

Report on ICDP Progress Save the Children Nepal Country Office, Kathmandu 2022

Social Protection is one of the key measures to reduce poverty and vulnerability. Save the Children (SC) has been implementing the CSSP (Child Sensitive Social Protection) project since 2011 in Nepal.

Since its launch, the project has been focusing on SSA (social security allowance) which is the government's cash transfer programme in Nepal. There are five different categories of people who receive the allowance, namely: senior citizens, people with disability, children below the age of 5 years, widows and single women, and people from endangered communities.

As a leading organization for children globally, SC has been focusing on helping children in Nepal through the CSSP project, by focusing on the Child Grant programme under SSA. (The government is providing Nrs 532 Rupees in cash per child per month, with a maximum of 2 children from a biological mother.)

It is globally understood that cash alone will not bring holistic changes in the lives of children, therefore, the SC organization started to work on advocacy by lobbying the government entities to implement the Child Grant plus a parenting programme, so that the caregivers can take better care of the children and invest more on the nutrition of the children.

In order to strengthen caregiving skills in parents, SC adopted the International Child Development Programme (ICDP) and developed a parenting package at community level, by adding ICDP to its child grant.

Currently, there are 5 national trainers in the organization and their task has been to train and form ICDP facilitators who operate under local governments.

SC has conducted various studies related to its parenting programme and these studies have so far shown very significant results. Changes in the traditional malpractices were recoded and a great improvement in the way parents care for their children has been noted. Parents are more loving, spend more time with children, show empathic behaviors towards their children – these are some of the examples of the effect of the programme.

Achievements of 2022

- 1- Local governments in the project areas are allocating budgets to implement and collaborate on the parenting programme. Currently CSSP is being implemented in nine local governments in four districts. Four local governments out of nine, have already allocated budgets and others are in the process of doing so. This development is a result of them realizing the importance of the programme.
- 2- Policy influence: Department of National ID and Civil Registration under the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal, formed a special committee to prepare a draft guideline on the parenting programme operation to take place in all of its 753 local governments. This committee submitted

the final draft to the department after a process of consultation that took place through a series of meetings. Two of the SC staff from the CSSP project participated as members of that committee. The guideline was eventually endorsed by the department operating the SSA in Nepal.

- 3- ICDP facilitators conducted training in four districts. All the facilitators were selected from local governments based on the criteria set by the project. SC, considering a sustainable approach, engaged the local governments in the process so that future local governments can take over and run the parenting sessions.

Districts	Municipality	No of new ICDP Facilitators	Training provided by
Jajarkot	Shivalaya	18 Female (16 Female and 2 male)	Save the children
Dailekh	Thantikandh	14 (12 female and 2 male)	Save the children
Mahottari	Bhangaha, Aurahi and Loharpatti	39 (8 Female and 1 male)	Save the children
Sarlahi	Haripur and Ishworpur	28 (25 Female and 3 Male)	Save the children
Total		99 (91 Female and 8 Male)	

- 4- Impact Evaluation study of the child grant plus parenting programme: An impact study was carried out in 2021, which was disseminated among the governments and other development stakeholders. A scientific study to see the impact of child grant plus the parenting programme focused on nutrition, caregiver-child relationships and family budgeting. The finding showed positive impacts ([Impact Evaluation of the Child Grant Parenting Programme in Nepal | Save the Children's Resource Centre](#))

- 5- Community level sessions: Community level ICDP meetings were conducted by facilitators in four districts.

Districts	Municipality	No of caregivers attended the sessions/meetings
Jajarkot	Shivalaya	80 Mothers
Dailekh	Thantikandh	57 Mothers
Mahottari	Bhangaha, Aurahi and Loharpatti	201 Mothers
Sarlahi	Haripur and Ishworpur	140 Mothers
Total		478 mothers

Quotes by mothers:

- 1- "When I understood that 'love hunger is stronger than food hunger', from that day I started to spend more time with my child."-----Pramila Aurahi Municipality-Mahottari district.
- 2- "Before the parenting sessions, I was fed-up with my son's habit of playing on the mobile phone all the time. But after taking the sessions, I learned that we need to listen to our children and spend time with them. Now we both agreed and have set a routine with certain limits in

time spent on the phone. As a result, my son has reduced the time he spends playing on his mobile phone. -----Radha, from Sarlahi district

Graduation of ICDP facilitators in Sarlahi



ICDP Training in Dailekh



Group facilitation by facilitators at community level



ICDP training in Dailekh 2022

