

"Investing in Children: Securing a Bright Future."

National Report on Children

2024 (BS 2081)



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
NATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS COUNCIL
Pulchowk, Lalitpur

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Officials and staff engaged in preparing National Report on Children:

Advisers:

1. Vice-chairperson Mr. Bam Bahadur Baniya
2. Member-secretary Ms. Indradevi Dhakal

Staff engaged in information collection, writing and editing:

1. Officer Mr. Ram Bahadur Chand
2. Program Manager Ms. Namuna Bhusal
3. Child Protection Officer Ms Suneeta Shah
4. Program Officer Mr. Santoshchandra Adhikari
5. Project Officer Ms. Sajana Kunwar
6. Project Officer Mr. Milan Budhathoki
7. Program Assistant Mr. Lochan Regmi
8. Program Assistant Ms. Mina K.C.
9. Program Assistant Mr. Devi Prasad Dotel
10. Coordination Officer Mr. Damber Bahadur Rokaya, Karnali Province
11. Coordination Officer Mr. Badri Prasad Wagle, Gandaki Province
12. Coordination Officer Mr. Sanjeeb Mahato, Madhesh Province
13. Coordination Officer Mr. Suman Adhikari, Koshi Province

Executive Summary

- Nepal ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, on September 14, 1990, and has committed to ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of children. Accordingly, the government has been continuously engaged in improving laws and policies, formulating plans and programs, and establishing institutional mechanisms for their implementation and operation. Article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal recognizes the rights of children as fundamental rights and ensures the state policy to prioritize the best interests of children, thereby guaranteeing constitutional provisions.
- As of national census, 2021, the population of children under 18 years of age is 9,869,583 (33.84%).
- The population growth rates according to the national censuses of 1991, 2001 and 2011 were 2.08%, 2.25%, and 1.35% respectively, whereas the average population growth rate according to the 2021 census is 0.92%.
- By the fiscal year 2022/23, out of a total of 753 local units, 408 local units have developed procedures related to the protection and promotion of child rights; 372 local units have established local child rights committees, 390 local units have appointed child welfare officers, and 286 local units have established child funds.
- By the end of fiscal year 2022/23, 72 out of 77 districts were declared ‘fully vaccinated.’
- The percentage of children receiving all types of vaccinations was 91.2% in fiscal year 2021/22, which decreased to 84% in 2022/23.
- The neonatal mortality rate is observed to be 21 deaths per 1,000 live births. The mortality rate during childhood has been steadily decreasing. Since 1996, the mortality rate for children under five years has declined from 118 to 33 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate has dropped from 50 to 21, and the infant mortality rate has decreased from 78 to 28 per 1,000 live births.
- Since 2001, stunting among children has been decreasing; it was at 57%. The percentage of underweight children has consistently declined from 43% in 2001. Wasting has reduced from 15% in 1996 to 8% in 2022.
- The percentage of children born in health institutions has significantly increased, from 8% in 1996 to 79% in 2022. The rate of children born at home has decreased from 91% to 19%. According to the National Planning Commission’s progress report on Sustainable Development Goals (2016–2019), the proportion of children born with skilled health workers is 79.3%.
- According to the Annual Report of the Department of Health Services, 96 children under 18 years of age were diagnosed with malaria in the fiscal year 2023/24.
- According to data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, 14% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 were found to have experienced pregnancy before reaching legal adulthood.

- According to the Flash Report, 2023 of the Education and Human Resource Development Center, there are a total of 40,684 Early Childhood Development Centers and pre-primary classes, which is an increase of 28 from the previous year.
- The enrollment rate increased from 94.9% in the academic year 2022 to 99.9% in the academic year 2023.
- A total of 127,896 teachers work at the basic levels (Grades 1–5: 102,035 teachers and Grades 6–8: 25,861 teachers) appointed by the Government of Nepal. Additionally, there are 21,358 teachers at the secondary level (Grades 9–12).
- According to the Flash Report, 2023 of the Education and Human Resource Development Center, there are 35,876 schools all over the country.
- A total of 7,143,262 students are studying in these 35,876 schools across the country.
- According to the report of the Education and Human Resource Development Center, the promotion rate of Grade 5 dropped by 0.7 percentage points from the previous year to 88.4%, while the promotion rate of Grade 8 increased by 0.4 percentage points to reach 86.2% in the academic year 2023.
- Among 484,924 examinees who appeared for the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) in 2022, 47.8% of students obtained GPA between 0.80 and 2.40, and 52.2% of students obtained GPA between 2.40 and 4.00.
- In the academic year 2023, a total of 53,680 children with disabilities received residential and non-residential scholarships in basic and secondary education. The same number of children with disabilities received scholarships in the previous fiscal year as well.
- Among a total of 3,007,648 children under five years of age, 2,226,715 children (74%) have their birth registered, while 780,933 children in the same age group are without birth registration.
- Among children with disabilities in Nepal, the largest group (41.6%) have physical disabilities. The proportions of visually impaired and multiple disabilities are nearly equal at around 11%, and children with speech and mild visual impairments make up approximately 8%.
- Children with disabilities are provided educational and health services according to the law. Children with complete disabilities receive NPR. 3,990 per month, while children with severe disabilities receive NPR. 2,128 per month as support.
- As of the Department of Labor and Occupational Safety, during the fiscal year 2022/23, a total of 3,888 organizations were monitored, resulting in the rescue of 72 children. Compensation of NPR. 973,948 was paid, and fines totaling NPR. 134,800 were imposed.
- According to the Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Office, during the fiscal year 2022/23, there were 8,881 vehicle accidents in Kathmandu Valley, resulting in the deaths of 13 children, 27 seriously injured children, and 457 children with minor injuries.
- According to data from the Cyber Bureau under Nepal Police, 176 children (51 boys and 125 girls) were victims of cybercrime in the fiscal year 2022/23, whereas 635 children were victims in the fiscal year 2023/24.

- Nepal Police operates Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Centers in 232 police offices and units across 77 districts nationwide.
- As of the National Census 2021, among all children in Nepal, 1.6% of children have been married before reaching the legal age of marriage.
- In the fiscal year 2022/23, 1,381 child labor-related cases were registered in the courts. Among them, 908 children (887 boys and 21 girls) were under 18 years of age, and 473 were above 18 years.
- As of the Mid-July 2024, there were a total of 1,381 children in 9 child reform homes, including 908 children under 18 years and 473 children above 18 years.
- In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 76 children were living in various prisons with their guardians because there was no one to take care of them at their own home.
- As of the National Census 2021, a total of 75,305 children (7,331 children aged 10 to 14 years and 67,974 children aged 15 to 19 years) are reported as household heads, accounting for 1.1%.
- In the fiscal year 2022/23, out of 6,590 missing children (1,829 boys and 4,761 girls) searched across the country, 5,831 children (1,649 boys and 4,182 girls) were found and reunited with their families.
- Under the campaign to make the nation free from street children in fiscal year 2022/23, a total of 235 new street children (206 boys and 29 girls) living on the streets in Kathmandu Valley and across the country were rescued.
- From May 10, 2016 to July 14, 2024, a total of 2,349 street children were rescued, protected, and managed. Among them, 1,596 were reunited with their families, 798 participated in various skill-based training programs, and 480 of those trained are now self-employed.
- A total of 10,251 children (3,778 boys and 6,473 girls) who were rescued through the child helpline, referred by other agencies, or identified via phone calls and other means were provided child helpline services.
- In the fiscal year 2022/23, a total of 396 child care homes were operational in 46 districts. These child care homes provided residential protection to 10,882 children (5,025 boys and 5,857 girls).
- The National Child Rights Council conducted on-site monitoring of 175 child care homes across 13 districts in the fiscal year 2022/23. Based on the follow-up and recommendations given, 44 child care homes reunited 386 children (181 boys and 205 girls) with their families.
- According to regulations requiring operation permits for child care homes, the National Child Rights Council granted permission (till Mid-July of 2024) to 132 institutions to operate child care homes.
- According to last year's records from the Education and Human Resource Development Center, there are 19,904 child clubs operating in schools across seven provinces.
- In the fiscal year 2022/23, the National Child Rights Council, in coordination and cooperation with the Nepali Embassy in India, child welfare committees, and various organizations, facilitated the repatriation and family reunification of 71 children (46 boys and 25 girls) from border areas and various locations in India.

- According to information received from the Nepal Red Cross Society, so far, a total of 659,565 children and junior youths have participated in 6,934 Junior Youth Red Cross Circles. Through these Junior Youth Red Cross Circles, 1,283 children and junior youths participated in various programs throughout the year.
- By the fiscal year 2023/24, the goal was set to declare 130 municipalities, 200 rural municipalities, and 2,955 wards as child-friendly. However, a total of 24 local levels (including 1 sub-metropolitan city, 19 municipalities, and 4 rural municipalities) have been declared child-friendly.
- In the fiscal year 2023/24, 490 children were reported affected and victimized by various natural disasters. Among them, 177 children died, 311 were injured, and 2 children were reported missing due to natural disasters.
- As of Nepal Police Headquarter, 2,376 children were victims or affected by incidents such as child marriage, caste-based discrimination, polygamy, murder, violence, and child sexual abuse.

Table of Content

Chapter - 1	17
Legal and Policy Provisions and Implementation Status for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children.....	17
1.1 Background	17
1.1.1 Provisions Related to Children in the Constitution of Nepal	17
1.1.2 Implementation of International Commitment.....	23
1.1.3 Implementation of Concluding Remarks	23
1.1.4 Implementation of National Law and Policy.....	26
1.1.5 National Child Policy, 2023	27
1.1.6 Current Sixteenth Plan of the Government of Nepal (2024/25-2028/29).....	29
1.1.7 Institutional Mechanism related to Child Rights and Protection.....	30
1.1.8 Child Related Policy and Program, and Budget Speech of the Government of Nepal	32
1.2 Demographic Glimpse of Children in Nepal.....	34
1.2.1 Number of Children by Single Age	35
1.2.2 Details of Children by Geographical Region.....	37
Chapter – 2.....	39
Child Rights to Survival	39
2.1 Background	39
2.2 Healthy Life and Health Care of Children.....	40
2.2.1 Vaccination.....	41
2.3 Child Mortality Rate	42
2.4 Children's Nutritional Status	44
2.4.1 Growth Monitoring	45
2.5 Maternal Mortality Rate	45
2.6 Rescue of Pregnant and Postpartum	46
2.7 Institutional Birth	47
2.8 Health Institution and Staff.....	48
2.9 Prevention and Treatment of Children with Disabilities.....	48
2.10 Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Children.....	49
2.11 Mental Health and Suicide	50
2.12 Child Pregnancy.....	51

2.13 Status of Sustainable Development Goals	51
Chapter - 3	53
Child Rights to Development	53
3.1 Background	53
3.2 Early Childhood Development and Children	53
3.2.1 Students enrolled in grade one from the experience of early childhood development centre	54
3.2.2 Enrollment of children in the ECD centre/Pre-primary class	55
3.2.3 Dalit, ethnic and Madheshi children in Early Childhood Development Centre	55
3.2.4 Children with disabilities in Early Childhood Development Centre	56
3.3 Educational Indicator	57
3.4 School, Student, Teacher and Enrollment Rate	58
3.5 Secondary Education Examination (SEE).....	62
3.6 Sustainable Development Goals Determined Key Indicators of Quality Education	62
3.7 Dalit, Ethnic and Disable Children in School Education	63
3.7.1 Education of Children with Disabilities	63
3.7.2 Scholarship for Children with Disabilities	63
3.8 Educational Infrastructure Construction in Earthquake Affected Areas	64
3.9 School Mid-day Meal Program	64
3.10 Scholarship Program	64
3.11 Information Technology in School Education	64
Chapter - 4	65
Child Rights to Protection	65
4.1 Background	65
4.2 Birth Registration and Right to Identity	66
4.3 Children with Disabilities	69
4.4 Child Labour	71
4.4.1 Child Labor Monitoring, Rescue, Compensation and Fine.....	71
4.5 Child Abduction and Trafficking.....	72
4.6 Children Affected by Road Accidents.....	73
4.7 Violence and Child Sexual Abuse Against Children	73
4.8 Child Marriage.....	75

4.8.1 Age at Marriage.....	76
4.9 Juvenile Justice.....	78
4.9.1 Details of Child Related Court Cases	79
4.9.2 Child Reform Home	80
4.9.3 Children Living in Jail with Their Imprisoned Guardians	81
4.10 Conflict Affected Children	82
4.11 Children Needed Special Protection	83
4.11.1 Orphan Children.....	83
4.11.2 Lost and Found Children	83
4.11.3 Children Found Unaccompanied/Abandoned	84
4.11.4 Rescue, protection and management of street children	85
4.11.5 Children Affected from Violence and Vulnerabilities	86
4.11.6 Intercountry and Domestic Adoption	86
4.12 Alternative Care	88
4.12.1 Children Protected in Child Care Homes.....	89
4.12.2 Monitoring of Child Care Homes, Rescue, and Family Reunification of Children.....	90
4.13 Children Rescued from Various Cross-border and Border Areas and Reunited with Their Families	90
Chapter – 5.....	92
Child Rights to Participation	92
5.1 Background	92
5.2 Children's Freedom of Association	92
5.3 Media and Child Participation.....	93
5.4 Child Participation in Culture and Recreation.....	93
5.5 Sports and Children.....	94
5.6 Scout and Children	94
5.7 Junior Red-cross Circle and Children.....	94
Chapter – 6.....	96
Child-friendly Local Governance	96
6.1 Background	96
Chapter - 7	100
Child Related Provincial Policy and Program, and Budget Speech (Fiscal Year 2024/25)....	100

7.1 Child Related Provincial Policy and Program, and Budget Speech (Fiscal Year 2024/25)	100
1. Koshi Province.....	102
2. Madhesh Province.....	103
3. Bagmati Province.....	105
4. Gandaki Province.....	107
5. Lumbini Province.....	110
6. Karnali Province	113
7. Sudurpashchim Province.....	115
Chapter- 8	118
Climate Change and Child Rights.....	118
Chapter – 9.....	122
Conclusions.....	122

List of Tables:

Table 1: Children's fundamental rights enshrined in Constitution of Nepal	18
Table 2: Policy measures enshrined in Constitution of Nepal	21
Table 3 Child rights protection mechanism at the local level.....	31
Table 4: Child related policy and program of the government, FY 2024/25	32
Table 5: Child related Budget Speech of the government, FY 2024/25.....	33
Table 6: Population of children (National Census, 2021)	34
Table 7: Child population and gender ratio based on age group	35
Table 8: Number of single year children in Census of 2001, 2011 and 2021.....	35
Table 9: Number and percent of child population	37
Table 10: Targeted population of national immunization program, FY 2022/23	41
Table 11: Percent of fully immunized children	41
Table 12: Percent of children received 12 different vaccines by Province, 2022/23	42
Table 13: Children aged between 0-23 months registered for growth monitoring, 2021	45
Table 14: Province-wise maternal mortality rate (in per lakh/100 thousand)	46
Table 15: Number of rescued pregnant and postpartum women by Province	46
Table 16: Health institutions and health staff	48
Table 17: Disabilities prevention and treatment of children with disabilities.....	48
Table 18: Children affected by HIV infection	49
Table 19: Diarrhea affected children	50
Table 20: Mental health and psycho-social services provided children and adolescents	50

Table 21: Access to health care service for all	52
Table 22: Number of early childhood development centre/pre-primary class by Province and its types	54
Table 23: Enrollment number, rate and gender ratio of children in early childhood development centre	54
Table 24: Percent of Dalit, ethnic and Madheshi children in early childhood development centre	56
Table 25: Children with disabilities in ECD centre	56
Table 26: Educational indicator	57
Table 27: Details of school.....	58
Table 28: Province-wise school.....	59
Table 29: School level, student and student-teacher ratio	59
Table 30: Number of school students from academic year 2019 to 2023.....	59
Table 31: Level-wise student enrollment rate in the academic year 2023.....	61
Table 32: Teacher-student ratio in community schools (Government appointed teachers)	61
Table 33: Indicators of quality education for all	62
Table 34: Percentage of Dalit and Ethnic children in the total student, 2078-2023	63
Table 35: Status of birth registration of children (5 years and below)	68
Table 36: Coordination and facilitation for birth registration and citizenship	69
Table 37: Child labor free declared local level.....	71
Table 38: Child labor monitoring, rescue, compensation and fine.....	72
Table 39: Children Affected by Abduction and Trafficking	73
Table 40: Children affected by road accidents	73
Table 41: Cases registered in Nepal Police and victim children	74
Table 42: Children victim from cyber-crime	74
Table 43: Situation of child marriage.....	75
Table 44: Age at first marriage	77
Table 45: Children engaged in delinquencies	79
Table 46: Children in child reform home	80
Table 47: Children living in jail with their parent.....	81
Table 48: Children protected in child care home and institution.....	82
Table 49: Children in the schools operated by Martyrs Academy.....	82
Table 50: Children missing and found across the country in FY 2023/24.....	83
Table 51: Status of children found without guardians (Fiscal Years 2019/20 – 2023/24).....	84
Table 52: Situation of missing, found and tracing ongoing children	84
Table 53: Street children rescued by fiscal year	85
Table 54; Support provided to children at-risk in FY 2021/22 – 2022/23	86
Table 55: Number of out-country adopted children between 1999 and 2019	87

Table 56: Details of case related to adoption	88
Table 57: Details of children’s living arrangements with parents, guardian, or caregivers.....	88
Table 58: Children protected in child care homes	89
Table 59: Details of children rescued from child care homes	90
Table 60: Rescued, repatriated, and reunited children	91
Table 61: Junior and youth red cross circle – child participation	95
Table 62: Local levels declared as child-friendly local governance after the federal restructuring	96
Table 63: Details of Wards declared as child-friendly under local governments	97
Table 64: Children affected from natural disaster and accidents.....	120

List of Graphs:

Graph 1: Percent of child population according to National Census, 2021	35
Graph 2: Percent of boys and girls by Province	37
Graph 3: Infant and child (<5) mortality rate (per 1000/live birth)	43
Graph 4: Under five mortality rate (per 1000/live birth) by Province	43
Graph 5: Percent of malnutrition children (<5)	44
Graph 6: Status of maternal mortality rate (per 100,000/live birth).....	46
Graph 7: Details of birth at home and institution (in percent).....	47
Graph 8: Details of institutional birth by Province (in percent).....	47
Graph 9: Number of suicidal case of children.....	51
Graph 10: Percent of enrollment in grade one from the experience of ECD	55
Graph 11: Percent of enrolled children (boys and girls) in ECD centre/Pre-primary class	55
Graph 12: Net enrollment rate	60
Graph 13: Percent of students enrolled in school, 2023	60
Graph 14: Survival rate of grade 5 & 8 in the last 5 years	61
Graph 15: Percent of SEE passed students, 2022	62
Graph 16: Special school and resource classes.....	63
Graph 17: Birth registered children below 5 years.....	66
Graph 18: Percent of birth registration of children by geographical region	67
Graph 19: Situation of birth registration of children by Province (in percent).....	67
Graph 20: Top 5 types of disabilities with the highest prevalence among children.....	70
Graph 21: Prevalence rate of deafness and complete blindness at the provincial level	70
Graph 22: Age at first marriage	78

Annexes:

- Annex - 1 Sustainable Development Goals and Child Related Targets
- Annex - 2 Types of Disabilities and Children
- Annex - 3 Missing, Found and Tracing Ongoing Children by District, FY 2023/24

Acronyms:

CCH	Child Care Home
CDC	Curriculum Development Centre
CP-CMIS	Child Protection Case Management Information System
CRIMS	Child Rights Information Management System
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECED	Early Childhood Education and Development
FY	Fiscal Year
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
NCRC	National Child Rights Council
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NCASC	National Centre for AIDS and STD Control
NER	Net Enrollment Rate
NFHS	Nepal Family and Health Survey
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
PPC	Pre-Primary Class
Su. Pa.	Sudurpashchim
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	Secondary Education Examination
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

Chapter - 1

Legal and Policy Provisions and Implementation Status for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children

1.1 Background

Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (UNCRC) on September 14, 1990 committing to the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of children. Among the Optional Protocols to the Convention, Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000 in 2006; the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000 in 2007; and the ILO Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) in 2004. In addition to these conventions and protocols, Nepal has also been implementing other child-related declarations and international instruments approved by the United Nations and various international bodies. Nepal has continuously been involved in the formulation and implementation of laws, policies, plans, and programs, as well as the establishment and mobilization of institutional mechanisms according to the provisions of the UNCRC in course of fulfilling international commitments.

Article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal recognizes children's rights as fundamental rights and declares the best interests of the child as a guiding principle of state policy, thus ensuring constitutional guarantees. In order to implement these constitutional provisions and to respect, protect, promote, fulfill, and comply with the rights and interests of children, various legal and policy frameworks, including the Children's Act, 2018, are in implementation.

The Government of Nepal, at all three levels (federal, provincial, and local), has been coordinating, collaborating, facilitating, and partnering with UN agencies, national and international development partners, civil society organizations, networks and communities, and the private sector to protect and promote children's rights and interests. The child protection system has been gradually strengthened to provide rescue, protection, and management for children in need of special protection—such as those affected by violence and abuse, children who have been trafficked, those involved in hazardous labor, children deprived of their rights, street children, and others at risk. As a result, there has been notable improvement in the overall indicators related to children.

1.1.1 Provisions Related to Children in the Constitution of Nepal

The provisions related to fundamental rights, directive principles of the state, citizenship, and commissions on human rights as mentioned in the Constitution of Nepal have been directly arranged for the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of children. Since the Constitution itself guarantees fundamental rights for children, it ensures the best interests of children, their physical, mental, and holistic development, child justice, equal opportunities for fulfilling basic needs and overall development, the right to form their own opinions freely and right to express, and the right to form child-led organization. All these provisions are will spelled out in the relevant laws, policies, plans, action plans, and programs.

The constitutional provisions made to ensure the rights and interests of children are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Children's fundamental rights enshrined in Constitution of Nepal

S.N.	Fundamental rights	Provisions
1.	Article 18. Right to equality: geographical region, ideology and such other matters.	(1) All citizens shall be equal before law. No person shall be denied the equal protection of law. (2) There shall be no discrimination in the application of general laws on the grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, physical conditions, disability, health condition, matrimonial status, pregnancy, economic condition, language or geographical region, or ideology or any other such grounds. (3) The state shall not discriminate among citizens on grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, economic condition, language or geographical region, ideology and such other matters. But nothing shall be deemed to bar the making of special provisions by law for the protection, empowerment or advancement of the children including other sections of the society who are socially or culturally left behind.
2.	Article 20. Right to Justice	(9) Every person shall be entitled to a fair hearing from an impartial, independent and competent court or judicial authority. (10) An indigent person shall have the right to free legal aid as provided for by law.
3.	Article 21. Right of victim of crime	(1) The victim of crime shall have the right to be informed about the investigation and proceedings of the case regarding his/her victimization. (2) The victim of crime shall have the right to social rehabilitation and justice with compensation as provided for by law.
4.	Article 24. Right against untouchability and discrimination	(1) No person shall be treated with any kind of untouchability or discrimination in any private or public place on grounds of caste, ethnicity, origin, community, occupation, or physical condition.
5.	Article 26. Right to religious freedom	(1) Each person shall be free to profess, practice, and preserve his/her religion according to his/her faith.
6.	Article 27. Right to information	Every citizen shall have the right to seek information on any matters of concern to her/him or the public.
7.	Article 28. Right to privacy	Except in circumstances provided by law, privacy in relation to the person, and their residence, property, documents, records, statistics and correspondence, and their reputation are inviolable.
8.	Article 29.	(1) Every person shall have the right against exploitation.

	Right against exploitation	(2) No person shall be subjected to any kind of exploitation on the basis of religion, custom, tradition, culture, practices or any other bases. (3) No person shall be subjected to human trafficking or bonded labor, and such an act shall be punishable by law. (4) No person shall be subjected to forced labor. Provided that nothing in this clause shall prevent the enactment of a law requiring citizens to be engaged in compulsory service for public purposes. (5) Any act contrary to clause (3) and (4) shall be punishable by law and the victim of such an act shall have the right to compensation from the perpetrator.
9.	Article 30. Right regarding clean environment	(1) Each person shall have the right to live in a healthy and clean environment.
10.	Article 31. Right to education	(1) Every citizen shall have the right to access to basic education. (2) Every citizen shall have the right to compulsory and free basic education, and free education up to the secondary level. (3) The physically impaired and citizens who are financially poor shall have the right to free higher education as provided for in law. (4) The visually impaired person shall have the right to free education with the medium of brail script. (5) Every Nepali community living in Nepal shall have the right to acquire education in its mother tongue up to the secondary level, and the right to open and run schools and educational institutions as provided for by law.
11.	Article 32. Right to language and culture	(1) Each person and community shall have the right to use their language. (2) Every person and community shall have the right to participate in the cultural life of its community.
12.	Article 33. Right to employment	(1) Each citizen shall have the right to employment.
13.	Article 34. Right regarding labor	(1) Every laborer shall have the right to proper work practices. Explanation: For the purpose of this Article, "laborer" means a worker or laborer who offers physical or mental work for an employer for remuneration. (2) Every laborer shall have the right to appropriate remuneration, facilities and contribution-based social security.
	Article 35. Right to health care	(1) Every citizen shall have the right to seek basic health care services from the state and no citizen shall be deprived of emergency health care. (2) Each person shall have the right to be informed about his/her health condition with regard to health care services. (3) Each person shall have equal access to health care.

		(4) Each citizen shall have the right to access to clean water and hygiene.
14.	Article 36. Right to food	(1) Each citizen shall have the right to food. (2) Every citizen shall have the right to be protected from a state of starvation, resulting from lack of food stuffs. (3) Every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty as provided for in law.
15.	Article 37. Right to housing	(1) Each citizen shall have the right to appropriate housing.
16.	Article 38. Right of women	(1) Every woman shall have equal right to lineage without any gender discriminations. (2) Every woman shall have the right relating to safe motherhood and reproductive health. (3) There shall not be any physical, mental, sexual or psychological or any other kind of violence against women, or any kind of oppression based on religious, social and cultural tradition, and other practices. Such an act shall be punishable by law and the victim shall have the right to be compensation as provided for in law. (4) Women shall have the right to access participate in all state structures and bodies on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion. (5) Women shall have the right to special opportunity in the spheres of education, health, employment and social security on the basis of positive discrimination. (6) Both the spouses shall have equal rights in property and family affairs
17.	Article 39. Right of children	(1) Each child shall have the right to his/her identity with the family name, and birth registration. (2) Every child shall have the right to education, health care nurturing, appropriate upbringing, sports, recreation and overall personality development from family and the State. (3) Every child shall have the right to formative child development, and child participation. (4) No child shall be employed in factories, mines, or in any other hazardous works. (5) No child shall be subjected to child marriage, illegal trafficking, kidnapping, or being held hostage. (6) No child shall be subjected to recruitment or any kind of use in the army, police or armed groups, neglected, or used immorally, or abused physically, mentally, or sexually, or exploited through any other means, in the name of religious or cultural practices. (7) No child shall be subjected to physical, mental, or any other forms of torture at home, in school, or in any other places or situations. (8) Every child shall have the right to child friendly justice.

		(9) Children who are helpless, orphaned, physically impaired, victims of conflict and vulnerable, shall have the right to special protection and facilities from the State. (10) Any act contrary to Clause (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall be punishable by law, and children who have suffered from such an act shall have the right to be compensated by the perpetrator as provided for in law.
18.	Article 40. Right of Dalits	(2) Provisions of free education with scholarships shall be made for Dalit students from the primary to higher level of education as provided for in law. Special provision shall be made in law for Dalits to pursue higher education in technical and professional subjects.
19.	Article 42. Right to social justice	(1) Socially backward women, Dalits, Adibasi, Janajati, Adibasi Janajati, Madhesi, Tharu, minority groups, persons with disability, marginalized groups, Muslim, backward classes, gender and sexually minority groups, youths, peasants, laborers, the oppressed and the citizens of backward regions, and economically poor Khas Arya shall have the right to employment in state structures on the basis of the principle of inclusion. (2) Citizens who are economically very poor and communities on the verge of extinction, shall have the right to special opportunity and facilities in the areas of education, health, housing, employment, food and social security, for their protection, progress, empowerment and development.
20.	Article 43. Right to social security	Economically poor, physically incapacitated and helpless person, helpless single women, persons with physical impairment, children, persons who cannot look after themselves and the citizens who belong to communities that are on the verge of extinction, shall have the right to social security as provided for by law.
21.	Article 46. Right to constitutional remedy	There shall be right to constitutional remedy pursuant to the Articles 133 or 144 in course of implementation of rights granted in this part.

Source: Constitution of Nepal, 2015

Part-4 of Constitution of Nepal includes Directive Principles, Policies and Obligations of the State. In which, children and child rights related Constitutional policy measures are as follows:

Table 2: Policy measures enshrined in Constitution of Nepal

S.N.	Policies	Provisions
1.	Article 51(h). Policies regarding the basic needs of citizens	(1) Making education scientific, technical, professional, skill-oriented, and employment and people oriented in order to prepare the human resources to be competent, competitive, moral, and committed to national interest. (2) Increasing the investment of the State in the educational sector, and regulating and managing the investment of the private sector in it to make education service oriented. (3) Making higher education easily available, of high quality and accessible, and gradually making it free.

		(4) Establishing and promoting information centers and libraries for the personality development of citizens. (5) The State shall gradually increase necessary investment in the public health sector in order to make citizens healthy. (6) Ensuring easily available and equal access to high quality health care for all. (7) Protecting and promoting Nepal's traditional medicinal system such as the Ayurveda, natural medicines and homeopathy. (8) The State shall gradually increase investment in the health sector and make it service oriented by regulating and managing the investment of the private sector in it. (9) Gradually increase the number of health institutions and health workers, while emphasizing research on health in order to make qualitative health service available to all. (10) It shall be the policy of the State to increase general life expectancy by decreasing maternity-infant mortality rate by encouraging family planning population management based on the need and capacity of the country. (11) Developing well-planned and organized settlement areas by managing the unplanned settlements. (12) Increasing investment in the agricultural sector by making necessary provisions for sustainable productivity, supply, storage and security, while making it easily available with effective distribution of food grains by encouraging food productivity that suits the soil and climate conditions of the country in accordance with the norms of food sovereignty. (13) Making a well-planned supply system by ensuring equal access of citizens to the basic needs and services, and prioritizing the remote areas and regions that were made to lag behind. (14) Increasing investment in the transportation sector by ensuring simple, easy and equal access of all citizens to transportation facilities, and prioritizing environment friendly technology, encouraging public transportation and quality private transportation, while also making the transportation sector safe, well managed and disabled friendly. (15) Ensuring insurance policy for citizens and making arrangements for their access to health care. (i) Policies regarding labor and employment
2.	Article 51(i). Policies regarding labor and employment	(2) Ending child labor and all forms of labor exploitation.
3.	Article 51(j). Policies regarding social justice and inclusion	(4) Economically evaluating the works and contribution in regard to child care and care for the family. (5) Paying primary attention to the best interests of children. (12) Giving priority to the very poor within all communities, regions, and gender, while providing social security and social justice.

Source: Constitution of Nepal, 2015

1.1.2 Implementation of International Commitment

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, is recognized as the core international document regarding the rights of children. Other international declarations to which Nepal is a party—such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006; and various international conventions on child labor are related to the rights of children.

The Government of Nepal has ratified two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child - Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000, and Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, 2000. Likewise, Nepal is committed to implementing various international and SAARC-level declarations concerning children. The provisions of all these documents are being implemented in Nepal.

Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several goals are directly or indirectly related to children. These prioritize immediate response to incidents of child rights violations, mobilization of resources, strengthening of policies and structures, and promotion of a positive and supportive community and family environment.

The Government of Nepal is committed and attentive to ensuring that no child's rights are violated. Although the federal, provincial, and local governments have been active in enhancing children's access, especially to education, health, development, play, and recreation, Nepal has yet to fully ensure the rights of children in need of special protection.

Nepal is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the child-related goals and targets are given in **Annex-1**.

1.1.3 Implementation of Concluding Remarks

In January 2022, Nepal submitted its combined sixth and seventh periodic reports to the United Nations. In line with its international commitments, Nepal has continued to implement reforms in its laws, policies, plans, structures, and programs. The Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child commended Nepal for the constitutional, legal, and policy measures it has adopted to protect and promote child rights. However, it also provided recommendations for further efforts to ensure full realization of child rights.

In previous concluding observations on Nepal's third, fourth, and fifth periodic reports, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child had made several recommendations, including:

- Constitutional, legal, and policy reforms;
- Strengthening institutional structures;
- Ensuring adequate resource allocation and increasing child-focused investments;
- Simplifying complaint mechanisms for incidents of child rights violations;
- Upholding the best interests of the child;
- Building the capacity of professionals working with and for children;
- Full implementation of the right to birth registration;

- Ending violence and abuse against children;
- Regular monitoring of child care homes;
- Legal prohibition of physical and mental punishment;
- Raising public awareness;
- Establishing systems to manage data on the causes and nature of violations;
- Developing a comprehensive child rights information management system;
- Ensuring alternative care arrangements for children without parental care;
- Improving child health and nutrition;
- Enhancing access to and quality of early childhood development and education;
- Ending child labor and child marriage; and
- Strengthening the child justice system.

In reference to the implementation status of the above-mentioned recommendations, the key actions taken by the Government of Nepal are as follows:

- Nepal has been actively working to ensure child rights by enacting the Children's Act, 2018 and its Regulation, 2078 (2021), which clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and authority of various mechanisms for the protection and promotion of child rights.
- The National Child Policy, 2023 (2023) has been enforced. A national action plan with associated investment is under development for its implementation.
- To protect and promote child rights, specialized bodies such as the National Child Rights Council, Provincial Child Rights Committees, and Local Child Rights Committees are active. District Child Rights Committees have also been formed and mobilized in provinces such as Madhesh and Gandaki.
- For tracing missing children, rescuing and protecting abandoned children, addressing those affected by trafficking and involved in hazardous labor, and managing street children, a toll-free Child Tracing Service has been operated through the phone number **104**. Similarly, in collaboration with civil society and NGOs, the Child Helpline Service with toll-free number **1098** is operational in 18 districts to provide immediate rescue, relief, counseling, and other support to children at risk or victims of violence.
- To manage incidents related to child rights and protection in a unified way across government and non-government agencies, an Integrated Child Rights Information Management System (CRIMS) has been initiated for data collection, updating, and management. In addition, a Child Protection Case Management Information System (CP-CMIS) has also been launched to focus specifically on protection cases.
- The Committee of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has recommended improvements in the child-related information management system in its concluding observations from Nepal's initial to the most recent periodic reports. Nepal has gradually improved the collection and management of child-related data through surveys and studies in

various thematic areas. In this context, the National Child Rights Council (NCRC) has developed and is currently testing a software to strengthen information management on child rights and protection. Relevant staff have been trained technically to pilot the software in services like the Child Helpline, Child Tracing Service, and selected local levels.

- The National Human Rights Commission Rules, 2012 designate one commissioner specifically to handle complaints related to children to ensure the protection and promotion of child rights.
- For the safety and protection of children, the Nepal Police has established the Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Directorate, with 232 dedicated service centers operating across the country. Additionally, specialized bureaus such as the Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau, Cyber Bureau, and Narcotics Control Bureau are actively working in related areas.
- Stakeholders conduct thematic training programs on child rights. Curriculum on child rights has been included in in-service training for civil servants, police personnel, health workers, and teachers.
- Child protection standards have been developed and implemented in schools, children's homes, temporary protection centers, reintegration centers, and juvenile correction facilities.
- The Children's Act, 2018 defines all individuals under the age of 18 as children.
- The Act mandates that officials and institutions working with children must prioritize the best interests of the child and follow child-friendly procedures. Child welfare officers and juvenile courts must ensure that any decisions regarding alternative care and physical infrastructure in both public and private child-serving institutions prioritize the best interest of the child.
- Under Article 51(ga)(5) of the Constitution of Nepal, state policies explicitly state that the best interest of the child must be given primary consideration. Section 16 of the Children's Act, 2018 also reiterates this obligation.
- To encourage public awareness and participation, an annual Vital Event Week is celebrated from Baisakh 1–7 (April 3rd week) every year. Awareness campaigns include print materials, poster distribution, street dramas, mass gatherings, and public outreach programs in both national and local languages.
- The Children's Act prohibits use of force by investigating officers while detaining children, and emphasizes diversion mechanisms to serve their best interests. Monitoring and regulatory mechanisms are in place for regular supervision of residential child care institutions such as children's homes.
- Legal provisions recognize physical or mental punishment or inappropriate behavior towards children at home, in school, or elsewhere as violence and an offense against children.
- Section 7, Sub-section 5 of the Children's Act ensures that every child has the right to protection against all forms of physical or mental violence, torture, neglect, inhumane treatment, gender- or caste-based discrimination, sexual abuse, and exploitation by parents, family members, guardians, teachers, or any other individual.

- Section 48 of the Children's Act, 2018 defines the status of children requiring special protection. Subsection (1), clauses (a) to (chha), classify children in need of alternative care, and mandate such care and protection. Clauses (ja) to (da) identify children who require special protection, directing child welfare officers to arrange necessary care and support with priority.
- Children's Regulation, 2021 requires that child welfare officers must consult a social worker before deciding on alternative care. The social worker must provide input considering the child's best interest. The child welfare officer must monitor children in alternative care every four months and submit reports on their care, education, health, and protection to the relevant Local Child Rights Committee, Provincial Child Rights Committee, the National Council, and the Ministry.
- The Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) has included sexual and reproductive health education in the curriculum from grades 6 to 10.
- The Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, the Comprehensive School Safety Implementation Procedure, 2018, and the National Dignified Menstruation Policy, 2018 are all in effect and being implemented.
- Legal provisions ensure birth registration for all children, including those born to refugees or asylum seekers.
- The Basic Education Curriculum 2019, the Local Curriculum Framework 2014, and the Guidelines for Local Curriculum Development and Implementation (including mother tongue), 2076, require local governments to coordinate and approve separate local curricula with 5 subject loads for grades 1–3 and 4 subject loads for grades 4–8.
- The National Master Plan for Elimination of Child Labour (2018–2028) is under implementation. Efforts have begun to declare child-labour-free municipalities and wards.
- Under the Children's Act, 2018, no child shall be held in detention during the investigation or prosecution of a case. Children cannot be asked to post bail or surety. The Juvenile Court may, however, order the child to be placed in a child reform home during trial if necessary, with justifications.

1.1.4 Implementation of National Law and Policy

To fulfill the basic needs and rights of children, Nepal has established constitutional, legal, and policy frameworks. The Children's Act, 2018 is being implemented as a specialized law concerning children. This Act fundamentally ensures the following rights of children:

- The right to live with dignity,
- The right to a name, nationality, and identity,
- The right to non-discrimination of any kind,
- The right to live with and meet their parents,
- The right to protection,
- The right to participation,

- The right to freely express opinions and access information,
- The right to form associations and peacefully assemble,
- The right to privacy,
- Special rights for children with disabilities,
- The right to be nurtured and live a healthy life,
- The right to play and engage in recreational activities, and
- The right to education.

Additionally, the Act provides for special protection, rehabilitation, and alternative care arrangements for children who need them. It also outlines the responsibilities of families, guardians (including organizations and individuals), the state, and the media towards children. In line with Nepal's federal structure, institutional mechanisms for the protection and promotion of child rights have been established at the federal, provincial, and local levels. Section 5 of the Labour Act, 2017 prohibits anyone from employing children in any work that is illegal or contrary to the law. Other laws with provisions related to children include:

- The Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007
- The National Immunization Act, 2015,
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (First Amendment) Act, 2017
- The Civil Code (Muluki Dewani Sanhita), 2017
- The Criminal Code (Muluki Aparadh Sanhita), 2017
- The Labour Act, 2017
- The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017
- The Local Government Operation Act, 2017
- The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018
- The Public Health Service Act, 2075 (2018),
- The Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018
- The Social Security Act, 2018

In addition to these Acts, various regulations, including the Children's Regulation, 2021, procedures, guidelines, and standards related to children are currently in effect and being implemented.

1.1.5 National Child Policy, 2023

With the implementation of federalism, various mechanisms have been established at the federal, provincial, and local levels to address child-related issues. In response to both national and international commitments, as well as changes in the governance structure, Nepal has enacted the National Child Policy, 2023 to make child rights protection and promotion more sensitive and results-oriented.

Long-Term Vision: To build a child-friendly nation that ensures the rights of every child.

Vision Statement: To bring about economic and social transformation for ensuring children's rights by maintaining a child-friendly environment and preparing children to become capable and responsible citizens.

Goal: Respect, protect, and promote the holistic development and rights of every child, giving utmost priority to their best interests.

Objectives:

1. To respect, protect, and fulfill child rights.
2. To create a child-friendly environment.
3. To end all forms of physical and mental violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and neglect against children.

Policies:

1. To mainstream child rights and strengthen legal, policy, and structural frameworks to ensure children's rights. (Related to Objective 1)
2. To promote child participation at the family, community, institutional, and governance levels. (Related to Objective 2)
3. To establish an environment for nutrition, early childhood development, education, health, sports, and overall personality development for all children. (Related to Objective 2)
4. To ensure protection and care for children requiring special protection, including those at risk, through alternative care arrangements. (Related to Objective 3)

Strategies:

1. Amend existing laws related to children or formulate new laws as necessary, and ensure their effective implementation. (Policy–10.1)
2. Effectively operationalize institutional structures and mechanisms related to child rights, child protection, and child justice at the federal, provincial, and local levels. (Policy–10.1)
3. Immediately rescue, protect, and manage children who require special protection and alternative care, as well as those affected by violence and abuse. (Policy–10.2)
4. Increase awareness and access to available services for children at risk in order to reduce risks. (Policy–10.2)
5. End all harmful practices carried out in the name of religion, culture, and tradition. (Policy–10.2)
6. Strengthen stakeholders at federal, provincial, local, and community levels to eliminate corporal punishment, abuse through electronic media, child labor, trafficking, and sale of children by enhancing response and awareness. (Policy–10.2)
7. Build the capacity of relevant agencies and stakeholders to improve structural and service delivery for the overall personality development of children. (Policy–10.3)
8. Ensure children's participation and the consideration of their views in matters and decisions concerning them. (Policy–10.4)
9. Implement nutrition programs to ensure the best development of children and reduce malnutrition. (Policy–10.3)

1.1.6 Current Sixteenth Plan of the Government of Nepal (2024/25-2028/29)

There are many programs relating to child rights protection and promotion, which can be summarized as follows:

- To end all forms of child labor, it is mandatory to conduct prior inspections to ensure child labor-free workplaces during the approval and renewal processes of all industries, factories, and business sectors.
- Establish a system through which local governments provide alternative care for homeless, abandoned, parentless, and special protection-needed children.
- Strengthen and promote child rights through child-friendly local governance programs.
- Expand the formation and operation of organizations such as child clubs, child networks, adolescent groups, and scouts to increase children's participation in learning social responsibility and self-reliant lifestyles.
- Implement strict legal measures to regulate and control violence arising from misuse of information technology and social media.
- Classify child reform homes based on minimum standards and operate and manage them effectively with minimum required services.
- Discourage institutional residential care in child homes and protect children only in the home as a last resort.
- Ensure a simple, accessible, child- and caregiver-friendly child justice system.
- Increase access to and utilization of early childhood development programs to support children's mental and physical growth across all social groups and communities.
- Implement targeted programs to improve the quality of education and learning outcomes for Dalit children.

The Second 10-Year National Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor (2018–2028), National Education Policy, 2019, National Strategy Against Child Marriage, 2015, National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking, Especially Women and Children, 2011, National Children Policy, 2023, Education Sector Plan (Draft) (2021–2030), School Sector Development Plan (2016/17–2022/23), National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2019, Infant and Early Childhood Nutrition Strategy, 2016, National e-Health Strategy, 2017, National Health Policy, 2019, National Framework on Cost Sharing in the Operation of Child Development Centers, 2020, among other policies and documents, are currently under implementation.

Under the seventh goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is stated that effective immediate measures will be adopted to end all forms of child labor by 2025. The Second 10-Year National Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor (2018–2028) set a goal to eliminate the worst and exploitative forms of child labor by 2022 and to eradicate all forms of child labor by 2025. However, achieving the expected results has been challenging.

Various guidelines issued by the federal ministries and agencies are also related to children. For example, the Child Protection Economic Relief Assistance Procedure, 2019, Child Helpline Number 1098 Nepal Operation Procedure, 2019, Child Search and Rescue Number 104 Operation Directive, 2019, Integrated Procedure for Rescue, Protection, and Management of Street Children, 2019, Child-Friendly Communication Directive, 2016, National Strategy for Child-Friendly Local Governance, 2017, Guidelines for Formation and Facilitation of Children's Organizations, 2017, Online Child Protection Directive, 2019, Student Learning Facilitation Directive, 2020, Interim Directive on Operation of One-Stop Crisis Management Centers during the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020, and various other procedures and standards are currently being implemented. Similarly, at the provincial and local levels, various guidelines, directives, standards, and procedures are also in operation.

The National Education Policy, 2019 aims to develop human resources according to the country's needs by making education at all levels competitive, technology-friendly, employment-oriented, and productive. Its objectives include making early childhood development and education qualitative and effective, ensuring easy and equitable access to school education for all, guaranteeing competitive and quality compulsory and free education, establishing links between formal and informal education, integrating science and technology into the education system, and developing the capacity to use both traditional and modern technology for national development. Similarly, the National Early Childhood Development Strategy (2020–2041) sets the goal to ensure opportunities for the physical, social, intellectual, emotional, and linguistic development of all children from pregnancy until 8 years of age by 2041.

The commitments reflected in the above-mentioned various documents have created obligations to implement all essential aspects of child rights. To fulfill these obligations, various institutional mechanisms at the federal, provincial, and local levels have become operational, increasing efforts in education, health, nutrition, protection, participation, and capacity development. During the execution of child-related activities, coordination and cooperation among various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms, different media outlets, and other stakeholders have been steadily increasing. As a result of all these efforts, there have been significant improvements in both qualitative and quantitative indicators related to children. On the other hand, new and emerging challenges and issues such as climate change continue to add further complexities.

1.1.7 Institutional Mechanism related to Child Rights and Protection

In Nepal, institutional mechanisms have been established at the federal, provincial, and local levels for the protection and promotion of child rights. At the federal level, there are ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; National Planning Commission; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, among others. For the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of children, a specialized body called the National Child Rights Council is operational. Alongside the National Human Rights Commission, there are commissions directly related to human rights issues, such as the National Women Commission, Indigenous Nationalities Commission, Madhesi Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Inclusion Commission, Tharu Commission, Muslim Commission, and others.

The Central Child Justice Committee is functional at the central level to strengthen the child justice system and coordinate with various bodies working on child justice, and child justice committees are operational in every district. For immediate rescue, temporary protection, and security actions in cases of violence against children and child sexual abuse, the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Services under the Nepal Police Headquarter is active.

At the provincial level, there is a dedicated ministry responsible for child-related issues, along with other ministries and the Policy and Planning Commission that are operational. For the protection and promotion of children's rights, interests, and welfare, a specialized body called the Provincial Child Rights Committee is legally mandated. In each district hospital, to provide services such as health and protection management, medical treatment, residential care, and counseling for women and children affected by gender-based violence and abuse, 88 one-stop crisis management centers are operational across 77 districts.

According to the Children's Act, 2018, provinces are required to formulate Provincial Child Rights Acts and establish Provincial Child Rights Committees. In accordance with this provision, by the fiscal year 2023/24, Provincial Child Rights Acts have been enacted in all provinces except Karnali Province, and Provincial Child Rights Committees have been formed in Koshi, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini Provinces. At the local level, to address child-related issues specifically, legal provisions exist for local Child Rights Committees, Child Welfare Officers, social workers, child psychologists, judicial committees, and temporary protection services. Out of the 753 local levels across the country, the number of local bodies with arrangements for Child Rights Committees, Child Welfare Officers, social workers, and child psychologists as of July 14, 2024 is presented in the table below.

Table 3: Child rights protection mechanism at the local level

S.N.	Child rights protection mechanism	No. of local level
1.	Local Child Rights Committee	372
2.	Deputed Child Welfare Officer	378
3.	Appointed Child welfare Officer	12
4.	Enlisted social worker and child psychologist	27
5.	Developed integrated procedures on child rights protection and promotion	408
6.	Child fund establishment	286

Source: National Child Rights council, 2024

Under Nepal Police, Women, Children, and Senior Citizens Service Centers are operational in 232 police offices and units across 77 districts throughout the country. To immediately rescue and facilitate children who are missing, found abandoned, living on the streets, involved in illegal trafficking, or in risky situations, the Child Search and Coordination Center (toll-free telephone number 104) is run in collaboration between Nepal Police and the National Child Rights Council. This service is operational at the central level in Kathmandu and at the provincial level in Koshi, Madhesh, and Lumbini provinces.

Similarly, in 73 districts excluding Manang, Mustang, Eastern Nawalpur, and Rukum East, the Child tracing Service with telephone number 104 is connected and operational in the district police offices of 71 districts including the Kathmandu Valley.

The National Child Rights Council has authorized NGOs to operate the Child Helpline Service (toll-free telephone number 1098) in providing emergency rescue, relief, short-term shelter, temporary protection, psychosocial counseling, legal advice and assistance, family reunification, and rehabilitation services for the children victimized of various violence and living at-risk. Currently, this helpline service is operational in 18 districts.

There are 9 children's correction homes in operation in 8 districts for children involved in conflicts of law, where children are placed as per court decisions. Additionally, a total of 396 child care homes (CCHs) are running in 46 districts, and a total of 10,882 children are under the protection of such institution. This is considered as the last resort/option for alternative care.

1.1.8 Child Related Policy and Program, and Budget Speech of the Government of Nepal

The topics related to children included in the Government of Nepal's Policy and Program and Budget Speech for the Fiscal Year 2024/25 are presented in the table below:

Table 4: Child related policy and program of the government, FY 2024/25

Child Health:

Policy No.	Policies and Programs
138	Special programs will be implemented in local levels with high maternal and neonatal mortality rates for maternal and neonatal care and treatment services. Arrangements will be made for the diagnosis and treatment of autism in health institutions.
139	Infertility and assisted reproductive treatment services will be expanded in federal hospitals across all seven provinces. Access to reproductive health services for all will be ensured.

Child Protection:

Point No.	Policies and Programs
125	A campaign will be launched to bring all school-aged children to school, retain them, and ensure their learning, supported by incentive-based programs. The school curriculum will be reviewed periodically. It will be ensured that textbooks are available at the beginning of each academic session.
126	Special programs will be implemented to increase access to quality education at the basic level for Dalit, minority, endangered, backward, remote and Himalayan areas, economically disadvantaged, and children with disabilities. Scholarships targeted to the poor will be expanded. The midday meal program will be gradually expanded.
132	To support physical, mental, and intellectual development, yoga and meditation will be included in the school curriculum, and provisions for teaching will be arranged.
147	A sports teacher will be appointed in every school. An annual sports calendar will be prepared, and inter-municipal and provincial-level competitions will be organized.

118	Programs will be implemented for adolescent girls focusing on income generation, capacity development, and empowerment.
119	All forms of violence, discrimination, and exploitation against adolescent girls will be ended. Nepalese society will be made free from child marriage and <i>chhaupadi</i> . Programs for relief, rescue, rehabilitation, free legal aid, psychosocial counseling, skill development, and income generation will be implemented for women affected by rape, acid attacks, and other forms of violence.
120	All forms of child labor exploitation will be eliminated. Physical infrastructure and institutional capacity of juvenile correction homes will be enhanced. Child-friendly infrastructure will be developed. Emergency child rescue programs will be conducted at provincial and local levels for orphans, helpless, disabled, abandoned, violence-affected, and street children.
121	Economic and social empowerment of persons with disabilities will be ensured along with a dignified and accessible life. A policy will be adopted to establish <i>Apangagram</i> (disabled villages) in all seven provinces.
123	Economic and social empowerment programs will be carried out for groups and communities at risk of human trafficking and transportation. In coordination with stakeholders and organizations, preventive, protective, and awareness programs will be implemented to control human trafficking. Rescue, protection, access to justice, and rehabilitation for victims will be made more effective.
156	All types of social security programs will be implemented in an integrated manner.
159	Online vital event registration will be implemented from all ward offices.
167	A nationwide campaign against substance abuse will be launched under community leadership.

Table 5: Child related Budget Speech of the government, FY 2024/25

Point No.	Child Health & Nutrition
229	NPR. 12.8 billion is allocated to provide 98 types of free basic health services including medicines and vaccines from 6,743 ward-level health centers. Priority will be given to domestic medicine procurement.
231	Special programs for mother and newborn care will be implemented in areas with high maternal and neonatal mortality. Maternal and Safe Motherhood programs will be continued.
239	A milk bank will be established for newborns at the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital.
202	NPR 84.5 billion allocated for the midday meal program in community schools. Junk food is banned; nutritious food from local produce will be used. 3.2 million students will benefit.
203	NPR 14.2 billion allocated for free sanitary pad distribution to schoolgirls. About 1 million girls will benefit.
	Child Rights Protection
275	Children's best interests and holistic development will be promoted. An inclusive environment will be created for sexual and gender minorities.
279	All forms of child labor and exploitation will be eliminated. Eight juvenile reform homes will be repaired and strengthened. A new one will be built in Dhakaltar, Tanahun.
288	Livelihood allowance for martyr families and scholarships for children of People's Movement martyrs will continue.

	Child Development
199	Early childhood development centers will be mapped and redistributed to make early childhood education more accessible.
200	“Enroll, Teach, and Retain” program will expand. Agricultural-based practical learning and residential scholarships for students in remote/Himalayan areas will be provided. Mother-tongue-based basic education will continue.
201	Scholarships for poor, Dalit, and marginalized students including girls will continue. NPR 30.2 billion allocated for school to higher education scholarships. 2.6 million students will benefit. Special scholarships for Musahar, Dom, Chamar students in medical studies will continue.
	Inclusive Education
204	Traditional schools (Gurukuls, Madrasas, Gumbas) will be integrated into formal education. Free textbooks in Braille and sign language will be provided.
206	Free textbooks will be made available before the academic session. Digital versions of curriculum and books will be provided. NPR 35.8 billion allocated.
	School Infrastructure and Model School
209	Under the President’s Educational Reform Program, conditional grants will be provided for school infrastructure based on student and teacher numbers. School merger will be encouraged based on defined criteria.
210	A feasibility study will begin to establish one model residential community school each in Dhankuta, Bardibas, Tansen, Surkhet, and Dadeldhura, modeled on Budhanilkantha and Gandaki schools.

1.2 Demographic Glimpse of Children in Nepal

As of National Census, 2021, the total population of Nepal is 29.16 million, in which, gender ratio is 95.59. The child population (under 18 years) is about 9.87 million. Age group-wise child population is as follows:

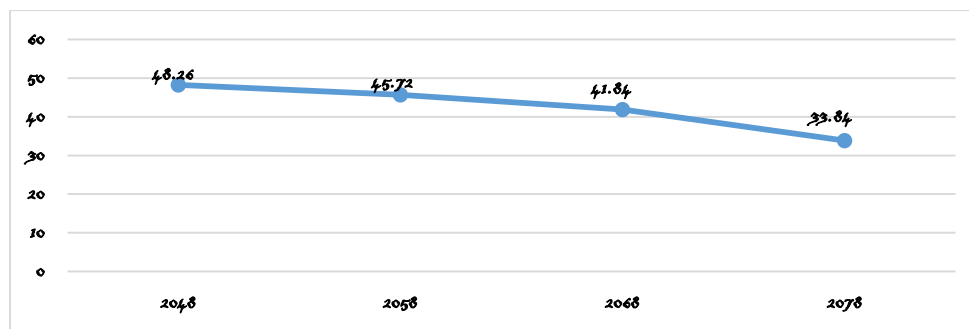
Table 6: Population of children (National Census, 2021)

Age group	No. of children	Province						
		Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
0-5	3007648	472625	799897	488792	208170	541059	204638	292467
6-14	5107927	816751	1228345	864922	380598	919798	354253	543260
15-17	1754008	284663	373619	333171	139071	322155	118157	183172
Total	9869583	1574039	2401861	1686885	727839	1783012	677048	1018899

Source: National Census, 2021

In National Census 1991, 2001 and 2011, the population growth rate remained as 2.08, 2.25 and 1.35 percent, whereas the rate is 0.92 percent as of the Census 2021. The trend of child population in the four censuses is presented as follows:

Graph 1: Percent of child population according to National Census, 2021



Source: National Census, 1991, 2001, 2011 & 2021

Notwithstanding the decreasing trend of the percent of the child population in all four censuses, the absolute number of child population has been gradually increased. The remarkable point is that the boy population has outweighed to the girls' population. The gender ratio is given below as of Census, 2021.

Table 7: Child population and gender ratio based on age group

Age group	Boys	Girls	Total	Gender ratio
0-5 years	1589674	1417974	3007648	0.89
6-10 years	1483041	1361793	2844834	0.92
11-15 years	1462919	1407302	2870221	0.96
16-17 years	578871	568009	1146880	0.98
Total	5114505	4755078	9869583	0.94
Percent	51.82%	48.18%	100%	

Source: National Census, 2021

The above table shows that the girls' population in all age group is lower than that of boys' population by 359,427. The gap of gender ratio seems higher in the lower age group. It indicates that the girls' population will remarkably be lower than boys in coming years.

1.2.1 Number of Children by Single Age

The population of children by single year of age is considered important for policymakers and planners. Whether it is for implementing health-related programs or formulating education plans and strategies, such demographic data is necessary. There is no doubt that these statistics play a significant role in determining state investment and priorities.

According to the National Census 2021, the highest proportion (6.6%) of children is at the age of 10 years. The lowest proportion (4.2%) is seen in children aged zero years. The high number of children at age 10 may be due to age heaping (age rounding). The common age heaping at ages 5 and 10 is clearly visible here and has been indicated in the following table.

Table 8: Number of single year children in Census of 2001, 2011 and 2021

Age	No. & %	2001			2011			2021		
		Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
○	No.	503,833	257,122	246,711	469,979	242,226	227,753	411159	219317	191842

	%	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.0
୧	No.	474,688	243,608	231,080	423,283	219,061	204,222	450469	240488	209981
	%	4.5	4.5	4.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.6	4.7	4.4
୨	No.	575,893	290,790	285,103	525,992	268,943	257,049	510855	269561	241294
	%	5.4	5.4	5.5	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.1
୩	No.	621,451	310,813	310,638	555,884	281,631	274,253	531295	278785	252510
	%	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.3
୪	No.	629,575	318,826	310,749	592,825	303,096	289,729	535505	282374	253131
	%	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.3
୫	No.	736,033	376,333	359,700	661,158	340,356	320,802	568365	299149	269216
	%	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7
୬	No.	671,667	340,969	330,698	629,016	320,232	308,784	562745	294386	268359
	%	6.3	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.6
୭	No.	627,727	314,217	313,510	628,590	316,893	311,697	534278	276257	258021
	%	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4
୮	No.	729,680	375,815	353,865	733,228	378,406	354,822	599728	313330	286398
	%	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.0
୯	No.	504,878	255,524	249,354	552,867	279,289	273,578	501311	260283	241028
	%	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1
୧୦	No.	767,160	396,865	370,295	811,748	418,046	393,702	646772	338785	307987
	%	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.5
୧୧	No.	476,365	243,133	233,232	562,580	283,595	278,985	475016	246281	228735
	%	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.8
୧୨	No.	724,034	378,281	345,753	795,076	410,150	384,926	638817	330149	308668
	%	6.8	7.0	6.6	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.5	6.5
୧୩	No.	517,651	263,101	254,550	628,915	315,152	313,763	556890	281718	275172
	%	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.8
୧୪	No.	551,084	280,390	270,694	677,105	337,687	339,418	592370	299021	293349
	%	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.2
୧୫	No.	533,497	272,872	260,625	652,525	326,490	326,035	607128	305750	301378
	%	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.3
୧୬	No.	522,631	260,256	262,375	646,092	320,242	325,850	608979	306773	302206
	%	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.8	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.4
୧୭	No.	420,429	206,533	213,896	537,448	264,109	273,339	537901	272098	265803
	%	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.5	5.3	5.6
Total children		10,588,276	5,385,448	5,202,828	11,084,311	5,625,604	5,458,707	9,869,583	5,114,505	4,755,078
Child %		45.7	46.6	44.9	41.8	43.8	40.0	33.8	35.9	31.9

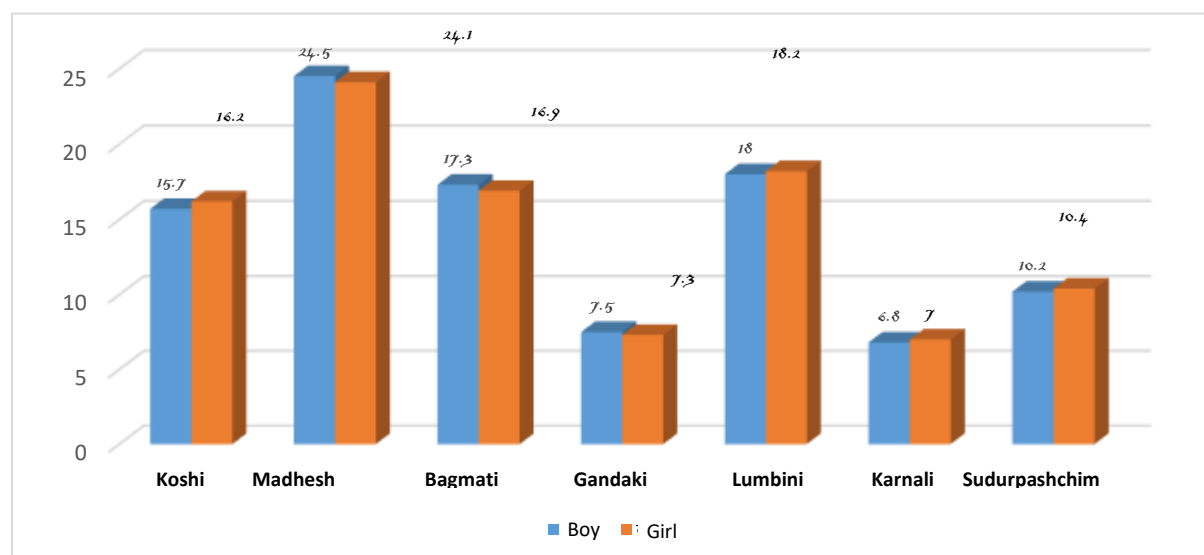
Source: National Census, 2021

The child population in the census of 2021 is less than the previous census by 1,214,728. This should be seriously taken by the policy makers.

1.2.2 Details of Children by Geographical Region

The statistics show that in Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki provinces, the proportion of boys is higher than that of girls, whereas in the remaining provinces, the number of girls exceeds that of boys. In the context of Nepal, children constitute 33.8 percent of the total population. Among Nepal's male population, 35.9 percent are boys, while among the female population, 31.9 percent are girls. Of the total children, boys make up 51.8 percent, and girls comprise 48.2 percent. Details related to this are presented in the following figure and table.

Graph 2: Percent of boys and girls by Province



Among children, the highest proportion (56.1%) reside in the Terai region. The second highest (37.3%) live in the hills, while only 6.5% of children live in the mountain region. Comparing by area type - urban, semi-urban, and rural, the largest number of children (41.8%) live in semi-urban areas. About 24.1% of children reside in urban areas, while 34.1% of children live in rural areas, which is 10 percentage points higher than urban areas. Approximately 64% of the total population in municipalities are children, whereas 36% of children live in rural municipalities (Gaunpalikas).

Table 9: Number and percent of child population, 2021

Geographical area	Total	%	Boys	%	Girls	%
Nepal	9,869,583	100.0	5,114,505	100.0	4,755,078	100.0
Geographical region						
Mountain	644,896	6.5	326,582	6.4	318,314	6.7
Hill	3,686,209	37.3	1,908,093	37.3	1,778,116	37.4
Terai	5,538,478	56.1	2,879,830	56.3	2,658,648	55.9
Urban/Rural						
Urban	2,382,173	24.1	1266410	24.8	1,115,763	23.5
Sub-urban	4,123,102	41.8	2141423	41.9	1,981,679	41.7

Rural	3,364,308	34.1	1706672	33.4	1657636	34.9
{Rural/Municipality						
Municipality	6,309,805	63.9	3299158	64.5	3010647	63.3
Rural municipality	3,559,778	36.1	1815347	35.5	1744431	36.7
Province						
Koshi	1574039	15.9	805440	15.7	768599	16.2
Madhesh	2401861	24.3	1254619	24.5	1147242	24.1
Bagmati	1686885	17.1	885416	17.3	801469	16.9
Gandaki	727839	7.4	381086	7.5	346753	7.3
Lumbini	1783012	18.1	919078	18.0	863934	18.2
Karnali	677048	6.9	345492	6.8	331556	7.0
Sudurpashchim	1018899	10.3	523374	10.2	495525	10.4

Source: National Census, 2021

Above table shows that Karnali Province has the lowest percent of child population (6.9%) followed by Gandaki Province (7.4%), whereas the highest percent is in Madhesh Province (24.3%) followed by Lumbini Province (18.1%).

Chapter – 2

Child Rights to Survival

2.1 Background

Under Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, provisions are made to ensure the child's right to life, survival, and development, and under Article 24, the right to health including the right to live and enjoy healthy life is guaranteed. Nepal is constitutionally, legally, and policy-wise committed to implementing the right of children to live and enjoy a healthy life. Under Article 30, Clause (1) of Nepal's Constitution, every citizen has the right to live in a healthy and clean environment. Additionally, Clause (1) of Article 35 provides for free basic health services and guarantees that no one shall be deprived of necessary health services. Similarly, Clause (2) of Article 36 ensures the right to be protected from life-threatening situations due to lack of food. Specifically, Clause (2) of Article 39 guarantees every child the right to health, nutrition, proper care, and holistic personality development from family and the state. Under the state policy, Clause (j) of Article 51, sub-clauses (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) emphasize the fulfillment of citizens' basic health needs and ensuring access to health services.

Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018, Section 3, Subsection (8) ensures every woman's right to emergency obstetric services, basic emergency obstetric services, comprehensive emergency obstetric services, essential services for newborns, and necessary care for newborn infants. Furthermore, if a healthy child cannot be born, Section 15 provides the right to safe abortion, while Section 17 clearly prohibits sex identification of the fetus for abortion purposes. The Act also mandates compulsory budget allocation and grants at all three levels of government for maternity and reproductive health. Public Health Service Act, 2018, Section 3, Subsection (4) defines maternal, neonatal, and child health services including immunization, integrated newborn and child disease management, nutrition services, prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services as basic health services and guarantees the right of all citizens to receive these services free of charge. Additionally, Section 9 specifies that it is the responsibility of family members and guardians to take sick children to health institutions, provide health treatment, and assist in the treatment process. Similarly, Section 47 mandates that provincial and local governments should implement special social health security programs to ensure the healthy life of children.

Section 13 of the Children's Act, 2018 ensures the rights of children to nutrition and health. The Act guarantees that children up to two years of age have the right to breastfeeding, and every child has the right to receive proper nutrition, clean drinking water, immunization services, physical and mental health services according to national standards, as well as basic health treatment free of charge. Furthermore, Section 17 clearly states that it is the duty of the family or guardian to provide care, nurture, skill development, and protection for the healthy life of children. The Act also specifies that it is the state's responsibility to make necessary arrangements for the healthy life of children who require special protection.

The National Health Policy, 2019 includes a policy to develop and expand safe motherhood and child health services based on the concept of the life cycle. According to Section 11 of the Local Government

Operation Act, 2017, local governments, such as rural municipalities and municipalities, have the authority and responsibility to formulate and manage necessary policies related to basic health and sanitation.

Additionally, under the broad framework of rights-based development, the Sustainable Development Goals include quantitative targets related to children's health and well-being, which encompass the following measurable goals.

- (a) By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- (b) End preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age.
- (c) End the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases, and control hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases.
- (d) Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.
- (e) Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Similarly, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and integrate family planning, information and education, and reproductive health into national strategies and programs as part of the measurable goals by 2030.

2.2 Healthy Life and Health Care of Children

The Ministry of Health and Population operates various programs for children, including the National Immunization Program, the Golden Thousand Days initiative, National Nutrition, Vitamin A distribution, malnutrition prevention, Integrated Child Health, community-based newborn and child disease management, and multi-sectoral nutrition programs. In Karnali Province and across the country, nutrition allowances are provided to children from Dalit communities. For pregnant and postpartum women at risk in very remote Himalayan and hilly districts, safe evacuation and treatment support through helicopters are provided under the "President's Women Upliftment Program."

Additionally, designated health institutions provide free health services and medicines for children. Services such as emergency obstetric care targeting pregnant women and newborns, basic emergency obstetric care, neonatal emergency services, comprehensive emergency obstetric care, and safe motherhood packages are in operation. For the health of pregnant women and infants, medicines such as iron, calcium, and vitamins are made available free of charge at hospitals and health posts.

To prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, programs for infection prevention and cash assistance for children affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS are being implemented. Similarly, free health insurance programs and various programs related to newborns and children are ongoing.

To control tuberculosis, pregnant and postpartum women are provided with supplemental iron and folic acid distributed in all districts. Programs for distributing nutritious supplementary food are also in operation. To address problems caused by iodine deficiency, iodized salt distribution is carried out. The National Vitamin A program is implemented to eliminate issues arising from Vitamin A deficiency. Additionally, deworming medicine is given to children aged 12–59 months to control intestinal worms.

The status of key issues related to children's healthy life is presented as follows:

2.2.1 Vaccination

The National Immunization Program in Nepal, which started as an expanded immunization program in 1977, has been given high priority. Immunization has contributed to the reduction of diseases, mortality, and disability related to vaccine-preventable illnesses. Among South Asian countries, Nepal was the first country to implement a National Immunization Act. The Immunization Act, 2015 is in force to protect children from various diseases and keep them healthy. This Act mandates vaccination for children. The Immunization Regulation, 2017 includes a list of vaccines to protect children against various diseases. The “Full Immunization Program” has been implemented since 2012.

By mid-December of fiscal year 2022/23, 72 out of 77 districts and 724 out of 753 local levels have achieved the status of “full immunization.” The National Immunization Program has made a significant contribution to reducing infant and child mortality rates, which has helped achieve notable progress in child health. The goals of the National Immunization Program are to vaccinate children up to 15 months of age, ensure vaccination for children up to 5 years of age who missed vaccines, and provide tetanus diphtheria toxoid vaccines to pregnant women.

Table 10: Targeted population of national immunization program, FY 2022/23

Age group	Targeted population
Children below one year	५१५५३३
Children between 12-23 months	५१६५१४
Children between 0-59 months	२५९७००३
Expected pregnancy	६२०९८३

Source: Department of Health Services, Annual Report, FY 2022/23

In Nepal, to protect children from tuberculosis, vaccines such as BCG are given. To prevent whooping cough, pertussis, diphtheria, hepatitis B, and Herophilus influenzae type B, vaccines like DPT, Hep B, and Hib are administered. For protection against poliomyelitis, OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) is given. Pneumonia is prevented by the PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine). For protection against measles and rubella, the MR (Measles-Rubella) vaccine is provided. Japanese Encephalitis (brain fever) vaccination (JE) is also given, among a total of 13 types of vaccines administered.

Since fiscal year 2020/21, the rotavirus vaccine, and from fiscal year 2021/22, the typhoid vaccine has been included in the national immunization program. Additionally, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines are provided to pregnant women. Due to this vaccination, congenital deformities such as “clubfoot” in newborns have been prevented. The percentage of children receiving various vaccines over the past three fiscal years is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Percent of fully immunized children

S.N.	Vaccination	2020/2021	2021/22	2022/23
1.	BCG (<1 year)	९१	१०३।२	१०२
2.	DPT-HepB-Hib3 (<1 year)	८७	९५।२	१०१
3.	Measles/Rubela (9-12 months)	८२	९२	९७
4.	Measles/Rubela (12-23 months)	८२	९२।८	९५
5.	Percentn of fully immunized children	७८	९१।२	८४

Source: Department of Health Services, Annual Report, FY 2022/23

According to the above table, the coverage of the measles and rubella vaccines increased by 6% in the fiscal year 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. The coverage of the measles and rubella vaccines reached 97% and 95% respectively. The percentage of children fully vaccinated was 91.2% in the fiscal year 2021/22, but it decreased by 7% to 84% in 2022/23.

Looking at the data on children receiving various types of vaccines, it is essential that all levels of relevant government agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations, families, communities, and media focus their attention to ensure that all targeted children receive the necessary vaccines in the coming days.

Table 12: Percent of children received 12 different vaccines by Province, 2022/23

S.N.	Vaccine	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	Nepal
१।	DPT-HepB-Hib3	९२	१०६	१०८	९०	९९	९५	८८	१०१
२।	Measles/Rubela1 (9-12 months)	९२	१००	११०	९०	९५	९६	८६	९७
३।	Measles/Rubela2 (12-23 months)	८६	९९	१०६	८८	९२	८८	९२	९५
४।	Titanus vaccine (pregnant women)	९२	१०६	१०९	९०	९९	८९	८८	७२
५।	Fully immunized children	७४	८५	८८	७५	८८	९१	८५	८४

Source: Department of Health Services, Annual Report, FY 2022/23

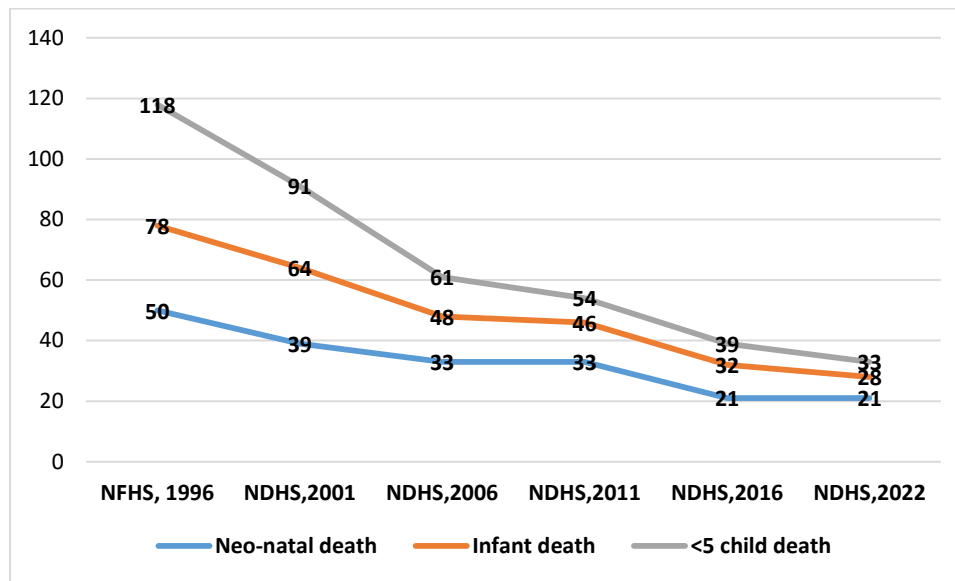
Reviewing the antigen coverage at the provincial level over the last three fiscal years, Madhesh and Bagmati provinces show a higher percentage of children receiving the measles-rubella/DPT-HepB-Hib vaccine compared to the national level. Specifically, the percentage of children receiving the measles and rubella vaccines in Bagmati and Madhesh provinces exceeds 95 percent. Notably, Madhesh province has shown a 12% increase in the rubella vaccine coverage, whereas Gandaki province has experienced a 4% decrease.

The percentage of pregnant women receiving tetanus vaccines is above the national average in Madhesh and Lumbini provinces but below the national average in Sudurpashchim, Koshi, and Karnali provinces. Bagmati province has a higher percentage of children receiving the measles-rubella and measles vaccines, while Sudurpashchim province shows 86% coverage for the measles vaccine.

2.3 Child Mortality Rate

The progress made so far in the health sector is encouraging. Since Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the country has gradually increased its investment with priority in child health, resulting in significant improvements in neonatal, infant, and child mortality rates. According to the results of the National Census 2028 (2021), a total of 6,145,039 married women aged 15 - 49 have given birth to 2,799,969 children to date. Among them, 52.7% are boys and 47.3% are girls. Of the live-born children, 3.2% have died, with 57.6% of those being boys and 42.4% girls.

Graph 3: Infant and child (<5) mortality rate (per 1000/live birth)

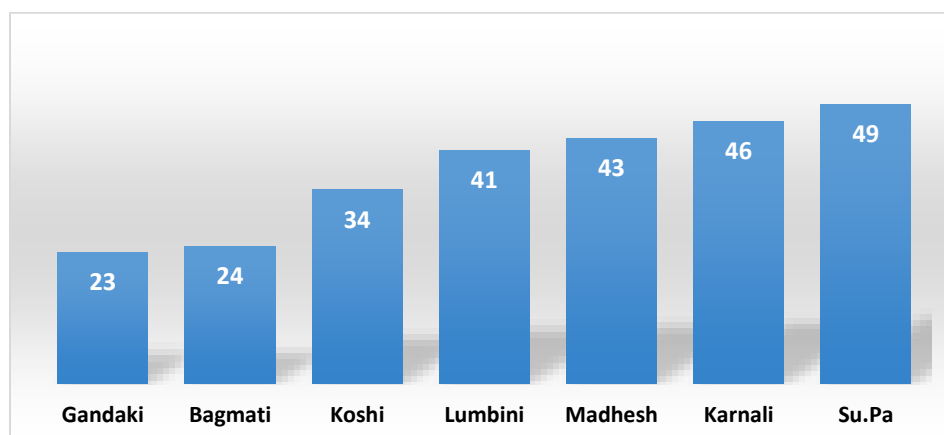


Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, the infant and under-five mortality rates in Nepal are 28 and 33 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate is 21 deaths per 1,000 live births. The mortality rate in childhood has decreased. Since 1996, the under-five mortality rate has dropped from 118 deaths per 1,000 live births to the current rate of 33 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the neonatal mortality rate has decreased from 50 to 21 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Due to the sensitivity and efforts of the federal government, provincial governments, and local levels in implementing various plans and programs on child health, significant improvements have been observed in child health. According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, the provincial child mortality rates are presented as follows.

Graph 4: Under five mortality rate (per 1000/live birth) by Province



Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

According to the provincial data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, the under-five mortality rate is highest in Sudurpashchim Province at 49 per 1,000 live births, indicating a significant

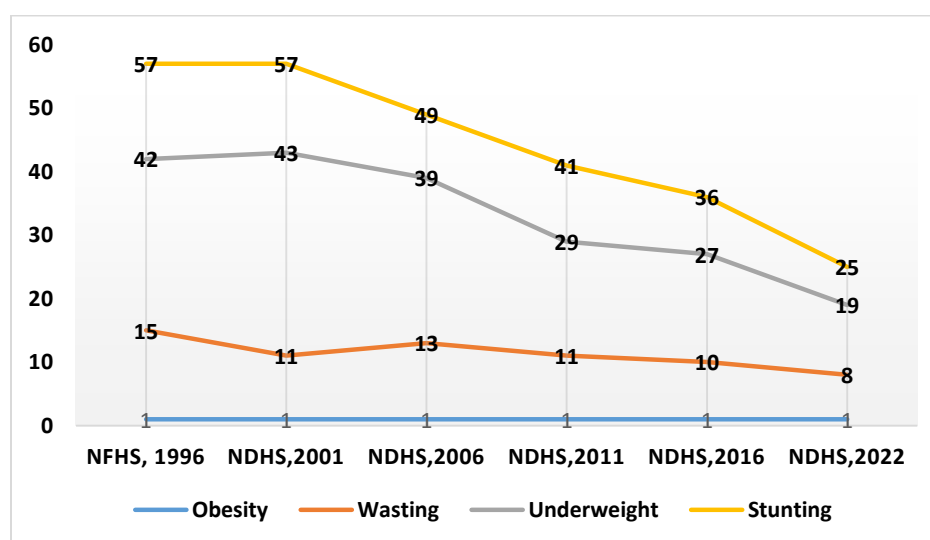
need for improvement in child health in this province. The survey shows that in Gandaki Province, there are 23 deaths of children under five per 1,000 live births, while in Karnali Province, the number is 46. Overall, the national average is 33, with Gandaki and Bagmati provinces reporting rates below this average, while all other provinces have under-five mortality rates above the national average of 33.

2.4 Children's Nutritional Status

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees every citizen the right to food, health, and nutrition. The United Nations General Assembly declared the decade from 2016 to 2025 as the Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Government of Nepal has been addressing all forms of malnutrition through continuous improvement and implementation of the National Nutrition Policy, Strategy, and Action Plans. The second Multisectoral Nutrition Plan is currently being implemented. Under Sustainable Development Goal 2, quantitative targets have been set to reduce malnutrition to 3% and underweight prevalence among children under five to 9% by 2030, as well as to reduce anemia among women of reproductive age and children to 10% by 2030.

From fiscal year 1995/96 to fiscal year 2021/22, Nepal has made remarkable progress in reducing severe malnutrition and stunting among children under five years old. The malnutrition rate has dropped from 57% to 25%, and the stunting rate from 15% to 8%. However, 43% of children under five and 23.1% of women aged 15 – 49 suffer from anemia. Particularly, anemia is increasing in children aged 6–23 months, with a prevalence of 65.7% in this age group. The Ministry of Health and Population has been implementing a strategic plan aimed at improving maternal, infant, and child nutrition status. To treat severe malnutrition, 21 districts have operational nutrition rehabilitation centers. To improve child health and nutrition, school health and nutrition strategies and programs are being implemented, integrating school education with child health and nutrition. Additionally, iron and folic acid tablets are being distributed to girls and adolescent females aged 10 to 19 to improve their iron levels.

Graph 5: Percent of malnutrition children (<5)



Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, child stunting in Nepal has been decreasing since 2001, dropping from 57% to 25%. Similarly, the percentage of underweight children has decreased from 43% to 19%, wasting has reduced from 11% to 8%, while overweight rates have remained unchanged.

2.4.1 Growth Monitoring

According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, child stunting in Nepal has been decreasing since 2001, dropping from 57% to 25%. Similarly, the percentage of underweight children has decreased from 43% to 19%, wasting has reduced from 11% to 8%, while overweight rates have remained unchanged.

Table 13: Children aged between 0-23 months registered for growth monitoring, 2021

FY	Percent of children aged between 0-23 months registered for growth monitoring							
	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	Nepal
2020/21	६१।१	८०।३	५९।८	७४।३	७६।९	१००।१	७७।५	७२।२
2021/22	७८।१	८५।४	९१।२	१०२।७	९२।३	१०२।६	१०३।७	९०।७
2022/23	८१	९०।३	७९	७४।७	६९।४	७४।४	६९।५	७८।९

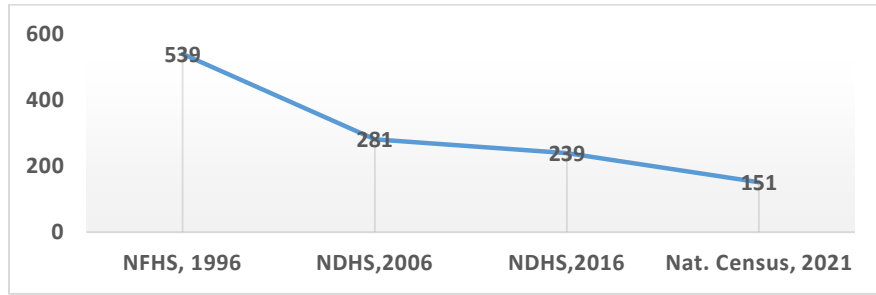
Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

In the past three fiscal years, the monitoring of child growth in Nepal has shown variations across provinces. Koshi Province and Madhesh Province have experienced positive growth. In Bagmati Province, the percentage was 91.2% in FY 2021/22 but decreased to 79% in FY 2022/80. Similarly, in Gandaki Province, it was 102.7% in FY 2021/22 and dropped to 74.7% in FY 2022/80. In Lumbini Province, the figure declined from 92.3% to 69.4%, in Karnali Province from 102.6% to 74.4%, and in Sudurpashchim Province from 103.7% to 69.5%.

2.5 Maternal Mortality Rate

According to the results of the National Census 2021, during the reference period of the survey (the 12 months prior to the census date), out of a total of 12,976 deaths of women in the reproductive age group (15–49 years), 653 (5 percent) deaths were related to pregnancy. According to a verbal autopsy conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, out of these pregnancy-related deaths, 622 (95 percent) were identified as maternal deaths. During this period, a total of 412,935 live births were recorded.

Graph 6: Status of maternal mortality rate (per 100,000/live birth)



Source: Ministry of Health and Population, 2023

Above graph shows the gradually improvement in the maternal mortality rate over the period.

Table 14: Province-wise maternal mortality rate (in per lakh/100 thousand)

Province	No. of death during pregnancy	No. of maternal death	No. of livebirth children	Maternal mortality rate (in per lakh)
Koshi	१०४	१०१	६४१९०	१५७
Madhesh	१४६	१३५	९६५५७	१४०
Bagmati	७२	६९	७०३८०	९८
Gandaki	४६	४५	२७९४०	१६१
Lumbini	१६२	१५८	७६२४३	२०७
Karnali	५९	५४	३१३२३	१७२
Sudurpashchim	६४	६०	४६३०२	१३०
Nepal	६५३	६२२	४१२९३५	१५१

Source: National Census, 2021

According to the above table, the highest maternal mortality rate is in Lumbini Province, while the lowest is in Bagmati Province. Sudurpashchim and Madhesh Provinces have maternal mortality rates below the average, whereas Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali Provinces have rates above the average.

2.6 Rescue of Pregnant and Postpartum

Under the President Women Upliftment Program, a total of 713 pregnant and postpartum women have been rescued by air lifting till the end of the fiscal year of 2023/24 (July 15, 2024). Whereas such rescue was 161 in number in the last fiscal year.

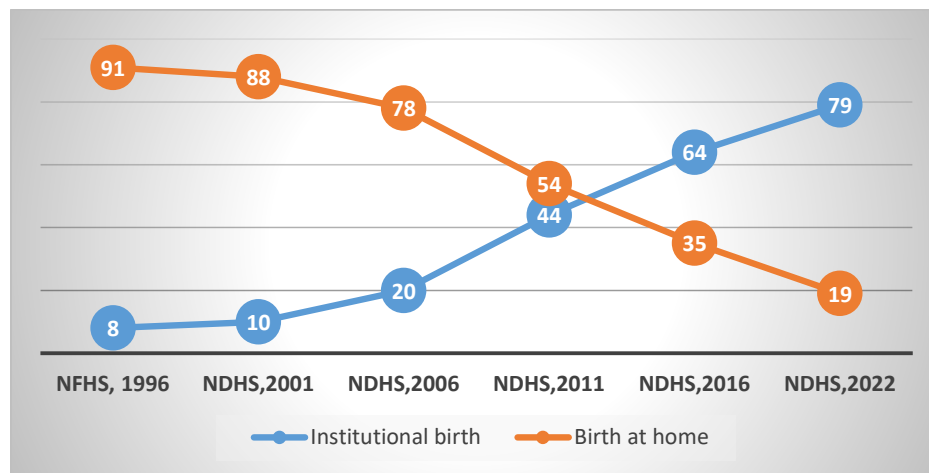
Table 15: Number of rescued pregnant and postpartum women by Province

FY	Koshi	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	Total
२०७५/७६	५	३	३	१	१३	१	२६
२०७६/७७	१०	१२	५	२	३६	२२	८७
२०७७/७८	२८	२७	५	२	२८	१३	१०३
२०२१/२२	५५	२७	७	२	५८	२०	१६९
२०२२/२३	४४	२२	११	३	५४	३३	१६७
२०२३/२४	६९	१६	५	३	३९	२९	१६१
Total	२११	१०७	३६	१३	२२८	११८	७१३

2.7 Institutional Birth

The Government of Nepal has set a national target to increase the percentage of pregnant women receiving antenatal care and giving birth at health facilities to 90% by 2030. According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, 79 percent of live births in Nepal occurred at health institutions. Among these, the majority (62%) children were born in government health facilities. However, 19 percent of children are still born at home. The percentages of children born in health facilities and at home from 1996 to 2022, based on the Nepal Demographic and Health Surveys, are presented in the graph below.

Graph 7: Details of birth at home and institution (in percent)

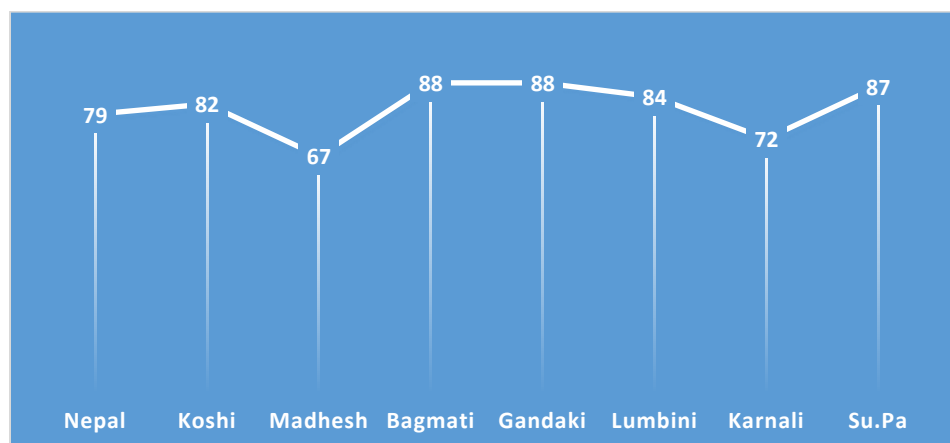


Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

The percentage of children born in health institutions has increased significantly. In 1996, only 8% of children were born in health facilities, whereas by 2022, this figure had risen to 79%. However, 19% of children are still born at home.

The details of institutional birth of children by province is presented in the graph below.

Graph 8: Details of institutional birth by Province (in percent)



Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2022

According to provinces, the percentage of children born in health institutions compared to the national average of 79% is as follows: Koshi Province has 83%, Lumbini 84%, Sudurpashchim 78%, Gandaki 81%, and Bagmati 80%, which are all higher than the national average. Meanwhile, Madhesh Province has a lower percentage at 67%, and Karnali Province at 72%.

2.8 Health Institution and Staff

According to the World Health Organization, the minimum standard is to have 1 physician per 1,000 population. From the perspective of human resource production in the health sector, Nepal has 1.15 physicians and 2.54 nurses per 1,000 population. By to mid-March 2024, the number of health personnel or human resources working in government health services increased to 102,686 compared to mid-July 2022. This number was 102,507 by mid-March 2022. Similarly, by mid-March 2023, the number of health institutions reached 7,828.

Table 16: Health institutions and health staff

Details	Till July 15					February 2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Institution	४५१३	५७१७	७१५४	७५६६	७५९८	७८२८
Hospitals	१२३	१२५	१२५	१२५	१५४	२१५
Primary Healthcare Centre	२०३	२०३	२०३	२०५	१९६	२०१
Health Post	३८०३	३८०५	३८०५	३८७०	३८५३	३८२०
Ayurvedic institutions	३८४	३८४	३९५	३९५	४२४	४२६
Sub-health Post/Basic Health Service Centre	०	१२००	२६२६	२९७१	२९७१	३१९६
Hospital beds	८१७२	८१७२	८१७२	११६४०	१५७९०	१६५४१
Human resources	९०८०३	९०९४६	९०९४६	९०३६९	९७४४९	१०२६८६
Doctors	२६४०	२६४०	२६४०	२६४०	४६६०	६२०१
Nurse/ANM	२०५१०	२०६५३	२०६५३	२०६५३	२४६९३	२७६९८
Kabiraj	६१३	६१३	६१३	६१३	६१३	६८४
Vaidya	६९३	६९३	६९३	६९३	६९३	६९३
Health Assistant (HA, AHW)	१४३४७	१४३४७	१४३४७	१४३४७	१५३६७	१५९८७
Female Health Volunteer	५२०००	५२०००	५२०००	५१४२३	५२०००	५१४२३

Source: Ministry of Health and Population, 2023

Till July 15, 2022 the number of doctors was 4660, whereas it increased to 6201 in February, 2023. Similarly, number of hospitals and other health institutions, and hospital beds increased in 2023.

2.9 Prevention and Treatment of Children with Disabilities

Although comprehensive national integrated data on the treatment and prevention of children with disabilities is not available, indicative information has been collected. According to data obtained from Hospital and Rehabilitation Center of disabled children (HRDC), Banepa, Kavrepalanchok, information regarding the treatment and prevention of children with disabilities is presented in the table below.

Table 17: Disabilities prevention and treatment of children with disabilities

Detail	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Boys	Girls	Total
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Beneficiaries	१५०७१	२०१२३	२१३१८	३५३७८	२११३४	५६५१२
Rehabilitated children with disabilities after treatment	२९७	३७५	४६६	६८४	४५४	११३८
Orientation program on disabilities prevention	२९८६	४२२९	३२२५	६२८२	४१८६	१०४६८
Orientation program on child rights including guardians)	९३५६	११२१५	१४१५९	२०८३९	१३८९१	३४७३०

Source: Hospital and Rehabilitation Center of Disabled Children (HRDC), 2024

2.10 Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Children

Under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, quantitative targets have been set to prevent the incidence of HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and waterborne diseases. In addition, global quantitative targets have also been set to reduce premature mortality caused by non-communicable diseases by one-third by the year 2030.

(a) HIV: Innocent children have also been infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. To prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to newborn, programs such as the “Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission” are being implemented. Likewise, targeted programs for children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS are also in operation. Based on data received from the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, the statistics of children affected by HIV infection and those undergoing treatment with Antiretroviral (ARV) medication are presented in the table below.

Table 18: Children affected by HIV infection

FY	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Girls	५२९	४३८	४१९
Boys	६११	५३६	५२६
Total	११४०	९७४	९४५

Source: National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, 2024

As of NCASC, a total of 945 children are infected by HIV in the fiscal year 2023/24. In which, 526 are boys and 419 are girls.

(b) Malaria: According to the Annual Report of the Department of Health Services, in the fiscal year 2023/24, malaria was found in 96 children under the age of 18.

(c) Neonatal Tetanus: In Nepal, the elimination of neonatal tetanus (NNT) was achieved in 2005 (2061/62 B.S.). In fiscal year 2023/24, two cases, one each from Sunsari and Dhanusha districts, were reported. The national incidence rate of NNT is 0.0039 per 1,000 live births.

(d) Children Affected by Diarrhea: In fiscal year 2022/23, the incidence of diarrhea among children under five years of age was 115.1 per 1,000 population. This represents a threefold decrease compared to previous fiscal years. Karnali Province had the highest number of affected children (216), while Bagmati Province had the lowest incidence (78.8). During the same fiscal year, four child deaths due to diarrhea were reported - one each in Bagmati, Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim Provinces. No deaths from diarrhea were recorded in Lumbini, Koshi, or Gandaki Provinces.

Table 19: Diarrhea affected children

Indicators	FY	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	National average
Estimated population of below 5 years (possibilities of diarrhea)	2020/21	497,208	634,058	652,626	251,327	514,162	183,481	297,726	3,028,588
	2021/22	435,078	652,567	430,599	195,210	475,002	183,858	249,611	2,621,925
	2022/23	427,512	650,000	424,617	191,859	470,407	182,776	249,515	2,596,686

Indicators	FY	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	National average
Diarrhea incidence (per 1000 population)	2020/21	298	339	213	235	357	653	547	339
	2021/22	310	325	311	263	347	595	601	365
	2022/23	79	129	79	83	110	216	162	115

Indicators	FY	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim	National average
Death from Diarrhea	2020/21	14	3	28	0	3	1	1	50
	2021/22	9	3	10	4	0	2	6	34
	2022/23	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4

Source: National Planning Commission, 2024

From the above table, it is seen that the diarrhea incidence (per 1000 population) is highest (216) in Karnali Province, whereas the death from diarrhea is highest in Bagmati Province in both FY 2020/21 and 2021/22. The death from diarrhea is seen remarkably decreased in the FY 2022/23.

2.11 Mental Health and Suicide

Mental health refers to psychological, emotional, and social well-being. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health problems as difficulties in managing every day and common stresses that interfere with an individual's ability to contribute to daily life, family, and society. The interrelationship between the mind, body, and society affects many aspects of health, which we understand as psychosocial conditions. When there is a lack of harmony between the mind, body, and society, individuals may experience feelings of sadness, distress, lack of love and respect, frustration, and helplessness, which are recognized as psychosocial problems.

According to data obtained from Kanti Children's Hospital, in the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 6,589 children with various types of mental and psychosocial problems received treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation services. The number of children with different types of mental health and psychosocial problems by age group is presented in the table below:

Table 20: Mental health and psycho-social services provided children and adolescents

S.N.	Age group	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	0-6 years	१२४५	७०५	१९५०
2.	7-11 years	७५९	४९३	१२५२
3.	12-14 years	४४५	४९२	९३७

4.	15 years ad above	३२१	३०७	६२८
Total		२७७०	१९१७	४६८७

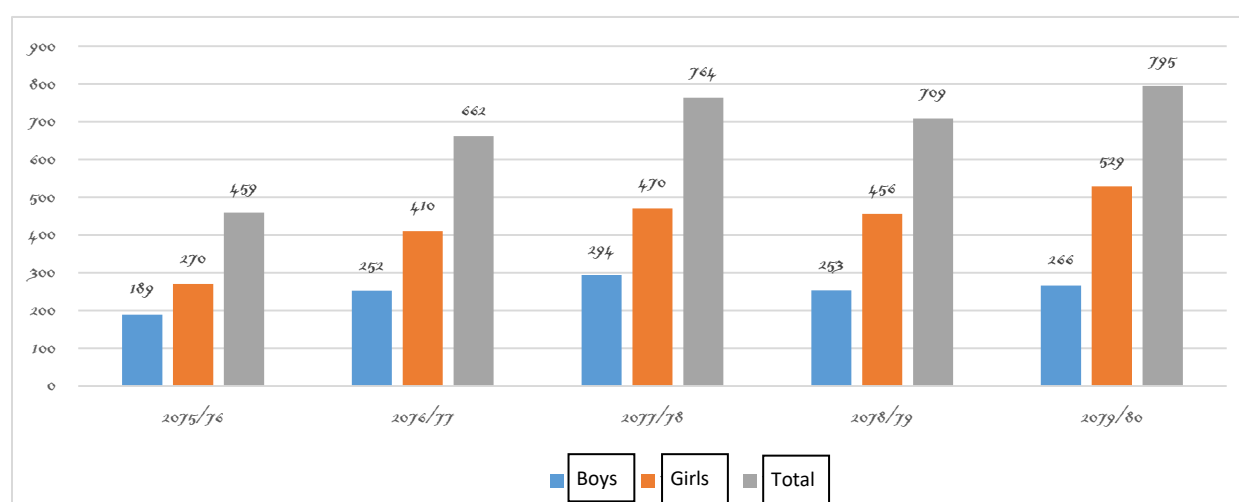
Source: Kanti Child Hospital, 2024

From the above table, among the children and adolescents receiving mental health and psychosocial treatment services, the highest percentage (37.48%) belongs to the 0–6 years age group.

The mental health of children can also be affected by the mental health of their parents. Factors such as early childhood upbringing, domestic violence within the family, poverty, stressful work environments, addiction to technology, and other similar causes can lead to mental health problems in children and may escalate to serious psychosocial issues. These problems can even lead to suicide.

According to the Nepal Police's study on Suicide Reduction and Management, 2024, in the fiscal year 2022/23, 795 children committed suicide. The related data is presented in the table below.

Graph 9: Number of suicidal case of children



Source: Nepal Police Headquarter, 2024

From the above table, the number of girls who committed suicide is higher among the children who died by suicide. Among the total children who committed suicide, the percentage of girls is 66.50%. Except for the fiscal year 2021/22, in all other years, the number of children committing suicide increased compared to the previous year.

2.12 Child Pregnancy

According to data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, 14% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 have experienced pregnancy before reaching adulthood. Adolescent pregnancy is highest in Karnali Province at 21%, followed by Madhesh Province at 20%, and lowest in Bagmati Province at 8%.

2.13 Status of Sustainable Development Goals

Health related SDGs, indicators and status of 2022 is presented in the table below.

Table 21: Access to health care service for all

Key indicators	Baseline	Goal for 2030	Goal for 2022	Status of 2022
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live birth)	২৫৮	৩০	৭৭৬	৭৫৭
Under five mortality rates	৩৮	২০	২৩	৩৩
Neonatal mortality rate	২৩	৭২	৭৬	২৭
Ratio of reproductive age women with family planning need satisfied with modern methods	৬৬	৮০	৩৪	৫৫.৭৭
Contraceptive prevalence rate of reproductive aged women using any modern methods	৪৩	৬০	৫৩	৪৩
Total fertility rate (per woman)	২.১৩	২.১৭	২.১৭	২.১৭

Source: National Planning Commission, 2023

From the above table, it is found that SDG 3 aims to promote the living standard of all age group people by ensuring their healthy lives. Under this goal, a mix achievement has been achieved. In which, it is found that MMR decreased and delivery services receiving numbers increased. Except the target of total fertility rate, all other targets are not met in 2022.

Chapter - 3

Child Rights to Development

3.1 Background

This chapter analyzes the current status of the implementation of children's rights to education and development in Nepal. It provides information on how provisions under Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as the right to education, compulsory and free education, general and vocational education, and secondary education, are being applied in Nepal.

It also describes the situation regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and quality education for all, guarantee free and equitable primary and secondary education, expand access to early childhood development, care and pre-primary education, and achieve gender equality in education.

Additionally, the paragraph presents data related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the SDGs, including the number of children enrolled in early childhood development centers, the number of schools, teachers and students and their ratios, enrollment rates at primary and secondary levels, inclusion and retention in school education, children studying in special schools, and children engaged in informal education systems.

3.2 Early Childhood Development and Children

Constitutional provisions ensure access to quality education and development in Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED). Nepal has expressed its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.2, aiming to ensure access to quality early childhood development education for children by 2030.

The objectives of the School Education Sector Plan (SESP) include ensuring that all four-year-old children have access to, participate in, and complete quality ECED, and that all four-year-olds achieve physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development and school readiness.

According to the Flash Report, 2023/24 by the Education and Human Resource Development Center, there are a total of 40,684 Early Childhood Development Centers and Pre-primary Classes, which is an increase of 28 from the previous year. Among these, 33,061 centers/classes (81.3%) are government-run and based in schools and communities, while 2,659 (6.5%) are run by local governments in schools/communities, which is slightly less than the previous year's figure of 3,388 (8.5%).

The number of privately-run ECED/PPCs, however, has increased, rising from 6,894 in the Flash Report, 2022/23 to 7,623, which is considered the result of the expansion of Montessori education across Nepal. Additionally, the number of ECED/PPCs run by religious schools is 566 (1.4%), which is more than last year's 538 (1.3%).

Table 22: Number of early childhood development centre/pre-primary class by Province and its types

Province	Total	School-based		Religious	Institutional
		Federal level	Local level		
Koshi	७९५२	५८८६	४२४	७८	१५६४
Madhesh	५८५०	४१८३	३२५	१७०	११७२
Bagmati	७३८३	४८६२	४८१	११	२०२९
Gandaki	४२६४	३३२०	२९२	१२	६४०
Lumbini	७२५६	५३२४	३९०	२८७	१२५५
Karnali	३३४५	२७६९	३३२	३	२४१
Sudurpashchim	४६३४	३४९२	४१५	५	७२२
Nepal	४०६८४	२९८३६	२६५९	५६६	७६२३

Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

Above table shows that the highest number of ECD/PPC is in Koshi Province, 19.5 percent, followed by Bagmati Province 18.1 percent, Lumbini Province 17.8 percent, Madhesh Province 14.4 percent, Sudurpashchim Province 11.3 percent, Gandaki Province 10.5 percent and Karnali Province 8.2 percent respectively. In regards to institutional ECD/PPC, Bagmati Province has 26.6 percent which is the highest percent among others. The number of ECD centre and number of enrolled children, enrollment rate and gender ratio from the academic year 2021 to 2023 is presented in the table given below.

Table 23: Enrollment number, rate and gender ratio of children in early childhood development centre

Academic year	No. of children	Enrollment rate	Gender ratio
२०२१	१०,१०,१९५	८९।६	०।९२
२०२२	१२,०८,४२५	९४।९	०।९५
२०२३	१२,८६,५२६	९९।९	०।९३

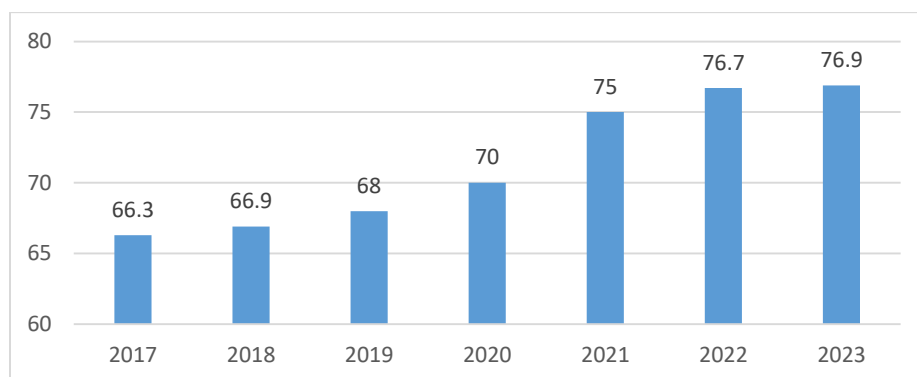
Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

The above table shows that the number of enrolled children in the ECD and the enrollment rate is increased throughout the given academic year. The gender ratio decreased by 0.02 in the year 2023 as compared to the previous year.

3.2.1 Students enrolled in grade one from the experience of early childhood development centre

The increment in ECD centre indicates the importance of early childhood development among general public. The following table presents the percent of enrollment of ECD experienced children to grade one.

Graph 10: Percent of enrollment in grade one from the experience of ECD



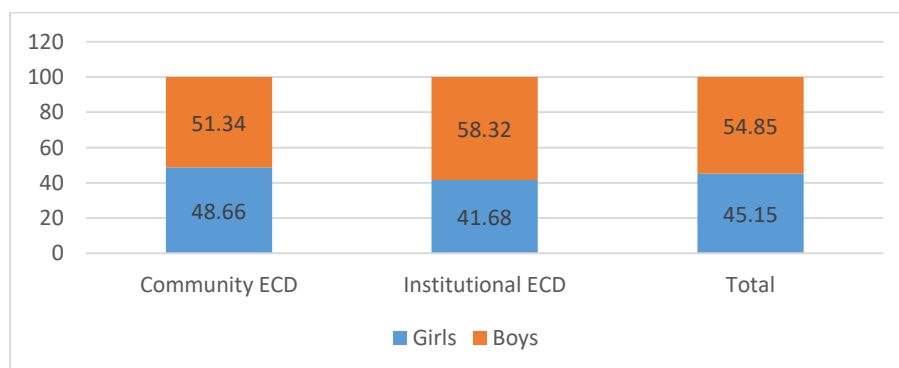
Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

The above table shows that the enrollment percent of ECD experienced children to grade one has been constantly increasing from the academic year 2017 to 2023. It is good indication for betterment at the primary education level.

3.2.2 Enrollment of children in the ECD centre/Pre-primary class

In the academic year 2023, a total of 1,286,526 children enrolled in the ECD class in which 50.3 percent is in institutional schools and 49.7 percent in the community schools/child development centres. The following table presents gender-wise enrollment percent in community and institutional ECD centres.

Graph 11: Percent of enrolled children (boys and girls) in ECD centre/Pre-primary class



Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

The above graph shows that the percent of girls' enrollment is less than that of boys. It may be simply because of low population of girls as compared to the boys.

3.2.3 Dalit, ethnic and Madheshi children in Early Childhood Development Centre

The number of Dalit, ethnic and Madheshi children is noticeably high in the ECD centres. The following table presents that information from the academic year 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Table 24: Percent of Dalit, ethnic and Madhesi children in early childhood development centre

Academic year and children	Total
Total children, 2021	१,०१०,१९५
Dalit %	१८।०
Ethnic %	३६।२
Madhesi %	१६।२
Total children, 2022	१,२०८,४२५
Dalit %	१६।८
Ethnic %	३४।९
Madhesi %	१६।६
Total children, 2023	1,286,526
Dalit %	16.2
Ethnic %	34.5
Madhesi %	17.6
Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023	

The above table shows that the enrollment rate of Dalit and ethnic children is gradually decreasing throughout the three years. On the contrary, the rate of Madhesi children is increasing gradually throughout those years.

3.2.4 Children with disabilities in Early Childhood Development Centre

In the academic session 2022/23, there were 3,924 children with disabilities (2,288 boys and 1,636 girls) enrolled in Early Childhood Development Centers. In the academic session 2023/24, the number of children with disabilities enrolled in Early Childhood Development Centers increased to 4,903 (2,896 boys and 2,007 girls). Among these, 2,890 children are enrolled in community school-based Early Childhood Development Centers, while 2,013 children are enrolled in institutional schools.

The number of children enrolled in Early Childhood Development Centers by the nature of their disability is presented in the table below.

Table 25: Children with disabilities in ECD centre

S.N.	Types of disabilities	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Multiple disabilities	१७१	१२७	२९८
2.	Haemophilia	१०	६	१६
3.	Mental disorder	६२	५२	११४
4.	Autism	११७	३७	१५४
5.	Speech or language impairment	१७८	८३	२६१
6.	Blindness	२५	१३	३८
7.	Orthopaedic impairment	८४	६०	१४४
8.	Fully blindness	१५२	११८	२७०
9.	Hearing impairment	२५	२०	४५
10.	Deafness	२०८	१३०	३३८

11.	Intellectual disability	୧୭୯	୧୨୬	୩୦୫
12.	Physical disabilities	୧୬୮୦	୧୨୩୨	୨୯୧୨
13.	Deaf-blindness	୫	୩	୮
Total		୨୮୬୬	୨୦୦୭	୪୯୦୩

Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

Above table shows that the number of children is highest (2912) in the category of physical disabilities, and lowest number (8 children) in the category of deaf-blindness. It is required to raise awareness on the prevention measures against disabilities at the community and family level.

3.3 Educational Indicator

In the academic session 2023/24, the net enrollment rate for secondary level (Grades 9–12) increased by 0.5 percentage points compared to the previous year, reaching 57.9%. The net enrollment rate for Grade 1 is 95.7%, while the net enrollment rates for basic level (Grades 1–5) and basic level (Grades 1–8) are 95.6% and 95.1% respectively. In the previous academic session, these enrollment rates were 97.1% and 96.1% respectively. The net enrollment rate in Grade 1 and the basic levels has declined due to an increasing trend of children staying more than one year in Early Childhood Development classes and a decrease in population growth rate.

In recent years, student retention rates have progressively improved. In the academic session 2023/24, retention rates up to Grade 8 reached 86.2%, up to Grade 10 reached 69.9%, and up to Grade 12 reached 37.2%. In the academic session 2022, these retention rates were 85.7% and 35.6% respectively.

Table 26: Educational indicator

Indicators	୨୦୨୧	୨୦୨୨	୨୦୨୩	
Basic education (Including Early Childhood Development/Pre-primary education)				
GER in pre-primary education	୮୧.୧୬	୯୪.୧୯	୯୯.୧୯	
Enrollment percentage in grade one with experience in pre-primary education	୭୪.୧୯	୭୬.୧୭	୭୬.୧୯	
GER in grade one	୧୨୭.୦	୧୨୫.୧୭	୧୧୫.୧୯	
NER in grade one	୯୬.୧୩	୯୫.୧୯	୯୫.୧୭	
GER (grade 1-5)	୧୨୨.୧୦	୧୨୧.୧୫	୧୨୪.୧୮	
NER (grade 1-5)	୯୬.୧୯	୯୭.୧୧	୯୫.୧୬	
GER (grade 1-8)	୧୧୮.୧୦	୧୧୯.୧୩	୧୨୦.୧୪	
NER (grade 1-8)	୯୫.୧୧	୯୬.୧୧	୯୫.୧୧	
GPI in NER in grade 1-8	୧୧୦	୧୧୦	୧୧୦	
Retention rate in grade 8	୮୫.୧୧	୮୫.୧୭	୮୬.୧୨	
Basic education completion rate	୭୬.୧୨	୭୭.୧୧	୮୦.୧୩	
Percent of out-of-school children (between 5-12 years)	୪୧.୯	୩୧.୯	୪୧.୯	
Percent of reading ability of students in grade 3	୪୩.୭	NA	NA	
Secondary education (grade 9-12)				
NER of grade 9-10	୭୬.୧୧	୭୬.୧୫	୭୬.୧୫	

NER of grade 9-12	५४।३	५७।४	५७।९	
Survival rate up to grade 10	६६।१	६७।३	६९।९	
Survival rate up to grade 12	१।०	१।०	०।९	
Literacy rate				
Literacy rate (6+ yrs)	७८।०	७६।३	७६।३	
Literacy rate (15-24 yrs)	८८।६	९४।२	९४।२	
Literacy rate (15+ yrs)	५८।०	७१।२	७१।२	

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

The above table provides information on various indicators related to Nepal's basic and secondary education, literacy rates, and student retention rates in schools. It includes data over three years (2021–2023) on enrollment and retention from early childhood development through secondary level. The total enrollment rate in early childhood development and pre-primary education increased from 89.6% in 2021 to 99.9% in 2023, indicating a significant increase in access to early childhood education. The percentage of students enrolling in Grade 1 from pre-primary education rose from 74.9% in 2021 to 76.7% in 2022 and 76.9% in 2023. There have been minor fluctuations in both gross and net enrollment rates for Grades 1–5 and 1–8. The gender parity rate for Grades 1–8 has remained stable, indicating equal access for both genders. The net enrollment rate for Grades 9–10 is 76.5%, while enrollment in Grades 9–12 increased from 54.3% in 2021 to 57.9% in 2023.

3.4 School, Student, Teacher and Enrollment Rate

The section presents information on the number of schools, students, teachers and school enrollment rate by grade and province.

Table 27: Details of school

Types	Community	Traditional/ Religious	Community (including traditional)	Institutional	Total
Basic level (grade 1-5)	१४६५२	११५०	१५८०२	१८१५	१७६१७
Basic level (grade 1-8)	४८२१	१५१	४९७२	१७९५	६७६७
Secondary level (grade 1-10)	३४७४	५९	३५३३	३१३९	६६७२
Secondary level (grade 1-12)	३६५९	५९	३६८३	११३७	४८२०
Total	२६६०६	१३८४	२७९९०	७८८६	३५८७६

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

According to the Flash Report 2023 of the Education and Human Resource Development Center, there are a total of 35,876 schools across Nepal. In the academic year 2023, the total number of schools reached 35,876. This number was 36,032 in the previous academic year. Among the total schools, 74.1% are community schools, 22.0% are institutional schools, and 3.9% are traditional/religious schools. Specifically, there are 27,990 (78%) community schools and the remaining 7,886 (22%) institutional schools. In the academic year 2022, there were 28,659 (79.53%) community schools and 7,373 (20.46%) institutional schools.

Table 28: Province-wise school

Province	Total school	Community		Institutional	
		School	%	School	%
Koshi	६९६२	५३५९	७७।०	१६०३	२३।०
Madhesh	४८०६	३५०९	७३	१२९७	२७।०
Bagmati	६८३७	४७४३	६९।४	२०९४	३०।६
Gandaki	४०४४	३४०७	८४।२	६३७	१५।८
Lumbini	५८००	४५३१	७८।१	१२६९	२१।९
Karnali	३२३३	२९८३	९२।३	२५०	७।७
Sudurpashchim	४१९४	३४५८	८२।५	७३६	१७।५
Total	३५८७६	२७९९०	७८।०	७८८६	२२।०

Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

According to the presented table, the percentage of community schools (including religious schools) in Karnali Province is 92.3%, Gandaki 34.2%, Sudurpashchim 8.5%, Lumbini 78.1%, Koshi 77%, Madhesh 73%, and Bagmati Province 69.4%. Comparatively, private and institutional schools are more prevalent in Bagmati, Madhesh, and Koshi provinces than in other provinces.

Table 29: School level, student and student-teacher ratio

School level	No. of student per school	Student-teacher ratio (Based on approved teacher quota)
Basic level (grade 1-5)	८५।२	२९।६
Basic level (grade 6-8)	१०९	८१।४
Secondary level (grade 9-10)	१०९।७	६१।६
Secondary level (grade 11-12)	१३९।८	२६८।५

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

In the academic year 2023, the student-to-school ratio in community schools was 85.2 at the basic level (grades 1–5), 109 at the basic level (grades 6–8), 109.7 at the secondary level (grades 9–10), and 139.8 at the secondary level (grades 11–12). Similarly, based on the approved capacity, the student-to-school ratio was highest at the secondary level (grades 11–12) with 268.5 and lowest at the basic level (grades 1–5) with 29.6.

Table 30: Number of school students from academic year 2019 to 2023

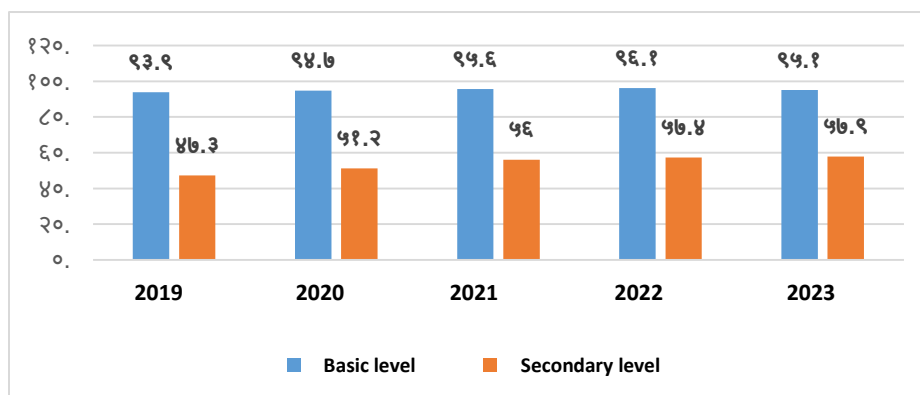
Level of school	२०१९	२०२०	२०२१	२०२२	२०२३
Basic level (grade 1-5)	३५४३८६२	३५१८९५०	३५४८६३६	३६१०६०३	३५१९२१४
Basic level (grade 6-8)	१७७५१४२	१८१६७७६	१७७७३४४	१८२७४३३	१८५२४९३
Secondary level (grade 9-10)	१०४०९७६	१०६४८१५	१०७९३५२	१०६३३८५	१०४५०९२
Secondary level (grade 11-12)	६६१६४२	६८०२२१	६१७५५९	७३५९५३	७२६४६३
Total	७०२३६९८	७०८२८३९	७०२४९६९	७२३९३५३	७१४३२६२

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

In the academic year 2023, the student-to-school ratio in community schools was 85.2 at the basic level (grades 1–5), 109 at the basic level (grades 6–8), 109.7 at the secondary level (grades 9–10), and 139.8 at

the secondary level (grades 11–12). Similarly, based on the approved capacity, the student-to-school ratio was highest at the secondary level (grades 11–12) with 268.5 and lowest at the basic level (grades 1–5) with 29.6.

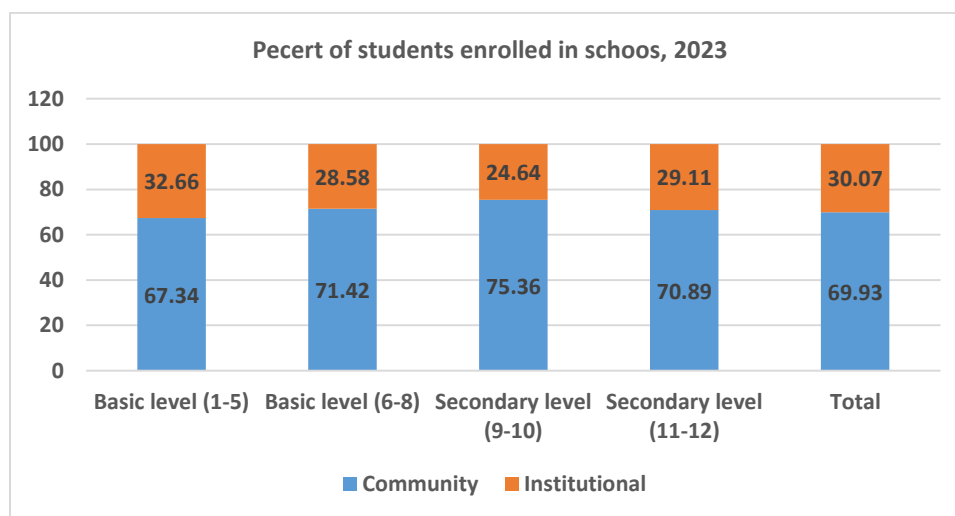
Graph 12: Net enrollment rate



Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

The net enrollment rate in secondary level (grades 9–12) has been increasing continuously over the years. In the academic year 2023, the net enrollment rate in the basic level decreased by one percentage point compared to the previous year, whereas the net enrollment rate in the secondary level increased by 0.5 percentage points.

Graph 13: Percent of students enrolled in school, 2023



Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

In the academic year 2023, 69.9% of students were studying in community schools, while 30.1% were enrolled in institutional (private or formal) schools. Among the total schools, 78.0% were community schools.

Table 31: Level-wise student enrollment rate in the academic year 2023

School level	Gross enrollment rate			Net enrollment rate		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Basic level (grade 1-5)	१२४।३	१२५।२	१२४।८	९५।६	९७।७	९५।६
Basic level (grade 6-8)	११९।४	११२।७	११६।१	९४।३	९४।५	९४।४
Basic level (grade 1-8)	१२१।९	११९।०	१२०।४	९५।०	९५।१	९५।१
Secondary level (grade 9-10)	९७।३	१००।१	९८।७	७५।७	७७।३	७६।५
Secondary level (grade 11-12)	६९।८	६९।९	६९।९	५५।८	५९।९	५७।९

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

In the academic year 2023, although the total enrollment rate of female students was higher at the basic level (grades 1–8), the total enrollment rate of male students was higher at the secondary level (grades 9–12). In the academic year 2022, in community schools operating under the Nepal government, a total of 127,896 teachers were employed, including 102,035 teachers appointed for grades 1–5 and 25,861 teachers for grades 6–8. Similarly, there were 21,358 teachers at the secondary level (grades 9–12).

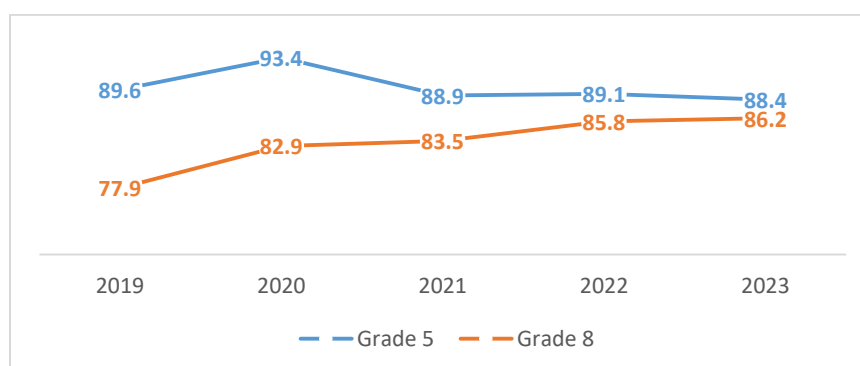
Table 32: Teacher-student ratio in community schools (Government appointed teachers)

S.N.	School level	Total	Female	Male	Student-teacher ratio
1.	Basic level (grade 1-5)	१०२०३५	४५२३७	५६७९८	२३.९
2.	Basic level (grade 6-8)	२५८६१	६९८७	१८८७४	५१.९
3.	Basic level (grade 1-8)	१२७८९६	५२२२४	७५६२७	२९.९
4.	Secondary level (grade 9-10)	१९५२०	३२७०	१६२५०	४०.९
5.	Secondary level (grade 11-12)	५८५९	७५१	५१०८	५८.९
6.	Secondary level (grade 9-12)	२१३५८	४०२१	२१३५८	५१.९

Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

In addition to 102,035 teachers at the basic level (grades 1–5) and 25,861 teachers at the basic level (grades 6–8) appointed by the school, community schools have privately appointed 14,908 teachers at grades 1–5 and 5,957 teachers at grades 6–8. Thus, community schools have a total of 20,865 such privately appointed teachers at the basic level (grades 1–8).

Graph 14: Survival rate of grade 5 & 8 in the last 5 years



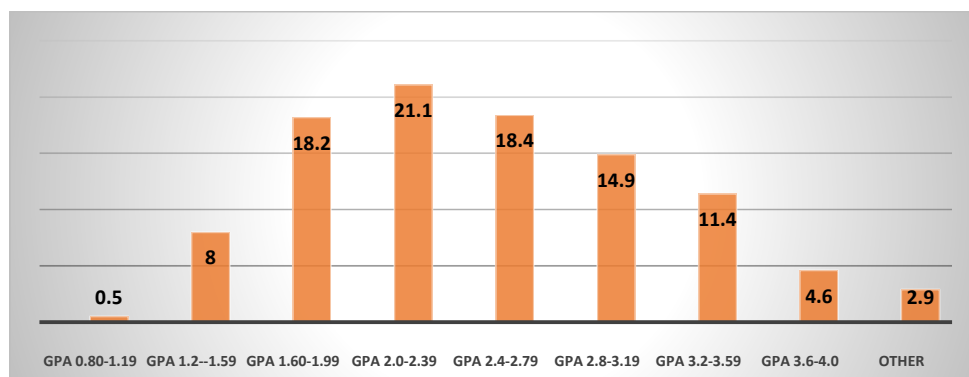
Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

In the academic year 2023, the retention rate for grade 5 decreased by 0.7 percentage points compared to the previous year, dropping to 88.4 percent, while the retention rate for grade 8 increased by 0.4 percentage points, reaching 86.2 percent.

3.5 Secondary Education Examination (SEE)

Among the 484,924 examinees who appeared in the Secondary Education Examination 2022, 47.8% of the students scored a GPA between 0.80 and 2.40, while 52.2% scored a GPA between 2.40 and 4.00.

Graph 15: Percent of SEE passed students, 2022



Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2023

The highest percent of students (21.1) secured GPA from 2.0 – 2.39. On the whole, 4.6 percent students secured GPA 4.0.

3.6 Sustainable Development Goals Determined Key Indicators of Quality Education

Table 33: Indicators of quality education for all

Main indicators	Baseline	Goal for 2030	Goal for 2022	Status of 2022
Expected school years	୧୨।୭	-	-	୧୨।୬
Average school years	୪.୭୦	-	-	୪।୫
NER (Primary level grade 1-5)	୯୬।୬	୯୯।୫	୯୯।୦	୯୭।୧
Success rate (Primary level grade 1-5)	୮୦।୬	୯୫।୦	୯୩।୧	୭୭।୧
NER (Basic level grade 1-8)	୭୬।୬	୯୫।୦	୯୨।୦	୮୫।୭
GER (Secondary level grade 1-12)	୫୬।୭	୯୯।୦	୯୦।୦	୮୩।୦
Youth literacy rate (15-24 years)	୮୮।୬	୯୯।୦୦	୯୫।୦	୯୩।୮

Source: National Planning Commission, 2023

Under Sustainable Development Goal 4, the aim is to ensure inclusive and quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all. Significant achievements have been made in this regard. The net enrollment rates at the basic and secondary levels have been improving, and youth literacy rates have increased notably.

3.7 Dalit, Ethnic and Disable Children in School Education

In the academic year 2022/23, Dalit children made up 17.96% of the total students enrolled at the basic level (grades 1–8). However, this percentage slightly declined to 17.7% in the academic year (2023/24). Similarly, the proportion of Janajati (indigenous) children decreased from 32.5% to 32.2% over the same period. The table below presents the percentage of Dalit and Janajati children enrolled at both the basic and secondary levels from academic years 2021 to 2023.

Table 34: Percentage of Dalit and Ethnic children in the total student, 2078-2023

Education level	2021		2022		2023	
	Dalit %	Ethnicity %	Dalit %	Ethnicity %	Dalit %	Ethnicity %
Basic (1-8)	१८।२	३३।२	१७।९६	३२।५	१७।७	३२।२
Secondary (9-12)	१२।३	३५।६	१२।७	३५।९	१२।६	३५।२

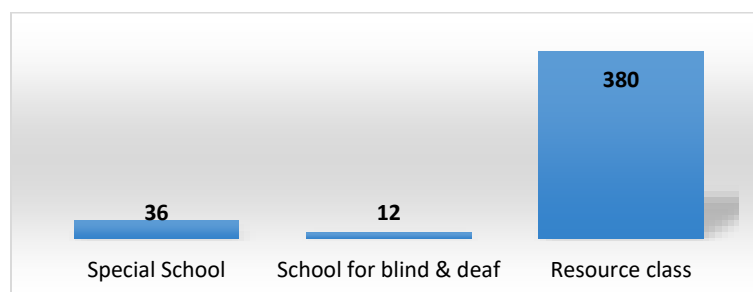
Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

According to the Flash Report 2023 from the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development, the total number of students from the Dalit and Janajati communities is 223,745 and 623,606 respectively. At the secondary level (grades 9–12), Dalit students account for 12.6% of the total, while Janajati students make up 35.2%. The proportion of Dalit students at the secondary level is significantly lower than their representation at the basic level (grades 1–8), which was 17.96%. In contrast, the percentage of Janajati students at the secondary level is higher compared to their 33.51% representation at the basic level.

3.7.1 Education of Children with Disabilities

A total of 33 special schools and 23 integrated schools are currently in operation to enhance access to education for children with disabilities. Additionally, there are 380 resource classes established to support children with disabilities. For children with visual impairments, Braille textbooks are being provided free of cost.

Graph 16: Special school and resource classes



Source: Center for Education and Human Resources Development, Flash I Report, 2023

Many efforts have been made to include children with disabilities either in regular classrooms or in separate special schools designed for them. As a result, 36 special schools are currently operating across the country. Among them, 12 schools are specifically dedicated to the education of visually impaired and hearing-impaired students. Additionally, 380 resource classes have been established to support students with disabilities.

3.7.2 Scholarship for Children with Disabilities

Due to the scholarships received by children with disabilities, they have not only been able to access education but have also benefited in terms of personal development. In the academic year (2023/24), a total of 53,680 children with disabilities received both residential and non-residential scholarships in basic and secondary education. The same number of children with disabilities had received such scholarships in the previous fiscal year as well.

3.8 Educational Infrastructure Construction in Earthquake Affected Areas

So far, the reconstruction of 7,537 schools in the 31 districts affected by the 2015 earthquake has been completed, while 40 schools are currently under construction.

3.9 School Mid-day Meal Program

In the academic year 2023, a total of 3,009,640 students enrolled in community schools from Early Childhood Education to Grade 5 across the country are directly benefited from the Mid-Day Meal Program. In the previous academic year, the number of beneficiaries was 3,113,684.

3.10 Scholarship Program

In the academic year 2023, a total of 1,143,631 students enrolled in community schools received various types of scholarships. By the end of February 2024, a total of NPR. 2.36 billion (Rs. 2,36,75,39,000) had been provided under scholarship programs. This initiative has contributed to increasing the retention rate of students from targeted groups in schools.

3.11 Information Technology in School Education

Out of the 27,990 community schools operating across the country, 58.1% have expanded Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and infrastructure. In the previous academic year, 25.1% of schools had established IT laboratories. Similarly, 69.6% of schools had access to alternative electronic resources, and 43.1% of schools were equipped with broadband internet connectivity.

Chapter - 4

Child Rights to Protection

4.1 Background

The Constitution of Nepal has guaranteed the right to child protection as a fundamental right. Similarly, the Children's Act, 2018 reinforces this by aligning with the Civil Code, 2017, which states that - any action committed by a child below 10 years of age shall not be considered a crime; if an offense is committed by a child but instigated by an adult, the adult shall be held liable; there shall be no discrimination between sons and daughters or among children of any gender; and violence and sexual abuse against children are strictly prohibited. Being a specialized legislation, the Children Act, 2075 provides 21 categories of rights across 13 sections, covering various aspects of child protection and welfare.

Furthermore, institutional and mechanism-based frameworks have been established to protect and promote child rights. The Local Government Operation Act, 2017 mandates local governments to carry out responsibilities related to - child birth registration and information management; protection and management of street children, orphans, helpless, disabled, and mentally ill children; prevention and response to child marriage, gender-based violence, untouchability, bonded labor practices such as *Haliya*, *Chhaupadi*, *Kamalari*, child labor, and human trafficking; and eliminating harmful social norms and superstitions that negatively impact children. These provisions collectively form a robust legal foundation for ensuring the rights and protection of children in Nepal.

The UNRC is the main document that is in practice in course of protection and promotion of the rights of the child all over the world except a few exceptional. The provisions in the Convention are supposed to as international law regarding the rights of the child. Moreover, the Convention highlights the need for special attention and protection for refugee children, children with disabilities, children belonging to minority or indigenous communities, protection against child labor, protection from drug abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking, smuggling, and abduction, safeguarding children from all forms of exploitation and abuse, protection of children affected by armed conflicts. State parties are obligated to pay special attention and implement measures addressing these issues to ensure the holistic protection and well-being of children.

Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework include the concerns of children. For example - **Goal 1** aims to implement at the national level appropriate social protection systems and measures that cover everyone, including the poor and vulnerable populations, ensuring their inclusion within social security coverage; **Goal 5** focuses on ending all forms of discrimination against women, adolescent girls, and children, and eliminating violence against women, girls, and adolescents in both public and private spheres. It also targets the eradication of child marriage, early marriage, forced marriage, and other harmful practices; **Goal 8** calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor, recruitment, and use of child soldiers, with the aim of completely ending all forms of child labor by 2025 through effective and immediate measures; **Goal 17** emphasizes ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture, and all forms of violence against children; and **Goal 19** focuses on providing all children with legal identity, including birth registration and other forms of legal recognition.

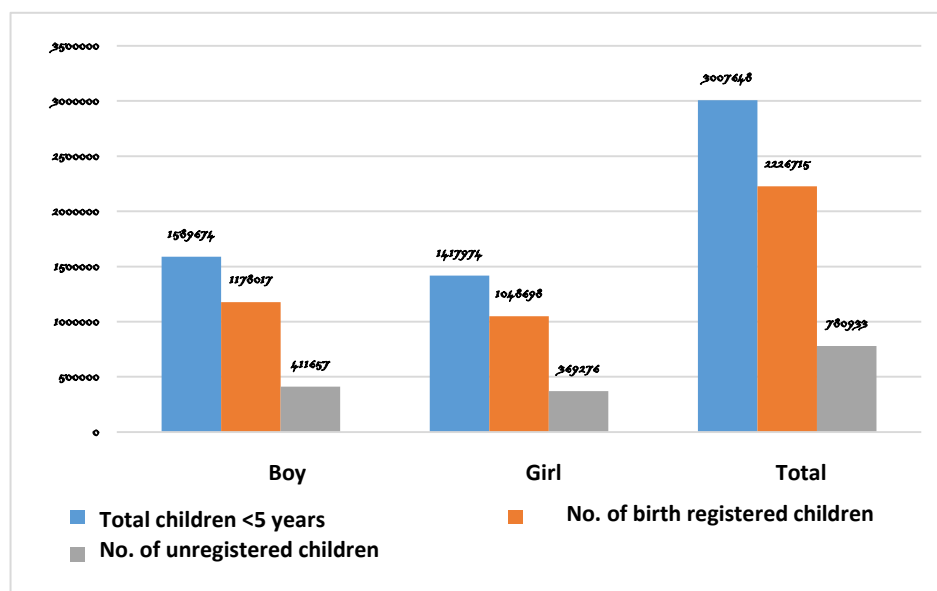
These goals collectively work toward ensuring the protection, dignity, and rights of children and vulnerable groups in Nepal and worldwide.

This chapter encompasses the constitutional, legal, and policy frameworks related to the rights of child protection in Nepal, as well as the status of implementation of international commitments and the current situation of child protection. Fundamentally, it discusses key aspects such as the protection, identification, and citizenship rights of children; non-discrimination; child exploitation; child violence and abuse; rehabilitation; access to justice for children; and the conditions of children who require special protection.

4.2 Birth Registration and Right to Identity

To make birth registration more effective, the Government of Nepal has made the birth registration certificate mandatory for accessing various services such as school enrollment and child allowance under social security programs. As a result, the importance of birth registration has increased among the general public. The birth registration rate for children under five years is also rising. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics' Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, the birth registration rate for children under five was 58.1% (59.2% for boys and 57.0% for girls), whereas the National Census, 2021 shows that this rate has increased to 74%. The number of children under five with birth registration is presented in the graph below.

Graph 17: Birth registered children below 5 years

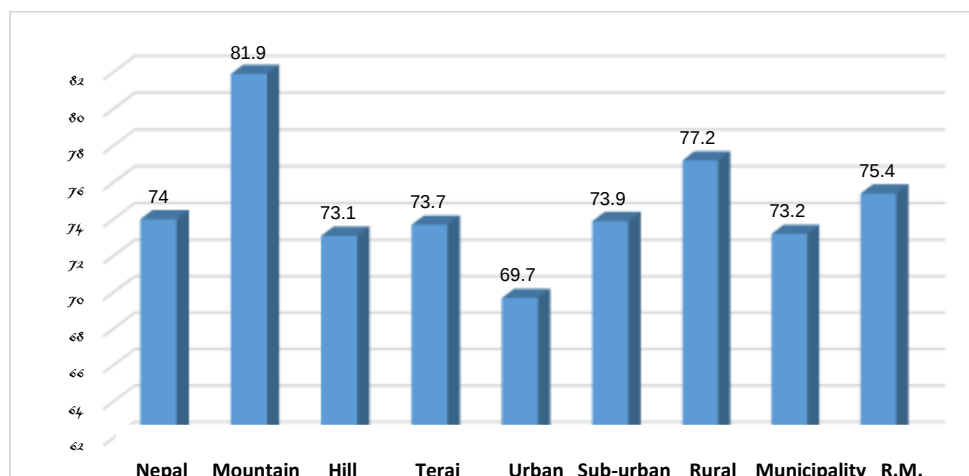


Source: National Census, 2021

According to the above graph, out of a total of 3,007,648 children under five years of age, 2,226,715 children (74%) have their births registered, while 780,933 children in the same age group do not have birth registration. Among the registered children, the birth registration rate is 74.1% for boys and 73.9% for girls. The Department of National ID and Registration has been managing birth registration and other vital events registration digitally since 2014, making the process organized and simpler through the implementation of the Digital Nepal Framework by enabling online birth registration services.

Birth registration rates are higher in the Himalayan region at 81.9%, compared to the Terai and Hill regions. The Hill region has the lowest rate at 73.1%. Birth registration in rural areas stands at 77.2%, semi-urban areas at 73.9%, while it is lower in urban areas at 69.7%. Additionally, birth registration in municipalities is 2.2% higher than in rural municipalities, reaching 75.4%.

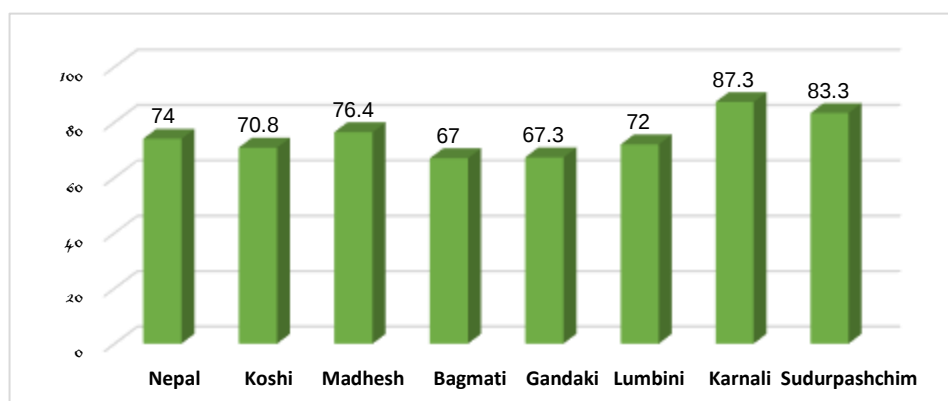
Graph 18: Percent of birth registration of children by geographical region



Source: National Census, 2021

The percent of birth registration of children can also be presented in the following graph.

Graph 19: Situation of birth registration of children by Province (in percent)



In terms of development, Karnali Province, which is considered comparatively less developed, has the highest birth registration rate for children at 87.3%. The second and third highest rates are in Sudurpashchim Province at 83.3% and Madhesh Province at 76.4%, respectively, while Bagmati Province has the lowest rate at 67.0%.

Table 35: Status of birth registration of children (5 years and below)

Region	Boys/Girls	Total	Birth registered		Birth unregistered	
			No.	No.	No.	%
Nepal	Total	3007648	2226715	74.0	780933	26.0
	Boys	1589674	1178017	74.1	411657	25.9
	Girls	1417974	1048698	74.0	369276	26.0
Geographical region						
Mountain	Total	189935	155521	81.9	34414	18.1
	Boys	98725	81098	82.1	17627	17.9
	Girls	91210	74423	81.6	16787	18.4
Hill	Total	1074600	785985	73.1	288615	26.9
	Boys	566327	415129	73.3	151198	26.7
	Girls	508273	370856	73.0	137417	27.0
Terai	Total	1743113	1285209	73.7	457904	26.3
	Boys	924622	681790	73.7	242832	26.3
	Girls	818491	603419	73.7	215072	26.3
Urban/Rural						
Urban	Total	693446	483283	69.7	210163	30.3
	Boys	372413	259403	69.7	113010	30.3
	Girls	321033	223880	69.7	97153	30.3
Sub-urban	Total	1314523	971590	73.9	342933	26.1
	Boys	697313	515928	74.0	181385	26.0
	Girls	617210	455662	73.8	161548	26.2
Rural	Total	999679	771842	77.2	227837	22.8
	Boys	519948	402686	77.4	117262	22.6
	Girls	479731	369156	77.0	110575	23.0
Rural/Municipality						
Municipality	Boys	1909735	1398660	73.2	511075	26.8
	Girls	1016556	745080	73.3	271476	26.7
	Total	893179	653580	73.2	239599	26.8
Rural	Boys	1097913	828055	75.4	269858	24.6
	Girls	573118	432937	75.5	140181	24.5
	Total	524795	395118	75.3	129677	24.7
Province						
Koshi	Total	472625	334852	70.8	137773	29.2
	Boys	244967	174611	71.3	70356	28.7
	Girls	227658	160241	70.4	67417	29.6
Madhesh	Total	799897	612588	76.6	187309	23.4
	Boys	427618	325604	76.1	102014	23.9

	Girls	372279	286984	77.1	85295	22.9
Bagmati	Total	488792	327536	67.0	161256	33.0
	Boys	259425	174754	67.4	84671	32.6
	Girls	229367	152782	66.6	76585	33.4
Gandaki	Total	208170	140119	67.3	68051	32.7
	Boys	111006	75013	67.6	35993	32.4
	Girls	97164	65106	67.0	32058	33.0
Lumbini	Total	541059	389428	72.0	151631	28.0
	Boys	283826	204843	72.2	78983	27.8
	Girls	257233	184585	71.8	72648	28.2
Karnali	Total	204638	178614	87.3	26024	12.7
	Boys	107165	93160	86.9	14005	13.1
	Girls	97473	85454	87.7	12019	12.3
Sudur-pashchim	Total	292467	243578	83.3	48889	16.7
	Boys	155667	130032	83.5	25635	16.5
	Girls	136800	113546	83.0	23254	17.0

Source: National Census, 2021

The National Child Rights Council facilitated coordination with local levels and ward offices for birth registration of children in temporary protection centers and those unable to register their births for various reasons. In the fiscal year 2023/24, birth registration was completed for 16 children (6 boys and 10 girls), and citizenship was facilitated for 5 children (2 boys and 3 girls). From fiscal year 2021/22 to 2023/24, a total of 53 children (30 boys and 23 girls) had their birth registrations completed, and 15 children (6 boys and 9 girls) obtained citizenship through facilitation, totaling 68 children assisted. The numerical status of coordination and facilitation for birth registration and citizenship undertaken by the Council in the past three fiscal years is as follows.

Table 36: Coordination and facilitation for birth registration and citizenship

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Birth Registration (Boy)	Birth Registration (Girl)	Citizenship (Boy)	Citizenship (Girl)	Total
1	2021/22	4	6	2	3	15
2	2022/23	15	12	3	2	32
3	2023/24	11	5	1	4	21
	Total	30	23	6	9	68

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2081

The National Child Rights Council is sensitive towards facilitating to ensure the first rights of children. In three fiscal years, 27 children obtained their birth registration certificate and five children obtained their citizenship certificate, which is highest among other two fiscal years. Such contribution of the Council is very much meaningful in course of protecting and promoting the rights of children especially living in difficult circumstances.

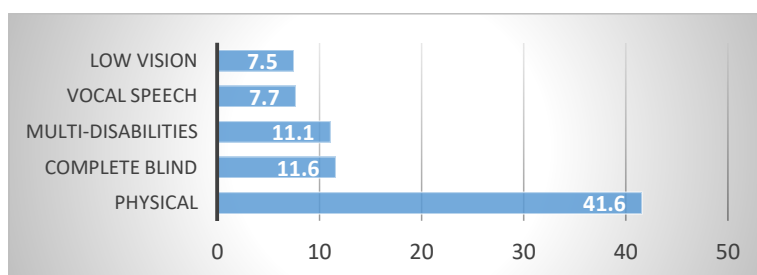
4.3 Children with Disabilities

The UNCRC, Article 23, provides for ensuring the rights of children with disabilities. Nepal's Constitution guarantees equal rights and access on the basis of equality between citizens with disabilities and other

citizens. Article 39 grants children with disabilities and those at risk the right to special protection and facilities from the state. Article 31 provides for the right of citizens with disabilities to receive free higher education according to the law, and free education through Braille and sign language. Laws such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017, The Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, and the Social Security Act, 2018, contain provisions for the protection and rights of persons with disabilities. Additionally, Section 12 of the Children's Act, 2018, specifies special rights for children with disabilities. The Inclusive Education Policy, 2016, is currently being implemented for persons with disabilities. These provisions collectively ensure services and facilities for children with disabilities, including care, upbringing, education, health, protection, and participation.

According to the National Census 2021, the number of children with some form of disability is 121,498, which constitutes 1.23% of the total. This percentage of children with disabilities is lower compared to the overall percentage of persons with disabilities. Among children with disabilities in Nepal, the highest proportion (41.6%) is physical disabilities. The proportions of children who are visually impaired and those with multiple disabilities are roughly equal, each about 11%. Children with speech and hearing impairments and those with low vision make up approximately 8%. The status of children by type of disability is detailed in [Annex-2](#).

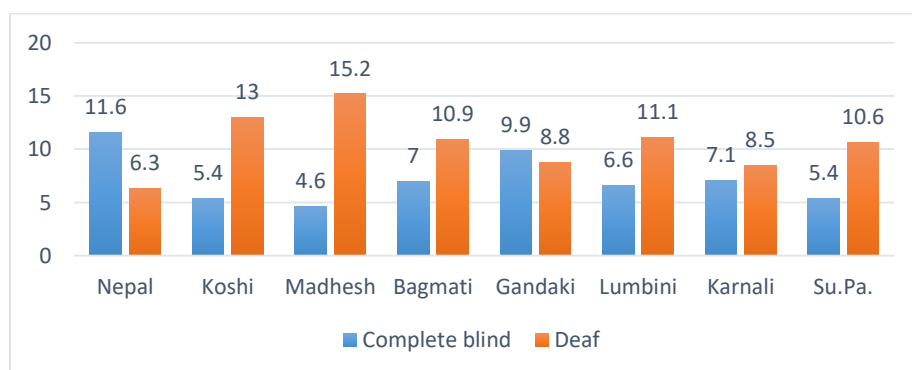
Graph 20: Top 5 types of disabilities with the highest prevalence among children



Source: National Census, 2021

Analyzing the types of disabilities shows different trends and distributions at the provincial level. For example, the highest proportion of completely blind children is 15.2% in Madhesh Province, while the lowest is 8.5% in Karnali Province. Hearing impairment is most prevalent at 9.9% in Gandaki Province, and lowest at 4.6% in Madhesh Province.

Graph 21: Prevalence rate of deafness and complete blindness at the provincial level



Source: National Census, 2021

4.4 Child Labour

According to Article 39, Clause 4 of the Constitution of Nepal, it is prohibited to engage any child in factories, mines, or other hazardous work. Section 7, Sub-section (6) of the Children's Act, 2018 states that every child has the right to be protected from economic exploitation. As per Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, children have the right to be protected from any work that is likely to be harmful to their education, health, or development. Similarly, Convention No. 138 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 prohibits the engagement of children under the age of 18 in hazardous work. However, in the case of countries where educational and economic facilities are not adequately developed, children may be permitted to work from the age of 14, provided their education, health, and moral well-being are fully safeguarded. Nepal has also ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Recent national surveys show that the situation of child labour in Nepal is gradually improving. According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) 2014 conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 37.4% of children aged 5 to 17 years were found to be engaged in labour. However, as per the CBS Nepal Child Labour Report 2021, this figure has decreased to 15.3% for the same age group. This indicates a continuous decline in the percentage of children engaged in labour over time. In accordance with the Procedure for Declaring Child Labour-Free Local Levels, 2020, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has allocated grants to 85 local levels in the current fiscal year 2023/24 to support the declaration of child labour-free zones. Each local level received a grant of NPR. 300,000. According to the latest available data, 24 local levels have been declared as child-friendly. One of the mandatory criteria for declaring a local level child-friendly is that it must also be child labour-free. Hence, while these 24 local levels are considered automatically free of child labour based on the child-friendly declaration criteria, 8 specific local levels have been officially declared as child labour-free according to the specified procedure.

Table 37: Child labor free declared local level

S.N.	Local level	District
1.	Bareng Rural Municipality	Baglung
2.	Banganga Municipality	Kapilbastu
3.	Tribeni Rural Municipality	Rolpa
4.	Myagde Rural Municipality	Tanahu
5.	Raghuganga Rural Municipality	Myagdi
6.	Pauwadungma Rural Municipality	Bhojpur
7.	Biruwa Rural Municipality	Syangja
8.	Panauti Municipality	Kavrepalanchowk

Source: Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, 2024

4.4.1 Child Labor Monitoring, Rescue, Compensation and Fine

National Child Rights Council monitored child workers engaged in hazardous works and street vendors in Kathmandu Valley in FY 2023/24. During the monitoring, the Council rescued 13 children (boys 9 and girls 4), and managed for their protection. As of Department of Labour and Occupational Safety, the

department and various Offices monitored 3,888 institutions in FY 2023/24. From the monitoring, 72 children rescued, and charged compensation of NPR. 973,948 and fined NPR. 134,8000. The details are as follows:

Table 38: Child labor monitoring, rescue, compensation and fine

S.N.	Office	Monitored institution	No. of complain	No. of rescue	No. of reconciliation	Compensation in NPR.	Fine in NPR.	Remarks
१	Department of Labour and Occupational Safety	१४४	०	०	०	०	०	
२	Office of Labour and Employment, Jhapa	१८३	०	०	०	०	०	
३	Office of Labour and Employment, Biratnagar	२५२	०	०	०	०	०	
४	Office of Labour and Employment, Janakpur	११८	०	०	०	०	०	
५	Office of Labour and Employment, Birgunj	५५५	०	०	०	०	०	
६	Office of Labour and Employment, Hetauda	२७६	२७	४५	४४	३१७९४८	६५८००	
७	Office of Labour and Employment, Kathmandu	६३७	०	२०	४	३४६०००	५००००	
८	Office of Labour and Employment, Pokhara	४७९	४	५	४	३१००००	१९०००	To be decided
९	Office of Labour and Employment, Butwal	४३५	०	२	२	०	०	Reconciled in Municipality
१०	Office of Labour and Employment, Nepalgunj	३७९	०	०	०	०	०	
११	Office of Labour and Employment, Surkhet	२४२	०	०	०	०	०	
१२	Office of Labour and Employment, Dhangadhi	१८८	०	०	०	०	०	
Total		३८८८	३१	७२	५४	९७३९४८	१३४८००	

Source: Department of Labour and Occupational Safety, 2024

Office of Labour and Employment, Kathmandu monitored 637 institutions which is highest in number followed by Office of Labour and Employment, Birgunj 555 institutions regarding child labourers in various companies or employment centres. During monitoring, a total of 72 child labourers were rescued from four institutions. An amount of NPR. 973,948 was compensated to those rescued child labourers. The Labour and Employment Office located in Kathmandu, Hetauda and Pokhara fined a total sum of NPR. 134,800 to the employers of child laborers.

4.5 Child Abduction and Trafficking

Articles 11, 19, 34, and 35 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provide for the prevention of illicit transfer, sexual exploitation, abuse, and other harmful acts against children. Under this Convention, the Government of Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, 2000 on January 20, 2006. In line with this Optional Protocol, Nepal submitted its initial report to the United Nations in 2009, which was reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 2011. Based on the concluding observations from the Committee, Nepal has incorporated legal provisions to address child abuse, and the government remains committed to preventing violence and sexual exploitation against children, ensuring protection, and taking prompt action on complaints.

To combat human trafficking and transportation, Nepal is also implementing the National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Women and Children, 2011. A National Committee Against Human Trafficking has been established to oversee its implementation.

The number of child victims of abduction and trafficking for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 is presented in the table below.

Table 39: Children Affected by Abduction and Trafficking

S.N.	Category	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Abducted	0	46	46
2	Trafficked	0	17	17
	Total	0	63	63

Source: Nepal Police Headquarter, 2024

4.6 Children Affected by Road Accidents

With the increasing use and expansion of transportation in Nepal, road accidents have also been on the rise. These accidents have resulted in the deaths and injuries of many people, including children. Data from the Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Office indicates that in the fiscal year 2023/24, there were a total of 8,881 road accidents in the Kathmandu Valley. Among them, 13 children lost their lives, 27 were seriously injured, and 457 sustained minor injuries.

Table 40: Children affected by road accidents

Fiscal Year	Total Road Accidents	Deaths (Boys)	Deaths (Girls)	Serious Injuries (Boys)	Serious Injuries (Girls)	Minor Injuries (Boys)	Minor Injuries (Girls)
2023/24	8,881	7	6	16	11	269	188

Source: Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Office, 2024

4.7 Violence and Child Sexual Abuse Against Children

According to Articles 2, 19, and 36 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, no child should be subjected to discrimination, violence, or abuse. Similarly, Nepal's Constitution and laws contain provisions prohibiting discrimination, violence, and abuse on any grounds. Article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal explicitly states that no child shall be subjected to abuse, sexual or other forms of exploitation, or improper use in any form or manner. According to Section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018, every child has the right to be protected from any form of physical or mental violence, neglect, inhumane treatment, gender-based or caste-based discrimination and abuse, and exploitation, even by their own parents or guardians. Section 66 of the same Act defines violence and sexual abuse against children and lays down punitive measures and penalties for such offenses.

As per the data provided by the Nepal Police, Police Headquarters, the number of children victimized by child marriage, caste-based untouchability, polygamy, murder, violence, and sexual abuse is presented in the table below.

Table 41: Cases registered in Nepal Police and victim children

S.N.	Details	FY 2021/22			FY 2022/23			FY 2023/24		
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
1.	Racial discrimination	०	२	२	२	०	२	१	०	१
2.	Domestic violence	५८	४८	१०६	१४	१२७	१४१	२२	१०३	१२५
3	Polygamy	०	०	०	०	२	२	०	०	०
4	Child marriage	०	०	०	१	१७	१८	१	२६	२७
5	Acid attack	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१	१
6	Homicide/murder led violence	०	०	०	०	०	०	४	२	६
7	Murder after rape	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	४	४
8	Sexual abuse	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	६	६
9	Pedophilia	०	०	०	०	०	०	२	३९५	३९७
10	Unnatural sex	०	०	०	०	०	०	१७	२	१९
11	Attempt to rape	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१९७	१९७
12	Rape	०	०	०	०	०	०	१	१५९ २	१५९३
13	Murder	०	०	०	३४	२६	६०	०	०	०
Total		५८	५०	१०८	५१	१७२	२२३	४८	२३२ ८	२३७६

Source: Nepal Police Headquarter, 2024

The Electronic Transactions Act, 2006, which addresses cybercrimes, is in effect in Nepal and also covers issues related to online abuse against children. Additionally, the Nepal Telecommunications Authority has implemented the Online Child Safety Guidelines, 2019 to promote safer online environments for children. According to data from the Cyber Bureau of the Nepal Police, a total of 176 children (51 boys and 125 girls) were identified as victims of cybercrime in fiscal year 2022/23. In fiscal year 2023/24, this number rose significantly to 635 child victims.

A table detailing the number of child victims by type of cybercrime for the fiscal year 2023/24 is presented below.

Table 42: Children victim from cyber-crime

S.N.	Complained office	Complained by		Total
		Boy	Girl	
1	Cyber Bureau	199	262	461
2	Secretariat of IGP	6	7	13
3	Koshi Province	9	15	24
4	Madhesh Province	7	11	18
5	Bagmati Province	8	12	20
6	Gandaki Province	5	12	17
7	Lumbini Province	6	25	31
8	Karnali Province	9	26	35
9	Sudurpashchim Province	4	12	16
Total		253	382	635

Source: Cyber Bureau, Bhotahiti, Kathmandu, 2023

Most cyber-crime cases are handled from Cyber Bureau. All Provinces are facing cyber-crime incidents.

4.8 Child Marriage

Article 39(5) of the Constitution of Nepal explicitly prohibits child marriage. Both the Civil Code, 2017 and the Criminal Code, 2017 define marriage under the age of 20 years as child marriage, and any such marriage is considered automatically void. Section 66 of the Children's Act, 2018 categorizes child marriage as a form of violence and a criminal offense against children, and prescribes appropriate penalties and fines.

According to the National Census 2021, 1.6% of children in Nepal were found to be married before reaching the legal age of marriage. Among them, the proportion of girls was 2.6%, while that of boys was 0.6%. By geographical region, child marriage is found 1.8 percent in mountain region followed by 1.7 percent in hill region and 1.5 percent in Terai region. The data shows that child marriage exists in all seven provinces. Among them, Karnali Province has the highest rate at 2.6%, while Bagmati Province has the lowest at 1.1%.

Table 43: Situation of child marriage

Area	Boy/Girl	10 years and above	Unmarried		Married		Widower/Widow		Divorced		Separated	
		No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nepal	Total	4663873	458,8758	98.4	74252	1.6	534	0.0	107	0.0	222	0.0
	Boy	2380575	2364877	99.3	15401	0.6	214	0.0	30	0.0	53	0.0
	Girl	2283298	2223881	97.4	58851	2.6	320	0.0	77	0.0	169	0.0
Geographical region												
Mountain	Total	312491	306724	98.2	5702	1.8	42	0.0	7	0.0	16	0.0
	Boy	155471	154103	99.1	1342	0.9	17	0.0	2	0.0	7	0.0
	Girl	157020	152621	97.2	4360	2.8	25	0.0	5	0.0	9	0.0
Hill	Total	1804506	1772792	98.2	31334	1.7	192	0.0	60	0.0	128	0.0
	Boy	920378	913716	99.3	6534	0.7	82	0.0	16	0.0	30	0.0
	Girl	884128	859076	97.2	24800	2.8	110	0.0	44	0.0	98	0.0
Terai	Total	2546876	2509242	98.5	37216	1.5	300	0.0	40	0.0	78	0.0
	Boy	1304726	1297058	99.4	7525	0.6	115	0.0	12	0.0	16	0.0
	Girl	1242150	1212184	97.6	29691	2.4	185	0.0	28	0.0	62	0.0
Urban/Rural												
Urban	Total	1154673	1142754	99.0	11779	1.0	90	0.0	21	0.0	29	0.0
	Boy	608216	605423	99.5	2739	0.5	40	0.0	6	0.0	8	0.0
	Girl	546457	537331	98.3	9040	1.7	50	0.0	15	0.0	21	0.0
Sub-urban	Total	1876900	1849706	98.6	26884	1.4	224	0.0	23	0.0	63	0.0
	Boy	959052	953502	99.4	5441	0.6	88	0.0	8	0.0	13	0.0
	Girl	917848	896204	97.6	21443	2.3	136	0.0	15	0.0	50	0.0
Rural	Total	1632300	1596298	97.8	35589	2.2	220	0.0	63	0.0	130	0.0
	Boy	813307	805952	99.1	7221	0.9	86	0.0	16	0.0	32	0.0
	Girl	818993	790346	96.5	28368	3.5	134	0.0	47	0.0	98	0.0

Rural/Municipality												
Municipality	Total	2988627	2945285	98.5	42832	1.4	345	0.0	53	0.0	112	0.0
	Boy	1540399	1531127	99.4	9090	0.6	138	0.0	16	0.0	28	0.0
	Girl	1448228	1414158	97.6	33742	2.3	207	0.0	37	0.0	84	0.0
Rural Municipality	Total	1675246	1643473	98.1	31420	1.9	189	0.0	54	0.0	110	0.0
	Boy	840176	833750	99.2	6311	0.8	76	0.0	14	0.0	25	0.0
	Girl	835070	809723	97.0	25109	3.0	113	0.0	40	0.0	85	0.0
Province												
Koshi	Total	739721	727556	98.4	12010	1.6	89	0.0	24	0.0	42	0.0
	Boy	375247	372906	99.4	2297	0.6	31	0.0	5	0.0	8	0.0
	Girl	364474	354650	97.3	9713	2.7	58	0.0	19	0.0	34	0.0
Madhesh	Total	1057274	1040771	98.4	16347	1.5	119	0.0	15	0.0	22	0.0
	Boy	543976	540850	99.4	3072	0.6	45	0.0	4	0.0	5	0.0
	Girl	513298	499921	97.4	13275	2.6	74	0.0	11	0.0	17	0.0
Bagmati	Total	830710	821204	98.9	9392	1.1	68	0.0	14	0.0	32	0.0
	Boy	431820	429547	99.5	2222	0.5	33	0.0	4	0.0	14	0.0
	Girl	398890	391657	98.2	7170	1.8	35	0.0	10	0.0	18	0.0
Gandaki	Total	356886	350198	98.1	6591	1.8	55	0.0	11	0.0	31	0.0
	Boy	183652	182341	99.3	1283	0.7	21	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0
	Girl	173234	167857	96.9	5308	3.1	34	0.0	8	0.0	27	0.0
Lumbini	Total	845233	831307	98.4	13738	1.6	113	0.0	27	0.0	48	0.0
	Boy	428450	425480	99.3	2902	0.7	48	0.0	9	0.0	11	0.0
	Girl	416783	405827	97.4	10836	2.6	65	0.0	18	0.0	37	0.0
Karnali	Total	326529	317971	97.4	8479	2.6	32	0.0	14	0.0	33	0.0
	Boy	163589	161654	98.8	1909	1.2	15	0.0	5	0.0	6	0.0
	Girl	162940	156317	95.9	6570	4.0	17	0.0	9	0.0	27	0.0
Sudur-pashchim	Total	507520	499751	98.5	7695	1.5	58	0.0	2	0.0	14	0.0
	Boy	253841	252099	99.3	1716	0.7	21	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0
	Girl	253679	247652	97.6	5979	2.4	37	0.0	2	0.0	9	0.0

Source: National Census, 2021

4.8.1 Age at Marriage

By age group, 73.2% of child marriages occurred in the 15–17 years age group, followed by 24.4% in the 10–14 years age group. Among a total of 71,115 children, 272 children (0.4%) were found to have been married before the age of 10.

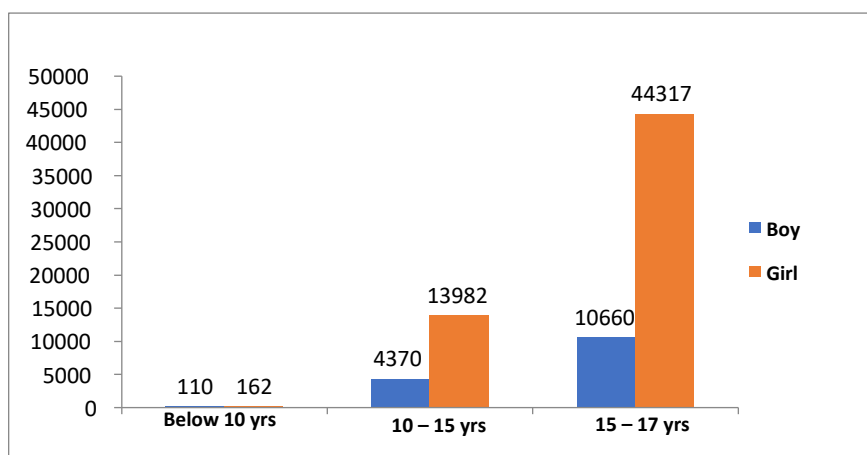
Table 44: Age at first marriage

Region	Boys/Girls	Total	< 10 years		10-14		15-17		Age not stated	
		No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nepal	Total	75115	272	0.4	18352	24.4	54977	73.2	1514	2.0
	Boys	15697	110	0.7	4370	27.8	10660	67.9	558	3.6
	Girls	59418	162	0.3	13982	23.5	44317	74.6	956	1.6
Geographical region										
Mountain	Total	5767	21	0.4	1249	21.7	4368	75.7	129	2.2
	Boys	1368	9	0.7	315	23.0	1002	73.2	42	3.1
	Girls	4399	12	0.3	934	21.2	3366	76.5	87	2.0
Hill	Total	3171	97	0.3	6850	21.6	2417	76.2	597	1.9
	Boys	666	51	0.8	1615	24.2	47550	71.4	241	3.6
	Girls	2505	46	0.2	5235	20.9	1941	77.5	356	1.4
Terai	Total	3762	154	0.4	1025	27.2	2643	70.3	788	2.1
	Boys	766	50	0.7	244	31.8	49039	63.9	275	3.6
	Girls	2996	104	0.3	78130	26.1	21536	71.9	513	1.7
Urban/Sub-urban										
Urban	Total	11919	53	0.4	3387	28.4	8154	68.4	325	2.7
	Boys	2793	23	0.8	969	34.7	1678	60.1	123	4.4
	Girls	9126	30	0.3	2418	26.5	6476	71.0	202	2.2
Sub-urban	Total	2719	121	0.4	7372	27.1	19122	70.3	579	2.1
	Boys	555	40	0.7	1773	31.9	3529	63.6	208	3.7
	Girls	2164	81	0.4	5599	25.9	15593	72.0	371	1.7
Rural	Total	3600	98	0.3	7593	21.1	27701	76.9	610	1.7
	Boys	73552	47	0.6	1628	22.1	5453	74.1	227	3.1
	Girls	2864	51	0.2	5965	20.8	2224	77.7	383	1.3
Rural/Municipality										
Municipality	Total	4334	154	0.4	1109	25.6	31163	71.9	926	2.1
	Boys	927	61	0.7	27799	30.0	6084	65.6	348	3.8
	Girls	3407	93	0.3	8320	24.4	2507	73.6	578	1.7
Rural	Total	317730	118	0.4	7253	22.8	2381	75.0	588	1.9
	Boys	6426	49	0.8	1591	24.8	45764	71.2	210	3.3
	Girls	2534	69	0.3	5662	22.3	19238	75.9	378	1.5
Province										
Koshi	Total	12165	30	0.2	2990	24.6	8967	73.7	178	1.5
	Boys	2341	9	0.4	675	28.8	1594	68.1	63	2.7
	Girls	9824	21	0.2	2315	23.6	7373	75.1	115	1.2
Madhesh	Total	16503	63	0.4	5278	32.0	1084	65.7	318	1.9
	Boys	3126	23	0.7	1216	38.9	17724	56.7	115	3.7

	Girls	13377	40	0.3	4062	30.4	9072	67.8	203	1.5
Bagmati	Total	9506	39	0.4	2387	25.1	6917	72.8	163	1.7
	Boys	2273	17	0.7	643	28.3	1547	68.1	66	2.9
	Girls	7233	22	0.3	1744	24.1	5370	74.2	97	1.3
Gandaki	Total	6688	32	0.5	1587	23.7	4888	73.1	181	2.7
	Boys	1311	14	1.1	337	25.7	889	67.8	71	5.4
	Girls	5377	18	0.3	1250	23.2	3999	74.4	110	2.0
Lumbini	Total	13926	67	0.5	3068	22.0	1046	75.2	325	2.3
	Boys	2970	27	0.9	754	25.4	2086	70.3	101	3.4
	Girls	1095	40	0.4	2314	21.1	8378	76.5	224	2.0
Karnali	Total	8558	12	0.1	1479	17.3	6883	80.4	184	2.2
	Boys	1935	7	0.4	318	16.4	1529	79.0	81	4.2
	Girls	6623	5	0.1	1161	17.5	5354	80.8	103	1.6
Sudur-pashchim	Total	7769	29	0.4	1563	20.1	6012	77.4	165	2.1
	Boys	1742	13	0.7	427	24.5	1241	71.2	61	3.5
	Girls	6027	16	0.3	1136	18.8	4771	79.2	104	1.7

Source: National Census, 2021

Graph 22: Age at first marriage



Source: National Census, 2021

Above table shows that there is still practice of marriage of both boys and girls at the age even below 10 years, and the marriage seems rampant between the age of 10 and 17, which is quite illegal. The concerned actors like, policy, local level, politicians, social actors, community leaders and families should be very sensitive towards this issue.

4.9 Juvenile Justice

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right of every child to child-friendly justice. To effectively implement this constitutional provision, the Children's Act, 2018 has established mechanisms to

coordinate among various agencies involved in administering justice to children in conflict with the law. Section 46 of the Act provides for the establishment of a Central Child Justice Committee at the federal level, and Section 47 provides for the formation of District Child Justice Committees in each district. In accordance with Rule 30 of the Child Justice Procedure Rules, 2019 (2076 B.S.), the Central Child Justice Committee is chaired by a Justice of the Supreme Court. Similarly, under Rule 34, the District Child Justice Committees are chaired by Judges of the respective District Courts.

International instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Havana Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines), all emphasize the importance of a child-friendly justice system for children involved in juvenile delinquency.

In addition to the child justice system for juveniles in conflict with the law, the courts in Nepal have increasingly demonstrated sensitivity toward issues concerning children. For children who have committed legally punishable offenses but are not subject to adult legal consequences due to their age and mental or physical immaturity, the State has adopted a child-friendly justice approach through mechanisms such as child reform homes, observation centers, juvenile courts, and rehabilitation programs to help correct their behavior in a supportive environment.

4.9.1 Details of Child Related Court Cases

Although dedicated *juvenile* courts have not yet been established in Nepal, juvenile benches have been set up in all 77 District Courts, where cases related to children are being adjudicated. As per the Nepal Gazette (Vol. 69, No. 49, Part 5) published on Chaitra 3, 2076 B.S. (March 16, 2020), the Government of Nepal announced that Probation Officers have been appointed in all District Courts to fulfill the roles, responsibilities, and authorities outlined in Rule 43 of the Child Justice Procedure Rules, 2020, without imposing any additional financial burden on the government. Accordingly, Gazetted officers (Tahasildars) currently serving in the district courts have been designated as Probation Officers, and in districts where no Tahasildar is available, the Registrar (Shrestedar) of the court has been assigned the role. In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 1,381 child-related juvenile delinquency cases were registered in the courts. Among the accused, 908 children (887 boys and 21 girls) were under the age of 18, while 473 individuals were above 18 years of age.

Table 45: Children engaged in delinquencies

S.N.	Types of case	No. of below 18 years			Above 18 years	Total
		Boy	Girl	Total		
1.	Rape	469	1	470	261	731
2.	Attempt to rape	31	0	31	5	36
3.	Theft	18	0	18	4	22
4.	Drugs/substances	75	5	80	18	98
5.	Attempt to murder	20	2	22	0	22
6.	Abortion	1	0	1	0	1
7.	Vehicular manslaughter	25	0	25	0	25
8.	Murder	90	10	100	91	191
9.	Nakawajani theft	56	0	56	5	61
10.	Dacoity/Robbery	18	1	19	15	34
11.	Robbery theft	20	0	20	1	21

12.	Human trafficking	5	1	6	3	9
13.	Abduction /Body hostage	13	0	13	5	18
14.	Savari Angavanga	5	0	5	1	6
15.	Unnatural sex	10	0	10	7	17
16.	Blood relation sex	5	0	5	0	5
17.	Thuggee	1	0	1	0	1
18.	Jail act	3	0	3	0	3
19.	Electronic transactions	4	1	5	0	5
20.	Arms and ammunition	1	0	1	0	1
21.	Child sexual exploitation	3	0	3	0	3
22.	Forgery of government stamp	1	0	1	0	1
23.	Illegal timber transportation	1	0	1	0	1
24.	Inciting suicide	2	0	2	0	2
25.	Others	10	0	10	56	66
	Total	887	21	908	472	1380

Source: Central Child Justice Committee Secretariat, 2024

Among 25 categories of court cases, rape alone carries 469 cases out of 887 (48.46%). It indicates that intolerable abuse and exploitation is happening against the rights of the child. All concerned actors should pay serious attention against this inhuman activity.

4.9.2 Child Reform Home

The Constitution guarantees every child the right to child-friendly justice. According to Section 30 of the Children's Act, 2018, the Government of Nepal, upon recommendation by the Judicial Council, may establish a necessary number of juvenile courts to initiate, hear, and conclude cases involving children who have committed offenses. Children in conflict with the law due to juvenile delinquency are placed in child reform homes for the duration specified by court orders.

Till mid-July 2024, a total of 1,381 children were housed in 9 child reform homes, of whom 908 were under 18 years old and 473 were above 18 years old. The number of children in reform homes last year was 1,187.

Table 46: Children in child reform home

S.N.	Juvenile Reform Center	Under 14 Years	Age 15-16	Age 16-18	Above 18 Years	Total
1	Bhaktapur	4	33	136	82	255
2	Parsa	2	10	90	14	116
3	Rupandehi	0	17	66	18	101
4	Banke	0	47	186	48	281
5	Makwanpur	1	14	55	12	82
6	Kaski	5	11	66	37	119
7	Doti	2	12	31	20	65
8	Morang	0	19	101	121	241
9	Naubasta (Banke)	0	0	0	121	121
	Total	14	163	731	473	1381

Source: Central Child Justice Committee Secretariat, 2024

Above table shows that there is the highest number of children (731) in the child reform homes of the age group of 16 - 18 years followed by 473 persons who are above the age limit children category. In fact, these persons come under the adult group. The decision makers should think over this concern because the

child reform/correction home is guided by the concept of children not of the adult. This issue can be a matter of policy and legal discussion.

4.9.3 Children Living in Jail with Their Imprisoned Guardians

According to Section 48 of the Children's Act, 2018, children who are in custody or imprisoned with their father or mother are defined as children in need of special protection. In such cases, the Child Welfare Officer is legally required to arrange for alternative care and other necessary services for these children. However, when parents are incarcerated as prisoners and there is no one at home to care for young children, these children are compelled to stay in prison along with their father, mother, or guardian.

In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 76 children were residing as dependents in various prisons. This number was 85 in the previous fiscal year.

Table 47: Children living in jail with their parent

S.N.	District	No. of children
1	Bhojpur	1
2	Jhapa	1
3	Tehrathum	1
4	Sankhuwasabha	1
5	Morang	4
6	Siraha	3
7	Sarlahi	3
8	Rautahat	1
9	Parsa	2
10	Sindhuli	11
11	Ramechhap	1
12	Dhading	2
13	Jannathdewal, Ktm	7
14	Chitwan	2
15	Makwanpur	2

16	Parbat	1
17	Baglung	2
18	Gorkha	2
19	Damauli, Tanahu	2
20	Nawalparasi West	4
21	Gulmi	2
22	Pyuthan	1
23	Tulsipur, Dang	4
24	Bardia	5
25	Rukum West	4
26	Salyan	2
27	Dailekh	1
28	Surkhet	1
29	Achham	1
30	Kailali	2
Total		76

Source: Department of Jail Management, 2024

Children dependent on their mother, father, or guardian in prison are transferred from prison to institutional care and rehabilitation by organizations such as Bandi Sahayata Nepal (Prisoner Support Nepal), Prarambhik Bal Vikas Kendra, Pidit Sewa Sangh (Victim Service Association), Bandi Sahayata Niyog (Prisoner Support Agency), and other institutions.

The number of children under the care of these organizations from fiscal years 2021/22 to 2023/24 is presented in the table below.

Table 48: Children protected in child care home and institution

S.N.	Institution	2021/22			2022/23			2023/24		
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
1	Bandi Sahayata Nepal	71	78	149	90	100	190	56	75	131
2	Early Childhood Development Center	0	23	23	0	27	27	0	27	27
3	Pidit Sewa Sangh	9	9	18	8	8	16	8	4	12
4	Bandi Sahayata Niyog	19	17	36	19	43	62	19	43	62
5	Nepal Child Organization	8	6	14	9	6	15	9	6	15
6	Parijat Child Shelter	9	2	11	0	2	2	0	2	2
	Total	116	135	251	126	186	312	92	157	249

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

The above table shows that Bandi Sahayata (Prison Assistance) Nepal has protected largest number of children living in jail with their imprisoned guardians throughout three years, whereas Parijat Child Shelter has protected only 2 children.

4.10 Conflict Affected Children

The Constitution of Nepal and the Children's Act, 2018 prohibit the recruitment of any child into the army, police, or armed groups, and forbid the use of children either directly or indirectly for armed conflict or political purposes. The law also defines children affected by conflict as children in need of special protection and mandates the provision of necessary services for them.

The Government of Nepal provides scholarships for the education of children from conflict-affected families and allocates grants to the Shaheed (Martyrs) Foundation for the proper care of conflict-affected children. There are five residential schools operated by the Shaheed Foundation located in Sunsari, Dolakha, Kaski, Dang, and Doti districts. A total of 1,707 students, including both residential and local students, are enrolled in these schools.

The number of children studying up to grade 10 in these schools operated by the Shaheed Foundation is presented in the table below.

Table 49: Children in the schools operated by Martyrs Academy

S.N.	School	Boarder		Local		Total
		Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	
1	Sahid Smriti Boarding Secondary School, Sunsari	१३५	९४	५२	६७	३४८
2	Sahid Smriti Boarding Secondary School, Dolakha	९३	६७	२९	१८	२०७
3	Sahid Smriti Boarding Secondary School, Kaski	९२	७२	७६	७१	३११
4	Sahid Smriti Boarding Secondary School, Dang	२११	१४५	५२	३६	४४४
5	Sahid Smriti Boarding Secondary School, Doti	१५४	८७	९०	६६	३९७
	Total	६८५	४६५	२९९	२५८	१७०७

Source: Sahid Academy Nepal, 2024

From the above table, among the children enrolled in the Shaheed Foundation schools, 67.37% are residential students, while the remaining are local students. Similarly, the highest number of students is at Shri Shaheed Smriti Residential Secondary School in Dang with 444 students, and the lowest number is in Dolakha with 207 students.

4.11 Children Needed Special Protection

4.11.1 Orphan Children

Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 establishes that the protection of orphaned children is the responsibility of the State. According to the Constitution of Nepal, the Children's Act, 2018, and the Local Government Operation Act, 2017, children whose both parents are deceased or whose one parent is alive but is physically or mentally incapable of caring for them, must be protected by state mechanisms.

According to the National Census 2021, a total of 75,305 children (1.1%) are heads of their own households: 7,331 children aged 10 to 14 years and 67,974 children aged 15 to 19 years. Among them, 39,635 are boys and 35,670 are girls serving as heads of their households.

4.11.2 Lost and Found Children

According to Rule 89 of the Children's Regulations, 2021, the Government of Nepal has established a Child Search and Tracing Service to locate missing children, identify and reunite found children with their families, and to rescue and protect children involved in hazardous labor, trafficking, and street living.

This service operates through the toll-free telephone number 104, which provides free assistance for searching for missing children, rescuing abandoned children, and protecting children subjected to trafficking, hazardous labor, and street life. The service is coordinated with the Nepal Police and is available in 71 district police offices across the country, including the Kathmandu Valley, excluding Manang, Mustang, Nawalparasi Bardghat East, and Rukum East districts. There are also Child Search and Tracing Provincial Coordination Centers operating at Bhirkutimandap¹ (central), Koshi Province (Biratnagar), Madhesh Province (Janakpur), and Lumbini Province (Butwal).

In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 6,590 children (1,829 boys and 4,761 girls) were reported missing nationwide. Among them, 5,831 children (1,649 boys and 4,182 girls) were found and successfully reunited with their families.

Table 50: Children missing and found across the country in FY 2023/24

Province	Missing (Boys)	Missing (Girls)	Total Missing	Found (Boys)	Found (Girls)	Total Found	Search Ongoing (Boys)	Search Ongoing (Girls)	Total Ongoing
Koshi	199	652	869	199	578	777	0	74	92
Madhesh	213	1237	1450	176	976	1152	37	261	298
Bagmati – NCCR 104, Bhirkutimandap	56	51	107	45	40	85	11	11	22

¹ It is used to call National Center for Children at-Risk (NCCR 104)

Bagmati – Ktm. Valley Police Office, Rani Pokhari	322	539	861	296	494	790	26	45	71
Bagmati -Outside Valley	120	375	495	106	355	461	14	20	34
Gandaki	153	339	492	140	325	465	13	14	27
Lumbini	347	917	1264	309	804	1113	38	113	151
Karnali	148	258	406	134	237	371	14	21	35
Sudurpaschim	253	393	646	244	373	617	9	20	29
Total	1829	4761	6590	1649	4182	5831	180	579	759

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

From the above table, the highest missing boys were found in Lumbini Province, whereas the highest missing girls were found in Madhesh Province. Koshi Province found the highest percent (100%) of missing boys, whereas the NCCR 104 Brikutimandap found the lowest percent (80.4%). Gandaki Province found the highest percent (95.9%) of missing girls, whereas the NCCR 104 Brikutimandap found the lowest percent (74.4%). It is a matter of sensitive concerns for policy makers and actors of those provinces and the concerned stakeholders.

4.11.3 Children Found Unaccompanied/Abandoned

In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 383 abandoned children (243 boys and 140 girls) were rescued across the country. Among them, 238 children were reunited with their families, while 145 children whose families could not be located were placed in temporary care and protection in children's homes and institutions. The table below presents the details of abandoned children rescued over the past five years.

Table 51: Status of children found without guardians (Fiscal Years 2019/20 – 2023/24)

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Children Found Without Guardians			Reunited with Family			In Temporary Shelter			Escaped from Shelter		
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
1	2019/20	242	95	337	114	65	179	124	29	153	4	1	5
2	2020/21	106	91	197	55	54	109	51	37	88	–	–	–
3	2021/22	200	97	297	127	69	196	70	28	98	3	–	3
4	2022/23	232	130	362	150	85	235	69	42	111	13	3	16
5	2023/24	243	140	383	153	85	238	81	54	135	9	1	10

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

The district-wise details of missing children are presented in [Annex – 3](#).

Table 52: Situation of missing, found and tracing ongoing children

S.N.	Age Group	Missing Children (Boy)	Missing Children (Girl)	Missing Children (Total)	Found Among Missing (Boy)	Found Among Missing (Girl)	Found Among Missing (Total)	Still Being Traced (Boy)	Still Being Traced (Girl)	Still Being Traced (Total)
1	0–5	45	39	84	41	35	76	4	4	8
2	6–10	178	89	267	162	88	250	16	1	17
3	11–14	703	1094	1797	642	988	1630	61	106	167
4	15–18	903	3539	4442	804	3071	3875	99	468	567
Total		1829	4761	6590	1649	4182	5831	180	579	759

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

From the above table, the number of missing children aged 15 to 18 years is 4,442, which accounts for 67.4% of the total missing children. Among the missing children in this age group, only 53.7% are girls. It is important to conduct a detailed study to understand why the number of missing boys is higher in the 0–10 years age group, whereas the number of missing girls is significantly higher in the 11–18 years age group.

4.11.4 Rescue, protection and management of street children

During fiscal year 2023/24, efforts were made to rescue and rehabilitate street children. In coordination with Kathmandu Metropolitan City, 235 (children—207 boys and 28 girls) street children were rescued from 8 locations and provided with interim care and protection. Among them, 85 children (69 boys and 16 girls) were reintegrated with their families, and a total of 205 children received necessary psychosocial support and services. Similarly, 111 (boys 48 and girls 63) street children were rehabilitated.

From fiscal year 2019/20 to 2023/24, a total of 346 street children were rescued and rehabilitated in collaboration with various organizations. Among them, 1 child has been reintegrated with their family, 586 children have been referred to various partner organizations, and 429 children are currently under institutional care. The thematic data on street children for the current fiscal year is being compiled.

Table 53: Street children rescued by fiscal year

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Street Children Rescued		
		Boy	Girl	Total
1	2015/16	175	28	203
2	2016/17	432	58	490
3	2017/18	177	3	180
4	2018/19	119	19	138
5	2019/20	378	87	465
6	2020/21	201	54	355
7	2021/22	132	25	157
8	2022/23	101	25	126
9	2023/24	206	29	235
	Total	2,021	328	2,349

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

4.11.5 Children Affected from Violence and Vulnerabilities

According to Rule 90, Sub-rule (2) of the Children's Regulation, 2021, the National Child Rights Council is mandated to operate a Child Helpline Service in coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the rescue, protection, and support of children who are victims of violence or are at risk. To ensure immediate rescue, relief, protection, psychosocial counseling, legal advice, family reunification, and reintegration of children affected by violence or at risk, the Child Helpline Service is operated in collaboration with NGOs in 18 districts across the country. This service is accessible through the toll-free telephone number 1098 (Ten-Nine-Eight).

Through the Child Helpline Service, the following major services are provided:

- 24/7 hotline service (1098) and emergency rescue
- Ambulance or child-friendly transportation
- Immediate relief and support
- Psychosocial and family counseling
- Temporary protection and health care
- Family support and legal counseling/assistance
- Family reunification and social or institutional reintegration
- Regular monitoring, facilitation, and follow-up of the children receiving services

Through the Child Helpline Service (1098), a total of 947 children (426 boys and 521 girls) were rescued and provided with protection and care during the fiscal year 2023/24. Altogether, 10,251 children (3,778 boys and 6,473 girls) received services through the Child Helpline - including those rescued via the helpline, referred by other agencies, or identified as needing support through phone calls and other means. The details of the services provided by the Child Helpline Centers are presented in the table below.

Table 54; Support provided to children at-risk in FY 2021/22 – 2022/23

S.N.	Support details	FY 2021/22			FY 2022/23		
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
1	Health treatment support	267	386	653	225	520	745
2	Psycho-social counseling	1143	1456	2599	1060	1639	2699
3	Family counseling	1066	1501	2567	992	1634	2626
4	Temporary protection services	434	583	1017	409	619	1028
5	Legal counseling	208	581	789	263	674	937
6	Educational support	236	322	558	291	418	709
7	Income generation support	39	42	81	7	21	28
8	Child marriage prevention	38	202	240	104	286	390
9	Immediate relief, protection support and others	380	539	919	427	662	1089
Total		3811	5612	9423	3778	6473	10251

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

4.11.6 Intercountry and Domestic Adoption

Article 21 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 recognizes the right to adopt children, including intercountry adoption. To better regulate adoption practices, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, adopted on 29 May 1993, is

also in place. In line with these conventions, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 of Nepal's Civil Code Act, 2017 provide detailed provisions related to domestic and intercountry adoption of children, respectively. The Terms and Procedures for Allowing Nepalese Children to be Adopted by Foreign Nationals, 2008, and the Order on the Establishment of the Intercountry Adoption Management and Development Committee, 2010 also include several provisions concerning child adoption.

According to the international organization on adoption based in The Hague, a total of 1,901 children were sent from Nepal to countries that are party to the Hague Convention from 1999 to 2019. Of these, 882 children (368 boys and 514 girls) were adopted with their sex identified, and 1,019 children were adopted without gender being specified.

The breakdown of the number of children adopted and the destination countries during that time period is presented in the table below.

Table 55: Number of out-country adopted children between 1999 and 2019

S.N.	Country	१९९९(२०१२)	२०१३	२०१४	२०१५	२०१६	२०१७	२०१८	२०१९	Total
१	Italy	४८९	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	४८९
२	USA	३७६	०	१	२	०	१	०	१	३८१
३	Austria	३	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	३
४	Belgium	१८	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१८
५	Canada	४०	०	२	०	२	०	०	१	४५
६	Germany	२९	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	२९
७	France	१११	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१११
८	Denmark	२२	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	२२
९	Sweden	९	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	९
१०	Switzerland	१९	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१९
११	Norway	१०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१०
१२	Spain	७४४	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	७४४
१३	Luxembourg	१	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१
१४	Netherlands	१६	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	१६
१५	Slovenia	०	०	१	०	२	०	१	०	४
Total		१,८८७	०	४	२	४	१	१	२	१,९०१

Source: HCCH.net

In the past, due to the more accessible procedures for adoption by foreign nationals, 1,887 children were sent abroad as adopted sons or daughters over a 14-year period from 1999 to 2012. However, due to legal and structural reforms, this number dropped significantly to just 14 children between 2013 and 2019. Regarding domestic adoption, since official documentation of adoptive relationships must be formally secured, the Nepal Gazette (Part 2, Supplement dated October 30, 2015) as per Clause 15(gha) and the Nepal Law Amendment and Repeal Act, 2015, along with the Civil Code (Muluki Dewani Sanhita), 2017, currently mandates that adoption proceedings must be carried out through the District Court. According to the Annual Report of the Supreme Court, from fiscal year 2019/20 to 2023/24, a total of 101 child adoption-related cases were recorded across all three tiers of the court system.

Table 56: Details of case related to adoption

FY	Supreme Court			High Court			District Court			Total (All Courts)		
	Registered	Settled	Pending	Registered	Settled	Pending	Registered	Settled	Pending	Registered	Settled	Pending
2020/21	8	4	4	17	9	8	18	13	5	43	26	17
2021/22	5	0	5	9	3	6	3	2	1	17	5	12
2022/23	7	4	3	3	0	3	10	3	7	20	7	13
2023/24	3	1	2	2	1	1	16	7	9	21	9	12
Total	23	9	14	31	13	18	47	25	22	101	47	54

Source: Annual Report of the Supreme Court, 2024

4.12 Alternative Care

Alternative care refers to the arrangement for the upbringing, education, and necessary care of children who, due to various reasons, are deprived of family care or find themselves in risky or difficult situations, by families other than their own or in residential institutions, as per the law. According to Article 18 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, if parents or guardians are unable to provide proper care for children, the government must assist in the care of the children. Article 20 of the Convention states that it is the responsibility of the state to protect orphaned children.

Among the children requiring special protection mentioned in Section 48 of the Children's Act, 2018, Section 49 recognizes children who fall under clauses (a) to (f) of Subsection (1) of Section 48 as children in need of alternative care. Accordingly, these primarily include orphans, children found abandoned in hospitals or other public places, children who have not received proper care due to serious physical or mental disabilities or incapacities of their parents, children involved in legal disputes who have been recommended for alternative care through judicial procedures, children in custody or imprisoned with their incarcerated parents, infants born from rape or punishable offenses whom the caretaker cannot raise and who have applied to the Child Welfare Officer, and children separated from their families for their best interests due to abuse, violence, or neglect by their parents or guardians. Additionally, according to Section 69 of the Act and Rule 68 of the Regulations, the Government of Nepal, provincial governments, and local bodies shall coordinate to provide temporary protective services and safe shelter arrangements for children deemed to need immediate rescue and protection.

According to the National Census 2021, out of a total of 9,869,583 children, the majority 77.9% live with both their mother and father, while 17.1% live only with their mother, 1% live only with their father, and 3% live with other relatives. The details regarding the living arrangements of children are presented in the table below.

Table 57: Details of children's living arrangements with parents, guardian, or caregivers

Living Arrangement	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
With both parents	77.9	77.9	77.9
With mother only	17.1	17.1	17.1
With father only	1.0	1.0	1.0
With father and stepmother	0.4	0.3	0.3
With mother and stepfather	0.1	0.1	0.1

With other relatives	2.7	3.2	3.0
With employer	0	0	0
With other persons	0.6	0.4	0.5
Not specified	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100	100	100

Source: National Census, 2021

According to the national census, a total of 341,310 children are under alternative care. In the fiscal year 2023/24, based on recommendations from the local level Child Welfare Officers and coordination with bodies such as the National Child Rights Council, a total of 101 children requiring special protection (31 boys and 70 girls) were provided alternative care as a last resort through shelter homes for their protection and management.

4.12.1 Children Protected in Child Care Homes

In the fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 396 shelter homes were operating across 46 districts. These shelter homes provided residential protection to 10,882 children, including 5,025 boys and 5,857 girls. In the previous fiscal year 2022/23, 418 shelter homes operated in 45 districts, protecting a total of 11,202 children, consisting of 5,144 boys and 6,058 girls. The current operational shelter homes and the number of children protected are presented in the table below.

Table 58: Children protected in child care homes

Province	No. of CCH operated districts	No. of CCH	No. of children in CCH		
			Boys	Girls	Total
Koshi	9	30	386	381	767
Madhesh	5	13	138	57	195
Bagmati	10	272	3316	4249	7565
Gandaki	6	35	456	536	992
Lumbini	7	20	296	262	558
Karnali	6	12	233	211	444
Sudurpashchim		14	200	161	361
Total	46	396	5025	5857	10882

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

From the above table, compared to the previous fiscal year, in the fiscal year 2023/24 the number of shelter homes has decreased by 22, and the number of protected children has decreased by 320. Among the total shelter homes, 69.79% are located in Bagmati Province, and among the protected children, 69.39% are in Bagmati Province. The province with the least number of shelter homes is Karnali Province with 2.30%, and the lowest number of children protected is in Madhesh Province with 1.80%. Details of CCH is given in Annex 4.

4.12.2 Monitoring of Child Care Homes, Rescue, and Family Reunification of Children

In the fiscal year 2023/24, the National Child Rights Council, in coordination and cooperation with relevant local governments, conducted on-site monitoring of 175 shelter homes across 13 districts and provided necessary recommendations. Based on the suggestions and directives given during the monitoring, 44 shelter homes have reunited 386 children (181 boys and 205 girls) with their families.

From 5 shelter homes operating in violation of prevailing laws and standards, 53 children (35 boys and 18 girls) have been rescued and provided with protection and care. Details of children rescued from shelter homes operating contrary to law and standards from the past fiscal year to date are presented in the table below.

Table 59: Details of children rescued from child care homes

FY	No. of CCH	Boys rescued	Girls rescued	Total rescued
2016/17	12	54	60	114
2017/18	9	81	66	147
2018/19	5	116	76	192
2019/20	6	36	19	55
2020/21	8	35	38	73
2021/22	3	15	14	29
2022/23	2	27	14	41
2023/24	5	35	18	53

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

According to the Children's Regulations, 2021, institutions such as children's homes, family-based care centers, and rehabilitation centers must obtain operational permits from the National Child Rights Council to operate. In accordance with this provision, by the mid-July of the fiscal year 2024, 132 institutions that are in operation across the country, have been issued certificates of permission to operate children's homes.

4.13 Children Rescued from Various Cross-border and Border Areas and Reunited with Their Families

In the fiscal year 2023/24, the National Child Rights Council, in coordination and cooperation with the Nepali Embassy in India, the Child Welfare Committee, and various organizations, facilitated the repatriation and family reunification of 71 children (46 boys and 25 girls) rescued from border points and various locations in India. Last year, this number was 64 children (51 boys and 13 girls).

The number of children rescued from various locations in India from fiscal year 2015/16 up to this fiscal year is presented in the table below.

Table 60: Rescued, repatriated, and reunited children

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2015/16	39	0	39
2	2016/17	48	7	55
3	2017/18	24	2	26
4	2018/19	20	10	30
5	2019/20	26	0	26
6	2020/21	19	0	19
7	2021/22	75	11	86
8	2022/23	51	13	64
9	2023/24	46	25	71
	Total	348	68	416

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2024

From the above table, a total of 416 children (348 boys and 68 girls) have been rescued, repatriated from various locations in India, and reunited with their families between the fiscal years 2015/16 to 2023/24.

Chapter – 5

Child Rights to Participation

5.1 Background

Among the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), those related to child participation include: respect for the views of the child (Article 12), freedom of expression (Article 13), freedom of association (Article 15), the right to privacy (Article 16), and access to information (Article 17). Article 39, Sub-Article (3) of the Constitution of Nepal ensures the right to child participation. In addition, since other rights under fundamental rights apply to all citizens, the rights to freedom of thought and expression, and to form associations and unions, are also applicable to children.

Section 8 of the Children's Act, 2018 states that children who are capable of forming their own views shall have the right to participate in decisions made by the family, community, school, or other public bodies or institutions that affect them. Under Section 9, which pertains to the right to freedom of expression and access to information, every child has the right to express their views freely in accordance with the prevailing laws, and to seek and receive information concerning their rights, interests, and matters of concern within the limits of the law. Section 10 provides that every child has the right to form child clubs or organizations and to assemble peacefully for the protection and promotion of child rights. Likewise, Rule 3 of the Children's Regulation, 2021, provides that children may establish child clubs or organizations. Section 12 of the Local Government Operation Act, 2017 includes provisions related to promoting child participation at the local level, such as the operation and management of sports activities, children's parks, child clubs, and child networks, as well as making wards child-friendly.

Similarly, the Child-Friendly Local Governance Implementation Guidelines, 2021, issued by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, state that the demands raised during child assemblies should be incorporated into the annual programs and action plans of local governments. The current Sixteenth Plan also mentions expanding the formation and operation of institutions such as child clubs, child networks, adolescent groups, and scouts. It aims to run targeted programs to increase child participation in learning about social responsibility and self-reliant lifestyles.

5.2 Children's Freedom of Association

Nepal has been implementing constitutional, legal, and policy measures to ensure children's participation, freedom of organization, and the right to freedom of thought and expression. In the formulation of periodic and annual plans, policies, and programs, particularly those related to children, both government and non-governmental agencies have been engaging children based on their age, interests, and capacities to express their views. According to the Guidelines for Local Level Planning, 2018, the participation of children in the local planning process is mandated, and several local governments have incorporated suggestions from child assemblies into their annual plans.

Additionally, to protect and promote child rights, children have begun forming and registering organizations and clubs at the local level. Child clubs, organizations, and networks are being established and activated to work toward the protection and promotion of child rights. Children's participation in educational and extracurricular activities, including representation in School Management Committees, is

becoming increasingly institutionalized. At the local level, children are also participating in Health Management Committees, Child-Friendly Local Governance Committees at wards, municipalities, or villages, and Local Child Rights Committees. Furthermore, both governmental and non-governmental events related to children are increasingly ensuring child representation and respecting their opinions.

Institutional platforms like Nepal Scouts and the Red Cross Society have also formally included child participation. According to Section 10 of the Children's Act, 2018, every child has the right to form child clubs or organizations and to assemble peacefully for the protection and promotion of their rights and interests. The Children's Regulation, 2021 includes provisions for forming, registering, renewing, or dissolving child clubs or organizations at the local level. It also directs Local Child Rights Committees to publicize the achievements and activities of these organizations. However, child clubs are prohibited from engaging in any kind of financial transactions, fundraising, or monetary dealings. Local governments are authorized to make necessary arrangements to ensure the effective operation and functioning of these child organizations.

In Nepal, priority has been given to child networks and clubs to promote children's organizational freedom and leadership development. These clubs provide children opportunities to express their views, engage in discussions, and develop leadership skills. By ensuring participation of children in local governments, schools, and communities, these child clubs contribute to the implementation of Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) programs. Such initiatives help make planning, policy, and budget processes more child-friendly and encourage active participation of children. However, there is still room for improvement in ensuring meaningful child participation. It is essential to expand access to child-friendly services and foster a supportive environment through child-sensitive laws, policies, programs, and structures.

5.3 Media and Child Participation

Section 19 of the Children's Act, 2018 states that it is the responsibility of the media sector to ensure that the publication or broadcast of information does not violate child rights or go against the best interests of children. With the aim of promoting children's creative and innovative abilities, child-focused information and content are now being produced and broadcast with the participation of children themselves.

To make media child-friendly, the Child-Friendly Media Guidelines, 2016 are in effect. Both private and community-based FM stations, radios, and televisions are running various programs focused on children and involving their active participation. Such programs not only provide valuable information related to children but also serve to encourage and motivate them. In this way, children are increasingly seen in the media not only as subjects of concern, readers, viewers, and listeners but also as participants. However, to effectively manage data regarding children's participation in media, and to establish a common understanding for the publication and broadcast of child-friendly information and content, further efforts are needed.

5.4 Child Participation in Culture and Recreation

Sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Children's Act, 2018 ensures that every child has the right to child-friendly entertainment according to their age, interest, and needs. Accordingly, children have started participating in cultural and entertainment activities aimed at their overall development. An environment that allows children to express their art, creativity, and thoughts positively impacts their self-confidence, social skills, and mental development.

Participation in culture and entertainment not only helps preserve their unique identity but also fosters interest and respect for various forms of art and traditions. Article 19 of the Constitution of Nepal prohibits the publication and broadcast of audio-visual content that is contrary to public decency, morality, or promotes discrimination. Therefore, it is crucial for concerned and responsible agencies to seriously consider how children are portrayed or involved in songs, music, advertisements, and cartoons. It is necessary to assess whether child-sensitive approaches were adopted in these processes and whether such portrayals are in the best interests of children or may have negative effects on social harmony.

5.5 Sports and Children

Section 14 of the Children's Act, 2018 ensures every child's right to play and participate in sports according to their age and interests. The law also mandates that every school must make proper arrangements for sports activities in addition to regular academic learning.

Although sports have been included in the educational curriculum, their effective implementation has been hindered due to the lack of necessary infrastructure, trained coaches, resources, and access to adequate facilities. Government and non-government bodies and institutions at all three levels (federal, provincial, and local) have been conducting various programs to help children explore and develop their abilities and talents. Competitions targeting children are regularly organized at the school, ward, local, district, provincial, and national levels. These competitions have contributed to the physical and mental development of children, as well as to building their confidence, self-defense skills, teamwork, and leadership abilities.

5.6 Scout and Children

Nepal Scouts was established in the year 1952. The organization helps children in their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual development, as well as in building self-protection skills, leadership abilities, and a sense of dedication toward the nation and nationalism.

5.7 Junior Red-cross Circle and Children

Nearly 100 years after the establishment of the International Red Cross movement with the aim of participating in humanitarian efforts worldwide, the Nepal Red Cross Society was established on September 5, 1963 in Nepal. With the goal of contributing to the global Red Cross movement, the Nepal Red Cross Society has organized branches, sub-branches, and children and youth through the Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles across the country to promote child participation.

Various programs have been conducted involving children and junior youths. The Junior and Youth Red Cross Department of the Nepal Red Cross Society has reported the following major activities and achievements related to child participation up to the fiscal year 2023/24.

Table 61: Junior and youth red cross circle – child participation

S.N.	Activity	Achievements / No. of Participants
1	Number of Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles in operation	15,178 circles
2	Number of members in Junior and Youth Circles	76,767 members
3	Meetings with government and other stakeholders on youth development	68 persons
4	Youth Boot Camp participants	97 persons
5	Youth Transformer Campaign participants	1,578 persons
6	Youth ADAPT Trainer Training	86 persons
7	Provincial Level Youth Symposium	1,474 persons
8	Basic Youth ADAPT Training	80 persons
9	National Junior and Youth Red Cross Symposium	1,763 persons
10	Review Meeting of Youth Transformer Campaign	86 persons
11	Orientation on Youth Transformer Campaign	1,348 persons
12	National Poetry, Essay, and Art Competition among Junior and Youth Students	1,782 persons
13	Cross-country experience sharing visits of Red Cross youth	99 persons
14	Re-publication and distribution of Junior and Youth Red Cross Policies and Guidelines	14,999 copies

Source: Nepal Red Cross Society, 2024

According to the table mentioned above, so far, a total of 659,565 children and junior youths have participated in 6,934 Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles. Throughout the year, 1,283 children and junior youths have participated in various programs conducted through the Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles.

Chapter – 6

Child-friendly Local Governance

6.1 Background

According to the Constitution of Nepal, the Children’s Act, 2018, the Local Government Operation Act, 2017, the Child-Friendly Local Governance Implementation Guidelines, 2021, and the Procedure for Declaring Child-Friendly Local Governance, 2022, it is necessary to ensure that families, schools, local levels, and the broader society are made child-friendly. The Child-Friendly Local Governance Implementation Guidelines, 2021 have set the goal of making all local levels child-friendly by the fiscal year 2030/31. Likewise, by the fiscal year 2024/25, the target is to declare 130 municipalities, 200 rural municipalities, and 2,955 wards as child-friendly. By the end of fiscal year 2023/24, a total of 24 local levels have been declared child-friendly, which includes - 1 Sub-metropolitan city, 19 Municipalities, and 4 Rural municipalities. Additionally, some wards under other local levels have also been declared as child-friendly wards. The detailed information regarding this is presented below.

Table 62: Local levels declared as child-friendly local governance after the federal restructuring

S.N.	Province	District	Local Level	Date of Declaration
1	Lumbini	Nawalparasi	Sunwal Municipality	2075 Bhadra 03
2	Gandaki	Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East)	Devchuli Municipality	2075 Bhadra 29
3	Madhesh	Saptari	Kanchanrup Municipality	2076 Bhadra 20
4	Bagmati	Dolakha	Bhimeshwar Municipality	2076 Bhadra 29
5	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Manahari Rural Municipality	2076 Poush 28
6	Koshi	Jhapa	Bhadrapur Municipality	2077 Poush 07
7	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Bakaiya Rural Municipality	2077 Magh 29
8	Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Dhulikhel Municipality	2077 Falgun 05
9	Gandaki	Syangja	Bhirkot Municipality	2077 Falgun 22
10	Lumbini	Palpa	Baganasakali Rural Municipality	2077 Chaitra 14
11	Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok	Panauti Municipality	2078 Ashadh 30
12	Lumbini	Kapilvastu	Banganga Municipality	2078 Shrawan 15
13	Lumbini	Rupandehi	Tilottama Municipality	2078 Mangsir 29
14	Koshi	Sunsari	Ramdhuni Municipality	2078 Poush 08
15	Lumbini	Palpa	Ramba Rural Municipality	2078 Poush 19
16	Bagmati	Bhaktapur	Changunarayan Municipality	2078 Falgun 28
17	Lumbini	Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West)	Ramgram Municipality	2078 Chaitra 12
18	Bagmati	Dolakha	Kalinchok Rural Municipality	2078 Chaitra 12
19	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Makwanpurgadhi Rural Municipality	2078 Chaitra 12
20	Bagmati	Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	2078 Chaitra 22
21	Lumbini	Dang	Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City	2078 Chaitra 23
22	Koshi	Ilam	Suryodaya Municipality	2022 Bhadra 29
23	Gandaki	Baglung	Galkot Municipality	2023 Jestha 13
24	Koshi	Jhapa	Kamal Rural Municipality	2023 Magh 20

Source: Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, 2024

Table 63: Details of Wards declared as child-friendly under local governments

S.N.	Province	District	Local Level (Palika)	Ward No.	Declaration Date
1	Karnali	Humla	Sarkegad Rural Municipality	1	2074 Falgun
2	Karnali	Kalikot	Tilagufa Municipality	2	2074 Mangsir 18
3	Karnali	Kalikot	Tilagufa Municipality	4	2075 Mangsir 18
4	Karnali	Dailekh	Aathbis Municipality	4	2074 Poush 08
5	Karnali	Humla	Simikot Rural Municipality	4	2073 Chaitra 18
6	Gandaki	Parbat	Modi Rural Municipality	8	2074 Magh 15
7	Madhesh	Parsa	Birgunj Metropolitan City	31	2074 Falgun
8	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Indrasarowar Rural Municipality	4	2075 Jestha 29
9	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Indrasarowar Rural Municipality	5	2075 Jestha 29
10	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	13	2075 Ashadh 26
11	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	14	2075 Ashadh 30
12	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	20	2075 Bhadra 29
13	Madhesh	Parsa	Parsagadhi Municipality	2	2075 Bhadra 29
14	Lumbini	Kapilvastu	Shivaraj Municipality	9	2075 Ashoj 03
15	Lumbini	Rupandehi	Shuddhodhan Rural Municipality	2	2075 Ashoj 16
16	Koshi	Udayapur	Triyuga Municipality	15	2075 Ashoj 17
17	Karnali	Kalikot	Tilagufa Municipality	1	2075 Kartik 18
18	Karnali	Kalikot	Tilagufa Municipality	3	2075 Kartik 18
19	Karnali	Dailekh	Gurans Municipality	6	2075 Poush 12
20	Sudurpaschim	Achham	Chaurpati Rural Municipality	6	2075 Poush 29
21	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	12	2076 Jestha 10
22	Gandaki	Parbat	Paiyuuntar Rural Municipality	7	2076 Ashadh 09
23	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	18	2076 Ashadh 22
24	Bagmati	Chitwan	Bharatpur Metropolitan City	14	2076 Ashadh 25
25	Koshi	Sunsari	Ramdhuni Municipality	5	2076 Ashadh 30
26	Lumbini	Pyuthan	Swargadwari Municipality	5	2076 Ashadh 31
27	Gandaki	Lamjung	Kwolosothar Rural Municipality	1	2076 Bhadra 29
28	Lumbini	Kapilvastu	Kapilvastu Municipality	9	2076 Kartik 08
29	Lumbini	Kapilvastu	Kapilvastu Municipality	10	2076 Kartik 08
30	Lumbini	Kapilvastu	Shivaraj Municipality	1	2076 Kartik 28
31	Gandaki	Nawalparasi	Gaindakot Municipality	11	2076 Poush 11
32	Koshi	Morang	Gramthan Rural Municipality	1	2076 Poush 27
33	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	1	2078 Bhadra 30
34	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	6	2078 Poush 18
35	Bagmati	Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	7	2078 Magh 28
36	Lumbini	Bardiya	Basgadhi Municipality	6	2078 Falgun 6
37	Koshi	Jhapa	Kamal Rural Municipality	4	2078 Falgun 23
38	Karnali	Jajarkot	Chhedagad Municipality	11	2078 Falgun 29
39	Sudurpashchim	Achham	Mellekh Rural Municipality	3	2078 Chaitra 12
40	Bagmati	Sindhuli	Tinpatan Rural Municipality	10	2078 Chaitra 20
41	Lumbini	Banke	Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City	12	2078 Chaitra 25
42	Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Chautara Sangachokgadhi Mun.	13	2022 Bhadra 29

43	Koshi	Udayapur	Rautamai Rural Municipality	4	2022 Ashoj 3
44	Karnali	Jajarkot	Chhedagad Municipality	4	2023 Jestha 12
45	Karnali	Jajarkot	Kushe Rural Municipality	5	2023 Jestha 29
46	Koshi	Udayapur	Udayapurgadhi Municipality	1	2023 Ashadh 5
47	Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kirtipur Municipality	7	2023 Bhadra 7
48	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	2	2023 Bhadra 26
49	Madhesh	Saptari	Surunga Municipality	3	2023 Bhadra 29
50	Koshi	Jhapa	Kamal Rural Municipality	1	2023 Ashoj 26
51	Karnali	Jumla	Tilagufa Municipality	9	2023 Mangsir 4
52	Karnali	Jumla	Tilagufa Municipality	10	2023 Mangsir 4
53	Karnali	Jumla	Tilagufa Municipality	11	2023 Mangsir 4
54	Koshi	Udayapur	Tapli Municipality	5	2081 Jestha 25
55	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	4	2081 Jestha 25
56	Bagmati	Sindhuli	Fikkal Rural Municipality	5	2081 Jestha 30
57	Bagmati	Sindhuli	Tinpatan Rural Municipality	11	2081 Jestha 31
58	Karnali	Jumla	Tila Rural Municipality	6	2081 Jestha 32
59	Koshi	Udayapur	Rautamai Rural Municipality	4	2081 Ashadh 14
60	Bagmati	Sindhuli	Tinpatan Rural Municipality	1	2081 Ashadh 15
61	Koshi	Bhojpur	Arun Rural Municipality	3	2081 Ashadh 17
62	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	8	2081 Ashadh 30
63	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	2	2081 Shrawan 12
64	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	7	2081 Bhadra 1
65	Koshi	Ilam	Chulachuli Rural Municipality	3	2081 Bhadra 5
66	Koshi	Ilam	Chulachuli Rural Municipality	5	2081 Bhadra 5
67	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	17	2081 Bhadra 7
68	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	10	2081 Bhadra 8
69	Karnali	Jumla	Patarasi Rural Municipality	5	2081 Bhadra 14
70	Karnali	Jajarkot	Bheri Municipality	8	2081 Bhadra 19
71	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	11	2081 Bhadra 29
72	Bagmati	Sindhuli	Kamalamai Municipality	6	2081 Bhadra 29
73	Gandaki	Parbat	Modi Rural Municipality	1	2081 Bhadra 29
74	Bagmati	Sindhupalchok	Chautara Sangachokgadhi Mun.	7	2081 Bhadra 29
75	Sudurpashchim	Achham	Mellekh Rural Municipality	7	2081 Bhadra 29
76	Bagmati	Makwanpur	Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City	5	2081 Bhadra 29
77	Koshi	Ilam	Sandukpur Rural Municipality	3	2081 Bhadra 29
78	Gandaki	Parbat	Modi Rural Municipality	3	2023 Bhadra 29
79	Gandaki	Nawalparasi (East)	Gaindakot Municipality	1	2075 Chaitra 9
80	Gandaki	Lamjung	Besisahar Municipality	10	2023 Bhadra 29
81	Gandaki	Gorkha	Ajirkot Rural Municipality	3	2081 Jestha 20
82	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	5	2023 Ashadh 30
83	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	6	2023 Ashadh 30
84	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	8	2023 Ashadh 30
85	Koshi	Udayapur	Rautamai Rural Municipality	8	2081 Ashadh 14
86	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	10	2081 Baisakh 1

87	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	2	2081 Ashadh 10
88	Koshi	Sunsari	Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City	3	2081 Ashadh 10
89	Koshi	Morang	Urlabari Municipality	1	2081 Ashadh 30
90	Koshi	Morang	Urlabari Municipality	6	2081 Ashadh 30
91	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	1	2081 Ashadh 30
92	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	2	2081 Ashadh 30
93	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	3	2081 Ashadh 30
94	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	4	2081 Ashadh 30
95	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	7	2081 Ashadh 30
96	Koshi	Jhapa	Kanakai Municipality	9	2081 Ashadh 30
97	Koshi	Ilam	Ilam Municipality	4	2081 Ashadh 30

Source: Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, 2024

Chapter - 7

Child Related Provincial Policy and Program, and Budget Speech (Fiscal Year 2024/25)

7.1 Child Related Provincial Policy and Program, and Budget Speech (Fiscal Year 2024/25)

1. Koshi Province

In **Koshi Province**, hospitals under the provincial government provide free health check-ups for pregnant and postpartum women. In addition, all expenses from hospital admission to return home are fully covered. Programs are being implemented to reduce the rate of cesarean deliveries. The province aims to identify and analyze the nutritional status of children and improve it accordingly. To discourage the use of junk food among children, local grains are promoted for preparing midday meals. Efforts are being made to ensure all children are fully immunized, establishing the province as fully immunized. Coordination with local governments is ongoing to declare Koshi as a child-friendly province. Further programs include developing the province as free from child marriage and street children, and organizing provincial conferences for school nurses and child welfare officers.

2. Madhesh Province

In Madhesh Province, initiatives include declaring the province fully safe for motherhood, fully immunized, and free from malnutrition. Health services are being provided in child care homes, and a provincial-level children's hospital is being established and operated. The province is also working on constructing model schools, launching a literacy campaign, and ensuring clean drinking water and sanitation facilities in all schools. The "Chief Minister's Save and Educate the Daughter" program is being implemented. The physical and human resource capacity of early childhood development centers is being strengthened. Special efforts are made to ensure the retention of children from marginalized castes such as Dom, Muhar, Chamar, Dusadh, and Halkhor in schools. Enrollment campaigns target out-of-school children, and special schools are being operated. Strategies against child marriage are being developed, along with support services for vulnerable children at the household level.

3. Bagmati Province

In Bagmati Province, various programs have been included such as safe motherhood, sexual and reproductive health, the establishment of child-friendly parks, and the formulation of strategies related to provincial education and integrated child development. The province also emphasizes child nutrition and the education of marginalized, minority, and ultra-poor children. Social security programs are being provided for children who have lost both parents. There are initiatives aimed at improving mental health and reducing suicide rates. The province aims to assign at least one nurse to every school and ensure that all adolescent girls receive vaccines against cervical cancer. Further efforts are being made to provide children with quality and technology-friendly education. The vision includes declaring the province free of child marriage and promoting child-friendly local governance.

4. Gandaki Province

In Gandaki Province, children under the age of ten receive free laboratory and outpatient (OPD) services at hospitals under the provincial government. The province is working to promote institutional deliveries and has established a regional children's hospital. It aims to become fully immunized and is implementing the "Fridays for Future" campaign. There are targeted programs for the education of children with intellectual disabilities. Institutional frameworks such as the Provincial Child Rights Committee and the Provincial Child Council have been established. Additional priorities include eliminating child labor, ending violence and abuse against children, expanding large schools, lead schools, and residential schools, and developing streets free from dependent individuals. Other areas of focus include child health, nutrition, and the promotion and development of child-friendly local governance.

5. Lumbini Province

In Lumbini Province, in collaboration and coordination with local governments, the concept of a school service area is being implemented to promote quality education. A major provincial education reform program is being conducted, with special educational support for children with learning difficulties and specific provisions for children with autism. Programs such as "Fewer Schools, More Students," "Specialists with Students," "Model Teaching School," "My School, My Responsibility," "One Day for My School," and "Scouts in Schools" have been introduced. The province aims to declare itself child-friendly and has developed a 10-year strategic plan to become child marriage-free by 2030. Efforts are being made to effectively control child labor, child trafficking, and transportation. Special protection arrangements are in place for orphaned children, and a provincial-level child fund has been established.

6. Karnali Province

In Karnali Province, the focus is on providing clean and safe drinking water for children and implementing the Karnali Public Education Reform Campaign. The province aims to be fully immunized and prioritizes child health, safe motherhood, and school health workers. Skill-based and technical education is being promoted for Dalit, minority, marginalized, and ultra-poor children. Programs also include child disease management, protection and rehabilitation of helpless and disabled children, and efforts to end caste-based discrimination, human trafficking, superstition, and harmful practices like Chhaupadi. Additional focus areas include girls' empowerment, prevention of child labor and child marriage, autism, mental health, and psychosocial counseling.

7. Sudurpashchim Province

In Sudurpashchim Province, initiatives include establishing one model early childhood development center in each local level, assigning school nurses, and promoting effective learning. The province prioritizes child and reproductive health and provides free potential treatment for children with physical disabilities. Programs focus on ending violence against children, creating emergency funds for children in need of special protection, and providing free treatment for impoverished children with physical deformities. Other important issues addressed include child labor, child marriage, gender-based violence, Chhaupadi, social discrimination, street children, and scholarship programs for the upliftment of the Badi community. Emergency air rescue and assistance are also available for complicated deliveries and critically ill patients.

The child-related policies, programs, and budget statements of all seven provinces for the fiscal year 2023/24 are as follows.

1. Koshi Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 74: Pregnant and postpartum women will receive free health check-ups in hospitals under the provincial government. Additionally, all expenses from hospital admission to returning home will be fully covered. Programs will be implemented to reduce the rate of cesarean deliveries.

Policy No. 77: Activities will be conducted to identify, analyze, and manage the nutritional status of children. Multi-sectoral plans will be implemented with proper coordination to improve nutritional conditions and to prevent and control non-communicable diseases. Public health programs will be operated to identify and manage autism, visual problems, and dental issues among children. Full immunization will be ensured in line with the national immunization schedule, aiming to establish the province as fully immunized.

Policy No. 89: Through the Province Major Educational Reform Program, coordination with local governments will be carried out to improve quality by developing physical infrastructure in community schools, ensuring clean drinking water, utilizing information technology, and enhancing management capacity. The operation of model secondary schools and development of model child-friendly basic schools will be continued in coordination and cooperation with local governments.

Policy No. 92: To promote and preserve indigenous crops and manage midday meals for students in community schools, schools will be encouraged through local governments to use locally produced food items.

Policy No. 95: Students with talent will be identified and encouraged through science exhibitions organized at the school level within the province.

Policy No. 101: In partnership with social development organizations, programs will be implemented for the protection, rehabilitation, and economic empowerment of women, children, senior citizens, indigenous nationalities, endangered and marginalized groups, persons with disabilities, Dalits, unprotected individuals, gender and sexual minorities, single women, Madhesi, Muslim, and other disadvantaged communities.

Policy No. 102: Coordination with local governments will be carried out to declare Koshi Province a child-friendly province.

Budget Statement

Point No. 98: A budget allocation of NPR. 42.9 million has been made to provide free health check-ups for pregnant women and free treatment for targeted children under the age of 10 through hospitals under the provincial government.

Point No. 107: In order to improve access, continuity, and quality of school education, the Province Major Educational Reform Program includes budget allocation for the development of physical and managerial capacities in schools. This includes the provision of clean drinking water, use of information and

communication technology (ICT) in teaching and supervision, establishment of science and mathematics laboratories, model secondary schools, and child-friendly schools, as well as residential schools in geographically remote and difficult areas.

Point No. 119: Budget has been allocated for the operation of long-term rehabilitation homes run by the provincial government for the protection of women and girls affected by gender-based violence, along with short-term safe shelters operating at local and district levels through local governments and social development organizations.

Point No. 121: Budget has also been allocated to implement targeted programs for the development of women, children, senior citizens, indigenous nationalities, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, single women, and other disadvantaged individuals, groups, and communities.

2. Madhesh Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 93: The provincial government is committed to declaring the province a fully safe motherhood province, fully immunized province, and free from malnutrition, in coordination and partnership with the federal government, local governments, and stakeholders.

Policy No. 97: Mobile health services will be operated to provide health check-ups and treatment for elderly individuals, laborers, and those residing in old age homes, child care homes, and human service centers in the province.

Policy No. 100: Efforts will be made in coordination with the federal government for the establishment and operation of a provincial-level children's hospital.

Policy No. 114: One school in each district will be developed as a model school through management agreements with nationally renowned schools. Programs for the construction of required physical and social infrastructure and capacity development will be implemented as needed.

Policy No. 116: Recognizing illiteracy as a barrier to development and a challenge for social transformation, a provincial literacy campaign will be conducted in collaboration with local governments, mobilizing youth volunteers, students, and schools.

Policy No. 117: The physical and other infrastructures of schools in the province will be gradually developed to ensure the right to quality education. Tele-education systems using modern information technology and local languages will be introduced in school education.

Policy No. 119: An online database will be developed to monitor drinking water and sanitation in all schools, and necessary infrastructure will be implemented accordingly in a phased manner.

Policy No. 120: A policy will be adopted to effectively implement a tripartite relationship between students, teachers, and parents to promote quality education.

Policy No. 121: Various programs are being conducted under the Chief Minister's "Educate and Save the Daughter" campaign to promote social transformation and gender empowerment. These include girl child insurance, scholarships, civil service preparation classes, bicycle distribution, and awareness campaigns to end discrimination. Under this campaign, grants will be provided to schools for purchasing bicycles for

girls studying in Grade 8. Additionally, laptops will be distributed to girls in Grade 12 to ensure access to computer technology. Girls from Grades 8 to 10 will receive free sanitary pads monthly, with regular monitoring by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare.

Policy No. 123: Children aged 3 to 4 years in early childhood groups will be enrolled in Grade 1 with early development experience. For this, the physical and educational environment of early childhood development centers in community schools will be made child-friendly.

Policy No. 127: Under the Dalit Education Campaign, each child from the Dom, Musahar, Chamar, Dusadh, and Halkhor castes will receive an educational fund deposited directly into their account to improve school enrollment and retention.

Policy No. 131: A campaign to enroll all out-of-school children will continue in partnership with political parties, intellectuals, social workers, government, and non-government agencies. Each local level will ensure that no school-age children are left unenrolled within their territory.

Policy No. 132: To increase access to education for children with disabilities, at least one special school or a resource class in a community school will be established in each district, based on the nature of the disability. Teachers will be arranged to teach using sign language and Braille as needed.

Policy No. 133: Sports activities will be conducted from the school and community levels up to the provincial level to promote discipline in society and bring positive changes in physical and mental health. Necessary infrastructure will be gradually developed.

Policy No. 138: A 10-year strategic plan against child marriage and for gender equality at the provincial level will be implemented in coordination and cooperation with local levels.

Policy No. 139: Children who are identified as heads of households will be provided with necessary support and psychosocial counseling services.

Policy No. 141: Policies and strategies related to provincial gender equality, dowry elimination, witchcraft accusation, and child marriage awareness campaigns will be implemented in cooperation with local levels and stakeholders.

Policy No. 161: Special emphasis will be given to making all physical structures constructed by the provincial government gender-friendly, disability-friendly, and child-friendly.

Policy No. 164: For effective implementation of prevention and response programs against child violence and violence against women, cooperation will be established with police, local governments, and schools. Self-defense training programs will be arranged for children.

Policy No. 175: Coordination and collaboration will be carried out with all local governments to promote nutrition-friendly local governance.

Budget Statements

Point No. 72: A budget has been allocated to implement special programs across the province aimed at eliminating labor exploitation and child labor, and promoting dignified employment for workers in the informal sector.

Point No. 96: A total of NPR. 128 million has been allocated to support the management of early childhood development classes operated in community schools, at the rate of one per each provincial electoral constituency.

Point No. 98: A total of NPR. 160 million has been allocated to develop one model school in each of the eight parliamentary constituencies of the province, focusing on physical infrastructure and capacity development.

Point No. 100: Budget has been allocated to operate the Dalit Education Campaign, specifically targeting marginalized and ultra-poor children from communities such as Dom, Musahar, Chamar, Dusadh, and Halkhor.

Point No. 135: To protect adolescents from harmful addictions, a budget has been allocated to implement programs aimed at reducing the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Point No. 136: To address the high maternal and child mortality rates in Madhesh Province, NPR. 100 million has been allocated to strengthen the maternal and neonatal health management system.

Point No. 137: To ensure the minimum nutritional standards for pregnant and postpartum mothers as well as school children, NPR. 30 million has been allocated for the implementation of maternal and school health and nutrition programs, including the weekly distribution of iron supplements to adolescent girls.

3. Bagmati Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 15: A campaign to promote mental health and reduce the increasing rate of suicide will be conducted through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation.

Policy No. 16: Following the life-cycle approach, high priority will be given to safe motherhood, neonatal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and health services for senior citizens, operated in coordination and cooperation with the federal and local governments. Strengthening birthing centers and continuing free air rescue services for pregnant and laboring women in life-threatening conditions will be ensured. To make maternal health services effective, ultrasound services will be expanded in rural areas in coordination with local governments.

Policy No. 17: In collaboration with the federal government, arrangements will be made to provide HPV vaccines to adolescent girls to prevent cervical cancer.

Policy No. 18: The “One Secondary School, One Nurse” program will be continued, and in coordination with local governments, school nurses’ services will be expanded to the community level.

Policy No. 30: The compulsory and free basic education program will be continued in local governments to ensure access to all children.

Policy No. 31: To improve the quality of education in community schools, an integrated school management improvement and quality enhancement program will be implemented to realize the goal: “Quality Education: Our Common Expectation.”

Policy No. 32: To ensure quality, technology-friendly, and accessible learning for children, the development of physical and educational infrastructure of community schools will be continuously promoted.

Policy No. 34: Educational scholarship programs will be continued to improve access for students from minority, endangered, highly marginalized, Dalit, and economically disadvantaged communities.

Policy No. 35: Arrangements will be made to provide scholarships and education for disaster-affected children at the Shaheed Smriti Residential Secondary School in Jiri.

Policy No. 45: Programs for rescue, relief, psychosocial counseling, and social rehabilitation for survivors of gender-based violence will be continued.

Policy No. 48: For child-friendly local governance, institutional systems at the provincial and local levels will be strengthened to ensure the continuation of social security programs protecting children without parents. Additionally, the provincial government, in cooperation with local governments, will arrange for guardianship and education up to secondary level for children who are parentless, have no capable guardians, or have complete disabilities.

Policy No. 50: Community-based programs will be conducted for the protection and rehabilitation of children with intellectual disabilities, autism, muscular dystrophy, and similar conditions. Therapy centers providing rehabilitation services will be staffed with volunteer therapists.

Policy No. 66: In cooperation with relevant ministries, the use of powdered milk as a nutritional supplement will be promoted in basic schools across the province.

Budget Statements

Point No. 121: In coordination and cooperation with relevant sectoral bodies and organizations, a mental health promotion and suicide reduction campaign will be conducted in all 13 districts of the province. A budget allocation of NPR. 17.3 million has been made for this purpose.

Point No. 122: Necessary funds have been allocated to effectively implement free air rescue services for pregnant and laboring women at risk. Services related to reproductive health rights, including safe motherhood, neonatal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and senior citizen health services, will be developed and expanded.

Point No. 123: In collaboration with the federal government, arrangements have been made to provide free HPV vaccination for adolescent girls in the targeted age group to prevent cervical cancer.

Point No. 128: The “One Secondary School, One Nurse” program will continue in the coming fiscal year. This program will be gradually expanded to the community level in coordination with local governments. A budget of NPR. 490 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Point No. 135: The incentive program providing NPR. 5,000 to endangered and marginalized communities to increase access to safe motherhood and vaccination services will be continued.

Point No. 145: The compulsory and free basic education program, implemented in partnership and cooperation with local governments to ensure access for all children, will be continued in the upcoming year. A budget of NPR. 95.2 million has been allocated for this program.

Point No. 146: The integrated school management improvement and quality enhancement program for the development of physical infrastructure and infrastructure-friendly educational strengthening of community schools will be continued. A budget has been allocated to conduct classes digitally in community schools with a shortage of teacher positions.

Point No. 147: The educational scholarship program to improve access for students from minority, endangered, highly marginalized, Dalit, and economically disadvantaged communities will be continued.

Point No. 150: A budget of NPR. 30 million has been allocated to operate and manage community schools in rural areas as residential schools in partnership with local governments. Additionally, a budget has been allocated to provide scholarships and education for disaster-affected children at Shaheed Smriti Residential Secondary School in Jiri.

Point No. 154: Programs will be conducted to economically and socially empower persons with disabilities, provide educational materials to visually and hearing-impaired individuals, and protect and rehabilitate children with intellectual disabilities, autism, muscular dystrophy, and similar conditions. Budget has been allocated for volunteer therapists in rehabilitation centers providing these services.

Point No. 190: Funds have been allocated for strengthening the physical infrastructure, technology, and equipment support of prisons and juvenile rehabilitation homes.

4. Gandaki Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 76: Following the principle of social justice, health services will be made quality, accessible, and affordable by continuing and strengthening social security programs such as health insurance for targeted groups, free availability of blood and blood products, financial assistance for cancer treatment, free testing for senior citizens and children, and air rescue services for pregnant and laboring women at risk.

Policy No. 80: To reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates, comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care services will be ensured in all districts of the province. Regular monitoring of maternal and child mortality, promotion of institutional deliveries, simulation-based mentorship programs, establishment of maternity waiting homes in strategic locations, and expansion of ultrasound services in rural areas will be continued. These efforts aim to guarantee quality maternal and neonatal services and realize the goal of a “fully institutional delivery province.”

Policy No. 83: To make promotive and preventive health services more effective and result-oriented, integrated public health campaigns will be conducted covering prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental illness and suicide prevention, promotion of reproductive health, healthy lifestyles and environmental health, and improvement of nutritional status for children, adolescents, women, persons with disabilities, and other targeted groups.

Policy No. 95: To improve the quality of community schools, programs such as parental education, educational awareness, talent identification, teacher professional capacity development, and use of information technology will be continued.

Policy No. 97: To improve learning outcomes in basic education, integrated incentive-based facilities will be provided to children from targeted groups, marginalized areas, and disadvantaged communities.

Policy No. 98: To expand access and increase completion rates in higher education, policy provisions and incentive programs will be implemented targeting socially, economically, or educationally disadvantaged groups such as women, Dalits, indigenous peoples, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslims, marginalized classes, minorities, disabled persons, sexual and gender minorities, farmers, laborers, oppressed or disadvantaged areas' citizens, economically poor Khas Arya, children of martyrs, and other targeted groups.

Policy No. 105: The youth and students will be trained in technology through technology-friendly learning programs and the "Friday for Future" program to realize the slogan "Digital Gandaki: Increase Employment and Progress."

Policy No. 106: The "Creative Study Workshop" program will be conducted to identify and encourage inherent talents among students, promoting creative writing, thinking, good deeds, and moral values.

Policy No. 107: To promote reading culture and improve the quality of school education, the "Read to Teach" campaign will be conducted among teachers.

Policy No. 108: In partnership with local governments, programs will be encouraged to expand large schools, lead schools, and residential schools as needed in remote and scattered settlements. Support will be provided for educational and structural improvements in schools located in Himalayan and high hill areas.

Policy No. 109: To ensure educational rights of children with intellectual disabilities and autism, residential schools with facilities will be constructed and operated at the provincial level in cooperation and partnership with the Government of Nepal.

Policy No. 110: Incentive programs will be continued to encourage the integration and adjustment of community schools in partnership with local governments. Provisions for maintenance and repair of constructed community educational institutions will be ensured.

Policy No. 111: Community and public libraries will be upgraded to support lifelong learning. Necessary programs will be conducted for the protection, promotion, and development of religious schools and alternative schools such as Gurukuls, meditation centers, monasteries, madrasas, and ashrams, as well as religious tourism areas.

Policy No. 118: Local levels will be encouraged to develop and promote child-friendly local governance to ensure child rights. The "Child and Human-Free Road Province" program will be continued and psychosocial counseling services will be operated.

Policy No. 172: The "Citizen-Friendly Police Program" will be continued, and infrastructure for the police will be constructed in coordination and cooperation with the Government of Nepal. Maintenance and improvement work of physical structures such as prison buildings, detention rooms, and juvenile rehabilitation homes will be continued.

Budget Statements

Point No. 67: I have arranged for programs to be implemented by collectively improving the education system for building skilled human capital. Special emphasis has been given to programs promoting vocational, technical, life skills, behavioral, and moral education.

Point No. 68: In partnership with local governments, I have arranged budget provisions to encourage programs that expand schools, lead schools, and residential schools as needed in remote and scattered settlement areas. Additionally, necessary budget arrangements have been made for the educational and structural improvement of schools located in Himalayan and high hill regions.

Point No. 69: I have allocated budget to effectively implement programs for improving the quality of community schools, including parental education, educational awareness, talent identification, teacher professional capacity development, and the use of information technology.

Point No. 73: To realize the slogan “Digital Gandaki: Increase Employment and Progress,” I have continued the technology-friendly learning program and the “Friday for Future” program aimed at making youth and students technology-friendly and skilled.

Point No. 74: I have arranged for the construction and operation of a facility-equipped residential school at the provincial level in cooperation with the federal government to ensure the educational rights of children with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Point No. 81: To ensure child rights, I have arranged the budget to encourage local levels for the development and promotion of child-friendly local governance. The “Road Human-Free Province” program will be continued, and psychosocial counseling services will be arranged.

Point No. 84: To make health services accessible and quality-oriented, I have arranged the budget for social security programs including health insurance for targeted groups, free availability of blood and blood products, financial assistance for treatment of critical diseases, free testing for senior citizens and children, and air ambulance services for pregnant and laboring women at risk.

Point No. 87: I have allocated the necessary budget to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates by ensuring comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care services in all districts of the province. This includes regular monitoring of maternal and infant mortality, promotion of institutional delivery, simulation-based mentorship programs, establishment of strategically located maternity waiting homes, and expansion of ultrasound services in rural areas, to create a “fully institutional delivery province.”

Point No. 88: I have allocated budget to implement integrated public health campaigns aimed at making promotive and preventive health services more effective and result-oriented. This includes prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health and suicide prevention, reproductive health promotion, healthy lifestyles, environmental health promotion, and nutritional improvement programs targeting children, adolescents, women, persons with disabilities, and other targeted groups.

5. Lumbini Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 105: In coordination and cooperation with local levels, policy arrangements related to the concept of the school service area will be made. Targeted programs for quality education will be conducted, including physical infrastructure, teacher capacity development, teaching and learning, and building participation and accountability of families and communities as social infrastructure.

Policy No. 109: To improve the quality of educational institutions, arrangements will be made for educational materials, improvements in teaching-learning methods, sharing of successful experiences, use of modern teaching methods and technology, and the Provincial Chief Educational Reform Program will be implemented in cooperation with local levels. A joint monitoring mechanism involving the federal, provincial, and local governments will be established to organize monitoring and supervision.

Policy No. 111: Continued support will be provided for children with special learning needs, including autistic children. Resource classes for autistic children will be operated and managed, and additional classes for autism will be supported in Banke district.

Policy No. 112: For overall educational development, programs such as fewer schools with more students, experts with students, model teaching schools, “My School, My Responsibility,” and “One Day for School” will be promoted.

Policy No. 115: Scout activities will be conducted in coordination with schools.

Policy No. 18: The province will be developed as child-friendly, gender-friendly, disability-friendly, and senior citizen-friendly by continuing gender equality and social inclusion, gender budgeting, and gender audit policies and programs. An action plan will be developed and implemented to effectively enforce the province’s gender equality policy.

Policy No. 120: To make the province free from child marriage by 2030, a 10-year strategy to end child marriage will be implemented in coordination with local levels. Programs to end child marriage, child labor, violence against children, child sexual abuse, trafficking, and illegal transfer of children will be continuously implemented.

Policy No. 121: Awareness programs will be conducted against abuse occurring to children and adolescents, including physical and sexual abuse against adolescent girls. Self-defense training for adolescent girls will be gradually conducted in all schools of the province. Cooperation with local levels will be continuously maintained to implement the concept of a child-friendly province.

Policy No. 124: Targeted programs will be conducted for social security and protection of women, children, single women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, sexual and gender minorities, and the extremely marginalized.

Policy No. 125: To protect children without parents and those in difficult circumstances, the process of land acquisition for a provincial-level child protection home will be completed and construction will be initiated.

Policy No. 126: Programs will be run to support the food, health, and education of children temporarily housed in child homes and child protection centers within the province.

Policy No. 129: For the protection of women, children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and other groups during disasters, a gender-equality, disability- and social-inclusion (GDS) friendly disaster preparedness and response action plan will be formulated and implemented. The protection sector cluster's capacity of the province and local levels will be strengthened for effective operation.

Policy No. 133: Necessary mechanisms will be developed to provide policy recommendations for the development, protection, and management of women, children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

Policy No. 136: To reduce the high maternal and newborn mortality and high malnutrition in Lumbini Province, appropriate strategies will be prepared. A community nursing program will be designed as a model project in areas with high maternal mortality to effectively carry out the maternal survival campaign, including maternal and child health improvement and prevention and reduction of communicable diseases.

Policy No. 137: In Banke district of Lumbini Province, maternal health services will be expanded by establishing a 25-bed equipped maternity hospital in cooperation with the local level.

Policy No. 138: If emergency health referrals are required for pregnant, postpartum women, and newborns, air ambulance services will be arranged for the Himalayan and hilly districts within the province. Free ambulance services will continue for referrals between health institutions.

Policy No. 145: To effectively expand the school nurse program, nurses will be deployed in all community schools of the province through cost-sharing with local levels. Facilitation will be done to gradually apply this program in institutional schools as well.

Policy No. 146: To reduce the existing high malnutrition and maternal and neonatal mortality rates in Lumbini Province, necessary strategies will be prepared, and special programs for maternal and child health improvement will be formulated in coordination with stakeholders. For effective implementation, community-level programs will include mother groups, youth and child clubs, and school health and nutrition programs in collaboration with the provincial government, local governments, and various NGOs. The concept of health promotion will gradually be implemented in hospitals.

Policy No. 153: To prevent and reduce suicide, positive thinking and awareness programs will be conducted in educational institutions and communities in coordination and cooperation with local levels and security agencies.

Policy No. 159: To reduce the increasing misuse of drugs among children and youth, awareness programs related to the reduction of drug abuse will be conducted in coordination and partnership with communities, local levels, security agencies, and educational institutions. Capacity building of security agencies will be carried out to combat drug abuse.

Policy No. 160: Physical infrastructure of prisons in the province will be improved and strengthened based on priority. Positive thinking and skill development training will be conducted for inmates. Arrangements will be made for the promotion and marketing of products produced in prisons. Facilitation for the nutrition and education of children will be provided.

Policy No. 167: Legal awareness programs will be conducted in schools targeting teachers and students.

Budget Statements

Point No. 45: To identify and prevent mental health problems, programs such as yoga, meditation, and psychosocial counseling will be conducted at the community level, and the capacity of health institutions will be developed for treatment.

Point No. 46: To ensure that no mother dies during childbirth, special programs including a fully safe motherhood service campaign will be conducted in coordination with local levels to reduce the high maternal and neonatal mortality rates. Free ambulance services will be continuously provided to transfer pregnant women in high-risk conditions to better-equipped hospitals, and free air rescue services will be arranged in remote areas. Necessary funds have been allocated for this purpose.

Point No. 47: As a provincial pride project, NPR. 150 million has been allocated for the expansion of MRI services at Lumbini Provincial Hospital, Butwal. Additionally, necessary budget has been allocated for the construction of the maternal and child service unit at Rapti Provincial Hospital, Tulsipur.

Point No. 48: To reduce morbidity and mortality rates of newborns, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU and NNSU) will be strengthened at Bardiya, Kapilvastu, Pyuthan, Bhim, Rapti Provincial, and Lumbini Provincial Hospitals.

Point No. 58: Improvement in educational infrastructure: NPR. 1 billion 100 million has been allocated for the physical and technical infrastructure development of community schools and campuses based on the recognition that quality education depends on strong educational infrastructure.

Point No. 61: The scholarships provided for higher education to targeted students and the science education scholarships given to female students will be continued.

Point No. 63: I have allocated NPR. 120 million for the development of infrastructure of schools such as Gurukul and Madarsa, for running special education and autism-focused resource classes, training resource teachers, and supporting students.

Point No. 66: Investment in Science: To realize the dream of progress, I have allocated NPR. 163.7 million for infrastructure development programs to promote science education in 12 major schools of the province.

Point No. 70: I have allocated necessary budget to develop the province as child-friendly, gender-friendly, disability-friendly, and senior citizen-friendly, and to conduct various awareness programs in partnership with local levels.

Point No. 71: To prevent mothers from having to quit their jobs, feasibility studies will be conducted and public childcare centers targeted for workers will be constructed in Butwal, Lumbini, Ghorahi, and Nepalgunj industrial areas.

Point No. 72: I have made arrangements for the necessary budget to establish a provincial-level mechanism and implement programs to provide policy suggestions and support for the development, protection, and rehabilitation of women, children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

Point No. 75: With the goal of ending child marriage in Lumbini Province by 2030, the provincial government's 10-year strategy will be implemented in collaboration with local levels to run awareness programs to eliminate child labor, violence against children, and trafficking.

Point No. 77: Arrangements have been made to conduct various awareness and capacity-building programs for self-protection and livelihood generation of women, single women, Dalit women, Indigenous women, Badi women, children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, sexual and gender minorities, and extremely impoverished citizens.

Point No. 78: I have continued partnership programs for declaring child-friendly local levels, child protection home management programs, and the operation of 12 district service centers (safe houses) run under public-private partnership, as well as rehabilitation centers in Banke and Rupandehi.

Point No. 135: I have allocated necessary funds to continue driver awareness programs to reduce road accidents, traffic programs targeted at students, and other such initiatives.

Point No. 166: To facilitate service delivery by caring for the children of civil servants during office hours, arrangements have been made to operate a childcare center in the provincial capital premises.

6. Karnali Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 45: Programs will be implemented for early identification, management, and rehabilitation related to autism, mental health, and psychosocial conditions. In coordination with the federal government, the cervical cancer vaccination campaign for adolescent girls will be expanded to all districts.

Policy No. 46: Programs related to safe motherhood, child health and nutrition, food fortification, as well as promotional, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services will be continued. These include postpartum nutrition kits, incentives for female community health volunteers, operation of community health units, and ambulance services.

Policy No. 50: To enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning in public schools, the Chief Minister's Digital Education Program will be implemented. In coordination with local levels, model IT-based schools will be continued in each district. The effectiveness of residential schools will be assessed, and infrastructure development and management of such schools in the Himalayan region will be prioritized in partnership with local governments.

Policy No. 51: Programs will be implemented to provide concessional loans to students studying vocational education in public secondary schools to promote self-employment. A "Textbook-Free Friday" life skills educational program will be piloted.

Policy No. 53: Access to school education will be promoted for children from Dalit, endangered, marginalized, minority, and extremely poor communities. Educational scholarships will be provided for marginalized and endangered community students. Special scholarships will be provided for daughters, daughters-in-law, Dalit, and students with disabilities to pursue skill-based technical education. The merit-based scholarship program targeting Dalit, women, and indigenous communities for medical studies will be continued.

Policy No. 55: To empower women, end discrimination against girls, prevent harmful social practices, and ensure girls' education up to secondary level, the “Bank Account – Daughter's Lifelong Security” program will be continued in a revised form through the enactment of related legislation.

Policy No. 56: Under the guiding principle of “Karnali’s Common Message: A Province Free of Child Marriage, Chhaupadi, and Untouchability,” the Provincial Social Empowerment Program will be launched as a campaign to eliminate these harmful social and cultural norms. A bill related to Dalit empowerment will be drafted. Local levels will be encouraged to declare themselves as child-friendly, Chhaupadi-free, untouchability-free, and child marriage-free municipalities. Economic and social empowerment programs will be implemented for gender and sexual minorities. Non-formal education and vocational training will be provided for Dalits, backward groups, endangered and marginalized communities.

Policy No. 58: The child protection system at the provincial and local levels will be strengthened. Long-term rehabilitation centers will be established at the provincial level, and short-term service centers will be continued for the rescue, protection, and reintegration of women and children affected by gender-based violence. Programs will also be implemented for the rescue, protection, care, education, rehabilitation, construction of child correction centers, and family support for children at risk or in need of special protection and alternative care.

Budget Statement

Point No. 124: To support the nutrition of women delivering in public health institutions, a maternity nutrition allowance of NPR. 2,500 will be provided in category ‘A’ areas and NPR. 2,000 in category ‘B’ areas. Necessary budget has been allocated for this purpose.

Point No. 129: High priority will be given to the strengthening of safe motherhood, nutrition, disease control, and curative services.

Point No. 131: Efforts will be made to reduce maternal, child, infant, and neonatal mortality rates by enhancing awareness, counseling, social behavior change, nutrition, immunization, and treatment services. The related information management and monitoring system will be further strengthened.

Point No. 132: Focus will be given to the strengthening of nutrition service centers.

Point No. 133: To facilitate teaching-learning in community schools and ensure quality education, priority will be given to the development of physical infrastructure and the improvement of educational standards. In the upcoming fiscal year, support will be provided for the improvement and development of physical infrastructure in 370 schools. NPR. 1.10 billion has been allocated for this purpose.

Point No. 134: To expand ICT-based teaching-learning facilities in schools, NPR. 1 billion has been allocated for the Chief Minister's Digital Learning Program.

Point No. 135: Infrastructure development of residential schools under construction in Himalayan districts will be continued. For this, NPR. 250 million has been allocated in coordination with local levels to complete the construction work.

Point No. 139: To manage teachers for English, Mathematics, and Science subjects in community schools with high student-teacher ratios, a one-time grant support will be provided. Additionally, budget has been

allocated for the implementation of a “Textbook-Free Friday” program to impart life-skill-based knowledge to students.

Point No. 141: To promote the declaration of child-friendly, chhaupadi-free, untouchability-free, and child marriage-free municipalities, necessary arrangements have been made to support local governments. Budget has also been allocated for continuing income generation and livelihood programs through informal education and vocational training to empower Dalits, disadvantaged groups, endangered, and marginalized communities.

Point No. 142: Necessary provisions have been made for the protection and educational development of marginalized and at-risk children, as well as for gender equality and social inclusion. A “One District, One Entrepreneurial Woman Promotion Program” will be implemented to encourage women entrepreneurs.

Point No. 143: Under the core message of Karnali - “A Province Free of Child Marriage, Chhaupadi, and Untouchability”- the Provincial Social Empowerment Program will be run as a campaign to eliminate such harmful social and cultural practices.

Point No. 145: Necessary arrangements have been made for the establishment of a long-term rehabilitation center at the provincial level for the rescue, protection, and reintegration of women and children affected by gender-based violence.

Point No. 146: Programs for the rescue, protection, care, education, reintegration, and family support of children in need of special protection and alternative care will be continued. In the upcoming fiscal year, necessary arrangements have been made to initiate the construction of a juvenile correction center in Birendranagar, Surkhet.

7. Sudurpashchim Province

Policies and Programs

Policy No. 27: With the slogan "Promote local crops and ensure food and nutrition security," a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive food system will be developed by increasing access to local crop production and consumption of clean and quality food products. Programs such as the promotion of indigenous and nutritious crops, integration with the school mid-day meal program based on local production, and the establishment of kitchen gardens will be prioritized.

Policy No. 69: Through the "Jayaprithvi Bahadur Singh Educational Infrastructure Development and School Education Quality Improvement Program," access to and quality of school education will be enhanced. Educational infrastructure will be developed, and learning outcomes will be improved. One school in each provincial assembly constituency will be selected and developed as a model school based on set standards, in partnership with the provincial and local governments.

Policy No. 71: The program to develop one model early childhood development center in each local level will be continued. Early childhood centers in border areas, quality improvement in schools, and income-generating and capacity development programs for targeted groups will be conducted. Traditional and religious schools will receive grants for protection and encouragement. The school nurse program will be gradually expanded. The school mid-day meal program based on local production will be supported to improve children’s health and nutrition.

Policy No. 72: Inclusive and accessible education will be ensured through infrastructure development and incentive programs targeting children with disabilities and those from marginalized groups. The Badi Upliftment Scholarship Program will continue to ensure access to school education for children from the Badi community. Scholarships will also be provided to students from this community for access to technical and higher education.

Policy No. 74: Career guidance programs will be conducted for secondary-level students.

Policy No. 83: Under the Chief Minister's Health Sector Reform and Nutrition Security Program, nutrition rehabilitation centers will be established, expanded, and upgraded in coordination with local levels for the reduction and case management of malnutrition.

Policy No. 84: Maternity centers and rural ultrasound programs will be further strengthened to enable timely diagnosis and treatment of reproductive health issues. Integrated health camps with specialists will be conducted. Coordination with the federal government will be made to ensure pediatricians, gynecologists, and orthopedic specialists are available in each district hospital.

Policy No. 85: Appropriate management of children with physical disabilities and autism will be ensured.

Policy No. 94: All forms of violence against children and adolescents will be eliminated. Child-related policies and programs will be formulated and implemented. A Provincial Child Fund will be established for children in need of special protection and those at risk or affected by violence. In partnership with local governments, the campaign "Let me grow, I'm still young. Say no to child marriage, let me study" will be conducted.

Policy No. 97: To enhance educational quality, reduce dropout rates, and promote mental health in schools, a school mental health campaign will be launched in coordination with NGOs and local levels.

Policy No. 104: To eliminate child labor and forced labor in the labor market, Employment Service Centers and Employment Information Centers will be strengthened in coordination with the federal and local governments.

Budget Statement

Point No. 101: A total of NPR. 17.6 million has been allocated for implementing the compulsory education program in partnership with the province, local levels, and non-governmental organizations, to ensure access to compulsory education for children from poor, deprived, martyr, disappeared and injured families, persons with disabilities, women, Dalits, freed Kamaiya, Kamlari, Haliya, marginalized communities, and talented students.

Point No. 102: Programs will be implemented to enhance access, improve quality, build educational infrastructure, and improve learning outcomes through the Jayaprithvi Bahadur Singh Educational Infrastructure Development and School Education Quality Improvement Program. NPR. 9 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Point No. 103: In partnership with local levels, one school in each provincial constituency will be selected and developed as a model school based on set standards. NPR. 540 million has been allocated for this program, and an additional NPR. 360 million has been allocated for school maintenance and playground development.

Point No. 105: The program to develop one early childhood development center in each local level as a model ECD center will continue this year as well. NPR. 8.8 million has been allocated for this.

Point No. 107: Nine community schools from nine districts will be connected through information technology to allow students from other schools to participate in lessons taught in one classroom, aiming to improve educational quality. NPR. 30 million has been allocated for this program.

Point No. 108: To improve the health and nutritional status of children, NPR. 90 million has been allocated to better organize the school mid-day meal program based on local production in Purbichauki Rural Municipality of Doti, Dilasaini Rural Municipality of Baitadi, and Belauri Municipality of Kanchanpur.

Point No. 109: To ensure access to education for children with intellectual disabilities, budget has been allocated to operate a well-equipped residential school in Belauri, Kanchanpur. The Badi Upliftment Scholarship Program will continue to improve access to technical and higher education for children from the Badi community.

Point No. 113: To improve the quality of education, reduce dropout rates, and promote mental health in schools, a school mental health campaign will be implemented in collaboration with NGOs and local levels, with adequate budgetary provision.

Point No. 128: Under the Chief Minister's Health Sector Reform and Nutrition Security Program, adequate budget has been allocated to the Provincial Health Directorate, hospitals, and health offices for the establishment, expansion, and upgrading of nutrition rehabilitation centers in coordination with local levels for reducing malnutrition and managing cases.

Point No. 130: Budget has been allocated to the Provincial Health Directorate and health offices for the provision of necessary equipment to strengthen maternity centers and rural ultrasound programs, and to conduct integrated health camps with specialists for the identification and diagnosis of reproductive health diseases and morbidities.

Point No. 131: Budget has been arranged for conducting screening camps for children with physical disabilities and autism in collaboration with local levels. In addition, necessary arrangements have been made for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and distribution of assistive devices through partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and the private sector.

Point No. 137: Budget has been allocated for an awareness program targeting 10,000 adolescents within the province to combat sexual violence and child marriage.

Point No. 143: Programs related to social security will be conducted to bring all workers under the social protection system by registering them and making labor dignified and organized. Policy and legal arrangements will be made and programs implemented to eliminate all forms of child labor.

Chapter- 8

Climate Change and Child Rights

8.1 Background

Under the international commitments related to climate change and gender and social inclusion, Nepal has agreed to and committed to various conventions and frameworks including:

- The UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, Agenda 21, Chapter 24
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg Implementation Plan
- The World Conference on Human Rights, 1993
- The International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
- The World Summit for Social Development, 1995
- United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820
- The Millennium Declaration, 2000
- Beijing Platform for Action, Section (Ta),
- Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruptions in nature, affecting the lives of billions globally. Currently, Nepal is implementing the Climate Change Policy, 2019 and the Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change, 2020–2030.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has noted that human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruptions in nature, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable people.

According to Save the Children's "Born into the Climate Crisis" report, on average, children born in 2020 face twice the risk of forest fires compared to children born in 1960. This risk is even more severe for children in vulnerable conditions, who are likely to face nearly double the risk of forest fires during their lifetime compared to previous generations. The report also indicates that children in low- and middle-income countries are the most likely to face the worsening impacts of climate change.

There are many forms of climate change. Among other effects, it influences the average temperature and rainfall as well as their timing and spatial distribution. It also affects the intensity and frequency of storms and the disasters caused by climate change. (IPCC, 2020).

In Nepal, a disaster risk governance structure has been established for the implementation and evaluation of child-focused disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change policies and actions. Disaster risk reduction has been prioritized and integrated into various national policies such as:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017
- Local Government Operation Act, 2017
- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy, 2018
- National Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (2018 - 2033)
- National Climate Change Policy, 2019

- Environment Protection Act, 2019

Under these frameworks, provincial and local governments have been granted the authority to develop and implement adaptation plans to protect against the impacts and risks of climate change. Nepal's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2020) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2021-2050) have emphasized the need for adequate financial resources to achieve mitigation and policy priorities related to climate change.

Since fiscal year 2013/14, Nepal has also been implementing a climate change budget code to analyze the status of investments aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change.

8.1.1 Impact of Climate Change in Nepal

Various studies and reports have shown that Nepal's population is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. According to a recent Asian Development Bank study, Nepal is estimated to lose about 2.2% of its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2050 due to climate change. In the 2019 INFORM Risk Index, Nepal ranked 31st in terms of risk, with around 80% of its population exposed to natural and climate-related hazards such as extreme heat, floods, and air pollution. Additionally, the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) 2021 indicates that Nepal is at high risk.

Nepal faces a high level of risk from natural disasters caused by climate change. The Ministry of Forests and Environment's 2021 risk analysis report includes data on 15 climate-related disasters updated in the disaster database. These disasters include floods, landslides, epidemics, fires, lightning, heavy rainfall, drought, glacial lake outburst floods, heatwaves, cold waves, storms, avalanches, snowfall, hailstorms, and forest fires.

An analysis of the trends of 14 of these climate-related disasters shows a significant increase in their occurrence since 1990. Except for seasonal droughts, the frequency of all other disaster events has been rising. In many districts, the number of rainy days is increasing, which may be contributing to a decrease in seasonal droughts. The trends of epidemics, avalanches, hailstorms, and droughts show minor variability, whereas the other ten climate-related disasters have shown significant and increasing variability.

Based on historical disaster event analysis, districts such as Sunsari, Kailali, Morang, Jhapa, Rautahat, Bardiya, Sarlahi, and Saptari have been identified as flood "hotspots." Similarly, districts including Dhading, Sankhuwasabha, Baglung, Sindhupalchok, Dolpa, Taplejung, Rolpa, Makwanpur, Myagdi, Lamjung, Dolakha, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Solukhumbu, Kavrepalanchok, Dailekh, Darchula, Syangja, Palpa, Khotang, Bajura, Kalikot, Kaski, Jajarkot, Bajhang, Gulmi, and Ilam are identified as landslide "hotspots." Based on human and economic impacts, Makwanpur, Rautahat, Banke, Kailali, Siraha, Morang, Doti, Chitwan, Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Parsa, Saptari, Sunsari, Sindhupalchok, Dang, Kaski, Kanchanpur, and Jhapa districts are identified as "hotspots" with high impact from climate-related disasters.

Climate change scenarios suggest an increase in the number of hot days and nights as well as warmer periods, while the number of cold days, cold nights, and cooler periods is likely to decrease. Regarding rainfall, there is an expected increase in both the number of rainy days and extreme rainfall days, although the total number of rainy days across Nepal may decrease.

The Ministry of Forests and Environment's "Nepal Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Report, 2021" provides information on the impacts of climate change, vulnerability, and risks across eight thematic areas and one overall sector, as well as based on five geographical regions, seven provinces, and 77 districts. The report warns that risks are likely to increase in the future, and due to economic crises caused by the pandemic and Nepal's political instability, vulnerabilities could also rise in most municipalities and provinces. Furthermore, poor, marginalized groups, women, children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities are among the groups most at risk from the impacts of climate change. From the perspectives of children and marginalized communities, the report highlights that heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides have taken many lives in Nepal, destroyed crops and hundreds of homes, and caused damage to infrastructure such as schools, bridges, government buildings, and hydropower plants.

8.1.2 Climate Change and Children Affected from Disasters

The Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) provides the first comprehensive perspective on the risks and vulnerabilities that children face due to the impacts of climate change. It ranks countries based on children's risk levels from climate change phenomena such as cyclones and extreme heat. The CCRI reports that children are more sensitive to the effects of climate change than adults due to different factors, which increases their risk of mortality. Most children face one or multiple simultaneous climate and environmental crises. Droughts, floods, severe weather, and other environmental stresses exacerbate each other, marginalize certain groups in society more deeply, and increase inequality.

The decline in agricultural production caused by climate change has led to increased food insecurity, which negatively impacts children's nutrition. Similarly, children are the most vulnerable to climate-related disasters such as floods, landslides, epidemics, and fires. Although various programs are implemented at federal, provincial, and local levels to reduce risks from natural disasters, the increasing impacts of climate change are intensifying the effects of such disasters.

8.1.3 Children Affected from Natural Disaster and Accidents

Each year children are affected from various natural disasters and accidents. As of Nepal Policy Headquarter the children affected from various severe cases of different types of natural disasters and accidents in the FY 2023/24 are as follows:

Table 64: Children affected from natural disaster and accidents

S.N.	Disaster	Death			Injured			Missing			Total affected
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Fire	१९	१५	३४	२६	२३	४९	०	०	०	८३
2.	Flood	८	८	१६	१	०	१	१	०	१	१८
3.	Landslide	१४	१३	२७	१०	१२	२२	१	०	१	५०
4.	Thunder	४	५	९	३०	३४	६४	०	०	०	७३
5.	Epidemic	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०
6.	Animal attack	४	०	४	३०	१२	४२	०	०	०	४६
7.	Storm	०	१	१	५	२	७	०	०	०	८
8.	Snowfall/avalanche	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०	०

9.	Cold wave	१	०	१	०	०	०	०	०	०	१
10.	Heavy rain	०	०	०	२	२	४	०	०	०	४
11.	Earthquake	३७	४४	८१	५७	५८	११५	०	०	०	१९६
12.	Altitude sickness	१	०	१	२	४	६	०	०	०	७
13.	Others	३	०	३	१	०	१	०	०	०	४
Total		९१	८६	१७७	१६४	१४७	३११	२	०	२	४९०

Source: Nepal Police Headquarter, 2024

The above table shows that a total of 490 children were affected from various incidents. Among them 177 children died and 311 children injured, and two children missed out. Children should be put first in disaster preparedness and response programs.

Chapter – 9

Conclusions

After the Government of Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the issues of children's rights and interests have been incorporated into the Constitution, and various laws have been progressively amended. The Children's Act, 2018 and the Children's Regulation, 2021 are currently being implemented. Some provisions of the Children's Act, 2018 are under amendment. To make national commitments more effective and results-oriented for ensuring child rights, institutional mechanisms have been established and are functioning at the federal, provincial, and local levels. The provisions of the Children's Act, 2018 require not only the federal government but also provincial and local governments to formulate and implement laws, policies, plans, and programs to enforce the Act.

Children's issues have been prioritized in provincial plans and programs. Likewise, local governments have addressed children's issues in laws, plans, annual policies, programs, budgets, and activities. To immediately address problems related to violence, abuse, and risks faced by children, the National Child Rights Council, Child Rights Committees at provincial and local levels, the Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate and Service Centers of the Nepal Police, Child Search and Rescue Service Centers, Child Helpline services, Child Welfare Officers, and other mechanisms are actively working. Awareness about child rights is increasing among communities, families, and children themselves. In extremely remote mountainous and hilly districts, the Helicopter Rescue Program under the President's Women's Upliftment Program has helped save mothers and infants by safely evacuating pregnant and delivering women at risk to hospitals.

As a result of the joint and collective efforts of all state bodies and institutions, since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, significant progress has been observed in both qualitative and quantitative indicators related to children's issues. Improvements are seen in enrollment and retention rates of students from early childhood development through grade 12 across all groups. According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022, the under-five child mortality rate is 33 per 1,000 live births, and the percentage of low birth weight children is 19%. The National Population Census 2021 reports a maternal mortality rate of 151 per 100,000 live births. According to the Education and Human Resource Development Center's Flash Report 2023, the net enrollment rate from grade 1 to 8 is 95.1%, while the net enrollment rate at the secondary level is 57.9%. Similarly, the National Population Census 2021 reports that the birth registration rate for children under five years old is 74%.

The Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour, 2018–2028, aims to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the Child Labour Report 2021 from the then Central Bureau of Statistics, 15.3% of children aged 5 to 17 years are engaged in labour.

Furthermore, based on complaints received annually by the National Child Rights Council, Child Search and Rescue Services, Labour and Employment Offices, and Child Helpline Services, efforts are ongoing to rescue, protect, and provide legal remedies for children involved in illegal labour.

For the protection and management of children requiring special care, institutional mechanisms mandated by the Children's Act, 2018 at the local level are approximately 50% functional as of fiscal year 2023/24.

Initiatives have begun to orient provincial and local levels towards updating information and data related to children.

Nepal has made notable efforts to respect, protect, promote, fulfill, and implement child rights through the enforcement of its Constitution, laws, policies, and international commitments. The national slogan for National Child Day 2023, “Investing in Children: Ensuring the Beginning of a Secure Future,” was continued in 2024.

However, due to the impacts of climate change, rapid development of information technology, emerging new issues and challenges, and the incomplete or ineffective implementation of some legal and policy provisions, the expected results in the protection and promotion of child rights have not been fully achieved. To address these gaps, the Government of Nepal, provincial and local governments, development partners, national and international NGOs, guardians, and other stakeholders need to increase child-centered economic and social investment.

Timely and effective attention must be given to children deprived of education, health, and protection services. Segmented data management on children should be established at federal, provincial, and local levels. The establishment of child-focused structures and the accelerated implementation of child-friendly local governance at the local level are necessary. Expansion of child clubs, regular updating of information, and ensuring online safety for children also require effective implementation.

Ensuring the rights of children needing special protection, and the prompt, accessible management of child labor, child marriage, violence against children, sexual abuse and discrimination, illicit transfer of children as well as appropriate care and protection for orphaned, disabled, and HIV/AIDS-affected children remained as significant challenges.

To promote investment for children at all three levels of government, it is necessary to conduct a national, coordinated, and integrated campaign for the implementation of legal structures, funds, the deployment of child welfare officers, social workers, and child psychologists. To further support the policies and plans of the Government of Nepal and provincial governments, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector are essential for running child-focused programs. Protecting and promoting the rights and interests of children is a shared responsibility and duty of all relevant stakeholders.

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ANNEXES

Annex - 1

Sustainable Development Goals and Child Related Targets

Goal	Goal	Target
1. No Poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.1 Eliminate extreme poverty for all people, including children (currently measured as living on less than \$1.25 a day). 1.2 Reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including poor and vulnerable populations.
2. Zero Hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1 End hunger and ensure year-round access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all, especially infants and vulnerable groups. 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition, achieve agreed targets by 2025 on stunting and wasting among children under 5, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.
3. Good Health and Well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.1 Reduce maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. 3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. 3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for adolescents (ages 10–19), and integrate them into national strategies and programs. 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services, and access to safe, effective, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines.
4. Quality Education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education with relevant learning outcomes. 4.2 Ensure access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education for all children. 4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training. 4.6 Ensure that all youth and at least 95% of adults achieve literacy and numeracy. 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive and provide safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.
5. Gender Equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls. 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage. 5.c Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the

		promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms, including recruitment and use of child soldiers.
10. Reduced Inequalities	Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status. 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices.
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons. 11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green public spaces, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children. 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
17. Partnerships for the Goals	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	17.9 Ensure legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Annex - 2

Types of Disabilities and Children

	Boy/Girl	CWDs	Phy. Disability	Low vision	C. blind-ness	Deaf	Low hearing	No vision & hearing	Vocal & Speech	Mental/ Psycho-social	Intel. Disability	Hemo-philias	Autism	Multi-disabilities
Nepal	Total	१२१४९८	41.6	7.5	11.6	6.3	3.9	1.5	7.7	3.8	2.3	0.7	1.9	11.1
	Boy	६६९३४	42.2	7.2	11.0	6.1	3.8	1.4	8.3	3.8	2.4	0.8	2.0	11.0
	Girl	५४५६४	40.9	7.8	12.3	6.6	4.0	1.7	7.0	3.8	2.2	0.6	1.8	11.3
Geographical Region														
Mountain	Total	१०२९१	47.4	7.6	10.1	7.2	4.8	1.9	6.0	2.4	1.2	0.4	1.3	9.7
	Boy	५७१२	48.7	7.2	9.8	7.3	4.7	1.8	6.3	2.3	1.1	0.5	1.2	9.2
	Girl	४५७९	45.9	8.2	10.5	7.0	5.0	2.0	5.7	2.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	10.2
Hill	Total	51701	41.6	8.7	10.1	7.0	4.4	1.8	7.4	3.5	2.4	0.7	2.1	10.4
	Boy	२८४९३	42.2	8.4	9.4	7.0	4.3	1.6	7.9	3.4	2.5	0.8	2.4	10.2
	Girl	२३२०८	41.0	9.0	10.9	7.0	4.6	1.9	6.7	3.6	2.2	0.6	1.8	10.7
Terai	Total	59506	40.6	6.5	13.1	5.5	3.2	1.3	8.4	4.3	2.5	0.8	1.9	12.0
	Boy	३२७२९	41.0	6.2	12.6	5.0	3.2	1.2	9.1	4.4	2.6	0.8	1.9	12.0
	Girl	२६७७७	40.0	6.7	13.8	6.1	3.3	1.4	7.6	4.3	2.4	0.8	1.8	12.0
Urban/Rural														
Urban	Total	25172	38.3	9.1	11.1	7.8	3.3	1.1	6.7	4.0	2.9	0.9	3.3	11.6
	Boy	१४०४८	38.7	8.8	10.6	7.4	3.2	1.0	7.3	4.0	3.1	1.0	3.7	11.3
	Girl	१११२४	37.8	9.5	11.6	8.3	3.4	1.2	6.1	4.1	2.6	0.7	2.9	12.0
Sub-urban	Total	43806	40.8	6.2	13.1	5.6	3.3	1.3	8.5	4.2	2.6	0.8	1.8	11.8
	Boy	२४१४४	41.3	6.0	12.4	5.2	3.2	1.3	9.2	4.3	2.7	0.9	1.9	11.8
	Girl	१९६६२	40.1	6.5	13.9	6.2	3.4	1.4	7.6	4.1	2.5	0.8	1.7	11.8
Rural	Total	52520	43.9	7.8	10.6	6.1	4.7	1.9	7.6	3.4	1.9	0.6	1.4	10.3
	Boy	२८७४२	44.6	7.5	10.0	6.1	4.5	1.8	8.2	3.3	1.9	0.6	1.4	10.1
	Girl	२३७७८	43.0	8.1	11.3	6.1	4.8	2.1	7.0	3.5	1.8	0.5	1.3	10.5
Rural/Municipality														
Municipality	Total	73067	40.5	7.6	11.7	6.6	3.6	1.3	7.6	3.9	2.6	0.8	2.3	11.5
	Boy	४०२९०	41.1	7.4	11.2	6.2	3.5	1.2	8.3	3.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	11.4
	Girl	३२७७७	39.8	8.0	12.4	7.1	3.7	1.4	6.8	4.0	2.5	0.6	2.1	11.7
Rural	Total	48431	43.2	7.3	11.3	5.8	4.2	1.9	7.9	3.6	2.0	0.7	1.5	10.5
	Boy	२६६४४	43.8	7.0	10.7	5.9	4.1	1.8	8.4	3.6	2.1	0.7	1.5	10.4

	Girl	२१७८७	42.6	7.5	12.1	5.8	4.4	2.1	7.3	3.6	1.9	0.6	1.4	10.7
Province														
Koshi	Total	19789	39.5	7.0	13.0	5.4	3.3	2.1	8.5	3.7	2.4	0.7	2.2	12.2
	Boy	१०७०६	39.8	6.9	12.4	5.1	3.3	2.0	9.2	3.7	2.5	0.8	2.2	12.0
	Girl	९०८३	39.2	7.2	13.7	5.7	3.3	2.2	7.6	3.7	2.3	0.6	2.2	12.3
Madhesh	Total	22206	41.8	4.8	15.2	4.6	2.1	1.4	8.5	4.0	2.0	1.0	1.6	13.1
	Boy	१२३१७	42.4	4.7	14.6	4.0	2.1	1.3	9.1	4.0	2.1	1.0	1.6	13.3
	Girl	९८८९	41.1	4.9	15.8	5.4	2.2	1.5	7.8	3.9	2.0	1.0	1.6	12.8
Bagmati	Total	17906	37.9	8.7	10.9	7.0	3.9	1.3	6.7	3.8	3.0	0.9	3.6	12.4
	Boy	९९२१	38.1	8.4	10.3	7.0	3.8	1.3	7.1	3.7	3.2	1.0	4.2	11.9
	Girl	७९८५	37.7	9.1	11.6	7.0	3.9	1.3	6.3	3.8	2.7	0.6	2.9	13.0
Gandaki	Total	10193	37.6	10.4	8.8	9.9	4.5	1.2	7.9	4.6	3.3	0.5	2.0	9.3
	Boy	५७०५	38.5	10.0	8.3	9.8	4.2	1.2	8.5	4.3	3.4	0.6	2.2	9.1
	Girl	४४८८	36.5	10.9	9.5	10.0	4.9	1.2	7.2	5.0	3.1	0.4	1.7	9.6
Lumbini	Total	24095	42.0	7.9	11.1	6.6	4.1	1.5	7.4	4.3	2.6	0.7	1.6	10.4
	Boy	१३१८१	42.2	7.6	10.7	6.3	4.1	1.3	8.0	4.4	2.7	0.8	1.7	10.4
	Girl	१०९१४	41.7	8.1	11.5	6.9	4.2	1.8	6.7	4.2	2.4	0.6	1.6	10.3
Karnali	Total	12924	49.3	7.8	8.5	7.1	5.5	1.6	6.9	2.6	1.2	0.5	1.2	7.7
	Boy	७२११	50.6	7.4	7.8	7.1	5.4	1.5	7.5	2.6	1.2	0.5	1.3	7.3
	Girl	५७१३	47.7	8.2	9.5	7.1	5.8	1.8	6.2	2.6	1.2	0.4	1.2	8.2
Su. Pa.	Total	14385	44.0	7.9	10.6	5.4	5.0	1.6	7.9	3.4	2.0	0.6	1.1	10.5
	Boy	७८९३	45.2	7.4	9.9	5.3	4.8	1.5	8.6	3.2	1.9	0.6	1.1	10.4
	Girl	६४९२	42.6	8.5	11.4	5.5	5.2	1.7	7.1	3.7	2.1	0.5	1.1	10.7

Annex - 3

Missing, Found and Tracing Ongoing Children by District, FY 2023/24

1. Koshi Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Search Ongoing Boys	Girls	Total
1	Taplejung	9	11	20	9	11	20	–	–	–
2	Panchthar	7	17	24	7	17	24	–	–	–
3	Ilam	9	21	30	8	20	28	1	1	2
4	Sankhuwasabha	6	8	14	5	6	11	1	2	3
5	Tehrathum	5	8	13	5	8	13	–	–	–
6	Dhankuta	3	12	15	2	12	14	1	–	1
7	Bhojpur	4	11	15	4	11	15	–	–	–
8	Khotang	4	17	21	4	16	20	–	1	1
9	Solukhumbu	15	13	28	14	12	26	1	1	2
10	Okhaldhunga	1	15	16	1	15	16	–	–	–
11	Udayapur	13	29	42	13	29	42	–	–	–
12	Jhapa	33	134	167	29	103	132	4	31	35
13	Morang	65	197	262	59	168	227	6	29	35
14	Sunsari	43	159	202	39	150	189	4	9	13
	Total	217	652	869	199	578	777	18	74	92

2. Madhesh Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Search Ongoing Boys	Girls	Total
1	Saptari	30	90	120	26	72	98	4	18	22
2	Siraha	39	212	251	28	153	181	11	59	70
3	Dhanusha	31	181	212	26	150	176	5	31	36
4	Mahottari	12	143	155	11	94	105	1	49	50
5	Sarlahi	21	174	195	21	148	169	–	26	26
6	Rautahat	19	134	153	15	115	130	4	19	23
7	Bara	21	150	171	18	128	146	3	22	25
8	Parsa	40	153	193	31	116	147	9	37	46
	Total	213	1237	1450	176	976	1152	37	261	298

3. Bagmati Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Search Ongoing Boys	Girls	Total
1	Dolakha	13	13	26	12	11	23	1	2	3
2	Ramechhap	3	11	14	3	9	12	–	2	2
3	Sindhuli	11	41	52	11	40	51	–	1	1
4	Kavrepalanchok	20	39	59	17	39	56	3	–	3
5	Sindhupalchok	6	22	28	6	22	28	–	–	–
6	Rasuwa	–	10	10	–	10	10	–	–	–
7	Nuwakot	7	27	34	4	27	31	3	–	3
8	Dhading	8	17	25	5	15	20	3	2	5
9	Chitwan	29	120	149	26	112	138	3	8	11
10	Makwanpur	23	75	98	22	70	92	1	5	6
	Total	120	375	495	106	355	461	14	20	34

Kathmandu Valley & Central Office

S.N.	District / Office	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Under Search Boys	Girls	Total
11	Kathmandu	241	370	611	223	339	562	18	31	49
12	Lalitpur	37	108	145	30	98	128	7	10	17
13	Bhaktapur	44	61	105	43	57	100	1	4	5
	Subtotal (Valley)	322	539	861	296	494	790	26	45	71
14	NCCR 104 (Central Office)	56	51	107	45	40	85	11	11	22

4. Gandaki Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Boys Under Search	Girls	Total
1	Gorkha	17	36	53	14	35	49	3	1	4
2	Lamjung	4	24	28	4	22	26	–	2	2
3	Tanahun	16	30	46	14	30	44	2	–	2
4	Kaski	65	129	194	60	123	183	5	6	11

5	Manang	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
6	Mustang	3	–	3	3	–	3	–	–	–
7	Parbat	1	11	12	1	11	12	–	–	–
8	Syangja	8	23	31	8	23	31	–	–	–
9	Myagdi	5	7	12	5	7	12	–	–	–
10	Baglung	9	20	29	9	19	28	–	1	1
11	Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East)	25	59	84	22	55	77	3	4	7
	Total	153	339	492	140	325	465	13	14	27

5. Lumbini Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Boys Under Search	Girls	Total
1	Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West)	11	83	94	10	70	80	1	13	14
2	Rupandehi	62	228	290	44	177	221	18	51	69
3	Kapilvastu	16	68	84	14	65	79	2	3	5
4	Palpa	17	38	55	15	36	51	2	2	4
5	Arghakhanchi	11	23	34	11	22	33	–	1	1
6	Gulmi	17	21	38	17	21	38	–	–	–
7	Rukum (Eastern part)	4	15	19	4	15	19	–	–	–
8	Rolpa	1	19	20	1	17	18	–	2	2
9	Pyuthan	7	17	24	7	17	24	–	–	–
10	Dang	125	210	335	119	192	311	6	18	24
11	Banke	52	113	165	45	94	139	7	19	26
12	Bardiya	24	82	106	22	78	100	2	4	6
	Total	347	917	1264	309	804	1113	38	113	151

6. Karnali Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Boys Under Search	Girls	Total
1	Rukum (Western part)	4	13	17	4	13	17	–	–	–
2	Salyan	2	11	13	2	11	13	–	–	–
3	Dolpa	1	3	4	1	3	4	–	–	–
4	Jumla	23	19	42	22	16	38	1	3	4
5	Mugu	2	4	6	2	4	6	–	–	–
6	Humla	8	4	12	5	3	8	3	1	4
7	Kalikot	12	29	41	11	29	40	1	–	1
8	Jajarkot	6	7	13	6	6	12	–	1	1
9	Dailekh	23	47	70	20	43	63	3	4	7
10	Surkhet	67	121	188	61	109	170	6	12	18
	Total	148	258	406	134	237	371	14	21	35

7. Sudurpashchim Province

S.N.	District	Missing Boys	Missing Girls	Total Missing	Found Boys	Found Girls	Total Found	Boys Under Search	Girls	Total
1	Bajura	13	20	33	13	19	32	–	1	1
2	Bajhang	19	19	38	17	18	35	2	1	3
3	Doti	13	16	29	12	16	28	1	–	1
4	Achham	19	33	52	19	33	52	–	–	–
5	Darchula	20	14	34	19	9	28	1	5	6
6	Baitadi	12	25	37	12	22	34	–	3	3
7	Dadeldhura	28	24	52	28	21	49	–	3	3
8	Kanchanpur	51	83	134	48	79	127	3	4	7
9	Kailali	78	159	237	76	156	232	2	3	5
	Total	253	393	646	244	373	617	9	20	29

Annex - 4

Province and District-wise CCHs and Protected Children, 2023/24

Province	S.N.	District	No. of Child Homes	Boys Protected	Girls Protected	Total Protected
Koshi	1	Sankhuwasabha	3	3	17	20
	2	Ilam	1	8	6	14
	3	Jhapa	11	130	110	240
	4	Bhojpur	1	13	27	40
	5	Dhankuta	1	5	7	12
	6	Morang	5	91	64	155
	7	Sunsari	6	115	127	242
	8	Udayapur	1	1	2	3
	9	Solukhumbu	1	20	21	41
		Total	30	386	381	767
Madhesh	1	Parsa	3	50	7	57
	2	Sarlahi	4	34	23	57
	3	Bara	1	6	6	12
	4	Rautahat	1	26	3	29
	5	Dhanusha	4	22	18	40
		Total	13	138	57	195
Bagmati	1	Dolakha	3	60	0	60
	2	Sindhupalchok	4	25	71	96
	3	Kavre	13	178	261	439
	4	Nuwakot	2	44	10	54
	5	Kathmandu	129	1532	2150	3682
	6	Lalitpur	71	767	1048	1815
	7	Bhaktapur	11	149	150	299
	8	Dhading	5	31	40	71
	9	Chitwan	24	411	414	825
	10	Makwanpur	10	119	105	224
		Total	272	3316	4249	7565
Gandaki	1	Kaski	25	363	475	838
	2	Syangja	1	18	10	28
	3	Gorkha	3	37	24	61
	4	Lamjung	2	5	8	13
	5	Myagdi	1	5	7	12
	6	Tanahun	3	28	12	40
		Total	35	456	536	992

Lumbini	1	Rupandehi	6	109	88	197
	2	Palpa	2	11	11	22
	3	Kapilvastu	1	25	0	25
	4	Banke	6	90	88	178
	5	Dang	3	36	44	80
	6	Bardiya	2	25	31	56
		Total	20	296	262	558
Karnali	1	Surkhet	5	137	151	288
	2	Jajarkot	1	25	11	36
	3	Jumla	1	21	5	26
	4	Kalikot	2	3	15	18
	5	Humla	1	27	19	46
	6	Mugu	1	8	3	11
	7	Dolpa	1	12	7	19
		Total	12	233	211	444
Sudur-	1	Kailali	8	140	134	274
pashchim	2	Achham	1	6	12	18
	3	Kanchanpur	5	54	15	69
		Total	14	200	161	361
7 Provinces		Grand Total	396	5025	5857	10,882