



# Education Support:

## A boon for Amrit

*“It wasn’t possible for me to join the school if I wasn’t introduced to the education programme. My parents were counselled and I was lucky that my parents were convinced to send me to school.”, says Amrit*

It was during the implementation of education support programme when the field officers of Child Development Society (CDS), an implementing partner of World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal), met Amrit. The organization is working to eradicate child labor and promote education for the children of brick industry workers.

Amrit traveled from Rukum district to one of the brick industries with his parents. Having three children in the family and with dire financial circumstances, the family was compelled to work as seasonally migrated laborers in the brick industry in order to sustain themselves. Amrit had been helping his parents make bricks since he was a little child.



Amrit

Consented

Amrit was supported to return to the school as part of the BRiCKKs Project, which helped him escape child labor and pursue his education. Amrit has now successfully completed the SEE exam, and he is making plans to pursue higher study. He currently supports to raise awareness of children's rights and assists others in protecting their rights as a member of the child club.

Many children and families who work in the brick industry in Chandragiri, Kathmandu, and Bugmati, Lalitpur, have been impacted by the Building Resilience with Children in Kathmandu's Brick Kilns (BRiCKKs) initiative. One such case is of Amrit.

Sharing his experiences of brick industry



Consented



Amrit's father also believes that with the help of CDS and WVI Nepal, his son was able to get enrolled to the school.

*"My son worked in the industry from a very young age contributed some amount to the family. This didn't made us happy either to see our child working hard for us. But we were compelled as we didn't have much. But officials from CDS came to us to talk about Amrit and his future, we were disheartened to know that we were risking his life. They advised us to send him to school and we did as they said.", adds Amrit's father*

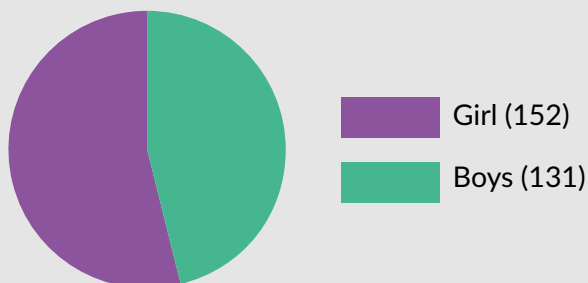


The beginning wasn't easy. Amrit underwent a number of changes (in his behaviour, environment, and friends). One of his classmates shared that Amrit was a silent person and didn't interact with friends before. Gradually, when he got acquainted with the environment, he started making friends, participated in various activities, joined the school's child club and now is the most active students among all. As per Amrit, being a member of child club, Amrit recognized and developed his inner skills and is happy to experience significant changes in his character.

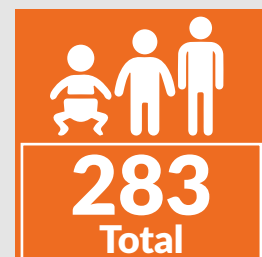


Amrit also influenced his siblings to go the schools and they used to go to the school together. Seeing this their parents felt proud and happy.

### Students supported to return to school



More than 200 students (**131 Boys and 152 Girls**) have been supported through education support programme. With the aim to combat child labour, **CDS** and **WVI Nepal** are working to influence many additional families to enroll their children to school instead of making them work in the industries.





# Chandragiri Municipality Ward No. 14 Declared as Child-Labour-Free-Ward

**June 16,** 2022 is marked a significant day for Ward No. 14 of Chandragiri Municipality. This day, the ward is officially declared as a Child-Labor-Free-Ward (CLFW) on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labor. There is no any children working in the ward. Since four years, the ward has led child labour free campaigns, reintegrated children who left home for work and provided them support to join normal home life. In accordance to the National Master Plan (NMP) on elimination of child labor and in reference to the action plan of Chandragiri Municipality, the ward worked resourcefully to support the campaign and has outstanding result in the community.



Ward Chairperson



## Procedures/Criteria followed by Chandragiri Municipality to authorize wards free of child labor

- Formation of Child Rights Committees at the municipal and ward Levels, as well as organization of committee capacity building events.
- Prepared a Local Action Plan to end child labor alinging with the National Master Plan on Elimination of Child Labor.
- The Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS) nominated Chandragiri Municipality to be declared as a child labor-free zone and provided grants.
- Established and utilized child fund for the most vulnerable children in difficult circumstances.
- Linked 222 children from brick industries to a community school for the continuation of their formal education
- Promotional activities were carried out at the community, ward and municipal level
- Regular monitoring and reintegration of children (15) into their homes, as well as financial assistance to their parents
- Conducted regular joint monitoring visits to the area to inspect child labor, followed by a referral process
- Declared ward-14 as CLFW.



The declaration programme was chaired by the Ward Chairperson, in presence of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief of Social Development Unit, Chief of Education Unit, Chairpersons of other Wards, Ward Members, Executive Committee Members, Child Rights Committee members, Children, youths from a Community-Based Organization, representatives of Child Development Society (CDS), World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) and few public.

The Mayor of Chandragiri Municipality signed the flex banner and declared the ward as CLFW on June 16, 2022. The

coordinator of Child Rights Committee described the process of the declaration and how the ward was successful to meet all the criteria. The ward chairperson, then thanked the municipality for the

recognition and also stated that this wouldn't be possible with the support from WVI Nepal and it's partner CDS.

Ward Chairperson added that they are learning about child rights in their work every day and have plans to design awareness campaign regarding the same. He also said that they have planned to organize capacity building sessions to the new officials on child rights and child labor.

The recognition of CLFW wasn't easy. The ward had to work very proactively in monitoring activities after awareness campaigns. They also received support from the

police department. It was a joint effort of ward officials, social mobilizers, police department and CDS and WVI Nepal at the most. Ward No. 14 is the first declared CLFW among other wards of Chandragiri Municipality.

*"Now that the ward is declared as CLFW, our focus now would be to continue our efforts in maintaining the same state",*

*Ward Chairperson*

*"The efforts shown and the recognition that Ward No. 14 received has motivated other ward officials to do the same. While, most of the measures have already been taken, it is just few final steps that is ongoing in majority of the wards", The Mayor of Chandragiri Municipality.*

*"It is a learning for us. Ward No. 14 has done an exemplary work. We are also replicating similar initiatives and are in close coordination with Ward No. 14 for capacity building activities. I am sure, with their support and commitment of various officials in our ward, we (Ward No. 11) are soon going to be CLFW", Ward Chairperson, Ward No. 11, Chandragiri Municipality*

In addition to Ward No. 3,5, 6 and 15 have also begun discussion sessions on child labor with facilitation of Ward No. 14. Similarly, Ward Chairperson of 14, is in regular discussions with the Mayor of Chandragiri Municipality to establish child friendly ward and then cover all the municipality. They have agreed to use the budget allocated to the committee to make the wards more child-friendly.

*"We are grateful for the support from World Vision International Nepal and Child Development Society is helping us to declare CLFW and also playing a major role in awareness raising activities. We also look forward to their technical support in establishing child-friendly local governance", Chairperson, Ward No. 14, Chandragiri Municipality*



# Child Rights Committees (CRCs): Stirring local governments to end child labour

**The** importance of brick industry in the context of current rapid urbanization cannot be underestimated. Despite its undeniable importance, we cannot overlook the issue of labor exploitation, and prevalence of child and forced labor practices in these brick industry.

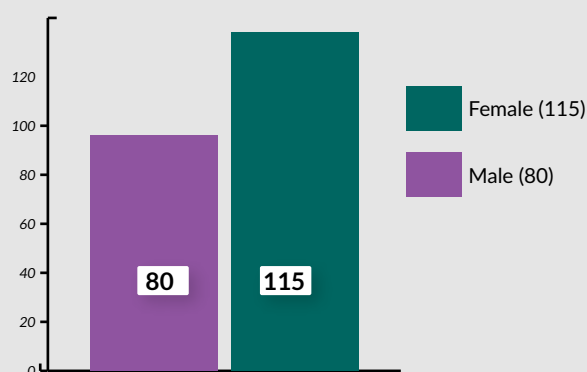
As most of the workers in these brick industries are from underprivileged ethnic groups with limited livelihood opportunities, they tend to face financial distress and hardships. This is often the principle reason why the children of these workers are predisposed to work alongside family members, mostly helping in brick moulding or transportation. This not only compromises the children's education but also affects their health because of hazardous working environment.

To address these issues, World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) and Child Development Society (CDS) supported to form Child Rights Committee (CRC) as per Children relating Act 2018 to ensure child rights. The major goal of CRC is to do promotional activities to raise child rights and support for case management as well as protect and prevent from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

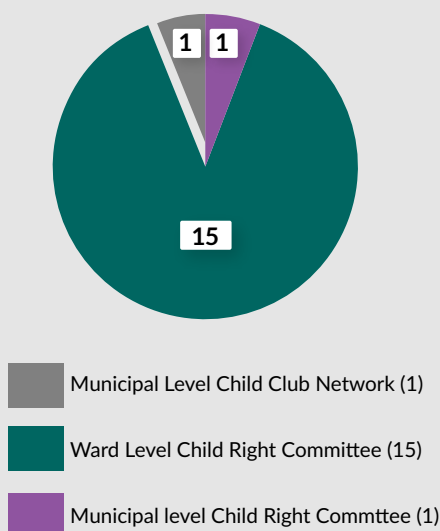
These provision and objectives have been undoubtedly met to a great extent. In the first year of BRiCKK project, CRC's were formed in all 15 wards of Chandragiri Municipality including Municipal level CRC. The CRC functions under the chairmanship of the Deputy Mayor of Chandragiri Municipality and is led by the local representatives of respective wards. CDS have

been providing capacity building trainings to members of these CRCs in the subsequent years on effective case management, child protection laws and regulations of Government of Nepal (GoN), and rescue and rehabilitation processes.

**Details of the Members in the Child Right Committee (Municipal and Ward Level)**



**Committees and Clubs**





*"For ensuring the rights of the children and for child rights protection, one Municipal level child rights committee and 15 Ward level child rights committees have been formed."*

Section Head for Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Chandragiri Municipality.



According to Section Head for Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Chandragiri Municipality, one particular ward is allotted with NPR 40 lakhs for social sector, out of which 10% is allocated for children and women welfare. There are various programs that are being carried out with the

allocated budget for the welfare of children. Ward No. 14 has also recently been declared as Child-Labor-Free-Ward. Huge support was provided by (WVI Nepal) and (CDS) which was acknowledged by the ward chairperson and other officials.

Chandragiri Municipality had prepared Local Action plan to end Child Labor aligned with National Master Plan on Elimination of Child Labor. Realizing this importance, CDS with the support of WVI Nepal helped the CRCs in preparation of CRC Operational Guideline, Child Fund Operational Guideline and Municipal Level Child Protection Policy. These guidelines have made CRCs clearer about their roles and responsibilities.

Moreover, the CRCs have been working to ensure child rights through various awareness raising programs.

*"We had organized series of trainings for the child rights committee strengthening where CDS and WVI Nepal helped our team in orienting on child rights and building their capacity. Use and mobilization of the child rights fund were also discussed in the same capacity building programme",*



Child Welfare Officer (CWO), Chandragiri Municipality



*"We did not have idea regarding Child Rights Committee (CRC) before CDS and WVI Nepal intervention. CDS provided series of capacity building training to CRC members in order to protect children of the community. Because of this we were able to allocate the budget from municipality for the child welfare. We have learned many things and are implementing to raise awareness in the community. Hence I am really thankful towards them and hope for continuous support at upcoming days", Coordinator of CRC ward no.7, Chandragiri Municipality.*

One of the key element of CRCs is the establishment and utilization of child rescue fund. BRiCKK project supported to establish child fund at municipal level with a seeding amount of 5000 USD in Year I and 500 USD in Year II. Likewise, from the third year onwards child fund operational guideline was prepared at Lalitpur Metropolitan City and Chandragiri Municipality and eventually the municipalities allotted fund for their respected wards.



*"We have around 14 to 15 lakhs in our child rescue fund and we have supported 22 children till now. We mainly use the budget to rescue the children from various types of risks and dangers. We support children with education, health and also rescue them from any form of abuse. With the help of this child rescue fund, we can support one child with 10 thousand rupees", shared CWO when asked about child rescue fund.*

CWO further added that their main focus is to make Chandragiri as a child friendly municipality under which they will be working against child labor, child marriage and other issues that are related to children. There are 51 agendas to work on for making the municipality a child friendly zone and to move ahead with the agendas they have already established a child friendly municipal level committee and their plan is to establish additional child friendly committees at the ward level on which they are working.

According to CWO, the support provided by WVI Nepal and CDS has been very crucial. She further expressed the activities on establishing committees, creating awareness and sensitizing the committee members and public on child rights were effective and look forward to similar support in future.





### Major activities conducted by CDS with the support from WVI Nepal in Chandragiri Municipality:

- Formation of Child Right Committees and Capacity Enhancement of the members of Child Right Committees
- Technical support in preparation of Child Right Committee Guideline
- Formation of Child Clubs
- Orientation and trainings on monitoring of Child Labor
- Allocation of budget for the activities on Child Rights of children
- Establishment of Child Fund Guideline
- Technical support in preparation of Day Care Center Guideline



The establishment of CRCs have vividly been a huge accomplishment in itself considering the outcomes it has embarked from policy to implementation level. CRCs, a sustainable approach led by the local government and

communities have indeed paved a pathway for child labor free palikas where each children can enjoy their basic right to education.





# Day Care Center

## helping Shape Little Minds

**Kathmandu** valley is home to not just big apartments and residential homes but also many brick industry that produce the raw materials required for constructing those buildings and homes. These brick industry are mostly concentrated around Lalitpur Metropolitan City and Chandragiri Municipality and in their outskirts.

The BRiCKK project implemented by World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) and it's partner Child Development Society (CDS), aimed at building better lives of the children whose life revolved around these brick industry. Initial research into the brick industry showed that the children of the industry workers were having hard time getting good education and growing up safely. They were exposed to serious air pollution, unsafe play areas, neglect from the parents, maltreatment by the elders, as well as child labour and abuse in some cases.

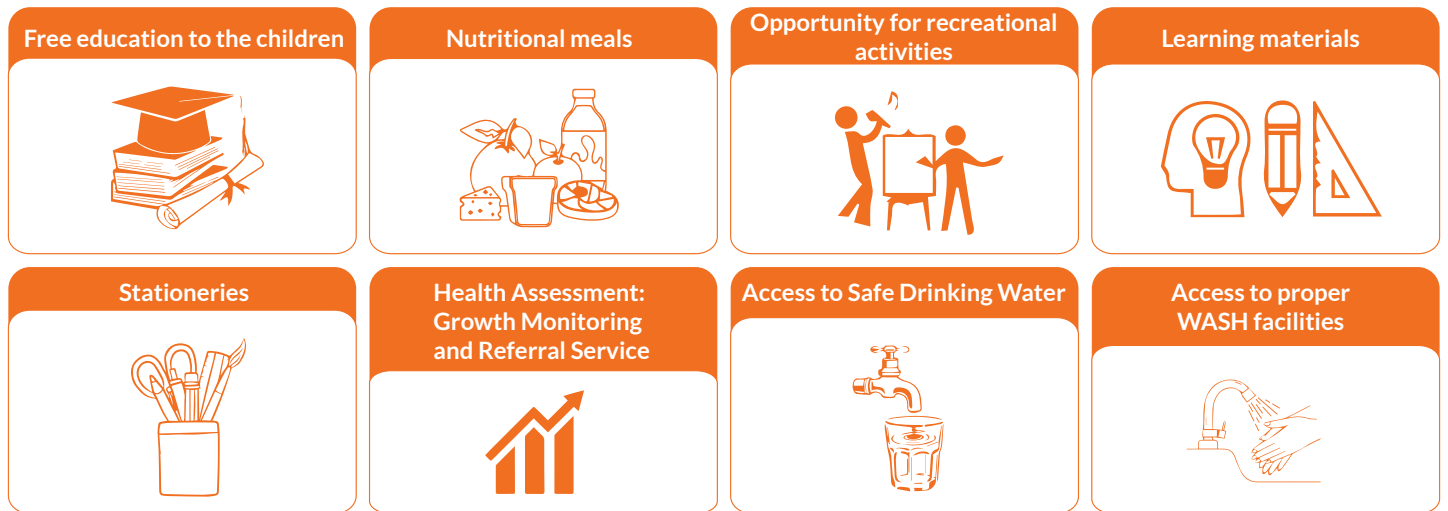


Working in brick industry is an extremely laborious and strenuous task, and the hassle proliferates for workers with small children. Most of the parents have the compulsion to take their small children along with them while working, leading to a high risk of injury and exposure to environmental hazards among such children. The parents are continuously worried about the safety of their children and aren't able to focus on their works.

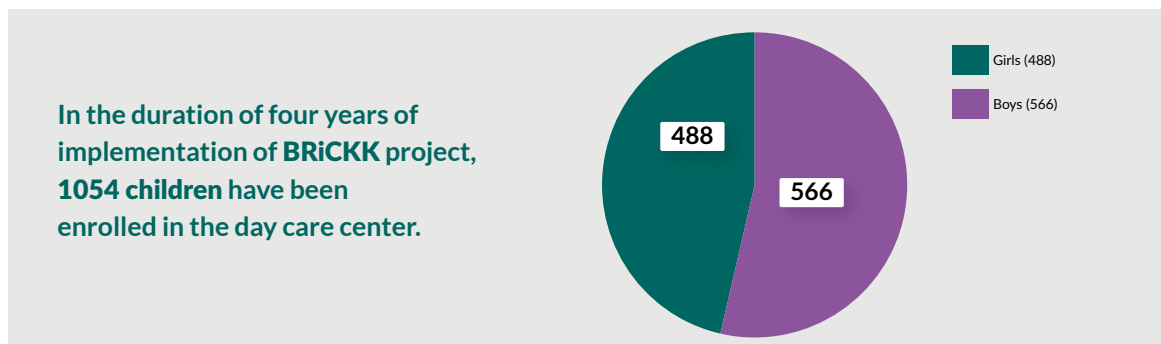
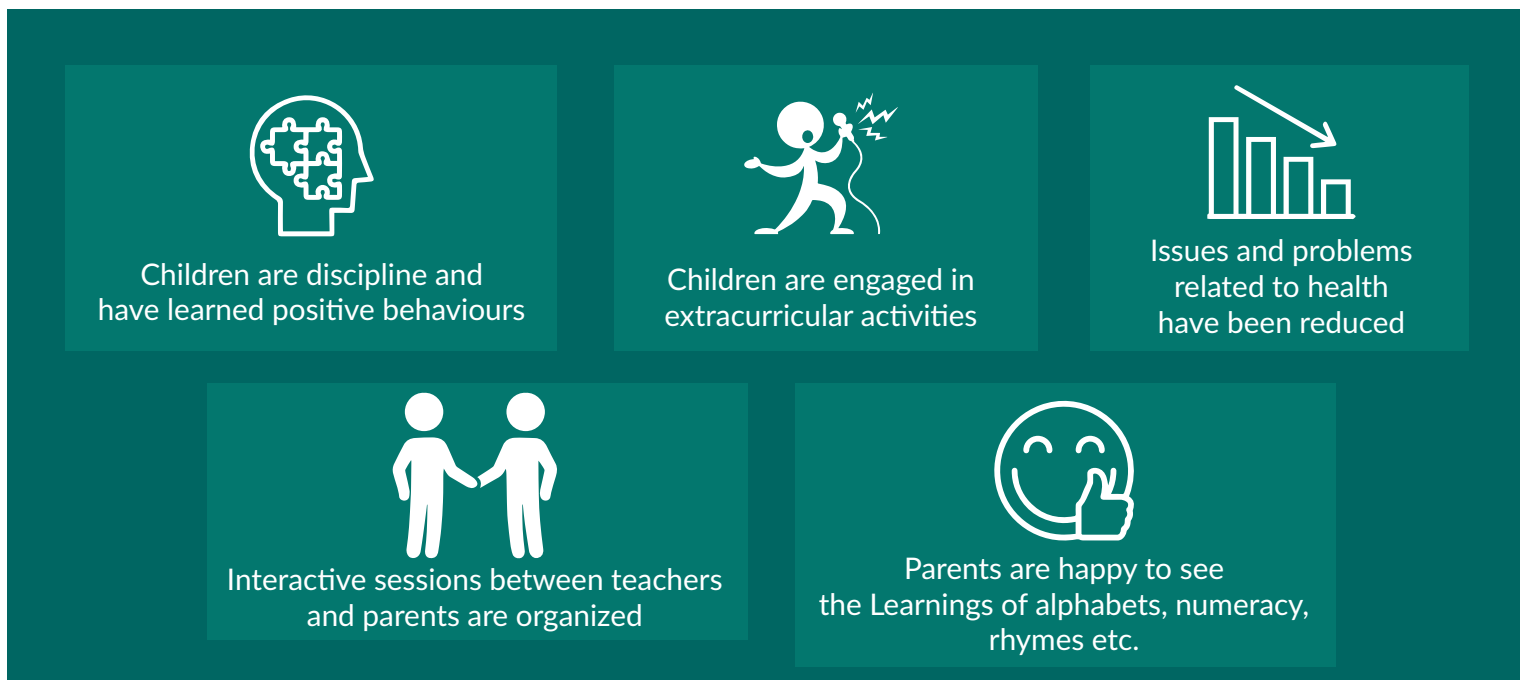
As per Occupational Safety and Health Directive for brick industry worker, there is a provision of Day Care Center if women workers are 50 or more. Therefore, CDS and WVI Nepal have established Child Day Care Centers to provide a safe and healthy environment for children to learn, play and grow under BRiCKK project. The project strongly advocated for the establishment of day care centers around the brick industry. Currently, seven Day Care Centers have been operated in Chandragiri Municipality and Lalitpur Metropolitan City in support of employers.



The day care center provides:



The establishment of day care center was a success. The positive outcomes of sending the workers' children to these day care centers were visible to many stakeholders including the employers themselves. While the children received opportunity for education and a place for the physical, mental and social well-being, their parents who were employed at the brick industry could focus on their work without having to worry for their children during the work hours. The employers benefitted because of the improved work efficiency and reduction of instances of accidents at the industry sites.



Before



After



One among the children who have been immensely benefitted from the day care center is Anjali. A 4 year old girl whose mother and father work in one of the brick industry. Anjali used to go with her mother to the industry as she had nowhere to go before she was enrolled to the day care center. Anjali's mother came to know about the day care center established for children like Anjali (children of the brick workers) through her friends in the industry and without any hesitancy she enrolled Anjali to the day care center.

In the day care center, Anjali is given food to eat, play materials to play and explore, interacted with people and had quality time with her friends and teachers together with progressing in academics. She was very shy child and eventually has learnt to interact with people and make friends. Anjali's parents also actively participated in various trainings focussed on child rights, positive parenting and importance of education in children.

*"I am happy that Anjali doesn't have to come with me to work. I feel relief that she is in good hands studies all day long, play with her friends, is fed well and most importantly, she's away from all these dusts. I am very grateful towards CDS and WVI Nepal who provided this opportunity to families like us.", shares Anjali's mother.*

Anjali's mother also shared that Anjali has developed habits of cleaning, washing hands frequently and also taking care of her own belongings. Anjali's parents commits to continue their daughter's education even when she finishes her days in day care center. They share that from the orientation on financial literacy provided by CDS, they have learnt to save money for the future and emergencies and would use this saving for their daughter's education.

Anjali is amongst hundreds of children and she represents families who are grateful for the establishment of day care center. The employers of the brick industries are also happy to see the positive impacts of the day care center in the outputs of the work of the employees. The performance of the workers has a direct impact on the earnings of the industry. That is the reason the employers too are not reluctant to invest in the day care centers. As a result, they too have supported to provide shelter to run the day care center or have provisioned the rent for the building.





# Child Worker at

## a Brick Industry Rescued and Relocated to a Shelter Home

**This** is the story of Gita (name changed), a 12-year-old girl who arrived at one of the brick industries, Bungmati, two years ago from her village in Pyuthan district. After she arrived, she started living with her cousin and began working as a babysitter for the workers in the brick industry. Formerly, she had worked as a babysitter in Calcutta, India about two years ago after her mother's demise. Her father was convicted of the murder of his wife and was sentenced to jail. This led to Gita being unable to continue her studies. Gita is the second youngest child of six siblings. Although Gita had attended elementary school, she had no knowledge of calculating the money that she was being paid for babysitting.

*"Although I wanted to study, I couldn't do so as I needed money for my living", says Gita.*

Owing to Gita's situation, World Vision International (WVI) Nepal and Child Development Society (CDS) decided to take her to her elder sister's home in Gulmi district through Building Resilience with Children in Kathmandu's Brick Kilns (BRiCKK) Project. However, Gita's sister in Gulmi was already looking after their youngest sister. On top of that, the elder sister had four children of her own. It would be very difficult for her to provide shelter and take care of Gita. Realising that her elder sister would not keep her for long and would instead send Gita by getting her married, Gita requested the team of CDS to instead look for a shelter home where she could continue her study. Hence, CDS coordinated with the ward office of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Ward 22. One of the shelter homes in Bungamati was arranged for her. On 15 Baishakh 2078 (28 April 2021), with the help from CDS, she was moved to the shelter home, Gita is now studying in Grade 4 in a school in Lalitpur. Furthermore, she is regularly participating in various activities such as awareness sessions, training on handicrafts, art, dance and, many other extracurricular activities.

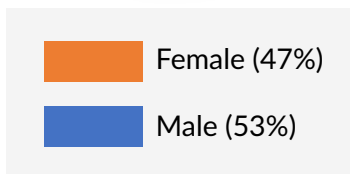
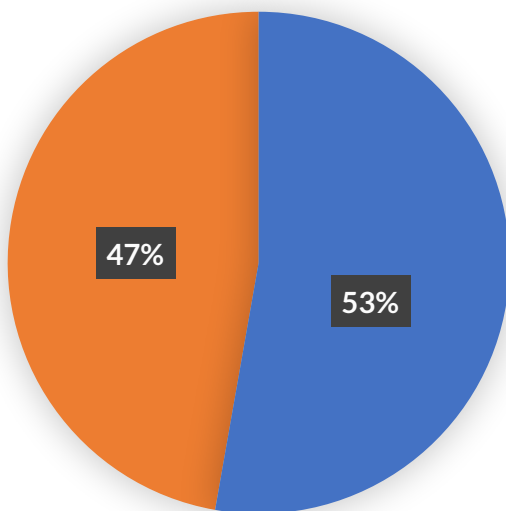
Because of her childhood experiences, Gita used to be fearful and traumatised in early days of school. But things have changed in recent days.



*"I am a regular student of Karate class. It's been 3 months that I have been playing and have a white belt. I enjoy taking part in adventurous and fun filled activities like rock climbing. It makes me feel brave.",*  
shares Gita when asked about her school activities.

Gita is now in regular contact with her elder sister through phone calls. Her elder sister occasionally comes to see Gita in the shelter home and is happy that things are getting better for Gita. Gita regularly attends school. Her daily activity includes attending school, participating in extracurricular activities and attending tuitions after regular classes. She is improving in her academics. The shelter home also teaches students to work in handicrafts and the products are kept in sale. The money collected through these products are saved for the student's personal use. Gita feels happy to be a part of handicraft team and earn small amounts. She also happily shared that she recently bought new dresses with her earned money.

### Children Reintegration with Families



Gita is among 24 children accommodated by the same shelter home. These young children have primarily been victims of different forms of abuse. It is commonly acknowledged that a safe and secure home setting is the greatest environment for a child's growth and development. WVI Nepal and CDS is assisting children in adjusting to the lifestyle, culture, and language of his or her community. 30 children (16 boys and 14 girls) have been reintegrated with their families either through livelihood or education support in two phases of programme implementation.



# Malati's Food Cart Business:

## Ensuring her Economic Independence

*"I got a chance to attend an income generating training. It has been extremely useful for me. Earlier, I was struggling to manage finances at home. The work in the brick industry is seasonal and that is the reason we cannot save enough money. But I am saving most of the income I generate through this stall"*



**Like** women all world over, Nepalese women too have dreams, dreams of financial independence, education, equality and opportunities. As simple and easy as it may sound, this dream only becomes an absurd fantasy for many of these women. Similar is the situation of most women working in brick industries of Nepal. With education of merely up to grade 10 and lack of any vocational skills, these women are left with no choices than to work in brick industries. Here, they are exposed to multiple occupational hazards, pollution and have to work in an environment with lack of sanitation and hygiene. The main thrust of the women's development activities would be to assist women in income generating activities which they can undertake in their surroundings at their ease.

Envisioning economic resilience and occupational safety for these women as well as other workers of brick industries, Child Development Society (CDS) with the support of World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) has provided trainings to interested women workers of the brick industry on income generation activities.

Among many participants, Malati, a permanent resident of Rolpa district had been working at

one of the brick industries when she was selected to participate in series of orientation session on income generating activities organized in brick industries four year back. In four years' time, she has regularly attended the session, meetings and has also influenced other women in the industry. Realizing the urge that she wanted to support family financially and work throughout the year, the BRiCKK project provided her a wheel stall. Malati uses this stall to sell her snacks. Owing to her determination to support her family financially, she was provided with a food cart, which she used to start her food cart business.

These days, she is seen around brick industries selling snacks to the workers as well as the passers-by. She deposits small amount to her saving account everyday and is committed to use all her savings towards her children future. She have even planned to open her own hotel in coming future. She used to make about NPR 1000 before support, but now she makes NPR 2000 per day from a wheel cart stand. Malati is also happy not being compelled to work in the industry as she shares that working in the industry deteriorated her health condition.

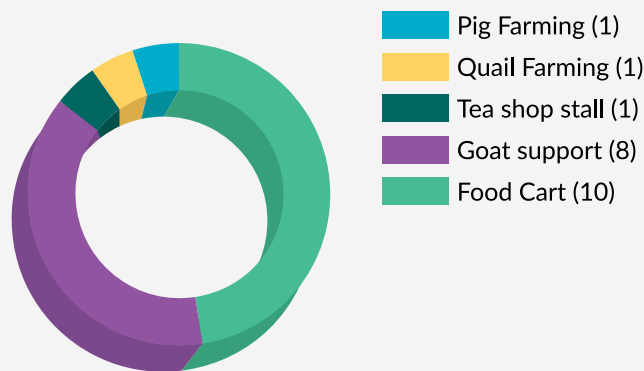


*"I have been facing health issue when I worked at the industry . I couldnot carry heavy loads, which impacted my abilities to work. So, I kept worrying about raising my children. In the discussion session organized by WVI Nepal and CDS I shared my problem. I was then enrolled to training on income generation and here I am today, with this food cart!*

*"I have many things to be grateful for and thanking for giving me a happy life covers it all ! ", says Malati*



21 beneficiaries are provided livelihood support under BRiCKKs project among which 10 families were provided Food Cart.



# BRiCKK helping individuals investing in insurance for a secured future

*"The officials of CDS helped me apply for the health insurance. If it wouldn't be them, I would not have known about this facility which I would get easily", shares Nar.*

**The** brick industry has brought more work opportunities to Kathmandu Valley. World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) has been working in the brick industries with its partnered NGO Child Development Society (CDS), prioritizing health, education and protection initiatives for children and families through BRiCKK project. One of the many areas that the project is working on is promoting health insurance program of Nepal Government targeted to poor Nepalese families working in brick industry to improve health condition.

Nar, a permanent resident of Sindhuli district, came to Kathmandu valley in search of work. Once he got employed with brick industry, all his family members relocated with him.

Nar met officials of CDS during the implementation of BRiCKK project. He was a regular participant of the orientation and discussion sessions on health insurance an important component of the intervention. He was introduced to free health services provided by the Nepal Government which he was unaware before he participated in the orientation sessions. He also was informed about policy schemes which the Government offered on health through BRiCKK project and linked his families to health insurance system of Nepal Government, Health Insurance Board. Nar went to Sindhuli after the orientation and applied for the insurance. He applied for all his family members.

Nar's son fell unexpectedly ill due to an inflammatory condition on his abdomen. He needed an immediate surgery for which Nar needed a good amount. His financial condition was poor and couldn't afford that big amount at a glance. He then was advised (by CDS) to go through the policy of the insurance he had done for all his members and had paid the premium amount. When he contacted the ward office, he was assured that the treatment of his son would be covered by the insurance.



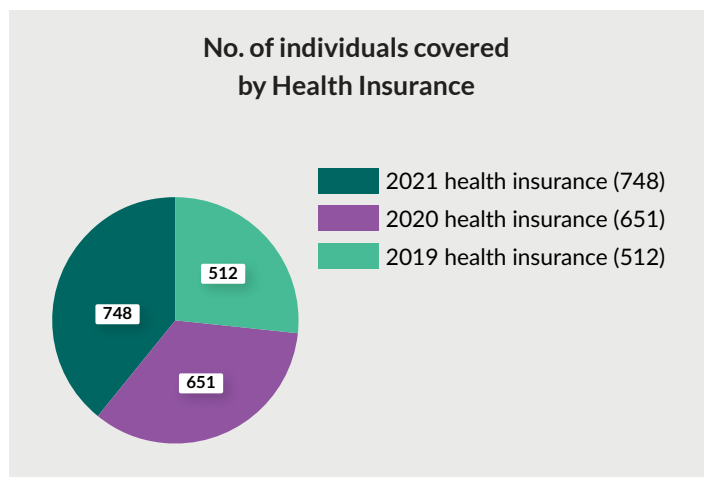
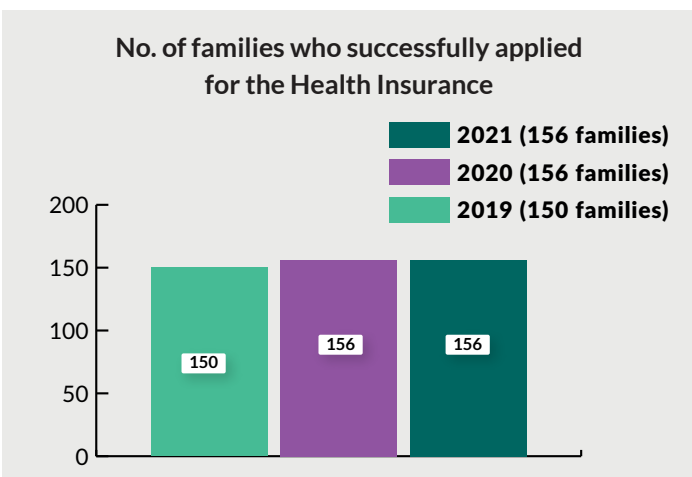




*"I was very happy and relieved when I got to know that the policy would cover all my son's treatment expenses. I have no words to express my gratitude towards CDS and WVI Nepal for this support", added Nar.*

Nar's son is stable now and also is a regular student of day care center established for the children of brick workers. Nar has influenced many workers to apply for the family scheme of insurance and is motivating others to use it.

Nar's family is among 462 families who have successfully applied for the health insurance with the facilitation from BRiCKK project. NPR 3,500 has been fixed for a family having more than five members as insurance premium and they will be entitled to health facilities (from the recommendation of health institutions) worth up to NPR 100,000. The health insurance card should be renewed every year. Under the insurance scheme, the insured will enjoy services such as nutrition, psychological counselling, vaccination, family planning, safe motherhood, OPD and emergency services. CDS with the support of WVI Nepal is working to link brick workers to this facility provided by the Government so that they can be supported during emergencies or any unpredicted events.





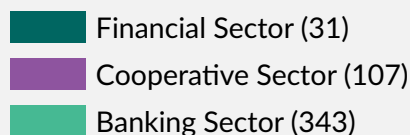
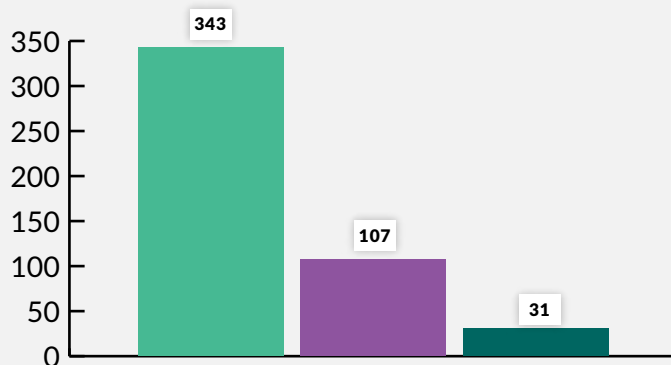
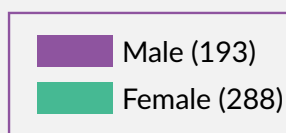
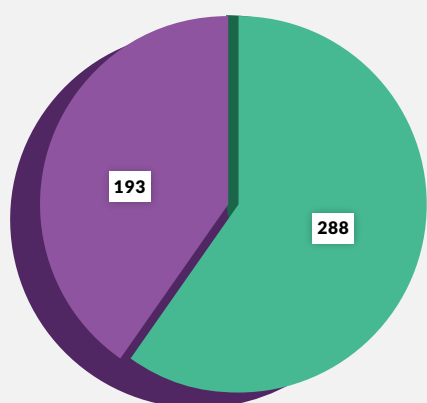


# Trainings on Financial Literacy: Helping People Build Saving Habits

*“Due to a large amount of debts, we have been going through a very difficult phase. But, after been enrolled in financial literacy and vocational training, we were able to apply it in our behaviour and clear our debts within one and half years. This was a huge relief”, shared Rupa Maya.*

**The** majority of brick industry workers are well aware of the value of saving money, but their top concern is typically "How can I do it?" To address this issue, World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) and its partner NGO Child Development Society (CDS) provided series of orientations and trainings for these groups on financial literacy, focusing on saving practices, saving institutions, the opening process for bank accounts, and the short-term and long-term benefits they can derive from them. The instruction was quite beneficial for many brick industry workers. 481 brick industry workers were linked to formal saving institutions within the project's four years of implementation after obtaining financial literacy instruction.

**CDS and WVI Nepal Has supported total 481 Participants (Brick workers) to open saving account in bank and Co-operative Sector Under the BRiCKK project phase 1 and phase 2**





**Rupa Maya**

Consented

Rupa Maya, a permanent resident of Rolpa is one of the participants of financial literacy training. She has been working at one of the brick industries for about 9 years. Now, born in a family with low economic status, she couldn't pursue higher education because her family didn't have enough finances to support her education. That was when she came to Kathmandu in search of work and got wedged to the brick industry.

After she started working at the brick industry, she got married with Kismat who is also brick industry worker. After being employed at the brick Industry for few years, Kismat went to Saudi Arabia as a foreign employment worker in 2015, hoping to make a fortune. While migrating, he had also incurred some debts. But, he had to return to Nepal in just two months owing to his health complications, thus trapping him in the cycle of the debts.

The interest was growing every day, adding to the woes of the couple. The initial loan of NPR.220,000 (USD 1719) had risen to NPR. 440,000 (USD 3,438) in just three years' time. Before selecting them, the project consulted with workers pertinent to their interest on saving, vocational training and education of children. As the BRiCKK project enrolled, Rupa and Kismat to the financial literacy sessions, vocational training and positive parenting, where they learnt about the saving habits, alternative livelihood and importance of education.

Rupa was a regular participant of the trainings and orientations programme conducted in 2018. She realized that saving small amounts can solve several big problems of life.

Both Rupa and Kismat used to earn money by making bricks in the Industry. After being introduced to a cooperative, Rupa and Kismat







Picture Taken During the Orientation Program



regularly saved their savings into their account and used it in children education, health and other essential needs.

Rupa is just an example of many workers of the brick industry who have solved their financial problems through savings. WVI Nepal and CDS have oriented about 900 individuals workers at various brick industries in Lalitpur Metropolitan City and Chandragiri Municipality of Kathmandu

Rupa and Kismat are happy, how their saving habits has helped them to plan for their future

activities and have already started to invest for their children's education. They have opened a separate bank account in the name of their children where they save some amount every month.

The financial literacy training provided by CDS with support from WVI Nepal has proven to be a successful intervention so far in terms of improving financial stability and resilience among brick industry workers. These Individuals now have developed sustainable financial habits, reduced debts, increased their savings, and empowered themselves financially.



# Bridging the gap between the Government Services and the Brick Workers

**The** project funded by World Vision Hong Kong “Building Resilience with Children in Kathmandu’s Brick Kilns” (BRiCKK) started from November 2018. The project is implemented at Chandragiri Municipality and Lalitpur Metropolitan City in partnership with Child Development Society (CDS). The goal of the project is to ensure that the children and families who work in the brick industry are protected from exploitative and hazardous labor, and that the families have decent and viable livelihoods.

Brick industries have an unsafe working environment as the workers are exposed to burnt mud, dust mixed with coal, and baked brick. Workers are equally exposed to physical hazards such as heat, noise, carrying heavy weights, and incorrect posture over extended periods of time. Similarly, it covers biological threats such as regular contact with muddy mud and psychological hazards such as stress, abuse, and so on. Except for big automated industry with shades for storing bricks, most of the industries here in Nepal are seasonal and run from December to June. The increased demand for construction materials has fueled a need for cheap labor and a lack of incentives for producing clean or socially responsible bricks.



The workers of the industries in Chandragiri Municipality and Lalitpur Metropolitan City belong to low-income families. Most of them are illiterate, few have a low education level this as a result prevent them from receiving health-care services provided by the Government of Nepal (GoN). Exposure to ambient air pollution is extremely dangerous to human health since it can induce a variety of respiratory and other health impacts, leading to significant mortality and morbidity. School-aged children are particularly susceptible due to their ongoing physiological development and increased vulnerability to such exposures. Furthermore, because the brick business is seasonal, workers regularly travel from their source district to the industry, creating an information gap for them.

*"It is because of the project team that we knew about the free services provided by the health post. Before knowing this, I used to purchase medicines from the local pharmacy store which I would get in free from the health post. This information will benefit me a lot," shares Sunita*

To bridge the gap between brick workers and government health services, CDS and WVI Nepal has been running several orientation programs to connect brick workers to health services. Throughout the project's lifespan, CDS and WVI Nepal has connected **4,235** individuals to government provided basic health services. CDS and WVI Nepal have performed an important role in connecting brick workers to GoN services.

#### Project activities (Linking brick industry workers to GoN services)

- Microscopic Screening Camp of Tuberculosis
- COVID-19 vaccination program to various age groups
- Supported health facilities to screen COVID-19 cases
- Immunization
- Body Mass Index (BMI) and growth monitoring assessment of the children in the day care centers and referring identified malnutrient cases to health facilities
- Orientation to Occupational Health and Safety Committee on all the health services of the Government
- Orientation on Government's Health Insurance Programme to all the industry workers
- Other social campaigns on health and hygiene.

*We were infected with the Covid-19 virus. But, we didn't know it before getting tested. We were informed that the test would be done free of cost as the project had supported the health post. Many of us got timely treatment and I believe identification of the cases saved many other lives as well. Thanks to the team of CDS and WVI Nepal for this ideal work," added Raju Kasuwar*







The brick workers, safety and health committee members, owners of the brick industries, teachers of day care centers, and the officials of the local government are gratified to see the impacts of the initiatives of the project.



invested in health insurance.



students have been referred to the health facilities for the treatment of malnutrition.



facilitated during the screening of COVID-19.



members of Occupational Health and Safety Committee were oriented on services provided by the Government



children from the Day Care Center were provided immunization (Vitamin A)



got vaccinated against COVID-19.



screened for Tuberculosis



# Workers Safety Matters

The brick industry is one of the largest sectors to generate seasonal jobs for thousands of individuals from various parts of the country. With the scope of job opportunities, it brings seasonal workers including women and young children in the hazardous work environment of the brick industry. Dusty and hazardous environments not only harm workers' health, but also affect the overall well-being of the entire family.

**Guided** by the National Directives on the Occupational Safety and Health for brick industry worker, World Vision International Nepal (**WVI Nepal**) and Child Development Society (**CDS**) is working together for ensuring the safe working environment in 12 brick industry of Kathmandu Valley (**Lalitpur and Kathmandu**). Under the BRiCKK project, **12** safety health committees are formed and they are trained for promoting the occupational safety standards in the brick industry.

## Initiatives taken by the safety and health committee

- Effective operation of the day care for children between the ages of two and five
- Establishment of warning sign boards
- Sharing of information to the workers regarding the health risks that can arise while working
- Discussion on measures to mitigate health hazards in the workplace
- Promotion and dissemination of helpline numbers and toll-free numbers to report any crimes, abuse, and other issues faced by the workers
- Maintenance of WASH facilities
- Establishment of gender-friendly toilet
- Regular conduction of plantation program in the surroundings of the industry
- Coordinating with employer, CDS and WVI Nepal to send children to school
- Raising awareness not to hire child labor in brick industry



With respect to Occupational Health Safety and Health Directives in the brick industries, WVI Nepal and CDS have been conducting orientation and awareness raising programmes for creating protective and safer working environment.

**1,486** brick industry workers were oriented about occupational safety and health followed by formation of **12** Safety and Health Committees in brick industries. Capacity building to these committees was done.

With the support from WVI Nepal, **12** bathrooms, **13** toilets and **6** water facilities were constructed and renovated in the brick Industry. A major progress was the initiation of day care centers in all the brick industries of WVI Nepal working area's which was highly appreciated by the local governments.



Following this intervention at brick industry the occupational safety situations of workers at those brick industries seem to have improved. The workers in the industries now follow necessary safety major while working. Females are happy to use the gender friendly toilets and bathrooms constructed for them. The surroundings look greener with the growing plants. The Naikes (Labor Contractor) advise the brick workers not to bring their children in brick industry rather they are encouraged to send their children in the school.