

# CONCERN

# Nepal

Concern for Children  
and Environment





# A Brief Organizational Profile

Concern for Children and Environment Nepal (CONCERN-Nepal) is a nongovernmental and nonprofit organization established in 1993. Its principal purpose is to be an advocator for underprivileged children and at the same time to improve the living conditions of children working in hazardous situations in Nepal. The concept of CONCERN was developed in 1993 by a group of child rights activists and environmentalists dedicated to lessening the plight of children living extremely difficult conditions. CONCERN was officially registered at the Chief District Office of His Majesty's Government in 1994 and in the same year was affiliated with the Social Welfare Council under the Women, Children and Social Welfare Ministry.

CONCERN-Nepal began actively working in 1994 with a survey on the situation of child-porters in the Kathmandu Valley entitled 'Burden on Childhood' with the support of Child Workers in Asia (CWA) an Asian Network NGO based in Bangkok. In the first seven years it gained wide experience working with UNICEF, Action Aid-Nepal, ILO/IPEC and Save the Children UK among others. In the year 2000 it added work with Kathmandu Municipality on 5 Urban Out of School Program centers (UOSP/ Non Formal Education) for working children in Kathmandu. CONCERN has been working with Save the Children-Norway since September 1998.

CONCERN conducted a national survey on the situation of stone quarry children in 2002 and has been implementing community based action programs for these children in Kabhre district with the support of ILO/ISPI since October 2002. In the year 2003 SC-Norway supported "national report on child labour in restaurants and teashops" launched with support of ISCL/GTZ, which depicts the plight of 72,000 working children. CONCERN had completed an in-depth survey on "children living in difficult circumstances in Patan Sub Metropolitan City" with support of Shaplaneer, a Japanese reputed community based NGO. CONCERN worked with World Education as a part of its Brighter Future for Working Children in the year 2003.

CONCERN initiated a unique program on waste paper recycling in Kathmandu with the support of Asian Community Trust (ACT) to improve the degraded environment and provide educational support for underprivileged children in the year 2005. Now the Project has been running in it's own resource.

At present, CONCERN's six major areas of targeted action programs are child porters, restaurant children, stone quarry children, brick kiln children highway hawker working children or children in mechanic works. For the fulfillment of

CONCERN's targeted goals and accomplishment of its mission it has developed and formulated a wide range of action programs with the Plan Nepal for support and rehabilitation of migrant and non-migrant working children living in difficult conditions in Kathmandu Valley. At present CONCERN has been working with UNICEF, KIOS Netherland, Save the Children Nepal, Open Society Institute, Stichting Velderwerk Netherland (SVN) and so on.





## Vision

CONCERN believes that all forms of child exploitation can be completely abolished and that the empowerment of underprivileged children and working children in particular is a dire necessity.

Through community awareness and different child-related development activities, these affected children can become self-reliant and independent.

Overall development of these children can be achieved through the preservation and protection of their social and natural environment.



## Mission

The mission of CONCERN is to facilitate a process that helps to protect the Rights of the Child in general, and in particular it acts to abolish all sorts of exploitation of children by supporting underprivileged children and their families. It also works to achieve a better social and natural environment in which they live.



## Objectives

To advocate child rights within the community.

To alleviate child exploitation by reducing and removing child labour.

To promote and preserve a healthy social and natural environment.

To empower children living in high-risk conditions.

To assist in the economic development of underprivileged children and their families.

To provide current child related information to relevant organizations and individuals.



# Current Programs

## Removal, Support and Rehabilitation of Child Porters

With the aim of removing child porters from exploitative and hazardous conditions, CONCERN runs a support and rehabilitation center opened in 1996. They learn and participate in various activities such as NFE and computer classes, kitchen gardening, vocational skills, personal health and hygiene, recreation etc. They also receive free medical services, first aid training and supplies. The agreement with ILO/IPEC was terminated in 2000 however CONCERN is running this center under its own capacity with a certain gap bridged by SC-Norway. ILO's TBP has not yet reached to the child porters' due delay in implementation and a national action plan is in the discussion stage.

## Support and Rehabilitation for Stone Quarry Children

Since October 2002, CONCERN started a module action program for the stone quarry working children with the support of ISPI project of ILO/IPEC in Kabhre District. The project has targeted more than 1200 working families through children's participation and community support. The project was phased out after 16 months of its time bound program. However, CONCERN Continued to work at this place with the Support of SVN since 2007.

## Advocacy Work on ILO Convention 182 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

CONCERN plays a strong role in advocating the ILO Conventions and the



UNCRC nationally and internationally through its network linkages.

## Children's Socialization Center

Every year local community children are found who are not enrolled in school. They learn and participate in various activities such as NFE classes, kitchen gardening, personal health and hygiene etc. Following completion of various programs, those who are willing to be admitted in school for further education.



## Emergency Shelter for Children at Risk

CONCERN runs an emergency shelter home for displaced children, supporting those who are in a crisis situation with potential to be victimized. A primary goal is to reunite children with families through extensive counseling or find long-term alternatives with a stable environment for needy Children.

## Education Sponsorship

More than 1000 children are currently enrolled in schools under the sponsorship program of CONCERN. Most of these children are from underprivileged migrant worker families and would have been street children if not provided an opportunity to attend school.

## Action Research

CONCERN has completed research on Stone Quarry Child Labourers, Child Labourers in Tea Shops and Restaurants and is conducting research on child labour in lime stone another recognized field of hazardous labour.

## Child Participatory Forum Activities

With the aim of promoting children's participation, giving opportunities for self-expression and determination, CONCERN works with child clubs. It has formed child clubs in schools as well as in NFE classes and for child workers.

## IT Center for Disadvantaged Children

CONCERN considers Information Technology part of basic education. In this regard, it started a training center for underprivileged and working children since 2001 providing opportunities for those otherwise unable to access computers.



## Advocacy Work on the Educational Rights of Children

The literacy rate of children, especially Dalit children, is very low - less than 5%. Hardly 12% of the 4,000,000-dalit populations are literate. CONCERN does advocacy work both at local as well as national levels to create awareness among the general public and policymakers. Activities are organized to enhance school enrollment and decrease dropout rates in an effort to stop the growing number of working children in Nepal.

## Volunteer Training Program

CONCERN offers opportunity for direct experience to university students, new NGO activists and both foreign and Nepali volunteers in all facets of social service including leadership skills, program development, community relations, field work and counseling among other active responsibilities.

The organization has seven management committee members headed by the Executive Chairperson. At present, 35 full-time staff and an average of 12 volunteers work regularly in five different centers in Kathmandu, Patan and Kabhre districts. Action programs for educational support extended to Makwanpur district working with disadvantaged and Dalit children. Further CONCERN program were launched in Dhading, Mahotari and Bajura District for protection of children in conflict.



# Involvement in Capacity and Network Building of NGOs

CONCERN maintains a keen interest in capacity and network building of NGOs focusing on children's rights. Some examples of CONCERN's involvement in network activities include:

## Within country

- Association of Indigenous Movement. (AIM)
- Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB)
- Consortium for Child Participation
- Human Rights Alliance
- Human Right Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC)
- Human Rights Home.
- National Alliance of Child Rights Organizations (NACRO)
- National Alliance of Organization for Street children
- Nepal Rugmark Foundation
- Nepal Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NESPCAN)
- NGO Federation Nepal
- Partnership for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict (PPCC), etc.

## Outside country

- Asia Japan Partnership Network for Poverty Reduction (AJPN)
- Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
- Child Workers in Asia (CWA) Support Group, Bangkok
- China Association of NGOs (CANGO), Beijing, China.
- International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
- South Asian Task Force on Child Participation, CWA
- Solidarity CONCERN-Nepal/Geneva, Switzerland
- Solidarity CONCERN-Nepal/Milan, Italy
- Watch List, USA