



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
6 November 2023

Original: English

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-eighth session

11–22 March 2024

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and  
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly  
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and  
peace for the twenty-first century”

### Statement submitted by Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being  
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council  
resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

At the national level, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (Jcycn) actively promotes the inclusion of essential policy provisions and the enforcement of laws to advance the rights of highly vulnerable groups, including but not limited to marginalized girls, sexual and gender minorities, children with disabilities, women, children from marginalized communities. Jcycn has made substantial contributions to the country's National Plan on Child Labour (2018–2028) while aligning its efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the mission to eliminate all forms of child labor by 2025.

At the provincial level, Jcycn consults with provincial policymakers and other relevant authorities for commitment and contribution to Jcycn's campaign. Continuous lobbying activities have given attention to the policymakers to strengthen and support the children's protection program at the provincial level.

At the local level, JCYCN actively interacts with local government, target beneficiaries, and local partners for the effective execution of planned interventions for the achievement of a common goal. It also works with youth clubs, mother's groups, child clubs, adolescents' groups, and so on to promote the right-based approach.

Jcycn also prepares theme-based Shadow reports for the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) and the United Nations Convention on Rights of Children (CRC).

Firstly, Jcycn's comprehensive response to the 2015 earthquake in Rasuwa included building a child-friendly school with six classrooms, clean facilities, and a new playground. This effort also led to a connected road through newly constructed tracks, bringing electricity to the village and benefiting at least 50 families.

Second, the transformative school project provided short-term employment to 177 locals, including 44 women, for up to 35 days each. It also boosted the local economy by involving 35 local businesses as suppliers. A dormant cooperative was revitalized, involving at least 250 locals, and 157 villagers received agriculture training, facilitating local development and business support. This successful village restoration created new opportunities for the community.

Third, JCYCN has been working on expanding people's access to choices of a safer and more dignified working environment. This is only possible with vibrant, strong, and influential communities helping to prevent themselves from unsafe migration. Therefore, JCYCN's actions have been focused on 1) improving the knowledge and capacities of the potential migrants, migrant workers, returnees, and their families, 2) making children and youths aware of unsafe migration, and motivating local children and women to pursue education and other forms of personal development, and 3) strengthening capacity of local institutions on promoting safe migration and reintegration of the returnees. With the safer migration project, JCYCN has reached 192 out-going migrant workers with pre-departure orientation, 139 smallholder farmers with agro-based input support, 450 families covered with the outreach program, 2100 people with the awareness activities, 208 families with counseling services, 308 young people with career counseling, 151 active population with the vocational training, 26 local stakeholders with the psychosocial counseling, 28 local leaders with the social dialogue for safe migration and 178 school children with the coaching class and extra curriculum activities.

Fourth, JCYCN supports empowering marginalized indigenous women through their livelihood. JCYCN supported 40 men and women from 35 families throughout the practically running project with delivery knowledge and material support. The project guided details including a soil test and its treatment, cow dung and urine

management, nursery management, techniques and management of poly house cultivation, commercial flower farming, training on leadership, team building and gender equality, and day celebration. Jcycn also aids children through the “income generation project” by supporting families to increase their income. This is achieved through livestock support, where 90 families have received two goats each to improve their livelihoods and secure children’s basic rights.

Fifth, JCYCN supports school programs, child participation, and child nutrition. Dipendra School was established 17 years before in the slum area in the town of Dharan. The children at Dipendra experience economically poor situations caused by social exclusion. The school’s community serves around 450 families who make their living by collecting firewood and doing casual labor work in the nearby market. Jcycn is jointly promoting Nutrition Friendly Local Governance with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. Jcycn establishes children’s clubs and offers them significant opportunities for capacity-building training, serving as a form of informal education.

Sixth, JCYCN responded to COVID-19 with emergency food and medical relief packages after the first wave, followed by recovery efforts until the second wave appeared. The relief works resumed as the second wave started over the ongoing recovery efforts. Therefore, the response and recovery efforts have been taken simultaneously. With the covid 19 response and recovery, JCYCN has: 1) supported ten enterprises, 2) counseled 746 people, 3) developed 2.3 km food trails, 4) employed 216 people for a short period, 5) disseminated awareness messages to over 600,000 people, 6) supported over 4500 people with emergency food, 7) supported 71 smallholder farmers with agricultural equipment, seeds, and knowledge, and 21 local institutions and health facilities in 16 municipals of nine districts with health-related materials.

Seventh, Jcycn implements the Girl’s Empowerment Project which aims to eliminate violence and discrimination against girls in public and private spheres. It enables young girls to fight against harmful social and cultural practices such as child marriage and menstrual barriers and raise voices of inclusion and also supports the development of child/girls-friendly infrastructures, policies, and practices. In essence, the program has identified the critical need to address violence and discrimination against girls and has taken concrete steps to create positive change. Through the dedication and passion of these young peer educators, the program has successfully initiated a cultural shift towards inclusivity and gender equality. So far, 1575 girls have been reached through the program. The Girls’ Learning Centre (GLC) is a significant initiative launched by Jcycn as part of the Girls Empowerment Project. The GLC is envisioned as a hub for knowledge and skill enhancement among children. It will offer educational programs, workshops, and resources to equip girls with the information and tools they need to thrive. The construction of the learning center began in April 2022, with plans for it to be fully functional by 2024.

Eight, Jcycn’s dedicated focus extends to rescuing children from various exploitative environments, encompassing the entertainment sector, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and hazardous working conditions. This involves crucial services such as psychosocial counseling and medical treatment, addressing the emotional and physical trauma many of these children may have endured. Jcycn’s determined efforts have successfully rescued 14 children from the most distressing forms of child labor. Nine have been successfully reintegrated into their families, receiving educational and livelihood support. At the same time, the remaining children have been referred to safe houses through our partners for their protection. In close collaboration with multiple law enforcement agencies, Jcycn played a pivotal role in rescuing seven children from internal sex trafficking and repatriating fourteen children who were victims of labor trafficking in India.

Ninth, in collaboration with the National Youth Council (NYC) and UNDP, Jcyen initiated a pioneering project titled “Enhancing Local Leaders’ Capacity for Youth-Friendly Local Governance in Nepal.” Under this project, Jcyen took on the task of revising the YFLG Guideline (2075) and its scoring system, including YFLG indicators, developed a new training manual. Throughout this process, Jcyen conducted in-house consultations in all provinces of Nepal, involving 235 elected representatives, local bureaucrats, and young individuals from diverse backgrounds. The 2nd phase of the campaign is being implemented in 2023.

Lastly, Jcyen has been leading the CFLG campaign in the country in collaboration with major child rights networks, governmental bodies, development partners, and so on, as the secretariat of the National CFLG Forum since 2017. It conducts research, capacity building, lobby, advocacy, and IEC materials preparation and provides technical support for effectively implementing the CFLG campaign. So far, 23 Local Governments and 48 wards of other different Governments have been CFLG declared.

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