biratnagar) with a toll-free hotline telephone service, ambulance service, counseling, emergency shelter, medical and legal services;
- ii) Contact Centre in the Central Bus Terminal - an immediate support for migrant children at risk;
- iii) *Hamro Sajha Thalo* - socialization and empowerment programme for street and other children at risk;
- iv) CWIN Balika Programme for Girls at Risk - empowerment and social reintegration of girls at risk;
- v) CWIN's Transit Centre – empowerment, family reunion and the social reintegration of child workers and children in crisis;
- vi) CWIN Sunrise Home - residential services for school going children without possibilities of immediate family reintegration;
- vii) CWIN Centre for Self-Reliance and Social Marketing - helps children above 14 to secure vocational training and skill education which gives them better livelihood options. Social Marketing helps to promote products made by young people and to develop the entrepreneurship of young people at risk.⁵⁶

Child Participation and Youth Empowerment: CWIN's philosophy of working with children is summed up in its motto 'For Children, With Children'. Making children strong change agents in the child rights movement, CWIN tries to create spaces for children's participation in multiple fora. It facilitates close to 300 Child Rights Forums and child clubs in 34 districts, encourages the formation of Street Theatre and Sports Club groups and runs *Kishori Sashaktikaran Karyakram* (Adolescent Empowerment Programme for girls) and Youth Forum to empower young people.

Research and Information: CWIN conducts participatory and action research on issues related to the violation of children's rights, to raise awareness, guide programmes, influence policy, and feed into national decision making bodies. CWIN has a National Resource and Information Centre which is a mine of information on child rights issues in Nepal for the past twenty years. CWIN is IT savvy and has two websites: www.cwin.org.np and www.childlabournepal.org; the former has won awards for being one of the best NGO websites in Nepal. Most of the resources in the centre are accessible electronically by staff on its intranet. CWIN publishes monthly e-newsletters in English and Nepali and disseminates it worldwide. It also brings out reports, fact-sheets and other IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials in audio-visual and print formats. It also runs a knowledge-based programme - Local Action against Alcohol and Drugs that raises concerns on alcohol and drugs as a development issue, which over time has grown into its own independent programme.

Advocacy Through Action: Advocacy is the main thrust of CWIN's work. It organizes national policy advocacy, lobbying and campaigns, publishes advocacy materials, and organizes training and community actions for sensitization on child rights on different issues through public awareness, social mobilization and community conscientisation.

Partnership, Networking and Alliance Building: CWIN's major funding partners are Save the Children Norway - Nepal (SCNN), FORUT Norway and Plan Nepal. CWIN has wide networking with local, regional, national organisations and international organisations working in the issues of children, women and human rights. CWIN has been leading some of these alliances and networks. It is affiliated with some important alliances and networks like i) Children at Risk Network Group (CAR-NWG); ii) Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN); iii) Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice (ALLIANCE); iv) National Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations of Children; vi) National Alliance of Organisations for Street Children-Nepal (NAOSC-Nepal); vii) Child Care Home Network-Nepal (CNET-Nepal); viii) Community Policing Net; ix) Consortium of Organisations Working with Child Clubs (Consortium); ix) Children as Zones of Peace National Coalition (CZOP); x) Global Campaign for Education (GCE-Nepal) and xi) Children Associated with Arm Force and Arm Groups (CAAFAG). Through networks and alliances, CWIN facilitates the development of clear conceptualisation about children's issues; brings issues of children

to the forefront by lobbying and pressurising the Government and builds the capacity of various organisations in network groups.

Empowerment, Social Inclusion and Gender Mainstreaming: CWIN is committed to ensure the social inclusion of children and gender mainstreaming in each of its intervention programmes. It ensures that girls and boys have equitable access to participation in decision-making process of all activities. Further, it guarantees that girls from all backgrounds and children from marginalized ethnic and caste groups take active part in such processes.

Children and Peace: CWIN carries out advocacy programmes to call for all the concerned stakeholders - the government, former rebel groups and new rebel groups - to stop all forms of violation of child rights under its national campaign *Children are Zones of Peace*. CWIN provides emergency humanitarian and education support as well as support for the reintegration of children affected by or involved in conflict. It has been steadily working for ensuring children's right for peace throughout the process for drafting new Constitution. Also, CWIN also runs *Shanti Griha* (Peace Home) for the conflict-affected children, which provides residential care with appropriate psychosocial counseling and socialization. 5

Relevance of CWIN's Programmes: the Context of Policy Discourse

In the present Nepal's social, economic and political context, CWIN's programmes addressing the vulnerabilities and needs of children and young people at risk appears to be highly relevant. CWIN's programmes are complementary to those of the Government of Nepal (GoN) and are also in conformity with achieving the goals of the *Three Year Interim Plan (2006/07-2009/10)* and of *National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children (2004-2014)*.

The *Three Year Interim Plan* has provided a separate chapter for children's development and has outlined a number of objectives. Some of the ones relevant to CWIN's programmes are:

- Carry out targeted programmes like advocacy, education, skills, rehabilitation and reintegration for conflict affected children and children in difficult

circumstances (girls, physically challenged children, children from marginalized communities, street children);

- Bring all children into social security programmes gradually and
- Carry out programmes in the relative inaccessible areas to increase access to children and make programmes transparent through mobilization of parents, communities and children.

The NPA for Children is guided by different international and national commitments and has identified five intervention areas: i) promoting healthy lives, ii) promoting quality education, iii) promoting child rights, iv) child participation and v) coordination, monitoring and evaluation. The NPA recognized that rights and development of children are issues that cut across all development and administrative processes.

Partnership with Different Organisations

Apart from FORUT, Save the Children Norway (SCN), and Plan Nepal are the main working partners of CWIN in undertaking its activities. In addition, CWIN has been working together with different rights groups, Government of Nepal, bilateral and multilateral agencies, UN agencies like UNICEF and ILO on different occasions on the areas of child rights and the rights of working children.

CWIN-Plan Nepal Partnership Programmes

Plan Nepal supports CWIN for CWIN Center for Children at Risk, CWIN Contact Centre, CWIN Helpline in Biratanagar, Helpline Hetauda, Community Conscientisation and Child Rights Forums, CWIN Hamro Sajha Thalo (Socialisation and Empowerment Programme for Street Children) and CWIN Peace Home.

Currently, the Plan Nepal supported programme called *Promotion and Protection of Children at Risk and Children in Conflict Situation* is for the period of 2007-2009. The objectives of the project are to i) advocate and lobby for creating an enabling environment for the promotion of child protection policy and Children As Zone of Peace (CZOP) and its enforcement from community to national level; ii) prevent the violation of rights of children by strengthening the capacity of the existing resource centre, rights holders, duty bearers and other stakeholders from community to national level; iii) ensure protection through rescue/rehabilitation/reintegration of children affected by

armed conflict and children at risk; iv) empower children and local organisations for developing support and protection mechanism for the children in difficult circumstances.

The project aims to achieve the following results through carrying out different activities, including contributing to the development and adoption of the National Child Protection, building national consensus among all stakeholders for the Children are Zones of Peace initiative, continuing and strengthening the National Resource Centre on Rights of Children, forming three national networks of child-related organisations to collectively protect and promote the rights of children, building capacity of child rights organisations working at the local, district and national levels increase their capacity on child rights, child participation and protection, rescuing children at risk including child transportation workers and providing them with Helpline services, providing services such as socialisation, family reunion, referral to regular child care centres, residential care, winter camp and education support for street children, child transport workers, children at risk, and providing full-fledged residential care and social reintegration support for children affected by armed conflict, providing street youth and young people at risk working in the transport sector with empowerment through life skills, health awareness, and conflict resolution skills, and finally employing child clubs, community protection groups and local organisations to prevent and protect child right violation and develop coping strategies, mechanisms and processes for the support of the children at risk at the community level.

CWIN-Save the Children Norway (SCNN) Partnership Programme

The partnership program entitled *Promoting Quality Education for Children at Risk* with Save the Children Norway aims at empowering children and youth through providing quality education, increasing capacity of stakeholders at the district level, increasing opportunities for livelihood, improving physical infrastructures in school and improving teaching and learning environment in schools. The project is being implemented in 10 Village Development Committees (VDCs) each in Rukum, Rolpa and Salyan districts - the most conflict hit districts in Nepal. It also aims to build three model VDCs in each district. The project is providing education support in 237 schools (Rukum - 75, Rolpa - 77 and Salyan - 85). It also supports CWIN-Helpline, Kathmandu and CWIN National Resource and Information Centre.

Activities undertaken under the auspices of the project include

- Support to Early Child Development (ECD) centres and monitoring
- Birth registration campaign
- Updating data related to children's issues
- School-based psychosocial training to teachers
- Coordination and collaboration at district and VDC levels
- Educational support to conflict-affected children, Dalit, poor, disabled and vulnerable girls and boys.
- Educational and sports materials to schools.
- Construction of new classrooms, primary schools, toilets and drinking water supply
- Distribution of furniture, black board and text books
- Establishment of mini-libraries
- Vocational training and income generation support to young people
- Community media initiative in the form of FM programmes by young people on youth development and education issues.
- Reintegration and rehabilitation of children and young people from difficult backgrounds

An Assessment of FORUT-CWIN Partnership Projects

CWIN's partnership with FORUT was initiated in 1995 to promote child rights, protect children at risk especially girls at risk, undertake social reintegration of children and young people through their empowerment, rights awareness and skills education. The project also carries out advocacy and awareness against alcohol and drugs with special focus on children through its programme of action since 1999. Three projects are implemented under the FORUT-CWIN partnership:

1. CWIN Balika Programme
2. Self-Reliance and Social Marketing Programme
3. Alcohol, Drug and Development (ADD) Programme

Crosscutting strategies in the FORUT-CWIN partnership projects, in addition to the immediate objectives of each project, include:

- Child participation
- Empowerment of children and youth
- Gender equity and social inclusion
- Conflict sensitivity
- Partnership and networking
- Protection

CWIN Balika Programme

Rationale for the Programme

Given the fairly high number of trafficking, sexual abuse, domestic violence, and underage marriage cases in Nepal involving children, CWIN's Balika programme was designed to create a protective and supportive space for girl children who have survived different forms of violence. About 12,000 children below 18 years of age are trafficked annually to India for commercial sexual work and nearly 40 per cent of them are below the age of 14 years (KC et al., 2001). There are about 1200 cabin and dance restaurants in the Kathmandu valley alone in which about 50,000 girls are reported to be working in exploitative conditions (ONRT, 2008). With regard to domestic child workers, there are 42,674 child domestic workers under 14 years in Nepal (Sharma et al., 2001). The number of orphan children under 14 years was estimated to be 825,000 in 2005. Child marriage is also an important issue and nearly one-third of Nepal's children get married by 18 years (CBS, 2003). Further, the 10-year armed conflict has had negative consequences on children's lives. Data show that there were 4,038 conflict-induced orphan children till December 2007 (CCWB, 2007); 475 children were killed, 561 wounded, 32,550 abducted and 255 arrested (CCWB and Save the Children Norway, 2005) including an estimated 36,000 to 46,000 children displaced during the conflict period (SOS, 2008).

Intervention:

Established in 1994 to promote the rights of girl children, especially those at risk, Balika Home is a residential crisis intervention centre providing support services of various kinds for the girl survivors of labour exploitation, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence, torture, girls affected by armed conflict and other kinds of the risk situations,. It works for the empowerment and social reintegration of girls at risk and advocates for special attention to girl's issues in all relevant programmes and policies. Its strategies for programme implementation are actions for protection, child participation, empowerment, and networking, as well as preventive action.

Institution-based support

During the evaluation, there were 35 girl children and young people using its services. Risk situations had included mainly from exploitative domestic child labour, child marriage, domestic violence, sexual abuse and assault cases and lost children. Children

had been brought to the Balika primarily through the CWIN Child Helpline. Others had been referred to the home by other NGOs, GOs and the Nepal Police.

Typically, children live in the home 3 to 6 months depending on the nature of the support they require, and until they reach some degree of stability to consider more permanent support systems, whether it is reintegration with the family or transfer to a residential school or to a vocational educational centre for self reliance. During their stay at Balika, the staff take care of rescued children at the Home by taking care of nutritional needs, providing health care, non-formal education, psychosocial counseling, and legal support. Adequate facilities for games, recreation, dance, music and art are provided. Repatriation to their original communities and reintegration of children with their families and communities, after adequate preparation on both sides is a major activity, and staff of Balika Programme have already visited more than 60 districts in Nepal to reintegrate children with their families.

Field-based support:

As part of its work of providing preemptive and preventive support for girl children at risk, the project works for mobilizing groups of adolescent girls in the community/squatter areas and providing them with training in gender, empowerment and adolescent health and education issues. Forming groups also helps the girls to develop a supportive mini-community of peers, and this support enables them to find a voice in their families and communities to acquire a little more agency in their own lives.

More than 300 adolescent girls were organised in the community and squatter settlements in the Kathmandu valley. The girls' organisations are called *Kishori Samuha*. They are formed in poverty stricken, urban suburbs and squatter and slum communities, including like Thankot, Mandikatar, Tokha, Sankhamul, Tripureswor, Balaju, Sinamangal and Anamnagar. Girls are provided training with the objective of empowering them at the three levels: i) empowerment at the individual level i.e. awareness on their rights, child rights, child marriage, family planning, HIV/AIDS, physical changes associated with adolescence and menstruation, personal financial management through saving and credit groups including income generation trainings, ii) empowerment at the collective level i.e. encourage them raise their voices collectively to address issues affecting them

and their community and iii) increasing self-esteem, gender assertiveness and gender awareness.

Examples of activities undertaken by the Balika programme are

- Provision of Residential Care - food, shelter, socialisation and psychosocial counselling, education, vocational training and skills, health treatment and recreation, legal support
- Educational Support for Girls - from different parts of the country, especially to needy groups like very poor, Dalit, and Janajati ;
- Organisation of child participatory activities in schools- Formation of Child Rights Forums
- Awareness and Advocacy on Girls Issues –
 - national consultation meetings on girls' rights issues with representatives from GOs, NGOs, political parties and media houses;
 - sensitization programmes on new issues that require focused attention from key stakeholders, e.g., support for mentally challenged girl children, inclusion of girls' issues in new constitution.
 - collectivizing groups which need policy and programme support, e.g., 3 days National Conference of Girl Child Labourers to prepare national declaration for protection and assurance of rights of working girls.
- Empowerment Campaign for Girls - organizes awareness programmes among local stakeholders and put hoarding boards with messages to promote girls' rights in five districts
- Reintegration of Children with the Families - field work was carried out in more than 60 districts for various purposes associated with family reintegration, follow up of reintegration including fact-finding related to how the child came to be in a risk situation to start with, and currently review and understand the effectiveness of promoting a reunion with the family reunion and assess the chances for the child to receive continued protection within the family and community setting.
- Creation and federation of Adolescent Girls Groups - in squatter areas and periphery of the Kathmandu valley, Biratanagar Pokhara, Nuwakot, Achham and Kailali. To build leadership skills, a core group of adolescent girl leaders from 10 different girls forums has been further developed.

- Research – Balika has facilitated research on vulnerable communities for girls, e.g., a case study survey on impact of armed conflict on adolescent girls in five districts (Kathmandu, Morang, Banke, Salyan and Makwanpur) and a survey on the situation of adolescent girls in squatter settlements in the Kathmandu valley
- Networking and Alliance Building - core members of alliance groups particularly concerned with the protection of the rights of girl children, e.g., NACASC (National Center for AIDS and STD control); Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN) and Women Pressure Group

Staffing

There are 12 staff members in the Balika Programme with one programme officer, one teacher, one counsellor, one warden, two adolescent girls' trainers, two care takers, two helpers and two field workers.

Strengths:

- The target group for the project consists of extremely vulnerable girls or those who have already been through traumatic or exploitative situations
- Education support is individualised, ranging from non-formal to mainstream schooling and appropriate educational support for children with cognitive disabilities
- A private counselling space is available for psychosocial counselling
- While structure is necessary for the children, they also need to feel empowered to regain a sense of self-worth and esteem after their difficult experiences. Hence all decisions, whether it is about the routine of the shelter, or special outings and picnics, or particular concerns about discipline or rights, are taken through child participation
- Proactive support for girl children in vulnerable locations by mobilization of adolescent girl groups in slum areas
- Economic empowerment through micro-credit groups and income generation activities among youth
- Making communities responsible for protecting their girl children by adequate preparation before reintegration
- Good networking with alliances, GOs and Nepal Police to rescue and refer the survivors in a timely and appropriate fashion.

- Concern about staff mental health, which has led CWIN to actively set aside time and develop programmes for de-stressing.

Challenges

Challenges in running the Balika programme include

- Difficulties associated with securing justice for children whose rights have been violated, including lengthy judicial process which is unsympathetic to victims, which makes girl children unwilling to pursue cases.
- Particular difficulties in re-integration of certain groups: e.g., mentally retarded children, girl survivors of sexual abuse or commercial sexual exploitation, and child marriage whose parents to accept their children, and girls who, because of their backgrounds, do not trust adults or society, and do not share the truth about their backgrounds;
- Challenges associated with preparing the family and the community to accept the child in a protective and supportive way
- Difficulties due to the political instability and violence in the country, slow implementation of policies and laws.
- Challenges, including the challenge of possible violence to field workers, when undertaking collectivizing and empowerment work with the community, and threats to staff while taking legal actions against perpetrators.
- Education and livelihood support after school leaving certificate.
- Continuation of education of girl children in conflict with the law who are in process for justice

Other challenges include:

- The shelter is designed to provide temporary support (3 to 6 months) but some of the girl survivors, especially those with cognitive disabilities need long-term rehabilitation. Families have largely been untraceable, and there are few appropriate institutional support systems in the country
- The current changes in the political situation, associated with the transitions that follow an armed conflict, have changed the political dynamics within communities. While several positive policy changes are being worked on, some adolescent groups in vulnerable communities, especially in slum areas, are finding it more difficult to function effectively in the changed scenario. They face

challenges dealing with youth groups associated with the new power centres who want to establish themselves in these areas. Sometimes with muscle power. For example, while Kishori Samuhas had been able to pressurize the community to close down liquor shops in some slums for nearly nine months, under the new political regime, all these shops have been reopened, and the girls do not feel confident to engage with the new centres of power in the community as they seem more threatening, and with more potential for unpleasant retaliation. Although Nepal is now experiencing peace after more than a decade of conflict, new political actors have emerged with affiliations to the new regime in local communities, and particularly slum communities. Three characteristics of these new actors are particularly relevant: 1. There is a certain amount of arrogance and veiled potential for intimidation among these new actors that “their” group is in power now, so what they say, goes; 2. Since the conflict was an armed one, there is a certain amount of desensitization among these actors to the appropriateness of using force or threats in civilian contexts and situations, and this makes the community more wary in dealing with them than with the earlier, more traditional centres of power; and 3. There is a desire among these actors to “corner” any available political or financial gains. Even during a community meeting at which evaluators were trying to garner community perceptions of CWIN’s work, a forceful point raised by such actors was that it was good that CWIN was doing good work for the community, but any initiatives providing support, whether educational support, or distribution of clothes stitched through the Self Reliance Skill Training Programme, etc. should be channelised through them. This was so that they would be perceived as the “benefactors” for the community in the new dispensation. Hence it is important that CWIN provides appropriate support for the continued effective functioning of these groups.

- Expectations of adolescent girls have increased as a result of training, but in many ways, their contexts have not changed adequately to accommodate these changed expectations.
- Often, children leave their families and put themselves in vulnerable situations because they seek an escape from the grinding poverty which prevents them from obtaining even their daily food needs adequately. These children then become part of CWIN’s constituency of vulnerable children who need to be cared for. Undertaking preventive action so that this does not happen is a challenge.

Recommendations

The CWIN senior management has been exceptionally proactive in foreseeing challenges and also responding to challenges when they arise. Hence, the evaluators have few recommendations to make.

- The process of advocacy for girl children with cognitive challenges has already begun. Balika could work closely with the Disability movement in Nepal, e.g., by bringing key activists into its advisory board if necessary, so that the Disability movement can also be accessed for support and responsibility in finding long-term care for girl children with cognitive disabilities.
- Balika has already established alternative care in the form of extended family care for certain repatriated girl children. These experiences should be studied and documented, both for learnings, necessary support mechanisms, and minimum protection mechanisms.
- One important aspect of alternative care is family preservation strategies, i.e., ensuring that families are supported so that conditions do not arise by which the child has to leave the family. To proactively address situations in which children have families, but leave them because of extreme poverty, which in turn results in inadequate nutrition, or raises stress leading to verbal abuse, corporal punishment, etc., CWIN's community-based programmes could identify children and families who need some amount of support to provide a caring home environment. These programmes could then channelise resources to such families as a temporary measure before linking them up with viable livelihood options which will provide such additional resources. This will not be an easy task, and will require the development of indicators of vulnerability to identify families in exceptional need, as often the difference between them and their neighbours will only be a matter of degree. It will also require a mechanism of transfer that does not compromise the dignity of the family, and above all, constant reflexivity and adjustment to ensure that CWIN does not slip from being a rights-based organisation to a welfare-based organisation. However, certain exceptionally vulnerable families may require such support in the short-term.
- Balika could take the lead in helping CWIN develop an alternative care programme, by trying to build such a care programme for the girls with cognitive difficulties currently in long-term care. One possibility is to identify responsible

women in the community who would welcome an additional income source to consider taking on responsibility for these girl children in return for monetary support towards rent and food. Women so identified should be linked to a savings and credit group, which can serve as the broader community monitoring and protection mechanism for the child. Adequate training in community mental health support for the women identified, as well as the community will be necessary, as also sensitization of local primary health care centre, elementary school management, teachers and children will be necessary. While all this will require significant effort by CWIN, if undertaken, it will be useful on many counts:

- a. It will help the children lead life in a family and community, instead of being in institutional care all their lives, and as such is more supportive of their rights
 - b. Alternative care is much cheaper than institutional care, hence in the long run, it makes much better financial sense
 - c. CWIN will, as in so many other areas, be piloting and testing a model which will be very valuable to Nepal both in the short and long-term. Already, Nepal has a high number of orphans as a result of the conflict. Challenges related to AIDS orphans may also be anticipated. It is neither viable nor advisable to think of institutional care for all these children, nor is it feasible, for a child rights organisation, to think of accepting the fact that these children will inevitably be vulnerable and at risk. Multiple models of support will have to be evolved, and testing extended family care and community-based foster care will help CWIN to help the government and Nepali society develop the necessary minimum norms, support systems and protective caveats.
- Since adolescent girls groups have been feeling less empowered in the changed political context, it is important to help them build links with other groups in the community, e.g., women's credit and savings groups, etc., which will help them build greater political and negotiating strength within their communities.
 - Also for ongoing support as the girls grow, helping them link with other NGOs working with urban poor in the same slum communities so that they can access poverty alleviation programmes, livelihood programmes and women's empowerment programmes will be critical so that their expectations, which have been raised by the trainings they have received from CWIN, will be met.

- Using the space and excitement created by the building of the new constitution to advocate with the legal and judicial community to develop a set of norms for legal cases involving children as victims or witnesses, including video interviews by trained child counselors for securing primary testimony, only in camera cross-questioning if necessary to supplement video testimony, no cross-questioning which can be interpreted as hostile or emphasizing the trauma or which is degrading to the child, especially in cases involving sexual abuse or assault, etc.

Self Reliance and Marketing Programme

Rationale

Poverty, broken families, landlessness, lack of education and social discrimination are the push factors for children leaving their families while the culture of increasing consumerism in urban areas is the pull factor. Once children migrate to the urban areas with little skill and education, they become vulnerable and a cheap source of labour and are at high risk of sexually and economically exploitation. After a few years of exposure to labour or street life, it is difficult to motivate many children and young people to go back to mainstream education, for many reasons. In this context, it is important to provide self-reliance skills and training to children and young people at risk so that they do not remain unskilled, underpaid labourers all their lives.

Although the GoN has the Department of Small and Cottage Industry and also provides some vocational training, it has no targeted programmes focusing on the young people at risk, namely, child labourers, street children, children from street based families as well as those settled in the slums, squatter areas and poor neighbourhoods of the city. CWIN's self-reliance programme aims to address this gap and provide livelihood skill training to the young people at risk, together with other life skills to help them direct their lives successfully, and some support with job placement.

Intervention:

Self-Reliance and Social Marketing Programme was started in 1995 with the aim of empowering children and young people by building self-reliance among the survivors of child labor, street life, trafficking and other vulnerable situations. The programme helps provide livelihood options to young people, develop the entrepreneurship of young people at risk and promote CWIN hand made products made by women of squatter areas and former street boys. The programme provides vocational trainings to young people in collaboration with Small and Cottage Industry department in the country, the GoN and private organisations and institutions that provide vocational training. Some examples of training provided are: tailoring, paper craft, candle making, plumbing, electrical wiring, bamboo craft, beautician skills, bag making, micro enterprise creation, carpentry, motor bike repairing and maintenance, driving, and cooking. Soft skills, life skills and personality development support are provided in association with all these

trainings. The programme provided training to 663 youth in 25 different vocational skills from 2004-2007 and all of them were provided job counselling and life skills, sometimes on multiple occasions. Among them, 70 youth were provided with a set of skills termed the Street Business Tool Kit or training to create micro-businesses. Out of this number, 25 girls started tailoring shops, 13 girls established beauty parlours and 12 boys started mobile phone businesses. CWIN provided them with basic capital requirements to start these businesses. Of the total trainees, 462 were assisted with finding employment.

CWIN works as a bridging organisation between the children/young people at risk and the vocational skill training institutes, social organisations, clubs, job providers, entrepreneurs and Government bodies. The programme provides financial support to training. Further, discussion, workshop, meetings with the young people before, after and during the training period is another strategy to implement the programme

Besides, the programme has formed Youth Forum for collectively addressing issues of concern. A Street Theatre group formed under the auspices of the programme works to raise awareness in the community through street plays about issues like substance abuse, street children and HIV/AIDS.

Activities:

- Skill education and training for children and young people at risk including young people living with HIV.
- Assistance with soft/ life skills, and assistance with understanding the entire business process, including communication skills relevant to business, procurement of raw materials, quality control and finishing, and sales.
- Food, shelter, fees and emergency support to the trainees
- Paper craft workshop facility
- Marketing or promotion of products by social marketing department
- Life skills training for self-reliance of young people at risk
- Facilitate job placement/livelihood skills for the skilled youth
- Formation and mobilization of micro-credit groups among youth
- Tapping talent of young people work as advocates of social change
- Meeting, workshops and consultations with different stakeholders from among entrepreneurs, business community, job providers and government departments

to help understand the issues of children at risk and young people at risk and creating positive outlook towards them.

- Research, studies and assessment on self-reliance and empowerment of youth at risk

Staffing:

There are five staff members in the programme: one programme officer, two field workers, one social mobiliser and one helper.

Strengths:

- The project does not rely only on CWIN's resources but also links young people at risk and different skill training institutions, job providers, and entrepreneurs to provide a broader range of training options than would be possible otherwise.
- The project is inclusive and provides training to vulnerable youth of both sexes. Gender stereotypes are challenged in providing livelihood options
- The project creates positive role models among young people at risk, who can inspire other vulnerable children and young people to consider more mainstream options
- The project promotes entrepreneurship among young people at risk by providing training and initial capital support.
- Vulnerable young people view the staff of the project as supports, not only to provide livelihood options, but to discuss personal and social challenges, which are significant at this age to all young people, and especially for them because of the lack of other common social supports, like parents, or a conventionally aspirant peer group.

Challenges:

- Motivating young people at risk, many of whom have enjoyed the "freedom" of the street and have long earned their own living, to develop a future orientation and the challenges of internship is difficult
- Trainees may often have higher expectations than are realistic given their own contexts and education hitherto and backgrounds, and the resources of the organisation.

- Income earning potential of some skills provided may still pose a challenge in terms of assisting young people to make a decent living, because of the economic context
- Professional costing of the paper craft unit has not been undertaken, hence the organisation is absorbing many of the running costs.
- Matching young people's potential and aspirations to appropriate training because of their inadequate exposure and experience
- Job placement is problematic because of i) negative conception of job providers and owners regarding street youth and young people in poverty and ii) non-availability of citizenship documents among the children/youth at risk
- Maintaining commitment levels among the trainees, and for some young people, the continuing lure of the street

Recommendations:

- Consider exploring slightly more technical options of training like electronics and basic computers for young people with a basic education, and home nursing and senior citizen care for young people currently engaged in domestic labour, etc.
- Undertake professional costing of the paper craft enterprise
- Build system for sharing profit in the paper craft enterprise, rather than the current ad hoc systems of "dipping into the till" according to need
- Develop a system for regular follow-up after job placement for at least two years to prevent recidivism

Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) Programme

CWIN introduced a Local Action programme related to addressing substance abuse in 1999. By 2003, this grew into a full-fledged Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) programme.

Rationale:

The rationale of the programme lies in the increasing number of young people and children have been involved in harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, particularly in urban areas in Nepal. A study by CWIN in 2002 of 180 street children from six urban centers revealed that almost 57 per cent of street children drink alcohol; 21 per cent use psychotropic substances like cannabis, tranquilizers, glue, boot polish, the muscle relaxant Iodex, kerosene and petrol; and 46 per cent use tobacco. Similarly, another study by CWIN (2002a) carried out with 118 street children revealed that 73 per cent smoked cigarettes, 19 per cent used tobacco in other forms, 31 per cent consumed alcohol, 31 per cent used marijuana, 3 per cent were addicted to the painkiller Tidigesic and 52 per cent to glue. The study also identified the long and short-term effects of glue sniffing on children's lives. Mental deterioration and hallucinations (9.8%), multiple diseases (64%), physical weakness (9.8%) and accidents (1.6%) were the long term effects reported among children and young people who used such inhalants.

Excessive use of alcohol is also one of the leading causes of violence against children and women (CWIN, 2001) and is also an important cause of families staying in or falling into the poverty trap in Nepal (Subedi, 2007). It is also important to note that there are very few numbers of GOs and NGOs working to regulate alcohol and tobacco use in Nepal - leading to a limited number of counter-forces against the use of substances. Further, counter-forces against alcohol production, consumption and distribution are weak through the community to the national level in Nepal. This is because alcohol is one of the major sources of revenue of the Government.

Activities:

The programme seeks to minimize the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and drug use through advocacy and information and encourage the community as well as policy makers to link issues of alcohol and drug use to broader development issues. The ADD

programme employs four avenues of action: i) advocacy for putting pressure on GoN for developing an alcohol and tobacco policy, through networks like the Pressure Group on Tobacco ii) community conscientisation for awareness iii) media sensitisation iv) influencing celebrities (pop stars, models and film stars) to campaign against alcohol and tobacco use and v) awareness raising and campaigns from child rights forums as change agents: declaring schools as tobacco and alcohol free zones.

Under the project, various strategies have been developed with child participation. A delegation of children made representations to the GoN about the need of prevention of excessive use of alcohol. Children have asked schools to include awareness against alcohol and tobacco use in the textbooks of all levels. Children have worked with local GOs to place hoardings, and publish posters and pamphlets to make people aware. Children have appealed to communities to employ techniques of social pressure against alcoholic people who abuse children. Children's organisations/groups have declared schools and playgrounds as smoke and alcohol free zones.

Activities:

- Advocacy, awareness raising and lobbying
- Networking and alliance building – CWIN is member of Network Against Drugs and HIV, and the pressure group which worked on the government to ratify FCTC
- Liaising with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) on public health issues related to substance use
- Mobilization of child rights forums and promotion of schools as smoke-free zones
- Mainstreaming ADD in CWIN's other programme domains
- Training/workshops and seminars - among community mobilisers, community people, child clubs, field workers on the negative impact of use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs with regard to children
- Research and information and
- Peer education

Staffing:

There are three staff members in the ADD programme: one programme officer, one trainer and one information officer.

Strengths:

- The project has helped to project the issue of substance use not as a matter of personal lifestyle choices, but as a development issue impacting public health, violence against women and children, and child health
- The project helps to mainstream the issue of substance use with other projects of CWIN, including the outreach programmes, street children's programmes and advocacy work
- The project works at strengthening counter forces like adolescent groups, children clubs, women and community groups against the relentless advertising employed by the alcohol and tobacco industries
- ADD project provided an avenue for CWIN to work in conflict-ridden areas as a comparatively "safe" issue around which to build consensus and gains related to peace building in communities, which was acceptable to rebel groups at a time when NGOs were being prevented from working in these areas
- Communities were persuaded to designate schools as smoking free zones in some districts, which had the added effect of preventing armed groups, including government soldiers from using school facilities as temporary shelters
- The organisation has adopted an internal alcohol and drug use policy
- The project campaigns against glue-sniffing among young people at risk and street children
- The project has carried out research on alcohol and drug use
- Alliance is made with 12 organisations to combat excessive use of alcohol and drug use
- Child participation, as in all other projects of CWIN, is a strength of this project too.

Challenges:

- There are enormous resources involved for promoting and glamourising the use of alcohol and tobacco. In contrast, the CWIN's effort must necessarily appear daunting.
- Addressing practices like sniffing of inhalants among street children and young people at risk must necessarily be part of a larger strategy of providing them with long-term social support and options, as they use it to soften the edges of an otherwise harsh life. While CWIN does do this through the Self Reliance and

Educational Support programmes, the numbers involved are too large for CWIN to make significant inroads.

- There is reluctance on the part of governments to address the issue because of the revenues they earn, and because they do not calculate the social costs of abuse and the public health impact.
- Because of cultural acceptance of tobacco and alcohol use, and the profits involved, communities get divided on the issue of working against tobacco and alcohol.
- CWIN itself does not offer deaddiction programmes, and the existing programmes are not very child friendly or accepting of street children and children from labouring backgrounds.

Recommendations:

- Assess child friendliness of existing de-addiction and rehabilitation programmes, and assist them with capacity building to become more child-friendly in general, and accepting of children from difficult backgrounds in particular.
- Train young people in media analysis and advertisement analysis to counter the influence of tobacco and alcohol advertisements among lower middle-class and middle-class social groups.

Chapter 4

CWIN: Assessment by a Young Person

An important component of the assessment of CWIN was the inclusion of a young stakeholder, who has obtained services from CWIN as part of the evaluation team. Prabina Gopali, a college student and a resident of Thankot in the Kathmandu valley, received the training provided to adolescent girls and is president of the local Kishori Samuha (adolescent girls' group) in her community. She is also a member of the core group selected for advanced leadership skills support from the federation of adolescent girls groups. Prabina's report is provided below:

I would like to thank you all for extending kind co-operation to me in this CWIN-FORUT Partnership program. I got involved as a young evaluator for 10 days on the issue of CWIN's collaboration with its partner organisations, its strategies and strength points and challenges of CWIN.

From these 10 days of evaluation, I came to know CWIN as a pioneer child rights organisation, which works directly with the children at risk by rescuing them through help line, gives them shelter, reunites them with their parents and empowers them for their personal development as well as for a better future. More than this, CWIN provides different types of life skill trainings like vocational, personality development, saving and credit training, how to run a small business, adolescent trainings and other trainings related to physical health and HIV/AIDS to the teenagers of transit homes of CWIN and from community and slum areas.

Talking about collaboration, CWIN has built a warm relationship with its partner organisation. They have meetings together and work very closely on related issues. Through wide networks, they exchange new ideas, give advice and help in different activities of organisations. Also help in seeking donors and providing necessary information.

From the experience of 10 days of evaluation, I found many points of strength about CWIN. They are advocacy through action, education support, wide network with its partner groups, family repatriations, direct work with at-risk children, awareness

programmes, motivation, national campaigns, help-line service, documentations, good relationships with its partner organisations, help line service, having its own transit home, self-reliance center, providing important information for the rights of children etc.

Also, I found many challenges for CWIN in running this project. I think working directly with children at risk is itself one challenge for CWIN. While working against the exploitation of child labor, lots of threats might have come from different factories who are exploiting children. During field work, staff might face many problems. even physical challenges, while going in the conflict areas. Also, it is difficult to reunite rescued children with their parents. Moreover, it takes time for case study and fighting cases.

Nowadays, there are hundreds of organisations like CWIN, which are working in the same issues of children. Also there are some organisations, which are just earning money in the name of welfare of children, and their negative impacts can affect the effectiveness of CWIN. To introduce CWIN differently from these organisations is challenging. The new government itself can be one challenge.

Facing many challenges, CWIN is running various programs step by step with clear-cut vision, which is the strong point of CWIN.

But some of its partner organisations are not totally satisfied with CWIN. According to them, now-a-days, there is lack of communication between them. Though they work together in solving problems, sometimes CWIN forget to share credit in success. Also, what CWIN is doing is good but not enough in the present context. It has to seek other donors and expand its work. It has to do some extra activities for its stability and to get CWIN in top level in future.

I hope this evaluation will be an opportunity for both FORUT and CWIN to review on programs conducted in the past and use the recommendations as learning while designing for the next phase of action.

I would like to thank you all for providing me this golden opportunity. It is a new experience for me and through this I got the chance to visit many well known organisations and other organisations that I did not know before and learn lots of things

within these 10 days. I got knowledge about the various activities and programs of many organisations, which are working with CWIN as partners. I hope in future days also, CWIN will provide me such opportunities so that I can learn more than this and contribute to more in the work of CWIN. I wish all the best for the better future of CWIN.¹

¹ This chapter is a summary of the major impressions and conclusions of the youth representative on the evaluation team. Her complete report is presented as Annexure 1.

Chapter 5

Learnings from the Evaluation: Strengths, Strategies, Challenges and Needs in CWIN

The previous chapter presented brief overviews and assessments of the various FORUT-funded programmatic and project related activities undertaken by CWIN. In the course of interactive exercises, field visits, interviews and focus group discussions, both within and outside the organisation, the evaluators were able to learn about programme and project activities and service delivery as practised by CWIN. In addition, the evaluators were simultaneously receiving insights into the strengths, strategies, challenges and needs of CWIN as an organisation. These insights are presented in this chapter.

Strengths: Conceptual and Functional Base

- **Consistency to a Clearly Defined Vision:** From the beginning, CWIN had a clearly defined vision, arising from its conviction that children were full citizens of the country, and as such had rights. Further, as vulnerable citizens, they had the right to have these rights recognised and protected by the state. CWIN's work, both in service delivery programmes and in policy advocacy initiatives, have been driven by this clear vision from the very beginning. At a time when any work to support vulnerable children in Nepal was driven by notions of welfare and charity, the group of students who started CWIN (perhaps because their own childhood was not that far behind – in fact a couple of them were still at that time, legally, children themselves) intuitively began working with a rights-based approach. They have since formally articulated this in the vision documents for the organisation. However, CWIN's great strength is that the vision was not articulated artificially as an organisational requirement, rather it was the core, the seed from which the organisation began.
- **Sees children as resources and partners:** From its inception, the young founders of CWIN had the humility and the wisdom to recognise that the disadvantaged children they were seeking to support were their most valuable resources. The resilience, creativity and sense of agency necessary for their survival in the streets made them the best possible partners for any solutions to counter the disadvantages they faced. Hence, the very first “institutional” intervention provided by CWIN, the “Common Room”, was made at the express request of the street children of

Kathmandu who said to the founders: “You come to the streets and talk to us. Why don’t you create a space where we can come and talk to you? Maybe get clean and rest for a while.” Acting on the request, logistical and manpower support was provided by CWIN but the intervention was shaped by the children. Today, even though systems are more formal, the input of children continues to drive policy initiatives and programmes, as well as day-to-day functioning of support services.

- **Faced exceptional challenges from the very beginning:** CWIN has faced exceptional challenges from the very beginning. From being denied permission at almost every initial step, whether it was to register themselves as a non-profit organisation or to receive funds to carry out their first international advocacy event, to being denied space to carry out this event, to having the country’s secret police detailed to them for their attempt to establish contact with human rights organisations in other countries, the challenges were manifold. The leadership of CWIN was forced to develop courage, perseverance and flexibility to face these challenges. These qualities in turn has stood the organisation in very good stead in undertaking the rights based work which has been an uphill task, especially in the early stages. Later too, this gave them the skills to strategise on how to work in conflict-affected regions.
- **Willingness to engage with difficult issues:** Perhaps the early trials by fire have built in CWIN the courage and resilience to take on difficult issues. Taking on the wrath of the carpet industry, the largest foreign exchange earner for the country when they exposed the use of child labour in extremely exploitative conditions was one such issue. Getting the government to acknowledge the widespread trafficking in Nepali girl children and women for commercial sexual exploitation, and later the issues of paedophilia and child sex tourism were also examples of very difficult work which CWIN undertook. Addressing the use of children in processes of armed conflict in Nepal is an example of another difficult issue that CWIN chose to work with.
- **An Acknowledged National Resource Centre:** Stakeholders ranging from community leaders, government officials, donor representatives, and networking partners acknowledged that CWIN was a national resource centre in matters related to child rights in Nepal. CWIN’s Information and Resource Centre has extensive information on all issues related to child rights for the past twenty years. A series of research studies conducted into child labour in different sectors and child rights

violations of various kinds provides primary data about these issues of the kind that is not available even with the government.

- **Local, National and International Credibility:** In the twenty years of its functioning, CWIN has developed local credibility both with the primary target group, vulnerable children, as well as the larger community of parents, teachers, community members, police, government officials, etc. At the national level, CWIN has demonstrated credibility with national policy makers, representatives of bilateral and multilateral development aid agencies, other NGOs and national level networks. At the international level, CWIN has demonstrated leadership in bringing together activists on the issue from South Asia and Asia. The personal credibility of its leadership as well as the demonstrated credibility of the organisation has led to CWIN being given the convenorship of many regional initiatives, or its leaders being honoured by agencies like UNICEF or being appointed as Regional Advisors to the UN on various issues, etc.
- **Strong, Participatory and Effective Leadership:** This is one of the greatest strengths of CWIN. All CWIN's leaders have worked their way up and have **grassroots experience** of having worked directly with vulnerable children. They have **negotiated multiple crises associated with both political changes and logistical difficulties**. The leaders have **clear values** and **demonstrated integrity** in the face of even personal danger. The leadership **creates space for access and participation** by staff and vulnerable children. The **different leaders have different acknowledged areas of expertise, and hence a possible contention between rival ambitions is defused**. For instance, one leader is a master strategist, another is excellent at building and maintaining networks and coalitions, a third is acknowledged as one of the best trainers in the country, a fourth is exceptional at spotting gaps for creating programmes and motivating staff to address these.
- **Dedicated and skilled staff:** CWIN boasts of a team of dedicated and skilled staff members. Several staff members have been with the organisation since its inception, and many have over five years of service, in spite of the fact that there are over 40 bilateral or multilateral aid agencies based in Kathmandu, who can afford to pay higher salaries than CWIN can. Most of the staff who leave CWIN do so to join such agencies, and this too works in CWIN's favour, since these staff bring to those organisations their personal knowledge of CWIN's capacity and credibility, and can be good advocates for CWIN in those organisations. Quite apart from their holding

down jobs, CWIN has created genuine commitment to the cause of child rights among its staff. It is this that leads Ms. Tuladhar, CWIN's secretary to assert, "Even if we have to close down today, we are confident that at least 50% of the staff will volunteer at least some time to the issue, even if they have to take up other jobs."

- **High Donor Confidence:** The credibility and the strength of its programmes have led to high donor confidence in CWIN. CWIN's major funding partners have been with it long term and rather than phasing out, as is often the case after about a decade, have been increasing the amount of funds. The number of partners and funds has been increasing.
- **Sound Financial Health and Sustainability:** CWIN has shown an overall increase in the budget by about 20% in the past three years. It has built up a good-sized corpus which will allow it to carry on operations at the current level even if funding stops for a period of six months. It has two major permanent assets in the form of buildings. Even if all funding stops, the leadership is confident that CWIN can rent out these buildings, move to a smaller facility and carry on with training and lobbying and advocacy activities.

Strengths: Strategies

- **Converting non-issues to issues:** All through its history, CWIN has "converted non-issues to issues", in the words of Mr. Ritu Raj Bhandari, Undersecretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. CWIN has responded to them, and further forced a response from the state and other actors in society. From the issues of street children, child labour in the carpet industry, in tea gardens, in tempos and minibuses, quarries, CWIN has forced society to see the working children that it always took for granted, and to address their issues to some extent. **Most recently, CWIN raised the issues of vulnerabilities that children face in cyberspace, and has been undertaking conscientisation activities for children to be safe online, and creating resources to support parents and teachers for this, when no one else in the country had apprehended this need.**
- **Working with children and for them:** Articulated as a conceptual strength in the previous section, CWIN's sense of children as partners and resources is as much its primary strategy in the work for child rights in Nepal. CWIN recognizes that all disadvantaged children may share certain common difficulties, for instance, the power differential between them and adults, lack of access to resources, lack of a

voice, etc. Nevertheless, the particular difficulties in each sector are best understood by the children in that sector. Hence, all CWIN's interventions are based on the advice and suggestions of children arising out of their own lived experiences of disadvantage, as well as the effective entry points for intervention. This strategy has two major advantages: it keeps CWIN from falling into the trap of "We know best" that adults usually do, and complementarily, it continues to keep CWIN as an organisation and its strategies relevant.

- **Strategic Choice of Responses:** Even though CWIN focuses primarily on a single issue, that of vulnerable children, even this issue is extremely broad and complex. In this context, CWIN chose a strategic set of responses to the issue. Its responses were a combination of:
 - *Immediate responses:* Examples of these include crisis intervention and raid and rescue
 - *Short-term responses:* Examples include provision of transit homes for protection and shelter while children explore long-term options, non-formal education, legal support and health support
 - *Long-term responses:* Examples include influencing the policies and practices of government and other NGO, providing data on child-related issues to the government and creating space for child participation in various fora and processes.

A strategic choice on CWIN's part was not to undertake long-term service delivery. Another commendable aspect is the gender-sensitivity of all CWIN's interventions

- **Combination of institution-based and field-based strategies:** in responding to issues of vulnerable children, CWIN makes use of a combination of two kinds of strategies. On the one hand, CWIN uses institution-based strategies like Hamra Sajha Thalo, the residential empowerment camps for street children; Balika, the residential transit home for girls in distress or difficult circumstances; the Self-Reliance Centre for young people training for livelihood options; the Shanti Griha for children affected by conflict, etc. These are supported by field based strategies such as providing emotional support, first aid, and positive role models through empowered former peers for street children, community conscientisation to prevent trafficking, advocacy work to minimize the effects of conflict on children, capacity building for vulnerable girls and young women in communities in poverty, etc.

- **Starting a movement, not an NGO:** The young founders of CWIN did not see themselves as starting an NGO. Rather, they wanted to make society wake up to the way the rights of one of the most vulnerable sections of Nepal's population were being violated and their needs ignored. The government did not have any significant data on children, and they laughed at CWIN's stand that children had rights. Whatever work was being done occasionally for children by philanthropists happened from a charity or welfare perspective, e.g., distribution of sweets during a festival. CWIN's stand that children had rights and it was the state's responsibility to help them realize those rights and protect them made the government unhappy. CWIN quickly realized the need to build a broad platform of people who shared an interest in child rights. This realization, which happened early in CWIN's existence, has also been responsible for its willingness to work with multiple partners, a fact that is acknowledged by agencies at every level during the evaluation. Networking has been important for CWIN from three major angles: to build political strength, to secure technical support and resources (for example, for expanding the range of vocational training options that can be offered to the young people), and for promoting the agenda of child rights.

Gauri Pradhan, the former head of CWIN, and currently a member of Nepal's National Human Rights Commission, spoke of how he realized that even stalwarts in the human rights movement of Nepal were ignorant of the notion that children had rights. He was still in University when, on an official visit of the Queen to Nepal, a demonstration demanding equal pay for equal work by former Gurkha soldiers of the British armed forces was to take place. As a member of the Forum for Political and Human Rights, Mr. Pradhan was also scheduled to participate in the demonstration. A day before the demonstration was to happen, the activists were rounded up and jailed.

In jail, he noticed that there were also several street children who had been imprisoned. He asked the policemen why the children were in jail. They replied that as a matter of routine, whenever there was a visit by a dignitary to the city, the children were rounded up and jailed for a couple of days so that they would not be visible to the visiting dignitary. Mr. Pradhan found this practice absurd and exploitative and tried to discuss it with his partners in the movement. To his surprise, he found that many of the activists, while condemning their own incarceration in jail, did not find it abhorrent that the same treatment was being meted out to the children. "That was when I took a good look

around and realized that all the major figures in the movement were adult males, and that even when the notion of human rights was being conceptualized, it was done in terms of what adult males thought were important. There was no space for women's rights, and the thought that children might have rights had simply not occurred to the activists. That was when I began to see the need for widening the discussion of human rights in Nepal.”

- **Educating themselves and others:** Throughout its history, CWIN has played a major role in educating themselves and others. CWIN was responsible for translating the draft CRC into Nepali and initiating a discussion on the subject within civil society. At the time, not even the Kathmandu office of UNICEF had begun working on child labour. Even today, when the government has to submit its report to the UN on the status of the implementation of the CRC, it relies on CWIN for the necessary information. What information cannot go into the official report, due to political reasons, is presented by CWIN in its alternative report.
- **Data-based interventions and advocacy:** Since CWIN began its work in an atmosphere of skepticism, when neither the government nor civil society seemed convinced that children had rights, the organisation very early on began to base its interventions and its advocacy on sound field-level research. From its early research on street children, to later studies on children in specific sectors like the carpet and tea industries, CWIN has continued to find this approach successful in changing the status quo and realizing children's rights. Most recently, CWIN has done research on children in the transport sector and on male child sex workers and is collating the data for use in field-based interventions and lobbying.
- **Networking at the International Level:** Very early on CWIN realized the importance of networking at the international level. At its very inception, with almost no funds and active opposition by the government, CWIN organised the South Asia Workshop on Child Labour. The ties developed during this workshop led to the creation of a forum on the issue in South Asia, and then in Asia. These bodies were then able to lobby even more broadly. This early perspicacity has led CWIN to have a much stronger voice internationally than has been possible for other organisations of similar age and interests.

In 1992, CWIN organised the South Asian March Against Child Servitude, with marches happening simultaneously in countries like Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. The interest and awareness created by this event planted the seed for the Global March Against Child Labour in which more than 155 countries took part.

- **Willingness to facilitate broad coalitions and strategically accommodate conflicting interests to push forward the agenda of securing rights and services for children:** Very early on, CWIN saw that the task of securing child rights in Nepal required a number of allies, as otherwise the political and industrial vested interests would seek to marginalize an organisation which raised issues which had significant impact on their bottomlines. Hence, it has worked hard to bring parties with conflicting interests to the negotiating table, agree on the broad principle of securing rights and services of children, and then facilitated a process by which these differing groups obtained agency in making this principle real in their sectors. At other times, CWIN has taken the lead in creating network organisations based on common interests. Examples of networks facilitated in this fashion include Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children (AATWIN); Street Net, a network of organisations working with street children, Community Net, and an alliance of organisations working with community-based organisations and community policing initiatives. CWIN is also an active member of ALLIANCE, the Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice, and the country's pressure groups on Tobacco, and Drugs and HIV.

In 1992, CWIN carried out extensive research on the use of children in Nepal's carpet industry. At that time, there were 4000 carpet industries in Nepal, employing 300,000 workers of whom half were children. Apart from appalling work conditions and very low wages, there was also routine sexual exploitation of underage girls, some of whom were discovered during the research to be pregnant, but unaware that they were pregnant. The report caused a serious stir, since this industry was the top earner of foreign exchange for the country. Retaliations happened in the form of vilification of CWIN, threats of bodily harm to CWIN staff and leadership. "The response of the carpet industry happened in three stages," says Sumnima Tuladhar, who leads CWIN's activities today. "First there was denial, then dialogue, then a period of working together." The "work together" happened through the creation of NASPEC, the mildly-

named National Association for the Protection of Children and the Environment, which included representatives of civil society organisations, carpet manufacturers, import-export industry representatives and government officials. Thousands of children were rescued, provided medical care and rehabilitated through this initiative.

- **Willingness to take support of partner organisations and allies to carry forward struggles:** To reiterate an earlier point, CWIN does not feel obliged to fight every battle by itself. CWIN will do the initial work to raise awareness about particular child rights violations. When a suitable ally more closely associated with a particular shows itself willing and able to carry on the good fight, as it were, CWIN withdraws gracefully to concentrate its energies and resources in other areas which require them.

CWIN's research on children working in the tea gardens revealed that children began working in the industry when they were only 5 to 6 years old. In fact, children were prized as workers as there was a perception that their small and flexible fingers could collect the precious "two leaves and a bud" quickly, in large amounts and with least damage to the tea leaves. However, when it came to remuneration, these same children were paid the least, as wages were based on age, with the youngest being paid the least. Needless to say, the children received no schooling or other benefits. After CWIN raised the issue, provided supporting evidence, and started field-based interventions like non-formal education classes for the children, the Trade Unions associated with the tea industry came forward to take up the issue. Once CWIN had convinced itself of the commitment of the Trade Unions to the cause of the children, it handed over the conduct of the struggle to these bodies.

- **Employment of Targeted Conscientisation Efforts:** Another strong strategy on CWIN's part involves targeted conscientisation efforts. While on the one hand, CWIN strives to raise general awareness on issues of child rights, elimination of child labour in the hazardous sector, etc., it also tailors particular conscientisation efforts to particular localities and target groups to have the maximum impact on issues of significant concern.

When it came to CWIN's notice that girl children and women were being regularly trafficked from the Sindhupalchowk district to the northeast of the Kathmandu Valley,

CWIN worked to raise awareness in the jurisdiction of several Village Development Committees in 1993. Simultaneously, they also started adult literacy classes targeting women and children in the Tamang language. Following this effort, in the following year, not a single girl was sold or trafficked for commercial sex work in the VDC areas targeted by CWIN.

- **Nurturing and strengthening other civil society initiatives:** CWIN has helped to broaden civil society initiatives. When working with issues which, within the broad umbrella of child rights, requires specific and sustained attention and resources, CWIN encourages the formation of organisations which can provide this, offering logistical, financial and technical support for this in the early stages. In this way, CWIN acts as an incubator for fledgling, issue-specific rights-based organisations.

CWIN was one of seven child rights organisations in Nepal which lobbied for the return of 142 Nepali girls rescued from the brothels in Mumbai. Against the stiff opposition of politicians and public opinion, which suggested that bringing these girls back to Nepal would be a blow to the national pride of the country, CWIN and its partners asserted that these children and young women were citizens of the country, with every right to return to live in their country. Politicians condemned CWIN saying that the organisation wished to spread HIV and AIDS in Nepal. Going against the flow, Mr. Gauri Pradhan traveled to Mumbai and lobbied to raise resources to bring those girls who chose to return back to Nepal and accompanied them to their homes. 24 of those who returned were below 18, and were helped to trace their families, who were prepared to receive and support them. The others were assisted with alternative livelihood options. An empowered group from within the survivors of trafficking was encouraged to form their own organisation to fight against trafficking in 1997. CWIN and the other partner organisations provided space, resources and logistical support for this organisation for several years. Today, this organisation of survivors of trafficking, Shakti Samuha, is an independent NGO and part of the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW). More recently, CWIN has assisted one of its Child Rights Clubs which has grown into a civil society organisation (Luni Va) to register itself and secure funding and logistical support to undertake community development.

- **Addressing dangerous issues using comparatively innocuous entry points:** One strategy that has been used well by CWIN is to address potentially dangerous

issues which can escalate tensions for the organisation and danger for its staff by finding comparatively non-controversial entry points. Once consensus has been built on the non-controversial issue, using the thin end of the wedge approach, greater leverage is built for addressing the critical issue, without obviously drawing attention to it.

During the ten year civil war in Nepal between national security forces and forces of the militant Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), children were often participants and/or impacted by the war in different ways. Apart from using children in actual armed conflict, they were also used as messengers by both sides. As such, they were often in danger of losing their lives or being wounded in conflicts, as well as tortured, in addition to the difficulties associated with negotiating territories in conflict, being drugged, etc. In addition, schools were often used as base camps and bunkers by both Maoist guerrillas and government security forces. However, these bodies were on the defensive and retaliatory when issues of child soldiers were raised. Hence, CWIN tried to initially introduce the idea of “Schools as Zones of Peace”, so that, at the very least, schooling would not be interrupted by armed men commandeering the resources of the schools. When this was met with some initial opposition, they came up with a campaign to declare schools as smoking and drug free zones. As it was easier to build broad consensus on this platform, multiple stakeholders, including teachers, other school authorities, children, Village Development Committee members, etc., were sensitized on substance abuse among children, the need for schools to remain smoke free areas, etc. As support for the initiative spread, soldiers too began to respect schools as smoke free zones and began to avoid them. CWIN then converted the Schools as Zones of Peace idea to one of “Children as Zones of Peace”. This also garnered support from other NGOs in the country, and could not be reasonably opposed by any of the armed groups either. The idea gained broad support and many initiatives were undertaken to realize this in the worst conflict-ridden areas of the country.

- **A relationship with the government that walks the line “between pressure and partnership”:** For maintaining its credibility as well as achieving its vision, it is important that CWIN puts pressure on the government to do its part to prevent child rights violations and realization of child rights. At the same time, for realizing these rights at a scale that makes a significant difference, CWIN has to partner with the government. Thus, on the one hand CWIN will expose police brutality and protest

against it. On the other, it will provide training on child rights to police and collaborate in rescues. Likewise, at the national level, CWIN opposed the government on its early stand on rejecting Nepali girl children who had been rescued from the Mumbai brothels, and its defence of the carpet industry. On the other hand, it consistently provides the government with data and inputs for policy development.

- **Activating existing systemic mechanisms to promote child rights:** One of CWIN's major strategies is to look for ways to bring child rights into the mainstream systems within Nepali society. When government policy allowed for District Child Welfare Boards to promote child welfare initiatives, but these had not been formed or activated, CWIN undertook a number of steps to make these actively functioning systems. It put pressure for the constitution of the boards, assisted the boards with securing infrastructure to carry out their work, and provided intensive and extensive training to members of the boards so that they would be fully aware of their rights and duties. Similarly, training in child rights was given to Village Development Committees, so that these would prove receptive to addressing issues raised by Child Rights Forums.
- **Innovative methods of raising awareness:** CWIN has used a number of methods to raise awareness about the issues close to its heart. It encouraged the country's foremost lyricists, composers and singers to collaborate on producing an album of songs publicizing the important child rights issues in the country. Whereas the tobacco and alcohol industries routinely use celebrities to endorse their products, CWIN grabbed attention by getting celebrities to campaign against substance abuse. To get child rights messages into remote areas of the country, it advertised with slogans painted on the sides of long-distance buses, printing child rights messages on tickets as well. At the height of the civil war, CWIN published calendars, which carried guidelines on how armed adults should conduct themselves with children so that the impact of conflict on them could be reduced, which were very popular with soldiers on both sides of the conflict, and which also earned CWIN the goodwill necessary to work in conflict-ridden areas.
- **Innovative methods of fundraising for issues:** CWIN has worked with the transport sector and arrived at a formula by which one rupee will be contributed for child protection work for every bus ticket sold by many companies. These funds go into an independently managed trust, which then channelises these to the districts to support child protection work. What is even more praiseworthy about this strategy, is

CWIN's willingness to raise funds not just for itself as an organisation, but to address the issue.

- **Reaching resources to communities:** Reaching resources to communities in poverty has been an important priority for CWIN as a preventive strategy to ensure that children do not leave their communities and are provided services there. It has gone about this task in many ways. Through the Volunteers in Development programme, CWIN has reached human resource and material support to build community assets for communities in poverty. The Educational Sponsorship programme ensures that educational expenses of children are sponsored, so that they can continue to live with their families while they go to school. The Quality Education programme tries to make education interesting and relevant so that children are not tempted to drop out. Recently, the design of the Peace Dividend programme is aimed at creating opportunities in local communities that will try and mitigate the time lag that is almost inevitable as Nepal's new government struggles to transition from addressing issues of conflict to addressing communities ready to move on after facing conflict for several years. This is explicitly aimed at preventing frustration from building up in these communities, which would then put pressure on children and increase their vulnerability.
- **Bringing child rights into mainstream discourse and policy making in Nepal:** A major strategy of and contribution by CWIN has been to look for every opportunity to make child rights part of mainstream policy making in Nepal. It does this in multiple ways. For one thing, it exposes the weaknesses in existing laws (as when it tried to prosecute foreign tourists accused of paedophilia and child sex tourism). Secondly, it walks the talk by developing internal codes and conduct and policies for the organisation and staff, e.g., in working with children, on use of IT, on substance use, etc. Thirdly, it advocates for adoption of minimum standards (e.g., by producing a manual on administering child care homes). Fourthly, by feeding into formal policymaking and programme design at the national level. CWIN lobbied with all the political parties of Nepal to make children's issues part of their official manifesto, and worked with policy makers to insert children's concerns into the earlier constitution of Nepal and the interim plan which is in place for the period 2006-09. It has made presentations to the Constituent Assembly and is lobbying actively for the inclusion of concerns about children's rights in the new constitution. It made significant inputs into the National Plans of Action for Children and into framing the draft National Child

Protection Policy. Finally, CWIN works to build commitment among influential policy makers. For example, after developing materials for its Children as Zones of Peace Campaign, CWIN encouraged the leader of the Maoist soldiers to sign the first campaign poster.

- **Striking conceptualisation:** A major strength in CWIN has been its ability to conceptualise issues in ways that appeal to the popular imagination and win support. Examples of this have been in the “Say Yes to Children” and “Children as Zones of Peace” campaigns.
- **Modifying programmes according to changes in context:** Because there is an ongoing mechanism for children to participate in and provide inputs on the various CWIN interventions, the organisation is able to keep them relevant. Thus, the “Common Room” intervention was designed at the express request of and according to the design of street children who wanted a safe space to rest, get clean, save their earnings, and obtain basic medical care and non-formal education at a time when none of these were available to them. Later, as more and more organisations began providing these services, CWIN discontinued this intervention. Rather it created Hamra Sajha Thalo, a residential empowerment camp which helped street children transition from the “freedoms” of street life to the more structured demands of seeking a formal education or vocational training to learn a skill that would help them earn a livelihood. Likewise, adjusting the schools as zones of peace initiative, and using the tobacco and alcohol issue to bring the community to the table to discuss the importance of making schools safe spaces for children, is an example of how CWIN adjusts programmes according to the context.
- **Working collaboratively with multilateral agencies:** CWIN is viewed as a valued partner by multilateral agencies like the various UN agencies. Sharing generously of its time, expertise and human and material resources, and being willing to work with multiple partners have led these agencies to rely on CWIN for many of their initiatives. For example, CWIN was invited to lead the process for the preparation of the Alternative report on the CRC.
- **Building strong internal systems and procedures:** One reason for CWIN’s credibility with donors and multilateral agencies has been the attention the organisation has paid to building strong internal systems and procedures. Written service rules, policies and codes of conduct underlie strong financial and administrative management systems and procedures. The organisation has worked

on building a reasonable corpus fund and acquiring permanent assets. There is good accessibility for staff at all levels and for the target group to the senior management, which also travels to the various institutional bases of the organisation outside Kathmandu. Leadership is not concentrated in one powerful individual, Rather, there are a number of powerful individuals within the organisation whose institution-based power is based firmly within personal qualities and skills which are acknowledged widely in the organisation. Leadership and initiative-taking are also encouraged at “lower levels” of the staff, and regardless of how long the person has been with the organisation as long as the suggestions are about better ways of addressing issues. This has contributed to the development of a very strong team spirit in the organisation. Finally, there is a good system of checks and balances within the organisation. For example, if funds are to be transferred as a temporary or tiding over measure from one project to another, this has to be approved by five members of the board.

- **Proactively addressing issues of staff:** CWIN appears to proactively address staff issues. While it cannot hope to match the payscales of many international NGOs, it offers its staff respectable salaries by the national NGO yardstick. It offers staff opportunities to improve their position within the organisation by advertising internally for new positions, before seeking resources elsewhere. It informs staff of opportunities in better paid international NGOs and does not grudge them a move, but sees them as allies in possible partner organisations. It consciously budgets for even fairly expensive staff development activities, like exposure visits abroad, and advocates with its funders to secure these funds, so that staff have a sense of growing individually. Cash rewards and other forms of recognition are given for outstanding service. Staff are encouraged to develop personal development plans and supported in their endeavours. Training needs are consciously identified in a planned way, and in-service trainings are proactively provided. Recognising that many aspects of its work can be stressful for staff, CWIN has introduced a programme, “Sheethoshna Manch” to actively allow staff to de-stress, engage in creative and recreational activities and, for the organisation, to proactively work against burnout of its human resources.

Challenges/Needs and Recommendations for CWIN

From reviewing CWIN's history and on the basis of the information gathered during the evaluation, it appears to the evaluators that CWIN has been an extraordinarily proactive organisation. It has been self-reflective, and identified its vulnerabilities and challenges and sought to address these in a timely fashion, seeking out material and human resources to do so. For this reason, there are few challenges and needs that the evaluators have been able to identify, and few recommendations also.

Challenges/Needs – External

- **Converting non-issues into issues:** CWIN has not chosen to work in an easy area. Its work involves converting non-issues into issues, and this necessarily involves the expenditure of significant time, energy, effort and resources for the issue to even be recognized. Further, it works on issues where change involves a significant economic cost. Usually, industries and service sectors employ children where the low wages paid to them, or where the lack of voice makes it easier for them to get away with exploitative working conditions, act as a cost savings for them. When CWIN forces attention to these issues, it is troublesome both for businessmen, as well as for the government which would like to keep business interests happy. Further, securing support services will mean that the government will have to increase social spending, which too, places an economic burden on the government. Hence, CWIN's work involves an uphill battle, and this is the most important challenge.
- **Getting the state to accept its responsibilities:** A related difficulty involves getting the state to accept its responsibilities vis-à-vis children. Often, because of internal and international pressure, the government may ratify international instruments. However, actualizing the terms of these instruments may require more effort, resources and political will than the government is happy to expend. For instance, in the case of the foreigner who was running a childcare home and subjected some of the children in his care to sexual abuse, the government was put in a difficult spot. On the one hand, Nepal receives significant foreign aid, and hence there was pressure from foreign embassies, and tourism is also a big industry in the country. Hence the issue was politically charged, and had an economic threat component. On the other hand, civil society was looking for decisive action from the government. In contexts like these, getting the state to accept its responsibilities is difficult for an organisation like CWIN, while simultaneously its image as a "troublemaker" is strengthened.

- **Weak laws to enforce child protection** – In many areas, the legal mechanisms responsible for protecting children from exploitation and abuse are weak. Juvenile justice mechanisms and related knowledge, infrastructure and resources are also inadequate. Without all the necessary systemic and structural supports in place, the work of organisations like CWIN is even more difficult.
- **Negotiating a complex and charged political atmosphere** – Almost for the entire period of its existence, CWIN has had to negotiate a politically charged environment as the country has seen struggles for democratic government, interspersed with periods of direct rule by a monarch. As a strong partner in the national alliance of civil society organisations working for human rights, CWIN has had to stand up for these rights in different political conditions and against different political bosses. The organisation and its staff have had to face threats of arrests, actual arrests, threats of capture by rebel forces, actual capture, stand-offs in situations where activists were in danger for protecting children against the wishes of armed groups, etc. All this has added to the difficulty of the work of CWIN.
- **High expectations on the part of the target group, government and other NGOs:** “Being a pioneer is one thing, maintaining your primacy is quite another,” noted the representative of Save the Children Norway – Nepal, recognizing a major challenge faced by CWIN. CWIN has fulfilled the expectations of most of the stakeholders in its twenty years of existence. CWIN has managed to convert former opponents like government officials and industry representatives into partners by setting very high standards for itself, before it makes demands on them, and being willing to take on more than its share of responsibility, so that there is pressure on other stakeholders to do their bit. However, this has had a flip side. Whenever a new issue of concern arises, stakeholders tend to expect CWIN to take the lead, by doing the preliminary research, conceptualizing, testing models and providing technical expertise and resources. On the one hand, this is a major challenge for CWIN. On the other, it is a measure of the credibility and the capacity that CWIN has built up in twenty years, and it is likely to be difficult for CWIN to shrug off these expectations.
- **Formation of Maoist-backed NGOs and channelising of funds to them?:** In the course of gathering data as part of the evaluation, the evaluators spoke to some stakeholders who said that there were likely to be changes due to the political context. Supposedly, a meeting had taken place in which Maoist political leadership

had bilateral and multilateral funding agencies and subtly put pressure on them. Apparently, Maoist-backed civil society organisations were going to be formed, and they wanted funds to be channelised to these organisations. It will need to be seen whether these moves bear fruit, and if so, what the impact will be on civil society organisations like CWIN which have not aligned themselves with particular political parties.

Challenges/Needs - Internal

- **Loss of Skilled Staff:** There are over 40 bilateral and multilateral international organisations working in the development sector in Kathmandu. Having worked for a while in CWIN is an easy passport to secure jobs in these organisations, as it is well known that experience in CWIN will include exposure to grassroots work as well as good monitoring, administration and financial management systems. Hence, it is a common experience for CWIN to have its staff poached by these international organisations which can also pay better. This is undoubtedly a challenge for CWIN, as, every time it loses a skilled or experienced staff member, it had to expend time and resources on advertising, recruitment, orientation and on-the-job and in-service training before it can get the replacement staff at the required skill level. That said, CWIN faces this challenge in multiple ways. One, it accepts the scenario philosophically, and looks at its positive aspect. Because of such transfer of staff, CWIN has its “own people”, as it were, in these organisations, who are usually not only receptive, but eager to collaborate with CWIN, technically and financially. Secondly, it pays its staff reasonably well. CWIN staff are not highly paid, but staff salaries are very comparable with those in other national NGOs. Third, CWIN offers a friendly and collaborative atmosphere in which to work, including access to senior management and space for their voices to be heard.
- **Adequate staff for financial management?:** The only concerns raised about CWIN from the management angle was about whether the organisation should consider recruiting additional staff for financial management, especially when additional projects are taken on. A donor representative spoke of frequently having to seek clarifications; not because there was any indication of wrongdoing, but for completeness of documentation.
- **Adequate time for network management and communication?** – CWIN has been responsible for taking the lead for setting up several important networks; in other

cases, it is seen as a major partner and contributor of technical resources. One of CWIN's leaders is especially known for his ability to build consensus and bridge differences between network partners. Even given this background, there is some concern whether CWIN, as its responsibilities increase, is able to give all these networks the time and attention they need, in particular for oiling the social mechanisms necessary for their smooth functioning.

- **Managerial capacity issues – is management/monitoring of projects in remote areas on par with that of projects in and around Kathmandu?:** Many of CWIN's field-based initiatives happen in rural areas which are not very well connected by public transport. Staff have to walk for five to six hours to reach some areas. The evaluators are in no position to speak of CWIN's performance in these areas as the ambit of their visits lay in and around the Kathmandu Valley. However, they would like to raise the issue as a question for senior management of CWIN to periodically raise for themselves – about how they ensure excellent monitoring and management of projects in remote areas, including periodic monitoring by staff other than the coordinator responsible.
- **Information flow issues – both vertical and horizontal, for projects in remote areas?:** A related point is that it is a challenge to ensure that there is good information flow to and from staff working in remote project areas, and also ways for the senior management to secure information independently from primary target group/beneficiaries of projects from remote areas. Again, the evaluators are not casting any doubts about CWIN's performance in this matter, as the scope of their data gathering exercises did not extend that far. However, as in the previous point, it is a question for CWIN's senior management to ask themselves periodically and critically.
- **Striking a balance between being a grassroots organisation and being a resource organisation:** During the twenty years of its existence, CWIN has developed a remarkable balance between being a grassroots organisation as well as a resource organisation, both to the government and to other NGOs and stakeholders like parents and teachers. Some of CWIN's partners, e.g., Save the Children Norway - Nepal, feel that the current context is very different from the one in which CWIN started functioning. At that time, no one was working on the issue and CWIN needed to provide services and evolve models for providing these services. Now, there are a number of other grassroots organisations providing such services.

Hence, partners like SCNN feel that it is time that CWIN gives up being a grassroots organisation and focus on being a resource organisation. CWIN, on its part, feels that the reason why it has been able to evolve interventions that are relevant and which work is because of the close links it maintains with the grassroots and the inputs it receives from its grassroots work.

There is no doubt of the role that CWIN has to continue to play the role of a pioneer as new challenges arise, and as new interventions need to be designed. As it seeks to evolve new models, CWIN also has to make decisions about whether it will give up working with some of its older interventions, and if so which they will be. Alternatively, CWIN has to decide whether it will continue to grow, and if so, how much it wants to grow.

- **Addressing issues of growth:** The previous four points feed into the challenge of how CWIN visualises and intends to plan for its growth. It is clear that there are many bodies and NGOs to work on child rights issues in the Kathmandu valley, especially at the level of provision of direct services. For the continued realization of CWIN's objectives, it will have to increase attention paid to the higher levels of poverty in hilly areas, rural areas, Madhes-regions, and regions impacted by conflict, both in terms of direct service provision and institutional capacity building. Currently, internal debates have begun on how the organisation will frame and channelise this growth. Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Founder-President of the organisation, spoke of three potential pathways. The first is a conventional pathway; for CWIN to start branches in the five regions and 75 districts gradually, which will be coordinated and controlled by the CWIN Central Office. The second is to consider the creation of autonomous chapters of CWIN, which will plan for themselves, apply for grants independently, etc. In such a model, the central office will play the role of facilitator at the national level, especially for advocacy issues, and provide training. A third pathway would not try to create more CWINs but identify partners with similar values and strategies in the districts with whom CWIN can collaborate on issues. CWIN's role in such an instance would be to provide technical support. In the medium term, addressing these options, building consensus on what would suit CWIN's interests as well as realization of its vision, and making the structural and systemic adjustments necessary to actualise growth according to the pathway chosen will be a challenge.

- **Finding long-term care and support options for girl children with cognitive disabilities:** At Balika, CWIN offers only temporary residential care for children in crisis to allow them to stabilize while longer-term options are found for their care, protection and education. CWIN finds these options in the child's families, with government hostels, residential schools or with other NGOs which offer care facilities for children. However, when the girl children rescued have cognitive disabilities, none of these options are available to them. Hence, there are about five girl children with Balika now who have been there for more than two years. While this is against CWIN's philosophy, the organisation finds itself with no options. As many of these children have already faced sexual abuse, CWIN does not want to put these children in any setting where they are not certain that the children will obtain the protection and services they need. This is a challenge. CWIN has started the debate about the need for support for families, community-based, and where there are no other options, institution-based support for children with disabilities, but the issue has a long way to travel before these are in place.
- **Finding quality psychiatric and counseling care:** Because of its intrinsic respect for children and their need to be heard, CWIN has been able to provide good paracounseling support for the children who come to it for support. However, by and large, CWIN has found that when the children need more serious and formal psychiatric care, there are not enough resources available. Even in Kathmandu, finding child-sensitive psychiatrists and counselors has been difficult; the problem becomes far more acute away from the capital.
- **Are all important initiatives being adequately theorised?:** Often, evaluators find that organisations that have excellent documentation may slip up on the adequacy of their field based work; while those that do excellent and copious amounts of work, are unable to keep up with, or allocate adequate resources to documentation. **CWIN is a shining exception, and the extensive documentation that it has of all the initiatives it has taken up, as well as the data it has collected on child rights issues in its resource centre are very valuable indeed.** However, the evaluators feel that because CWIN is so skilled at the work it does, it occasionally makes adjustments that are actually quite significant, but which it does not theorise adequately. For instance, the transition from the "Common Room" to Hamra Sajha Thalo. The evolution of a residential programme which addresses one of the biggest challenges for street children – namely, the transition from a life of freedom without

responsibility (but without any real choices, either), to one where they learn about structure, self-discipline, and externally imposed limitations, in exchange for developing a future orientation, goal-setting behaviour and delayed gratification, all necessary for successful negotiation of the world and its systems – is an extremely significant one. This needs to be adequately documented, the various strategies used analysed, and the resulting knowledge codified for sharing with other organisations working with street children. Likewise, in seeking good support for children who are being reintegrated, CWIN has placed some children in extended family care. This too needs to be documented, studied and theorized, so that others can access these learnings and strategies and replicate them.

- **Is there insufficient distinction between the Board and the senior management of CWIN?** Currently, most of the senior management of CWIN is also part of the Board of CWIN. Apart from these members and Mr. Gauri Pradhan, who while not technically a part of CWIN now, is still such a strong presence in the organisation that he might well be considered a part of it, the evaluation team met only one other Board member. With all due respect, the evaluation team felt that this particular member was fairly 'lightweight' in that almost all the information she had seemed limited, and she also seemed in (perhaps quite justified) awe of the senior management. At this point, the evaluators did not feel there was a big problem related to this. In the discussion, senior management members who were also board members seemed to be very sensitive to the difference between management and governance issues. They secure information independently from stakeholders and play a role in policy setting planning, fundraising, conducting public relations, lobbying, and are also held directly to account by empowered elements among the primary stakeholders of the NGO, namely vulnerable children, from time to time. In all, the board seems to be very effective. Further, the fact that the Board is elected from the General Assembly is also a procedure that allays concern. Because of these reasons, the evaluators are reluctant to perceive this aspect of CWIN in a negative light at this point of time, even though this goes against received wisdom in management circles. However, the team would like to sound a note of caution, that because there is such a big overlap between the senior management and the board, and because the senior management are such 'heavyweights' in the area of working for child rights, they need to be particularly and proactively self-reflexive about this

aspect of the governance of CWIN. They need to reassess the constitution and functioning of the Board with an especially critical lens from time to time.

Chapter 6

Organisational Capacity Assessment

The previous chapters presented an overview of FORUT-funded projects in CWIN, and an assessment of its strengths, strategies, and challenges, based on information gathered through several methods of data collection, including document review, interviews with key informants, focus groups discussions with multiple stakeholders, and field visits. In addition, the evaluators had an all-day session with the senior management and board of CWIN, in which questions from the Discussion-Oriented Self Assessment Questionnaire (DOSA) were used to help the participants critically analyse the health of CWIN as an organisation, and its current capacity to fulfil its mission and vision. The following table summarises the major findings.

| Area | Assessment | Comments |
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| GOVERNANCE | | |
| Board | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many members of the senior management are also part of the Board - At this point, members seem to be able to distinguish between managerial and governance functions and are able to provide oversight and think proactively - Also, Board is elected from among the general assembly of 300 members - However, there is need for the board to be especially self-reflexive to ensure that the pressures of management do not constrain the requirements of governance |
| Mission/Goals | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documents clearly define CWIN's mission and goals, - Goals are achievable in stages given the economic, social and political environment - Implementation plans reflect mission and goals - Staff share excellent understanding of mission and goals and work accordingly |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External stakeholders see the organisation as serving its stated mission and goals, and organisation is identified with its mission - Despite many opportunities to undertake other projects, with the funding and status associated with it, the organisation has refused to be distracted from its primary mission and goals |
| Legal status | Compliant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officially registered with the Social Welfare Council of Nepal - Registered with Chief District Office |
| Stakeholders | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary stakeholders are very clearly defined - Clear mechanisms for inputs of primary stakeholders into project design, implementation and assessment from the grassroots - Children's advisory group feeds into the Executive Board at the top |
| Leadership | Exceptional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership of CWIN has provided leadership not only to the organisation, but to the child rights movement of a whole country, and this is recognized nationally and internationally - Leadership welcomes and values inputs from primary stakeholders and staff, and has institutionalized mechanisms to access this input - Leadership has clearly defined skills and strengths, e.g., for training, or building and sustaining alliances and networks, in management, etc. - Quality second level leadership has been proactively built |
| Autonomy | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation is able to respond to the interests of more than one donor - Organisation is able to obtain funding to |

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| | | <p>support its programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation is able to advocate to the government and to the private sector |
| MANAGEMENT PRACTICES | | |
| Organisational structure and culture | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly defined organisational structure, with a general assembly, executive board, and a management committee, as well as management structures for different programmes - Participatory style of management, with systems for mutual accountability for different levels of staff - Periodic review and updation of management practices and policies |
| Planning | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection procedures are in place and followed scrupulously to design and plan programmes - Primary stakeholders' needs are the direct impetus for planning - Plans feed into a larger strategic plan to achieve the mission of the organisation - Annual plans are comprehensive and specific enough to permit accurate budgeting, and flexible enough to be modified as warranted - Organisation is proactive about seeking out new areas of work in line with the mission and planning for this (e.g., vulnerability of children in cyberspace) |
| Personnel | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation seeks out and trains appropriate staff - Organisation makes good use of peer educators and former vulnerable children - Organisation creates an empowering and |

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| | | <p>enabling environment for staff to function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for improved personnel practices is incorporated into strategic planning for the organisation - Organisation faces competition in recruitment from the large number of INGOs and multilaterals functioning out of Kathmandu, and also loses qualified staff to them periodically |
| Programme Development | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inputs of primary stakeholders and staff, and formal data collection form the backbone of programme development - Programmes are developed for areas where there is a felt need, even before these may have been articulated by the larger community - Programmes are phased out or modified in response to changes in the environment, or willingness of other stakeholders to take on responsibility |
| Administrative procedures | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virtually all necessary personnel systems are institutionalized. - Nevertheless, organisation is flexible about using informal mechanisms (e.g., recruitment from former street children) where they can make an effective contribution - Files are systematic, accessible and comprehensive - Administrative manual is in place and updated as required |
| Risk Management | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systems are in place to limit abuse of organisational resources - Senior management has procedures for collecting data directly from primary stakeholders periodically, especially from institutions run by the organisation |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of safety policies have been created and are widely disseminated among staff, including policies on interactions with children, media, using IT resources in the organisation, etc. |
| Information systems | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN's information systems at the Head Office and institutional set-ups visited are very good and show a level of detail not evident in many other NGOs - Evaluators have not been able to confirm whether similar systems exist in field offices in remote areas, and whether accurate horizontal and vertical flows of information occur in relation to these offices vis-à-vis the head office - CWIN is able to use information gathered as tools for programme development as well as more broadly for advocacy and systems reforms involving both government and industry |
| Programme Reporting | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN maintains programme activity and evaluation reports - CWIN provides narrative and funding reports as required by funders and the government - Timely dissemination of reports on the organisation's programmes, activities, issues of concern and progress on advocacy initiatives is provided in both English and Nepali to a wide network of concerned stakeholders - Modern information technology methods are used well in reporting to a wider audience through e-newsletters and an award winning website |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | | |
| Human resource | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the most part, CWIN is able to find skilled |

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| <p>development and management</p> | | <p>staff to fulfil most core responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some cases, staff are recruited for their suitability, because of temperament or background, for a particular position, and provided with in-service and on-the-job training for complementary essential skills - CWIN actively uses a volunteer programme to proactively identify potential staff members with requisite attitudes and relevant skills - Capacity exists to contract out for additional skills as required (e.g., IT support, additional vocational training options for young people) - In the case of some projects (e.g., Balika) staff need support to develop broader analytic and presentation skills related to their work - Human resources development is part of strategic planning for the organisation. - Funds are actively sought and earmarked for human resources development - Exposure visits, including visits to organisations abroad, are provided as part of a planned strategy for staff - Intra-office mentoring and guidance is provided for staff to grow - Staff appraisal processes and personal development plans are used to proactively identify areas where training is required - Relevant training is identified and provided. E.g., conflict sensitivity, dance therapy, integrating alcohol and drug issues with all programmes, etc. - Appraisal processes are periodically reviewed through a participatory process - Promotion opportunities are internally notified. |
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| | | <p>External candidates for higher positions are sought only if internal candidates are not available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disciplinary and grievance redressal procedures exist and are applied - Organisation has proactively considered the issue of burnout and has set in place time and opportunities for recreation and creativity in the workplace |
| Work organisation | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular staff meetings are held - Staff contribute to management decisions - Team work is actively fostered - Information flow is free and inter-hierarchical - Initiative is encouraged, staff are self-motivated and very reflexive, self-inquiry and adaptation to improve systems is actively promoted |
| Diversity | Receives proactive attention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staffing and board membership composition do not proportionally represent the diversity of the community exactly. - However, the organisation proactively tries to recruit women, people with disabilities, people from indigenous communities and the Madhesi region |
| FINANCIAL RESOURCES | | |
| Accounting | Good, but needs some more support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial procedures and reporting systems are in place and function fully - Account categories exist for separating project funds - Temporary transfer of funds from one project to another to overcome short-term cash flow problems requires the signature of five members of the management committee - Accounting department may consider recruiting |

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| | | additional staff as the organisation is expanding |
| Budgeting | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN uses a participatory budget planning process - The budgeting process is integrated with annual implementation plans - Previous years experience feeds into financial projections - The budget is controlled on an ongoing basis |
| Stock controls/ Audit | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent systems exist and are used for procurement - Comparative review of prices by a committee is used to identify suppliers and negotiate deals with them for non-escalation of prices during a supply period - For any procurement over Rs. 10,000, quotations are invited and tenders given - Stock audit systems are in place and used - Internal stock audits take place regularly, and corrective measures are taken - Project allocations are used to control expenses |
| Financial reporting | Good, but can use some additional support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual financial reports are prepared and submitted to relevant authorities and funders - Funding partners spoke of full satisfaction about use of resources efficiently - One funding partner spoke of often seeking clarifications. These were not related to any doubts related to the way the funds were used, but about receiving adequate explanatory information. It is in this context that the organisation could consider employing more staff in the accounting section - Reports are regularly reviewed by the |

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| | | management committee and corrective measures taken as required or information is used for planning further, adjusting programmes, etc. |
| Diversification of income base | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation has three major funders, all of whom have been long-term funders - Representatives of funding organisations spoke of increasing partnership and funding, not decreasing them - Currently, no significant cost-recovery or income-generation plans by the organisation - Because of acknowledged expertise and credibility of the organisation, funding can be raised |
| SERVICE DELIVERY | | |
| Sectoral Expertise | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN has developed the relevant expertise in the area of child rights - The expertise is acknowledged by the full range of stakeholders, including peer NGOs, funders, multilateral agencies and government, who seek to collaborate with them due to this expertise - The organisation is capable of adapting its programmes and service delivery as other areas of concern related to primary stakeholders are observed or develop |
| Stakeholder commitment/ownership | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme priorities are based on actual need of primary stakeholders - Programme priorities and services are developed in consultation with stakeholders - Stakeholders collaborate in implementation and monitoring |
| Assessment | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative quantitative and qualitative |

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| | | <p>indicators are developed for each programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal evaluations are used to adjust and modify programmes - In addition to the impact made directly by its own work, the organisation contributes to work by government and other partner NGOs - Results are disseminated as appropriate |
| Marketing and Awareness Building | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN actively educates and builds awareness among all stakeholders, from primary stakeholders to multilaterals |
| EXTERNAL RELATIONS | | |
| Stakeholder relations | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN operates from multiple sites as to meet the needs of stakeholders - The organisation is perceived as credible by all stakeholders - The organisation is seen as a valuable resource by all stakeholders - CWIN and its stakeholders, including the primary stakeholders, the government, and multilaterals, see the relationship as a partnership for a common purpose |
| Inter-NGO collaboration | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN has taken the lead role in setting up or facilitating, or has otherwise actively participated in numerous networks devoted to common causes - The organisation networks and shares resources with national, regional and international NGOs - Advocacy is one of the strengths of CWIN's work |
| Government collaboration | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Without compromising its stand in any way, CWIN maintains very good contact with decision-makers |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation has established relationships in which it can seek or is invited for dialogues with policy makers - CWIN and the government actively exchange resources to address issues related to vulnerable children - Not only are recommendations of the organisation integrated into the government's development plans, it is actively seen as a partner for drafting child-friendly policies - The organisation has been able to even raise funds for arms of the government to function effectively, e.g., the District Child Welfare Boards |
| Funder Collaboration | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation has diversified contacts within the funding community - CWIN is seen as a credible and valuable partner by funders - The organisation is able to engage in free and frank interactions with funders |
| Public Relations | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN actively engages in public relations using innovative strategies, e.g., roping in celebrities to promote its causes, developing a music audio cd to promote child rights, etc - The organisation has a positive image with stakeholders - CWIN's objectives and goals are understood by stakeholders - Even in extremely difficult situations, as in conflict-ridden areas, CWIN has been able to use strategies like distribution of calendars with child rights messages to maintain public relations as well as promote its cause - The strategy has been used to assist with |

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| | | fundraising |
| Local Resources | Fair, needs appropriate policy environment to develop further | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN gets local support in various forms, e.g., by persuading other NGOs to take up causes so that the burden is shared - It encourages private sector associations to take up some amount of advocacy and rehabilitation work (e.g., trade unions, carpet manufacturers, transport owners associations, etc.) - It has tied up with bus services so that a fraction of the ticket cost can fund child welfare services - There is no tax incentive for donating to social causes in Nepal, and an enabling policy environment is necessary for the organisation to raise more resources locally |
| Media | Very good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation has a strategy to work with the media - Since many of the issues it works on are sensitive, the organisation has developed a policy to guide its interactions with the media - The organisation has received both positive and negative media attention, depending on the extent to which the community has been educated on various issues. However, the organisation has credibility with the larger community, including the media, and in times of crisis has received a lot of support from the media |
| SUSTAINABILITY | | |
| Programme/ Benefit Sustainability | Average, due to contextual reasons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWIN's programmes are supported by those using its services - The community has a strong sense of |

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| | | <p>ownership in the benefits of the programmes developed by CWIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability at the individual level is addressed by giving young people education and vocational training - Sustainability at the community level is addressed by sensitization and local-level skills transfer to elected representatives, village development councils, parents and teachers - Sustainability at the governmental level is addressed by getting child friendly stances adopted into policies and programmes - However, very little money is currently allocated by the government for child welfare programmes - Given the size of the child population in Nepal, the widespread acceptance of child labour and the number of vulnerable sectors and areas which still need to be addressed, phasing out of programmes is not viable - As other stakeholders take responsibility, CWIN phases out (e.g., the Common Room programme) |
| Organisational Sustainability | Excellent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation is a pioneer in the area of child rights and is recognized as such in society - The organisation has built key strategic alliances with other civil society partners - The organisation shares resources to all stakeholders in a proactive fashion - The organisation is part of the dynamic human rights discourse and action scenario in the country - The organisation has established linkages with players in the academic, multilateral, |

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| | | <p>government and private sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation is very aware of the political climate and legislation and how it affects the NGO sector |
| Financial Sustainability | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation has the ability to access multiple funders - CWIN has the capacity to develop proposals and secure work on the strength of its sectoral expertise and credibility -The organisation has developed good funder loyalty - The organisation has not thought of applying a fee-for-service model for many of its areas of expertise, but has contributed these generously to the larger NGO community, but could perhaps think of this by developing a training wing with sliding scale fees |
| Resource Base Sustainability | Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organisation is not dependent on a single funder for overhead or programme expenses - The organisation has built excellent credibility with funders, who have expressed a stated wish to continue funding the organisation, and increasing funding, rather than decreasing it - The organisation has acquired permanent assets which can be rented out to raise resources for emergency helpline assistance for vulnerable children and advocacy, even if loss of funding causes it to close down |

Chapter 7

Overview of Findings and Major Recommendations

While detailed evidence has been provided elsewhere in the report, this chapter summarises learnings from the evaluation with specific reference to the parameters outlined in the terms of reference. This is followed by the recommendations of the evaluators.

Efficiency

Both because of its credibility, and because of a sensible strategy of getting its key programmes funded by three major donors rather than a single donor, CWIN does not appear to be in the resource-constrained situation of many of its counterparts in the developing world. That said, the allocative efficiency of CWIN appears to be adequate. In some areas, for example, the outreach programme of Balika, the efficiency is very high when one compares the value of outputs to cost of inputs. In other areas, e.g., the poor costing strategy of the paper craft enterprise, more attention needs to be paid to allocative efficiency. Overall, the evaluators, lacking specific technical expertise to probe the nitty-gritties of allocative efficiency, would give CWIN a fair report based on the existence of very strong systems, including separation of project funds, existence of account categories, and good financial management and control procedures. (e.g. Recently, noticing that telephone expenses in one facility had gone up sharply, the senior management provided mobile phones to staff members and fixed phone allowances to keep a rein on expenditure and ensure accountability).

Effectiveness

If one considers the effectiveness of CWIN's work, namely the extent to which it has addressed or achieved its objectives in relation to input quantity, evaluators feel CWIN has been extraordinarily effective.

- CWIN has put child rights firmly on the human rights and development agenda of Nepal,
- It has proved inspirational for several other NGOs to form themselves and rally around the same cause,
- It has provided direct services of various kinds, and inspired such provision by other providers to thousands of vulnerable children,

- It has contributed significantly to child protection policy and procedures in Nepal, and provided technical capacity building and data gathering services of exceptional quality.

From the point of view specifically of FORUT-funded projects, the centrality of attention to girl children's causes and needs among the larger group of vulnerable children, addressing the very real need of providing children from difficult backgrounds with viable mainstream options, and focusing attention on drugs and alcohol as development issues are being addressed by CWIN in a particularly challenging environment for all three issues. CWIN's effectiveness is due to its exceptional leadership, committed staff, and flexible but persevering strategies.

Impact

As explained in other sections of the report, CWIN's work has brought significant and sustained positive impact to the lives of thousands of children in difficult circumstances in Nepal in four major ways:

- By the provision of many kinds of direct support services, by inspiring the creation of dozens of other organisations providing such support services,
- By insisting on standards for such services and providing technical support to raise standards,
- By focusing attention on issues about vulnerable children that were not in the public eye and
- By directing resources to them through multiple agencies, including policy and programmatic attention by government.

There have been no perceptible deleterious effects of CWIN's work on society. Since CWIN engages in dialogue and tries to find solutions for industry representatives affected by its stand on child labour, and makes them partners in its work, it offsets their negative feelings with "feel good" possibilities related to business social responsibility-related actions.

Relevance

The relevance of CWIN's work is unquestionable and has been addressed extensively elsewhere in this report, both in terms of the general situation of children in Nepal and in terms of the rationale behind particular projects.

Sustainability

Elsewhere in the report (Chapter 5), issues like financial sustainability, resource base sustainability and organisational sustainability have been addressed. In addition,

- By various strategies at the level of the individual child, e.g., placing children back in environments where parents and communities take responsibility for them, providing educational support, and providing vocational training and job placement support, CWIN ensures that long-term integration of significant numbers of children from difficult circumstances occurs into mainstream society.
- By strengthening resources and capacity at feeder areas, CWIN works to reduce the number of children leaving comparatively safe environments.
- By working to improve policy and programmes and resource allocation by government, CWIN works to secure a suitable policy environment for child protection and promotion of child rights.

These measures contribute to sustainability of the impact of CWIN's work.

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

By designing programmes specifically addressing the vulnerabilities of girl children, and raising advocacy issues specific to their needs, and increasingly addressing the masculinities factors that contribute to boys' vulnerability, CWIN shows gender sensitivity at the programmatic level. At the organisational level, by encouraging women's leadership, not discriminating amongst women in recruitment and respecting women's voices, CWIN addresses gender equity. There is some imbalance of females in field-related positions, but to a great extent this has been the result of the conflict situation in the country, as a result of which qualified women candidates have self-selected themselves out of occupying certain staff positions, rather than a reluctance on CWIN's part to employ women in these positions.

If one sets aside representation of the indigenous Newari community, CWIN does not have quite a proportional representation with respect to inclusion of comparatively marginalized indigenous, Dalit, and Madhesi sections of society in its staffing. However,

CWIN tries to actively address this through positive discrimination and this is an alive issue, coming up regularly for discussion at the senior management and board levels, the challenge is to find the match for the jobs at hand. As far as support for vulnerable children is concerned, since a lot of CWIN's services involve children in crisis, proportional representation is not an issue. The attempt is to reach services to any children in crisis or vulnerable on a priority basis, irrespective of community.

Conflict Sensitivity

CWIN has developed a programme specifically for children in conflict areas in collaboration with Save the Children Norway. However, apart from this, conflict sensitivity has also figured in how the organisation has addressed many of its broad advocacy issues, seeking consensus across rival groups. In the unanticipated post-election scenario, this strategy of CWIN has paid off handsomely. In the post-conflict period, CWIN is designing programmes aimed at reaching the benefits of peace to conflict ridden areas in the form of income generation programmes and institutional capacity building, so that people do not get frustrated at the slow pace of development and think of further armed struggles, which would make children vulnerable again.

Partnering:

This has been addressed in detail elsewhere in the report, in Chapters 3, 4 and 5. This is one of CWIN's biggest strategies and strengths. Some attention to time-use analysis and time allocation in this area would be useful.

Organisational Learning

Perhaps it would be no exaggeration to say that CWIN is the single most important national civil society organisation responsible for generating information and disseminating knowledge related to vulnerable children in Nepal, both for the government and for multilateral organisations. During the evaluation, senior civil servants of the government, associated with child rights and protection issues, asserted without any hesitation that they relied on CWIN for data to write their national compliance reports on child related issues, as well as for policy development. Multilateral organisations like UNICEF lauded CWIN's role on building capacity and consensus on key concepts like Children are Zones of Peace, with CWIN finding resources from within its existing budget for many of these initiatives, instead of waiting

for funds to be sanctioned to start such innovative work. Teamwork is evidently strong in CWIN, and grassroots knowledge feeds in at all levels, right to the top, inasmuch as children formerly in vulnerable situations or currently in them form the advisory group to the Management Committee.

Policy Support Measures

While there are many lacunae in the policy support environment, CWIN is the main resource for the government when it comes to developing policy and programmes for vulnerable children. Hence, CWIN's advocacy work can arguably contribute to improving the policy environment further, as far as the state is concerned. Other donor representatives said that they saw their support to CWIN increasing, not decreasing, suggesting a compatibility of priority concerns between donor agencies and CWIN.

Institutional Capacity Building

Recognising that for any of its interventions to have critical mass impact, it must work with the institutions in society, CWIN has made institutional capacity building a cornerstone of its work, actively creating space for this where it has not existed previously. It does this at multiple levels. At the community level, it has created space for groups of adolescent girls to come together, be accepted by the community and become change agents. It has created Child Rights Forums across hundreds of schools in the country to reach the concept not only to children in poverty, but middle class children who, in a couple of decades will be active practitioners and implementers of the country's policies. Trainings are provided to parents for change at the level of the family, and teachers at the levels of schools. District Child Welfare Boards have been activated, trained and resources found for their functioning. At the national level, CWIN feeds data resources and policy inputs into the Ministry of Children, Women and Social Welfare. CWIN's key personnel have headed the Central Child Welfare Board and are now on the National Human Rights Commission, and various National Task Forces on key issues related to children. By taking leadership on issues like the management of child care homes, CWIN has insisted on other civil society organisations improving levels of service provision.

Financial and economic viability, human resource management and socio-cultural factors have been addressed at length elsewhere in the report, particularly chapters 5 and 6.

Technological factors: CWIN is comfortable with technology and uses it extensively wherever the larger environment is supportive of its use (Nepal is plagued by powercuts, lack of widespread availability of the internet, or broadband internet in areas where it is available). All its data is available on an intra-net, it publishes CDs with information related to specific issues, publishes e-newsletters in English and Nepali and has an informative, awardwinning web-site. It has a policy on use of IT in the organisation. It has taken leadership on building capacity and protecting children in cyberspace.

Environmental and ecological factors: Decentralised functioning and decision-making mechanisms contribute to reduced used of fossil fuels. Livelihood options sought under the peace dividend programme are taking into consideration the micro-ecological conditions of the places where they are being implemented.

Recommendations

Project specific recommendations have been made in Chapter 3. As mentioned earlier, since CWIN is an extraordinarily reflective and proactive organisation, there are few recommendations the evaluators have to make. However, such as they are, the more broadbased recommendations are given below.

As part of preventive action to reduce vulnerability and risk for children

- **Teach skills for positive parenting:** An important initiative on CWIN's part has been preventive work aimed at encouraging communities and parents to respect children's rights and voices, in order to create a conducive environment in which children do not feel pressured to leave their homes and run away to the streets or place themselves in other vulnerable situations. Child Rights Training for parents, teachers and key community members has been an important part of this initiative. In addition to this, CWIN could take the lead to put together a series of culturally-sensitive modules on skills for positive parenting and introduce these on a pilot basis in those areas which serve as big feeder areas for the city in terms of migrant children. The modules could be adjusted after pilot testing, and introduced more

widely as one more preventive action to prevent children thinking of the street as an attractive option to staying with their families.

- **Increase reach of adolescent education programme:** The success of the adolescent education programme designed for girl children from communities at risk was very evident to the evaluators. In fact, one of the members of the evaluation team was a young person who had gone through this intervention and become president of her local Kishori Samuha. The team had a focus group discussion with representatives of several Kishori Samuhas, and also visited three such groups in their contexts. There was very striking evidence of the impact of the programme. At the very least, the most timid girls (a very small number) had developed a community-approved peer support group. Almost all reported feeling personally empowered by the information and activities undertaken. Several of them had become change agents in the community. In one community, Tokha, the girls had undertaken a health and sanitation drive in their community, and those who began by mocking them had come to appreciate their work and support them. Another group had managed to completely shut down sale of alcohol in their community for a period of nine months. In the changed political situation, after the victory of the Maoist party, local Maoist strongmen had resumed sales. Nevertheless, what they achieved was quite remarkable.

However, the evaluators noticed that only a very small proportion of the Balika budget is allotted to this programme. They would like to recommend that the resources allotted to the programme be increased, more staff with the ability to build rapport with and to train young people hired, and the reach of the programme extended. This would be personally useful to the participants in the programme, and there would be positive spin-offs both in terms of necessary and relevant community development activities initiated by the participants, and also as sensitive eyes, ears and hands who notice potentially vulnerable children in the community and seek out resources and support for them.

- **Extend the empowerment programme to cover adolescent boys:** Further, the evaluators would like to recommend that a suitable empowerment programme be begun for young boys as well. Firstly, because such information, especially with adequate attention to masculinities issues, is essential for young men as well,

because in many ways they are rendered vulnerable by peer group expectations, active recruitment by groups with political connections, etc. Secondly, there are still some new rebel groups forming. To counter the attraction of these armed groups for adolescents and young men, civil society initiatives are necessary. Finally, when young women who have been trained and empowered seek out partners in their community, if the gains of the training programme are not to be undermined, the young men of the community must be prepared so that they can provide suitable support. Otherwise they will be subject to the same disadvantages, violence, etc., faced by their mothers' generation.

As part of action to address the vulnerabilities related to mental health issues

- **Invite international mental health NGOs to work in Nepal:** CWIN could encourage international mental health NGOs (e.g., Basic Needs UK) already working in Nepal or willing to work in Nepal to collaborate with it on addressing the issues of children with cognitive disabilities. CWIN could also consider strengthening linkages with the disabilities movement in Nepal to address this issue.
- **Lobby with WHO/Government health authorities to focus on mental health:** CWIN could pressurize both government authorities and the WHO to take up work on mental health as a priority issue. The fact that Nepal is going through a post-conflict phase is an opportunity, and provides an excellent rationale for focus on mental health issues.
- **Identify a concrete list of therapy and psychosocial counseling needs:** Since good reintegration with society requires good psychosocial adjustment, the children who pass through CWIN's intervention certainly require all the support they can get. CWIN's senior staff are currently able to provide paracounseling support. However, since the senior management has concerns about the quality of the professional help they can access, they could put together a set of representative cases with which they have faced particular difficulties, identify the nature of their needs, and see whether they can access experts in adolescent and child psychiatry, who also have experience working with street children and children from traumatized backgrounds, who can design a needs-based training programme for CWIN's paracounselors. One possible candidate whom the evaluators can recommend is Dr. Shekhar Seshadri, an internationally renowned child and adolescent psychiatrist from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bangalore, who routinely

helps another FORUT partner, APSA, support children in their care, and hence is already aware of particular needs of street children and children from other difficult circumstances.

As part of CWIN's role as a leader of the child rights movement in Nepal:

- **Continue to serve as a laboratory/crucible for testing new models of support for vulnerable children in Nepal:** While there is no doubt that it can be tiring that the government, multilateral development organisations and other NGOs continue to look to CWIN to lead new initiatives, this can also be exhilarating. Although the CWIN leadership has complained about this expectation on the part of stakeholders in Nepali society, perhaps CWIN could consider gracefully accepting its elder statesperson role in the child rights movement, and continue to develop and test new models of support for the needs of particular groups of vulnerable children in Nepal, as it has done all along. Examples of new models might be:
 - **Alternative care:** CWIN fundamentally had the right idea when it decided that it would not offer long-term institutional care for its children. Increasingly, a great deal of research evidence suggests that long-term institutional care is damaging for the psychosocial adjustment of children; further, institutional care is very expensive. Also, as the number of children who need additional support goes up for various seasons, it is clear that we cannot expect institutional care to do the job: the numbers are too many. Hence, CWIN should consider introducing the idea of alternative care for children and beginning to build support for it. CWIN has already begun with its work on extended family care. This needs to be theorised and foster care could also be experimented with. For this, CWIN would need to test the model, including developing and testing norms for identifying potential foster parents, thinking about possible reimbursement of expenses and minimum compliance requirements, community-based monitoring strategies, transition requirements if any, etc. CWIN could start by trying to identify carers within the community (perhaps among women from the savings and credit groups facilitated by CWIN or its partners, when the other members of the groups could serve as the monitoring mechanism) for the girls with cognitive disabilities at Balika. Another opportunity might be to link up children who have lost their parents with parents who have lost their children as a result of

the conflict. However, all such initiatives would require significant preparation and development of support systems. The work would be worthwhile, since once it has been fine-tuned, there would be an alternative to institutional care for those children whom CWIN rescues who cannot be returned to parental care. If CWIN is not already a part of the Better Care Network, this would be a good resource for the organisation in undertaking this work.

- **Building an adolescent sexual health unit:** CWIN has a great deal of experience with adolescent sexual health, including how to discuss sensitive topics with young people, addressing issues related to HIV and AIDS, providing support to street children with HIV, etc. CWIN should uncover and theorise its tacit knowledge and use this to build an adolescent sexual health unit, and provide training in these issues to other NGOs. Given the particular susceptibility of young people to HIV, this would be a significant contribution from CWIN. One of FORUT's partners in India has been doing some significant work in this area, and sharing of resources between these two stalwarts would be an excellent idea.
- **Promoting external mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS with other child care organisations:** CWIN has, very proactively, incorporated work related to HIV and AIDS with all its programmes, and is thus probably one of the pioneers with HIV mainstreaming work in the country. This approach, rather than an HIV-specific or health specific approach may be effective in reaching the large susceptible target group of vulnerable children and young people. CWIN could share its approach with its network partners and encourage external mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS among its partner organisations.

Accepting its role as a leader in piloting, testing and fine-tuning new initiatives is important for CWIN, not only from the point of view of their value to vulnerable children and Nepali society, but for their value to CWIN as an organisation.

According to the life cycle theory for organisations, CWIN is today a mature organisation. If it does not reinvent itself, consistently and consciously seeking out opportunities for the pioneering, establishment and consolidation stages, with the attendant energy, visioning, strategizing and integration attendant on these stages, the life cycle stage it will look forward to next is decline. Nepal is a country in which, in spite of the work done by CWIN and the other organisations it has inspired for the past twenty years, still needs a lot more work before it can fulfil its promises as a

responsible and civilized society towards its children. Hence CWIN needs to keep itself young and healthy as an organisation, and pioneering new initiatives will contribute towards this.

- **Review its partnering responsibilities and rationalise them:** Partnership is one of CWIN's biggest strengths. In particular, it has been successful in building many networks. One concern which the evaluators had was whether CWIN is able to do justice to its membership of all these networks, in terms of time required for oiling the social machinery, in addition to time spent on actual advocacy work. They would like to recommend a listing of all its partnerships and network memberships, a time-use study on current levels of interaction, a projection of ideal levels of interaction and contribution, and the time required for this, and an allocation of responsibilities within the organisation so that network partners continue to maintain their respect for CWIN's contributions to the network.

As part of addressing the issue of substance abuse among street children:

- **Review existing de-addiction programmes for child- friendliness:** While CWIN avers that there are several de-addiction programmes in Nepal, it is less certain about the child-friendliness or appropriateness of these programmes. Given the high levels of use of tobacco, alcohol, and psychotropic substances among vulnerable children, whether they are street children, child labourers, or children who have participated in armed conflict, CWIN could consider reviewing existing de-addiction programmes for their appropriateness for children. If these are not quite satisfactory, CWIN could put pressure on the appropriate stakeholders to develop child-friendly de-addiction programmes, or take the lead in piloting such programmes.

As part of increasing civil society space and responsibility for the vulnerable sections of Nepali society

- **Encourage government to offer tax benefits for social spending by individuals and corporates:** Currently, according to the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare, Women and Children, the available budget from government to address issues of vulnerable children is only Rs. 10 million (1 crore Nepali rupees). A significant amount to address these issues comes from bilateral and multilateral aid organisations. The contribution from civil society is limited. Part of the reason for this is that the financial climate provides no encouragement for such social

spending. Since CWIN is a member of several networks, CWIN, together with its partner organisations, could encourage the government to offer tax-benefits to individuals and corporates who are willing to contribute to social causes in the country.

As part of strengthening CWIN as an organisation

CWIN has set high standards for itself for the management of the organisation. It has also been very proactive about developing good policies, including an IT policy, media policy, code of conduct for working with children, service rules, etc. The only recommendations that the evaluators have to offer are:

- **Use exit interviews for staff and children:** Children and young people spoke of going back and forth between CWIN and other child support organisations. Exit interviews when possible (since occasionally children may leave without informing) may help CWIN address any patterns of difficulties that the children report. Likewise, interviews with staff who leave may also help CWIN address any issues which are not linked to the higher salaries paid by international NGOs.
- **Develop an HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy:** Increasingly, development organisations, particularly funding organisations, are using their experience of situations faced by NGOs in Africa to encourage NGOs in low-prevalence countries to proactively protect the organisation from possible susceptibility to HIV and vulnerability to AIDS by adopting procedures for internal mainstreaming. Developing an HIV and AIDS Workplace policy, as recommended by the ILO, by a collaborative process, would be one step towards such ongoing internal mainstreaming.

Annexure 1

Evaluation Report of CWIN-FORUT

Partnership Programmes -

- Prabina Gopali

Evaluation Report of 1st day: 07 May 2008 Wednesday

Today, the evaluation programme was held at CWIN Balika, Tinthana. The programme was started with introduction round. Most of the staffs were presented. After introducing all staffs by themselves. Dr.Meera Pillai, member of evaluation team, let all the CWIN staffs write good things and achievements of CWIN in the board. It was the two minutes of exercise for them. In two minutes they wrote lots of good aspects about CWIN like:

- Education Support
- Life skill training
- Advocacy
- Family Rehabilitation
- Wide Networking with other Rights Groups
- Socialization
- Youth support
- Adolescent training
- Establishing as a pioneer child Right organization
- Rescued many children in risk
- Protection of children from harm
- Awareness programme
- Motivation
- Help line
- CZOP Campaign etc.

CWIN FORUT Partnership Programme

In introduction along with their name & address, all the CWIN staffs also told their position of work & about how they are doing their works. After that Meera told them to write/make list about important events of CWIN/History of CWIN since 1987 to now. Then, all staffs discussed each other & started writing. Then the group was divided into five groups to present the events of CWIN in between 4/4 years. After that we took the lunch break and did some entertainment by singing. Then the presentation began. The

1st groups told the history of CWIN in the form of story. Some of the main points mentioned by the CWIN staffs are listed below about CWIN.

1. It's a non profit making organization
2. Not just a charity for orphans but one social movement
3. Working directly with Children at risk
4. Convert the non-issue of Child right into a national agenda
5. Community works related to child rights.
6. Collaboration with police, lawyers etc for justice of children
7. Research child labour on Carpet factories
8. Link Children with parents after rescue.
9. Sensitization programme with bus staffs, passengers.
10. Blood donation programme for any children of emergency
11. Started manifesto about child issue.
12. Campaign against domestic child labour (Say Yes For Children)
13. Campaign against trafficking in different districts.
14. Help line services in many districts.
15. National Campaign: Children as Peace of Zone.
16. Social re-integration programme for conflict affected children
17. Campaign: Lets build new Nepal with Children
18. CWIN's motto: For Children With Children
19. Working with Human Rights Organizations, Women's organizations etc.
20. Built CWIN Balika for girls & Transit Home for boys.

In this way, CWIN is doing different activities and expanding its programmes in different areas for the welfare and rights of children though they have to face many challenges.

Evaluation Report of 2nd day

08 May 2008 Thursday

At Balika Center

- ❖ Presentation of CWIN Balika Programme by
Sony Piya (Programme Officer)
 - CWIN Balika (1994): A Programme for Girl Children at Risk.

- ❖ Major activities of CWIN Balika Programme
 - Case Study Survey on impacts of armed conflict.
 - Field Work in more than 60 districts for family reintegration
 - Formation of adolescent groups in squatter areas and committees.
 - Provide skill education, vocational training for self-reliance.
 - Organized 3 days National Conference of Girls Child labour.
 - Networking and Alliance Building.

At present, in Balika Center ten staffs are working. They do different task like taking care of rescued children, cooking, teaching, and secretary, looking over all activities of CWIN Balika & many more others. Here, girls who are mostly affected from domestic violence abuse, rape case, lost are staying. They came here through help line. They live

here until case file, started against their exploiters, is not closed & it takes CWIN three to six months to solve one case.

Some Children in Balika Center behave differently for sometime after rescued. They hide their actual identity & give wrong information about what had happened to them. They are afraid in telling their story. One example of a girl can be taken about this. She was rescued through help line services. Before rescue, she had a very hard time, often abused by her husband who was much older than her. It's about child marriage case. After rescued, for sometime, she used to live alone didn't speak to anybody, used to cry remembering past torture, pretend to faint & other abnormal behaviors. After motivation she is now doing well & also going to school.

Other many examples can be found about rescued children. In child labour case also, CWIN has given concern about child rights. CWIN rescued a girl of below 15 working in carpet factories. In home she was tortured by stepmother & in factory she had to work 18 hour a day, which was beyond her effort. Because of working constantly with dust in factory the woolen dust affected inside her body and after rescue, the treatment was done and she was sent to UNICEF.

Another example of child labour case is about a girl, named Laxmi, working at her owners home. The owner bitterly tortured her, let her sleep with dog, giving low hygiene food and even used to beat her keeping inside the sack. Knowing this, one of her neighbour called in Help line services and she was rescued. Also all the organization and NGOs working for working for human right, charged 2 lakhs from that owner. Now, that girl has been sent to her grand parents home from CWIN and money is deposited in bank which she'll get after she is 18.

Like this, other many more programmes have been running in Balika Center. At present, there are about 35 children in Balika home. They are taken care well here and certain rules have formed for their daily activities. They are also participating in many creative activities.

- Some of the Works/Activities done by Balika's staff:
 - Field Work
 - Reintegration
 - Rescued three girls in Sinduplachowk who are nearly trafficked.
 - Protection through Help line
 - Running Adolescent training to empower girls of squatter areas, community and other schoolgirls.

- Challenges during Programme
 - In fieldwork, the workers/ staff would have physical challenges, while working community
 - Parents refuse to accept their children
 - Take long process in fighting case
 - Victims not prepare for legal case
 - Difficult in reintegration of mentally affected children
 - Difficult in the way because of Maoist problem etc.

Facing different challenges also, CWIN is doing its job as usual in step by step. Now a days, people are also supporting by registering many cases related to trafficking and other issue through help line services. The view of polices, towards the trafficking girls, have changed after sensitization program. They began to behave or treat them nicely. After knowing its programmes Women Administrators has taken this programme as major issue. Also it has formed various awareness programmes in top level, which highlight the project internationally.

Evaluation Report of 3rd day
09 May 2008 Friday

At CWIN

➤ **Presentation on Adolescent Girls Group (Kishori Samuha)**

Sixteen girls of Code team member of 'Kishori Samuha' were present. They're from eight different places like Thankot, Mandikatar, Tokha, Sankhamul, Tripureswor, Balaju, Sinamangal and Anamanager.

They know CWIN as helping organization of Children, giving different kinds of training like life skill training, Adolescent training and other social activities. They got lots of training at CWIN Balika. The major subject of training are adolescent training child Rights Child Marriage, Family Planning HIV/AIDs, Presentation and other Income Generating trainings.

After getting training lots of things have been changed in them. They can do presentation themselves with confidence now, which was impossible before training. Also they can easily convince their parents for their decisions. They are taking lots of training here, which they haven't taken before from any sector. This CWIN is the first organization where they are getting such type of trainings.

In the presentation all the Kishoris looked very active. They were willing to share their experience of before and after training. They have got one kind of boldness in them after training. They are also applying that knowledge which they got from CWIN in their practical life. For example of someone tries to misbehave them, they raise their voice and take action against them immediately. Also they are helping other people in the society who are tolerating violence and giving training to their younger sisters and brothers', which they learn from training at Balika Center.

At AATWIN

Alliance Against Trafficking of Women and Children in Nepal (1997)

-Binu Maya Gurung- Programme Coordinator

-Devi Adhikari-President of AATWIN

AATWIN has a warm relationship with CWIN.AATWIN is in a sense, one of the founding Organization of trafficked Women for their rights. Since its establishment, it has got help from CWIN in various purposes. CWIN provided AATWIN one Resource Center. Other helps provided by CWIN are:

- Giving Advise
- Helped in bringing laws
- Providing many articles for publication.
- Providing any kind of Support, Coordination and other important information.

AATWIN has positive view toward CWIN. It found CWIN as an organization strongly working in Welfare approach and Advocacy. Facing many challenges, CWIN is continuing its programmes step to step getting success. According to AATWIN, CWIN is going in a right way being very responsive.

• Field Visit to meet Girls reunited with family at Bansighat.

At Bansighat, we met three girls who were helped by CWIN in the time of need. CWIN helped them in their education by providing them many supports like admitted in the school, provided necessary things for study by keeping them in the hostel. Also they got adolescent and other life skill training from CWIN.

Now, they have formed one Kishori Samuha with the help of CWIN. This group is working very actively in their community. Once they started one campaign of stopping alcohol business in their community. In their community most of the people use to drink and fight in unnecessary issues. So, this Kishori Samuha with the help of Aama Samuha tried to ban alcohol business and they were success to stop all the alcoholic activities for seven months.

Like others, they have also positive view towards CWIN. They take CWIN as one organization which helps risked and street children focus them in education gives clinic support and income generating trainings like sewing, wall painting, plumber, gardener, singing, dancing, computer and others which they can utilize as their profession.

Now, what they really want is that the boys in their community are not doing their proper activities. Boys are misusing their time playing card; carom, drinking alcohol even taking drugs. They do not listen to the word of Kishori Samuha. So, this group wants to change their negative attitudes and works together for the development of their community. For this they want help from CWIN or from any other organization working for the welfare of society.

Evaluation Report of 4th day

10 May 2008 Saturday

Field visit to meet Girls Groups in the Community at Tokha

This day we went to visit Girls Group (Kishori Samuha) at Tokha. We met that group in their local school. About 25 girls were present. Most of them are school students and some are college students.

Before two years, the staff member of CWIN went there to give them adolescent training. At that time, child marriage was prevailed there. So, teachers of that school thought about the need of adolescent training in that community and they arranged that training to the girls of their school with the help of CWIN.

From CWIN staffs that group took adolescent training of five days. The major subjects of training were about child marriages, law, gender equity, HIV/IDs, menstrual hygiene, physical changes, presentation and others.

Adolescent training brought many more changes in them. They built a kind of confidence from training. Before that they have never taken such training. Now they learn how to care themselves and their community. Before they were afraid to go in boys group and couldn't do anything when boys used to look them with bad eyes. But now they can easily talk with boys and don't feel afraid among boys. Also they have learnt about how to speak with parents. They are taking responsibility in the work of home. Their parents are also participating them in decision-making, which was ignored before. Now their parents believe in them and let them go where they want and support them in their ideas. In school also, they have built good relationship with teachers. They can easily ask teachers the question about what they don't understand. If any problem arises in one of them the whole group would unite and solve the problem. For example when they couldn't pay school fee in time the accountant of that school used to scold them and they felt very guilty. But now they use to go in-group and tell the problems of couldn't pay fee in time and don't have to bear threats of accountant.

This group is also running financial programme now. They raise money twice a month from the group and use to give that money to the needed member in lower interest. Also they're collecting fund in their community for the development of their own community. When giving loan, they first try to know the problem about why she needs money. Only after research, they give loan to solve that problem. Also learned the importance of saving money.

The group is doing many social activities like cleaning the community helping in community programmes etc. Because of this, they have developed their identity as 'Kishori Samuha' and getting invitation to take part in different cultural programmes and they are helping them in different activities being volunteers. Now everything they do, takes positively by that community.

They take CWIN as an organization that rescues children through help line, gives habitat to street children, supports in emergency, reunites rescued children with their parents, gives different kinds of training looking at the need of area and supports for self reliance.

They want such training for boys also because boys help very few in their work although they are free. They hope both boys and girls should treat equally and support them in their works. Also they want some incoming generating training like making Candle paper craft etc from CWIN to utilize their free time and to be

independent. So, they are requesting CWIN for such training and also give thanks to CWIN for providing them different kind of supports and advice and trainings.

At Anamnager:-

After Tokha, we went to visit Girls group in the slum area of Anamnagar. Same kind of positive response came from that group about CWIN. Also, they have established one club of Kishori Samuha named Milijuli Kishori Samuha. This group too, feels the necessity of programmes for boys.

Evaluation Report of 5th day

11 May 2008 Sunday

Interview with Secretary of the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare

At Singha Durbar

First we took the interview with Ritu Raj Bhandari, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Women Children and Social welfare. He takes CWIN as pioneer Nepalese organization. In the rights based organization CWIN is the leading one.

According to Bhandari, the necessary of CWIN can be categorized in three levels. First government is not taking much responsibility about the issue of children. Secondly, people do not have ideas about the rights of children and lastly, children themselves are unaware about their rights.

He takes CWIN as valuable partnership of government. CWIN is directly helping government in policy making. Mostly child-related reports are collected from CWIN in data collection. To make draft of bill on child rights, CWIN is one key partner of government. CWIN mostly focuses on street children, lost children and children at risk. Also it has National campaigns for Child Rights.

Also, we took interview of Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare. Same kind of response came from him about CWIN. According to him, CWIN works differently among NGOs. It has done best among the NGOs sector emphasizing on the rights of children. Government gives more emphasis to young people but they ignore the issue of children, so, there should be balance in the allocation of budget and in policy formation for the rights of children. Actually, government is not reaching to children but CWIN reaches directly to the Children and works. This organization is managing itself though it doesn't get the (financial) support from government. Also he feels that government has got right place for law formation of children.

According to them the new government itself is one major challenge for NGOs like CWIN. The view of government about NGOs may be different and also people use to

blame the NGOs. But anyway NGOs came as an alternative to government. They are doing many works which government couldn't do for its citizen.

After Singha Durbar, We came to visit Women and Children Services Central Nepal Police of Kalimati. There we took interview with Inspector Harsan Maya Maharjan. She knows CWIN as reintegrating education supporting and rescuing children organization with transit Center. In a year, they send eight to ten children at CWIN after rescue. Among NGOs, mostly CWIN comes to ask help in case study. Also CWIN is helping them by providing necessary information about Children. They are near to CWIN than other NGOs and they feel good to work in collaboration with CWIN.

*** Presentation of CWIN self Reliance Center/ Social marketing**

At the head office of CWIN in Ravibhawan, Mr Krishna Shrestha , the programme Organizer of CWIN, did the presentation of CWIN Self Reliance. To empower youths for self reliance, CWIN is also giving Creative trainings to youths. The major training that the CWIN has given to the youths are tailoring paper craft, making candle, plumber, carpenter etc. After training the boys have starts working and can stand on their own feet. Now, their businesses are going on profit. Also they have formed one youth Forum and beside their business, they are also doing street drama about street children, HIV/AIDs etc. CWIN is helping them in marketing their products.

Evaluation Report of 6th day 12 May 2008 Monday

***Joint Session with CWIN Management Team**

This day, we talked with the CWIN staffs about the management of CWIN. Altogether, there are 135 staffs in CWIN doing different activities. They do staff meeting once a month to support the staff. And they use to have a big forum of staff meeting once in every 6 months. They give more priority to their own staffs to promote their level. In the absence of Gauri Pradhan also CWIN is managing its activities by dynamic Group.

CWIN is doing good management in financial sector also. They are not using its budget in unusual activities. For example in the telephone they have lock system if someone calls from the telephone of CWIN's they have to pay charge. Also CWIN has got the experience of budget formation from previous year, which is helpful to make budget for this year. Out of budget, 95% of budget was expended and 5% is still left which they are using in next budget formation. So, the budget of CWIN is matched with the work.

Evaluation Report of 7th day

13 May 2008 Tuesday
Meeting With Peer Educators
At Hamro Sajha Thalo

Today our evaluator group went to visit peer educators of Hamro Sajha Thalo, located at Syuchatar. There we mainly talked with three peer educators and with the programme officer Mr. Sanu Giri. HST is a transit home of street children mainly of boys who are at risk. This center is supported by Plan Nepal.

Every peer educators of this center has their own story of life. Three of them, whom we chatted, were street children before rescued by CWIN. They had very miserable time. They used to work in carpet factory and hotel. The owners of them didn't treat them well and even they didn't get mush food to eat. After rescued by CWIN, they're living in this transit Center.

IN this center, they got various kinds of training and now they are working here as peer educators. According to Sanu Giri, for the future development of CWIN, It has to development human resources, good environment, other valuable programmes and financial development.

Meeting with FWLD (1995)
At Thapathali, KTM

After visiting HST, we went to visit FWLD (Forum for Women Law and Development) At Thapathali, Kathmandu. There we met with Rup Narayan Shrestha, one of the staff of FWLD. According to him, both of these NGOs have good relationship. They have done collaboration with CWIN for different kinds of training and other activities like providing legal knowledge, rescuing children at risk intervention in exploitation child rights etc. In resource center, CWINs supporting FWLD by providing various data's related to child rights issue. Technologically CWIN is well infrastructured regarding other NGOs working for children.

LACC (Legal AID and consultancy Center)
At Manbhawan, Lalitpur, Ktm

At LACC, we talked with Sarada and Punya, two women staffs of that organization from there also; we got positive response about CWIN. In legal services, CWIN uses to take help from LACC. Among other NGOs, LACC is near with CWIN than other NGOs. According to them, one strength part of CWIN is that CWIN fulfill its objectives in any condition at any cost But one weak part they feel about CWIN is, though they work together in solving problem, CWIN forget to give credit to its partner. So, CWIN has to think about it.

Save the Children, Norway
Lalitpur, Kathmandu

Lastly we went to have meeting with Sita Ghimire, thematic director of ' Save the children'. This is an international organization supported by Norway. It provides donors (funds) to other organization/NGOs of the country. CWIN is the partner member of this organization. Both organizations are working in the issue of children. So; their objectives are matching.

According to Ghimire, the effective strategies of CWIN are their commitment according to needs, emergency issue, child participating, collects voice of children and presents, good collaboration with other organization, child rights based approach, work directly with children at risk and its coordinating system. Because of such strategies, Save the Children is supporting CWIN by providing more donors (Funds) to help the children of the country.

According to her, what CWIN is doing is good but it is not enough in the present context. Now there are hundred of organizations like CWIN which are working in the issue of children. So, to go in top level, CWIN has to do some extra ordinary works. Also CWIN is weaker in communication with other organizations. The staffs of CWIN are turning over that means internal management is not going well. So, the management has to review very carefully and also have to develop management capacity. CWIN needs to agree and realize the approach though it is challenging in the beginning. Also advocacy works need to be continued for its better future.

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| <p>Evaluation Report of 8th day 14 May 2008 Wednesday Meeting With Board Member of CWIN</p> |
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Today we had a meeting with Ms. Sapana Jee, non-executive board member of CWIN. She has been working as volunteer in CWIN since 1990. Also she gives the training of paper craft.

According to her the strength things about CWIN to come up to this level are its advocacy works directly with the children, dedicated to its issues, teamwork, honesty and sharing every things openly. In her view CWIN is taking responsibility of every issue relates to child rights which is good but it's difficult to deal with every problem at once. So, it is better to focus in particular issue and solve that issue. CWIN has to be clear about its objective for its survival or durability.

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| <p>FGD/ Meeting with Trainees from Self- Reliance Center</p> |
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After chatting with Ms. Sapana, we went to visit Self-Reliance Center at Bafal, which is supported by CWIN. There we saw various products of paper crafts made by Nepalese paper. All those products are made by the boys living in that center.

Apart from paper craft, they use to give many other trainings like tailoring, plumber, motorbike training etc. In previous year, twenty girls of the community were given the

training of tailoring and two of them are doing the business of tailoring together. According to them, they took 6 months of training started from CWIN and this business. CWIN provided them machine, iron, clothes and other, necessary materials.

Like this, two boys were given the training of motorbike at training Center Nepal. At training time, they lived Shangri-La Home. Now they both got job of same kind in which they got Rs.2600 salary a month with lunch and they're living with their parents now.

Further more, CWIN has provided many other boys and girls education and other necessary trainings like life skill, vocational, personality development, saving and credit, training of how to run small business and others. So the peer educators and other young boys and girls of that self- reliance center express their heartily thanks to CWIN for providing them such opportunities and also felt the need of stability of CWIN for other children like them. They are all happy for the hospitality of CWIN's staff.

Interview with RECPHEC/ Mr. Mulmi

After lunch, we went to visit the organization, RECPHEC. There we talked with Santa Lal Mulmi, executive director of RECPHCE at Bagbazar, Ktm. He is very frank and open natured person. He knew Gauri Pradhan, since the establishment of CWIN and he was influenced by Gauri's work at that time.

Taking about collaboration between CWIN's and RECPHEC, both CWIN and RECPHEC are the member organization of PHNCC and NPGAT.RECPHEC works in the issue of Tobacco and CWIN made commitment to work in to tobacco. In this sense, these organizations are linked. Impressed by the Gauri's work in the initial stages of CWIN, Mr. Mulmi found funds for CWIN though CWIN was not registered.

According to Mulmi, the strength part of CWIN is that CWIN made child rights as its issue when it was counted as non-issue and established this non-issue as major issue in national level. CWIN works closely in the grass root level with the children and also it has built good relationship with police and other organization. That's why CWIN is going ahead among other organizations of the nation.

He asserted that threats from business owners might be the major challenge of CWIN because CWIN advocates and fights against the exploitation of Child labours.

Interviews with Gauri Pradhan

The final meeting if this day is with Gauri Pradhan, the founder president of CWIN.Now, he has become the honourable member of NHRC which is located at Harihar bhawan, Pulchowk.

IN the beginning he told us about the establishment of CWIN. According to him, CWIN is pioneer organization, which promotes the rights of Children. In the past, there were

no human rights of Children, though they are the citizens of nation. When talking about human rights people were just concerned about men not even women. They used to be dominated in terms of human rights. So, Gauri, with his college, colleagues, raised the issue of child rights mainly of street children and child laborers and established CWIN on the occasion of New year. From that time, they started working with street children for their welfare and rights.

He said that there are so many street children not because of poverty as people use to say but because of domestic violence. In running this organization he was prisoner many times and even exiled. But he was strict in his action of child rights and continued his work though it was very challenging issues in his view working for children is not simply charity but a powerful movement for social change.

He had played very important role in rescuing trafficked Nepalese women in 1996. It was challenging at that time. He went alone in Mumbai to rescue those women and most of those girls were below 20 yrs. He had borne and faced many problems. The whole society even government were against him. They blamed him that he was making Nepal a dumping site of HIV/AIDS. Even in the hospital, those girls were discriminated by doctor and nurses. But later, they built a good relation with police and they contributed for advocacy and in making policy.

In Gauri's view, the strength points of CWIN are dedicated staffs, good management, clear visions, and case study before campaign. Grass root experience, community conscientizations, educational programme forming strong action etc. He said, its better to expand the work than to expand the organization. They are making three alternatives ways to expand CWIN. They are traditional way, autonomous chapter way and let the organizations organize themselves. Further more, he said that actions and reaction are interrelated. When there is action, there comes reaction and CWIN is always ready to deal with reaction. "Until the existence of human beings, there will be some kind of problem comes one after another. So, to solve those problems, it is necessary in the stability of such organization though it's challenging" said Gauri.

Evaluation Report of 9th Day

15 may 2008 Thursday

Meeting with 'Shakti Samuha'

This day we went to visit one of the women's organization named 'Shakti Samuha' at Gaurighat there we met with Januka Bhattarai who is the president of that organization. In 1996, more than 500 trafficked girls were rescued in Mumbai with the help of Indian government. Among them, 128 were Nepalese girls- who were under age of 20. Later with the helps of seven NGOs they were able to come back in Nepal and Shakti Samuha is the organization established by the group of those rescued girls.

Telling about CWIN, Januka knows CWIN since 1996 after they were rescued. Both CWIN and Sakti Samuha are working together under the networking of AATWIN. In many field, Sakti Samuha is getting the help from CWIN. In the time of adolescent

training CWIN invited them as a trainers. In the management process, CWIN helped them and they have had meetings together.

According to her, CWIN is good organization working in the field of Child rights. Due to this organization many exploited children got their rights, their voices were listened to and they got one space to survive easily and make their lives better.

The strength points about CWIN according to her are: advocates strongly, it's researching field, consultancy, and rehabilitation, helps in forming policy and in national and international treaty.

But she is unhappy with CWIN in some cases. Though they both are working in the related issue, there is having gap between these two organizations in terms of Co ordination and communication. CWIN is not giving proper response and also it takes long time to send rescued children in transit home for children.

Meeting With Maiti Nepal

After visiting 'Sakti Samuha' we went to visit 'Maiti Nepal' at Gausalla. It is one of the well know organization of Nepal which works against the trafficking and sexual exploitation of Women and children.

There we talked with Sumitra Shrestha (the shelter in charge) and Rajani Gurung (Super visor). Sumitra is working in Maiti Nepal since 11 years and she came to know about CWIN after, she joined in this organization.

According to them, CWIN is the second shelter home for Maiti Nepal. That means there is frequent collaboration between these two organizations. Though 'Maiti Nepal' is an organization for exploited women, it also works in the field of children. In the case of boys, Maiti Nepal has the rule of keeping risked and rescued boys who are only under the age of six. So, after rescuing boys, they send those boys to CWIN's transit center. Like this CWIN send girls of trafficked and raped to Maiti Nepal. In this field, these two organizations have good relation. Leaving CWIN, Maiti Nepal has never sent any children to other organization.

Maiti Nepal doesn't take the rescued children directly without verifying their identity. When India sends the vacancy letter to take back the Nepalese boys, MN informs and discusses with CWIN then verify the real identity of those boys only then they sends vacancy letter to India. Otherwise they will not" said Sumitra.

According to them, the strength points of CWIN are: having its own transit home, works directly with street children, different types of shelter homes, strong advocacy, well understanding with other organizations and experienced organization in the field of children.

ECPAT is one international organization in which Maiti Nepal and CWIN is only member from Nepal. Like this CNET is another organization which works in the issue of children or child protection. Along with other nine organizations CWIN and Maiti

Nepal are the Board Member CNET. The main objectives of CNET are follow-up the minimum standard of children. Also it is raising the voice for child protection policy to the government. So, their working fields with CWIN are same kind or matching.

In suggestion, Sumitra said that there should be long-term transit home for children CWIN should reform certain rules and regulation for children of transit home. In her opinion, due to lack of discipline in children, it is difficult to give them training. Also, CWIN should pressure government by making strong network with related organization for its better future.

Presentation

16 May 2008 Friday

Good afternoon, respected Board members presented staffs and my dear evaluator team. It is my pleasure to speak something in front of you all. I would like to thank you all for extending kind co-operator to me in this CWIN-FORUT Partnership programme. I got involved as a young evaluator for 10 days on the issue of CWIN's collaboration with its partner organizations, its strategies and strength points and challenges of CWIN.

From these 10 days of evaluation I came to know CWIN as a pioneer child right organization, which works directly with the children at risk by rescuing them through help line, gives them shelter, reunited them with their parents and empower them for their personal development as well as for better future. More than this, CWIN provides different types of life skill trainings like vocational, personality development, saving and credit training of how to run small business, adolescent trainings and other trainings related to physical health and HIV/AIDs to the teenagers of transit home of CWIN community and slum, areas.

Talking about collaboration, CWIN has built a warm relationship with its partner organization. They use to have meeting together and work very closely in the related issue. Through wide network, they exchange new ideas, give advice and help in different activities of organizations. Also they use to help in seeking donors and providing necessary information.

From the experience of 10 days of evaluation, I found many strength points about CWIN. They are advocacy through action, educational support, wide network with its partner groups, family rehabilitations, works directly with the risked children, awareness programme, motivation, national campaigns, help line service, case study, good relationship with its partner organization, help line service, having its own transit home, self-reliance center, providing important information for the rights of children etc.

Also I found many challenges for CWIN in running this project. I think working directly with the risked children is itself one challenges for CWIN. While working against the exploitation of child labour, lots of threats might have come from different factories who are exploiting children. Like this in the time of fieldwork, staffs might have faced many problems even physical challenges while going in the conflict areas. Also it difficult to

reunited rescued children with their parents. Moreover it takes long time in case study and fighting case.

Now a day there are 100s of organization like CWIN, which are working, in the same issues of children. Also there are some organizations, which are just earning money in the name of welfare of children, and their negative impacts can affects in the effectiveness of CWIN. To introduce CWIN differently from these organizations is challenging .The new government itself can be one challenges.

Facing many challenges CWIN is continuing its work and running various programmes step by step with clear-cut vision, which is the strong point of CWIN.

But some of its partner organization is not totally satisfied with CWIN. According to them, now days, there is the lack of communication between them. Though they work together in solving problems, sometimes CWIN forget to share credit in success field. Also what CWIN is doing is good but not enough in the present context. It has to seek others donors and expand its work. It has to do some extra activities for its stability and to introduce CWIN in top level in future.

I hope this evaluation will be an opportunity for both FORUT and CWIN to review on programmes conducted in the past and use the recommendations as learning while designing for the next phase of action.

Finally, once again, I would like to thank you all for providing me this golden opportunity. It's a new experience to me and through this. I got chance to visit many well know organizations and other organizations that I don't know before and learn lots of things with in these 10 days. I got knowledge about the various activities and programmes of many organizations, which are working with CWIN as partner. I hope in future days also, CWIN will provide me such opportunities so that I can learn more than this and contribute more in the work of CWIN.I wish all the best for the better future of CWIN.

Thank you

List of Abbreviations

| | |
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| ADD | Alcohol, Drugs and Development Program |
| CA | Constituent Assembly |
| CBS | Center Bureau of Statistics |
| CCWB | Center for Child Welfare Board |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of Children |
| CWIN | Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center |
| CZOP | Children as Zone of Peace |
| ECD | Early Child Development Program |
| GDI | Gender Development Index |
| GEM | Gender Empowerment Measure |
| GoN | Government of Nepal |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| ILO | International Labor Organisation |
| MoES | Ministry of Education and Sports |
| MoHP | Ministry of Health and Population |
| NACASC | National Center for AIDS and STD Control |
| NEP | Net Enrolment Rate |
| NPA | National Plan of Action |
| ONRT | Office of the National Rapporteur against Trafficking |
| SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Conference |
| SCNN | Save the Children Norway- Nepal |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Fund for Development |
| UNICEF | United Nations Fund for Children |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |

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