

Programme Document

Protection of Children Temporarily or Permanently umla



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Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA)
Programme Document 2011-2015

 Terre des hommes

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1. Cover Page

A. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Country, region, town(s)	Nepal, 4 Midwestern Districts Humla, Jumla, Rolpa and Salyan
The people we serve	A total of 1020 families in four districts comprising approximately 3570 children in family preservation and 160 children deprived of parental care supported in either kinship, foster care or domestic adoption
Overall objective of the project	A protective environment is in place wherein girls and boys are free from unnecessary separation from family, and where procedures, services, behaviours and practices minimize risks and allow children deprived of parental care to find family-based care alternatives
Main activities of the project (see text for details of full Specific Objectives)	<p>Final Result 1: 1020 families have received family-based counselling resulting in either prevention of family breakdowns or child protection response.</p> <p>Final Result 2: 160 children deprived of parental care have been offered alternative care to parental care including kinship, foster care and domestic adoption in the target districts.</p> <p>Final Result 3.1: District Child Welfare Board (DCWB) and Protection Committees have child protection system and by-laws in place to promote alternative care to parental care.</p> <p>Final Result 3.2: 6,000 community members in Humla, Jumla, Salyan and Rolpa benefited from behaviour-change strategies in four districts.</p> <p>Final Result 3.3: 20 child protection units are in place in Village Development Committees in target districts.</p>
Current phase duration	01.01.2010 – 31.12.2012
Country representative	Joseph Aguetant, Tdh Delegate in Nepal
Partner organisation(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Mental Health and Counselling • District partners (see list below) • UNICEF • Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare • Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) • District Child Welfare Board (DCWB) • WCO (Women and Children Officers) • LDO (Local Development Officers) • CRO (Child Rights Officers)
Project reference number	7253

B. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2011		
Total cost of the project 2011-2012	USD	346'404
Requested funding for 2011-2012	USD	225'696
C. CONTACTS		
Name and address	Terre des hommes Foundation Montchoisi 15, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland	
Programme manager	Nathalie Praz , tel. number (+41 58) 611 06 41 nathalie.praz@tdh.ch	
Contact person in Nepal	Joseph Aguetant, tel. number (+977) 9851035583 jag@tdh.ch	
D. EXACT GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
<p>Humla district, four Village Development Committees (VDCs): Simikot: 29°58'13.60"N, 81°49'9.44"E Raya: 29°52'29.17"N, 81°51'30.93"E Jaira: 29°43'13.54"N, 81°59'15.98"E Thehe: 29°57'25.98"N, 81°51'22.06"E Jumla district (covering several VDCs): 29°16'25.67"N, 82°11'34.78"E Mugu district (covering several VDCs): 29°42'20.20"N, 82° 1'9.92"E Salyan district (covering several VDCs): 28°22'34.64"N, 82° 9'42.20"E Rolpa district (covering several VDCs): 28°22'48.45"N, 82°38'56.64"E Annex 2 provides a map of the districts as well as walking distances.</p>		
E. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board	
CDO	Chief District Officer	
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989	
DCWB	District Child Welfare Board	
CRO	Child Rights Officer	
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation	
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare	
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	
SWC	Social Welfare Council	
Tdh	Terre des hommes Foundation	
UN	United Nations	
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	
VCPC	Village Child Protection Committee	
WCD	Women and Children's Division of the MoWCSW	
WCO	Women and Children Officer (new title of WDO)	
WDO	Women Development Officer (former title)	

2. Executive Summary

Working towards establishing child protection systems at various levels, UNICEF and Terre des hommes have joined forces since October 2009 to propose a viable model of alternative care for children without parental care. A loss of parental care does not always harm children, and can give girls and boys an opportunity to escape abusive relationships, receive love and support from extended family members or attend school. In the context of Nepal however, a loss of parental care is not the result of well thought out strategies to protect children, but instead due to parents and children having to make **agonising choices** about whether to stay together, have enough to eat, or gain access to basic services such as education. Children known as *anath* or *tuhuro*, whether they are truly orphaned or declared as such for various reasons, are used and frequently abused by adults with a view to filling up orphanages, obtaining donations, receiving international volunteers, obtaining funds through international sponsorships or intercountry adoption. In these cases, life-impacting decisions are **rarely taken** with the best interests of children in mind, or as a paramount consideration. The Mala project is unique in Nepal. It is the first one to work on the whole gamut of alternative care to parental care at the district level, to create short, middle- and long-term foster care options and to thus concretely fight against unnecessary institutionalisation of children and the sale of children. Tdh has been active in denouncing malpractice in this area. We are encouraged in our efforts by the various organisations who have acknowledged this as an issue and joined forces: UNICEF, The Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Next Generation Nepal, Hope for Himalayan Kids, Hope and Homes for Children, Save the Children, various Diplomatic Missions. Our national partners are also on board and fully committed.

Children deprived of parental care is a key strategic intervention for Tdh as a whole. In Nepal it is taking place in a complex environment wherein institutionalization remains the norm. This project has been acknowledged by a Government evaluation as a **model for other districts**. It will serve to

A lot has been achieved since the establishment of the first comprehensive alternative care project in Nepal in October 2009. Looking towards the future, it is felt that broader de-institutionalisation efforts are required as Nepal remains overly and inappropriately reliant on residential care. More emphasis needs to be placed on de-institutionalization of children that are currently in child centres with their families wherever possible, and the provision of quality alternative family based care. It is recognised by both UNICEF and Tdh that this process requires a long-term commitment and sustained efforts to build public and political understanding of the harm that can be caused by family separation, unnecessary institutionalisation and inappropriate alternative care placement.¹

In essence, this initiative is supporting efforts to keep children within, or return them to, their family of origin and, where this is not possible or in the best interests of the child, to identify and provide the most suitable forms of alternative care under

¹ Wilton Park Conference 1010 - The Neglected Agenda: Protecting Children without Adequate Parental Care, Monday 30 November – Thursday 3 December 2009

conditions that promote the child's full and harmonious development and as part of national, district and community child protection systems.

This project responds to the urgent need for family preservation and family-based care alternatives in Nepal. It responds to the high occurrence of child displacement and institutionalization of children from Midwestern districts. The project is based on a simple fact and a simple truth: The fact is that there are too many orphanages and children's homes in Nepal (444 as per last count) and children are too easily and too frequently institutionalized. They are sent to institutions whereas they have parents or family members who could take care of them.

While it is being revised, the National Plan of Action for Children mentions that the number of orphanages should be "increased" and Child Care Homes "promoted". Local authorities such as CDOs lack guidance on alternative care and make ill-informed decisions.² Many foreigners continue to provide funding to institutions instead of family based care, without always verifying if the children they support are in need of institutionalization. Institutions are not an appropriate place for children and families are not supported enough as the primary response, and usually the most appropriate one, for a child in need. Being the fundamental group of Nepali society and the natural environment for the growth, well-being and protection of children, families should be supported instead of institutions.

This Project matches UNICEF priorities in Nepal. It provides four different types of solutions as far as alternative care is concerned:

- ☑ **Family Preservation:** helping a single mother, single father and families facing major difficulties to keep their own children, if this is in the best interests of the child. All family reunification efforts including activities aimed at establishing and maintaining parent-child contact are included in this category.
- ☑ **Kinship and other community-based care:** placement and monitoring of kinship care arrangements for children who have lost their parents or for those children whose best interest is not residing with their parents.
- ☑ **Foster Care:** promotion of foster care arrangements for children who have lost their parents or for those children whose best interest is not residing with their parents or relatives.
- ☑ **Domestic Adoption:** helping a family to legally and transparently adopt a child, through counselling and legal aid.

3. Situation analysis

3.1 General situation

The Midwestern districts in which this project is implemented are some of the most inaccessible and impoverished regions of Nepal. Amongst them, Humla district is the most isolated. It lies in the far North West of Nepal straddling the deep gorges of the Karnali River as it runs from the Tibetan plateau towards the Gangetic plains. Humla is the northern most district of the Mid-western Region of Nepal and its population is 49'800. Out of the total population, children up to 5 years account for 6897 (14.8%)

² As reported to UNICEF in January 2011, the CDO in Rolpa placed twin children in the care of an unknown individual from outside the district, while the Mala project was in the process of counselling the mother in hospital and preparing alternative care (foster family) in the district.

and between 6 and 14 year, 12643 (27.1 %).³ There are principally two ethnic groups in the district: Hindus whose dwellings are found in villages on the steep slopes of the river valleys below 3'000 meters and the Bhotias (Buddhists) primarily of Tibetan stock, who live in high alpine villages above 3'000 meters altitude.

In this food deficient area a subsistence economy runs on inter-village trade, basic labour, livestock, and the cultivation of food grains. Agriculture is the main activity and main source of income, although it is mostly for family subsistence. Less than one percent of the land is used in cultivation, due to the rugged terrain, glacial soil, harsh climate, steep densely forested sloped and the need for pasture land. More than 70% of the households cannot meet their demand for food from their own production. The average income earned in Humla falls well under the income level necessary to fulfil the minimum basic needs. A good percentage of the populace migrates for shorter or longer periods to other parts of Nepal or India for wage earning or trade, especially during the winter months. There is not a single road in the district. Lack of accessibility and mobility are obvious factors, which contribute to life's hardship in this isolated region. The general living standard is very low and most people are only taking care of the day –to –day needs for survival. Due to lack of health posts and contact with the outside world, the level of awareness is low. Issues like hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and health care are not even considered by many of the local people.

3.2 Events leading to this proposal

The level of illiteracy, poverty and isolation we have described above does not provide sufficient explanation for the high-scale trafficking and displacement of children we have observed in Midwestern districts. Vulnerability is part of the equation, however the second part is equally important: it pertains to an offer and demand dynamic. Families looking for better education for their children succumbed to the deceptive promises of a network of traffickers who strategically convinced parents to turn over relatively



**-Waiting to Embark the Plane-
Seven children at Simikot Airport**

© Terre des hommes, 2010

large sums of money or exchange of precious goods or land in return for taking their children to Kathmandu or India. Unknowingly, they were paying a trafficking network to falsify death certificates of parents, declared their children orphans and subjected the children to horrific living conditions in illegal institutions in the capital city of Kathmandu. The children were required to beg as a source of support for the traffickers, engaged in forced labour and in some cases were unjustifiably declared as adoptable (and adopted internationally) without the consent of biological parents. While such practices were rampant during the period 1996 – 2007, there is substantial evidence that the trafficking network continues to operate at high levels at present. Terre des hommes has documented a total of 86 children for whom there were serious irregularities in adoption procedures, of which almost 35% originate from Humla. A more recent data-gathering exercise identified the records of 43 children who departed from the district since 2005. This is an official file kept at District Child Welfare Board level. It does not include record of the children who left

³ Census of 2001 and district profile 2065 (2008-2009)

without any documentation or with recommendation letters obtained at the village level.

Official District Child Welfare Board statements indicate that 1'500 children have gone missing from Humla.⁴ Unfortunately the information we have gathered so far tends to confirm this estimate. Traditionally girls have been sent to India and boys to orphanages in Kathmandu. Of the reported 1'500 children, Tdh and its partners have been able to account for only 306 children who were either rescued or residing under the care of identified organizations. The remaining 1309 are missing, and their whereabouts unknown.

On 4 May 2010, Terre des hommes documented the names of young children reportedly trafficked by two district-based political party members. Tdh was able to document their names and family status and the fact that three out of four children had both parents alive, the fourth one being a single orphan (father lives). Subsequently in September 2010, one of our partners acting on the basis of information provided by Tdh was able to document the existence of trafficked children residing in an orphanage in Kathmandu valley (Thankot). These recent departures confirm that displacement of children continues to happen on a large scale, including in Jumla district. In Rolpa and Salyan, such displacement is seasonal and tends to correspond to work opportunities elsewhere. These events confirm that child protection efforts need to be consolidated in the districts of origin and that behaviour-change efforts need to be stepped up. Alternative care efforts we have started need to be continued.

3.3 Needs assessment

Needs at the central level

The estimated 15,000 children in Nepal in residential care have very limited statutory alternatives in front of them: technically they can either be adopted by foreigners (a limited option from a quantitative perspective) or spend the rest of their childhood in residential care with no or limited access to their parents and relatives.⁵ No other options are provided in the law or national plans of action. According to the Central Child Welfare Board, there are approximately 4,000 children that need immediate rescue from sub-standard orphanages. UNICEF and Tdh estimate this number to be higher: The thousands of children living in unregistered centres should also be added to this figure. The latest list of CCWB records 444 registered centres in Nepal. CCWB categorized child care homes (hereinafter "centres" or "child centres") in four categories, A, B, C and D. According to an official survey published in June 2008, only 6 child centres (1.32%) were found in category A, operating above minimum standards. Only 56 centres or 12.33% were found in category B which managed to achieve minimum standards whereas the vast majority were operating below standards (194 centres or 42.73%) or "far below" the norms (198 centres or 43.61%). In recent years, there has been a large increase in the number of new child centres in Nepal. Just over half (56 per cent) of child centres in the three study sites were less than five years old. In the Kathmandu Valley, this figure rose to 61 per cent.

⁴ The statement does not indicate the period to calculate this number. From data collected by Tdh however, it is known that the vast majority of departures happened in the period 2000-2007. The oldest departures recorded in Humla date back to the eighties (see case 09/33). While we are still in the process of collecting data on missing children in selected VDCs, this figure (if confirmed) represents a staggering 11% of the total children's population (6-14 years old) in the district (i.e. 12643 as per 2001 census)

⁵ UNICEF, Tdh (2008) Adopting the rights of the child: a study on intercountry adoption and its influence on child protection in Nepal.

Needs identified in Districts.

The issue of children from remote areas being separated from their parents is not new. It is primarily done for education purposes and this practice has been going on for approximately 15 years. What is new is the scale of the child population being displaced. Our field investigations have noted that often a group of children will be sent to Kathmandu as “orphans or needy children”, under the umbrella of one single or double orphan child. There can be a variety of cultural reasons for sending an orphaned child away. “Children of widows” are humiliated by other children and adults because it is seen as bad karma not to have a father. *Radiko chora* – son of a widow is a derogatory word. Children belong to the patriline and the new family does not easily accept them. Therefore women who remarry are often forced to leave their children behind. In Hinduism, women are supposed to be responsible for the health and well-being of their husbands and are blamed if something happens to him. Attitudes towards widows are reflected in the derogatory words often used to address them: “witch, eater of husband, she who makes others impotent, destroyer, unlucky, the one who should have died”. In most social groups, a widow is not allowed to wear red clothes, bangles or sindur (the symbols of adult, married women). People criticize if a widow wears new and colourful clothes and they consider it a bad omen if they see a widow in the morning or if they have to sit next to a widow, e.g. on a long bus journey. (*Statements by Social Workers as quoted in a CMC workshop report, May 2006*). However, in spite of this general attitude, the social workers reported that widows could be accepted by their neighbours and were not always treated badly. The picture that emerges is not coherent, in some places widows are more marginalized than in others, in some social groups remarriage is easier than in others. However, even when society seems to accept an individual widow, the prejudice is deeply rooted and self recrimination is often internalized by the widow about her status and about herself. In addition, it is socially difficult to live as a single woman. Women who are seen as unprotected by a husband or another male adult are discriminated and socially insecure which often results in extreme vulnerability. Similarly, in Salyan district the children of the Badi community (one of the cast considered as “untouchable”), women of this community who were previously compelled to engage in commercial sex are having problems with birth registration and legal identification.



**Social Worker with Potential
Foster Carers in Jumla**
© Terre des hommes, 2010

3.3 Project planning

UNICEF and Tdh carefully planned this intervention together. The initial participatory planning exercise took place in December 2009 and was followed by elaborate activity-level planning workshops with all staff involved in this project in March and September 2010. The next experience-sharing and planning event is planned in March 2011 in Salyan.

1. Centre for Mental Health and Counselling (CMC) Nepal is a national NGO working on various levels with preventive, curative and promotional aspects of mental health. CMC aims to provide mental health services in the community. The initiator of CMC – Nepal is United Mission to Nepal, Mental Health Program established in 1984. CMC

is registered in 2003 with District Administration Office and affiliated to the Social Welfare Council.

2. Dalit Development Society (DDS) is based in Sejawaltakura, Salyan. DDS is a member of the Dalit NGO Federation. It has been actively working in poverty alleviation, Income generation, advocacy and child protection projects and implementing child protection projects in Salyan since 2007.

3. Dalit Women Awareness Centre (DWAC) is based in Liwang, Rolpa. DWAC is the member organisation of Dalit NGO Federation and is registered with Chief District Officer and affiliated with Social Welfare Council. DWAC focuses on the rights of Dalit women, psychosocial support for the protection of children and their families and income generation activities. It has been implementing child protection project in Rolpa since 2006.

4. Sustainable and Equitable Development Academy (SEDA) is based in Jumla. SEDA is registered with District Administration Office Jumla (registration number 4/059/060) and affiliated with SWC (registration number 14740). SEDA promotes social justice and equity by focusing on the empowerment of communities and on the rights of children, women and marginalized communities.

5. The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS) is based in Humla. THIS is registered with District Administration Office Kathmandu (registration number 459/059/060) and affiliated with SWC (registration number 14304). THIS promotes Early Childhood Development through developing child learning centres in Humla. It also runs formal education by providing scholarship to poor children.

4. Strategies including lessons learned & the proposed project

4.1 Minimum standards of quality

The project is following a clear pathway for every child, using a case management approach. Every child in need of alternative care (or defined in the “at risk” category) is properly assessed against agreed criteria. Best interest determination decisions are made and genogrammes are created for every child. Genogrammes are also completed for every prospective foster carer. Below is an example of best interest determination and how different solutions are provided according to different cases. The programme also makes a clear distinction between permanent and temporary solutions as shown in the diagram below.

Best Interest Determination

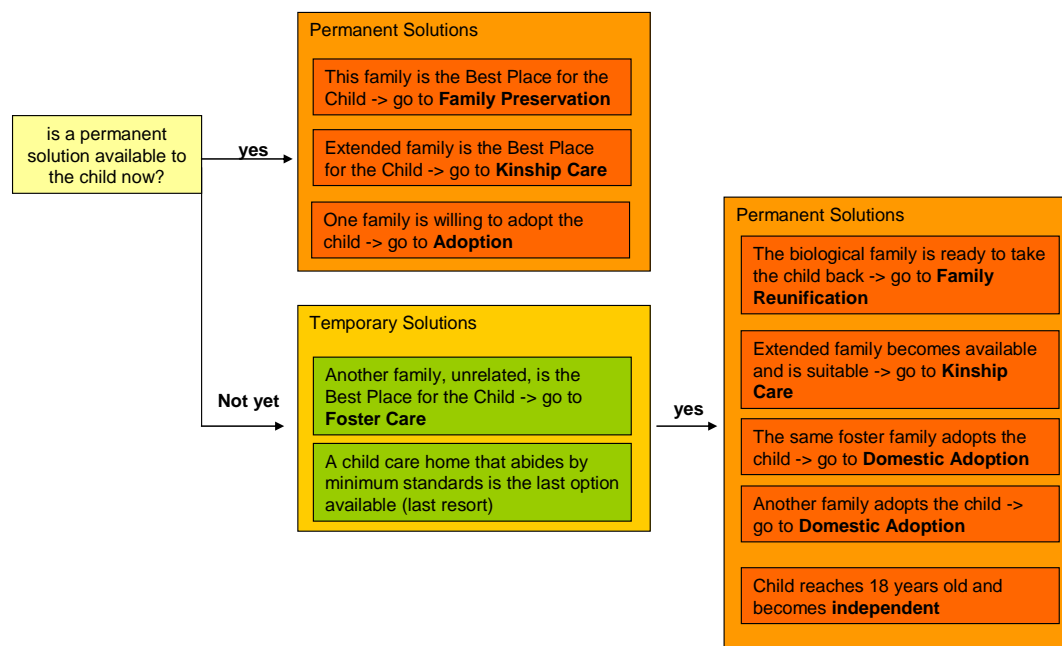


Figure II Representation of the Action

The submission conforms to Article 3 of the CRC which stipulates, inter alia, that "Article

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.
3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform to the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

In addition to the CRC, this submission and all programme interventions are guided by the 2009 Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children, Comprehensive Toolkit to Map and Assess Child Protection Systems (May 2010), Child Protection Policy, Child protection systems and internal Tdh documents such as the Guide to Fostering Services For Social Work Practitioners, the Guide to Family Preservation, the Guide to Kinship Care, Monitoring Tools and other policy documents.

4.2 Lessons learned and previous results

An official evaluation from the Government of Nepal was conducted in November 2010 in two districts, Humla and Jumla. It included members from the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Social Welfare Council, Central Child Welfare Board, UNICEF and an independent evaluator. The report concluded that the project had provided simple and clear options through family-based local preservation

support for orphans and needy children who are at risk of trafficking. The report went on to state that “Enthusiasm and hopes in beneficiary level, successful results in different programmes like kinship care, foster care and domestic adoption, and appreciation from local community leaders, government representatives and all other stakeholders prove the huge demand for continuation and replication of [Mala] project and concept.” The evaluation recommended that the “programme volume should be enlarged” and “more support should be provided to the participants/beneficiaries in family preservation programme.” The Team Leader of evaluation team concluded that the project is very meaningful for replication in other parts of the country to minimize unwarranted removal of children from families and to avoid city-centred institutionalization in children’s homes. A parallel UNICEF monitoring visit contributed the following statement to the above evaluation: “The experience shows that family support, kinship care, foster care and domestic adoption are culturally and socially acceptable, feasible, cost-effective and successful in terms of the best interest of the child.”

Previous Tdh experience is equally relevant to the current phase. From November 2005 to the end of November 2006 Terre des hommes implemented a child protection project in ten Midwestern districts of Nepal, supported by the European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid department, ECHO. This project trained 30 social fieldworkers in 10 districts of Nepal’s Midwestern Region, one of the most conflict-affected areas, where the “peoples’ war” started in 1996. Conflict-affected children and their families received psychosocial support in a new approach, in which not only psychological reactions to traumatization, but also social and material aspects were addressed. Social field workers were trained in communication skills and skills of active listening, to build up trustful relations with families and children and to visit them at home and support them. To support children, also their social environment has to be supported. Social workers helped the families through active listening, for many families this was the first time that they could talk with somebody about their grief and pain. In an evaluation-visit most talked about their initial suspicion, as counselling was then an alien concept in Nepal, but how they are now convinced that talking had helped them. Social workers were received like family members, “like my own daughter/son” by the parents, “like my elder sister/ brother” by the children. The visits often helped to break their isolation.

Terre des hommes Foundation was able to continue this project as MALA II from January 2007 to December 2009 in five districts focusing on the children and families directly affected by conflict that needed psychological care in different ways, including outreach services, family visits, referral and school programmes. The Centre for Mental Health & Counselling, CMC Nepal, was in charge of orientating the 4 local NGOs in psychosocial counselling, carrying out monthly supervision of the social field workers and to monitor the quality of counselling in all 4 districts through field visits. Social workers supported children and their families through psychosocial support, emergency aid and school kits to children. They also did home visits of children and families to identify and provided project assistances. More information on this psychosocial project is available upon request. While Humla was added in 2009, the three other districts (Jumla, Rolpa, Salyan) benefitted from the experience of trained social workers from the previous phases.

From October 2009 to December 2010, UNICEF and Terre des hommes co-funded “From Children’s homes to Child Protection (H2P)”. The Project Agreement was signed between SWC and Terre des hommes Foundation on April 28, 2010 for the total project tenure of one year; Various reports have been submitted to UNICEF

about its progress and a final report is being prepared. A four-person evaluation team from Social Welfare Council evaluated the impact of H2P project in Humla and Jumla districts. It said that “the project has provided simple and clear options - family-based local preservation support for orphans and needy children who are at risk of trafficking. Enthusiasm and hopes in beneficiary level, successful results in different programmes like kinship care, and domestic foster care, and appreciation from local community leaders, government representatives and all other stakeholders proves the huge demand for continuation and replication of H2P project and concept.”

4.3 Risks and assumptions

Immediate risks and threats have been assessed. They are reflected in the attached logframe. Major risks and assumptions include: delays in ratification of The Hague Convention and increased recourse to inter-country adoption; Delays in enactment of Child Rights Protection and Promotion Act; Delays in promotion of domestic adoption; Existence of operational District Child Welfare Boards, timely appointments and training of Child Rights Officers and support to alternative care; Local stakeholders cooperate and keep their commitments to support the project; Neutrality of local partners is maintained and they are able to operate in fluid political environment; Local partners are not threatened by political parties in relation to preservation of family supports, and alternative cares for children without parental care; The security situation does not significantly deteriorate and risks/threats are kept within the Tdh Nepal Security Threshold. Kathmandu and Nepalgunj-based officers can access and regularly visit project districts. Availability of VDC and district level funds to support alternative care to parental care.

It should be added that Terre des hommes is running all its operations in accordance with its Security and Safety Management Plan. The highly politicized and fluid environment could lead to reluctance or inability of authorities to collaborate. High expectations in the field could create a difficult situation for the social workers. Another challenge is the lack of educated and skilled human resources. It is especially difficult to find women and/or persons from discriminated groups to work as project staff in remote districts. As an illustration, Humla's average literacy rate is 21.3%. Out of which male literacy rate is 36.5% and female literacy rate is 8.87%. Besides lack of local manpower, it is very difficult to find staff from other areas of Nepal to work in such remote districts.

Programmatic risks are limited due the inclusive and systemic nature of the project, operating within the child protection systems approach. Affected children are not singled out since the project tries to integrate them into community life by breaking their isolation.

4.4 Sustainability of results

Results will be sustained through capacity building of duty bearers at all levels. The exit strategy for this project is “in-built” and is an integral part of the project outcomes. It is reflected, in particular, in the fourth Specific Objective. The thrust of the strategy is to gradually *responsibilise* Government actors over a period of three years to ensure that they take over the responsibility of children without parental care (in conformity with domestic law and Article 20 CRC) and have the means and tools to do so. Measures put in place to ensure sustainability of the project are three-fold: (i) include alternative care to parental care as an issue and regular topic in VDC Councils (*Ga.Bi.Sa. Parishad*) and propose that funding be allocated for that purpose by VDCs; (ii) ensure that the work of social workers and NGOs that manage them is

officially recognised, leading to an accreditation system; (iii) consolidating the position and work of Child Rights Officer making this person responsible for recommending placements and in effect making guardianship recommendations and/or decisions. In light of the above, it should be clarified that Tdh is planning to withdraw from operational aspects of the project once the period of project financed by Tdh ends. It will then concentrate on technical support and replication of the project approach in other geographic areas.

5. Results framework

For a complete overview, please refer to the attached logframe, Annex II

5.1 Objective of the project

Overall Objective:

A protective environment is in place wherein girls and boys are free from unnecessary separation from family, and where procedures, services, behaviours and practices minimize risks and allow children deprived of parental care to find family-based care alternatives.

Specific Objective (1): family preservation (service delivery)

Families are better able to look after their children through family-based support such as family preservation counselling, educational and other material support, emergency assistance.

Specific Objective (2): alternative care (service delivery)

Children deprived of parental care are offered family-based care alternatives such as kinship care or other community care, foster care and domestic adoption.

Specific Objective (3): behaviour change strategies

Parents are increasingly aware of their responsibilities, the risks of residential care and the differences between boarding schools and orphanages. Child protection cases are reported following behaviour-change strategies and institutionalization of children is decreasing.

Specific Objective (4): establishment of child protection systems

District and village level institutions make a long-term commitment to building family support services and family-based care.

Methodology

The project works as an **entry point** to develop village and district-based child protection systems.⁶ Experience in various countries shows that a range of entry points can be used to strengthen child protection systems. Alternative approaches to institutional care has been commonly used as an entry point and is mentioned in paragraph 22 of the UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (June 2008).

⁶ UNICEF's definition in the context of Nepal: Child protection systems comprise a set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors- especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice-(and community services) to support prevention and response to protection-related risks and vulnerabilities. These systems are part of social protection, and extent beyond it. At the level of prevention their aim includes supporting and strengthening families to reduce social exclusion, and to lower the risk of separation, violence and exploitation" Child protection systems have also been defined as 'a coherent set of actions and actors, in which the child is the starting point and which aims to guarantee the rights and well being of the child by constructing synergies within and between protective environments' (Tdh)

Activities are not solely focused on children deprived of parental care. VCPCs, protection focal points and social workers work together to identify and address other protection issues such as violence against children, child labour, gender-based violence.

Strengthening child protection systems is not an end in itself. This systems focus is expected to lead to both incremental and dramatic results in the medium term. As family support services, referral mechanisms, alternative care, justice responses and victim support improve at local level, the proportion of children in residential care or detention should decrease, hazardous child labour should decrease or at minimum be addressed more quickly, and violence against children should decline. These are the ultimate goals in a systemic approach.

A logframe is attached to this funding request as Annex II.

5.2 Description of the project (activities and results to be achieved)

Activities contributing to Final Result 1: Family Preservation and reunification

- Recruitment (where needed), continuous training and coaching of social workers and child rights trainers
- Home visits, home assessments, identification of families by trained social workers providing family-based counselling; referrals of and response to other child protection issues/cases;
- Social mapping: of families and services available in the communities; participatory planning of assistance;
- Review of existing traditional practices in relation to family preservation and alternative care;
- Material assistance and educational support (school kits distribution) with the ultimate goal of avoiding unwarranted family separation;
- Referring and linking families to other assistance schemes such as income generating projects, poverty alleviation fund, etc.
- Initial assessments and punctual support in adjoining districts, e.g. Bajura and Mugu.
- Support to de-institutionalization efforts from Kathmandu-based orphanages.

Activities contributing to Final Result 2: Family-based care alternatives (kinship care or other community care, foster care and domestic adoption)

- Identification and recruitment of foster carers and kinship families
- Home visits, home assessments and verification of families by trained social workers, followed by approval process from Child Rights Officer and/or DCWB as applicable;
- Material assistance and educational support (school kits distribution) to children in kinship and foster situations;
- Effective parenting training, primarily to foster, kinship and domestic adoption families;
- Legal assistance to ensure registration of births, marriages and to legalize domestic adoptions;
- Support to the strong local traditions of caring for the children of relatives through commodity-based or service-based voucher system;
- Emergency support to children currently or formerly in institutions; communication support between children and birth parents and relatives; family reunification support.

Activities contributing to Final Result 3: Behaviour-change strategies

- Door-to-door campaigns, Flip-books, Community-based theatre; Dissemination of project slogan through textbooks; Radio programmes; Dissemination of film documentaries; Folk songs; Displays in strategic locations in district headquarters resulting in a clear change of behaviour: parents are aware of the risks of orphan status and institutionalization and the differences between schools and orphanage; Messages on other child protection issues will be included in the campaigns.
- Documentation of success stories.

Activities contributing to Final Result 4: Child Protection Systems

- Support to Child Rights Officer in all his or her duties with a special emphasis on monitoring residential care/institutions and other forms of alternative care;
- Work with CRO and DCWB in monitoring the relinquishment, orphan declaration system and referral processes at VDC and Chief District Officer (CDO) levels in all districts, where possible with UNICEF's support (DPO);
- Orientation to key stakeholders; CDO, LDO, WCO, DCWB, CRO, traditional leadership structures on identification at risk children and families; family preservation; family reintegration process; family-based alternative care; other child protection issues.
- Resource mapping: document projects and key stakeholders that provide support in family preservation and reintegration;
- Work with DCWB to develop District/Village Child Protection Committees, and if suitable "child clubs" in selected village development committees;
- Establishment of a complaint and reporting mechanism for children, with a special emphasis on children without parental care.
- Translation of key reference materials on alternative care to parental care (key legal documents, the draft UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care for Children, Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care).
- Financial support and training of Child Rights Officers in selected districts
- Perform social audits as required, with beneficiaries and local authorities/line agencies
- Elaborate an exit strategy relying primarily on *Ga-Bi.Se Parichat* involvement and the disbursement of VDC block grants. Link to Child-Friendly Local Governance.

The project will purchase additional licenses of a professional software, GenoPro, which allows social workers to develop "soft" genogrammes of prospective foster families, children placed in foster care and kinship care. The soft aspect allows for constant updating of the information while printouts are kept in the child and parents' dossiers. An example is provided below for reference.

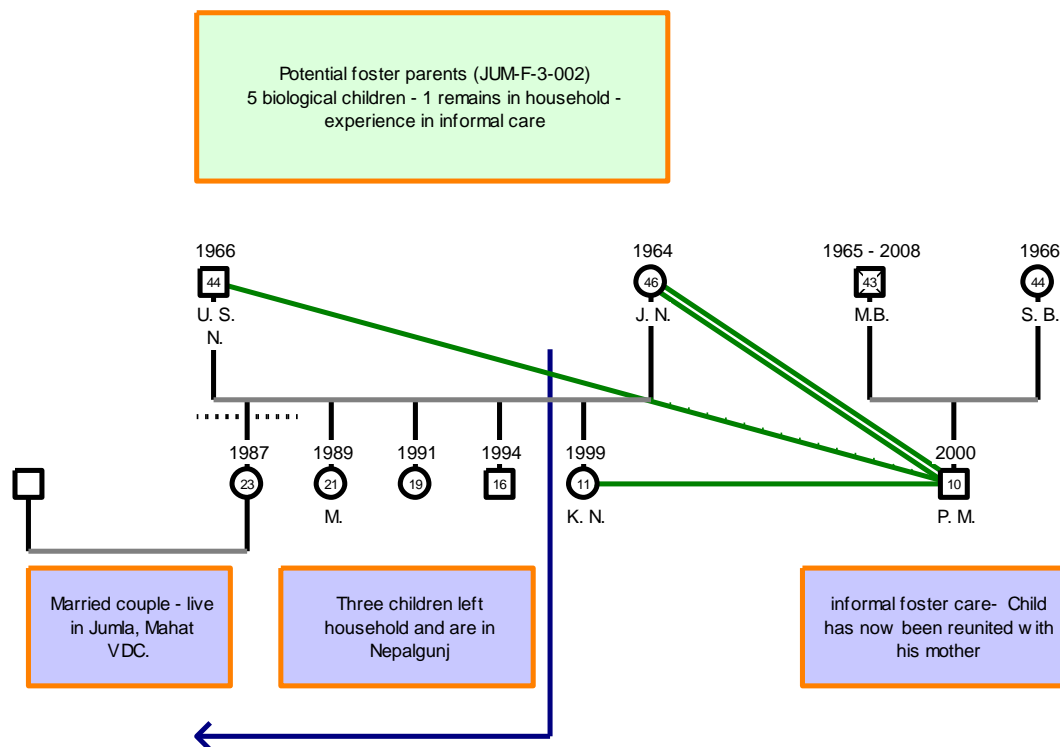


Figure 1 An anonymised example of genogramme using GenoPro

A useful feature of GenoPro is that it can be used to indicate relationships between parent, child, grandparents, extended family, foster parents, etc. - in the example above, the single green line represents a harmonious, positive relationship, while the double green line is defined as “closeness and friendship.” GenoPro also contains all necessary biodata information of family members, education levels, hyperlinks to case files and can be used to store photographs of the family members, house and surroundings.

6. Management and coordination arrangements

6.1 Organizational background

Terre des hommes Foundation is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, child focused organization which works towards improving the situation of children internationally. Tdh's headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since its creation in 1960, when it was founded by Edmond Kaiser, the mission of Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been to come to the aid of children. It endeavours at all times to defend the rights of children, in times of war or natural catastrophe, or in less publicized situations of distress. Today, the values and the mission of Terre des hommes remain the same as those of Edmond Kaiser, and are contained in its Charter. Over the last fifty years, Terre des hommes has specialised in two broad areas: health and child protection.

In Nepal, Terre des hommes Foundation has been working for the benefit of children and their families in both rural and urban areas of Nepal for the past twenty-five years. Our first project was the Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (HRDC) now established in Banepa. We then started a nutrition project

which is now implemented in 11 wards of Kathmandu, three villages of Banke and in 20 brick kilns around Kathmandu. Our anti-trafficking projects consist of repatriating children from India and withdrawing girls from sexual exploitation in Kathmandu.

6.2 District-based actors

Where present in the districts such as Humla, the role of UNICEF's DPO has been critical to the success of this project. This is particularly important in terms of overall coordination with stakeholders, especially CDO, and obtaining data from WCOs. Five operational partners and two strategic partners have been selected by Terre des hommes in order to implement this project:

Centre for Mental Health and Counselling (CMC) Nepal is a national level NGO working on preventive, curative and promotional aspects of mental health.

Dalit Development Society (DDS) is based in Sejawaltakura, Salyan. It has been actively working in poverty alleviation, income generation, advocacy and child protection projects.

Dalit Women Awareness Centre (DWAC) is based in Liwang, Rolpa. DWAC's work focuses on Dalit women rights, psychosocial support for the protection of children and income generation activities.

Sustainable and Equitable Development Academy (SEDA) is based in Jumla. SEDA promotes social justice and equity by focusing on the empowerment of communities and on the rights of children, women and marginalized communities.

The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS) is based in Humla. THIS promotes early childhood development through developing child learning centres in Humla. It also runs formal education by providing scholarship to poor children.

Next Generation Nepal (NGN) is a trusted partner and has been associated to our efforts through a strategic partnership agreement. NGN is focusing on family tracing, reunification and educational support in Humla district.

Kadambari College, Nepal School of Social Work is a valuable strategic partner for this project. We have initiated an agreement with them whereby students take up internships with this project. We have also recruited graduates from this College with great success.

6.3 Coordination with other international agencies

Coordination will mainly take place within the framework of the alternative care working group set up by CCWB. Both UNICEF and Tdh played a key role in establishing the group and in making it functional. UNICEF is a major actor in this area and Terre des hommes enjoys excellent working relationships with both country and regional offices. UNICEF has been an early promoter and active funding partner of family-based care.

Terre des hommes is a founding member of the "Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN)". The delegate has been a Steering Committee member of AIN for the last two years. In this capacity he has been associated with various bilateral donor groups in Nepal such as "Basic Operating Guidelines" (BOGs), Utstein group, Foreign Aid Policy, Capacity Building Working Group. Terre des hommes is a co-Chair, alongside UNICEF, of the International Agencies Coordinating Group on Anti-trafficking (IACG).

6.4 National and local authorities

Terre des hommes has been working in Nepal since 1985. It signed on 19 August 2008 a General Agreement with the Social Welfare Council which is valid until 18 August 2013. Various project agreements have been entered into and the application for Mala project has been submitted to SWC in March 2010. It is currently

considered for approval at the level of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. As for coordination meetings, Tdh has launched the idea of an Alternative Care to Parental Care Task Force, to be coordinated by the Central Child Welfare Board.

7. Fund management arrangements

7.1 Financial resources and co-funding

A detailed budget is attached as Annex III. As in previous phase of the project, Terre des hommes is bringing considerable resources to this initiative. As can be seen from 10 month budget for instance (March 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012), Tdh will be contributing on average of 30%. Funds originate from Switzerland (unrestricted funds, foundations, private donors). A detailed budget is attached.

7.2 Human resources

Terre des hommes is represented in Nepal by an expatriate delegate. The team includes a child protection coordinator who acts as project manager for Mala, one programme officer and one field officer based in Nepalgunj Field Office. The local partners in the four Mid-Western districts employ four social workers each for this project and one child protection trainer covering the four districts. The Center for Mental Health & Counseling Nepal CMC, a specialized psychological service provider in Kathmandu employs one clinical Nepalese psychologist and several psychological counselors. Training of local personnel entails two workshops a year and continuous coaching/learning through supervision visits.

8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

8.1 Monitoring

Terre des hommes' field officer and programme officer will continuously monitor the quality and progress of the project, reporting to the Child Protection Coordinator and Delegate. The latter officials are responsible for the integrity of the project, coordination with UNICEF and other actors. The Center for Mental Health & Counseling Nepal CMC, a specialized psychological service provider in Kathmandu is in charge of specific training of social workers and field supervision on psychosocial and case management aspects.

8.2 Evaluation and Social Audits

The pilot project has been evaluated by the Social Welfare Council SWC in Kathmandu, as mentioned above. A full report is available upon request. Another evaluation will be organised in mid 2012. Social audits will be conducted as part of Tdh regular practice.

8.3 Financial Audit

Terre des hommes submits an audit every calendar year, as per financial rules and regulations. The audit firm is registered with the Institution of Chartered Accountants in Nepal (ICAN). The Delegate and Terre des hommes headquarters monitor the monthly expenditures against budgets.

8.4 Visibility

Terre des hommes and its local partners will ensure full visibility of UNICEF and other funding partners. Information will be shared through various Newsletters (AIN

Newsletter) and other media. Terre des hommes will report about the project and the funding partner on its various websites.

8.5 Reporting

The reporting format will be agreed upon by both parties during the first quarter.

9. Workplans and budgets (and other annexes)

1. Budget
- II. Logframe
- III. Maps and walking distances
- IV. Job Description for Social Workers
- V. Workplan