



Save the Children

**Social Protection for
Orphan and Vulnerable Children
Advocacy Success
2020**

Acknowledgement

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Credit: Victoria Zegler/Save the Children



WHAT WAS THE ADVOCACY WIN/SUCCESS?

The Government of Nepal has announced the social protection programme for orphan and vulnerable children. Even though there are several social protection programmes, the orphan children who are one of the most vulnerable[1] group were still missing. The Federal government has officially started including the programme in FY 2077/78 (2020/21 AD) budget which will be implemented by National Child Right Council (NCRC) under the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. In addition to this, Bagmati Province has included social protection programme for orphan children in their Annual policy and Plan. It was announced that the cash transfer of NPR 2000 (\$17.76) (@119.32 NPR) per month to orphan children (without both parents) will be administered from now onwards.



GENERAL OVERVIEW

July 2010

Problem identified: Research on child vulnerability in Sindhupalchok district -2010, social protection eligibility and child vulnerability mapping in 2011 identified the gap in existing social protection programme to address the issue of orphan children.

July 2011

Concept evolved to support Orphan children: The idea of Child Endowment Fund (CEF) to support orphan and vulnerable children flagged out by Save the Children and discussed among the representatives of Village Development Committee (VDC), District Child Welfare Board, District Development Committee and Partner NGOs of Sindhupalchowk district in 2011. July 2011 - Approached three VDCs to establish CEF and conducted a two days long workshop to design the procedure, representatives from Village Development Committees (local government), District Development Committees (district government), District Child Welfare Board, Child Clubs, PNGO, Save the children, lawyers, Banks – 2011. This workshop drafted Child Endowment (CEF) Fund operational procedure.

August 2011

The VDCs endorsed CEF operation procedure: As per the procedure, the 3 VDCs who participated in the workshop established CEF each CEF capital fund was NPR 300000 (\$2514.25), Save the Children matched 50% (one time support) the capital fund to transfer cash for first year; transfer amount NPR 300 per (\$2.5 per child per month). First year, Save the children also provided Rs.30,000 as current expenditure for each VDCs to start cash transfer for orphan children. On the occasion of children day on 15th September, September 2011 - the 3 VDCs, first time, provided cash to 31 orphan children as a social protection scheme at local level.



January – December 2012

CEF Expansion: CEF was expanded in 12 VDCs covering 125 orphan and vulnerable children (65 boys and 60 girls) in different months.

December 2012

Conducted a study on operational procedure of Child Endowment Fund to get recommendation for improvement in operational procedure.

20th of June, 2013

CEF operating guideline endorsement: District Child Welfare Board Sindhupalchok endorsed CEF operation procedure, based on this VCPC expanded CEF in 28 VDCs covering 232 orphan children.

February 2014

District Assembly endorsed the CEF operation procedure and covered all VDCs (79) of Sindhupalchok district.

5th of June 2014

CEF expansion in Kavrepalanchok: DCWB Kavrepalanchok endorsed CEF operating guideline and based on this, 11 CEF are established in 11 VDCs covering 75 children. In 2014, altogether 90 CEF were established in Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalanchok covering 663 orphan children (334 girls).

January – December 2015

CEF expansion in Kavrepalanchok: CEF was expanded to 14 new VDCs altogether reaching 25 VDCs in Kavrepalanchok covering 131 children. In 2015, altogether 105 CEF established in Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalanchok (added 16 new VDCs in Kavrepalanchok) covering 785 (399 Girls). Total CEF number should be 110 but some VDCs are merged and became municipality so expected number is decreased.

12th of December, 2016

CEF expansion in Dolakha: District Development Committee Dolakha endorsed CEF operation procedure and established in 5 VDCs, and CEF expanded in 16 new VDCs in Kavrepalanhok reaching 41 VDCs in Kavrepalanchowk. In 2016, altogether 124 child endowment funds at local level establishing the local mechanisms to provide social protection to at least 870 orphan and vulnerable children which ensures the transfers of NPR 3.1 million (27000 Euros) annually.

25th of August, 2017

MoU with Department of Civil Registration (DoCR) –which includes the social protection for orphan and vulnerable as one of the agreed points.

November 2017

Impact study on Child Endowment Fund: The study was carried out in, the report was shared with DoCR and the Ministry of Federal Affair and Local Development. This study realized a need of policy to operate social security for orphan and vulnerable children at local level.

December 2017

The Study on the Status of Orphaned Children in Nepal: A qualitative study was carried out by Central Child Welfare Board on situation of orphaned children in collaboration with Save the children, this study realized a need of special protection from state for this children category.

February 2018

DoCR initiated to draft model act to operate social protection for orphan and vulnerable children at local level in request of Chautara Municipality from Sindhupalchok.

18th of June 2018

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development endorsed model act for social protection for orphan and vulnerable children.

15th of May, 2020

Bagmati Province announced NPR 2000 (\$17.76) per month cash transfer to double orphan children

28th of May, 2020

Federal government included the programme in FY 2077/78 (2020/21 AD) budget which is going be implemented by National Child Right Council (NHRC) under the ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens.



SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

July 2010

Carried out a research focusing on vulnerability of orphan children and policy gaps to address the same.

30th of July – 1st of August 2011

Provided technically and financial support to design Child Endowment Fund (CEF) as community managed social protection model to support orphan and vulnerable children.

July 2011 to onwards

Organized series of capacity building workshops for the local governments of Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok, Dolakha to operate Child Endowment Fund.

5th – 15th of December 2012

Conducted a study on operational procedure of Child Endowment Fund to get recommendation for improvement in operational procedure.

- **2011 – 2017**—SC contributed 50% of match fund to establish each Child Endowment Fund at Village Development Committee levels for 135 VDCs. Provided technical support to develop and endorse Child Endowment Fund operating guideline Village Development Committee, District Development Committees and District Child Welfare Board.
- **November 2017**—Conducted study on the impact of Child Endowment Fund on orphan and vulnerable children.
- **5th of August, 2017**—SC and Department of Civil Registration (responsible department to manage social protection in Nepal) Signed MoU in which social protection for orphan and vulnerable children was one of the agendas.
- **January 2017**—SC and Central Child Welfare Board signed MoU to carry out study on the status of orphan children in Nepal.
- **February to June, 2019**—SC provided technical support to prepare Social Protection for Orphan and Vulnerable Children – Model Act.



We acknowledge that SCI's support has been very positive. The Study on Orphan children was the trigger to expand our work towards social protection for orphan children. Save the Children contributed technically and financially. No other agencies have been involved directly so far in this initiative

*-Gyanendra Shrestha – Advisor,
National Child Right Council 2020*



What have been the most effective models of advocacy/campaigning? / Which tactics have worked?

Research, relationship building with local to federal government who are decision makers, engagement with working groups from local to federal government (Village Child Protection, District child Welfare Board and National Child Right Council. Even though Save the Children put the ideas forward and technically as well as financially supported the process, the programme was jointly designed by then Village Development Committees (local government at that time), District Child Welfare Board, District Development Committee, NGOs working in the sector of children and Save the Children. Before putting the ideas with stakeholders at local level in Sindhupalchok district, Save the Children carried out a research focusing on the vulnerability of orphan children, which gave clear picture about the vulnerability status of orphan children and the existing policy gaps to support them. Further, Save the Children collaborated with then Central Child Welfare Board to carry out the study on the status of orphan children in Nepal which triggered the issue.

Other tactics we used were:



Lobbying—Lobbying with VDCs started from 2011, DDCs and DCWBs - started from 2012, Federal level (DoNIDCR, Ministry and NCRC- from 2016, Policy dialogues – With VDCs, DDC, DCWB, DCPC, VCPCs - started from 2011, DoNIDCR – 2016, CCWB - 2017.



Media Engagement—Started from 2011 September – local and national both. More than 100 coverages, More than 35 journalists mobilized from FNJ district chapters of Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok and Dolakha Public mobilization – hugely mobilized CPCs, school teachers.



Child Participation—Child participation in design and monitoring.



Community Engagement—Beneficiary Identification, implementation and monitoring.



Networking—Collaboration with CPCs, VDCs, DDCs, DCWBs, DCPCs, FNJ-District chapters, schools, banks.



It is good idea to initiate the establishment of Child Endowment Fund in all 753 local governments under their authority, and the Ministry is very positive to prepare and transmit the Procedural Guideline to this effect.
-Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya,
Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development 2017



What evidence is available that highlights the win and/or our inputs?

THE GOVERNMENT'S DOCUMENTS

- Fiscal year 2077/78 (2020/21 AD) programme and budget from federal government of Nepal and the program announcement documents by National Child Rights Council.
- Fiscal year 2077/78 (2020/21 AD) programme and budget from Bagmati Province.
- Social Protection Programme for Orphan and Vulnerable Children- Model Act endorsed by Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development 2019.
- Child Endowment Fund Operational Procedure (to support orphan and vulnerable children) endorsed by District Development Committees of Sindhupalchok 2014, Kavrepalanchok 2015 and Dolakha 2016, District Child Welfare Board of Sindhupalchok 2013, and several municipalities.

SAVE THE CHILDREN REPORTS



Year of publication: 2011



Year of publication: 2013

Upon request of Chautara Municipality the Department is in a process to draft a procedural guideline establishing child protection fund for orphan and vulnerable children, at the local government level, facilitate the decisions of local governments and bring uniformity in the operation of the fund.
-Bhagwan Aryal, Officiating Director General, Department of Civil 2017

Endowment fund comes to children's rescue in Sindhupalchok district

MEENA PUN
SINDHUPALCHOK, APRIL

Mao Thapa's mother died of uterine cancer when he was one-and-a-half years old. Seven years later, his father died of tuberculosis. An orphan, Thapa's grandmother supported him with her old-age allowance of Rs 500 a month. Last year, she too died at the age of 95. Thapa is now 17, in ninth grade and all alone in his grandmother's house at Pulpingkot in Sindhupalchok district.

Thapa does have two older brothers and two older sisters, but all of them live in Kathmandu and rarely visit him in the village. His siblings do not want him in Kathmandu, neither do they send him money for household and educational expenses in the village. Born with children—which were surgically corrected when Thapa was eight years old, his brothers and sisters consider him a disabled and think education will do him no good.

Thousands of vulnerable children like Thapa live on the edge in communities nationwide who without proper intervention at the right time, could end up on the streets or in orphanages. A single endowment fund, created, managed and owned by village development committees (VDC), could forestall that predicament.

"These days with an increasing number of parents migrating for work abroad, a lot of children are in danger of being abandoned or



Mao Thapa, a recipient of the child endowment fund in Sindhupalchok district.

year (a Dalit child) to Rs 17,000 a year to a completely disabled child. Children like Thapa are not covered.

Although Rs 500 a month is not a large sum, Thapa says, it helps. "I buy notebooks and pens and also pay exam fees with the money," he says.

The amount also helps students in school. Nine-year-old Dines Tamang, from Pulpingkot as well, was three when his father died of tuberculosis, six months after his death. Tamang's mother ran away with a man, taking his younger sister with her but leaving him behind. Tamang now lives with his 70-year-old grandmother. Until he started receiving money from the fund, he was irregular in school. Currently in grade three, his attendance in school this year was 100 percent, and his ranking third.

"The attendance and performance in school usually goes up because the child has to be regular in school and should not fall in his studies to keep receiving the allowance," says Deb Raj Gurung, monitoring and documentation officer at Save the Children.

At the central level, the government is supporting the scheme's success in Sindhupalchok by allocating 10 percent of the local budget allocated for children to be spent on physical infrastructure, as the children do not need roads and buildings.

Tarak Dattal, executive director at the Central Child Welfare Board, says the fund amount varies from Rs 50 a

Year of publication: 2014

Collaborative work between Government and NGO in order to design and implement the program worked well.

Save the Children's partnership with CCWB worked really well. In addition, setting an example of effective partnership with the local government (please mention the name of the VDC we started working in the first phases) which grasped the attention of other local governments and they also agreed to have partnership with us. Eventually, the central government adopted it. It's the best example of "achieving results at scale (one of the pillars of our TOC).

Please mention – what did not work well? What could have done differently? Any tactics that failed? Failure reporting is also important for learning purpose.

Missing – strong coordination with MoWCSC would have been done to raise the voices for OVC – which could institutionalize the issue within ministry.

Highlights from the study on situation of orphan children in Nepal:

I. According to the census, 2011, the population of children under 18 years of age is 11,084,311 (41.84% of the total population. Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 2014 covering 13,000 households and 520 clusters found 23,132 (0.2%) children under 18 years of age whose both parents are dead and 474,209 (4.1%) children whose only one parent is dead. The findings of the census 2011 as well as NMICS 2014 have been taken as a base for the quantitative information.

II. Central Child Welfare Board conducted a qualitative study in 2017 to find out the educational, economic and working situation of OVC. With purposive sampling, 23 districts (out of 75), 133 clusters (203 respondents), 470 children (OVC) and 425 guardians[2] of the sampled children were covered to collect information. The study found that 53 percent guardians' economic condition was weak to cover the basic needs of children, whereas only five percent guardians were found well enough to take care children and the rest (42%) were said to be good enough. Further, about eight percent OVC had to go out to work for supplementary earning to meet their requirements. In addition, the community respondents opined that there should be easy process for providing birth registration certificate as well as citizenship certificate for OVC, and there should be child targeted more social protection benefits including family support for income generation activities.



Year of publication: 2016

What reflections and learning should be considered in future work?



Credit: Nimma Adhika / Save the Children

Context for advocacy and campaigning / what conditions were in place that made this possible?

The findings of the studies clearly highlighted (i) the vulnerable situation of orphan children and the need of external intervention (ii) gap in existing social protection programme design which left out orphan and vulnerable children were the contexts during the beginning days. The readiness of local governments to contribute 50% of the child endowment funds which were established to support the orphan and vulnerable children at local level. The proactiveness of partner NGO. This generated several evidences that a small support could bring a bigger change in the lives of children. Later on the MoUs with Department of Civil Registration and Central Child Welfare Board which had put up the issues of orphan children.

While establishing child endowment fund for the first time Tuki Association Sunkoshi, the partner organization was of the compulsory signatory parties. It was proposed from VDC and DCWB because of its credible image in Sindhupalchok district.

Role of communities was also very supportive. The concept was immediately accepted and community participated enthusiastically in beneficiary identification, implementation (huge participation during first time benefit distribution event). The idea was well appreciated by the community in different public forums. Child clubs also engaged in designing, implementation (information dissemination) and monitoring.



At the beginning we accepted the novel idea of Save the Children to establish Child Endowment Fund at VDC level in order to support orphan children. After we saw the benefitted children and their families with changed higher level of confidence aiming to complete at least secondary level education, it motivated us to replicate and expand the model in other VDCs.

-Rajubhai Shrestha – Former Social Development Officer at DDC



RATING ON POTENTIAL IMPACT FOR CHILDREN

Rating

Definition

Rational for rating and evidence

HIGH

- New policy in place which addresses exclusion or a key issue.
- Dramatic change to existing policy.
- An increased or amendment in budget. Is there an exclusion focus?
- Significant increase or engagement of the public which has results in concrete dialogue with decision makers.
- Increased coverage in the media.
- Evidence of behaviour and attitudinal change.
- Is it possible to put a numeric value against how many children might be impacted?
- Halting a digression on a commitment.

This is a new policy which addresses the exclusion issue of orphan and vulnerable children in social protection program.

MEDIUM

- A commitment in place for new changed policies to take place.
- Halting a digression on a commitment.
- Increase in budget (without clear exclusion focus).
- Public demand recognised.

LOW

- Little movement or slight digression on promised changes.
- Limited ability to engage the public.
- Budgets decreased.

RATING SCALE ON CONTRIBUTION

Rating

Definition

Rational for rating and evidence

HIGH

There is reason (evidence) to believe that the change would clearly not have happened without Save the Children's efforts. Alongside our own actions this could also include significant actions from partners which we have supported technically or financially.

Without the initiation from Save the Children to design and implement Social Protection for Orphan and Vulnerable Children through Child Endowment Fund operations, it would have been uncertain about the start of program. In addition to this, the engagement of Save the Children at national level particularly technical and financial support had also played a critical role in putting the agenda at the centre of discourses.

MEDIUM

There is reason to believe that Save the Children contributed substantially but along with other partners.

LOW

Save the Children was one of a number of factors that contributed but this change may have happened regardless.

FOOTNOTES:

[1] As per Children's Act 2018, **vulnerable children** are those who need special protection, including orphan, abandoned children who are not receiving appropriate care because their parents are physically or mentally severely disabled, children in conflict with law, children born in jail or children of inmates, children recommended for support who were born from incest, children in worst form of labour, HIV infected children, children with severe disability, and children from the poor Dalit communities.

[2] Guardian refers to the family/person other than biological parent(s) who provides basic needs for children (vulnerable children) living with them.



Save the Children