

Country strategic plan summary for 2006 - 2010

This document describes how Plan Nepal and its partners will mobilise the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2006 to 2010.

About Nepal

Nepal has a population of 25 million with around 30% living below the poverty line. The major source of livelihood is agriculture. The highest proportions of the poor are women, children and socially excluded ethnic groups. Of its 8.5 million children, the majority live in rural areas and many belong to extremely poor families, are malnourished and anaemic.

Plan Nepal's program and approach

Plan Nepal has been working in Nepal since 1978 and has direct presence in eight of the 75 districts and through its partners reaches a further 35 districts. It aims to have an impact on all districts through its national level program initiatives. Plan Nepal follows a child centred community development approach and collaborates with the local government bodies to expand "good practices," in new areas.

Its goal is to reach out to as many children as possible in an effective and efficient way. Plan promotes social inclusion and community participation towards strengthening the capacity of children, families and communities. It will continue to focus on improving the health of children and women, water and environmental sanitation, quality of education for children, household economic security and promotion of child protection and participation.



Girls raise voices- "we must go to school"

Experiences and achievements

Plan Nepal has been able to prioritise issues based on best practices, evaluations and assessments. This information provides a basis to build strategies to ensure the continued meaningful participation of disadvantaged people. The key initiatives that Plan Nepal will focus on include child participation in social campaigns against girl trafficking, campaigns against early child marriage, improved village sanitation, improved quality and coverage of girl's education and participation of media for development education.

Some issues affecting children in Nepal

Health and nutrition. The national infant mortality rate is around 50 per 1000 among children under five. Nutrition levels have improved but many children are susceptible to preventable diseases. Early pregnancy, compounded by inadequate knowledge and health services, contributes to high maternal mortality rates. People living with HIV/AIDS face stigmatisation and discrimination, as do the children orphaned by AIDS.

Water sanitation. Inadequate access to safe drinking water combined with improper sanitation and poor hygiene put children at risk. Water and sanitation services are unreliable and water safety measures are also inadequate.

Child development and learning. Children are frequently deprived of their right to education. Access to early childhood care and development and formal and non-formal primary education is limited; dropout and repetition rates are high; the quality of education is low; and the learning environment is unfriendly.

Household economic security. Children are deprived of their basic needs and developmental rights, including food, education, health, and security from emergencies. Most of the population in Plan's target areas depend upon agriculture for their livelihood, but only at a subsistence-level. There are very few non-farming livelihood opportunities because infrastructure, financial and support services are lacking. The most vulnerable are children, women and child-headed families.

Child protection and participation. Children are vulnerable to sexual, physical and emotional abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. In the southern lowlands, child marriage often results in school withdrawal, early motherhood and high maternal mortality rates. Trafficking results in inhuman treatment, whether a child becomes a wage or domestic labourer, sex worker, beggar, drug trafficker, or organ donor. Children are forced into worst forms of child labour.

How will Plan Nepal address these issues?

To improve the **health status of children and women**, Plan Nepal will undertake the following initiatives:

- Provide essential health-care packages and services, strengthen local health committees and facilities and enhance the skills of health workers
- Advocate and develop systems for disabled and disadvantaged people by promoting self-help groups and basic health-care packages
- Strengthen existing community health by enhancing self-assessment, self-monitoring skills and active community participation
- Boost child nutrition through feeding at early childhood care and development centres



Children say –“let us keep our community clean”

To improve **water sanitation**, Plan will focus on the following:

- Improve the coverage of reliable and safe water supplies and sanitation services
- Improve the sanitation and hygiene of schools and early childhood care and development centres
- Enhance the capacity of water user groups to plan, implement and manage schemes

To develop an appropriate **good-quality learning environment**, Plan will emphasize on the following:

- Scale up home- and centre-based early childhood care and development services
- Promote access to good quality education in a safe, sound and child-friendly learning environment through school improvement and alternative schooling programmes
- Take affirmative action in promoting gender equity by providing scholarships to girls
- Strengthen school management committees
- Develop strategies for coping with conflict and providing humanitarian assistance

To ensure sufficient **household economic security**, Plan will undertake the following activities:

- Enhance the capability of micro-finance institutions to reach disadvantaged groups
- Promote gender equity especially in decision-making and socio-economic wellbeing
- Increase access of the deprived communities to natural resources especially land, water and forests
- Promote quick-impact projects - like concessional loans, food-for-work, health insurance, community grain banks, and provisional or short-term assistance in areas of conflict

To promote the **rights of children to participation and protection**, Plan Nepal will focus on the following:

- Employ measures to prevent and protect children from difficult circumstances
- Strengthen a child-friendly juvenile justice system
- Raise awareness about the convention on the rights of the child among children and all other stakeholders
- Strengthen children’s clubs
- Increase the rate of birth registration



A mother is happy to get her child checked by a community health worker.

To build **relationships among sponsors, children and other development actors**, Plan Nepal will focus on the following:

- Enhance the image of Plan as a child centred community development organisation by promoting development education, meaningful communication and relationships with various development actors, including sponsors and donors
- Improve sponsorship communications by strengthening community groups
- Strengthen the capacity of youth’s to serve as agents of change by increasing their participation in decision-making in all stages of programming