

# **Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG):**

## **National Strategic Framework**

*Unofficial English translation*



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**Ministry of Local Development**

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## Acronyms

CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFLG	Child Friendly Local Governance
CO	Community Organisation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
DCWB	District Child Welfare Board
DDC	District Development Committee
FM	Frequency Modulation
LB	Local Body
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Programme
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MCPM	Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Planning Commission
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee

## Chapter 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) is a concept introduced to enhance the system of good governance at local level through the promotion of child rights (Protection, Survival, Development and Participation). Stipulations on the rights of children made by the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007; the Three Years Interim Plan of Nepal (2008/09 - 2010/11); the Children's Act 1992, and the Local Self Governance Act 1999, advocate for the provision of a holistic and adequate legal and policy base in relation to the rights of children, as specified in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989.

District Development Committees (DDCs), Municipalities<sup>1</sup>, and Village Development Committees (VDCs), all local government bodies, have been developed as service providing agencies at the district and community levels. These bodies, working closely with and for the population, are ideally placed to tackle the issues of child rights if these are built into the overall system, process and function of such Local Bodies.

Work has already been done towards the development of child friendly governance in coordination with and support of national and local level institutions in Nepal. The Ten Year Child Labour Master Plan and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2000, have been implemented. And programmes are underway to implement the Ten Year's National Plan of Action for Children (2004/05 - 2014/15). However, more interventions for the protection of child rights and their development need to be introduced.

The population of Nepal is estimated at 26.4 million (2007). Forty seven point five percent are children below 18 years, and 40.93% are below 16 years. The neonatal mortality rate is 34 per 1,000 live births; infant mortality is 48 per 1,000 live births and the under-five mortality rate is 61 per 1,000 live births<sup>2</sup>. Net school enrolment is only 86.4 percent<sup>3</sup>. In light of these figures, it is felt necessary to develop a more effective registration mechanism, especially with regards to births, which CFLG will promote.

In the past, some Municipalities and VDCs implemented different projects and programmes relating to CFLG on a pilot basis. One of the results of these pilots has been the realisation that there must be uniformity in the implementation modality and cohesiveness among projects and programmes. With this in mind, this Strategic Framework has been developed and put into action, following the principles of inclusion, in order to mainstream child right issues in local governance and institutionalize the concept of CFLG.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipality in this National Framework, means Metropolitan City, Sub-Metropolitan City and Municipality.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Three Year Plan, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) web site, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Department of Education - Flash Report, 2009.

## 1.2 Definition

Unless the subject or context indicates otherwise, in this National Strategic Framework:-

- (1) "Child" refers to a minor not having completed eighteen years;
- (2) "Local Governance" refers to Local Bodies working closely with the people and being the local representative of the State.
- (3) "Child Friendly Governance" refers to the overall system and practices adopted by the State to respect, protect and promote child rights and which follows the principles of i) non-discrimination; ii) best interests of the children; iii) holistic development; and iv) meaningful participation;
- (4) "Child Friendly Local Governance" refers to the governance systems that best institutionalize the system and practices of the State at the local level and which addresses the issues of child right as: i) survival; ii) development; iii) protection; and iv) meaningful participation in policy, structure, systems and working procedures of Local Bodies;
- (5) "Community Organisation" refers to community level and community based organisations established in accordance with the prevailing laws and adopting a specified process. Community based organisations should also be listed in the records of the Local Bodies;
- (6) "Local Bodies" refers to District Development Committees; Municipalities, and the Village Development Committees;
- (7) "Municipality" refers to the Metropolitan City, Sub-Metropolitan City and Municipality;
- (8) "Non-Governmental Organisation" in this Strategic Framework, means legally registered international and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working for children;
- (9) "Child Friendly VDC/ Municipality/ District" refers to a VDC/ municipality/ district declared by its respective council as a Child Friendly Local Body. The Body should ensure the minimum indicators are met through the formulation of periodic and annual plans and budgets, as specified in the CFLG National Framework 2010 and the CFLG Operational Guideline 2010, to ensure meaningful child participation;
- (10) "Child Friendly Programme" refers to programmes implemented through and in collaboration with the government and non-government sectors and that are based on the CFLG National Framework 2010.
- (11) "Development Partners" refer to multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, different agencies of the United Nations, and international NGOs.
- (12) "Child Club" refers to child groups, child clubs, child forums and child networks.

### **1.3 Objectives of the CFLG National Framework**

The overall objective of this Framework is to support in bringing uniformity to the programme implementation strategy, policy, working policy, achievement and outcomes for the establishment and promotion of Child Friendly Local Governance, considering the need and current situation of children.

### **1.4 Rationale of the CFLG National Framework**

Some municipalities and VDCs have been implementing programmes related to CFLG on a pilot basis. Considering the importance of addressing children's issues in the service delivery and the governance system, it is crucial to have uniformity and cohesiveness among such programmes. In this context, this Framework has been designed to be implemented for the institutionalisation of the concept of CFLG through mainstreaming issues of child rights in line with the principles of inclusive.

The rationale of this Framework is as follows:-

- a) To strengthen the child friendly local governance system and create uniformity in its process;
- b) To create an environment for financial and technical co-operation and collaboration to promote child friendly local governance through coordination and partnership among the government, non-government and private sector institutions working in the child sector;
- c) To support and develop national and local policies so they are compatible with child friendly local governance;
- d) To support to enhance institutional capacity and human resource development for child friendly local governance;
- e) To create opportunity for child development through delivering the desired services through implementing the provisions made by the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007; CRC 1989; Children Act 1992, and other legal provisions created under other laws and policies related to children, and
- f) To support the preparation of the inclusion of the CFLG system in the forthcoming federal system of Nepal.

### **1.5 Contribution of CFLG in the Governance System**

The CFLG National Framework will support Local Bodies to:-

- a) Make child focused plans and programmes implemented at the local level result oriented and effective;

- b) Promote and enhance child participation in the local governance system - based on the children's maturity and capacity;
- c) Make Local Bodies and the service providing institutions accountable and responsive;
- d) Create an environment of positive attitudes and mutual understanding towards the rights of children, and
- e) Channel resources available through Local Bodies, government line agencies, NGOs, private sector, development partners and the community into child focused programmes.

## **Chapter 2: Policy and Legal Provisions for Child Rights**

### **2.1 Major Efforts Made Towards Child Rights**

A number of national and international laws and conventions have made provisions on child rights. Some of the major ones are summarized below.

#### **a) Convention on Child Rights (CRC)**

The CRC 1989 (endorsed by Nepal on September 14, 1990), has promulgated the principles of non-discrimination (Article 2), the best interests of children (Article 3), the right to life and holistic development (Article 6), and meaningful participation (Article 12) in order to respect, protect and promote child rights. Based on these principles, the issues of child rights are addressed in the four major sectors of child protection, child survival, child development, and child participation.

#### **b) Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007**

The following provisions relate to the rights and interests of children in the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007:-

- (1) Right to equality (Article 13): "All citizens shall be equal before the law. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law". There may also be special provisions by law for the protection, empowerment or advancement of children.
- (2) Rights of Children (Article 22): The following provisions are made on the rights of children:-
  - 1) Every child shall have the right to his or her own identity and name.
  - 2) Every child shall have the right to be nurtured, to basic health and social security.
  - 3) Every child shall have the right not to be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of exploitation. Any such act of exploitation shall be punishable by law and any child so treated shall be compensated as determined by law.
  - 4) Helpless and orphaned children, children with mental disabilities, children who are victims of conflict or displaced and street children at risk shall have the right to receive special privileges from the State to ensure their secure future.
  - 5) No minor shall be employed in factories, mines or in any other hazardous work, nor shall be used in the army, police or in conflicts.

#### **c) Local Self Governance Act 2055 (1999)**

Section 43, 111, and 201 of the Local Self Governance Act 1999 has provisioned the Local Bodies (VDC, Municipality and DDC) to prioritize projects that provide direct benefits to children. Accordingly, the Act clearly states that activities related to children should be carried out in the



best interest of children and their welfare (Section 28, 96, and 189). The Local Bodies have been assigned responsibility in the same sections of the Act to formulate and implement programmes relating to child and maternal health care, vaccination and nutrition.

The Local Bodies are authorized to establish and operate a special fund for women and children, under Rule 33 and 54 of the Local Body Financial Administration Regulation 2064 (2007).

#### **d) Children's Act 2048 (1992)**

From birth, every child should be granted a name by his or her father. Or, if the father is not available, by his or her mother. And, if the mother is also not available by any other member of his or her family. In cases where the father, mother or any other member of his or her family is not alive or their whereabouts unknown, the person or organisation bringing up the child should give the child a name (Section 3.1). Accordingly, Section 4.1 mentions that the parents should be under obligation to make arrangements to bring up the child and to provide education, health care, sports and recreation facilities to him or her according to the financial status of their family.

#### **e) Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2056 (2000)**

Section 4 of the Act mentions that no child should be engaged in work as a labourer against his/ her will by way of persuasion, misrepresentation or by subjecting him/ her to any influence or fear, threat, coercion or by any other means. Accordingly, Section 9.2 clearly spells out that no child should be engaged in work for more than six hours in a day and more than thirty-six hours a week, either with or without additional remuneration. It is also mentioned in Section 10.1 that any enterprise engaging children as workers shall not discriminate on the grounds of sex, race, religion, caste or tribe and shall provide equal remuneration and benefits for the same work. Section 11 of the Act has prescribed provisions to be made by an employer with regard to the health and safety of children.

#### **f) Three Years Interim Plan of Nepal (2008/09 - 2010/11)**

CFLG is one of the high priority sectors identified and described in Chapter 27 (Local Development) of the Three Years Interim Plan of Nepal. Within that chapter, policy and working policy specify that child friendly campaigns for child survival, development, participation and protection will be institutionalized in the Local Bodies. Similarly, the policy and working policy under Chapter 23 (Children) mentions that in accordance with the concept of child friendly governance, Local Bodies will be encouraged to formulate and implement programmes related to children. The same chapter also highlights and opens up the scope of developing policy and guidelines for child participation.

#### **g) Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP)**

It is stated in the project document of the Local Governance and Community Development Programme that LGCDP will internalize the concept of socially inclusive gender equity and child friendly approaches in the design and implementation of its programmes. In addition, CFLG is a priority within LGCDP. CFLG related activities are clearly mentioned in some of the sections on principles, policy, output indicators, and monitoring and evaluation. For example, one of the indicators of Output 6 of the LGCDP mentions that Local Bodies shall have adopted CFLG by the end of July 2012. Additionally, the formulation of a CFLG National Framework is also one of the indicators (6.1.5).

## **h) Millennium Development Goals**

The following MDG targets are directly related to the well-being of children:-

- Goal 2 Target 3: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- Goal 3 Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
- Goal 4 Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate by 2015.
- Goal 5 Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015.
- Goal 6 Target 7: Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS by 2015.
- Goal 7 Target 10: Reduced by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

## **i) Ten Year National Plan of Action for Children (2004/05 - 2014/15)**

The Ten Year National Plan of Action for Children (2004/05 - 2014/15) has set its vision as follows: - "Children shall fully exercise their rights in the community fit for them; and they shall exclusively use and realize their capacity". Accordingly, the goal of Plan is set as follows:- "Child rights shall be ensured for the upliftment of their life style; promoting a child friendly environment, and widely eliminating violence and exploitation against children". The Plan of Action aims to promote a child friendly environment with due concentration on the sectors of education, child development, health, and nutrition.

## **j) VDC and DDC Block Grant Operational Guideline 2066 (2009)**

Clause 8 (n) of the DDC Block Grant Operational Guideline, 2009 has made a mandatory provision to allocate and invest in the programmes and activities related to CFLG (directly related to the issues of child rights such as survival, protection, development and participation). Clause 8.2 (b) of the same Guideline has provisioned to allocate at least 10 percent of its capital budget for plans and projects directly benefitting deprived children. There is also a provision of a special investment package for women and children.

Clause 7.2 (b) of the VDC Block Grant Operational Guideline, 2009 has a mandatory provision to allocate and invest at least five percent of its unconditional capital budget in the programmes and activities benefitting deprived children; and Clause 7.2 (d) raised this ceiling up to 25 percent for VDCs who declare themselves as child friendly VDCs; this amount to be invested in the plans and projects benefitting women and children.

## **2.2 Other Child Rights Initiatives Observed at National and International Level**

There are several initiatives observed in the sectors of child rights, at national, regional and international level. Among them, the following are major initiatives adopted by Nepal:-

- (1) Nepal ratified the UN declaration on the Rights of Children in 1959.
- (2) In 1991, Nepal ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979.

- (3) Nepal accepted the supplementary protocol 2000 of the world convention against the use of children in armed conflict, child trafficking, child prostitution and obscene showing.
- (4) Nepal participated in the SAARC Convention on Regional Management to Promote Child Welfare in South Asia 2002.
- (5) Nepal ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution 2002.
- (6) Nepal formulated the Child Judiciary (Procedures) Regulation in 2063 (2006).
- (7) Child issues have been incorporated by the sectoral ministries such as education, health, labour and transportation, women, children and social welfare in their sectoral plans and programmes.
- (8) Child Friendly Local Governance and Child Friendly VDC/ Municipality programmes are piloted by some VDCs and municipalities in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Child Welfare Board, Nepal Police, national and international NGOs and donor agencies.

## **Chapter 3: Strategic Arrangement for Child Friendly Local Governance**

### **3.1 The Strategic Essence of CLFG**

The overall strategic essence of Child Friendly Local Governance is to make the local governance system strong, capable and accountable through establishing an inclusive and equitable society ensuring child rights to survival, protection, development and participation.

### **3.2 Goal**

Services, incorporating child rights, shall be ensured by improving their quality and access through the promotion of Child Friendly Local Governance.

### **3.3 Objectives**

The objective of this Framework is to support in achieving the following results to ensure meaningful participation of children in the policy, structure, system and working procedures of the institutions and sectors at local level by promoting the Child Friendly Local Governance system, mainstreaming the issues of child rights.

1. Promotion of child rights to survival.
2. Promotion of child rights to protection.
3. Promotion of child rights to development.
4. Meaningful participation in the decision making procedures on delivery of fundamental services and planning for children

### **3.4 Guiding Principles**

For the purpose of promoting child friendly local governance, the following principles shall be adopted:-

#### **3.4.1 Principle of non-discrimination**

No discrimination to any child shall be made on the basis of religion, colour, caste, ethnicity, gender, age-group, origin, language, ideological conscience, physical and mental condition, family capacity, health condition, economic and social status, or geographical area.

#### **3.4.2 Principle of the best interest of the children**

The best interest of the children shall be taken into consideration in each and every process of the governance system. The system shall focus on ensuring child rights in the public and private sector service delivery, and in development activities, as well as in society and family.

### **3.4.3 Principle of exclusive development**

To ensure the rights to survival and the exclusive development of a child, in the context of child protection and development, the following rights should be met: - right to name and birth registration; freedom to speak; right to nationality; right against child labour; right to proper care and livelihood, right to health, right to leisure, sports, recreation and culture and rights to education and patronage.

### **3.4.4 Respect for children's voice and their participation**

A system shall be developed ensuring child participation with due respect to their voices in the process of planning, implementation and monitoring, based on their maturity and capacity.

### **3.4.5 Principle of subsidiary**

Based on the principles of subsidiary; an arrangement shall be made in providing goods and services by the Local Bodies and government line agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society and community organisations.

### **3.4.6 Principle of inclusion**

The rights of children irrespective of status, sex, class, race, region and the capacity to participate in the governance process related to the issues of children shall be ensured based on the principle of inclusion. The concept of social inclusion will be adopted in all aspects of local governance and development related activities.

### **3.4.7 Principle of community-based development**

The execution of this Strategic Framework shall be based on the principle of community based development. The operation of this Framework shall be based on active participation of communities and Local Bodies. Additionally, on the basis of this Framework, necessary guidelines and implementation arrangements can be made at the local level.

## **3.5 Strategies of Child Friendly Local Governance**

The following strategies shall be adopted to achieve the goals and objectives of child friendly local governance. A detailed explanation is given in Annex 1.

### **3.5.1 Mainstreaming**

- a) Build the issues of child rights into the policy, plans, activities and working modality of Local Bodies.
- b) Assess plans and programmes using auditing tools to identify whether the child friendly approach has been followed and the results achieved are in line with the child friendly approach. Adopt relevant auditing tools for this purpose.

### **3.5.1 Policy advocacy, lobbying and awareness**

- a) Advocate strategically in order to establish the interests and welfare of children in the policy and development efforts of the Government of Nepal and the Local Bodies.
- b) Formulate, and cause to formulate, laws, guidelines and directives for the implementation of plans and programmes related to child friendly local governance.
- c) Assist in amending the existing child related laws to make them child friendly.
- d) Create an environment for the execution of plans and programmes related to child friendly local governance at central as well as at local level. Raise a voice in international, regional and national level development forums to promote the concept of child friendly local governance.
- e) Disseminate related conventions, treaties, agreements and policy provisions made at international, national and local level.

### **3.5.2 Institutional arrangements**

- a) Develop systems in the functioning of VDCs and municipalities in relation to them being the main accountable institutions for the development and promotion of the Child Friendly Local Governance system, and develop the District Development Committee (DDC) to play a role in policy and institutional coordination.
- b) Develop the necessary institutional arrangement for CFLG at district, municipality, VDC and community level and develop the institutional capacity of the Village Child Protection Committee and the CFLG district, municipal and village committees.
- c) Make organisational arrangements at different levels and sectors of the governance unit for the promotion of child friendly local governance.
- d) Highlight the issues related to children through informal mechanisms with listed child related institutions. Develop child networks and encourage the capacity development of networks and institutions at local level.
- e) Attain the indicators mentioned in this Strategic Framework through harmonizing institutional and procedural development among the locally established Health Facility Management Committees, School Management Committees, local child networks, Water Supply Committees, Community Forest Management Committees, Community Organisations and the NGO network at the district level.
- f) Link and integrate the local peace committee and the community based child protection systems such as through para-legal committees and similar institutions working in this sector.
- g) Ensure institutional representation of children in decision making and organisational structures directly related to them.

### **3.5.3 Capacity development**

For the promotion of child friendly local governance:-

- a) Develop functional networks among stakeholders and supporting agencies at various levels.
- b) Provide technical and financial support to execute child friendly programmes.
- c) Implement child only programmes on a pilot basis.

- d) Undertake programmes such as study, research, training, seminars, workshops and capacity development of human resources through training, observations and experience sharing.
- e) Through the development of a communication strategy, use communication media such as radio, FM, television and the printed media for the dissemination of CFLG concepts, policies and programmes.
- f) Develop a roster of resource persons and trainers at central level and mobilize them as and when needed and develop trainers at local level (with sufficient training materials).
- g) Establish a CFLG resource centre at the MoLD, DDCs and municipalities. Widely disseminate useful material related to CFLG through web-sites.
- h) Enhance the capacity of the district information and documentation centre and human resource development centre.

### **3.5.5 Cooperation and collaboration**

- a) Expand the area of cooperation and collaboration with local and external/ international development partners in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plans and projects related to child rights protection.
- b) Copy and replicate procedural successes and capacities of development partners.

### **3.5.6 Social mobilization**

- a) Form community organisations and community groups to make child protection initiatives effective at the local level.
- b) Mobilize community based organisations and community groups to hold campaigns and implement mass activities in the sectors of child right protection and its development.
- c) Implement special focused programmes for the capacity development of community based organisations.

### **3.5.7 Social accountability and transparency**

- a) Publicly disseminate information on the programmes and activities implemented and the resources mobilized by Local Bodies and other social organisations in the sector of child rights and development.
- b) Hold public hearings on the effectiveness of the Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG).

### **3.5.8 Social inclusion**

- a) Implement, at the local level, special focused programmes for children belonging to marginalized communities, the poor and disadvantaged groups.
- b) Incorporate CFLG related plans and programmes in the periodic and annual plan of the Local Bodies compulsory.

### **3.5.9 Behaviour change through education, information and communication**

- a) Information dissemination and publicity for the understanding of children's issues, behaviour change, and an increased sensitivity towards child welfare and rights.
- b) Introduce child rights components in the course curriculum in local schools.

### **3.5.10 Monitoring and Evaluation**

- a) Inform stakeholders of the minimum indicators of child friendly local governance and how to monitor the effectiveness and results of the programmes implemented.
- b) Monitor whether or not the programmes on child friendly local governance have been implemented by Local Bodies in line with the existing policies and legal provisions.
- c) Monitor whether or not the local development plan for children has been developed and implemented.
- d) Monitor and assess whether or not the required amount of budget has been allocated for the plans and programmes related to children.
- e) Monitor whether or not the report on the status of children has been developed and produced annually.
- f) Monitor whether or not the necessary policy, by-laws, directives, operational guidelines and code of conduct have been formulated for the implementation of programmes related to the child friendly local governance.
- g) Evaluate the performance of Local Bodies incorporating the CFLG indicators in the Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures (MC/ PM) Operational Guideline.
- h) Award best performance among child groups, community organisations, VDCs, municipalities, DDCs, Development Partners and other stakeholders, including individuals, by developing monitoring indicators to assess performance.

## **3.6 Institutional Arrangements for Child Friendly Local Governance**

The Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), as a facilitating agency for the local development initiatives and coordinating with Local Bodies, shall play a leading role for the promotion of Child Friendly Local Governance. The MoLD shall make institutional arrangements to coordinate and collaborate with the sectoral line ministries in planning and programming, policy advocacy, mainstreaming CFLG, formulating periodic and long term perspective plans, developing minimum indicators for CFLG and their implementation, providing grants, and allocating resources from the internal revenue of Local Bodies for utilization for the promotion of CFLG and service delivery.

The National Planning Commission; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare; Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Labour and Transport Management; Ministry of Home; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, and the expanded wings of these ministries; the Central Child Welfare Committee; national and international non-governmental organisations; development partners, and the private sector agencies shall execute the necessary plans and programmes to promote child friendly local governance.

A CFLG National Committee at the central level, a CFLG District Committee at the district, and a CFLG municipal/ village committees at the municipal/ village level shall be formed to support and implement Child Friendly Local Governance programmes and its institutionalization.



Accordingly, for the promotion of child rights and the formation of CFLF systems, communities shall be encouraged to form community level CFLG committees.

### **3.7 Steps of Child Friendly Local Governance**

The steps of child friendly local governance shall be as follows:-<sup>4</sup>:

- 1) Orientation on the concepts of CFLG and its development and replication;
- 2) Formation of district, municipal and village level CFLG committees;
- 3) Development of an action plan to formulation CFLG policies and strategies;
- 4) Operation of a child friendly local governance section or unit in DDCs and municipalities;
- 5) Specifically defined indicators/ standards to be used in the selection of municipality ward and VDC selection;
- 6) Preparation of child profile;
- 7) Establishment of child fund;
- 8) Formation, development and mobilization of child club and community organisations;
- 9) Stakeholder mapping, coordination and networking;
- 10) Stakeholders' commitment and declaration for child friendly local governance;
- 11) Formulate periodic and annual plans, ensure investment and plan implementation;
- 12) Preparation and publication of the 'status of children' report;
- 13) Monitoring, review and evaluation;
- 14) Decision from Local Body councils committing to spend at least 15 percent of their capital budget on the child sector;
- 15) Creation of definite minimum service indicators on child friendly local governance, and
- 16) Declaration of child friendly district, village or municipality.

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<sup>4</sup> The Local Bodies may form a task force to ensure implementation of CFLG.

## Chapter 4: Expansion of Child Friendly Local Governance and Resource Management

### 4.1 Expansion of the Child Friendly Local Governance System

It is anticipated that the expansion of the CFLG system is exclusively important to achieve the indicators mentioned in this National Framework. This Framework has been developed to demonstrate the remarkable changes in the quality of services delivered to children and the expansion of their rights in areas where CFLG has been implemented. In light of these changes, the expansion of CFLG has been prioritized.

Based on the initiatives made so far on CFLG, and with the cooperation and supporting role of Local Bodies and the concerned stakeholders, the expansion of the CFLG system is expected to be as below. The role of each stakeholder, from central to district and municipality/ VDC level is highly valuable.

The basis and process of selection of Local Bodies shall be as determined by the CFLG National Committee in accordance with Annex 2.

Local Body	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
DDC	5	15	25	37	40	45	50
Municipality	1	5	10	15	20	30	40
VDC	10	35	100	300	500	700	1,000

### 4.2 Financial Arrangements

The role of the Government of Nepal, Development Partners, Local Bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders is vital for the promotion of the CFLG system. Funds for CFLG can be generated through allocating a part of the government supported grant to Local Bodies through the Local Governance and Community Development Programme. In addition, the Development Partners shall provide financial assistance for the implementation of this Strategic Framework collectively or separately as programme support or budgetary support or any other kind of support specified in a Memorandum of Understanding. Necessary focus shall be put on receiving support from UNICEF and other development partners up to 2012, as stated in the National Plan of Action, and beyond 2012 to support the set programmes. Local Bodies shall ensure at least 15 percent of their capital budget is invested in the CFLG system. Similarly, NGOs and other stakeholders shall provide budgetary support or programme support to implement the system; linking with periodic and annual plans and supporting the implementation of this strategy.

The Ministry of Local Development shall add CFLG related indicators in their monitoring and evaluation indicators and set a priority to support an additional earmarked budget to the best performing Local Bodies.

## **Chapter 5: Outcomes and Indicators of Child Friendly Local Governance**

### **5.1 Outcomes**

The following achievements shall be made while implementing plans and programmes related to child friendly local governance. Details are given in the CFLG Operational Guideline.

#### **5.1.1 Local development plan for children**

Local Bodies shall develop a comprehensive local development plan for children with its goal, objectives, strategies, policies, programmes and activities addressing the needs and issues related to child rights and their development. This plan will be the basis for investment to achieve specific outputs and outcomes within a given time period. Details are given in the CFLG Operational Guideline. The plan will be linked with the Local Bodies' periodic and long term plan.

#### **5.1.2 Local investment plan for children**

Local Bodies shall formulate an investment plan for children. In these investment plans, in order to promote the CFLG system, all activities will be linked with the source of funds. Bock grant supported by the central government, external support, internal resources and the funds received from NGOs and government sectoral agencies shall be allocated accordingly. Details are as given in the CFLG Operational Guideline.

#### **5.1.3 Formulation and amendment on CFLG related laws**

Revision of existing Acts and Regulations for the promotion of CFLG and the exclusive development of children will be carried out under this Strategy. In addition, Local Bodies may formulate necessary policy, regulations, by-laws, directives and guidelines within the jurisdictions of the LSGA 1999.

#### **5.1.4 Preparation and publication of 'state of children' report**

The 'state of children' report will highlight and make public information related to the achievements made by the Local Bodies in the past; the current status of children; implementation status of child rights; policies related to children, and laws, plans and programmes and related activities. Details regarding the 'state of children' report are as mentioned in the Operational Guideline.

### **5.2 Minimum Indicators**

Local Bodies adopting the CFLG system must incorporate the minimum indicators given in Annex 3 in their plans and programmes and implement accordingly. Local level Local Bodies, based on available opportunity and their capacity, may add more indicators as long as they do not contradict the main thrust of this Framework. The District Periodic Plan, National Periodic Plan and Millennium Development Goals could be taken as reference for this purpose. A responsibility matrix is given in Annex 2, however, the Local Bodies are responsible for the monitoring and coordination with regards to the implementation of CFLG related activities and its outputs.

## **Chapter 6: Selection, Adoption and Declaration of Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) System**

### **6.1 Selection**

The concerned DDC and municipalities are the authorized agencies when it comes to selecting VDCs and Wards and playing the facilitating role in implementing CFLG systems. The overall responsibility for coordination belongs to the DDC. But this clause is not binding where a VDC is interested to implement CFLG and the concerned DDC does not prioritize CFLG. In this case the VDC can implement CFLG by informing the concerned DDC.

### **6.2 Adoption**

Local Bodies adopting this system should perform the actions below, ensuring meaningful participation of children. Local Bodies performing these actions are called CFLG Adopters.

1. Orientation of stakeholders and declaration of a collective commitment to adopt the CFLG system.
2. Preparation of child friendly local governance promotion action plan.
3. Investment plan with an allocation of at least 15 percent of their total capital budget.
4. Determining minimum service indicators.
5. Institutional setup for the promotion of CFLG (establishment of unit or section, or assigning a focal person).
6. Respective council decision to adopt CFLG.

### **6.3 Declaration**

The council of the CFLG Adopter may declare their geographic area (district/ municipality/ village) as a Child Friendly Local Body. Concerned Local Body Councils must achieve at least 80 percent of the indicators as specified in Annex 2 of this Strategy before such a declaration. Based on the local situation, the indicators related to child labour, child violence, exploitation of children and the programme related to minimizing HIV/ AIDS shall be included in the annual and periodic plan of the Local Bodies. Again based on the local situation, so-called social norms such as *kamlari*, *chaupadi*, *jhuma*, *deuki* should also be considered while defining the indicators. The indicator achievements made so far will be monitored by the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) and the concerned District Development Committees (DDC). The concerned Local Body can be declared as a Child Friendly Local Body if the MoLD and DDC monitoring report proves that the CFLG indicators have been met.

## **Chapter 7: Assumptions and Risks**

### **7.1 Assumptions**

The following assumptions have been considered while preparing this strategy:-

1. Central and Local Bodies will be able to manage sufficient resources for the promotion of a Child Friendly Local Governance system.
2. Development partners will give high priority to this sector.
3. Line ministries and their extended wings will be playing a highly supportive and coordinating role.
4. Under the forthcoming federal structure, current Local Bodies will be transformed into local governments and will adopt the CFLG systems.

### **7.2 Risks**

The following points are considered as risks for the successful implementation of the Child Friendly Local Governance National Framework:-

1. Commitment and strong assurance of Local Bodies.
2. Inter-organisational coordination and collective support.
3. Stability and continuity in the local political and administrative commitment.

## Annex 1: Child Friendly Local Governance Strategic Framework

(Related to Clause 3.4)

Strategy	Working Policy	Responsibility
<b>Policy Advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for the best interest of children and preparation of required by-laws, operational procedures, guidelines and their implementation.</li> <li>• Dissemination of child friendly local governance related policy provisions.</li> <li>• Assurance of investment for set programme implementation.</li> <li>• Dissemination of child friendly local governance programme in regional and national forum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Friendly Local Governance National Committee</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Development</li> <li>• Line Ministries</li> <li>• UNICEF</li> <li>• Central Child Welfare Board</li> <li>• Development Partners and NGOs</li> <li>• Local Bodies</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Bodies adopting the CFLG system will be developed as accountable institutions and are required to prepare a structural mechanism for its implementation.</li> <li>• Registration of child club and its networking.</li> <li>• Networking and harmonization among CFLG partner organisations.</li> <li>• Institutional setup of child participation in the decision making process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Local Development</li> <li>• Line Ministries and agencies</li> <li>• National Planning Commission</li> <li>• Central Child Welfare Board</li> <li>• UNICEF</li> <li>• Development Partners</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Local Bodies</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a functional networking among the various level stakeholders and provide financial and technical support.</li> <li>• Conduct study, research, training, workshops, seminars etc and pilot child only programmes.</li> <li>• Develop an information dissemination strategy, disseminate through print and electronic media and put useful materials on the website.</li> <li>• Prepare the roster of potential experts, mobilize them and establish and strengthen information and resource centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Planning Commission</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Development</li> <li>• Line ministries</li> <li>• Central Child Welfare Board</li> <li>• Development Partners</li> <li>• UNICEF</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Local Bodies</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To monitor the indicators mentioned in the Strategy; the formulation of the local development plan; an adequate budget allocation and the effectiveness of expenditure and programme implementation, and link them with the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Bodies</li> <li>• Development Partners and NGOs</li> <li>• Independent professional groups</li> <li>• National Planning</li> </ul>

Strategy	Working Policy	Responsibility
	<p>Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures (MC/ PM) of the Local Bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation, publication and dissemination of an annual report on the state of children.</li> <li>• Provide rewards to the best performing child groups, community organisations, Local Bodies, and Development Partners based on child friendly local governance related policy, working procedures and code of conduct.</li> <li>• Establish a system of periodic evaluation.</li> </ul>	<p>Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Local Development</li> <li>• Line ministries and agencies</li> <li>• Child club network</li> </ul>

*Note: Local Bodies shall develop their own strategies and working policies based upon the above mentioned National Strategic Framework.*

## **Annex 2: Minimum Indicators for Child Friendly Local Governance**

(Related to Clause 5.2)

### **2.1 Indicators Related to Service Delivery**

#### **A. Child Survival**

- All infants are exclusively breastfed up to six months.
- All children under the age of one year are fully immunized (BCG, DPT, Hepatitis B, Hib 3, Polio and Measles).
- All children above six months and below five years are given Vitamin A capsules (twice a year) and de-worming tablets.
- Births are attended by skilled health personnel.
- Pregnant women get a least four complete pre-natal checkups and three post-natal and infant check-ups after birth.
- Mothers are fully immunized (twice) against tetanus.
- Pregnant or lactating mothers are given iron supplements (225 capsules).
- Provide ARV Prophylaxis to each child with an HIV infected mother.
- Families have safe drinking water.
- Families have sufficient knowledge to wash hands with soap before and after meals and after using the toilet or assisting a child to use the toilet. And utilize this knowledge correctly.

#### **B. Child Protection**

- All children below the age of five years births are registered.
- Decrease in the cases of child marriage.
- Decrease in the rate of hazardous and perilous child labour.
- Develop an action plan and implement it to minimize violence against children, and to end child trafficking, exploitation, and domestic violence.
- Community based child protection system developed and executed. .

#### **C. Child Development**

- Children below the age of four years attend early child development centres.
- All children of Grade one age are enrolled in school.
- All children of six to twelve years should receive basic education (Grade 1 to 8).
- All out-of-school children receive informal education.
- Separate toilet facility for boys and girls are in each school.
- Each school shall organise extra curriculum activities.



## **D. Child Participation**

- Children aged between 12 to 18 years participate in the decision making process of Local Bodies through the development of a mechanism of institutional participation.
- The plan and programmes related to children are incorporated in the plan of Local Bodies.
- A mechanism for the institutional participation of children in the local School Management Committee shall be developed.
- There is child club representation in the local Health Management Committee.
- Existence of an active child club network in each of the VDCs and municipal wards.
- Formation of district and municipal level child networks.

## **2.2 Institutional Development Indicators**

- Local Body council meetings organised regularly.
- Child friendly behaviour, code of conduct, by-laws, directives and operational guidelines for the Local Bodies developed and implemented.
- Local level (district, municipal, and village) CFLG committees formed.
- Active functioning of the local level School Management Committees.
- Active functioning of the local Health Management Committees.
- Establishment and operation of early child development centres, child classes and pre-primary school classes at the local level.
- Child clubs will be active at the local level.
- Active existence of women groups such as paralegal committees; continuing to be active in promoting child rights issues.
- Formation of a child network at the local level and ensuring their representation up to district level.
- Preparation, publication and updating the 'state of children' report.
- Formulation and implementation of a child focused plan, policy and programme; integrating it in the district, municipal and village level development plans.
- Formulation of the local Plan of Action and the Investment Plan for Children and its implementation.