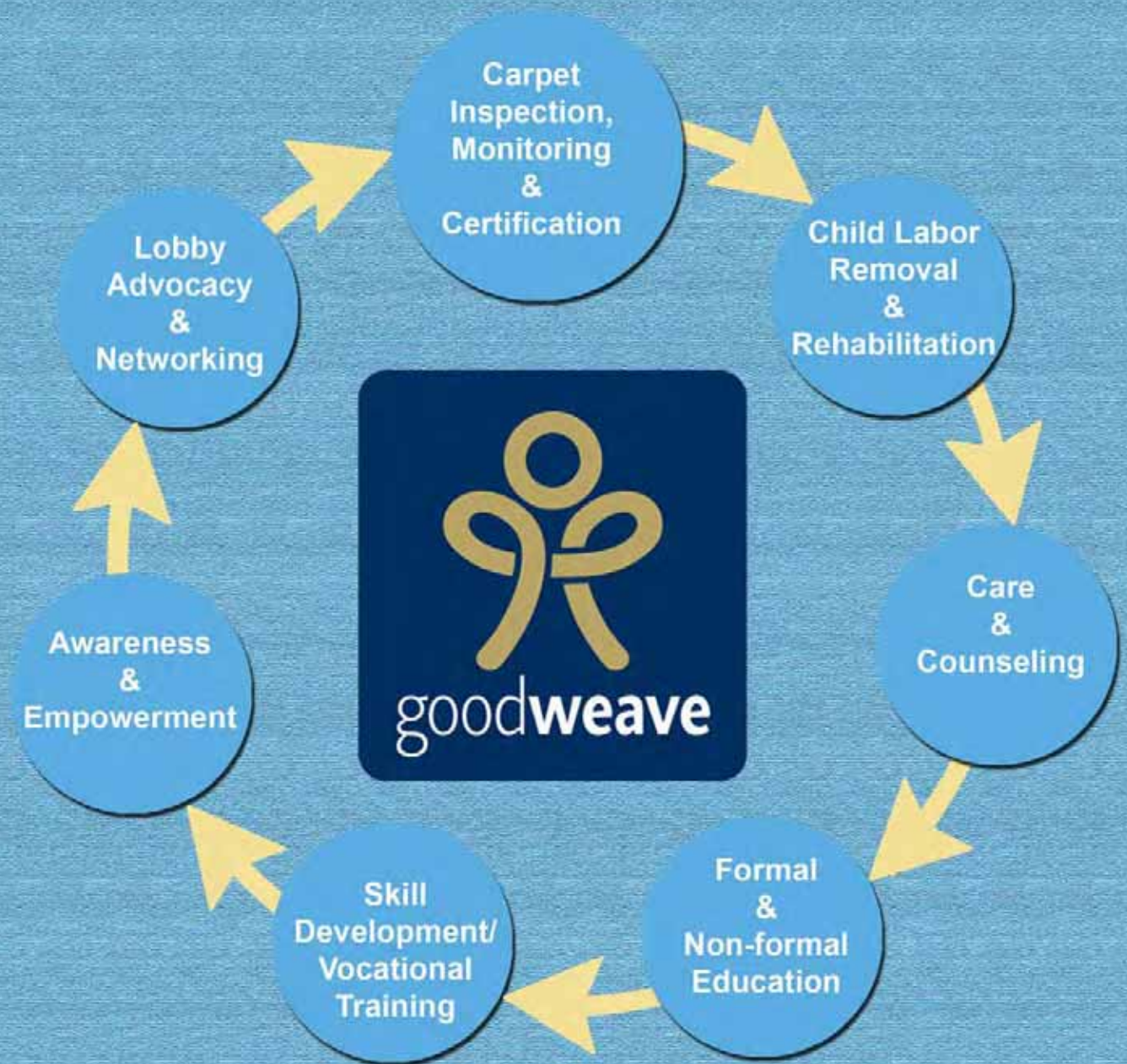


Let's Promote GoodWeave Against Child Labour

# GoodWeave Bulletin - 2012



**Nepal GoodWeave Foundation**

Kathmandu, Nepal

## Editorial



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During its 16<sup>th</sup> years of operation, *Nepal GoodWeave Foundation* (former *Nepal RugMark Foundation*) has gained lots of experiences and learning. It has been expanding itself based on those learning and experiences. With its support, more than three thousands children have changed their life, thousands of people have been made aware on child rights and development, and thousands of people have been benefited indirectly with its longer-term impact. However, there are a lot to do in the days to come.

Recently countries situation is not so good. High rate of unemployment within the country encourages youths and adults to go to gulf countries for earning. As a result, it may promote the recruitment of child labour within the industries. Aggression has been increased among the Nepalese people because of poverty, unemployment, impunity, long-hours power cut, political instability etc. which definitely hampers to smoothly run the program/projects of the organization. However, there is a flicker of hope as the country is running with post-conflict transitional phase, and sooner or later it will take a right path for development and prosperity.

In such a situation, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation is moving forward by taking a specific mission along with other National Initiatives. It's a unique organization which has been able to bring completely two different sectors (profit-oriented carpet sector and non-profit oriented NGO sector) into one board. It became possible only because of high-sensitivity and responsiveness of Nepalese carpet industries. In this regard, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has full confidence of having meaningful cooperation and support in the implementation of its New Standards, which will be effective from June 2012, from all the stakeholders and beneficiaries. NGF learnt that until and unless we go for the root from where the child labor originates and address the root cause of child labour, its not possible to eliminate the problem of child labour completely. Considering this we are planning to go for community taking a few projects on the pilot basis. Based on the result we should expand our programs. On the other side, though we can't direct address the current problem of skilled labour shortage in the carpet industry, we could play an intermediary role as it will automatically replace child labor with skilled adult workers. For that, we also need to re-energize the spirit of working team of NGF with better coordination and communication for greater impact.

Finally On behalf of NGF staff team, I would like to express my best gratitude to all past and current donors, advisors, beneficiaries, and stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation. I also expect the same in the future too. I would also like to thank *Mr. Padam Giri* to help me for editing this bulletin; carpet entrepreneurs for providing advertisement; colleagues & professionals for sharing their views and opinions through article; and all staffs including inspectors, officers and program monitor for providing me required information in time. My special thanks go to *Mrs. Ang Lami Sherpa-NGF President, Mr. Chirungibee Shrestha-NGF General Secretary and Mr. Sanjeev Sapkota-Account and Admin Officer* for their invaluable inputs and guidance.

### Published by:

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### Printed at:

**Jagadamba Press**

Hattiban, Lalitpur

Tel. 5250017, 5250018

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Thank you!

Dipak Prasad Bashyal

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## Message from President

GoodWeave, being a global campaign to eliminate child labor from carpet industry of South Asia, operates in Nepal, India, Afghanistan, European Union and USA. Though it is an autonomous body, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF) (former *Nepal RugMark Foundation*) is a national initiative for Nepal of *GoodWeave International (GWI)*, an associate member of *International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance (ISEAL Alliance)*. NGF was established on 1995 with the mission and vision of addressing the problem of child labor in Nepalese carpet industry and creating a child labor free environment by developing social, environmental and ethical business practices amongst carpet entrepreneurs.



Though it is not allowed to employ the children (below 14 years) in any type of hazardous work, various reasons such as post-conflict transitional period of the country, severe poverty, family breakdown, adult & skilled labour shortages etc. promotes the recruitment of child labour. Moreover, Government of Nepal doesn't pay its adequate attention to address this problem because of political instability in the country. In such as situation, NGF regularly and randomly inspects and supervises its' member carpet factories, and immediately removes the child labour if any found to reintegrate/rehabilitate them with meaningful alternatives. In addition, it also provides GoodWeave License and certifies the carpets to be exported with GoodWeave Labels i.e. the best assurance of not using child labour in the manufacturing of carpet or rug. To make carpet industry more environment friendly and socially responsible, GoodWeave implements **New Standards** from June 2012 onwards in which GoodWeave National Initiatives not only monitor the usage of child labour but also monitors other aspects such as minimum wages, sanitation and environment of factory premises and other working conditions that have direct impact on health and productivity of the workers. Currently, GoodWeave mechanism covers around 50% of the Nepalese Carpet Industry. However, it needs to cover entire industry. So, for that more funding and support is very important.

Besides its' regular programs, it prioritizes to establish a carpet weaving training facility in near future to fulfill more skilled weavers into the industry. It replaces child labor with adult workers in the industry. It has done evaluation of organization by an outside evaluator few months back. On the basis of external evaluation report, it has planned to have a serious discussion and gather advices to prepare a strategic planning with support of its stakeholders, former GW board of directors, donors and facilitators in near future. The year 2011 turns to be very fruitful to the GoodWeave nationally and internationally as its programs has been captured by CNN, expand its work in Afghanistan, and reach to the STARS Impact Awards and first-ever funding Google.org etc which supports international child protection organizations that achieve excellence and efficacy.

I feel very proud to be a first president of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation which has been renamed from Nepal RugMark Foundation. The carpet and NGO members have given me this opportunity to serving as president of organization. I believe that within my period, I will be able to take the organizations to its new height by coping with existing challenges. For that I need meaningful and effective cooperation of all staff team, former Board of Directors, all National Initiatives, well wishers and donors.

Finally, I would like to thank to all donors, partner organizations, national initiatives and license holders for their continued cooperation and support. I also expect the same in future too. Furthermore I would also like to thank to the editorial group, advertisers, my executive board members as well as staff team for supporting to publish this bulletin successfully.

**“A Very Happy New Year- 2012! May This New Year Bring Happiness, Peace and Prosperity”**

Thank you!

Ang Lami Sherpa  
Nepal GoodWeave Foundation

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Views and opinions expressed in the articles are purely those of respective authors. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation may not necessarily agree with all the opinions and views mentioned in the articles.

-Editor

# NGF's Executive Committee Members



**Mrs. Ang Lami Sherpa**  
*President*  
*(Represents Carpet Sector)*  
*Everest Handicraft Industries Inc.*



**Mr. Saput Bahadur Karki**  
*Vice President*  
*(Represents NGO Sector)*  
*Save the Environment Nepal*



**Mr. Chirungibe Shrestha**  
*General Secretary*  
*(Represents NGO Sector)*  
*Organisation for Community, Child*  
*Environment Development*



**Mr. Bal Ram Gurung**  
*Treasurer*  
*(Represents Carpet Sector)*  
*Everest Looms*



**Dr. Chhatra Amatya**  
*Executive Member*  
*(Represents NGO Sector)*  
*Child Development Society*



**Mr. Dhan Bd. Tamang**  
*Executive Member*  
*(Represented Carpet Sector)*  
*Paradise Carpet*



**Mr. Lobsang Lama**  
*Executive Member*  
*(Represents Carpet Sector)*  
*Gomang Carpet Manex*



**Mrs. Mamata Tamang**  
*Executive Member*  
*(Represents NGO Sector)*  
*Nepalese Homes*



**Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya**  
*Executive Member*  
*(Represents from Independent*  
*Professional/Intellectual Sector)*

## Overview: Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF)

**Nepal GoodWeave Foundation** (former Nepal RugMark Foundation) is a not-for-profit Non-Government Organization, established in December 24, 1995 AD with the joint collaboration among the carpet entrepreneurs, child-rights NGOs, and international development organizations, viz. UNICEF, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the Asian American Free Labour Institute (AAFLI). The goal behind its establishment is to end the problem of child labour from Nepalese Carpet Industry and promote child labour free carpet industry in the international markets.

**GoodWeave** (GW) has proven to be a sustainable and viable initiative in effectively addressing the child labour problem in Nepalese Carpet Industry while providing meaningful alternatives to the poor, needy and deprived children coming from carpet background. **GW** certifies carpet manufacturers of practicing child labour free work environment in their respective carpet factories and also within supply chains. **GW** inspectors conduct regular, but surprise inspection and monitoring visits to the **GW** licensee carpet manufacturers and their suppliers to ensure that they are not using any kind of child labour in their production sites. Carpets with **GoodWeave** labels signifies the carpets made of child labour free, giving best assurance to the buyers that the carpets they are using are free of child labour. **GoodWeave** labels add social and ethical values to the carpets, giving pride and social prestige to the buyers. Broadly speaking, **GW** works for socially and environmentally responsible business practices.

*GoodWeave Strategy/Approach involves a model of partnership of shared responsibility between carpet exporters and importers through voluntary licensing with firm commitment and agreement of not using any kind of child labour in the production of carpets while giving full access to GoodWeave National Initiatives (GNI) to inspect and monitor their entire workplaces without any obstruction and hesitation. GoodWeave Licensees are also bound to adhere and practice specific terms and conditions set by GW.* Since its establishment, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has successfully brought a significant number of carpet manufacturers and their suppliers under its licensing mechanism, and thus preventing and controlling the use of child labour in carpet production. For manufacturers, the benefits from GoodWeave lie

in their being listed among the GoodWeave licensees as child labour free carpet producers and in their promotion as ethically and socially responsible carpet producers. For carpet workers, the benefits lie in the improvement and enhancement in their working conditions, environment and wages without being worried about their children's education and development. For the children of the workers, the benefits lie on their having opportunity to enjoy their childhood, be free from hazardous and risky factory environment, get education, socialisation, of which, early childhood development cum day care centres and school education support programmes for the removed child labourers and children of carpet workers from GoodWeave licensed factories are a few examples.

### GoodWeave International (GWI)

**GoodWeave International (GWI)** is an international network formed to end child labour in the carpet industries of carpet producing countries. **GWI** is registered and has its head office in Germany with National Initiatives (NI) in Nepal, India and Afghanistan among the carpet producing countries, and in USA, UK, and Germany among the carpet importing countries. **GW** is a global non-profit initiative offering viable alternative opportunities to the removed carpet children through, appropriate rehabilitation, education, and vocational training. It is a unique cooperation between carpet entrepreneurs and Child Rights NGOs for carpet producing and consuming countries. Though it is an autonomous body, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation is an active member of **GWI** working as National Initiative for Nepal.

Broadly speaking, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has been able to create an effective maintenance of child labour free environment in the GoodWeave licensed factories while preventing thousands of children from entering the factories, often dropping out of schools. On the other hand, more than twenty two thousand child labourers have been removed from the carpet factories to date with more than half of them inducted under **GoodWeave** centre based and other rehabilitation programmes. The Foundation is gradually directing more resources on preventive programmes in carpet factories.

**Vision:** Creation of child labour free carpet industry by developing social, environmental and ethical business practices among entrepreneurs.

**Mission:** Eradication of child labour from Nepalese Carpet Industry through inspection, monitoring and certification; lobby & advocacy; and providing alternatives to the poor, needy and deprived carpet children i.e. education, appropriate rehabilitation and vocational skills.

### Objectives:

- To prevent use of child labour by having carpet producers/exporters abide by the legal and social responsibilities through licensing of GoodWeave.
- To remove and rehabilitate carpet child labour with education and vocational training, and give them a new hope for future with an ultimate goal of community/family reintegration.
- To organize various preventive social programs i.e. awareness, education support and child care & development for carpet workers, their children and families in order to prevent child labour in the industry.
- To promote socially responsible and environmentally sound business practices taking carpet industry as a model to start with.
- To advocate and influence the concerned government and non-government organizations, donor agencies, business sectors and the general public for protection and care of the rights of the child.

### Major Activities

- \* Inspect and monitor GoodWeave licensed carpet factories and their suppliers for use of child labour and adopting other socially and ethically responsible practices.
- \* Certify carpets with GoodWeave labels as child labour free product.
- \* Remove and rehabilitate carpet child workers and explore opportunities for their family reintegration/rehabilitation with appropriate education and vocational training.
- \* Implement Sponsored Education Programme for carpet workers' children of school going age.
- \* Implement early childhood development cum day care centres for carpet workers' smaller children

allowing the workers, especially the mothers to work freely and without any worries about their children, enabling them to give better and more productivity.

- \* Conduct awareness programmes to empower and enhance carpet workers' awareness and knowledge on various issues relating to their rights, health, child right issues, reproductive health and family planning, HIV/AIDS and STD diseases, sanitation and hygiene, etc.
- \* Conduct mobile health clinics for carpet workers and their families.
- \* Conduct community/family based interventions such as community/family awareness, facilitate and linkage development of poor families with existing govt. and non-govt income generating activities to stop the flow of child labour in carpet industry.
- \* Conduct flexible literacy classes for workers with special focus on child workers between 15 to 18 years.
- \* Motivate and support individual carpet factories to establish and run day care cum education centres for children of the workers.
- \* Promote child labour free Nepalese carpets in international markets.
- \* Advocate for socially and environmentally responsible business practices and implementation of the legal provisions.

### Distinctive Features of GoodWeave

1. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation is the only organization of its kind that has transformed the life of thousands of displaced child laborers of the Nepalese carpet industry.
2. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has been implementing preventive approach to stop the flow of child labour in the industry while providing long term and viable educational support to the displaced child laborers through its protective approach.
3. GoodWeave is voluntarily licensed to carpet manufacturers/exporters in the producing countries and importers/retailers in the marketing countries.
4. GoodWeave Foundation in carpet producing countries has an independent workplace inspection and monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance of GoodWeave criteria.
5. GoodWeave certifies individual carpets with GoodWeave labels that have individual code numbers for verification.

6. It is unique cooperation between carpet entrepreneurs and child rights NGOs, providing a private-sector led model to problem solving with minimal burden on government.
7. Its approach offers a tried, tested, proven and sustainable action plan that is fully in keeping with its priority of "focusing on corporate responsibility and engagement to seek private sector solutions".
8. GoodWeave approach involves a model of partnership of shared responsibility between exporters and importers (producers and consumers).
9. Amongst very few organizations working in Nepal, GoodWeave is an organization which can claim to have made such a substantial impact, and make the case for being so close to ending the worst forms of child labour in one targeted sector.

## Sources and Uses of Funds

The main source of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation is the contribution from licensed carpet exporters and importers collected through producing and marketing countries respectively. Exporters in Nepal pay 0.25% of the total invoice value for the GoodWeave labels put in their carpets. This fund covers inspection, certification, promotion and other administrative expenses. Similarly, the importers in importing countries pay to 1.75% of the invoice value and the importing country Foundations/offices send a major chunk of their contributions to the exporting countries for exclusive use in rehabilitation and other social programs for ending child labour in the carpet industry. Besides, NGF's members and licensees have to pay small amounts for membership and getting its license.

However, it is not sufficient to run its programs/activities because NGF is labelling only a small fraction of the total export. So, in order to fulfil its funding deficit on regular programs and to carry out more innovative programs to stop child labour and exploitation, NGF seeks donor's funds. In this effort, NGF has been able to get funds and develop a professional partnership with various bilateral and multilateral development organizations such as *UN agencies like UNICEF and ILO, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Asian American Free Labour Institute (AAFLL), The Asia Foundation (TAF), Academy for Educational Development (AED), AB Shultz, and many other international charity and donor organisations etc.*

*This Year Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has been awarded with STARS IMPACT AWARDS from Stars Foundation, UK. The award contains US\$ 100,000 as an unrestricted fund along with tailored consultancy support to run organization's regular programs along with to initiate some new interventions such as community awareness and running training centres. NGF got this award for its holistic and promising approach with concrete results having greater impact and lasting change for the deprived, poor and needy children in particular and for carpet community in general.*

## Organisational Structure

The General Assembly, organization's supreme body, is composed of GoodWeave licensed carpet exporter/producers and the child rights NGOs. At present, there are 41 general members, 17 from NGO sectors and rest from the carpet sector. The Executive Committee (EC) is composed of nine members: 4 from the carpet sector, 4 from child rights NGOs, and 1 independent professional/intellectual having good reputations along with significant contributions to community development.

For the effective implementation of its programs and activities, the Foundation has formed the following sub-committees:

1. **Inspection, Monitoring and Certification**
2. **Child Development**
3. **Media/Advocacy, and**
4. **Fundraising**

Each sub-committee has its own Terms of Reference (ToR) and meets regularly to review and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the achievements against the goal and objectives of the organisation. If deemed necessary, sub-committee also recommends the Executive Committee for necessary amendment/s or review of the strategy or nature of the programme/s with regard to the issues related to the respective Sub-Committee.

Besides, the Foundation also has an **Advisory Committee**, constituting members from GoodWeave International Board, carpet sector and child right NGO sector. Usually, these members are also former NGF Executive Board members and are very much familiar with the policies and programmes of the Foundation and therefore, are expected to provide necessary advice and guide at times of need and consultation.

The Foundation’s office with a total of 22 staffs is managed by the Executive Director who is responsible for policy consultation, planning, program development, and implementation, fundraising & donor’s correspondence, media and stakeholder’s mobilization and consultation as well as other management functions in conjunction and with the board’s guidance. The Foundation is equipped with professional and support staffs to support the Executive Director in implementing the programme/activities and giving positive results to the organisation’s work. For the better and efficient management of the organisational operational system, the Foundation has formed three major sections, namely:

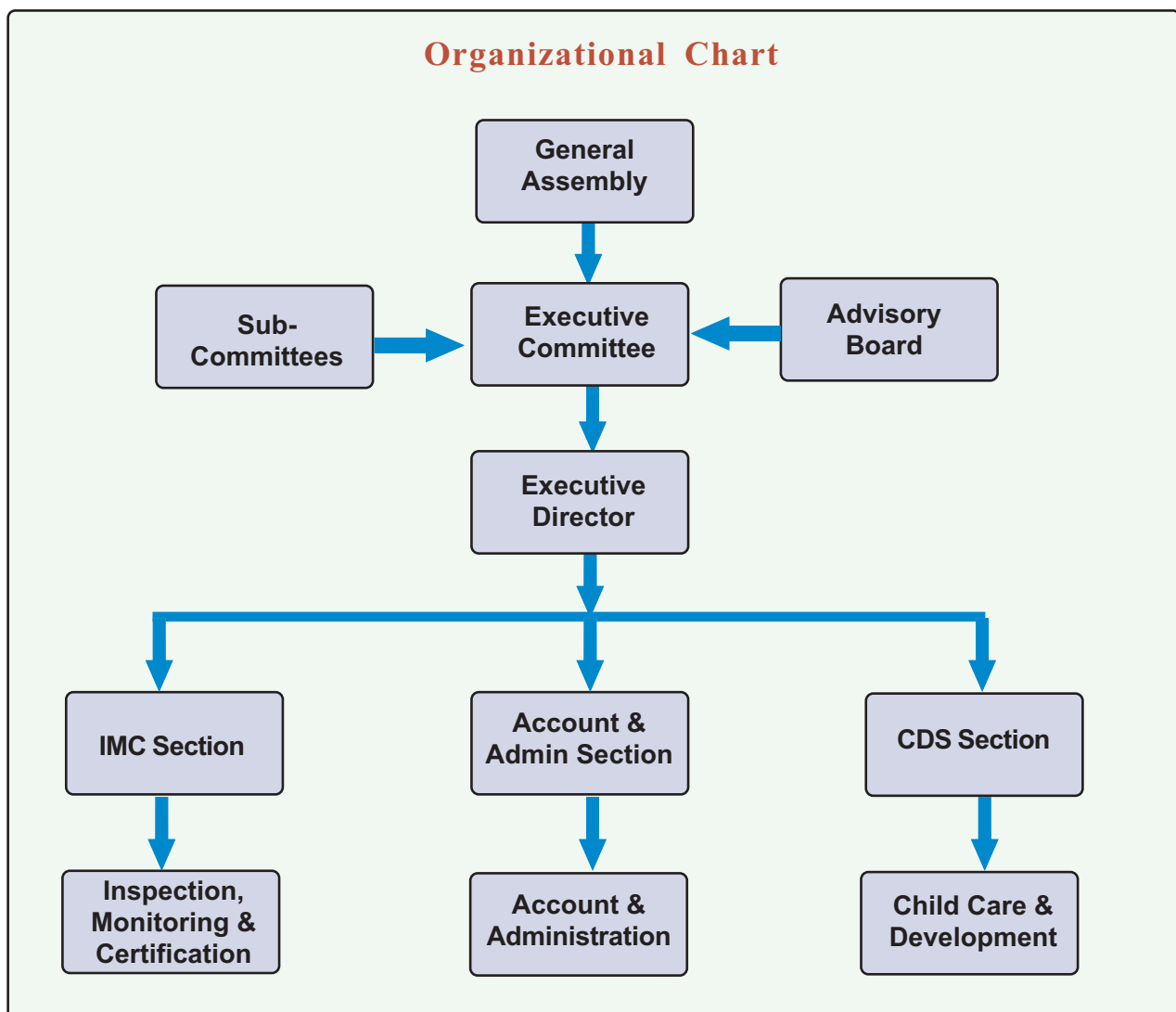
- a. *Inspection, Monitoring and Certification (IMC),*
- b. *Child Development, and*
- c. *Accounts and Administration.*

Each of the section is headed by a section chief who is directly accountable to the Executive Director. These section chiefs are supported by other section staff

members recruited to perform certain specific job responsibilities.

**Way Forward**

The Foundation is in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation consistently and tirelessly working towards preventing and liberating child labourers from Nepalese Carpet Industry and advocating for creation of a child labour free carpet industry simultaneously promoting Nepalese carpet industry worldwide. During this period, although it has managed to prevent thousands of potential children from entering the carpet industry, and rescuing more than twenty two thousand child labourers from different factories, giving them opportunities for rehabilitation, education and vocational training under various programmes, it still feels that there is yet much more to be done for making the carpet industry totally free from child labours. Besides its existing programmes and activities, it sees the need of its interventions in following areas:



1. *Bringing entire Nepalese Carpet Industry (NCI) under GoodWeave Standards, making it abide to adopt the policy of non-use of children in carpet productions;*
2. *Making the perpetrators (child labour users) responsible for the education and rehabilitation of the child labourers identified and rescued from their respective factories;*
3. *Launch massive preventive and social programmes to stop flow of potential child labourers in the industry;*
4. *Making the factories implement the GoodWeave New Standard in their factories and also within their suppliers' factories.*
5. *Advocate and influence the Government of Nepal to formulate a policy/law for export of only child labour free carpets providing special subsidies for production and marketing for such carpets.*

GoodWeave believes that it is only because of its efforts that the number of child labour in Nepalese Carpet Industry (NCI) has significantly been reduced from approx. 21% to 3%. However, NCI is currently facing a problem of skilled labour shortage which may promote for recruiting more child labour. Considering this fact, GoodWeave becomes more conscious and should reconsider its approach with more holistic and integrated aspects. Moreover, the Foundation is all set to implement the **GoodWeave New Standards** including issues of workers such as wages, working conditions etc and environment and social aspects, which is in compliance to international standards, in the carpet industry to begin with and gradually in other weaving industries.

## Advisory Board of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation

Mr. Binod Karki (Immediate Past President)  
Mr. Sonam Lama (Immediate Past Vice-President)  
Mr. Ganesh Bhakta Shrestha (GWI Certification Committee Member)  
Mrs. Sulochana Shah (Founder Member of Nepal RugMark Foundation)  
Mr. Bijay Sainju (Founder Member of Nepal RugMark Foundation)

## Sub Committee Members

### Inspection, Monitoring and Certification- SC Members

Mr. Saput Bhadur Karki	Convenor
Ms. Mamata Tamang	Member
Mr. Anil Kumar Ranjit	Member

### Child Development Sub-Committee Members

Mr. Dhan Bhadur Tamang	Convenor
Mr. Bal Ram Gurung	Member
Mr. Dawa Sherpa	Member

### Media/Advocacy Sub-Committee Members

Mr. Ubaraj Bidrohi	Convenor
Mr. Matrika Dahal	Member
Mr. Bimal Thapa	Member

### Fund Raising/Contribution Sub-Committee Members

Dr. Chhatra Amatya	Convenor
Mrs. Sulochana Shrestha	Member
Mr. Bimal Thapa	Member

## Nepal GoodWeave Foundation's Programmes, Activities & Achievements

### GoodWeave Licensing, Workplace Inspection and Monitoring

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF) undertakes inspection and monitoring of carpet factories of its licensees as a primary activity towards fulfilling a broader goal of eliminating child labour from Nepalese Carpet Industry. A team of GoodWeave social inspectors are employed who conduct regular but surprise visits to the factories. NGF started licensing, workplace inspection, monitoring and carpet certification from second half of 1996 under GoodWeave banner. Despite the adverse situation within the industry itself, carpet manufacturing companies are realizing the need of getting affiliation to GoodWeave. As a result GoodWeave is being able to cover almost 50% percent carpet industry within its standards. GoodWeave has been able to increase the number of its licensees to 82 by the second week of December, 2011 and also taking the total number of manufacturers (including subcontractors and suppliers of the licensees) to 432. This definitely is encouraging and also an indication of GoodWeave's widening recognition and growing acceptance by the industry people.



*GoodWeave Inspector in action*

With the implementation of GoodWeave New Standards and Certification System at the mid of 2012 making GoodWeave licensees and their suppliers abide by it, it is expected that, though it is challenging, the number of GoodWeave licensees and their suppliers would gradually increase as they would realise that it would be in their own benefits. Their carpets would carry more ethical and social values, which the buyers in the importing countries are very much concerned about.

GoodWeave International (GWI) is the central body of GoodWeave campaign having the representation of National Initiatives from carpet producing and consuming countries. It acts like a secretariat of GoodWeave campaign to eliminate the child labour from the carpet factories of South Asia, responsible for coordinating the licensing and certification system along with developing the policies and procedures. The following units are responsible for various functions related to the licensing and certification system:

- The Members Council oversees the implementation of the GoodWeave programme and decides fundamental matters.
- The Certification Committee is the body that is responsible for certification decisions and provides oversight for the inspection and monitoring programme.
- The Central Inspection Unit (CIU) coordinates inspection and monitoring, which is carried out by in- house and outsourced teams of inspectors based in producer countries.
- National Inspection Units (NIU) is an inspection body composed of GoodWeave Social Inspectors particularly responsible for carpet factory inspection and monitoring in carpet producing countries under the supervision of GoodWeave National Initiatives and CIU. National Initiatives in producer and consumer countries provide administrative support for NIUs and related functions, such as processing applications and carrying out other activities outside the scope of the certification programme.

### Mechanism for Effective Inspection and Monitoring

*(a) Regular Inspection:* A standard surveillance mechanism has been developed and is being implemented for the effective inspection and monitoring of all GoodWeave licensees and their suppliers. GoodWeave social inspectors, under direct supervision of concerned Section Officer conduct surprise visits to the licensees' factories and their suppliers without any prior notice on a regular basis. To make it more effective and result oriented, these

inspectors work during the flexible hours from 6 am to 8 pm. Frequency of factory visits varies from once a week to once in two months, depending on the confidence of NGF on the factory's commitment and adherence to the terms and conditions with regard to non-use of child labour. Further, areas of inspection within Kathmandu valley has been divided into three zones and inspectors are rotated in the different zones after every 15 days' time. Inspectors are to be given access to any part of the factory without any obstruction and reluctance. Since organization's establishment GoodWeave inspectors have carried out a total number of 55,703 inspections within the GoodWeave licensed factories and their suppliers, till the end of Dec 2011. *Apart from non-use of child labour, NGF will also be monitoring other aspects like - minimum wages, sanitation and environment of factory premises and other working conditions that have direct impact on the health and productivity of the workers, after the implementation of GoodWeave New Standards from June 2012.* NGF has conducted a series of interaction and orientation programme for the GoodWeave licensees in advance, to make them prepared and positive toward the New Standards.

**(b) Random Inspections:** Unlike regular inspections, NGF also conducts random inspections involving higher officials and Inspection Monitoring and Certification -Sub Committee (IMC-SC) Members. The IMC-SC meets regularly or whenever deemed necessary to resolve problems and issues faced by inspectors in the field during inspections, and to work as a supporting body to the Executive Committee (EC) in formulating and framing policies relating to inspection, monitoring and certification. If a licensee's factory or its subsidiary factory is found to be violating the terms and conditions of licensee agreements, using child labourers repeatedly and does not correct itself even after series of verbal and written warnings, the licensee's agreement is eventually terminated, disqualifying the factory from the possibility of getting GoodWeave license and labels.

**Carpet Labelling and Certification**

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation certifies the carpets to be exported with GoodWeave label which is a best assurance of not using child labour while manufacturing of a carpet or rug. A total of 385,751





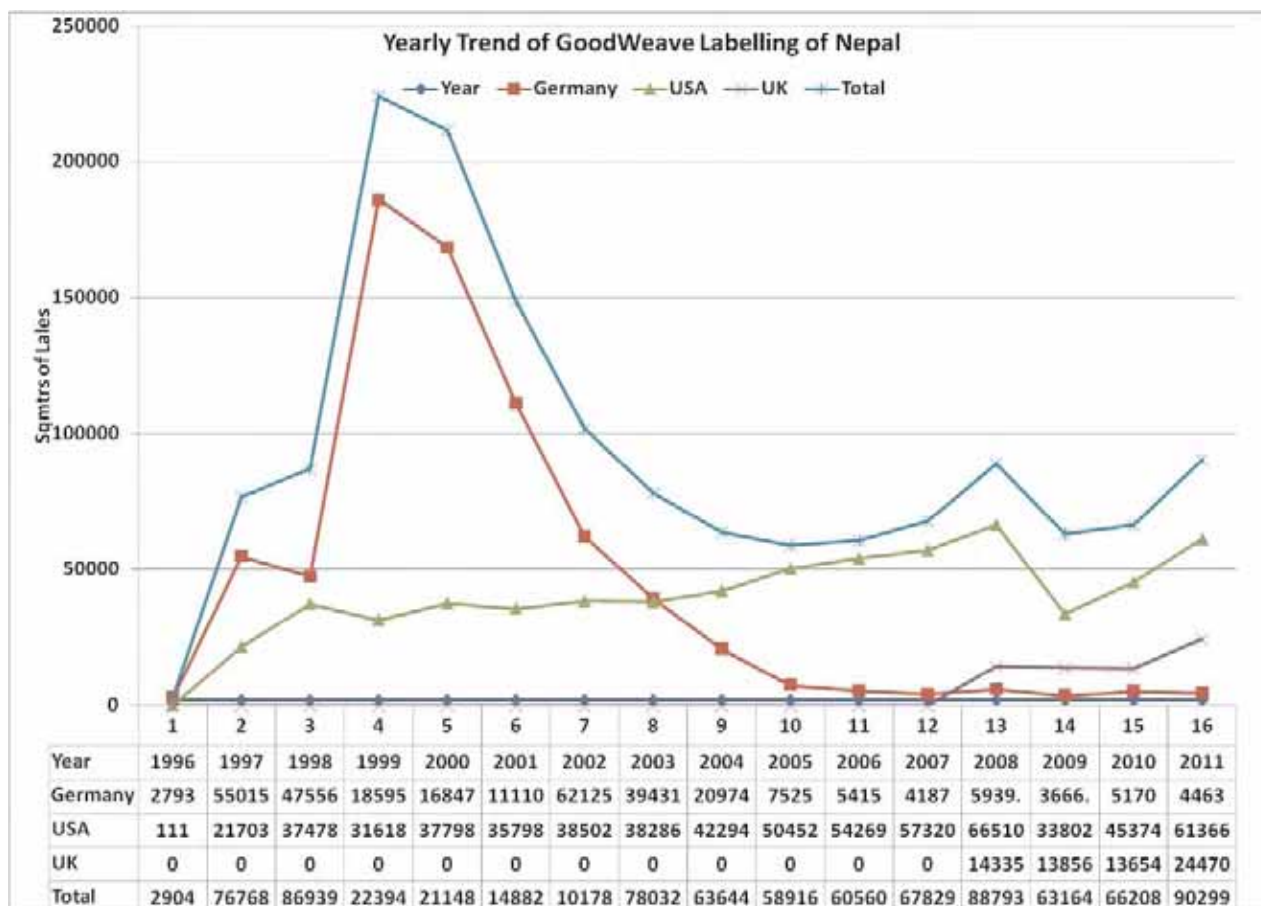
GoodWeave Labelled carpet

GoodWeave labels covering 1,483,371 square meters have been issued so far (1st December 2011). To use the GoodWeave labels, exporters from carpet producing countries and importers from carpet importing countries have to be GoodWeave licensees in advance. The exporters as of now have to pay 0.25% and importers have to pay 1 to 1.75% (depending on the country of import) of the invoice FOB value as a label fees to GoodWeave national offices in their respective countries.

At one time, the Foundation was certifying about 75 percent of the total carpets exported from Nepal and labelled as high as two-third of the total export, which unfortunately, has come down drastically to 50 percent or less. The main reason behind this situation is the existing political system in the country along with multiple other reasons such as undue and unjustifiable demands from the workers, problems arising from labour and trade unions, frequent bandhas and protests, long hours of power cuts, etc. Being a GoodWeave licensee and exporting carpets with child labour free GoodWeave labels is voluntary which has also given space for the carpet entrepreneurs for not using GoodWeave labels in all carpets they export.

### Child Labourers Removal and Rehabilitation

Before signing an agreement for GoodWeave License with registered Carpet Manufacturing Companies, GoodWeave inspectors and a senior staff inspect the applicant's manufacturing units and supply chains. If any child below 14 years is found working, he/she is interviewed, counselled and removed for appropriate rehabilitation. In addition, during the subsequent





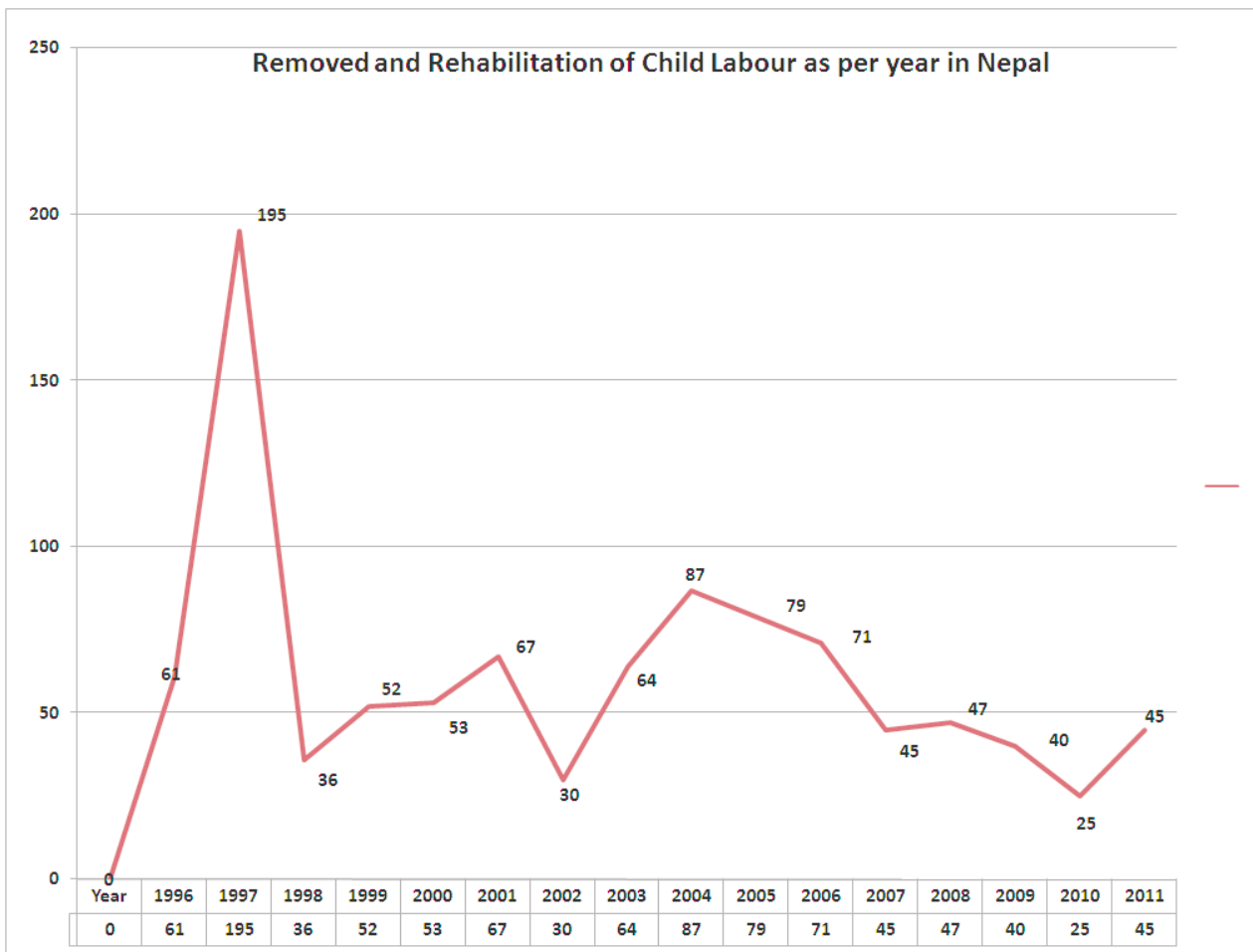
GW Inspector is removing a child labor

inspection visits of the GoodWeave inspectors, if any child labourer is found in the factory of GoodWeave Licensees and their suppliers, the GoodWeave inspector on duty immediately shall initiate the task of removing the child for rehabilitation with necessary warnings to the factory owner as well as to the licensee if it is using suppliers. The child and the parents/guardians, if available, are interviewed to reveal information about the possibility of family reunion with or without

GoodWeave support for education and other available opportunities for their all round development. *A total of 2,233 child labourers were identified and removed by NGF from the factories of its licensees (including their subcontractors) and out of which 994 child labourers, coming from various districts of Nepal, agreed to opt for GoodWeave rehabilitation programmes.*

### Centre-based Rehabilitation Program (Hamro Ghar)

This is one of the major programs of GoodWeave and a first point where the removed children are being brought, assessed and decided where to send either for Community-based Rehabilitation with or without GoodWeave support or place at the same centre or send for formal education or vocational training etc. After arriving at this home, GoodWeave counsellor further interviews the child in order to trace his/her parents for family reunion. In case, family reunion of the rescued child is not possible due to various reasons, and even if it is possible but the child's future seems





Children studying at GW rehab centre

to be uncertain, the child is placed to this home "Hamro Ghar" for long-term rehabilitation and education. Meanwhile, efforts for family reunion of the child continues, but not at the cost of child's future. Children are classified into a group depending on the age and education level and a doctor also carries out health check-up of these children. The Home provides children with complete hostel facilities along with the opportunity of meeting their parents/guardians, and in many cases reunion of children with their parents or guardian take place through these meetings. Generally, the age of such children is found between 10 to 14 at the time of removal, and is often illiterate, overworked, and physically abused. *The Home builds foundation of the children for vocational training or for enrolment in formal schools in the shortest possible time through its in-house non-formal education system which is often called as Accelerated Education Programme.* Presently, 31 children removed for rehabilitation by GoodWeave are living in a rehabilitation centre run by NGF. The centre has full-fledged hostel facilities, where children are provided with counselling, medical treatment, recreational activities, etc.

## Community-based Rehabilitation Program

The Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) program is the main priority of the Foundation. The Foundation believes that children can receive genuine love and care only from natural parents and family members, and therefore a best place for a child to grow and develop is his/her home. *The Foundation, thus, makes all efforts to reintegrate the rescued child labourers with his/her parents/family. While doing so, it takes utmost care so that the child is not sent back to work or is not ill treated and exploited by any means and*

*the child is made to go school regularly.* Currently there are 66 children enrolled in this program, studying at grades III to X with education support and small amount of money (Rs. 12000/Year) for midday meal at schools. Under the close supervision of Section Officer, Program Monitor closely monitors the progress of the children's education and ensures that GoodWeave support really changes the life of the beneficiaries.

## School-based Rehabilitation Program

This is also an entirely residential program and children are provided with full hostel facilities with formal education. *Children are enrolled in the formal schools for their further studies based on the following criteria such as much interest in formal education, lack of other options (being orphans, extremely poor and not possible for reintegration), do well in their studies and perform extraordinarily in the non-formal education at "Hamro Guar." etc.* NGF has signed an agreement with two of the most elite schools (Laboratory Higher Secondary School, Kirtipur, Kathmandu and Little Angel's School, Hattiban, Latipur) of the country. Presently, 21 children are receiving formal education in these two schools. NGF has set assessment mechanism to enrol the children to these schools. Moreover, schools have also taken aptitude test of the children before admitting.



GoodWeave children at LAB school

## Vocational Training Program

Children interested in making their career in technical field are admitted in various institutions for vocational training on different trades of their interest and capability. *Children who go for vocational training are placed on jobs after completion of the training and followed up/supported by NGF for the initial two to three months' time, till they are properly settled. To*

*date, a total of 145 children of NGF have undergone through vocational training on different trades and many of them are already settled and doing well while some of them have even started their own business.*

### Advocacy and Preventive Social Programmes

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation adopts an integrated/holistic approach in its interventions. It not only removes the child labour from the factory with meaningful alternatives but also launches various preventive programs simultaneously to stop the flow of child labour in the industry. Though the number of factories under GoodWeave license is continuously increasing, the rate of encountering child labourers in these factories is not the same as it was in the initial stages. *However, it is also a fact that many young children of carpet workers are prone to become child labourers in future if they are not provided with educational opportunities.* Often, parents are not well paid as a result of which they are not in a position to send their children to schools. However, lack of money is not always the only factor that stops parents to send their children to school. Lack of awareness about the value of education, parents' low or zero motivation to send their children to school or children's own lack of motivation to go to school, family breakdown, unproductive educational system, etc are also the other major factors of children for not going to school. Considering these factors, NGF has been implementing a number of social preventive programmes either to providing education support and awareness for carpet workers' children, the workers and their families, or to strongly advocate for effective implementation of national and international laws/conventions/policies related to child rights at public and policy level. The major preventive programs that NGF is currently implementing are as follows:



GoodWeave staff at rally

### Sponsorship Education Programme (SEP)

This program is highly demanded and effective to prevent the children to join the carpet industry as a child labour. Hundreds of children live in carpet factories helping their parents or guardians in daily chores like cooking, washing dishes, taking care of younger babies or doing nothing. Most of them are already of school-going age or even older. Some of these children without their parents are not enrolled in schools, while some have parents but they cannot afford to send their children to schools. *These children, if not sent to schools are likely to join the industry sooner or later to economically support their families or for their own survival.*

NGF has a set of criteria and procedure to enrol these children, focusing on mostly needy and potential child labour, in a gradual manner in the nearest available schools. It provides education support to these children by going into one-to-one agreement with parents/guardians for specific support from it. Since 2001, NGF has been sponsoring carpet workers' children for schooling and a total of 534 have benefitted from this programme among whom, 173 children are still receiving Foundation's support under this programme. They are studying in different schools near their factories and are studying in classes starting from kindergarten to School Leaving Certificate (SLC).

### Early Childhood Development cum Day Care Centres

Early Childhood Development cum Day Care Centres implemented by NGF for the smaller children, aged between 2 and 6 years, of the carpet workers is another popular and effective programme, which has not only been appreciated by people of all sectors, but is also being highly applauded by many international visitors coming to NGF and its social programme. *The toddlers often crawl and run around or are being breast-fed while their mothers are busy on weaving carpets. It is a situation which is not only very dangerous and hazardous to the life and health of such small children but also hinders mothers' work performance and productivity, resulting in low earning, which pushes the family into the vicious cycle of poverty.* For many children, this situation continues even after they attain school-going age.



*Small children at GW ECD center*

NGF implements this program through partner NGOs at carpet cluster areas. Workers drop their small children at these centres in the morning before going to work and pick them up in the evening. This gives the parents, particularly the mothers to work freely with more attention and without worries about their children. This results with higher and better productivity output, enabling parents to earn more. *More importantly, these centres provide the children with opportunities to play, develop, interact, and socialise with children of their own age. They also get opportunity to be accustomed to school environment.* As they progress, parents are also motivated and encouraged to continue their children's education.

A total of 200 children are enjoying with this program. Three partner NGOs such as *Education, Protection and Help for Children (EPHC)* with 100 children at *Jorpati*, *Helpless Rehabilitation Society (HRS)* with 50 children at *Ramhiti*, and *Children, Welfare and Community Development Services (CWARDS)* with 50 children at *Dashkin Dhoka* of Kathmandu district are offering care and education to these small children. All these children come from GoodWeave Licensees and/or their suppliers, enjoying with - play or nursery group, kindergarten group and elementary classes. The objective is basically to motivate and initiate the children and their parents for schooling/education while providing them with a better opportunity for development. Most of the graduates from this programme are linked up with the *Sponsored Education Programme (SEP)* of the Foundation.

## **Awareness Programme**

Carpet workers are one of the poorest people coming

from the most backward communities in the country. There are very few literate carpet workers. They live and work within the factory premises, and are confined to the factory environment, without any knowledge and information of the outer world and the things taking place around. Often, they are unaware and ignorant of even most basic things of their rights and things that could bring positive change in their lives.

With the objective of bringing out the workers from this darkness and bringing improvements in their lives, NGF has been conducting social awareness programmes for these carpet workers and their families living with them. The main purpose of these awareness programmes is to make the carpet workers and their families knowledgeable and educated on various aspects that they come across or to make them aware on certain issues that would help them to be empowered and improving their living conditions in many aspects. The programmes also help them to come out of their tiring, monotonous and routine life. The Foundation conducts these programmes through local partner/s and the issues covered by the awareness programmes are based on three broad topics, which are as follows:

- Child Rights, including Education and Gender Issue.
- Family Planning, Trafficking, HIV /AIDS and STD.
- Health, Nutrition, Sanitation and Working Environment.

Each of these programmes is of 2 to 3 hours' presentation made in a factory or a group of small factories for three days on each topic, preferably on weekends when the workers are free. Appropriate print or audio/visual materials, and if needed resource persons are also used. To this date, the Foundation has conducted 196 programmes covering 4,184 carpet



*GoodWeave awareness program on progress*

workers and their family members. But recently, due to the non-availability of funds, the Foundation has temporarily put this programme aside.

Besides carrying out various programmes and activities on awareness creation and advocacy, the Foundation has also been carrying out a number of activities to create awareness and sensitisation on child labour by publishing various types of print materials like bulletins, brochures, posters, calendars and stickers and by producing and broadcasting video documentaries. These materials are exhibited, displayed and widely distributed at national and international fairs, meetings, conferences, exhibitions, workshops and other events. The Foundation has its own website-[www.goodweavenepal.org](http://www.goodweavenepal.org), which is updated regularly and can be browsed at any part of the globe.

In addition to that, NGF also actively involves in national child rights networks and coalitions such as *National Coalition for Children as Zone of Peace and Child Protection (CZOPP)*, *National Child Protection Alliance (NCPA)* etc. and advocates accordingly by giving collective pressures to state bodies for the effective implementation of child rights laws and policies, and for the protection and promotion of child rights nationwide.

## Non Formal Education (NFE) or Flexible Literacy Classes

Another important programme that NGF has been conducting for the older children and adult workers is the flexible literacy classes. This programme is focused on empowering the workers with basic knowledge on reading and writing simple Nepali language along with doing simple calculations that would help them from being deceived/cheated by the labour contractors or the factory owners regarding the terms and conditions and the wages for their work.

From December 2006 when this programme began until 1st December 2010, more than 20 classes covering 46 carpet factories have been held providing benefits to more than 1100 workers. This programme too is at standstill due to unavailability of funds.

## Medical and Health Services

This is one of the most popular and demanded programmes of the Foundation among the carpet

workers. The Foundation has been conducting the medical health camps for the carpet workers and their families at regular intervals. The health camps are organised in different carpet cluster areas. Two medical doctors (one Gynaecologist and one Paediatrician) carry out medical health check up to more than 100 workers and their children in a carpet cluster area in a day and provide necessary counselling and basic medicines to the patients.



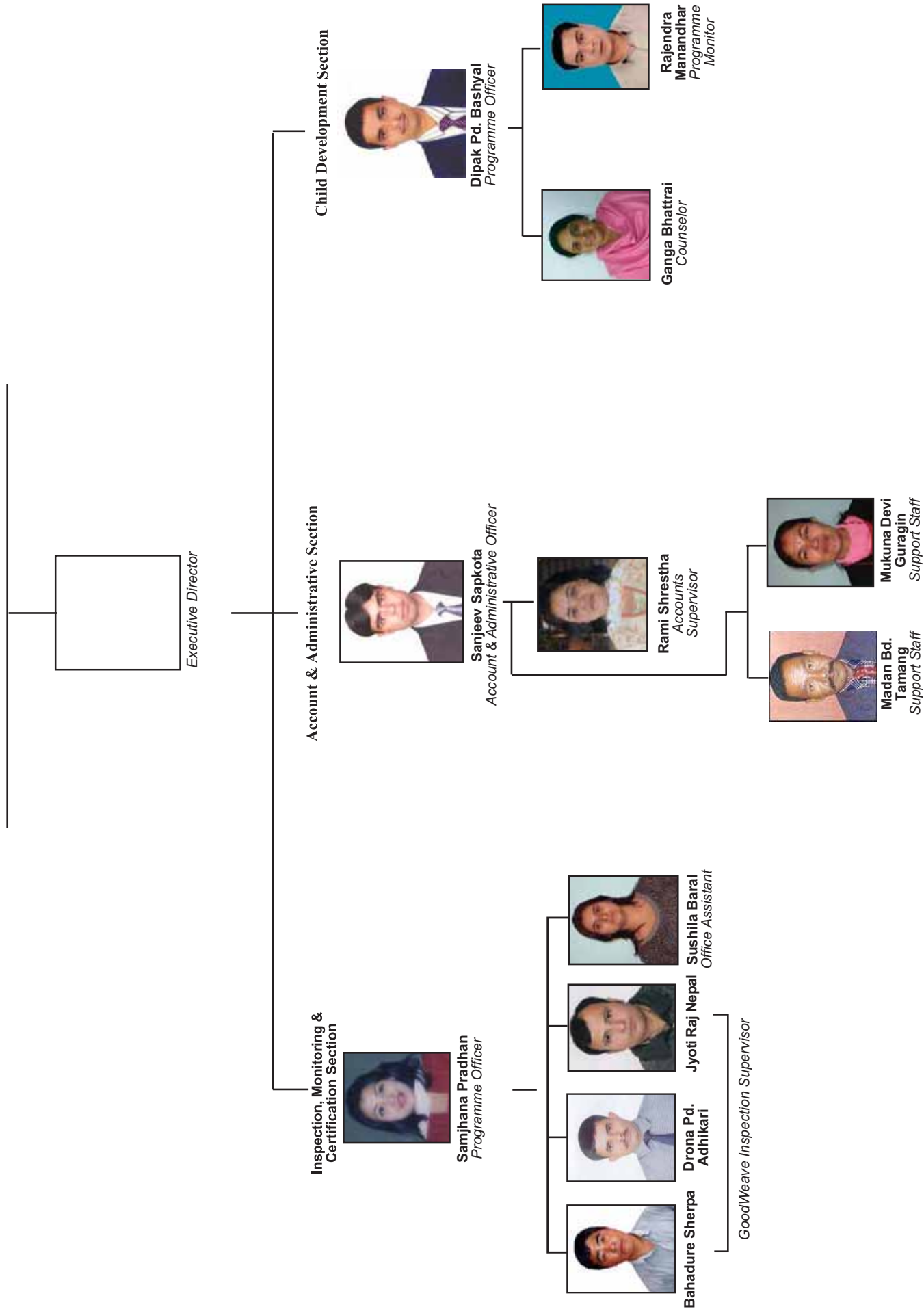
*GoodWeave mobile health camp*

From June 2005 to beginning of December 2011, a total of 20 mobile medical camps have been held providing medical health services to 2,661 workers among whom almost 50% are children. Although funds for this programme is not available, NGF plans to continue holding such mobile camps but in lesser frequency.

## Volunteer Mobilization

The Foundation has also been entertaining a number of national and international volunteers, placing them at NGF's various centres with the belief that such opportunities would not only be beneficial to the volunteers in getting exposed to NGF programs and activities but would also help the inmates of the centre to learn, share and interact with the volunteers and enhance their knowledge and skills on different subjects. *Interacting and communicating with international volunteers have helped the children to know about the people, cultures, histories and other things about countries from where the volunteers have come. Also, the children's confidence to communicate and express improve a lot. Above all, by providing opportunities of volunteerism, NGF has been contributing in developing human resource, both nationally and internationally.*

# Staff Structure of NGF



**Nepal GoodWeave Foundation**

**Major Achievements as of December 25, 2011**

1	Foundation Registered on	December 24, 1995 - in Kathmandu, Nepal.				
2	Composition of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors)	Representative from the Carpet Sector - <b>Four Members.</b>				
		Representative from the Child Right NGOs - <b>Four Members.</b> Independent Professional in the field of Social Work - <b>One</b>				
3	Total Number of Staff	Thirteen Personnel				
4	Major Programmes and Activities	1) Carpet Factory Licensing, Inspection, Monitoring and Carpet				
		2) Child Labour Removal and Rehabilitation of the displaced Carpet Children ( GoodWeave centre and Family re-union at the Community Level with support for education) ;				
		3) Preventive Social Programmes (includes programmes such as providing Education Sponsorship for Workers' Children, Day Care cum Education Centre, Supporting Day Care Centres being run by various Carpet factories and Conducting Awareness Programmes in Carpet Factories as well as managing mobile medical health camps.				
		4) Promotion and Advocacy for socially responsible and environmentally sound business practices (through publication of Bulletins, Posters, Brochures, Calendars, participation in International and National Meetings / Fairs, etc.).				
5	General Members (Carpet Licensees & Child Right	41 (17) from Child Right NGOs)				
6	GoodWeave LICENSEES (Carpet Factories under	82 Factories				
7	No. of Carpet Factories under the Licensees	440 Factories (including their sub-contractors)				
8	No. of Inspections carried out by the GoodWeave Inspectors from December 1996 to as of date.	55,979 Factory Inspections (presently Four inspectors are working - covering approximately 1,119,580 looms)				
9	Action taken for non-compliance of GoodWeave					
	- Factories with 1st Offence	654				
	- Factories with 2nd or More Offences	375				
	Factories Out-listed as Suppliers to GoodWeave	8				
	GoodWeave Licences Revoked/Cancelled for non-	127				
10	Total Number of GoodWeave Labels Issued from December 1996 to as of date.	387,015				
11	Cumulative Quantity of Carpets Exported with GoodWeave Labels (in Sq. Mt.)	Germany	USA	UK	Other	Total
		735,346	661,215	67,635	26,171	1,490,131
12	Total No. of Child Labourers Identified and Removed by GoodWeave Inspectors till date from the carpet	2,235				
13	Child Labourers brought for Rehabilitation at GoodWeave Centres	996				
14	Child Labour Re-united with their Families till date	891 children (145 were reunited after Completing their Vocational Training and all of them have been placed on job)				
15	Total Number of Children, as of date, being Covered and Supported by RugMark Nepal under various Rehabilitation & Preventive Programmes:	Currently 505 children				
		<b>(a) Rehabilitation Programme:</b>				
	- Centre Based Rehabilitation Programme (1 Centre -	996)				
	- Community Based Rehabilitation Programme	- 891)				
	- Supported by other NGOs / Individuals / Little Angel School/LAB School	30 children (3 are in Little Angel's & 18 in LAB School& in other institution 9) - Total - 83				
	<b>(b) Preventive Programme:</b>					
	- Sponsored Education Programme	Currently 173 (School Scholarship Program for Carpet Workers' Children, Total - 534)				
	- Day Care cum Education Programme (3 Centres)	Currently 200 (EPHC-100, HRS-50, CWARDS-50) Total - 1979 (For carpet worker's children)				
16	RugMark -UCEP Programme	Currently not in the programme (Total-62 )				
17	Counseling provided to Children and their families (records maintained since November 2000)	6,274 (Children - 3,414 Parents/Guardians - 1697 Group counselling-711 Others-452)				
18	Monitoring & Follow-up for Children under Community Based Rehabilitation & Sponsored Education Programs (records maintained since October 2000)	12,543(Within Kathmandu Valley - 12,125 Outside Ktm. - 418)				
19	support	23 Factories (Supporting around 700 children)				
20	Number of Awareness Programme Covered in Carpet Factories (Since 2000)	196 Awareness Programmes ( 4184 carpet factory workers and their family members have attended)				
21	No. of Non-Formal Education and Apprenticeship					
22	classes at carpet factories for children above 14 years	46 Factories (Covering around 1,146 individuals)				
23	Mobile Medical Health Camps Since June 2005	benefitted)				

## Joint initiation for GoodWeave Campaign

As the use of child labor in any industry is a serious crime according to the existing national and international laws, it is the responsibility of government to enforce those laws including the elimination of child labor from carpet industries. However, due to weak government mechanism and poor economic condition of people it is very challenging to stop child labor not only from industrial sector but also from entire society. In this connection, GoodWeave campaign has taken a very bold initiative to eliminate child labor from the carpet industries, more specifically from its members, licensees and their suppliers. As GoodWeave efforts alone might not be sufficient to eliminate child labor, we have also been initiating lobby with all GoodWeave member countries for joint hands to eliminate child labor from carpet industry.

We are very proud of that the ratio of child labor in carpet industries in South-Asia has significantly abridged over last decade as a result of our initiations. However, GoodWeave has been addressing the issues of child labor in a very small section – only within carpet manufacturing units who are their member and/or licensees. But a large section of child labor is yet to be addressed. Therefore, it is high time to initiate joint hands from human rights activists, industrialists and government to introduce new initiation to recognize country ‘a child labor free zone’.

The core theme of GoodWeave campaign is to prevent children from being labor in carpet industries and removing them with meaningful alternatives by inspecting, monitoring and certifying the manufactured rugs. Effective surveillance mechanism has been developed to inspect, monitor and certify (IMC) the carpet industries under the GoodWeave work frame. For strengthening this campaign, many steps have been taken from time to time. Though we establish GoodWeave by rebranding RugMark, many things are still in the transition in spite of our efforts. For that, we have to make more efforts to continue our work in a full -fledged way as soon as possible. Among the things to be done quickly are to complete the

affiliation process with ISEAL, the establishment of a strong and effective office in Europe especially to address the German market, implementation of similar governance policies and harmonization of the rehabilitation policies in producing countries as far as possible.



Mr. Binod Karki  
*President, GoodWeave International*

The recently concluded GWI meeting in London has tried to address all these issues by discussing various options analyzing the facts that we have not been able to take a solid stride forwarded so far as a result of some long -pending issues. Whatever we have been able to do so far have been continuing in a satisfactory way. We will achieve a new height with the establishment of our office in Afghanistan and EU and strengthen GWI secretariat. We can hope for an amelioration of our common cause in future although it was never deemed in spite of our phase of transition and other hurdles. The introduction of new alignment, approaches, and methods is demanding more of our attention to bring smiles on the faces of working children in the carpet industry. The progress achieved by the industry will help us to realize our objectives of providing bright future for the working children and it is also related to our work of generating more funds.

To address the problem of child labour in the developing countries what is needed is a kind of social effort rather than the strict implementation of legal provisions for protection as it is the result of poverty, illiteracy and other social misbelieves. We are all committed to our common cause and we can improve our performance in future by the introduction of new policies, the setting of minimum standards for the industry and by strengthening GWI secretariat. For this purpose we have already declared our commitments and it is obvious that we are all committed for this purpose in future.

## Helping GoodWeave to Help Children

Children of Nepal can look forward to a bright future over the long horizon, but are faced with a bleak reality of poverty and deprivation in the short-term. Widespread use of child labour is one manifestation of this reality.

Among many efforts to combat child labour of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF), formerly known as Rugmark/Nepal, stand out as particularly exemplary. In the first decade of its operation between 1995 and 2005, GoodWeave managed to rescue and rehabilitate almost 75 percent of children who worked in hazardous conditions in the carpet factories of Nepal. These children were either rehabilitated with their families and/or given basic education and vocational training to help build their future. Babies and toddlers of mothers who worked in carpet factories were provided with day care facilities.

*In an innovative partnership involving carpet manufacturers/exporters and importers/consumers facilitated by GoodWeave, a small commission was charged for certifying the carpets produced and sold in this manner as “child labour-free”. This was a win-win proposition benefitting everybody, above all children, without undue cost and burden on anyone.*

Unfortunately, the combination of deteriorating security situation and civil war in Nepal, and the global economic crises which negatively impacted on the Nepalese economy meant that Nepal’s carpet industry and export income contracted severely. This made it difficult for GoodWeave to attain full self-reliance and to service as many children as it wished and needed to do.

Despite these challenges and constraints, GoodWeave/Nepal continues to do an excellent job,

*By Kul Chandra Gautam*

(Board member of GoodWeave/USA,  
former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF  
and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations)

*I commend people of goodwill, including donors, to support the good work of GoodWeave. It is a model of partnership involving carpet manufacturers, exporters, importers, consumers, as well as governments, donors, civil society and child rights activists which is a powerful one that can be applied in many sectors.*

rescuing and empowering more children and women from a degrading working environment. And it deserves all of our full support and practical help.

I commend people of goodwill, including donors, to support the good work of GoodWeave. It is a model of partnership involving carpet manufacturers, exporters, importers, consumers, as well as governments, donors, civil society and child rights activists is a powerful one that can be applied in many sectors.

With less than 10,000 child labourers, carpet industry comprises just a tip of the iceberg of the huge problem of child labour in Nepal which exceeds 2 million children. Instead of going to school and enjoying their childhood like other children, nearly 127,000 Nepali kids are involved in the worst forms of child labour – hazardous for their health and well-being.

Had they not been rescued and rehabilitated, many of the children working in carpet factories would have been vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation and physical abuse. Child-workers, who remain in factories, and many of their mothers, continue to remain especially vulnerable even to this day.

Together we can do great things for the well-being of our children, which – as we all know - is the foundation for the well-being of all nations and the world.

## My Experience with Nepal GoodWeave Foundation

It was a time to evaluate the programs of *Nepal RugMark Foundation*, deep rooted name in our brain but we have rebranded it as *Nepal GoodWeave Foundation* and I am taking all the responsibilities as General Secretary to complete all the activities at hundred percent finish line. I feel proud when I introduce myself to others for being a board of director of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (Former Nepal RugMark Foundation). I could not stop myself to spell Nepal RugMark Foundation for the continuous work to publish the bulletin carried out by the same organization through Nepal GoodWeave Foundation. I would like to thank all the seniors and founders for taking social responsibility on behalf of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation and assure you that it will carry over such social movement on a more refined and dignified way to the new height of success.

*There are so many other organizations working in the child rights and child protection sector but Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, a well known NGO for its innovative and impactful work has been dedicating to eliminate child labour from the carpet industry.*

Since carpet industry of Nepal is considered as one of the foreign currency earners, however, the industry came to the controversy by the news published through different media stating that there was a high incident of using child labour at the industry in the Nineties. Due to this fact the buyers did not demand carpet from Nepal and the volume of export was declined substantially. This environment led to establish Nepal RugMark Foundation, now Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, which has been working to eliminate child labour from the carpet industry of Nepal while promoting the industry.

*This is a remarkable achievement of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation which has sensitized the people of carpet industry for zero tolerance on child labour issues "using child labour is a social crime" even in this transitional phase of the nation.*

While finding the child labour in the carpet industry during the inspection and monitoring, it removes them from the industry and brings to the transit home "*Hamro Ghar*". It also takes necessary action to



**Chirungibe Shrestha**  
**General Secretary**  
**Nepal GoodWeave Foundation**

those who do not comply with the GoodWeave policy without any discrimination. That's why all the licensees have been sensitized to the issues of child labour, and NGF is making alert them in this issues. We became successful to convince the buyer that the carpets produced from our licensee's factories are child labour free. We cannot forget the role of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation to promote the Nepalese carpet industry which has been earning foreign currency by exporting carpets with GoodWeave Labels.

Furthermore, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, an associate member of ISEAL, is launching a program to inspect and monitor carpet production site to ensure that the industries are environment friendly and prioritizing on ethical production. NGF is also planning to generate skilled manpower to be needed to monitor the standards and to supply skilled artisans to the carpet industry.

This is a remarkable achievement of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation which has sensitized the people of carpet industry for zero tolerance on child labour issues "using child labour is a social crime" even in this transitional phase of the nation. I believe that NGF will continue its noble work as well as play a vital role to eradicate the child servitude in carpet industry. I also strongly believe that Nepal GoodWeave Foundation will be a milestone to help the economic development of nation by promoting the child labour free Nepalese hand-knotted carpet in the international market.

## Nepal GoodWeave Foundation-Winner of STARS IMPACT AWARDS, 2011

*By Cecile Hyafil*

*Program Officer, Asia-Pacific  
STARS Foundation, London, UK*

The STARS Foundation was founded by the *Dabbagh Group* in 2001, in the belief that local organisations are best-placed to respond to the needs of their communities and the children in their care. All too often these organizations are constrained by a rigid approach to funding, which can limit their effectiveness. The Foundation takes a different approach, one that is built on genuine partnership and which is reflected in all the work we undertake.

The STARS Impact Awards, launched in Africa in 2007, and now open to organisations in 80 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, are committed to helping already effective charities become even stronger by enhancing their capacity to deliver vital services on the ground. By supporting these outstanding organisations, and recognising the deep and lasting impact they are having on entire communities, the Awards also inspire others to reach similar standards of excellence.

STARS' partnership approach is reflected in the nature of the innovative package we offer our Awards recipients. The package combines US\$100,000 of unrestricted funding with tailored consultancy support – offering organisations the flexibility they need to respond to local challenges and plan for the future. Our approach is underpinned by a rigorous selection process, which we have developed with *PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*. Awards recipients are selected using eight criteria that reflect the hallmarks of effective practice:

1. *Delivery of programs that positively affect disadvantaged children*
2. *Governance and accountability to stakeholders*
3. *Effective finance and administration*
4. *Use of technology*
5. *Innovation and flexibility*
6. *Networking and collaboration with other organizations*
7. *Development of staff and volunteers*
8. *Inclusion and access*

*Among the organisations awarded in 2011 was Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, which was selected amongst 318 applications across 16 countries in Asia-Pacific to receive the Protection Impact Award. This Award is in recognition of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation's excellent work and impact in improving the lives of vulnerable children in Nepal.*

Through the Impact Awards and the feedback we collect from applicants, STARS is encouraging the replication of effective approaches and practices amongst both frontline NGOs and funders. As part of this, STARS offers personalised feedback to all

unsuccessful Award applicants, a very unique and valuable practice, helping applicants to improve their application year on year.

In 2011, STARS awarded six Impact Awards in total: three in Africa-Middle East and three in Asia-Pacific, across the categories of Health, Education and Protection.

In addition, two smaller Awards were made at the discretion of the STARS Board of Trustees to recognise the work of organisations whose application demonstrated

potential as a 'Rising Star'. Eligible countries all feature in the top 100 Under-Five-Mortality Rank listing from UNICEF's *State of the World's Children Report 2009*.

Among the organisations awarded in 2011 was Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, which was selected amongst 318 applications across 16 countries in Asia-Pacific to receive the Protection Impact Award. This Award is in recognition of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation's excellent work and impact in improving the lives of vulnerable children in Nepal.

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation carries out pioneering work in preventing child labour in the carpet-weaving industry by successfully engaging businesses to abide by the GoodWeave licensee agreement – a child-labour free stamp of good practice. Through workplace inspection, monitoring and consumer labelling, the GoodWeave carpet label provides the best possible assurance that no illegal child labour was used in the manufacture of a carpet or rug. The organization – the only one of its kind in Nepal - also works to provide viable alternative opportunities for child workers, through education and vocational training.

Throughout South Asia, it is estimated that 200,000 children are exploited as child labourers within the carpet industry. Despite its illegality in Nepal, law enforcement has been weak and large-scale instances remain. Growing trends in rural poverty, combined with an increase in the economic migration of adult workers leaving the carpet industry suggest this is an ever increasing problem. As a bonded or forced labour, children between 10-14 years old often face working days of up to 18 hours, and are subject to malnutrition, impaired vision and risk of deformities from sitting in cramped conditions for long durations. They are also highly vulnerable to the possibility of trafficking.

Children who are found by Nepal GoodWeave Foundation's inspectors weaving in a carpet factory are removed from the workplace and either reunited with their family, whenever possible, or rehabilitated in a transit home where they benefit from excellent care, psycho-social counseling and education opportunities.


Carpet workers are among the poorest people in Nepal. From childhood they live and work in the factories,

in a confined microcosmic world, which renders them utterly unaware of basic information relating to child rights, family planning, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, health, nutrition and sanitation. The far-reaching impact of the organisation's work has translated into the effective maintenance of a child labour-free environment in factories, whilst simultaneously preventing thousands of children from entering factories in the first place.


Since its inception in 1995, GoodWeave Nepal has successfully brought more than half of the carpet industry into its inspection programme, with the goal of reaching a 70 per cent threshold by 2014. They have also freed more than 3,000 child labourers, brightening their futures dramatically. Central to these results is the voice given to these children at the heart of the issue, incorporating their feedback into future strategy and programmes, and giving them a choice in their rehabilitation options.

The STARS Foundation is delighted to be supporting Nepal GoodWeave Foundation in its effort to end child labour in the carpet industry and looks forward to its continuing partnership.

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&  
their children is our priority



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## What is Decent Work?

Literary meaning of decent work is a work that is non-harmful, dignified and respectful. No work is indecent on its own. The conditions, atmosphere, surroundings and so many other factors that govern employment relationship play a role for making any work decent or indecent.

The concept of decent work protects worker's fundamental rights at work and promotes social justice in the society. An environment of dignified and respectful working atmosphere is a pre-condition for creating decent work at the workplaces. Fair remuneration, self-respect of workers, healthy and safe workplaces and non-discrimination in any work-related actions are fundamental basis for decent work.

International Labour Organization (ILO), the only UN agency promoting and advocating for decent work has defined the following four elements as pillars of decent work:

*The concept of decent work protects worker's fundamental rights at work and promotes social justice in the society. An environment of dignified and respectful working atmosphere is a pre-condition for creating decent work at the workplaces. Fair remuneration, self-respect of workers, healthy and safe workplaces and non-discrimination in any work-related actions are fundamental basis for decent work.*

**1. Employment Creation:** Employment creation is the first pillar of decent work. No country can think of decent work without creating an environment for investment, enough opportunities of vocational training and skills for young workers and policies of sustained livelihood options for all class of people. Government should play a role for preparing investment friendly environment so that private sector can play roles for creating jobs. Law and order, industrial peace, infrastructure (road, electricity) are the key areas of government intervention in Nepalese context.

**2. Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work:** Guarantee of fundamental rights of workers is the second pillar of decent work. Fundamental rights include – environment of workers dignity, free to form and join union of their choice, situation of



**Narayan P. Bhattarai**  
National Project Coordinator  
ILO/ACTRAV Norway  
Project in Nepal

expressing their views and demands in relation to their wages and working conditions without any fear and equal treatment at work-related activities. Existence of any of the following situation at work contravenes with the concept of decent work:

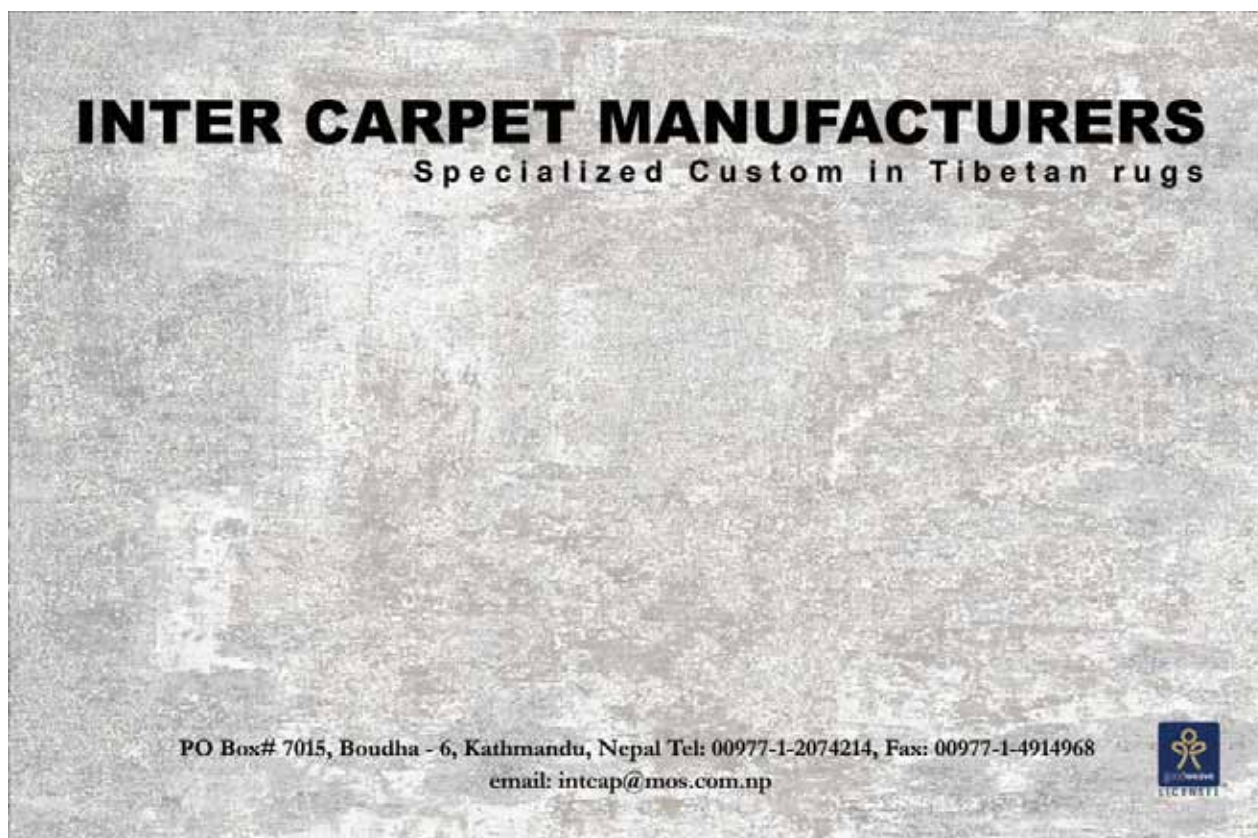
- a. Workers are forced to work
- b. Workers do not enjoy right to form and join union of their own choice
- c. Workers do not have rights of collective bargaining with their employers, and
- d. Workers are discriminated on work-related activities (recruitment, wage, working conditions, training and promotion) on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, ideology and other cultural beliefs.

**3. Social Protection:** Decent work should be a means of social protection of workers, their families and societies. The work without having enough protection measures of workers' health and their security cannot fall in the category of decent work. Measures of social protection and social security for workers should be taken by the government which can ensure workers' social security benefits like - medical, employment-injury, old-age, education and so on. Such benefits can be developed based on joint contribution of workers, employers and government. Any work or working conditions

without enough social security benefits for workers do not constitute a decent work. Social security package covers the following benefits for workers:

- a. Health and safety measures at workplaces,
  - b. Medical benefits (employment injury, medicine etc.),
  - c. Old-age benefits (Pension, gratuity, provident fund etc, and
  - d. Family and Survivors benefits (Education for children, maternity, pension and compensation for survivors and dependents)
4. **Social Dialogue:** Social dialogue is a process of resolving labour related differences through peaceful negotiation between the workers and employers. Provisions and mechanism of dialogue for protecting own interests through negotiation and mediation is an indicator of decent work. The government should play a role of mediator and facilitator of such a dialogue process based on different legal frameworks. In nutshell, the following aspects are covered by social dialogue:
- a. Provisions of collective bargaining and labour dispute resolution through dialogue between workers' and employers' representatives,
  - b. System of tripartite (Government, Worker and Employer) participation in labour policy formulation, and
  - c. Promotion of strong and free organizations of workers and employers.

*Creating the environment of decent work at workplaces is possible only when the three stakeholders (Workers, Employers and Government) make joint efforts. Development of policies, laws and regulations and their effective implementation is the major duty of the government. However, the workers and employers will have an equal responsibility in implementation and monitoring the compliances of the legal provisions. Nepal's labour laws still do not cover informal economy workers which comprises almost 90% of the workforce. This situation has kept almost the entire labour force out of the concept of decent work in Nepal. The need of today in Nepal is to bring in the informal economy workers under the scope of labour legislation. This will create an atmosphere in the organizations for protecting the rights of workers and for monitoring the compliance of the laws.*



## GoodWeave Standards

**GoodWeave International (GWI)** is an associate member of *International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance (ISEAL Alliance)*, the global association for social and environmental standards. Working with established and emerging voluntary standard systems, ISEAL develops guidance and helps strengthen effectiveness and impact of these standards. The GoodWeave Standard is based on 7 principles.

### **Principle 1: No child labour is allowed**

GoodWeave maintains a zero tolerance policy towards child labour in all carpet production sites of its licensees and their suppliers as it is harmful to the overall growth and development of the children. Any child out of school is at risk of becoming a child laborer. All children have rights to education, and must be encouraged and provided opportunities to attend full-time formal day schools. A key responsibility of GoodWeave Licensees is to ensure a minimum age limit in place both at the main site and supply chains. Where child labour is found, GoodWeave takes steps for remediation, including removal of the child, and providing rehabilitation and educational opportunities to ensure that the child does not enter into worse forms of work.

### **Principle 2: No forced or bonded labour is allowed**

Producers must not use or support the use of any kind of forced or bonded labour in any aspect of the production or procurement process including slavery, debt bondage, prison labour, labour that is required as a means of political coercion or as punishment for holding or for peacefully expressing political views. Producers should maintain sufficient hiring and employment records to demonstrate and verify compliance with the GoodWeave Standard.

### **Principle 3: Freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognized**

Workers' affiliation to trade unions is a key issue that is strongly influenced by local laws and regulations. This does not mean that the establishment of workers union in a factory is required. However, GoodWeave

Standard aims to ensure that workers are free to participate in unions and/or other workers representation groups, i.e. worker committees or cooperative groups, in line with local laws, by democratic means. They may represent workers at a local or a national level.



**Lobsang Lama**  
*Executive Member*  
*Nepal GoodWeave Foundation*

### **Principle 4: No discrimination is practiced**

Discrimination can take many forms, including any unfair distinctions in the treatment of one person over another on grounds that are not related to ability, experience or merit. Women are often relegated to lower paid work than male workers, and are often paid less for the same work than their male counterparts. According to GoodWeave Standard, terms of employment should be the same in terms of pay, hours, training and opportunities, for all workers of equal ability, experience and merit, and supported by good record keeping.

### **Principle 5: Decent working conditions are respected**

**A) Workplace safety and health:** There should be clean and tidy working environment with clear means of access and egress such as access to adequate hygiene and sanitation, drinking water, health & safety etc. GoodWeave develops guidelines for the workplace safety and health which must be interpreted in relation to local law and regulation.

**B) Wages:** Producers must ensure that workers are paid the legal minimum wage or the local industry practice, whichever is higher. Wages should also be progressively raised in order to work towards achieving a living wage standard in the industry.

**C) Working hours:** Producers must ensure that workers work for an agreed time per day.

**D) No harsh or inhumane treatment:** Respect for human rights is central to the GoodWeave Standard, including combating torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading punishment or treatment.

**Principle 6: Negative environmental impacts of production are identified and minimized**

The production site should ensure that the negative environmental impact of its activities is limited as far as possible. Working to address environmental impacts of production will have a positive impact on the communities where production takes place. Any activity that through their environmental impact will affect the quality of life in local communities, and livelihoods of local population would require an evaluation of those impacts. For example, from

processes involving chemicals used in production, such as carpet washing and dyeing, and any other waste materials, which may contribute to water pollution.

**Principle 7: Business processes are transparent and adhere to local laws and regulations**

Record keeping and maintaining documentation both internal and official is the key to demonstrating transparency and building trust. It is also important that when there is an inspection visit, producers can show documents. Especially important is a register or list of all registered looms, which should be updated on a regular basis.

*(Source: Guidelines to the GoodWeave Generic Standard for the Rug Industry)*

**WHAT VISITOR SAYS ABOUT GOODWEAVE**

We had a wonderful day working with the children for “art day”, it’s a great tradition that hope to request everything visit. Thanks to the staff for their support. *(Carol Sebert & Donna Hastings, Creative Matters)*

Impressive & Lovely work: Keep up the Good Work! Thank you for your time & hospitality. *(David & Caroline, the Rug Company)*

Thank your God for places like this wonderful places, fantastic kids. *(Tim Tysan Short, STARS Foundation, UK)*

This is my second visit. Great to see the progress made by children. Everything well maintained. Keep it up & let it be model for all *(Mathew John P. GoodWeave India)*

I very liked visiting this transit home. The children were so happy with the services they were provided. I realized they were treated so well. The conditions of living rooms are also good. I do appreciate NGF’s effort in this regards. The happy faces of children made me so happy. *(Kabir Bais, GoodWeave Afghanistan)*

This was my first visit to NGF. For me it was a surprise to see that these are so much we have in common. The NGF where children learn gives a good feeling. Good job has been done & the care in-charge of centre gives is appreciable. *(Wasit, GoodWeave Afghanistan)*

I am so impressed with your home. Thank you so much for the visit. Wishing you and all the children a very bright future!! *(Beth Huber, GoodWeave USA)*

## Sharing Experiences

Recently Nepal RugMark Foundation was replaced by Nepal GoodWeave Foundation just to maintain the uniformity in the name among national initiatives. However, entire programs and activities are same. Inspection Monitoring and Certification (IMC) is a key strategy of Foundation through which regular and random inspections are carried out in the factories. During the inspection, if the child labour is found, inspectors immediately remove the child and take to the foundation’s rehabilitation centre from where the decision is made where to send the child.

During the inspection, inspectors are facing various challenges. Most of the child labors came to the factory because of poverty and family breakdown. Moreover they don’t find appropriate environment as they feel the lack of adequate food, shelter, education etc in the factories. Most of the child labors in the factory came from remote villages of districts of Nepal such as *Sarlahi, Bara, Rautahat, Chitwan, Makawanpur* etc where they felt the lack of schools for education. As a cheap labor and more submissive, child labour has been used in making the carpets to be exported. There

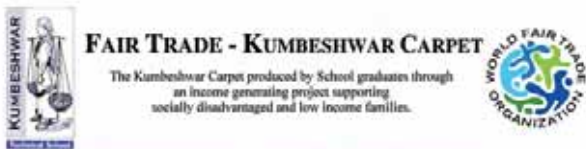
is no doubt that Nepalese carpet manufacturers develop high quality carpets but it should be made without child labour. Using GoodWeave label means there is no use of child labour while making carpet or rug.



Drona P. Adhikari  
Inspection Supervisor  
NGF

During 16<sup>th</sup> years of operation in

Nepal, NGF faced a lot of challenges whereas there is much to do in this field in the days to come. Foundation is removing the poor, needy and deprived children from the factories and providing food, shelter, education, cloths and recreation on the belief that “CHILDRENS ARE THE PILLER OF OUR NATION”. We believe that “if we are able to show the children the right way, our country’s future will also become nice”. The main objective of NGF is to secure the future of the child through their proper emotional, educational and physical development. For this there should be the support and cooperation from every nook and corner of society including government and carpet industries.



Order bespoke carpet and support low income families in Nepal. Your purchase will help to pay for their primary education, vocational training and welfare of the orphans.

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## Brief History of GoodWeave Children



**Bhuwan Moktan**

*Laboratory Higher Secondary School*

*Bhuwan Moktan* is currently studying at grade 10 in *Laboratory Higher Secondary School, Kirtipur*. It was six years ago, when he was 12, he came to Kathmandu from *Bhalpani VDC* of *Chitwan* district to earn money by weaving carpet.

He had been displaced at the time of armed conflict between the *State* and *Maoist*. He lost his elder brother and sister in the conflict and he himself felt insecure in his village. As a result he ran away from his village, came to Kathmandu and joined the carpet industry as a child laborer. His parents had nothing except a small patch of land for their livelihood.

Because of his son's and daughter's death, *Bhuwan's* father lost his sense and turned to be a severe alcoholic. *Bhuwan's* condition in carpet factory was also very painful. He was frequently haunted by the event that added him more pain and terror. Fortunately, one of the *GoodWeave Social Inspectors* met him at the factory while weaving carpet and took him to *GoodWeave Rehabilitation Centre* on May 16, 2005.

At the centre, *Bhuwan* proved himself diligent, disciplined and committed in study. Because of his excellent performance and high interest in education, he was referred to *LAB School* for formal education. Now he is studying well at grade 10. His school expects him to achieve distinction marks in the SLC examination. He is very good at extra-curricular activities too as he is a good football player. He thanks *GoodWeave Foundation* from his heart for changing his fate. He aspires to be a teacher in future.

*Yamjom Lama*, at her age of 11, left her village along with her parents, came to Kathmandu and started weaving carpet. Because of extreme poverty and large family size (7 family members), her parents forced her to look for the opportunities for earning, and unfortunately she was also forced to drop her school when she was studying at grade 4. She is an inhabitant of *Mugu district*, who wondered to see big buildings, automobiles and crowd in Kathmandu at the first time.

After coming to the carpet factory, along with her parents *Yamjom* also started to weave carpet to support to her family. According to her, she never thought that she had to weave carpet. She felt very sad in being forced to quit school. She was often very tearful on missing her school friends. She was being frustrated blaming her fate while living in dark room of carpet factory. The money her family used to earn was not enough even for two times meal a day. She very often was facing headache, fever and diarrhea while weaving carpet but unfortunately had no money for treatment.



**Yamjom Lama**

*Laboratory Higher Secondary School*

In course of factory inspection, GoodWeave inspector found and brought her to its rehabilitation centre. *Yamjom* was very happy after being brought to the centre. Being a hardworking and disciplined student, she was referred to *LAB school* for formal education. Now she is very happy at *LAB school* and thinks that her fate has started to favor her. She thanks *GoodWeave Foundation* for changing her life. The school also expects that she will score distinction in the next year SLC examination. She wants to be a doctor in future.



**Susmita Thing**  
Hamro Ghar

12 years old *Susmita Thing* from Sarlahi was sent Kathmandu along with labour broker to weave the carpet. Because of extreme poverty, her mother sent her to carpet factory on the condition of providing her food and shelter only. Her family consists of grandparents, parents and two younger brothers, a large family but income of the family is almost none in comparison to family size.

Because of father's alcoholic nature, family debt and being an elder daughter of the family, Susmita had to leave the school. Her father didn't earn and grandparents were too old and sick. In such a situation, Susmita didn't have any options except coming to Kathmandu for survival. She joined the carpet industry as a child laborer. According to her, she had to weave carpet continuously for many hours.

Nepal GoodWeave's factory inspector found her after one month in her workplace. She was removed from the factory on 15 June, 2011 and brought to rehabilitation centre. Susmita is happy now for having opportunity to study in the centre. She aspires to be a pilot in future.

*Purnima Magar* is currently running at 11 years and studying at grade two in *GoodWeave Rehabilitation Centre (Hamro Ghar)*. She does not know about her birthplace, just heard from her mother that they are from *Ramechhap District*. Being born at carpet factory in Kathmandu, Purnima did not know the world outside it. Doing household chores, looking after younger brothers and weaving carpet were her regular works. However, she thought about the schools and did want to study.

Her father is a heavy drunkard, spend all money he earns in alcohol and always quarrels with his family, and mother used to weave carpet day and night. Mother's earning is not sufficient even for two meals a day. Purnima said "My mother often weeps on father's behaviors. We ran away when father came home drunk " Purnima does feel very sad on father's behavior and longs for a loving and caring father as other children has. Because of family problem and poverty, Purnima was suffering from low self-esteem and self -guilt.



**Purnima Magar**  
Hamro Ghar

Under the above circumstances, she was helping her mother getting a hard-up livelihood. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation staff found her in a carpet factory and brought to rehabilitation centre on June 29, 2010. Purnima became very happy after being brought to rehabilitation centre. She expresses her happiness over the opportunity of education. She aspires to be a doctor in future and serve children like her. Purnima thanks to GoodWeave Foundation for such an opportunity.



**Ram Lal Thing**  
Hamro Ghar

*Ram Lal*, 14 years old, came from *Sarlahi* district. He has very sad story behind joining the carpet factory as a child laborer. Before coming to factory, he worked at a restaurant for a year. He is a school drop-outs child. His family consists of 7 members, two brothers weave carpet, sister is a domestic worker, the others live in village. Ram's suffering began when his father developed excessive alcoholic behaviors. He finished his entire property in drinking. He always did beat his wife and children. Because of excessive torture from her husband, Ram's mother left home and went to maternal home. Ram also had to leave home because there was nothing left. Everything was upside down.

Ram Lal used to weave carpet for more than 14 hours a day. While working, he got typhoid twice. He got treatment but unfortunately he had to work more hours to repay the money related to his treatment. Labor broker never gave him adequate food rather forced him for fast weaving. In the meantime the GoodWeave inspectors found him weaving carpet and removed on 6 June, 2011. He was brought to GoodWeave Rehab. Centre. Nowadays, he compares GoodWeave inspectors as 'Angel and rehabilitation center as 'Paradise'. He wants to be a teacher in future.



**Krishna Maya Pahari**  
*Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)*

15 years old *Krishana Maya Pahari* is a GoodWeave supported child under its *Community-based Rehabilitation* program. She is studying at grade 8 at her village school, *Rai Gaun, Makawanpur*. Having 7 family members, her parents work as agriculture laborer.

Because of extreme financial crisis in the family, she had been deprived of education and parental love and care. Firstly, she went to Pokhara to work as a domestic servant where she had to do daily household chores along with caring for small babies of the employer. After one year, she got back to home with her earnings (Rs. 2000) which she gave to her mother. However, her parents still were not able to continue her education and sent her to Kathmandu for carpet weaving along with her

cousin. She faced lots of difficulties and troubles while weaving carpet. Meanwhile, Good Weave inspector met her and removed from there on 12 November, 2009 and brought to GoodWeave Centre. After completing grade 2 at *the Centre*, she has been reunited with her family by NGF. Now she is very happy living with her parents and continues her education with NGF support. She says, "I am very thankful to GoodWeave Foundation for providing me the opportunity of education. I like to be a teacher in future."

Kumari Ghalan is studying at class 10 in Chamunda M.V. Jorpati, Kathmandu. She is 17 years old and her home lies at Sarlahi district. She is living in Mulpani, Kathmandu with her sister. When she was 10 years of age, because of poverty she was brought to Kathmandu by her sister to weave carpet. After some time of carpet weaving she was found by NGF inspector and took her to *Hamro Ghar*. There she completed class two education and reunited with her families with GoodWeave support. She is continuing her education with GoodWeave support. Now she is preparing for SLC examination. She gives thanks to NGF for supporting her education; otherwise she would be in same carpet factory and could not be able to study up to here.



*Kumari Ghalan*  
*CBR Child*



**Suman Lama**  
*SEP Children*

15 years old Suman Lama, was born in Kathmandu though his permanent home located at Chautara, Sindhupalchok district. Around 18 years ago his parents came to Kathmandu looking for job for their livelihood. His father worked as a tractor driver in Kathmandu and his mother worked as a carpet weaver. In the meantime his father got severe illness and took long time for recovery. Her mother had to sell all her ornaments and property for the treatment. With most difficulty she managed all this. Fortunately he was recovered but got alcoholic. He used to beat her wife and children by drinking alcohol. One day he left home and don't get back so far.

After father's disappearance, Suman got worried and left his school. His mother also became too much involved in work as she had to fulfill all the basic necessities for their livelihood. Suman used to stay at carpet premises with playing and doing nothing. Though he wanted to study, her mother couldn't afford of his schooling cost. One day NGF inspectors found him in the factory doing nothing while inspection and did listen his entire story. As a result, he has been enrolled in GoodWeave SEP program. Now he goes to school regularly. He is studying at class 8 in *Shree Shramjeet Kishwor M.V, Lalitput*. He is very happy that he will complete his education upto SLC with GoodWeave support. After SLC he wants to study Hotel management and wants to be Hotel Manager in future.

## Views and Opinions

### Home Bd Nepali

Hamro Ghar



“My name is Hom Bd.Nepali. Currently I am 13 years old. My home lies at Masina in Dang district. I left school when I was at grade 3. I worked for sometime as a load/unload laborer and stone breaker. The work was very hard. Therefore, I left it and came to Kathmandu for carpet weaving. I was very sad and unable to continue my school for the reason of my alcoholic father and stark poverty. Presently, I am studying at GoodWeave Rehab Center. Good Weave Inspector removed me from weaving factory on 21 April, 2011. I thank to GoodWeave foundation for offering me an opportunity of education.”

### Rabi Lama

LAB School



“My home lies at Rani Gaun in Makawanpur district. Our family consists of four members. My father died when I was very young. Mother eloped with a man. After that we were like orphan. When both of our parents were absent, we had no choice. My elder brother and me had to do something to survive. We came to Kathmandu to weave carpet. I had never stepped in school. I often weep when I remember my past. I spent two years on weaving carpet with my brother. GoodWeave inspector brought me here on 19 May, 2005. I am very happy and got family love here. At the moment, I am studying at grade 9 at Laboratory Higher Secondary School. It is GoodWeave that provided opportunity to study at such a good school. My world has been changed. I got chance to learn many new things. I never forget Nepal GoodWeave Foundation.”

### Sanu Maya B.K

LAB School



“I am Sanu Maya B.K. I am from Pipalmadi, Sindhuli. My family consists of nine members including parents. As the family is big, food supply is insufficient. My two younger brothers are disabled. One sister tends cow in someone’s house. My parents sent me to weave carpet when I was studying at grade 2 at a local school. I spent two years at a carpet factory and contributed Rs. 4000/- to parents.

GoodWeave removed me on 11 July, 2006 and brought me in its rehabilitation centre. I am very happy at the centre because I have got opportunity to study. Currently, I am studying at grade 9 at Laboratory Higher Secondary School. As I was a good student at grade 6, I was promoted to grade 8. GoodWeave has changed my fortune. I never had dreamt that I would get such opportunity to study at such a good school. I express my sincere gratitude to Nepal GoodWeave Foundation. I want to be a social worker in future to serve in village.”

### Sujata B.K

Hamro Ghar



“My name is Sujata B.K. I am 13 years old. My home lies at Lalbandi, Sarlai district. My mother eloped when I was very small. My family is facing severe poverty. There is no food in my home. I came to carpet factory to earn food with a distant sister. My one year in factory was very terrible. I had to bear scolding and beating everyday. I never got chance to go to school. I was very much fond of going to school whenever I saw children of my age going school. When I was working at a factory, GoodWeave Inspector found and removed me on 6 June 2011. I was brought to GoodWeave rehab centre then. I am very much happy to have a chance to study. I want to be a teacher and like to teach the poor and deprived children like me. I heartily request GoodWeave Foundation to support me.”

## GoodWeave News

### Rebranding as Nepal GoodWeave Foundation

Nepal RugMark Foundation was officially merged with Nepal GoodWeave Foundation on October 2011 after long time waiting for this result. After merging, it formally changed its name into Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF). All the stakeholders and concerned organization have been informed in this context. This achievement has harmonized and maintained uniformity in the name of all GoodWeave National Initiatives.

Likewise, along with name change new Executive Committee of NGF has been formed on August 14, 2011 representing four members from Carpet Sector and four from NGO sector, and one member from independent intellectual. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation held first AGM in September 1, 2011.



### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting:

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF) was held on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Kathmandu. GoodWeave Child, *Abiral Pakhrin* from *Hamro Ghar* inaugurated the Meeting by lighting the traditional Panas Lamp. The Meeting started with welcome song and singing of National Anthem by the children of Hamro Ghar, GoodWeave Transit Home for removed child laborers. Mr. Sonam Lama, Vice – President of the Foundation welcomed the Guest and other participants of the Meeting. Mr. Arun Kanta Paudal, Executive Director of the Foundation, presented the progress report and social audit for the fiscal year 2010-11.

Sharing her experience and opinion, *Anu Tamang*, a child who got full education support in *Sponsor Education Programme (SEP)* from Nepal GoodWeave Foundation expressed her gratitude and thanks to NGF for providing her with a valuable opportunity of studying in school and emphatically said that if it was not NGF, she would still have been working in the carpet factory as a child laborer without any hope for better future.

The closed session of the AGM also unanimously approved the proposed programs and activities along with budget for the next fiscal year (2011/12). Nepal GoodWeave Foundation has 26 general members representing carpet sector and 17 members representing the child rights NGO sector.

### NGF's Executive Director Visited Domotex Fair- 2011

*Domotex Trade Fair* is the largest annual carpet and floor covering Fair in the world and was held in Hannover, Germany. The Executive Director *Mr. Arun Kanta Paudel* had participated in the Fair. Mr. Paudel visited the GoodWeave Licensees in the DOMOTEX with GoodWeave colleagues, strengthened the relationship with GoodWeave Licensees of European and American countries.



## GoodWeave Licensee Factories Awarded

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation awarded the top three carpet exporters and importers for the highest usage of GoodWeave Labels during the fiscal year 2009/10 at its 14th Annual General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

The top three exporters who made the highest usage of GoodWeave labels during 2009/10 are:

1. *Shine Industries, Bouddha, Kathmandu*
2. *The Shangrila Carpet Industries, Bouddha, Kathmandu*
3. *Palbu Carpet Atelier, Bouddha, Kathmandu*

Likewise, the top three importers with the highest usage of GoodWeave Labels were:

4. *The Rug Company, UK*
5. *Odegard Inc, USA*
6. *Lapchi LLC, USA*

## STARS Impact Award 2011

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF) has received **STARS Impact Award 2011** on the category of Protection. *Mrs. Ang Lami Sherpa*, President of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation received the Award on behalf of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation in the Award Ceremony organized by STARS Foundation in *British Academy, London, UK*.

NGF carries out pioneering work in preventing child labour in the carpet-weaving industry by successfully engaging businesses to abide by the GoodWeave licensee agreement – a child-labour free stamp of good practice. Through workplace inspection, monitoring and consumer labelling, the GoodWeave carpet label provides the best assurance that no illegal child labour was used in the manufacture of a carpet or rug. The organization – the only one of its kind in Nepal - also works to provide viable alternative opportunities for child workers, through education and vocational training.



The STARS Foundation was founded by the *Dabbagh Group* in 2001, in the belief that local organisations are best-placed to respond to the needs of their communities and the children in their care. All too often these organisations are constrained by a rigid approach to funding, which can limit their effectiveness. The Foundation takes a different approach, one that is built on genuine partnership and which is reflected in all the work it undertakes.

## GoodWeave Children in SLC Examination

During the year 2011, a total of 16 children supported by this Foundation appeared in the *School Leaving Certificate (SLC) Examination*, the so called “Iron Gate” for the students. Out of 16, 11 children successfully passed the examination, few with ‘*Distinction and First Division*. Nepal GoodWeave Foundation would like to congratulate to all 11 students who passed the so called “Iron Gate”. To this date, a total of 113 children supported by the Foundation have successfully passed the SLC exams.

## New Licensees and General Members

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF) did welcome 7 new general members and GoodWeave Licensees (1 NGO and 6 Carpet Manufacturing Companies) during the year 2011. NGF would like to congratulate and express deep gratitude to these new licensees and members for being a part of GoodWeave campaign of eliminating child labour from carpet industry.

### NGO Sector

1. *Himalayan Welfare Service Centre Helps Children, Dhapasi, Kathmandu*

### Carpet Sector

Similarly, Nepal RugMark Foundation would also like to welcome and congratulate the following for becoming the new GoodWeave licensees

Rugs Carpets & Design, Sitapaila, Kathmandu

New Himalayan Rugs, Jorpati, Bouddha

Kaju Art Rugs, Bouddha, Tusal, Kathmandu

Nepal Carpet Industry, Naxal, Kathmandu

Jawalakhel Handicraft center, Ekantakuna, Kathmandu

Ajima Rug Industries, Bouddha, Kathmandu

## Common Birthday Celebrated

Children of “*Hamro Ghar*” who have been removed from carpet factories wait for January 1st every year to celebrate their common birthday. The day is celebrated as a “**Common Birthday**” because there are no birth records of these children and most of them even do not know anything about their birth. The main purpose behind having a common birthday is to make the children feel importance of their birth when they came into this world and also to make the children feel good, happy and that they too celebrate their birthdays like any other children. The day is very special for them as the whole centre is decorated with balloons and other decorative items and has a different environment and air. The centre is

full of happiness and joy, with children greetings each other with laughter and smiles, and merry making and dancing.

January 1st 2011 was also celebrated with lots of joy and funfair. A big cake was cut by a girl child and a boy followed by singing of birthday song in chorus by everybody present and wishing all children a happy and beautiful future. On the occasion, the children were joined by Executive Board Members and staffs of NGF. On the occasion, chocolates and gifts were also distributed to the children by NGF. After distribution of chocolates and gifts, the children and the guests joined in for a lavish lunch and playing of various fun games and dance.



## GoodWeave Children Reveal Their Artistic Aptitude

Carol Sebert and Donna of *Creative Matters*, a GoodWeave licensee from Canada, has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to the children of *Hamro Ghar* in bringing out their hidden talents in different forms of Art. This year too, during their visit to Nepal, they organized a painting workshop for the children of the centre with water colors and paint brush. The result was outstanding and fantastic. The children too were very excited and happy to have opportunities to learn new things.

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation would like to extend its heartiest thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Sebert and Donna for their continued efforts and initiative in providing opportunities to the children of *Hamro Ghar* to learn new things and in bringing out their hidden artistic talents.



## NGF Celebrate World Day against Child Abuse and International Child Rights Day, 2011

Nepal GoodWeave Foundation organized a *Mini Cultural Programme* at Hamro Ghar on the occasion of “**World Day against Child Abuse and International Child Rights Day, 2011**”. Though NGF used to celebrate this particular day differently in previous year, this year it did celebrate along with the children of Hamro Ghar to make them realize the significance of the day. In the program, Executive Committee Members of NGF expressed their views while the program was facilitated by children themselves. Children have shown their artistic performance in the program such as dance, poem, song etc. This program did not only provide the platform to the children to show their talents but also developed an intimacy among NGF Board Members, Children and Staffs.

## Workshop and Documentary Show

Half day workshop and documentary show was organized at Hamro Ghar in collaboration with *Wild Life Conservation Nepal* aiming to make refresh the children by making them aware on completely new issues such as indoor pollution, wild life conservation, photography etc. through documentary show, photography and Quiz Contest. In the program the following activity was conducted:

1. **Documentary Show on Indoor Pollution:** 30 minutes long documentary was shown focusing on the adverse health impact of indoor pollution, smoking, hygiene and sanitation which may leads to dangerous disease such as Cancer etc.
2. **Documentary Show on Wild Life Conservation:** Another 30 minutes long documentary was shown on wild life conservation: how to protect and conserve the wild animals/creatures etc. This focused on ‘Tiger Save Campaign’
3. **Quiz Contest:** A small quiz contest was organized after documentary show in which all the children were involved. Questions were asked to the children and winners were awarded with various photos of wild animals/creatures.
4. **Photography:** A small photography session was organized in which four groups, including 6 children in one group, was divided and given a Camera and Cameramen guided them. Every child individually took the photos from inside and outside of the centre and Photo Exhibition was organized in *Art Council, Babarmahal*, which was inaugurated by Honorable President of Nepal.

## GoodWeave International meeting

GoodWeave International meeting was held at London, UK on November 29-Dec 1, 2011 in which 14 participants were involved from National Initiatives of UK, USA, Nepal, India and Afghanistan. The following 3 days of the meeting were devoted for working session on GWI policy development and enforcement, New Standard Implementation, ISO 65 Accreditation and other. The final session of the meeting concluded with the remarks of satisfaction over the achievement on the meeting. From Nepal GWI President Mr. Binod Karki, NGF President Mrs. Ang Lami Sherpa and Executive Director Mr. Arun Kant Paudel got involved.



## Farewell

**Mr. Arun Kant Paudel:** Arun Kant Paudel worked at Nepal GoodWeave Foundation as an Executive Director for one year. During his stay in the organization, Mr. Paudel worked with full efforts and dedication. Organizations would like to thank for his contribution and wish him very best for his future endeavors.

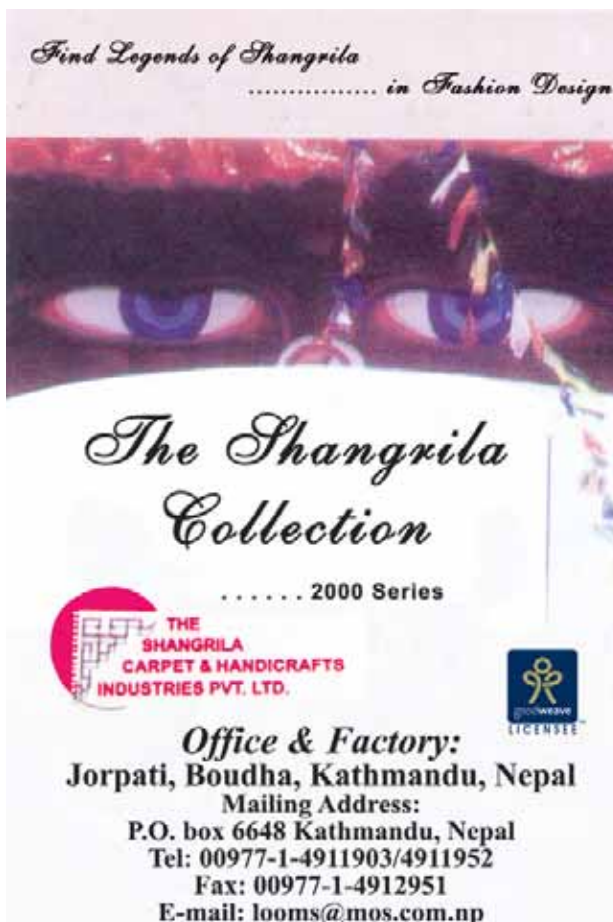


**Mr. Ghanshyam Shrestha:** Mr. Ghanshyam Shrestha worked at Nepal GoodWeave Foundation as a Programme Officer – IMC Section for four years. During his stay in Nepal GoodWeave Foundation, Mr. Shrestha worked very honestly and sincerely with full commitment and dedication. Organizations would like to thank for his contribution and wish him very best for his future endeavors.

**Mr. Rajkumar Gurung:** Mr. Rajkumar Gurung had joined Nepal GoodWeave Foundation as the Programme Monitor from April 22, 2010 – June 21, 2011. Mr. Gurung was specially hired for *Schooling Incentives Project Evaluation (SIPE) Project* under *Macro International* research programme funded by *US Department of Labour (USDOL)* for one year. Mr. Gurung worked very honestly and sincerely with full commitment and dedication. Organizations would like to thank for his contribution and wish him very best for his future endeavors.





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## Welcome

**Samjhana Pradhan:** Nepal GoodWeave Foundation welcomes Mrs. Samjhana Pradhan as the new Programme Officer for *Inspection, Monitoring and Certification (IMC Section)*.



Mrs. Pradhan joined the Foundation as Office Secretary from July 1, 2007 and promoted to Programme Officer – IMC effective from December 1, 2011. We do hope that during her tenure with NGF, she will work with full commitment and sincerity.

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