

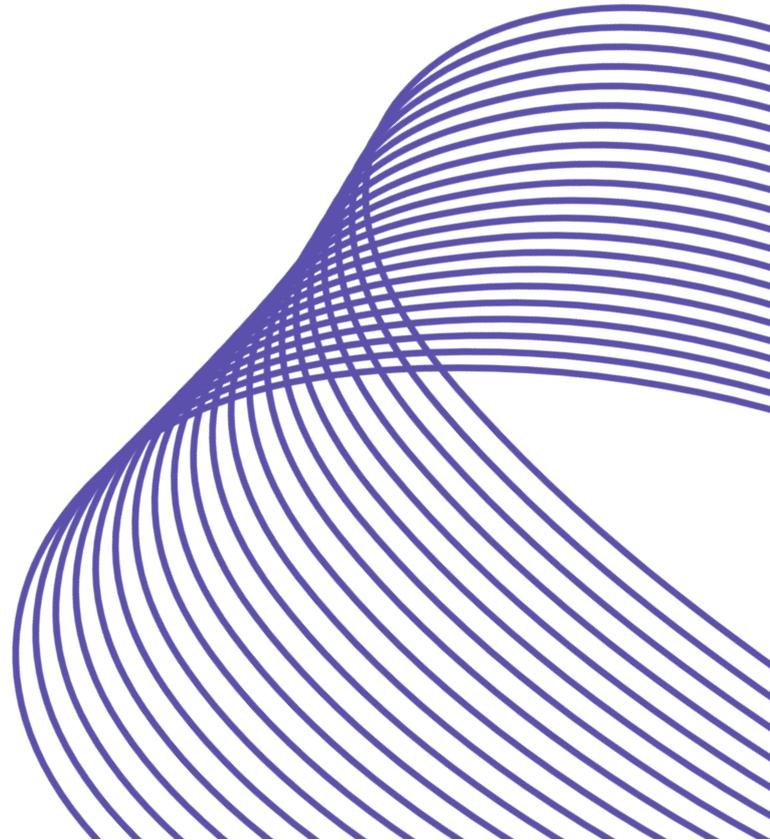
PROGRESS REPORT OF ADVOCACY INITIATIVES FOR SCALING UP CHILD GRANT

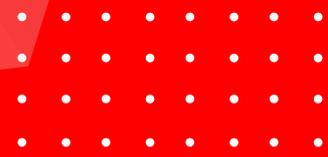


Social Protection Civil Society Network



Save the Children





PROJECT SUMMARY

Advocacy Initiatives for Scaling-up Child Grant

❁ **Project Duration: APRIL TO JULY 2023**

❁ **Target Group: Federal-level parliamentarians and government stakeholders**

❁ **Thematic Area: Social protection**

❁ **Key Objectives**

- *Lobbying and advocating with lawmakers and government agencies for scaling up the 'Universal Child Grant' in Nepal.*
- *Sensitizing major stakeholders about the importance of the 'Universal Child Grant' to consolidate policy advocacy efforts.*
- *Forging solidarity with stakeholders to have a collective voice for increasing the child grant in the upcoming FY.*
- *Continuing publishing the 'Journal on Social Protection, Volume III for evidence-based advocacy by informing development practitioners, researchers and stakeholders on social protection.*

❁ **Project Coverage: Federal level**

❁ **Development Partner: Save the Children International**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ **A firm commitment from the Rural Municipality Association and Municipality Association to play a crucial role to lobby with the National Planning Commission for scaling up the universal child grant in Nepal.**
- ◆ **Positive response and commitment from the Vice-chairperson and the Member Secretary of the NCRC to expand the child grant nationwide.**
- ◆ **Significant media coverage and commitment to solidarity from Civil Society Organizations for the cause.**
- ◆ **Commitment from participating parliament members to raise the issue of expanding the child grant in parliamentary meetings, aiming to include all children in its benefits.**
- ◆ **Publication of the Journal on Social Protection- Volume 3.**

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES FOR SCALING UP CHILD GRANT



Meeting with the National Planning Commission and the Department of National ID and Civil Registration (DONIDCR)



6th APRIL 2023



In the NPC meeting, Dr. Ram Kumar Phyal, an Honourable Member of the National Planning Commission, expressed his assurance that the government is taking the issue seriously. He stated that the policy and budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2023/24 (2080/81) will address this matter appropriately.

SPCSN recently held a meeting with representatives from the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Department of National ID and Civil Registration (DONIDCR). During this meeting, the delegation from the civil society organization (CSO), led by Mr. Tilottam Paudel, the Chairperson of SPCSN, presented an appeal letter along with a policy brief focused on the scaling up of child grants. Mr. Paudel emphasized the significance and challenges associated with expanding child grants.



Meeting with Rural Municipality Association and Municipality Association



Both associations expressed a strong commitment to raise the matter with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and provide feedback. To support their cause, SPCSN submitted an appeal letter to both associations. SPCSN is actively following up on these meetings to ensure progress and keep the momentum going.



13th APRIL 2023

SPCSN and Save the Children met with the Rural Municipality Association and Municipality Association, discussing the need for scaling up the child grant with their respective chairpersons and the Executive Directors.



MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER



Mr. Gunaraj Muktan, an Education and Child Rights Activist, and Mr. Puskar Kafle, Sr. Project Coordinator from Save the Children International called on the Finance Minister at his residence. However, the Finance Minister expressed a lack of optimism regarding the issue, citing the challenging economic situation this year and stating that he couldn't foresee the possibility of immediate action.

MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL CHILD RIGHT COUNCIL



 **23rd APRIL 2023**

SPCSN and Save the Children had a fruitful discussion with the National Child Right Council (NCRC) to raise the voice for scaling up child grant throughout the nation. The Vice-Chairperson and the Member Secretary of the NCRC expressed their commitment to incorporate the agenda when they submit the priorities from NCRC to ministry.

MEETINGS WITH THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS

 **25th APRIL 2023**



Meeting with Honourable Member of National Planning Commission.



Meeting with Secretary of Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens.



HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



26th APRIL 2023



A high-level dialogue with civil society organizations was successfully organised to gather voices and foster solidarity among civil society organizations to support scaling up the universal child grant in Nepal. During the event, 26 civil society organizations demonstrated their solidarity and made a compelling appeal to the government, urging increased investment in children to disrupt intergenerational poverty transmission and promote human capital development. The meeting received extensive coverage from national media outlets.

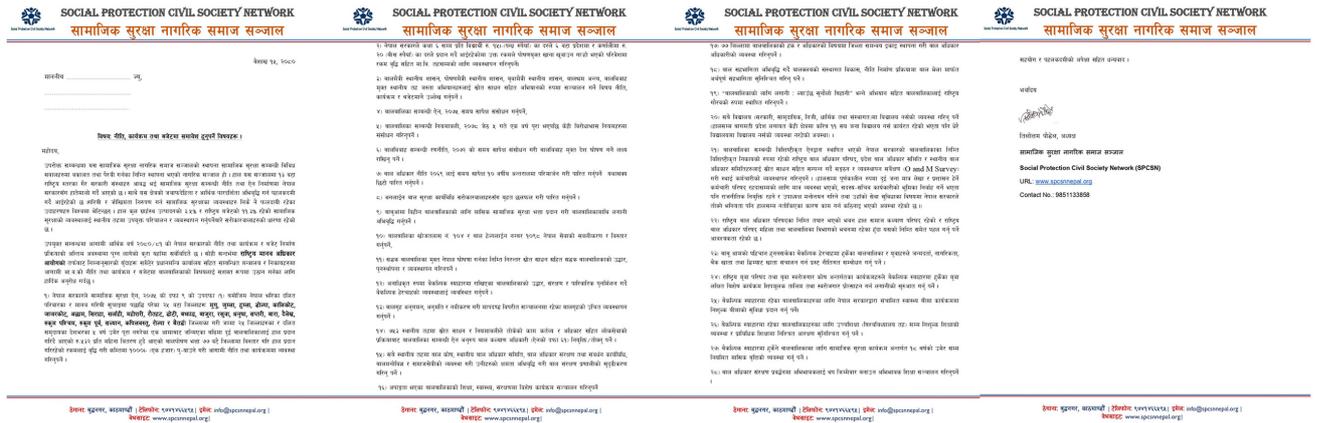


SUBMISSION OF AN APPEAL LETTER



29th APRIL 2023

SPCSN submitted an appeal letter to the Farmer Commission, the Madhesi Commission, the Muslim Commission, the National Dalit Commission, the National Human Rights Commission, the Tharu Commission and the Women Commission requesting commissions to lobby with the National Planning Commission and the line ministries for expanding the coverage of the child grant nationwide. The appeal letters were sent via email.





POLICY DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Both the policymakers and the civil society organizations showed strong support for investing in children's well-being, recognizing it as a vital factor in promoting the nation's development and securing a brighter future for the citizens. The constructive dialogue emphasized the urgency of prioritizing children's welfare and enhancing their access to resources and opportunities, thereby reinforcing the nation's long-term prospects.



14th MAY 2023

A successful policy discussion took place with parliament members in Nepal, aiming to expand the universal child grant. During the discussion, notable figures stressed the significance of increased investment in children as a crucial step in alleviating child poverty. In response, 37 parliament members pledged to advocate for the expansion of child grants to cover more children, signifying a growing commitment to address the needs of vulnerable children in the country.



MEETING WITH HARIBOL GAJUREL- CHIEF POLITICAL ADVISOR OF HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER



18th MAY 2023

SPCSN called on Mr. Haribol Gajurel, the chief political advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister. The meeting took place at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), where SPCSN appealed for the scaling up of the child grant in the upcoming policy, program, and budget.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Prakash Bikalpa, the youth leader, and Mr. Bam Bahadur Baniya, who serves as the Vice Chairperson of the NCRC. Representatives from SPCSN and Save the Children were also in attendance. During the program, Mr. Tilottam Paudel, the Chairperson of SPCSN, emphasized and drew the attention of the chief advisor to the importance of the child grant scaling-up initiative.



PUBLICATION RELATING TO SCALING UP CHILD GRANT

PUBLICATION

The policy brief has been developed presenting the rationale of investing in children in the present so that they can be productive adults and support the elderly while also contributing to the economic development of the country. It also examines policy and legal provisions related to child grants along with gaps in them. It also offers practical recommendations on how currently available resources can be leveraged for expanding the child grant while exploring additional opportunities to create more resources. The paper has been widely circulated among concerned stakeholders including parliamentarians, government stakeholders and CSOs.

<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/reports/policy-brief-scaling-child-grant-improving-impact-human-capital-development>

 **APRIL 2023**



PUBLICATION OF A JOURNAL ON SOCIAL PROTECTION - VOLUME 3

 **JUNE 2023**



SPCSN published the third volume of the Journal on Social Protection aiming at bringing forth learning, issues and voices related to social protection. This effort seeks to inform development practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders engaged in social protection matters. It focuses on presenting social protection issues, practices, and lessons learnt from Nepal and the broader South Asian region, enabling the academic community and policymakers to gain valuable insights for enhancing policies and planning.

https://spscnepal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Journal_Vol_3.pdf
fbclid=IwAR34o5iuZSP1lxUrN9SV7h7RLr8mDRmAjMGLqQ2vL0MMeB1SWpeZoDqtY7A

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Continue policy advocacy efforts throughout the year adhering to the timeline for developing and presenting the Annual Policy and Programs and the budget formulation process.
- ◆ Institutionalise organized advocacy efforts for better results.
- ◆ Regularly interact with concerned three tiers of government stakeholders based on the findings of the different studies and research on social protection
- ◆ Design the program to garner support from the concerned CSOs for the advocacy efforts.

LINKS TO ACCESS THE MEDIA COVERAGES:

- ◆ <https://everestmission.com/2023/04/27/07/243335/>
- ◆ <https://chakrapath.com/newsdetails/85019>
- ◆ <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2023/03/1278125>
- ◆ <https://everestmission.com/2023/04/27/17/243407/>
- ◆ <https://www.ratopati.com/story/359772/child-birth>
- ◆ <https://www.newsofnepal.com/2023/04/27/567891/>
- ◆ <https://mulukpress.com/news/26560/>
- ◆ <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2023/04/1298883>
- ◆ <https://matribhumineews.com/2023/05/15/194522/>
- ◆ <https://everestmission.com/2023/05/15/17/245054/>
- ◆ <https://mulukpress.com/news/27199/>
- ◆ <https://epaper.gorkhapatraonline.com/pdf?file=/uploads/file/2023/5/risingnepal/2023-05-15-12-12-20-trn-jeth-1.pdf>
- ◆ <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/26745>