

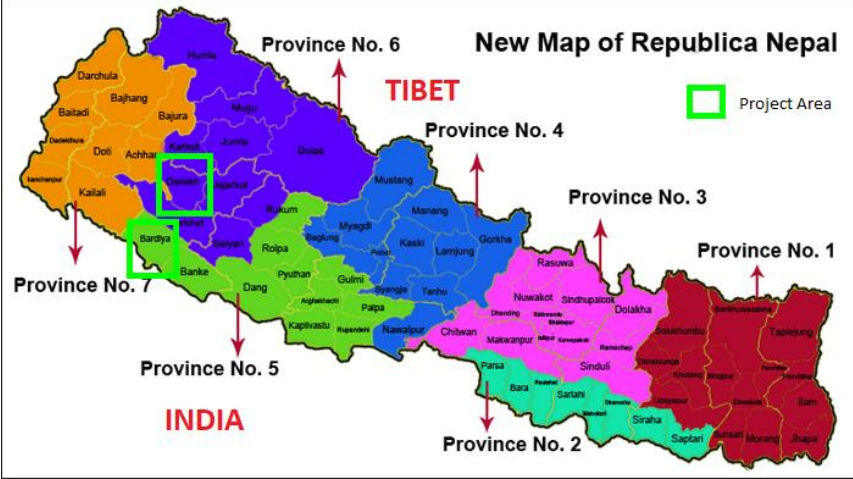


EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE – NEPAL

* Note

ECPAT argues that early marriage acts as a major channel to child sexual exploitation, and can also amount to a form of sexual exploitation of children in itself. The impact of early marriage on child protection in most regions of the world where this traditional harmful practice is perpetuated is evident. It exposes child brides to early forced sexual initiation and activity, non-consensual sex, unwanted pregnancies, trafficking, forced child labour and being exchanged for the payment of a bride price.

COUNTRY	Nepal
CONTEXT	<p>According to « Girls not brides », a global partnership of civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage, 40% of Nepalese girls are married before their 18th birthday and 7% are married before the age of 15. (www.girlsnotbrides.org).</p> <p>UNICEF states that Nepal has the 17th highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world and the 17th highest absolute number of child brides – 587,000 (ibid).</p> <p>Nepal has committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, which sets a minimum age of marriage of 18. Still, reporting of child marriage to concerned authorities is very low compared to other forms of violence.</p> <p>In Bardiya and Dailekh, the 2 rural districts in western Nepal where ECPAT Luxembourg will intervene, social taboos, child marriage, polygamy, witchcraft, gender and caste discrimination are part of the social-cultural fabric. In Bardiya, children of Madheshi, Muslim and indigenous Tharu communities are still vulnerable to child marriage. Findings from a baseline study conducted by ECPAT Luxembourg in 2018 showed an increasingly high incidence of child marriage in both districts - 94% of those interviewed had undergone child marriage between the age of 13 to 18.</p>
PROJECT GOAL	Contribute to eliminate all forms of child marriage consistent with the Nepal government’s commitment to SDG target 5.3.
PROJECT OBJECTIVE	Reduce risks of child marriage among vulnerable communities in Wards 4, 5 and 10 of Dullu Municipality (Dailekh District) and Wards 2, 3 and 6 of

	Badhaiyataal Village Council (Baridya District) through coordination and collaborative actions with local communities and authorities.
PROJECT AREA	<p>Province 5, Bardiya District, Badhaiyataal Village Council, Wards 2,3 and 6 Province 6, Dailekh District, Dullu Municipality, Wards 4,5 and 10</p>  <p>The map shows the seven provinces of Nepal. Province 5 (green) and Province 6 (purple) are highlighted. A green square indicates the project area in the western part of Province 5, near the border with Province 6. Neighboring countries TIBET and INDIA are also labeled.</p>
OPERATIONAL PARTNER	<p>Aawaaj-breaking the silence www.aawaaj.org.np Aawaaj is a non-governmental and non-profit social organization founded in 1999 through the joint initiative of professionals committed to work against violence and discrimination of children and women in the Midwestern region of Nepal</p>
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS/PRIVATE DONORS	<p>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg The Fondation Juniclair</p>
LOCAL PARTNERS	<p>The project develops and prioritises partnerships with local authorities and communities to address child marriage. Some of our local partners include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Village or Ward Child Protection Committees – District and Sub District Health Posts – Nepal Police and Child Helpline Agency – Women and Child Networks – Brothers, youths and « survivor » groups (girls married as children) – Women and Child Office – Municipality/ Rural Municipality, Ward Offices – Savings and Credit Organizations – Civil society organizations – Governmental and non-governmental organizations working on child rights – Local FM Radio, newspapers, etc.

PROJECT PERIOD	January 2020 to December 2022 (3 years)
BUDGET	200 000€
BENEFICIARIES	<p>Direct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vulnerable children and marginalized Madheshi, Muslim, Tharu and Dalit groups principally) – Children’s groups, youth groups, women’s groups, survivors groups – Religious leaders – School management committees, parent-teacher associations, students and teachers <p>Indirect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Students and parents – Brothers, youths and survivor groups. – Village or Ward Child Protection Committees – Children and parents of child-safe learning centres – Out of school children – Vulnerable children (to child labour, child marriage, trafficking and sexual abuse)
STRATEGIES (Intervention focus)	<p>Provide services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide comprehensive services including prevention, rescue, reintegration and recovery which address the specific needs of children at risk of marriage and married children. – Improve access to livelihood among food-insecure communities, enhance resilience and reduce risks of early marriage. <p>Mobilise families and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mobilise and strengthen children, youth, family, teachers, community resources and capabilities to prevent child marriage – Establish community mechanisms for protection and reporting cases of child marriage and reduce risk of sexual exploitation and enable children, families, and communities to address early child marriage. – Collaborate with local authorities and communities to collectively address child marriage – Mobilise rights-holders and their supporters to strengthen existing structure, systems and activities to reduce child marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation <p>Generate evidence on the practice of child marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop and/or strengthen mechanism to collect data, information and evidence on the practice of child marriage. <p>Lobby for stonger laws and policies and their implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advocate for mechanisms at local government level for reporting child marriage and ensuring rights of children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enforce regular monitoring on situation of child marriage, enforcement of new laws and policies.
OUTCOMES	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved access to quality educational and recreational services to vulnerable children, improved attendance at schools, study habits strengthened – Improved economic security for girls – Increased access to vocational support – Improved emotional, social, economic and family functioning among married girls – Reduced vulnerability to child marriage through increased social, educational and economic support among marginalized populations <p>Mobilisation of families and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Families and community members demonstrate positive knowledge, attitudes and practices related to the prevention, reporting, rescue and reintegration of child marriage – Local duty-bearers are sensitive and responsive to the rights of survivors of abuse and exploitation – Public and private sector duty-bearers develop improved mechanism / policies for prevention of child marriage and services to benefit married children. – Coordination and collaboration with government agencies is visible <p>Generate evidence on the practice of child marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research and documentation on child marriage developed and utilised effectively <p>Lobby for stonger laws and policies and their implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased reporting of child marriage to police office, legal committees and community groups – Budget allocated by local government to address child marriage – Increased number of child marriage handled by Nepal Police – Improved systems, mechanisms at local and provincial level to address child marriage and sexual exploitation – Increased cases of child marriage registered at Police and District courts – All working wards declared wards as child marriage-free wards
INDICATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1000. Number of vulnerable children and families at risk of early child marriage have improved access to quality educational and recreational services. – 127. Number/cases of survivors rescued and reintegrated – 127. Number of survivors who knows their rights and entitlements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 40. Public and private sector duty-bearers develop improved mechanism / policies for the prevention of child marriage and services to benefit survivors of child marriage – 80%. Girls in program areas who know their rights and entitlements – TBD. Percentage of adolescent girls who are members of groups for girls that address life skills, protection, nutrition, health, sexual health and reproductive health rights, gender norms etc. – 80%. Unmarried girls who are confident in their ability to pursue alternatives to child marriage – 70%. Individuals in program area who think that people in their community disapprove of child marriage. – 70%. Schools in project area have staff trainings and procedures on how to address and take action on child marriage, gender-based violence, including reported cases of sexual abuse. – 70%. Key stakeholders (including local government) who have received training on child marriage laws, risk factors for child marriage, and how to report law violations. Key stakeholders could be – religious leaders ; child / adolescent clubs ; teachers ; local government personnel ; health care workers ; political leaders)



Schooling support is provided to young girls vulnerable to child marriage



Child-safe learning centres such as this in rural western Nepal (Dullu Municipality, Dailekh District) ensure that children learn and have fun in safe places after school under the guidance of trained social workers



A second child-safe learning centre in western Nepal (Bhadaiyataal Municipality, Bardiya District) where the project intervenes



Children participate in an awareness raising session in a child-safe learning centre



Young women, married as children, meet to discuss awareness activities



Young school boys, members of «brothers clubs » prepare for an awareness raising intervention against child marriage



The project supports young women, married as children, to develop activities that improve their economic security