

World Day Against Child Labour

12 June 2017

IN CONFLICTS AND DISASTERS, PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CHILD LABOUR

The World Day Against Child Labour is significant opportunity to raise our collective voice and action against child labour. We now have common target to end child labour in all forms by 2025 as stated in SDGs, and all of us have responsibility to accomplish the goal.

SDGs Target 8-7

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Child Labour in Conflicts and Disaster

There are over 1.5 billion people live in countries that are affected by conflict, violence and fragility. At the same time, around 200 million people are affected by disasters every year. It is estimated that 168 million children engaged in child labour live in areas affected by conflict and disaster ¹.

In Nepal, once we had experienced a decade long insurgency in which many children got involved as soldiers as well as many were affected by losing their family and displaced from their own villages. Heavy migration of displaced children into urban areas because of the conflict, means young people are being forced to engage in some of the most dangerous and exploitative forms of labour.

Disasters can heighten the vulnerability of children in many ways, by disrupting the protective mechanisms provided by the state, schools, community and family and putting additional strain on

family resources. In April 2015, a 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal, killing over 9,000 people and injuring many more. There were numerous aftershocks including one of 7.3 in May. This resulted in further casualties, with the outcome of half a million homes destroyed, and over 35,000 classrooms severely damaged² leaving nearly 1 million children unable to return to school. According to a UNICEF report, between 25 April 2015 and 12 February 2016, a total of 850 girls and boys were intercepted by police from possible trafficking and other protection-related risks, which was at an average of 89 children per month, higher than the 69 cases per month within the period of July 2014 to July 2015. There also is the risk of children being drawn into hazardous work related to rehabilitation and reconstruction such as construction work in the affected areas.

Nepal Flash Appeal Revision (UNICEF, 2015) reveals that children, especially, suffered through a lot

of irreversible psychological trauma. Evaluating the situation, statistics show upsetting results of the quake; 404,000 children suffering from malnutrition, 200,000 pregnant and breast-feeding women malnourished, 1.5 million school-aged children in need of education in emergency support and more than 500,000 households without house.



1. ILO Website: <http://ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/lang--en/index.htm>

2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/education-32624110>

3. <http://unicef.org.np/blogs/2016/04/24/a-year-on-nepal-earthquakes-education-continues-in-affected-districts-but-children-still-need-safe-and-stable-learning-environment>

Ways to protect children in post disaster situation



1. The development of “safe spaces” for children;
2. Temporary and non-formal education;
3. Increased documentation of children;
4. Training workshops and public education campaigns
5. Child labor monitoring; and
6. Increased border security.

Conflicts and disasters have a devastating impact on people’s lives, and children are often the first to suffer. Many children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and child labour. We, as a part of society, should address this seriously and take action against the situation

What we call

- Enforcement of existing law, policy and guideline on child protection at all level of society
- Strengthening monitoring system on child labour at central government as well as local government after the series of election
- Prompt endorsement of National Master Plan on Child Labour and related law, policy such as Child Rights Bill
- Establishment of strict code of conduct and monitoring system to ensure child labour free rehabilitation process from Gorkha Earthquake
- Establishment of proper response system to protect children and family at times of disaster, ensuring continuation of school education and prevention from falling into child labour and exploitation

What you can do

- Discuss about child labour with family members, friends and neighbors
- Avoid use shops and restaurants where children are employed
- Contact line agencies or Child Help Line if you come across with any abuse of children; trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labour
- Vote to those candidates who make commitment to eliminate or reduce child labour at any level of election
- Share the “Red Card to Child Labour”, post a picture of you holding the red card on your FB profile and join the #Redcard wave. Tags: child labour

Inter Agency Working Group on Child Labour

ILO/ Plan International/ Save the Children/ Shapla Neer/ Terre des homes, Foundation (Tdh)/ UNICEF/ Winrock International/ World Education / World Vision