



## Social Protection & Public Finance Management

### Progress Report

January 2021 – December 2021

**EU/ILO/UNICEF/GCSPF Programme on Improving Synergies between Social  
Protection and Public Finance Management**

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Preparation and Review

Report prepared by: Saroj Acharya, SPCSN, 31/12/2021

Report reviewed by: Bindu Pokharel Gautam, CWISH 31/12/2021

Report approved by: Bruno Deceukelier, WSM, Didier Petre, WSM, 31/01/2022

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## 1 Executive Summary

For Nepal, the involvement of civil society and trade unions in the SP&PFM project is implemented by WSM on behalf of the GCSPF through two main local partners, the International Trade Union Confederation - Nepal Affiliated Council (ITUC-NAC) and the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN). While leads have been determined for certain activities between the ITUC-NAC and SPCSN, the action very much remains a joint undertaking and responsibility, fostering better understanding and collaboration between trade unions and civil society.

In 2021, 69 CSOs and trade union leaders were trained to promote social protection, including adaptive or shock-responsive social protection. Over 70 policy makers were met by over 700 CSOs members who advocated through 44 policy documents and position papers as well as one research for better social protection and public finance management. Through traditional and social media nearly 250,000 citizens were made more aware of social protection schemes with a right based approach. Challenges remained COVID-19 restrictions at various moments throughout 2021, change in government as well as flooding that gravely affected Helambu, one of the two selected pilot municipalities.

In February 2021, the Working Group of Coordinating Organisations (WCO), including WSM, initiated a basic online training<sup>1</sup> on PFM for the 4 countries in which the GCSPF is active, attended by the country teams and a few selected partners. The training was conducted by 2 members of the GCSPF, based on an initial needs assessment, and complemented by a basic PFM training manual<sup>2</sup>.

## 2 Basic information

Project budget in EUR: 458.126 EUR (including the 2 countries of the programme)		
Project duration in months: 44 months	Planned	Actual
Project start date:	October 2019	October 2019
Project end date:	May 2023	May 2023

ILO P&B Outcome:		
ILO DWCP Outcome:		
ILO Strategic Objective:		
Project budget in USD:		
Project duration in months:	Planned	Actual
Project start date:	month, year	month, year
Project end date:	month, year	month, year

<sup>1</sup> Annex 1 GCSPF - PFM Training report 25feb21-FINAL

<sup>2</sup> Annex 2 GCSPF Civil Society Training Manual on PFM

### 3 Summary outputs

OUTCOME DELIVERY <sup>3</sup>			
	Output	Output Status	Output Summary
<b>Outcome 6:</b> Nepali Civil Society Organizations and Trade Unions are meaningfully and structurally involved in the development; implementation and monitoring of policy processes regarding social protection and public finance management due to improved coordination and enhanced capacities.			
<b>Output 1:</b> Bring together the various GCSPF constituents (civil society and trade unions) in the selected countries to foster stronger cooperation on social protection and support the development of inclusive and sustainable platforms for effective and structural involvement of civil society and trade unions in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (social accountability) of social protection policies.) <b>Output 2:</b> Civil Society Organisations and Trade Unions have strengthened their thematic expertise on social protection policies and the sustainability of its financing.			
6.1	# of people participating in: stakeholders meetings, training, awareness and advocacy (mobilizing and meeting policy makers).	On schedule	<p>Almost 250,000 people were reached or participated (outputs following the numbering of activities):</p> <p><b>1. Stakeholders meetings: 24 people</b></p> <p>1.1 Two Steering Group Meetings (12 Feb and 30 Sep): 24 (7 women)</p> <p><b>2. Training: 69 people</b></p> <p>2.1 Two trainings on social protection to local level CSO members (4-8 Aug in Kalaiya and 13-17 Sep in Helambu): 44 participants (26 women)</p> <p>2.2 Workshop on adaptive or shock-responsive social protection (Lalitpur, 16-17 Dec: 25 participants (10 women)</p> <p><b>3. Advocacy: mobilizing 714 people - meeting policy makers 71</b></p> <p>3.1. National level: interaction to ensure enforcement of contributory social security Act and schemes: 95 (19 women)</p> <p>3.2. Local level: meeting with members of Municipality, including the Deputy Mayor of Butwal Municipality, Ward Chair and leaders of the unions - 71</p> <p>3.3. Mobilization: Petition, protest, march during ITUC-NAC president's visits to provinces 1,4,5,6 - interaction among unions members and province government, organized rallies and handover the memorandum to the minister- over 500 workers mobilized.</p> <p>3.4. Interaction with local authorities, union members and Employers: 245 (59 female)</p> <p>3.5 During Social Protection week 23-26 Nov 2021  <i>Helambu, Sindhupalchowk:</i> Target group orientation and interaction program between stakeholders on Social Protection Ward n. 2,4,5 &amp; 6 - mobilized 154 people (102 women)  <i>Kalaiya, Bara:</i> Interaction program with concerned stakeholders on social protection, 27 Nov - mobilized 60 (32 women)</p> <p><b>4. Awareness raising: 246,753 people</b></p> <p>4.1. National level:            10 online /print media covers the news advocacy raising awareness of min. 50,000, estimated half women</p> <p>4.2. At local level:</p>

<sup>3</sup> Based on the Implementation Plan

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kalaya: Media published 7 posters with key messages regarding social protection (see annex 3): 2,000, of which estimated half women</li> <li>- Kalaiya: 7 issues based radio programs in- 50,000 people, estimated half women</li> <li>- Kalaiya: Radio Public Service Announcement on Social Protection broadcast through the community radio (21-27 Nov) 2100, estimated half women.</li> <li>- Kalaiya: Information dissemination regarding social protection through the newspaper - 2000, estimated half women</li> <li>- Kalaiya: Establish help desk on social protection where community members were provided assistance regarding the legal provisions and procedures to claim social protection services - 155 (75 women)</li> <li>- Radio Public Service Advertisement on child nutrition grant broadcasted 1 month through Community Information Network (CIN) - 138,498 views, estimated half women</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3:</b> The national Social Protection System and its financing is improved by decision-makers as a result of CSO/Trade Unions advocacy.			
<b>Output 4:</b> A critical analysis of social protection and its financing is generated by studies and research, in order to feed training and policy proposal drafting.			
6.2	#of advocacy documents and research/studies documents drafted	On schedule	<b>3.1. Documents drafted: 44</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Society Declaration (see annex 5): 1 (English and Nepali)</li> <li>- Research on social protection status of Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara, and Helambu Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk: 1</li> <li>- Round-table meeting with UN Rapporteur Olivier De Schutter: based on the 2020 social charter, recommendations were divided among contributory and non-contributory social protection, updated and provided to the delegates (see annex 6)</li> <li>- Appeal Letters: 10 (see annex 7 for detailed list of issues)</li> <li>- Letter of memorandum and demand letters: 20</li> <li>- Press release during National Social Security Day with demands to include informal and self-employed workers (ITUC-NAC): 1</li> <li>- Editorial articles on social protection: 2</li> </ul>

**OUTPUTS: Overall delivery assessment <sup>4</sup>**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highly satisfactory Implementation of almost all (>80%) outputs is on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and almost all (>80%) indicator milestones have been met.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory Implementation of the majority (60-80%) of outputs is on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and the majority (60-80%) of indicator milestones have been met.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Some (40-60%) outputs are being implemented on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and/or only some (40-60%) indicator milestones have been met.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very unsatisfactory Few (<40%) outputs are being implemented on schedule as envisaged in the implementation plan and/or only a few (<40%) indicator milestones have been met.

<sup>4</sup> This is a self-assessment

## 4 Summary outcomes

OUTCOME ACHIEVEMENT <sup>5</sup>				
Indicator	Baseline (before project start)	Indicator Milestone (compare planned against actual)	Target (end-of-project goal)	Immediate Outcome summary
Outcome 1: Nepali Civil Society Organisations and Trade Unions are meaningfully and structurally involved in the development; implementation and monitoring of policy processes regarding social protection and public finance management due to improved coordination and enhanced capacities.				
# of people participating in: stakeholders meetings, training, awareness, and advocacy (mobilizing and meeting policymakers).	None	<b>Stakeholders:</b> 106 (82 in 2020 and 24 in 2021) <b>Training:</b> 489 (420 in 2020, 69 in 2021) <b>Awareness raising regarding social protection schemes:</b> over 300,000 people (60,000 people in 2020 and 244,753 people in 2021) <b>Advocacy - policy makers met:</b> 70 (over 30 in 2020, over 40 in 2021) <b>Advocacy - people mobilized:</b> 1,236 (111 in 2020 and 1,125 participants in 2021)	Minimum 250 stakeholders, 100 people participating in training, 500,000 people reached through awareness campaigns, 350 advocacy makers met and 1.500 people mobilized to support demands on SP and PFM, with 6 position papers and 2 research drafted.	On track: most milestones met
#of advocacy documents and research/studies documents drafted	None	<b>Advocacy and research documents drafted: 66</b> (22 in 2020 and 44 in 2021)		

<sup>5</sup> Based on the M&E plan

#### 4.1 Achievement of the project outcomes

OUTCOME: Overall outcome summary	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Highly satisfactory</b> Based on the indicators & the risk assessment, all outcomes have been achieved by the end of the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Satisfactory</b> Based on the indicators & the risk assessment, the majority of outcomes have been achieved.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Unsatisfactory</b> Based on the indicators & the risk assessment, only some outcomes have been achieved.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Very unsatisfactory</b> Based on the indicators & the risk assessment, only a few outcomes have been achieved

Highly probable - Almost all (>80%) reporting period milestones have been met. Based on the indicators and risk assessment, it is highly probable all outcomes will be achieved by the end of the project.



## 5 Narrative Report: Managing for Results

The Social Protection and Public Finance Management (SP&PFM) project has been undertaken to collaborate within the framework of the EU Action Programme '*Synergies in Social Protection and Public Finance Management*' of which WSM is the lead to involve civil society for Nepal on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF). The goal of this programme is to strengthen national social protection systems through technical support, explorative research, and capacity development, focusing on public financial management systems, budgeting, and financing of social protection.

This project is implemented by WSM through two local partners, the International Trade Union Confederation - Nepal Affiliated Council (ITUC-NAC) and the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN). While leads have been determined for certain activities between the ITUC-NAC and SPCSN, the action very much remains a joint undertaking and responsibility, fostering better understanding and collaboration between trade unions and civil society, and consequently regarding contributory and non-contributory social security.

In Nepal, this project mainly focuses on the social protection floors: children allowances, health for all, old age, and the active population. The project is piloting the involvement of civil society in two municipalities: the Helambu Rural Municipality and Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City to analyse the local governance of social protection and encourage CSOs to be actively involved in the processes. ITUC-NAC focuses more on the newly created contributory social security, both at the national level to include informal workers, as well as towards province level authorities, looking at contributions for informal workers, like the construction sector, and also focusing on the enrollment of private school employees.

### 5.1 Progress summary

During this 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the implementation, after the preliminary work done to foster cooperation between various CSOs and trade unions involved in this project, an emphasis has been put on the actions:

- **Global engagement by GCSPF implementers:** The three grant-holding organizations (WSM, OXFAM, HelpAge) actively sought to maintain an active link with the wider GCSPF. Reports developed for the ILO were shared with the GCSPF membership for their information and advice. The GCSPF Annual Action Plan includes a specific section dedicated to discussing the state of this programme. Periodically the WCO reports back to the GCSPF on the programme's progress and gathers input from the members of the GCSPF on pending issues
- The 6 meetings of **the technical and steering committees** of the platform were not only institutional but could put emphasis on a joint validation of the workplan and the monitoring of key activities, such as trainings and advocacy actions described above. Despite the COVID context, all the initially planned moments for fostering CSOs cooperation were achieved. For the result of increasing advocacy and thematic expertise on social protection, the results achieved have gone beyond the expectations.
- **The WCO launched 2 important joint activities:**
  1. **A basic training on PFM** was organised for all 4 country teams and some key partners on PFM in February 2021 with the help of Barry HERMAN and Gemma ADABA, collaborators of Social Justice in Global Development, which is a member of the GCSPF Core team. To make the training as useful as possible, a basic needs assessment was done amongst the country teams. Hence, an emphasis was put on understanding the budget cycle of a government, and the key moments within it offering an opportunity for civil society engagement. The training was supported by a training manual. A full report<sup>6</sup> was made of the training session and communicated to the GCSPF.
  2. The exchange and **learning workshops** between the 4 countries, such as planned in 2021, could not take place due to travel restrictions. Because deep learning is more difficult to organise online, it was decided to develop an alternative strategy. In 2021, we identified the most important issues that are common to all 4 countries, consolidates in 5 learning topics:

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<sup>6</sup> Annex 1 GCSPF - PFM Training report 25feb21-FINAL

- How to extend SP to informal economy workers?
- How to build strong and inclusive SP networks of CSO's and Trade Unions?
- How to cooperate effectively with other stakeholders, implementing partners especially?
- How to engage effectively with government structures with decision making power on PFM4SP? (Ministries of finance, parliamentarians, local governments, SP councils...)?
- How to effectively use social accountability mechanisms?

For a first round of learning, it **was decided to focus on capitalizing our learning regarding building strong alliances and networks that have capacity to engage**. To ensure quality learning, the WCO decided to use a consultant to coordinate the process, elaborate tools and methodology. Terms of Reference for this consultancy were developed and a joint recruitment process started while pooling our learning budgets. HelpAge will take the lead in the recruitment, guided by a technical committee composed of the members of the WCO. The exercise will be implemented during the first semester of 2022.

The action has been structured in 4 main results:

- 1 result to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs on Social protection (here called "ORGANIZING AND NETWORKING")
- 1 result aiming at training ("TRAINING – INCREASING AWARENESS"),
- 1 result with ADVOCACY
- 1 result with RESEARCH

### **Result 1 - ORGANIZING AND NETWORKING**

*A first important component of the project is gathering stakeholders from civil society and trade unions and creating places where various aspects of social protection floors and public finance management can be discussed and analysed, aiming for better understanding, consensus building and finally joint advocacy. Hence, the project gathers and involves over 100 stakeholders from CSOs, both international and local, as well as trade unions, academics, journalists and social protection practitioners, each bringing elements regarding SPF and PFM: representing target groups like the active population, child right groups or elderly, people living with disabilities, adaptive social protection, access to health etc.*

#### **Stakeholders and Steering Group Meetings**

Due to COVID, no physical meeting took place of the stakeholders group in 2021, but **an online survey** was done among the over 100 members to select the two local areas for the pilot projects and a participatory **consultation** through Google Docs for the drafting of the recommendations regarding contributory and non-contributory social protection in Nepal. **Two steering group** meetings were conducted in 2021: on 12.02 (topics: to explore effective relationships between implementing partner and local authorities for coordination and mutual learning) and on 30.09 (topics: the Social Protection Week, UN Rapporteur visit to Nepal & Learning exchange with Cambodia and Nepal).

### **Result 2 – TRAINING – INCREASING AWARENESS**

*Once these stakeholders are gathered, the project aims to increase capacities of understanding for either basic or a more advanced SPF and PFM issues, hence workshops and seminars are organized, both at the national as at local level, especially with Nepal's newly federalized structure.*

#### **TRAINING**

a. **Workshop on adaptive Shock-Responsive Social Protection:** A two-day workshop on Shock-Responsive Social Protection was held on 16-17.12.2021 in Godavari, Lalitpur by Social Protection Civil Society Network in collaboration with WSM, Save the Children and CWISH. 25 participants attended from various non-profit organizations. The workshop was made insightful by Social Protection and Social Policy Specialists, from UNICEF Nepal, from World Bank, from DPNep, Danish Red-Cross, OXFAM, Children Save, Former Joint Secretary and facilitated by a Former Consultant from the World Bank. The participants have come up with the recommendations which are later communicated with the respective Ministries and concerned departments.

**b. Training on Social Protection to member of Civil Society Organizations:** 5 days of training on social protection in Nepal for local CSOs in 2 pilot municipalities: (4-8.08.2021 in Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City - Bara, 13-17.09.2021 in Helambu Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk). 2 training on social protection for the local representatives of two Palikas were conducted with the collaboration of Protection Nepal, Bara and Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra (MANK), Helambu. Total attendance: 44 participants.

**c. Learning Exchange Visit to Save the Children Initiatives on child sensitive social protection:** At the offer from Save the Children International and Finland, WSM and SPCSN and CWISH went on a two-day mission to witness the child sensitive social protection programme of Save The Children (Bardibas and Gaushala, in Province 2. The delegation met also with local authorities at municipality and ward level, The full report can be accessed [here](#).

**d.** With an aim to introduce social protection and public finance practitioners to the underlying concepts and understand the available financing options for social protection, and to improve public finance management a focal point of SPCSN/CWISH has participated in the **training of social protection and public finance management (SP/PFM) course** organized virtually by EU funded programme on social protection and public finance management. The learning sessions were organized in sessions of 90 minutes each twice a week over a period of five weeks starting from 18 October to 24 November 2021. After the completion of the training, an evaluation questionnaire in Google Forms was asked to fill which enable us to evaluate and provide feedback on the SP&PFM course.

## INCREASING AWARENESS

*After the space offered to network, the training to better understand and the joint advocacy, for CSOs and trade unions it is also very important to promote a right based approach to the beneficiaries, so large scale awareness raising with key messages is important not only to have people enroll and claim their individual rights, but also collectively stress the importance of SPF and PFM.*

**a. Awareness raising during Social Protection Week 2021 (National Level):** Nepal's National Social Protection Week and the Social Security Day on the 27.11.21 were an excellent occasion to emphasize recommendations and activities from civil society and trade unions.

**b. Article on Social Protection published in leading newspaper:** As part of the National Social Protection week in Nepal, SPCSN ensured the publication of an article in the national newspaper *The Rising Nepal* (3.12.21, *Social Protection in Nepal: Current Status & Major Concerns* [here](#) from page 10). Another article was published in 'The English OnlineKhabar' on Social Protection in Nepal: Major Concerns and Opportunities highlighting and demanding the social protection concerns of CSOs. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

**c. Social Media Campaign- Posters on social protection:** SPCSN launched a social media (Facebook) campaign (6,932 likes, 4,369 active followers, with regular news updates). During the social protection week, 7 posters were designed and published to raise the campaign on social protection floors.

**d. Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA):**

Based on the government expansion of the districts for the child nutrition grant, SPCSN/CWISH announced a Radio Public Service Advertisement (PSA), a radio jingle on child nutrition grants (sensitization, procedure for claiming the children grant) was broadcasted through the community radio-CIN once a day for a month 22 Jul-22 Aug in prime time. 537,486 people were reached via online radio, with 138,498 views and 108,371 engagements, estimated half women. Other public service announcements were also made for the Nepal Social Protection week during the end of November ([link](#) to jingle in Maithili language).

**e. Local Level Event- Social Protection Week 2021 at Helambu Rural Municipality Orientation on social protection to local beneficiaries and government officials to mark the Social Protection Day:** an orientation and interaction program on social protection was conducted between the

stakeholders and the target groups, in remote and backward communities (Ward 4 Gyalthum Gumba, Ward 5 Kharbuche of Helambu, Ward 6 Echok Chewangtol, and Dalit slums of Ward 2 Chitre), with the facilitation of the Radio Melamchi. SPCSN mobilised 154 people (102 Female and 52 Male, where 50 Dalit, 84 Janajati, 10 People with Disability and 17 Others).

**f. Local Level Event- Social Protection Week 2021 at Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara:** SPCSN with Protection Nepal celebrated the social protection week-2021. Interaction program with concerned stakeholders: 27.11.2021, 60 persons (32 Female and 28 Male, where 20 Dalit, 10 Janajati, 10 Muslim, and 20 Others) where 500 Dalit, 500 Janajati, 500 Muslims and 600 Others) reached.

**g. Establish a local help desk on social protection at Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara:** The SPCSN with the local partner *Protection Nepal* organized a help desk on social protection for 2 days in the Nepal Kalaiya district. The aim is to facilitate service delivery at the local level for the protection, upliftment, and ensuring the rights of senior citizens, single women, people with disabilities, children, marginalized, poor and disadvantaged groups under social protection. Several local authorities and other beneficiaries took part in the inaugural ceremony. 155 people from local communities (80 men and 75 women, with 20 Dalit, 30 Janajati, 15 Muslim, and 90 Others) were provided assistance regarding the legal provisions for social protection services. Information dissemination regarding social protection through the local newspaper: 2000 people reached (1000 Female and 1000 Male where 400 Dalit, 400 Janajati, 400 Muslim and 800 Others).

### Result 3 - ADVOCACY

*A next step once the space has been offered and issues have been better understood, is to build consensus and come to joint positions, after which various stakeholders mobilise their members to publicly support demands, like through petitions or marches. Stakeholders also use their contacts, formal or informal, to approach policy makers and present these joint positions.*

a. On 22.02.2021, a declaration paper was handed over to the members of parliamentarians and province policies, the planning commission of Bagmati Province to plan, prioritize and allocate budget on social protection.

**b. CSO Declaration on Social Protection:** The steering group drafted a 28-points statement on 21.11.21 on social protection, appealing to the Government of Nepal, entrepreneurs and employers, Labor Organization and Trade Unions, and civil society organizations to address the existing issues of employees. The 19 civil society organizations marked their solidarity to the declaration paper which was then disseminated publicly. Government officials, development partners, and network members appreciated the work done during the global pandemic and the initiatives taken from the network to ensure the social protection rights of the people.

**c. Policy Roundtable on Social Protection- Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights:** A delegation of INSP!R Nepal met with the visiting UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, Olivier De Schutter (30.11.2021, report: click [here](#)). Since De Schutter is a strong supporter of social protection, as CSO and Trade Unions we transmit our recommendations on non-contributory and contributory social protection (see annex 8), so these can be included in his official report to the Nepali government. Over 100 stakeholders as well as ILO, UNICEF, World Bank, Red Cross and other development partners provided comments and feedback. Much of the input can be found in the preliminary report of the UN Rapporteur released on the 9.12.2021 [here](#) (social protection from page 13 onward).

**d. National level interaction to ensure enforcement of law and scheme:** Aiming effective implementation of the social security Act and schemes, a one-day national level interaction on social security was conducted in Kathmandu on 18.12.2021. 95 (19 women) participants attended, including the Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security and the director of the social security fund. The Minister expressed his commitment to work for the effective implementation of social security schemes and law. More than 10 online/print media covered the news which approximately reached more than

50,000 people.

**e. Advocacy at local level to include construction workers in social security:** ITUC-NAC conducted 2 meetings with the members of the municipality in Butwal to discuss the registration of informal workers at the local level, particularly construction workers. 71 participants, including the deputy mayor of Butwal Municipality, ward presidents attended. Butwal municipality is in the process of establishing a mechanism to register construction sector workers.

**f. Petition, protest, marches to advocate for contributory social security:** ITUC-NAC presidents visited provinces 1,4,5,6 and organized interaction among union members and provincial government, organized rallies and handed over the memorandum to the minister through JTUCC, with an aim to create pressure on the government and policymakers for the amendment of obstacle provisions in social security and labor law. 500 workers were mobilized.

**g. Provincial-level advocacy works on social protection:** SPCSN/CWISH organized provincial level interaction in Hetauda, Bagmati Province, and Janakpurdham, province-2 on 22.02.2021 and 23.03.21. 8 members of Parliamentarians shared their cumbersome issues and challenges of social protection that dedicated the roles of federal/provincial governments to local budgeting.

**h. Interaction with local authorities, union members and Employers:** ITUC-NAC has organized interactions with local authorities, union members and employers in various places of 7 provinces with to discuss the situation of provinces, creating pressure on the employers and raising awareness on social security schemes and bringing more and more under the social scheme. Thanks to these interactions, employers expressed their commitment to register their companies under the Social Security Fund. Participants: More than 245 (59 female).

**i. Provincial Advocacy on Social Protection for Orphaned Children:** To resolve the legal aspects of the child endowment fund after the federalization of the country, the delegation of SPCSN made subsequent meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Social Development, Bagmati Province on 30.11.21. The Hon. Minister became aware of the gravity of the issue and requested the team to organize a discussion forum with the relevant stakeholders of Bagmati province. With the decision, SPCSN organized focused group discussion accompanying several local municipalities representatives and from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, Policy and Planning Commission of Bagmati province (34 participants, 14.12.21).

The meeting decided to designate SPCSN to draft an operating procedure on child endowment and orphaned child allowance. The ministry also requested to orient the staff to capacitate on policy design. SPCSN has recruited a consultant to this end. To date, the ministry has not endorsed working procedures on orphaned allowance hence and many children can't be benefitted from this facility.

**List of advocacy with the concerned ministries/departments and local units:**

- SPCSN/CWISH jointly organized the provincial level interaction in Bagmati Province on 19 Nov and in Province 2 on 22 Mar to inform and ensure the roles of provincial governments to raise awareness and issues relevant to social protection programs. Altogether, 8 parliamentarians and 127 participants attended and shared their contemporary issues on social protection.
- To ensure child nutrition is covered by social protection schemes during the pandemic from the 753 local units, SPCSN submitted an appeal letter. In response, some local units have taken these issues into budget consideration.
- Submitted 37 recommendations on the 10 yearly National Policy for the Children to the National Child Rights Council
- Submitted 20 demand letters to the federal, provincial, and local units that consisted of the right to social protection for children, single women, and the marginalized population of the country. Raising the concern of the delayed cash transfer of child nutrition allowance in Jajarkot district.
- Organized one-on-one meetings with bureaucrats and federal, provincial, and local units i.e. NPC, NYC NHRC, NCRC, Provincial Policy and Planning Commission, Minister of Finance, Minister of Social Development, Municipalities to raise the emerging issues of social protection.

- Organized a joint interaction with the joint Ministry of Social Development, Bagmati province, and SPCSN highlighting the status of the child endowment fund and orphaned child allowance stimulating gaps, and key concerns of local units of Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, and Kavre districts. As policy discussion, the key policymakers of Province Policy and Planning Commission, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Ministry of Policy and Planning actively participated in the event by designating further works/plans for SPCSN and ministry accordingly.
- Published an infographic poster on Child Nutrition Allowances in 25 districts in collaboration with the Department of National ID and Civil Registration (link [here](#)).

#### **Result 4 - RESEARCH on the status of Social Protection in two local municipalities:**

The baseline study was carried from July 2021 and ends in October 2021 (delays and extension of the duration observed due to COVID, floods...). To explore the status of policies and implementation strategies of social protection in Nepal the study is commissioned by SPCN through the Promoting Social Protection Floors in Nepal- better coverage for more people (PROSOP) project funded by WSM, Belgium. The study was conducted in 2 sample Municipalities (Helambu Rural Municipality in Bagmati Province, and Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City in Province 2). The survey was conducted in 402 sample households of the study areas and for qualitative data collection, 6 Focal Group Discussions (FGD) with 58 participants and 16 Key Informant Interviews were conducted. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

**Recruitment of Social Protection Facilitators:** SPCSN/CWISH recruited 2 social protection facilitator's each at Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara and Helambu Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk effectively from October 2021 for 18 months. These social protection facilitators will assist the beneficiaries of the community with grievance handling and will act as the role model/change agent to ensure all the beneficiaries are abided with the rights of social protection.

#### **Some elements of impact to which these activities contributed:**

- Child nutrition grant: in the fiscal year budget for 2021/22, the government has increased the amount from NPR 400 to NPR 532 a month. The continuous advocacy from the project contributed to the government of Nepal decision to expand by another 11 districts for the allocation of the universal child grant, reaching 25 out of 75 districts.
- The federal government of Nepal announced a 33% budget increase in the eight types of schemes on social protection during the fiscal year 2020/21.
- Contributory social security: 303,098 workers and 16,160 employers have been enrolled under the social security fund till 31.12.2021.

75% of the 37 recommendations on the 10 yearly National Policy for the Children to the National Child Rights Council were incorporated, ensuring better social protection provisions for children.

#### **i. Specific interventions related to public finance management**

See previous explanations in this report.

#### **ii. Contribution of the Project to the COVID-19 response and recovery**

The Chair of SPCSN is actively engaged in the formal discussion and is monitoring the projects focused on the pandemic. The committee is chaired by a member of the National Planning Commission and managed by the Social Welfare Council (SWC). During the pandemic period, the social protection issues within the country emerges rampantly, and at the moment, SPCSN/CWISH has correspondence with the related Ministries, Municipalities, and Rural Municipalities and handover the letter of memorandum to address the issues of pending disbursement of cash and services related to social protection. Likewise, ITUC-NAC also mobilized for safer working conditions and compensation for workers, both in all seven provinces' transverse sectors as particularly in the transport sector.



### **iii. Contribution to the national social protection policies and national coordination/ dialogue**

See previous explanations in this report.

### **iv. Improved gender equality in social protection coverage**

Many awareness and training activities have reached more than 50% of women, some advocacy focused on social protection coverage for single women (COVID), appeal letters were sent to the Ministry of Women, contacts exist with the National Women Commission, CSO Declaration included women related topics, etc. However, regarding some coordination meetings and women's participation in steering committees, efforts are visible but still need to be strengthened.

### **v. Improved disability-inclusiveness of the social protection system**

As mentioned above, some advocacy and awareness activities focused on social protection coverage for disabled people.

### **vi. Improved shock-responsiveness of the social protection system**

Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) is a new concept in Nepal. The Government of Nepal (GoN) still lacks the necessary policy documents to guide the SRSP interventions. Considering this, SPCSN has organized a two-day workshop on shock-responsive social protection and came up with some recommendations (see below):

- Operationalizing the existing disaster risk financing strategy as well as pushing forward to activate or knock down the process for developing the SP framework that was initiated during 2010 with the ADB TA.
- Formulation of appropriate policy, a framework that opens doors for the government as well and the Development Partners for rolling out SRSP addressing the priorities of the government. For this, development partners can work closely with the government to develop or adopt necessary tools and approaches which are internationally proven effective.
- Establish inter-agency close coordination for rolling out SRSP since it is closely linked with the climatic data (Hydro-Mat) and information.
- Robust disaster dedicated financial fund mobilization strategy and agreed on an ex-ante response plan. (Contingent and post-disaster credit lines, government's funding mechanism, etc.) As a part of disaster risk financing and how SP can be one of the components of DRF.)
- Well-coordinated interagency, risk-informed programs, and robust database management systems should be in place to move ahead to address this issue of integrating SP with DRM.
- Advocacy should be rolled on to make the existing SP program more scalable in the face of disaster and modify the existing rules and regulations to make it shock responsive.
- Wide range of sensitization across the three tiers of the government on SRSP.

### **vii. Improved social protection coverage for informal economy workers**

As mentioned earlier in this report, Unions are advocating for the government and policymakers to amend obstacle provisions in social security and labor law. Government is ready to amend the social security scheme operation procedure and has included in its policies and programs that workers including those working in informal sectors, self-employed and foreign migrant workers will be included in the contribution-based social security. Informal workers are one of the main objectives related to the awareness, training, and advocacy activities of the two national partners in this program.

## **5.2. Synergies and partnerships**

### **i. Synergies with other social protection interventions and strategic partnerships with other development partners**

With funds from Belgian cooperation (DGD), WSM has been supporting and strengthening 3 partners

in Nepal in the field of social protection and decent work for more than 10 years. All these partners participate in the SP&PFM programme:

- NTUC (Nepal Trade Union Congress, 400.000 members), that focuses on child labor, health, and well-being at work, training informal and formal workers about their rights, gender equality, and a universal social security system. NTUC is affiliated with ITUC-NAC.
- GEFONT (General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions, 300.000 members), aiming to improve working and living conditions, especially vulnerable and informal workers, young and women workers, migrant workers. GEFONT is affiliated with ITUC-NAC.
- ITUC-NAC International Trade Union Confederation - Nepal Affiliate Council, which is the driving force behind intense and effective cooperation between 11 trade unions, to agree and lead advocacy strategies on social protection, occupational health, and safety, labor standards.

These 3 entities formed in 2008 the National Network for the Right to Social Protection, which is co-author of the new social security law, to extend social security coverage to workers in the informal economy. WSM also has national networks in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, which all formed the Asia Network on the Right to Social Protection, newly called INSP!R Asia. Synergies between the present PFM4SPF programme and the one financed by the Belgian cooperation are therefore obvious.

The SP&PCM program already includes a long list of partners, networks, and stakeholders, and the GCSPF is a network of CSO's. We have had the practice of collaborating with Save the Children for similar activities and started implementing the activities jointly for better social protection floors and the weightage of the program.

## **ii. Complementarity with the EU Delegation's interventions and on-going and future Budget Support Programmes**

### **5.3. Evaluations, reviews, and monitoring**

A monitoring visit was conducted from the focal point of SPCSN at Helambu, Sindhupalchowk, and Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City, Bara during August and September 2021. The purpose of the visit was to analyze the situation of social protection and monitor the training conducted for CSOs on social protection. The monitoring visit was conducted to provide conceptual clarity to the officials of the social protection-related network. Discussing the social protection situation, challenges, and opportunities of Helambu Rural municipality and preparing a preliminary plan based on the findings was made for conducting social protection-related programs and campaigns at Helambu.

### **5.4. Main challenges, risks, and corrective action**

The country lockdown has significantly left vulnerable groups behind. The unemployment and poverty rate are increasing day by day<sup>7</sup>. Following natural disasters, many people have lost their lives and became homeless this year too. The dissolution of the Federal Parliament and the political instabilities or crisis has changed the political dimension of the country. The mandate given to the political parties will reach re-election for the fresh mandate. Frequent turnover of bureaucrats and decision-makers has pushed to change the working modalities and delay the progress/ processes to work effectively and efficiently. Further policy and advocacy halted for a time being with this shift. SPCSN worked remotely to initiate its campaigns during the pandemic. There has been effective coordination with and among NGOs, federal and local governments to lobby and advocate with concerned stakeholders to ensure social protection for the vulnerable and poor groups. As an example, appeal letters were forwarded through emails, quick virtual meetings, and several phone calls initiated for a lobby and advocacy. Similarly, distant meetings are taking place. The zoom meetings are frequently happening to raise issues among government and non-government stakeholders. The members of SPCSN (WHR, Protection Nepal, and MANK) are actively engaged in the emergency relief distribution to the workers

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_745439.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/briefingnote/wcms_745439.pdf)



of abroad, migrant workers, and returnees. After the lockdown, vibrant discussions are taking place in in-person meetings. Meetings with governments are happening in the ministries by strictly following COVID protocol. Social media campaigns are arranged to raise social awareness on social protection. This time, several political parties had their general assemblies by making members of Parliaments busy most of the time. Due to some hectic business, they could not attend our several events hence, we could not make their physical appearance. However, we submitted an invitation and email correspondence by flagging issues of social protection and issues of children in general.

### 5.5. Opportunities and corresponding strategy adjustments

Unions are creating pressure on the government and policymakers for the amendment of obstacle provisions in social security and labor law. Government is ready to amend the social security scheme operation procedure and has included in its policies and programmes that workers including those working in informal sectors, self-employed and foreign migrant workers will be included in the contribution-based social security. The programme will continue and intensify its advocacy efforts to ensure that this intention is maintained and realized.

### 5.6. Budget implications

While there were some very good results, this 2021 year was still marked by the COVID crisis. Also, some activities were probably initially over-budgeted, while staff costs were consistently insufficient in relation to the volume of activities conducted. Many of the programme activities implemented in the SP&PFM programme are held by permanent staff of our national partners, who already support many other activities. In Nepal, the budget realization rate was 57% in 2021.

By the end of 2021, as stated in the attached financial reports and the “ILO GCSPF Output 3a” document, WSM and our national partners have spent a total (2 countries) of 191.543 Eur, since the beginning of this programme. The budgets January 2022 - May 2023 amounts to 74.578 Eur for Senegal, and 82.775 Eur for Nepal. These amounts are realistic in relation to the rate of expenditure for the year 2021. Also, an unspent balance will be expected by the end of May 2023 of (total program 458.126 Eur - expenditures/budget at the end of May 2023) = 109.230 Eur.

Therefore, in agreement with SCPCN and ITUC-NAC, and in accordance with some challenges and lessons learned, WSM requests the possibility to extend the initiated action beyond May 2023. It will aim at a better medium-term sustainability of the actions undertaken, especially in the political field which is part of a long-term agenda.

### 5.7. Lessons learned – highlights

During the implementation of the project activities, as national partners have learned many things and tried to convert those into the capital and have reached this status because of it. Besides these many, there are some, which need to be documented more lively and practical.

- Mainly, the integrated social protection policy has yet to be developed so that the strong policy provision can hold stakeholders' accounts and strengthen the policy gaps. The tripartite actions among ILO, UNICEF, and CSOs may contribute to the threshold the government prioritizes the integrated policy. These unique actions may develop capacities of local level CSOs to stand alone to enhance the governance of SP in local units.
- The grievance handling mechanism offers a locally registered system that helps beneficiaries raise queries on SP to concerned stakeholders.
- CSOs are less considered in the SP dialogues however, this project has provided a strong platform to discuss with development partners, government stakeholders, and other actors to build synergies among them.
- Learning exchanges are key to success for any project. The best practices of PROSOP project have been replicated by the Save the Children funded PAHUNCH project which is being implemented by SPCSN that offers replication of best practices and is significant for project delivery.

- To build the organizational image and expand the coverage of Social Protection among various level stakeholders there is a need for more collaboration, coordination, and to expand networks with like-minded organizations and networks.
- SPCSN/CWISH realized that focusing only on the demand generation and advocacy side is not sufficient in the present context but also to focus parallel on building the capacity of the service delivery side.
- We have realized to develop concrete future directions; need to specify the core thematic areas.

#### **5.8. Visibility & Communication**

To meet the project compliance, SPCSN and ITUC-NAC have maintained regular contacts and exchanges with WSM. Further, SP&PFM partners have ensured visibility and credit to WSM, GCSPF, INSP!R Asia, ILO, and UNICEF as well as the EU, by including the SP&PFM logo and/or the mention: "Supported by" and the logo in posters, banners, or other promotional material. A total of 10 infographic posters, 2 Radio Jingles, 2 issue-based radio programs, 8 of the event covers in banners, and 16 online and print newspapers articles covered the program

- **ANNEX 1: PROJECT RISK REGISTER**

Ref	Risk statement. The event we do not want to see and its potential impact on objectives	Comment Explain how the risk might arise and the importance of the impact	Measures currently in place to address this risk	Impact	Likelihood	Total	Change	Risk Owner	Additional risk response for the attention of the implementation team and the Steering Group.
1	COVID-19, country lockdown and flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delay in conducting regular activities due to the country lockdown and flood in Helambu Rural Municipality</li> <li>- Difficulties in implementing project activities, group meetings for the lobby, and advocacy on social protection issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Virtual meetings and communication with government to raise issues i.e. back and forth emails, one on one meetings</li> <li>- Meetings are happening in the ministries by strictly following COVID protocol.</li> <li>- Social media campaigns are arranged to raise social awareness on social protection.</li> </ul>	High	Medium	High	↔	SPCSN, ITUC-NAC and WSM	Coordination with ILO/UNICEF to be strengthened would help to reach policymakers and authorities and ensure impacts, despite the COVID.
2	Political instability, structural changes in ministries, and annual general assembly of political parties	Advocacy processes delayed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular correspondence with CWISH and SPCSN is done for further action to coordinate with the new appointment.</li> </ul>	High	Medium	High	↔	SPCSN and ITUC- NAC	

Key: [Insert scales in the Change column]

↑ Increase in the total level of risk

↔ No change in the total level of risk

↓ Decrease in the total level of risk

## - ANNEX 2: OUTPUTS (DOCUMENTS) OF THE PROJECT

List of outputs, technical reports, and studies produced by the project. All outputs listed here will be attached to the progress report.

Title of the output or report	Type of product (working paper, brief, technical report, video, capacity building content, etc...)	Published/not published
Submitted 1-letter of memorandum to local governments (753 local units) on an increment of child nutrition grant	Position Paper	Published
Submitted 10-appeal letters to the Government to expand the child nutrition grant, orphaned children, a continuation of disability and single women grant	Position Paper	Published
Submitted 2-CSO declaration on social protection to a member of parliamentarians of Bagmati Province and Province-2.	Position Paper	Published
3- Radio PSA	Awareness Raising	Published
8- Posters/ Infographics/Brochure on Cash transfer Social Protection Programme	Awareness Raising	Published
16- online and print newspapers articles covered the program and Information disseminated regarding social protection through the local newspaper	Awareness Raising	Published
Letter of memorandum and demand letters to federal, provincial, and local units -20	Position Paper	Published
Civil Society Training Manual on Public Financial Management for Social Protection, GCSPF, Feb 2021	Manual, capacity building content	Not published
Public Finance Management – GCSPF Training Session, 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.	Training session report (CSOs from Senegal, Nepal, Cambodia and Uganda) Video Recording <sup>8</sup> :	Not published
Civil Society and Trade Union Capacity Building Webinar on Public finance Management, GCSPF/WCO, 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	PowerPoint	Not published

<sup>8</sup> [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLACmLpxLYEa6o5LS4PRh3fdQs09\\_3pG4](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLACmLpxLYEa6o5LS4PRh3fdQs09_3pG4)

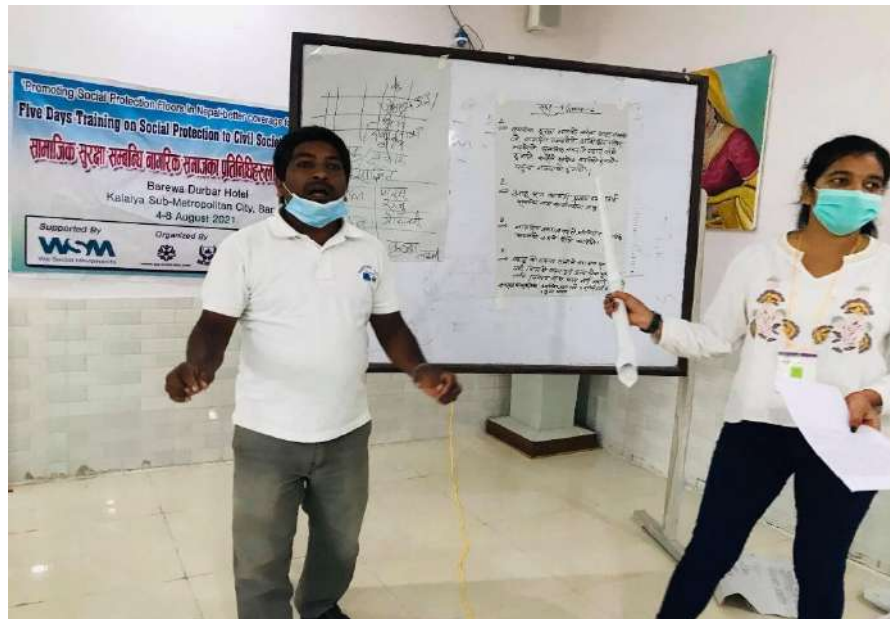
- **ANNEX 3: COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**







## SP&PFM programme progress report- 2021





SP&PFM programme progress report- 2021







## - **ANNEX 4: Emerging good practice**

We decided to capitalize on our learning regarding building strong alliances and networks. To ensure quality learning, the WCO decided to hire a consultant to coordinate the process and Terms of Reference for this consultancy were developed and a joint recruitment process started while pooling our learning budgets. HelpAge will take the lead in the recruitment, guided by a technical committee composed of the members of the WCO. We suggest waiting until the end of this initiative in the first semester 2022, so that we can identify some key learning points and then share it with ILO, UNICEF and other interested stakeholders.

Country	
Title of the practice	

- **ANNEX 5: POSTERS WITH KEY MESSAGES**

## बाल पोषण भत्ता प्राप्त गर्नको लागि प्रक्रियागत चरणहरू



### लाभग्राही

- ५ वर्ष सुविक्का टेरैभरका दलित बालबालिका
- हुम्ला, जुम्ला, डोल्पा, मुगु, कालिकोट, बन्दिपुर, अछाम, रौतहट, नयेतरी, सर्लाही, डोटी, बाजुरा, सिराहा, रसुवा, धनुषा, सप्तरी, बाँरा, दैलेख, रुकुम पश्चिम, रुकुम पूर्व, सल्यान, काभ्रेपलाञ्चन, रोल्पा, बैतडी र जाजरकोट जिल्लाका ५ वर्ष सुविक्का बालबालिका

#### ०१. जन्मदर्ता गर्नु



जन्मदर्ता गर्नुपर्ने स्थिति  
जन्म भएको ३० दिन भित्र  
जन्म भएको स्थानको स्वास्थ्य चौकीमा  
जन्म भएको ३० दिन भित्र  
जन्म भएको ३० दिन भित्र  
जन्म भएको ३० दिन भित्र  
जन्म भएको ३० दिन भित्र

#### ०२. खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नु



खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नु  
खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नु  
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खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नु

#### ०३. रोजगारको बैगमा खाद्य खोल्नु



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रोजगारको बैगमा खाद्य खोल्नु

#### ०४. खाद्य लिनु



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#### ०५. मरीकरण गर्नु



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#### मुनारी मारना



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- बाल पोषण भत्ता प्राप्त गर्नको लागि खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नुपर्नेछ । खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नुपर्नेछ । खाद्यको लागि बाजु दर्ता गर्नुपर्नेछ ।










Policy, legal and integral coordination improvements must be made for effective implementation of Social Security programs based on integrated Social Security Plan and contribution.



Studies of international practice and intergovernment level coordination and cooperation should be made effective to develop the implementation framework of social security program in accordance with federal system.



सामाजिक सुरक्षा सप्ताह २०२१ मनाउने सन्दर्भमा सञ्चालित  
सामाजिक सञ्जाल अभियान



वैदेशिक रोजगारमा गएका  
कामदारलाई योगदानमा आधारित  
सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणालीमा आबद्ध  
गरिनुपर्दछ ।



Workers who have gone for foreign employment should be affiliated with contribution based social security system.

सामाजिक सुरक्षा सप्ताह २०२१ मनाउने सन्दर्भमा सञ्चालित  
सामाजिक सञ्जाल अभियान



गरिबी न्यूनीकरण, मर्यादित जीवन  
र सुरक्षित भविष्यका लागि  
सामाजिक सुरक्षा र संरक्षण  
अपरिहार्य रहनुपर्दछ ।



Social security and protection must remain indispensable for poverty minimization, limited life and a secure future.



Social Security programs should be made disaster adaptive to tackle potential risk and outbreak created by disaster.



All citizens should be covered under a universal social security system.



## - ANNEX 5: TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Rising Nepal Daily

# Social Protection in Nepal Current Status, Major Concerns



Sandhya Thapa

Our constitution has provided that getting allowances is the people's right under social protection provisions. Senior citizens, the poor, the Dalits, the helpless, people with disabilities and with severe forms of disabilities, single women, and under-aged cases are entitled to receive social allowances as per the final programme of the government of Nepal. The Nepali charter ensures social protection as a fundamental right to reduce poverty and vulnerability in Article 34.

The constitution has included the Employment Act 2075 to actualise a fundamental right. Contributory Social Protection Rules- 2075 have been im-

posed based on the Contributory Social Protection Act 2074 to secure to equitable labour relations, poverty reduction, and industrial stability. Considering the significance of social protection, the previous Government of Nepal announced Social Protection Day on 11 Mangsir 2074.

Social protection is a collection form of cash, service, assistance, concession, and facilities in addition to any policies and programmes brought by the government or private sector to increase income or consumption to dilute the risk to livelihood of the poor or marginalised citizens. Social protection is a concept based on the belief that those who can contribute to income generation must be ensured through social assistance and those who are unable to contribute get ensured through social assistance for a secure present and future.

We cherish the moves taken in the field of social protection within the changed setting when the world is confronting challenges like COVID-19 by the government of Nepal. Stakeholders call upon the government to make a notable contribution to the concerned bodies and partners, increasing the equal access of all to social protection and playing an effective role in fulfilling the national resolve of prosperous Nepal.

**Implementation Status**

Social protection is an individual's right and also a responsibility of the state. However, the contribution-based social protection fund launched by the government as a socialised-oriented programme is still to meet with the expected success. The Social Protection Fund enforced organisations and the number of unpaid workers has not been expanded and the deadline set by the government has been exceeded several times, causing a low amount in the social protection fund.

More than nine hundred thousand

formal organisations are employing 2.7 million in our country. Institutionally run large organisations have participated but banks, private schools, cooperatives, and other small organisations have not been listed in the social protection fund. One of the first reasons is that not all employers have yet come into the Savings Fund.

The second reason is, not all employers have provided minimum incentives and facilities allocated by the Government of Nepal. Because they have to provide the minimum incentive and they have to add 28% to their side. Third, employers seem to be attempting to counterbalance the 1.87% extra burden on those who have stored within the provident fund and who are deducting the allowance themselves.

Employers appear to be renouncing their commitment towards tripartite agreements between employers, the government, and trade unions to create an industrial environment. There is still disarray regarding the nature of the Employee Provident Fund, Citizen Investment Fund, and Social Protection Fund.

Although there are numerous provisions for workers in the formal (civil) sector, workers in the informal sector, which possesses more than 84% of the

population, are still to be provided with social protection arrangements. Hence, social protection should be provided not only to certain beneficiary communities but also to all stakeholders.

Such protection should be equal for all to develop tools for prevention, protection, promotion, and transformation, covering education, health, and employment for secure citizens, healthy and unshakable, rich and poor communities. Meanwhile, economic security, production and distribution, and access to the labour market must be transformed into organisational structures that contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

The legal provision to tax the amount contributed to the social protection fund should end immediately. In addition, the facilities provided to the contribution-based pension system for the government employees and the benefits available to depositors in social protection funds are four times different.

According to a report submitted to the government by the Bankers' Association, a government employee earning Rs 100,000 gets a monthly pension of Rs 40,000 after working for 20 years. It is seen that the private sector employees who have worked the same salary and service period will get four times less monthly pension from the social protection fund. It seems necessary for the Government of Nepal to clarify the matter.

A policy of positive discrimination has been adopted for Dalit and single women senior citizens and some remote districts among the target groups receiving social security benefits. According to the provisions of the procedure, single women under the age of 60 and persons with severe disabilities, who were receiving allowances in the past, have been deprived of receiving allowances due to the provisions of the Act. In the case of single women above 60 years of age is included among the eligible senior citizens, it seems that there is injustice against single women under 60 years. It should be clarified immediately as there will be a situation where someone will get double benefit and someone will not get at all.

Our government and the Social Welfare Council have called upon all non-governmental organisations to join the Social Protection Fund through a public notice on August 10, 2010. However, the NGOs, through their umbrella organisation NGO Federation, demanded necessary amendments to the Social Pro-

tection Act, Rules, and Procedures. This is because the provision of not getting a facility on or after depositing funds for 3 months is impractical and unfair.

Although the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens is the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to do the work for the benefit of the citizens designated as beneficiaries by the Social Protection Act, keeping the department under the Ministry of Home Affairs does not seem appropriate in terms of effectiveness. If the registration work closely related to citizenship and national identity card was kept at the Ministry of Home Affairs and the social protection allowance programme was placed under the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens or the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Protection, its effectiveness would increase.

### Employers and Entrepreneurs

Employment opportunities should not be snatched away from the workers for any reason like COVID-19. Regularly disinfecting the workplace and regulating employment with adequate and appropriate arrangements for workers' health (are necessities). Justice is the totality of principles, methods, and subjects based on the truth invented by society. The campaign should be based on the premise that this is the behaviour of one person to another rationally. Employees of Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal Protection Board, Insurance Companies, and other autonomous regulatory bodies, government-owned institutions, and private sector listed public companies have already come under the purview of some social protection programmes.

To bring the issue of workers and those affected by traditional slavery (Harahara, Mukra (Kalya, Mukra Kanyas, Baligahare) and modern slavery (child labour, domestic labour, adult recreational workers, workers in foreign employment) into the social protection scheme by including them in social dialogue and tripartite dialogue. The agenda should be made and laboured.

Furthermore, confidence has arisen among employees working in the banking and financial sector. They have filed a writ in the writ filed in this regard, the Supreme Court has already rejected the interim order as it was not against the constitution. It seems to be beneficial to conclude by holding a frank discussion that the benefits of any worker should not be deducted because of the workers' affiliation to the Social Protection Fund.

Social protection is a multifaceted and dynamic concept. Therefore, a civic campaign should be launched to publicise the concept that it is the right of the common people and not the charity of the employed. At the same time, in the context of the Government of Nepal's implementation of a contribution-based social security programme, the role of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in advancing state policy towards a perpetual social protection system, focusing on the concept of social protection floor, should play a role.

About 70% of the workers in the informal sector are yet to have social protection arrangements and for the rest of the other workers, it is costly to go to the district court from the local level, so not only for the certain beneficiary communities but also all stakeholders should be involved in social protection by conducting civic campaigns and engaging non-governmental organizations in social protection.

### Key Purpose

The main purpose of Social Protection is to guarantee the security of food, shelter, and clothing of the workers as well as to pay more attention to the areas where there is widespread employment exploitation. To solve this problem, the services provided to the consumers should be guaranteed by law and the pension should be increased more than the prescribed amount.

Also, the tax issues should be addressed, discrimination between the government workers and other employees should be eliminated and provision should be made for unconditional withdrawal of all amounts deposited in one's name. Meanwhile, a refund of money deposited as property of workers should be made clear in the Act.

(The writer is associated with Social Protection Civil Society Network)

Other articles [here](#), [here](#)

Facebook pages: SPCSN: link ITUC-NAC: link

## - **ANNEX 6: CSO DECLARATION (SUMMARY)**

*i) The simultaneous lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is suggested to include short-term relief packages for workers (workers, contractual workers, and unorganized), children living with poverty, helpless single women, old-age population, etc.*

*ii) Since a couple of years, the Government has been providing social protection allowances (cash transfer) to the lactating mothers if they give a birth to children in the government hospitals; however, the recent guidelines of contribution-based social protection has stated the contribution requirement to access the fund. CSOs urge to drop the contribution requirement as it will prohibit poor populations from accessing the allowance.*

*iii) There are many provisions for workers in the formal sector. A large portion of informal workers (estimated 84%) occupying space are out of social security programs yet to be included in the system.*

*iv) The country lockdown doesn't imply termination of employment. Many workers are abandoned to continue their jobs and furthermore, suicidal cases (3,000+) are increasing more than the death (1,899 [COVID Deaths](#)) of COVID-19. CSOs propose to strictly regulate social distancing, disinfect a workplace and provide adequate health services for workers.*

*v) Workers in informal labor should be organized by providing labor rights and trade union education and facilitated for enrollment in social security schemes. At the same time, the workers in crisis should be facilitated to access the services and facilities available from the Government.*

*vi) Through the contribution based social security scheme, all workers in the formal and informal sectors should be freed from the risks of social and economic hardship and play a supportive role in the social security campaign to build a dignified life and secure future.*

## - **ANNEX 7: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND TRADE UNIONS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN NEPAL**

Presented during visit of UN Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty Olivier De Schutter, 27 Nov. 2021

- Contributory SP [here](#)
- Non-contributory SP [here](#)



## ANNEX 8: LIST OF APPEAL LETTERS

- **Appeal on Child Nutrition Grant**

Article 3 of the Constitution of Nepal, 2072 BS, has clearly provided that the economically deprived, disabled, and helpless, helpless single women, the disabled, children, etc. will have the right to social security in accordance with the law. Similarly, the provision of social security allowance by the federal government as per the Social Security Act, 2075 BS and the practice being implemented by the local government is well known. One of the key aspects of this comprehensive, systematic and effective program, managed by the Government of Nepal from its own resources, is the provision of Child Nutrition Allowance for children under the age of five. In the current COVID-19 and other pandemic situations, by adding Rs. 600 to the Rs. 400 received by the children at the rate of Rs. 1000. Thus, the existing social security (cash flow) program operating mechanism has already organized these children's data, with most of the beneficiaries coming to the banking payment service for cash flow, using this mechanism seems to be the basis for raising cash and making assistance faster, more efficient and less expensive.

- **Appeal letter to Ministry of Home Affairs for timely disbursement of cash,**
- **Appeal to Department of National ID and Civil Registration**

Despite the impact of the lockdown on the nation as a whole, the poorest, the wage earners, the disabled, the landless, the HIV-infected, the pregnant, the pregnant women, the children (Dalits, the poor), the senior citizens, the marginalized and the helpless widows are disproportionately affected. These groups of citizens are being pushed towards more risks and crises due to lockdown. Most of the groups mentioned above are the beneficiaries of social security programs being implemented. The beneficiaries as specified by the Social Security Program Operation Procedure 2075 will get the third installment in June 2078. However, in view of this dilemma, if the designated beneficiaries receive the allowance/grant amount well in advance, the economic empowerment of citizens would be increased.

- **Letter of recommendation to Legislative Management Committee:** amendment points based on the issue of single women (widows) and persons with disabilities have been prepared in three phases)
- **Appeal on joint request for children's education during COVID-19**

The Constitution of Nepal 2072 has defined child rights as a fundamental right. Article 39 of the Children Act 2075 and Article 31 of the Right to Education have already been explained. At present, this ban is having a direct impact on the learning process of all children. Some schools have been conducting online classes to continue the educational activities. Many children are not able to take this opportunity. During such disasters, children in society are exposed to many kinds of risks. Lack of proper knowledge skills among parents is also affecting the learning process of children now. The process of mental development of children is unstoppable for any reason. That is why teaching should not be stopped under any circumstances. Therefore, as it is not possible to know for sure how long this situation will last, we draw the attention and appeal of the detailed civil society networks to the federal, state and local governments of all three levels of the Government of Nepal and other concerned bodies to provide assistance on the following points.

1. In view of the demands and pressure from various quarters to open a school, it is not justifiable to open a school without coronary infection and necessary management and to create an environment where children can continue their learning directly and indirectly in a new way.
2. Timely preparation and information should be given about how to run the school after the closure and the aspects to be taken care of while running the school.
3. Disasters can strike at any time. Therefore, the Government of Nepal should issue definite guidelines and procedures to continue the teaching and learning of children during disasters.
4. As per the commitments made at the national and international level, the budget allocation for the education sector should be increased in the forthcoming budget. From which students and teachers need to be provided with technology friendly infrastructure.
5. Due to the current situation, the governments of all the three levels of the state should make arrangements for additional educational assistance for the same academic year 2078/79 by providing

special assistance packages to the families living below the poverty line and marginalized.

- **Appeal letter on genocide**
- **Appeal to networks for joint collaboration in ensuring child rights and social protection**

## **ANNEX 9: Additional information on activities from CSOs not funded by the project**

- The Chairperson of SPCSN actively participates in the coordination committee chaired by the member of the National Planning Commission (NPC) to see the impact on COVID-19 among children, women, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.
- To enhance the visibility and solidarity of issues, SPCSN attended more than 20 virtual meetings followed by 15 substantial meetings organized by the National Child Rights Council (NCRC), Social Welfare Council (SWC), Social Insurance Fund (SIF), Save the Children (SCI), UNICEF, International Labour Organization (ILO) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to see the impact of the global pandemic and fine-tune actions of SPCSN with the government agencies.
- For vibrant news coverage of social protection, there have been regular news updates and discussion interfaces on social protection on SPCSN's social media. SPCSN official Facebook page can be found [here](#).
- Extended solidarity as well as collaborated with CSOs to mark a day that included the International Day Against Child Labour, International Women Day, Children's Day, Human Rights MAGNA Meet, etc.
- Carried out case studies for the episodes that included 35 pieces of evidence from various districts.
- Applied grant proposal to the development partners, bilateral agencies, and federal ministries to sustain SPCSN's initiatives that have resulted in the commitment from Plan International Nepal in July 2021-July 2023, WSM for 2022 on the ward, and IFRC.
- Endorsed organizational internal policies of SPCSN that include GESI, Program and Financial Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Money Laundering Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy, and so on.
- Participated/collaborated/organized various issues on social protection with CSOs i.e. CZOP, NACG, Consortium Nepal, Child Nepal, COCAP. COCAP being the host to organize 16 days of activism and MAGNA Meet, SPCSN has been equally contributing to this event by raising issues of domestic violence and violence against women. More than 300 CSOs/NGOs made a road march in Kathmandu by pledging women's rights all over the country. Altogether, SPCSN showed its solidarity during 53 events this year.
- In the meantime, we have an active presence in the advocacy campaign on 16 days of activism against all forms of violence against women. Additionally, our active member COCAP is leading the 13<sup>th</sup> Human Rights National Magna Meet.

### **Strategic planning workshop of SPCSN:**

SPCSN in financial support from WSM and Save the Children, jointly organized its Strategic Planning Workshop that took place on 14-17 August 2021. CWISH coordinated the event whereas 16 participants attended the event from the member organizations. On the day I, Mr. Tilotam Paudel, Chairperson of SPSN welcomed the guests. In his opening remarks, he explained the objective and importance of the workshop as the country is in the global pandemic. He further said the event will be a milestone in shaping SPCSN's gradual works. Mr. Madhav Dhungel, Deputy Chair of the National Youth Council shared the brief history of the social protection program implementation and the roles of youths in strengthening the global campaign. Much awaited contribution-based social protection and non-contributory social protection have importance to reducing poverty and vulnerability. Yearly, the government has to increase the budgetary provisions for the people. Mr. Nabin Maharjan, PC briefed the progress of the program implementation in SPCSN and the plans to enhance its initiatives. Furthermore, he focused on the program happening in SPCSN and plans. Mr. Basant Raj Gautam, Former, Director General of DoNIDCR and facilitator shared the detailed 3 days' plans of action that participants could prepare for the relevant documents. Some roleplay sessions, pamphlets, and pictures were the best of the session that encouraged many participants to ensure quality time. After the tireless sessions, the RP introduced the draft plans, communication strategy that included the mission, vision, and goals of SPCSN along with the tentative budget plans for five years. On the fourth day, 17 August 2021, SPCSN organized its' first General Assembly Meeting that ensured 11 participants from its members. The meeting continued with the roles from the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson that

included Mr. Gopal Thapa Magar, Secretary, Ms. Charimaya Tamang, Deputy Secretary, Ms. Kunda Sharma as a Treasurer, and the rest of others as members. There are two Under secretariats that may support SPCSN to closely monitor and organize its initiatives. Ms. Dolma Tamang, Deputy Chair thanked all the participants for their active participation and requested all to ensure safety and security during the COVID situation in the country.

#### **Frequent Team Meetings:**

SPCSN/CWISH organizes regular meetings (Review meetings, regular meetings of the board, staff, projects, steering group meetings, and secretariat and project initiation meetings with local authorities and concerned stakeholders) and organizes regular joint monitoring visits of the stakeholders. The meetings provide a common platform for members to discuss various social protection aspects. To adequately bring social protection issues from the member organizations and ensure their active participation in the program implementation, SPCSN organized 5 meetings including 2 virtual meetings to generate evidence, aiming to raise the voice of right holders, promote an interface platform between right holders and duty bearers, to hold duty bearers more account on various social protection issues. Member organizations represented and dedicated to working with the most vulnerable groups in Nepal such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, traffic survivors, people with HIV/AIDs, single women, landless people, and so on.

Due to these strengths, we have created some opportunities as working as the leading organization in social protection because of the well-governed practices and policies. A recent example is the increasing amount of social protection by 33 percent. Due to our continuous lobby and advocacy, the recent government has decided to continue the increased budget for the most vulnerable groups.

#### **Initiatives to develop SPCSN as a resource center on Social Protection:**

In its efforts to serve as a resource center, SPCSN has uploaded more than 350 pieces of publically available kinds of literature that include journals, articles, books, and research papers. For effective library management, SPCSN has nominated three interns/students of the Kathmandu School of Law. For the reader-friendly environment, the team has been preparing and managing books lists for the serial and collecting books related to social protection. To manage required support for online and subsequent libraries, the team hired a paid volunteer who has been updating books, journals, and magazines that are relevant to social protection, reaching 350 free online resources on social protection.

#### **Publication of Social Protection journal:**

The team has collected six academic manuscripts that dedicate the status of social protection which has been published in an electronic version as issue II and Volume II. Delayed manuscript submission from the authors, the team could collect articles and submit for final design hence, the substantial version will be published on an online platform link [here](#).

To obtain an electronic version of the International Standard Serial Number (e-ISSN) for the Journal of Social Protection, the team has achieved this by following up with the National Library Center, Hariharbhawan. Digital Object Identifier (DOI), SPCSN has submitted a request to the TU Central Library for affiliation with NepJol. NepJol is the only authorized institution of Nepal that has been active in receiving the DOI of previous articles that have been published in the Journal of Social Protection.

#### **Awareness raising: Television Talk Show on Social Protection**

SPCSN/CWISH accomplished a weekly issue-based discussion of social protection on national television that had been a discussion interface among rights holders, duty bearers, and policymakers regarding social protection programs of the country. Hosted 15 episodic discussions on social protection that became a landmark in the history of the country being hosted by CSOs of Nepal link [here](#). A total of 3% of the population watched directly from the television platform and evidenced from other social media platforms i.e. Facebook live and YouTube channel. As social media campaigns, we reached the number of people on Facebook as a total of 15,000 (Likes 700, views 2000, and discussions 75). Generated 15 subtitles in the English language so that it is hard of hearing and foreigners can easily understand the debate link [here](#). WSM has financially contributed to the two episodes i.e. foreign employment and social protection and contributory-based social protection.

Publication of an online article on the status of social protection and CSOs' concerns and challenges bringing insight to various social protection schemes and programs that gained momentum towards bringing holistic approaches on social protection which can be accessed [here](#).

Publication of an article on the social protection in Nepal: Current Status, Major Concerns that brought insight on the government's strategy to counterbalance the extra burden on those who have stored within the provident fund and who are deducting the allowance themselves. The article is accessible [here](#).