

**National Plan of Action  
for  
Rehabilitation and Reintegration  
of  
Children Affected by Armed Conflict**



**Government of Nepal**

**Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction**

**and**

**Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare**

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## Acronyms

CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
C&SIDC	Cottage and Small Industries Development Committee
DAO	District Administration Office
DCWB	District Child Welfare Board
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Office
DLO	District Labour Office
DPHO	District Public Health Office
DFTQC	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
DoWC	Department of Women and Children
LPC	Local Peace Committee
MoAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoPPW	Ministry of Physical Planning and Works
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Mol	Ministry of Industry
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoLJ	Ministry of Law and Justice
MoLTM	Ministry of Labour and Transportation Management
MOIC	The Ministry of Information & Communications
MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
DC&SI	Dept. of Cottage & Small Industry
WCO	Office of Women and Children

## Part 1

1. **Background**
2. **Guiding Principles**
3. **Definitions**
4. **Objectives**
5. **Problems and Challenges**
6. **CAAC: International Commitment and the Nepal Situation**
7. **Government Policies, Programmes, and the National Plans of Action**
8. **Existing Legal Provisions**

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## 1. Background

It is imperative that the State pays special attention to the all-round development of children, as they are the nation's future. All parties playing a role in national life need to be especially aware of the importance of implementing programmes that protect the interests and rights of children since the majority of the population are these young people. It is widely acknowledged that successful national development is a reflection of the overall development of children. Realizing this, the Government of Nepal has developed a long-term vision that aims to create an environment conducive to children's proper development by ending all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination against them through the protection and promotion of their rights.

Nepal ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC) on 26 January 1990. It has also ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict 2000. Thus, it has expressed its commitment at the international level to realizing and protecting the rights of children. In this regard, it has developed and is now implementing a 10-Year Plan of Action for Children (2004–2014).

Although the government is firm in its commitments to child protection, children are considered to have been the most affected during the decade-long armed conflict. It is widely recognized that children's rights, protection and development, including their education, health, parental/family care and protective environment, have suffered severely as a result of the activities of all parties to the conflict. On occasion, parties to the conflict used children directly or indirectly in their campaigns, instead of protecting them and ensuring their rights to education and opportunities for personal development so that they become capable citizens able to advance national development.

The use of children for political purposes is a continuing trend in various parts of the country, especially the Terai, and there is an increasing tendency to involve children in *bandha* and strikes. Consequently, children are forced to participate in violent and lawless activities, instead of being able to spend their time in personal development, and are being deprived of their rights to development and protection.

Although almost all children have been directly or indirectly affected by the conflict to some extent—the impacts of which are serious but difficult to assess—it is not possible to include all affected children in this National Plan of Action (NPA). This NPA addresses only the needs of children who were associated with armed forces or armed groups as well as those directly affected or victimized by the conflict. Children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) have been classified into two main groups.

- (a) Children associated with armed forces or armed groups (CAAFAG)
- (b) Children directly affected by the conflict

Many children, whether displaced from their homes or forced to leave their families and communities to join armed forces or groups, have been deprived of their inherent rights to physical, mental, cultural, moral and social development including the right to nutritious food, clothing, shelter, rest and leisure, and participation freely in play, entertainment, cultural life or arts, according to their age.

The current peace process will not be sustainable unless the problems of conflict-affected children are resolved satisfactorily. It is essential for the success of the peace process that the most vulnerable children are established as principal recipients of the benefits of peace and a secure future is ensured for them. The development and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes, targeting children in vulnerable and at-risk situations, are of paramount importance in the present context, where favourable conditions for peace and development have been created since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace

Agreement (CPA). There is also an urgent need to include the all-round development of children in proposed economic and social development programmes using an integrated approach. In this context, there is a need for the NPA to address the problems and issues of CAAC, to surmount the challenges they face, and to ensure their social rehabilitation and reintegration in a systematic and planned manner.

This NPA aims to achieve the following objectives.

- To avert re-recruitment and use of CAAC by armed forces and groups, given these children's vulnerable situation.
- To develop and implement immediate and periodic programmes for the social rehabilitation and reintegration of CAAC.
- To coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders in developing and implementing programmes for CAAC.
- To mobilize resources for implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for CAAC.

## **2. Guiding Principles**

The following are adopted as guiding principles in implementing the NPA.

- General principles
- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Children and justice
- Functional principles
- Accountability and transparency
- Relevancy
- Capacity-building
- Coordination, cooperation and partnership
- Confidentiality

### **2.1 General principles**

Every possible effort will be made to ensure the best interests and rights of the child are considered. Universal values and norms will be internalized in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration of CAAC.

#### **2.1.1 Non-discrimination**

Children will not be discriminated against on the basis of caste, ethnicity, class, colour, sex, language, religion, conscience, geographical or social origin, economic status, disability, birth or any other grounds.

Moreover, the special needs of children will be addressed while carrying out activities to demobilize them from and prevent their recruitment in armed forces or groups, and to facilitate their social reintegration.

#### **2.1.2 Best interests**

The best interests of the child will be considered while implementing activities to demobilize CAAC from armed forces or groups and prevent their recruitment or re-recruitment, and to facilitate their protection, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

#### **2.1.3 Children and justice**

Relevant authorities will pursue suspected perpetrators of acts of violence against children during the transitional justice phase. Child-friendly processes, provisioned for in the CRC

and other international laws, will be followed with regard to alleged offences committed by children during their involvement in armed forces or groups. Utmost efforts will be made to ensure children's inherent rights to life, survival and development are met. Children will be demobilized, following the principle that children involved in armed forces or groups have the right to be released from their ranks.

## **2.2 Functional principles**

### **2.2.1 Accountability and transparency**

Governmental and non-governmental organizations, individuals and groups involved in activities for children's well-being or for their demobilization from armed forces or groups should ensure that their actions or activities adhere to the principles of child rights and humanitarian laws. They have to show in a credible manner that their actions and activities are accountable and transparent.

### **2.2.2 Relevancy**

The political, economic, social and cultural factors that cause children to join armed forces or groups will be analysed extensively while designing programmes for children. Special attention will be given to the potential risks that might impact on CAAC and their families during implementation of programmes.

### **2.2.3 Capacity-building**

Capacity enhancement activities will be carried out to encourage the efforts of organizations and individuals engaged at national and local levels to prevent recruitment and use of children in armed forces or groups, and to demobilizing, rehabilitating and reintegrating those children who have been recruited. Necessary resources for the implementation of programmes will be made available to organizations and agencies involved in child protection.

### **2.2.4 Coordination, cooperation and partnership**

Exchange of information, coordination, cooperation and partnership will be promoted amongst organizations at central and local levels involved in preventing recruitment and use of children in armed forces or groups, and in demobilizing, rehabilitating and reintegrating those children who have been recruited.

### **2.2.5 Confidentiality**

Personal information obtained from CAAFAG will be held in confidence, as required, to protect them and their families. Understandings will be reached with organizations collecting information on such children to establish an inter-organizational information management system. A code of conduct will be developed and implemented to avoid potential risks to children and to protect their interests and those of their families as a result of the uncontrolled flow of information. Researchers and pollsters should also abide by the code of conduct, considering the sensitivity of information relating to children.

## **3. Definitions**

Unless and otherwise defined, for the purpose of the NPA:

- (a) 'Child' refers to a person below 18 years of age.
- (b) 'Child associated with armed force or armed group' refers to a child either recruited in any armed force or armed group as a combatant or involved therein as a cook, porter,

messenger, informer, cultural troupe member, prostitute or sex worker, and/or used for any other purpose.

- (c) 'Armed force' refers to the security or defence forces established according to the law of the land.
- (d) 'Armed group' refers to armed groups other than armed forces.
- (e) 'Armed conflict' refers to the armed conflict between the State and the then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) from 13 February 1996 to 21 November 2006, and also includes the armed rebellions carried out in different parts of the country by different groups in the post-CPA period.
- (f) 'Recruitment' refers to any act of compulsory, forced (use of threat, fear and enticement) or voluntary enrolment or mobilization of children in armed forces or armed groups.
- (g) 'Demobilization' refers to release of children from armed forces or groups through official and regulated means or any other manner. It also implies the act of desertion and/or leaving an armed force or group in any way.
- (h) 'Children affected by armed conflict' refers to children directly affected by armed conflict, who could be in any situation currently, and also includes CAAFAG, e.g.:
  - displaced from birthplace;
  - children whose father, mother or guardian has been killed, disappeared or disabled and/or children dependent on such people;
  - children separated from their parents or guardians;
  - children born or living in the temporary cantonments;
  - children wounded or disabled by detonation of abandoned explosives and mines;
  - children whose school was seized by any of the conflicting parties or who were traumatized or whose teachers were displaced or whose schooling was disrupted due to the conflict;
  - children who were sexually exploited by any armed force or group, or born as a result of sexual exploitation;
  - children punished due to alleged association with or provision of assistance to an armed force or group;
  - children imprisoned or facing trial on various allegations relating to the armed conflict and children of parents facing similar allegations.
- (i) 'Rehabilitation and reintegration' refers to acts of restoring CAAC to their families and society, and of enabling them to use available opportunities and play meaningful roles in their family and/or society.

CAAC who were below 18 years of age during the armed conflict but have now attained their majority are included in CAAC for the purposes of implementation of the NPA.

## **4. Objectives**

### **4.1 Main objective**

The main objective is to assist the current peace process in reaching a meaningful conclusion and protecting the rights and interests of CAAC and CAAFAG through the implementation of an integrated programme of social rehabilitation and reintegration for such children.

### **4.2 Functional objectives**

- To identify CAAC and CAAFAG.
- To develop programmes for the rehabilitation and reintegration of such children.
- To identify activities and responsible agencies for implementing reintegration activities.
- To ensure meaningful participation of children in activities designed for their protection and development.

- To mobilize governmental, non-governmental and international organizations for the protection of CAAC, and coordinate and synchronize programmes implemented by them.

## **5. Problems and Challenges**

The following problems and challenges are faced by CAAC and CAAFAG.

### **5.1 Problems**

- Displacement, separation, increased risk to life, and problems pertaining to food, shelter and clothing
- Discontinuation of education, including deprivation from enjoying social, spiritual, religious and cultural life
- Vulnerability to hazardous labour, including sexual exploitation and engagement in the worst forms of child labour such as commercial sex work and drug trafficking
- Victimization, social stigma and psychosocial disorders
- Inability to return home because of insecurity
- Lack of alternative care for children deprived of guardianship
- Education sector affected by the conflict
- Lack of access to education and health services
- Lack of adequate scholarships for CAAC
- Misuse of children for political purposes
- Lack of sufficient measures to address the special needs of girls
- Lack of sufficient and effective skills development programmes
- Conservative and traditional values and practices in society
- Failure of society and families to understand problems of CAAC and lack of adequate love and care
- Inability of existing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to include all CAAC
- Increase of incidents such as murder, mutilation, extrajudicial custody, abduction, disappearance and trafficking of children
- Lack of simple and accessible mechanisms to provide prompt services including rescue, relief and counselling to children with problems

### **5.2 Challenges**

The return, family reconciliation and reintegration of CAAC and CAAFAG, and the continuation of their development require sustained support to ensure that the peace process is a success. Reintegrating children into society through the reduction of their problems and the alleviation of psychosocial impacts caused by the conflict is a key challenge for Nepal at present. A number of programmes are being carried by the government and NGOs for the protection of CAAC and for the prevention of their use in armed conflict. However, the following challenges hamper the reduction of adverse impacts and the achievement of children's rehabilitation and reintegration.

- Lack of reliable data on CAAC
- Difficulty of demobilizing children from armed groups and providing for their psychosocial healing, return home and reintegration
- Delay in the discharge of disqualified minors from Maoist cantonments
- Difficulty of identifying children separated from their families and providing for their reintegration when they are reunited
- Lack of activities for immediate protection, risk reduction, rendering of transitional justice and provision of opportunities for education, health and capacity-building

- Lack of sufficient and effective support programmes in education, health, livelihood opportunities and life skills education
- Lack of activities to discourage the misuse of CAAC and vulnerable children in violent acts and for political purposes, even after the CPA, especially in the central and eastern Terai and eastern Hill districts
- Requirement for extensive functional coordination and consensus-building on an integrated approach amongst service-providing NGOs
- Lack of effective measures to prevent cross-border migration of children leaving armed forces or groups

## **6. CAAC: International Commitments and the Nepal Situation**

### **6.1 International commitments**

Various efforts were initiated for the rights and development of children after the First World War and at the beginning of the 1920s. Save the Children issued the Five-Point Declaration on the Welfare and Development of Children in 1923. Other significant declarations and world conferences regarding the rights and development of children include the Declaration on the Rights of Children 1924; Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948; Declaration on the Rights of the Child 1959; and the International Year of the Child 1979. A decade after the International Year of the Child, the UN General Assembly called a special session on children and adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989. The Assembly also adopted the action plan, First Call for Children. Two Optional Protocols to the CRC—‘Against the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography’ and ‘Against the Use of Children in Armed Conflict’—were adopted in 2000.

Another special session on children was held by the UN General Assembly in May 2002, and adopted the declaration, A World Fit for Children. The declaration urged State parties to promote the rights of the child and pay particular attention to a child’s healthy life and the provision of free and compulsory basic primary education, including quality education; to the elimination of abuse, exploitation and violence against children; and to the introduction of campaigns against HIV and AIDS. State parties were also implored to develop a 10-Year Plan of Action. Nepal’s 10-Year Plan of Action 2004–2014 was drawn up in 2004, and is currently being implemented.

The Cape Town Principles, adopted by a meeting organized by UNICEF in Cape Town in 1997, specifically address the problems and issues of CAAC. They are widely recognized, even beyond Africa. Thus, UNICEF organized a number of regional and sub-regional consultation workshops and produced two documents: The Paris Commitments to Protect Children Unlawfully Recruited or Used by Armed Forces or Armed Groups (The Paris Commitments) and the complementary document, Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (The Paris Principles). Both were ratified by a ministerial level meeting in Paris in February 2007.

### **6.2 Situation of Nepal**

The decade-long armed conflict came to an end after the Government of Nepal and the then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) signed the CPA on 21 November 2006. The country suffered substantial loss of life and property during the course of the armed conflict, and children in particular endured extremely negative impacts. However, statistics on CAAC are yet to be confirmed; this uncertainty is mainly due to the changeable political situation in the country during the post-conflict period with full peace yet to be achieved as well as because of other weak structural factors. However, some provisional data on CAAC and CAAFAG have been generated by various organizations.

The National Human Rights Commission Report for 2005 states that more than 500 children lost their lives, approximately 40,000 children were displaced, hundreds of children were

wounded, and more than 8,000 children were orphaned or separated from their families in the course of the armed conflict since February 1996. Another report published by the Commission in April 2009 asserts that approximately 200 infants reside at the Dasrathpur Cantonment in Surkhet. The report stresses that the provisions of the CPA pertaining to children have not been effectively implemented. It mentions that many children have lost their lives or been wounded and/or disabled by victim-activated explosions of abandoned bombs and mines, often resulting from the lack of demarcation of minefields and other booby-trapped areas.

According to the Situation Report on Children published by the Central Child Welfare Board on August 2009, information received from 53 districts suggests that there are at least 19,980 CAAC. Of this figure, almost 50 per cent (9,691 children) have been displaced with their parents and almost 20 per cent (3,930 children) have lost either their mother or father. The report states that 1,657 children have lost both parents and 671 have been disabled. The number of children with one parent disappeared is 671 and with both parents disappeared is 149. Parents of 96 children have been disabled. The condition of almost 14 per cent of CAAC is unclear.

According to the records of the Task Force formed by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to gather information on individuals, families and structures affected by the armed conflict, over 78,600 people were recorded as displaced to mid-June 2010. However, the number of displaced children is not available.

The Government of Nepal has recently provided compensation of NRs 100,000 to each family of 16,719 individuals who died as a result of the conflict. It has also declared 1,327 persons, whose whereabouts are still unknown, as disappeared.

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has been disbursing educational scholarships to the children of deceased, disabled and displaced persons. To mid-April 2009, scholarships had been provided to 1,417 children in 52 districts.

According to verification performed by the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), there were 2,973 children out of 4,008 disqualified personnel in Maoist cantonments.

On analysing these data, it can be concluded that the number of CAAC is substantial, despite a confirmed number being unavailable.

According to Clauses 7.5.1 and 7.6.1 of the CPA, both conflicting parties committed themselves to special protection of the rights of women and children. A consensus was reached to immediately prevent any form of exploitation and abuse against women and children, including child labour and violent acts against children, and not to recruit and use children aged less than 18 years in any armed force or group. The CPA also called for the immediate release of children from armed forces or groups, and the provision of necessary and adequate support for their prompt rehabilitation.

Article 22 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 prohibits hazardous child labour, including recruitment and use of minors by the armed forces and police or by non-State parties.

#### *6.2.1 Efforts to initiate an action plan*

Efforts have been made to support implementation of the commitments laid out in the CPA. A Task Force, coordinated by the Co-Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, has been formed with representatives of the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, and the CAAFAG Working Group—a network of national and international organizations including UNICEF, Child Workers of Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) and Save the Children. The Task Force has conducted regional and central workshops with representatives of concerned government and non-governmental organizations, and also with CAAC and CAAFAG.

## **6.2.2 Basic literature consulted for NPA**

The key documents consulted during preparation of the NPA were the CPA 2006, the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies 2007, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999, Optional Protocol against the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 2000, Optional Protocol against the Use of Children in Armed Conflict 2000, National Plan of Action for Children 2004, The Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (The Paris Principles), the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007, the Children's Act 1992, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1999, and various other by-laws.

## **7. Government Policies, Programmes, and National Plans of Action**

### **7.1 Major actions by the Government of Nepal**

A directive to stop recruitment of children aged less than 18 years has been issued and implemented by the Nepal Army and the Police, following a decision by the Cabinet on 6 August 2006. The by-law Recruitment of Boys (Conditions of Service) 1952 has been nullified.

The Optional Protocol to CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict 2000 was ratified in 2006.

A Steering Committee was formed under the Chair of the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction for the demobilization and rehabilitation of disqualified combatants (including children) verified by UNMIN, and the task of discharging disqualified combatants from the main and satellite cantonments was completed between 8 January and 8 February 2010.

### **7.2 Three-Year Interim Plan**

The keynote paper of the government's Three-Year Interim Plan 2007/08–2009/10 stressed the importance of protecting and promoting the fundamental rights of children, through the creation of a child-friendly environment conducive for their overall development. Regarding CAAC, it adopted strategies to expand and continue efforts to discharge and rehabilitate them, and increase their access to services and facilities. It prioritized CAAC in the elimination of all forms of exploitation, discrimination, abuse, violence and hazards against children and aimed to bring them within the framework of social protection. It also emphasized the need to intensify programmes focused on the effective rescue, rehabilitation and protection of CAAC, to establish Child Protection Centres at regional levels, to expand psychosocial counselling and rehabilitation services, and to ensure participation of children in the development of such programmes.

### **7.3 Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare**

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has carried out the following programmes for CAAC.

- Short-term relief activities implemented under the Programme on Protection and Management of Rural Children of Districts Highly Affected by the Conflict for children displaced by the conflict from districts in the Mid- and Far Western Development Regions and sheltered by the Nepal Children's Organizations in Kailali, Banke and Kapilvastu districts, including those reintegrated with their families.
- Socialization activities conducted through child clubs for CAAFAG following their discharge and return home.
- Toll-Free Child Helplines established and managed: telephone no. 1098 for activities related to the search for lost children and the rescue and relief of children in

vulnerable situations, and telephone no. 104 for the Coordination Centre for the Search for Lost Children.

- Report prepared for submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. It includes information on measures adopted to implement the Optional Protocol against the Use of Children in the Armed Conflict, and is currently awaiting approval.
- A Central Child Rescue Emergency Fund created for the immediate rescue of children in emergency situations and for rehabilitating them in their families and society.
- The capacity of the children's home operated through public-private partnership in Bhaktapur district has been strengthened, and additional children's homes are being constructed in Nepalgunj, Pokhara and Biratnagar.
- The 10-Year National Plan of Action on Children 2004-2014 is being implemented. Its mid-term evaluation is currently underway.
- Minimum Standards for Operating Residential Children's Homes 2003 are being implemented, and the draft of An Overall Standard for Operating Residential Children's Home 2010 has been completed and is awaiting approval.
- Child Helpline Operational Procedures 2007 have been formulated and are being implemented.
- Child welfare homes have been operationalized at four places: Butwal, Rajbiraj, Biratnagar and Birgunj.
- The physical improvement and expansion of Juvenile Benches has been implemented at courts in 24 districts.
- Conditions and Process for Adoption of Nepali Children by Foreigners 2008 has been prepared and implemented. The process of ratifying the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption is underway.
- Employment-oriented skills training has been implemented regularly for children sheltered in children's homes who are aged 16 years and above.
- The draft of the Children's Act 2010 has been completed and is in the process of finalization.

#### **7.4 Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction**

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has provided scholarships for the children of people killed during the conflict. The Procedure for Financial Assistance, Relief and Compensation to the Conflict Affected 2008 has stipulated that the State will provide free scholarships for a maximum of three children of those killed by the conflict, if their family is being provided with compensation by the government. There is similar provision for scholarships for up to three children of the disappeared. An annual lump sum amounting to NRs 10,000 for primary, NRs 12,000 for lower secondary, NRs 14,000 for secondary and NRs 16,000 for certificate or higher secondary levels is provided to eligible children until the age of 18 years or Grade 12.

#### **7.5 Nepal Police**

The Nepal Police has established a Directorate for Women, Children and Services at the central level and Women's Cells at the district level. Such cells are located separately from police station buildings.

#### **7.6 National Plans of Action**

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has developed and initiated implementation of the 10-Year National Plan of Action for Children 2004-2014 to protect and promote the rights of children. This plan includes programmes to protect children from conflict and ensure the rights of CAAC.

The Human Rights Action Plan 2007 incorporates various aspects of the rights of children. It specifically addresses the protection and rehabilitation of children who are displaced, homeless and/or devoid of their family or anyone to take care of them as well as those in vulnerable situations.

The Office of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers has developed and implemented the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence 2010. This plan aspires to establish Nepal as a country free from gender-based violence, where women, men and children can fully utilize their potentials and lead dignified lives. In addition, it aims to ensure access to justice for the victims of gender-based violence and provide them with protection, and includes strengthening of the health sector's response, awareness-raising and promotion of zero-tolerance to sexual violence, and social and economic empowerment of women and girls. It has developed a system to monitor information on gender-based violence against women and girls, identify women and girls in vulnerable situations, and provide them with health and legal services. It also includes programmes to establish a separate One-door Emergency Centre at district hospitals to address cases of gender-based violence, form an effective mechanism for managing complaints to prevent abuse of girls by their peers and teachers, provide separate toilets for girls in schools and other public places, strengthen the economic conditions of girls in vulnerable situations, etc.

The Ministry of Labour and Transport Management has developed and implemented a Master Plan on Child Labour 2004–2014 with the aim of creating a child-labour-free society. This plan has the objectives of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2009 and all forms of child labour by 2014. It intends to rescue and protect children from cruel and inhuman working situations. It consists of institutional reform, legal reform, awareness-raising, and programmes to prevent children from entering the worst forms of child labour, to protect them from trafficking and engaging in forced illegal acts, and to rehabilitate and socially reintegrate rescued children.

### **7.7 Efforts of international organizations and NGOs**

In 2006, international and national organizations working in the child protection sector, including UNICEF, formed and operationalized a network, the CAAFAG Working Group, to address the problems of CAAFAG. Various programmes have been launched by organizations affiliated with the network to strengthen the capacities of CAAFAG to restore and enhance their roles in their families and their communities as well as the country as a whole through community reintegration.

Activities are carried out within Community-Based Reintegration Programme Areas to provide CAAC, CAAFAG and other children in vulnerable situations with education, health services, livelihood opportunities, psychosocial counselling, awareness-raising, reconciliation, prevention of re-recruitment into armed forces and groups, and community support (schools and community-based organizations). In addition, to support for community reintegration, organizations are providing protection services, legal aid, shelter, support to children disabled by the conflict, emergency humanitarian services, assistance according to children's specific needs as well as creative activities to promote harmony in communities through the participation of children.

Support has been provided to approximately 8,300 CAAFAG and children in vulnerable situations in 58 districts. Children have been helped to return to their families and communities, and environments conducive to a normal civilian life have been created. Child clubs, child protection committees and other stakeholder organizations have been provided with capacity-building on the reintegration and protection of children. For children who could not be reintegrated with their families, long-term alternative care and opportunities for skills training, education and income generation have been developed. Policy advocacy has been conducted with stakeholders to include special provisions for children with regard to implementation of the CPA.

### **7.8 Monitoring and reporting of violations of the rights of children**

The UN Security Council has formed a Task Force to monitor and report on children and armed conflict. Following UN Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005), a National Task Force was established to monitor and report on issues pertaining to Resolution 1612 and other relevant decisions. The National Task Force consists of national and international NGOs working in the area of child protection including United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Save the Children, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), CWIN Nepal and Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), and coordinated jointly by UNICEF and Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). Its main objective is to provide reliable, factual and timely information to the UN Task Force. It reports to the UN Secretary General on grave violations of the rights of children affected by conflict (e.g., killing and mutilation of children, torture of children, recruitment and use of children as combatants, abduction, sexual violence, attacks on or use of schools and hospitals, extrajudicial custody, deprivation of access to humanitarian assistance, etc.). The Secretary General presents the report to the Security Council. The National Task Force submits its annual report to the UN Secretary General and disseminates it publicly.

### **8. Existing Legal Provisions**

The State has enacted and implemented the Children's Act 1991, Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act 1999, By-law on Children 1995, and Juvenile Justice (Procedural) By-law 2006; these are specifically aimed at protecting children's interests and rights to physical, mental and intellectual development. In addition, Human Trafficking (Control) Act 2007 has been implemented. Although there are many provisions on the rights of children in the country's existing laws, there is still a need for including the prohibition of recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups in national laws, as stipulated by international laws.

## Part 2

### 9. Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- Identification and data collection
- Rescue and care
- Family reunion
- Rehabilitation in family and community
- Participation
- Community awareness, peace and reconciliation
- Transitional justice
- Code of conduct

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## **9. Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

Along with the identification of CAAC and the rescue of CAAFAG, this NPA aims to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into families and society through the creation of an environment that is conducive to leading an active life like other citizens. A Central Committee for Rehabilitation of Conflict-Affected Children and District-level Implementation Committees for Rehabilitation of Children Affected by Armed Conflict will be formed to implement programmes. Cooperation and support from the Central and District Child Welfare Boards as well as experts in the field of child protection will sought and utilized. Local Peace Committees in districts will liaise with conflicting parties and conduct dialogue and negotiation to demobilize CAAFAG. While developing programmes, care will be taken to consider children both included and not included in the process of demobilization from armed forces and armed groups. The participation of families and communities where children will be rehabilitated will be ensured as far as possible. In this regard, the following activities will be carried out.

### **9.1 Identification and data collection**

Unfortunately, figures for the actual number of CAAC are not yet available. Such basic data are essential for allocating resources and designing appropriate programmes. Therefore, information regarding the number and situation of CAAC and CAAFAG will be gathered in the initial phase of support.

- The Central Child Welfare Board, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, District Child Welfare Boards, NGOs and experts working in the field of children protection, child clubs and children will be mobilized to identify CAAC. The support of Local Peace Committees will also be utilized.
- Data will be generated and mapping conducted, based on identification of CAAC.
- Detailed profiles of children requiring long-term assistance or special services or regular observation will be developed.

### **9.2 Rescue and care of CAAFAG**

The best interest of the child will be considered and a study of communities where CAAFAG are to be rehabilitated will be undertaken while designing plans for their rehabilitation and reintegration. Assistance will be sought from organizations and experts working in the field of child protection, as needed. The proposed programme will be carried out independently without any preconditions. High priority will be placed on mobilizing and allocating appropriate resources. The support of Local Peace Committees will be used to make contact and negotiate with conflicting parties for the ordered demobilization of CAAFAG. Short- and long-term initiatives and support programmes will be undertaken.

- Organizations and individuals will be mobilized to identify the situation and status of CAAFAG.
- CAAFAG will be demobilized through both formal and informal means (with the help of organizations actively working with children at the local level).
- The process of demobilization will be monitored intensively in light of the individual conditions of each child.
- Information on child rights and options for livelihoods opportunities will be provided to children.
- The process of demobilization will be designed to be as short and swift as possible.
- Children belonging to families and communities targeted for rehabilitation will also be involved in the process of designing programmes. Activities will seek to create a welcoming environment in families and communities that are rehabilitating and reintegrating CAAFAG. The rights and aspirations of children as well as the priorities

and values of society will be taken into consideration when preparing an accepting environment in families and communities.

The following measures will be employed for the process of demobilization.

- Transit houses will be established for CAAFAG to stay in after their demobilization from armed forces or groups until they return to their final destinations.
- Health checkups and necessary medical treatment will be provided to children in transit houses.
- Pregnant girls and young mothers with babies will be provided with essential services and care in transit houses, including a safe birthing room with appropriate facilities, nutritious food, and other basic services/facilities.
- Children will be provided with adequate food and accommodation in transit houses.
- Special attention will be given to severing children's contacts with adult combatants while they are living in transit houses. Transit houses will have special and adequate security arrangements.
- Special arrangements will be made for the security of children in transit houses.
- Children will participate in programme planning and decision-making processes.
- Children will be provided with original documents for identification as well as with information on the services they can receive.
- Regular monitoring will be carried out to assess the situation of reintegrated children, including their need for further assistance.

Information on the provisions in international and national laws prohibiting the recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups will be widely disseminated to inform the general public and urge armed forces and groups to refrain from the use of children.

### **9.3 Family reunion**

Special programmes will be implemented to reintegrate CAAFAG with their families and communities. Where children cannot be reintegrated into their own family, alternative measures will be taken to try to rehabilitate these children with a relative or guardian or other person willing to adopt them. The following programmes will be undertaken to this end.

- Family tracing will be carried out for children separated from their families.
- Transportation and other costs associated with travel home as well as some short-term assistance will be provided to families and communities during the process of reuniting children with families.
- Where a child is unable to return to his/her home immediately, an assessment will be conducted and, if it is possible to create an environment conducive for his/her return, help will be provided. If return is not possible, alternatives such as rehabilitating the child with a close relative or using another community-based option will be investigated. Arrangements will be made for the child to receive adequate sustenance during this period and their rights to basic services, nutritious food, entertainment and sports/games facilities according to their age will be fulfilled.
- Psychosocial counselling and support will be offered to children and families during the process of reintegration, as required.
- Interaction programmes, workshops and awareness campaigns will be launched during the reintegration process to create a harmonious environment and ensure acceptance by families, schools, peers and society.
- Peace-building and reconciliation programmes will be implemented.

### **9.4 Rehabilitation in family and community**

CAAC and CAAFAG will be rehabilitated in their places of origin, if possible. Programmes on education, health, vocational skills training, self-employment and so on will be implemented to accomplish their sustainable rehabilitation in families and communities.

#### 9.4.1 Education

Education programmes will be launched for CAAC, based on the strategies of developing human resources and institutional capacities as well as increasing decentralization and cooperative efforts, to attain the key objective of enhanced access to quality formal education for school-aged children adopted by the 10-Year National Plan of Action for Children.

Education programmes for CAAC will be integrated within programmes implemented by the Ministry of Education, such as Education Programme for Conflict-Affected Families, Scholarships, School Sector Reform Plan, Second Higher Education Project, etc. Similarly, the Alternative Schooling Programme, School Outreach Programme and Income-Generating Programme under the Non-Formal Education Programme will be adapted and implemented in a manner that is friendly to CAAC in terms of time and requirements. Such programmes will be tailored according to relevant criteria (age, capacities and interest).

The following programmes relating to education will be undertaken.

- School-aged CAAC will be identified and enrolled in school.
- Bridge courses will be conducted for CAAC who have missed schooling.
- Free education will be provided to CAAC until they reach 18 years of age or Grade 12.
- Support for education and scholarships will follow a fixed standard, according to the age, capacities and interests of CAAC.
- Measures will be adopted to discourage drop out from school.
- Income-generating programmes will be implemented for economically weaker families or guardians who are unable to support schooling of children, on the condition that they send their children to school.
- Open education, basic school outreach and other programmes including technical education will be implemented for children aged 14 years and above not able to continue schooling.
- Priority will be given to reconstruction and improvement of damaged and destroyed school buildings, including the construction of additional classrooms, separate toilets for girls, adequate drinking water supply, and disabled-friendly classroom and toilet facilities.
- While designing programmes for CAAC, consideration will be given to selecting activities that benefit all children inclusively such as teaching aids, materials for extra-curricular activities, etc.
- Schools and children will be declared as zones of peace.
- Private schools will be encouraged to support CAAC and be sensitive to their needs.
- Orientations, training, workshops and interaction programmes will be conducted for Village Education Committees, School Management Committees, parents, teachers and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of and sensitivity to the issues faced by CAAC.
- The establishment of child clubs and children's groups will be promoted to enhance participation by CAAC.

#### 9.4.2 Health

The health-related needs of CAAC will be addressed through various programmes. Services offered by VDC-level health posts and sub health posts and by primary health care centres are free for all. Certain services at district hospitals are also free for five categories of people: the poorest of the poor, the destitute, women, the elderly and the disabled.

- CAAC will receive free health check-ups and treatment for injuries sustained as a result of the conflict.

- CAAC who are disabled, the victims of sexual exploitation, neglected or abandoned by their family and community, drug addicted, etc. may require specific assistance. Instead of designing separate programmes for them, general programmes will be adapted to their needs. These modifications will be designed for short periods and will be monitored for effectiveness. Existing standards and policies will be implemented, and additional policies and standards will be developed as needed.
- CAAC from poor families as well as their parents will receive free health services.
- Special programmes will be implemented for children who are the victims of gender-based violence.
- Private health institutions will be encouraged to enhance their services for CAAC, and appropriate working procedures will be developed, after discussions with the Nepal Medical Council, Association of Private Hospitals in Nepal and private nursing homes/hospitals. Alternative arrangements will be made for obtaining services from the private or non-government sector, and reimbursement of expenses will be made for treatment of CAAC in places without public hospitals or required services.
- Skills training on sensitivity towards CAAC will be provided for health service providers. Awareness programmes on treating CAAC and their families respectfully will be conducted for service providers.
- Awareness programmes will be conducted for CAAC on available services for reproductive health and safe motherhood.
- A mechanism will be developed for referral of CAAC to the central level, if suitable treatment is not available in local or district health institutions.
- Standards for adequate nutritious food for CAAC will be developed while designing services and programmes.
- CAAC may be treated overseas, if their condition requires.

#### 9.4.3 Psychosocial care

Some children are suffering from the psychosocial effects of armed conflict, and require timely psychosocial care and support to prevent serious impacts throughout their lives. Therefore, psychosocial programmes for CAAC are required simultaneously with their rehabilitation. The following programmes will be implemented.

- Coordinated programmes will be implemented with the help of experts according to the psychosocial needs of CAAC.
- The role of family and community is vital in providing psychosocial support to CAAC. Therefore, families and communities will be supported to reduce traumatic impacts on children, build capacities for coping with problems, play cooperative parenting roles, lessen blame and discrimination, work in partnership, initiate livelihood activities, and activate social networks (e.g., women groups and child clubs).
- The services of trained psychosocial workers and counsellors will be provided for children requiring mental health and psychosocial assistance. These services will be centred on the individual, family and community.
- Although the number of children in need of mental health and psychosocial counselling is relatively small, they require specific services. Such services are not available at primary health care centres at present. Therefore, orientation and training on the subject will be organized for health workers, teachers, government stakeholders and other relevant individuals. Any child requiring additional assistance will be referred to relevant institutions.
- Adolescence is a period of great change for all children, therefore, awareness programmes and counselling services will be launched for all adolescents to prevent them from joining armed forces and groups.

#### 9.4.4 Vocational training

Skills development training will be provided to CAAC aged 14–18 years who are unable to continue schooling because of poor economic conditions. Child-friendly training will be selected from the 90 types of training implemented by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), Department of Cottage and Small Industries and Cottage, and Small Industries Development Committee (excluding those forbidden by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act). Training packages will be appropriate to the age and interests of children, respond to a demand in the local market, and not result in adverse health effects for children.

Children and child clubs will participate in the design of programmes. Training will be based on usefulness for life skills and employment/livelihoods. CTEVT will assist in skills testing and certification, as required. Knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship and market management will be provided following vocational skills training. Options to market products will also be investigated.

The following training will be organized; this list is merely an example, as other training packages are available or could be developed, if needed.

- Training based on traditional skills and arts, especially small and cottage industries
  - Handicraft products
  - Sewing and knitting
  - Herbal products
  - Repair of computer, mobile phone, television, radio, watch, etc.
  - Hair dressing
  - Beautician/beauty parlour
  - Food products (*dalmoth*, *papad*, pickles, etc.)
  - Chow-chow, bakery products, etc.
  - Incense sticks, candles, etc.
- Income-generation
  - Animal husbandry (sheep, goat, pig, poultry, cattle, buffalo, etc.)
  - Fruit, vegetable and off-season vegetable farming, mushroom growing, seed production, nursery, etc.
- Agricultural technology training
  - Training on processes of farming (regional and district levels)
  - Agro-based income-generation programmes
- Trade and commerce management training
  - Operation of shops and trades
  - Accountancy training

The equipment and tools necessary to operate businesses will be provided for trainees either free or at a low cost. Credit facilities without interest or with minimum interest will be arranged for a certain period for trainees to operate and expand their businesses. Banks and local cooperatives will be mobilized to finance such enterprises and provide such support. Business credit will be mobilized according to approved project proposals.

Long-term measures will be undertaken to develop income-generation programmes for the families of poor CAAC to increase their economic and social security.

#### 9.4.5 Self-employment programme

The following types of self-employed programmes will be operated for CAAC aged 14–18 years who have completed skills development, income-generation or entrepreneurship training.

*Entrepreneur development support:* Training on entrepreneurship will be conducted for CAAC establishing and successfully operating their business. Training on financial

management and technology will be organized for entrepreneurs operating with or without credit. Existing entrepreneurship development/training will be revised, according to required timeframe and contents.

*Micro-enterprise:* Establishment of small-scale industries in rural areas will be promoted with the purpose of creating employment for CAAC and their families.

*Micro-credit:* Credit facilities without or with low interest will be arranged for a fixed period, according to approved project proposals, for individuals who have acquired skills through vocational training or self-employment programmes so that they can establish an enterprise or trade.

#### **9.4.6 Protection**

Special attention will be given to ensure that CAAC are not discriminated against on any grounds or exploited sexually or physically. Arrangements will be made for the protection of their rights and for a safe home environment. Every effort will be taken to ensure a safe environment for the rehabilitation and reintegration of CAAFAG. Recognizing that families offer the best protection for children, the following activities will be conducted.

- Awareness campaigns will be launched to eliminate stigma and discrimination by family members, school personnel, peers and community members towards CAAC and CAAFAG, especially girls, and to encourage acceptance of their reintegration into families and communities.
- Special precautionary measures will be adopted to reduce the possibilities of exploitation of reintegrated children by their families and communities.
- Special measures will be undertaken to protect infants born to girls while they were in armed forces or groups. The birth of such babies will be registered and birth certificates provided.
- Employment and/or income-generation programmes will be implemented to support families who are unable to rehabilitate their children because of poverty.
- Protection programmes will be operated with the participation of local organizations working for CAAC. Measures to strengthen such organizations will be carried out, as required. Protection programmes will use a community-based approach.
- A trust will be established at the district level to support children including CAAC. Funds received from the government, DDCs/municipalities and VDCs, donor agencies and NGOs will be mobilized for the trust.
- Child protection homes will be established as required at the local level as a last option for rehabilitation of CAAC without parents and relatives.
- Initiatives will be taken to provide vital and basic documents for children, including the following:
  - Birth registration certificate for children born in armed forces or groups
  - Certificate of disability, if any
  - Transfer certificate required to enrol in school
  - Other necessary documents
- Many children are not safe because of unexploded mines and other devices abandoned during the conflict. Awareness programmes and mine risk education will be launched at various levels including schools to protect children from accidental detonations. Security agencies will be prompted to defuse mines as soon as possible.

#### **9.5 Participation**

Children have the right to participate in the inception and design of programmes relating to them. By doing so, they are able to contribute to social work and enhance their intellectual development. The following policies will be adopted to promote the participation of CAAC.

- The participation of CAAC will be ensured in all phases of the programme cycle including planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Avenues for the participation of CAAC in social activities will be created by involving them in child clubs and groups working for the welfare of children. The establishment of child clubs will be promoted in localities where they do not exist, and CAAC will be encouraged to participate in their formation and activities.
- Financial and technical support will be provided for capacity-building of organizations working with CAAC to enhance their participation.
- Parents, families and communities will also be involved from the planning phase of programmes for CAAC.
- Awareness campaigns will be launched to ensure participation of children in various community activities, including Local Peace Committees.

### **9.6 Community awareness, peace and reconciliation**

Government organizations and NGOs working with children in the districts will be identified so that they can coordinate on programmes for awareness, peace-building and reconciliation. Materials will be developed to implement programmes at district, VDC and ward levels.

- Awareness campaigns will be launched to create a welcoming environment for CAAC and acceptance by families, schools, peers and society. Audio, visual and other materials will be used extensively in awareness campaigns.
- Broad local participation will be mobilized for implementing awareness programmes. School teachers, civil society members, influential people, religious teachers, priests, conflict-affected persons, child clubs, organizations working for the interests of children, political parties and so on will be mobilized.
- Programmes will be evaluated and successful models will be disseminated across the districts.
- Programmes on civilian life will be launched for CAAFAG living with their families to help them re-adjust to family life.
- Peace-building programmes will be designed and implemented to prevent children from joining armed forces and groups.
- To build sustainable peace, peace, human rights and civic education will be included in school textbooks.

### **9.7 Transitional justice**

Countries entering a peace process after conflict often adopt measures for transitional justice as structures and systems are not able to provide full services during the transitional period. Human rights and humanitarian laws have often been violated not only in the course of the conflict but also during the peace process. Women and children are the most common victims in these situations. If judicial services cannot be met through State mechanisms, transitional justice measures will be adopted to protect the rights and interests of children. Measures will also be taken to protect children who are accused of committing criminal offences during the conflict.

- Efforts will be made to ensure that the recruitment of children in armed forces and armed groups is a punishable offence.
- All children will be protected from torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment either when demobilizing from an armed force or armed group or on being arrested by any party. Perpetrators of such acts against children will be tried under criminal law.
- Perpetrators of sexual and/or labour exploitation of children will be punished by law.
- Children in conflict with the law will be pardoned or sent to reformatories, according to the nature of their alleged offence.

- The special needs of children will be taken into account when implementing relief and restitution programmes.
- The activities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission to Investigate the Whereabouts of the Disappeared will be child-friendly. Both commissions will establish a Unit for the Child, and individuals with the capacity to understand children's issues and use a juvenile justice approach will be selected to deal with establishing the truth, supervising acquittals and reparations, and conducting institutional reforms. Special arrangements will be made for children's hearings.
- To ensure timely justice for children, a mechanism shall be established to allow parents/guardians to register complains and advocate on behalf of children.
- Infrastructure required for effective implementation of juvenile justice will be developed. Initiatives will be taken to establish a separate child unit in the Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, Courts, and so on. Similarly, child reformatories, rehabilitation centres, counselling centres, etc. will be established.
- Free legal assistance will be provided to protect the rights and property of CAAC and children in need of legal aid.

### **9.8 Code of conduct**

A code of conduct will be developed to bring congruency to programmes for children and the activities of implementers as well as to ensure the avoidance of negative impacts on children. Arrangements will be made for the government and NGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders to abide by the code of conduct. A monitoring mechanism will be designed to report on implementation and violations of the code. The following issues will be covered, especially for individuals and agencies involved in sensitive children's issues.

- Procedures for individuals and agencies involved in the collection, storage and use of data on CAAC
- Sensitive issues for agencies involved in investigation and research on CAAC
- Procedures for agencies, programme coordinators, programme implementers and field staff engaged in programmes for CAAC
- Sensitive issues for agencies involved in security and justice

### Part 3

10. Institutional Structure for Implementation
11. Monitoring and Evaluation
12. Resources
13. Challenges, Constraints and Risks

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## 10. Institutional Structure for Implementation

Following arrangements will be made to implement, monitor and evaluate the NPA.

- The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare will jointly coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. Priority will be given to activities for rehabilitation of CAAFAG. Long-term rehabilitation programmes such as those for education, health, agriculture, industry, skills development and self-employment will be planned to be completed within the project period, which is a maximum of three years.
- The Central Child Welfare Board, District Child Welfare Boards and Child Protection Committees (at district, municipality and VDC levels) will be mobilized to implement programmes.
- Partnerships will be built with national and international NGOs working with children at the local level as well as with UN and other funding agencies.
- Activities will be carried out to build the capacities of government and non-government agencies at central and district levels. The Child Protection Committee and Network of Child Clubs will be included in capacity-building programmes, as required.
- Orientations, interaction workshops and awareness-raising programmes on the rights and protection of children will be organized for stakeholders, and will include information on duty-bearers' roles and responsibilities.
- Infrastructure required to implement programmes effectively will be created. Technical assistance will be provided to build the capacities of agencies involved in implementing programmes along with institutional strengthening.
- The participation of CAAC will be enhanced while implementing programmes at the local level. Users' committees will be encouraged to provide employment to CAAC, according to their skills and age, in development activities implemented in their area.

### 10.1 Institutional mechanism for implementation of the NPA

A Central Committee for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC will be formed for implementing the NPA. It will be composed of the following members.

1. Minister, MoPR	Chairperson
2. Minister, MoWCSW	Co-Chairperson
3. Secretary, MoPR	Member
4. Secretary, MoWCSW	Member
5. Secretary, MoLD	Member
6. Secretary, MoE	Member
7. Secretary, MoHP	Member
8. Secretary, MoI	Member
9. Secretary, MoHA	Member
10. Secretary, MoF	Member
11. Member-Secretary, Social Welfare Council	Member
12. Executive Director, CCWB	Member
13. Representative from NGOs working with CAAFAG (nominated by the Chairperson)	Member
14. Two representatives, at least one female, from private organizations relating to education, health, industry and commerce (nominated by the Chairperson)	Member
15. Representative, National Women's Commission	Member
16. Co-Secretary, MoPR (Law and Communication Division)	Member-Secretary

Representatives of the National Human Rights Commission and funding agencies contributing to CAAFAG will have observer status in the Central Committee's meetings.

#### **10.1.1 Functions, duties and rights of the Central Committee for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

- To function as the high-level agency to implement the NPA.
- To make policy decisions for implementation of the NPA.
- To coordinate programmes implemented by various ministries, departments and other government agencies.
- To coordinate programmes implemented by donor agencies.
- To coordinate with national and international NGOs.
- To develop and execute guidelines to implement the NPA.
- To mobilize necessary resources to implement the NPA.
- To monitor and evaluate the NPA.
- To find solutions to problems encountered during implementation of the NPA.

#### **10.2 Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

An implementation committee will be formed to execute the NPA, including the decisions of the Central Committee. It will be composed of the following members.

1. Secretary, MoPR	Chairperson
2. Co-Secretary, MoPR (Law and Communication Division)	Member
3. Co-Secretary, NPC Secretariat	Member
4. Co-Secretary, MoWCSW	Member
5. Co-Secretary, MoLD	Member
6. Director General, Department of Health	Member
7. Director General, Department of Education	Member
8. Director General, Cottage and Small Industries Department	Member
9. Director General, Department of Labour	Member
10. Director General, Department of Women and Children	Member
11. Chief, Women, Children and Service Directorate, Nepal Police	Member
12. Executive Director, Cottage and Small Industries Development Committee	Member
13. Executive Director, CCWB	Member
14. Two representatives, at least one female, of NGOs (nominated by the Central Committee)	Member
15. Joint Secretary, MoPR (Responsible for Children's Affairs)	Member-Secretary

Representatives of funding agencies, designated by the Central Committee, will be able to attend meetings as observers.

#### **10.2.1 Functions of the Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

- To develop programmes proposed in the NPA and submit suggestions to the Central Committee for approval.
- To send approved programmes to concerned agencies for implementation.
- To conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of approved programmes.
- To submit periodic progress reports to the Central Committee.
- To execute the decisions of the Central Committee.
- To coordinate and monitor programmes at the district level.
- To coordinate between funding and executing agencies.

- To coordinate with representatives of executing agencies to integrate proposed NPA programmes into their institutional programmes.
- To take initiatives for mobilizing additional funds for programmes.

A separate project will be established at the MoPR to implement the NPA. The Co-Secretary Responsible for Children's Affairs will head the project.

### **10.3 District Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

A District Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC will be formed at the district level under the DCWB. It will be composed of the following members.

1. Convener, DCWB	Coordinator
2. Local Development Officer	Member
3. Chief, District Agriculture Development Office	Member
4. Chief, District Veterinary Services Office	Member
5. Chief, Cottage and Small Industries Development Office/Committee	Member
6. Chief, District Health Office	Member
7. Chief, District Education Office	Member
8. Chief, Labour Office	Member
9. Chief, District Police Office	Member
10. Representative, District Technical School	Member
11. Chairperson/Representative, LPC	Member
12. Representative of CAAFAG Working Group or of NGOs locally active in children's issues as designated by the Coordinator if the CAAFAG Working Group does not exist	Member
13. Representative, DCWB	Member
14. Representative, District Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee	Member
15. Two representatives (conflict-affected) from child clubs or networks nominated by the Coordinator	Member
16. District Child Rights Officer	Member
17. Chief, Women's Development Office	Member-Secretary

Funding agencies supporting implementation of the NPA in the district will be able to attend meetings as observers.

#### **10.3.1 Functions, duties and rights of the District Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

- To gather baseline data initially for implementing programmes for CAAC. The concerned District Committee will be responsible for collection of the data. Data gathered will be kept at the secretariat of the District Committee. Data submitted to the Implementation Committee at the central level will be kept at the MoWCSW. Personal information on CAAC and their families will be kept confidential through the establishment of an inter-agency information system in collaboration with and on the understanding of implementing agencies involved in data collection.
- To execute the decisions of the Central Committee and its Implementation Committee.
- To implement the NPA at the district level.
- To integrate proposed NPA programmes with those of District Offices at the district level.
- To conduct monitoring and evaluation of programmes.
- To submit progress and status reports on implementation of NPA programmes to the Implementing Committee.

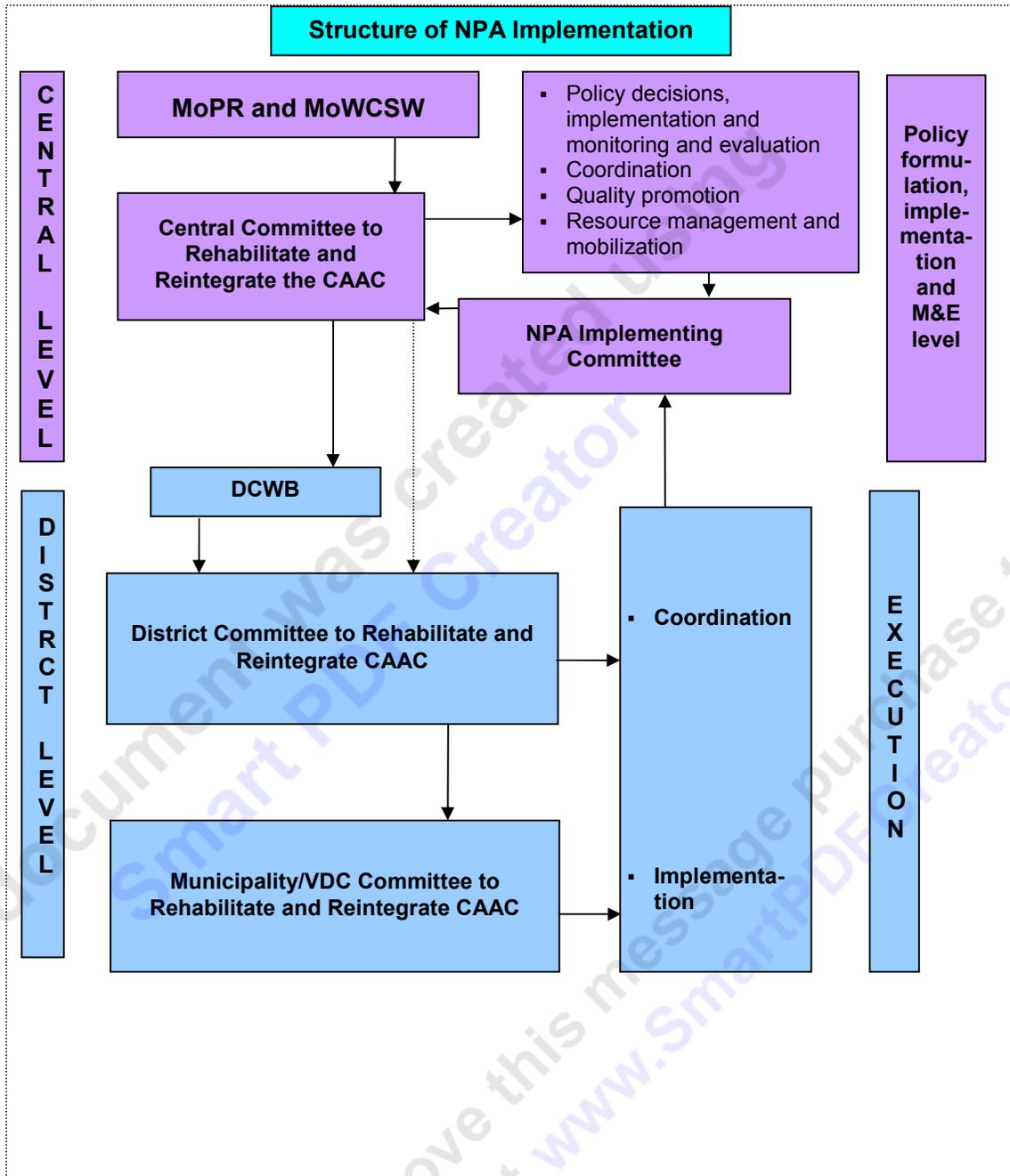
#### **10.4 Municipality/VDC Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

The District Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC will form Municipality/VDC Committees to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC as required. These committees will be composed of the following members.

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Representative of local civil society contributing to the child protection sector | Coordinator      |
| 2. School Inspector of the concerned area  | Member           |
| 3. Chief, local Primary Health Care Centre   | Member           |
| 4. Principal, local school   | Member           |
| 5. Women's social activist   | Member           |
| 6. Chief, Agriculture Services Centre  | Member           |
| 7. Chief, Veterinary Services Centre   | Member           |
| 8. Representative, Municipality/VDC Child Protection Committee                       | Member           |
| 9. Representative of mothers' group  | Member           |
| 10. Representative of CAAC   | Member           |
| 11. Executive Officer of Municipality/Secretary of VDC or as designated by him/her   | Member-Secretary |

##### **10.4.1 Functions of the Municipality/VDC Committee to Implement the National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of CAAC**

- To execute programmes in the municipality/VDC in coordination with and under the guidance of the District Committee.



## 11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The following arrangements will be made to monitor and evaluate programmes and activities related to the NPA.

A monitoring team will be formed at the MoPR to regularly monitor and evaluate the NPA's programmes and activities. It will be composed of the following members.

1. Secretary, MoPR	Coordinator
2. Representative, NPA (Co-Secretary level)	Member
3. Representative, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers (Co-Secretary level)	Member
4. Representative, MoWCSW (Co-Secretary level)	Member
5. Representative, MoF (Co-Secretary level)	Member
6. Representative of civil society nominated by the Central Committee	Member

Trimesterly progress reports and problems will be assessed by the National Development Problem Solving Committee of the National Planning Commission chaired by the Prime Minister.

Trimesterly, bi-annual and annual progress review of programmes implemented within the NPA will be carried out.

Progress of implementation of the NPA will be periodically printed and made public.

Review of the NPA will be undertaken, if required, based on evaluation of achievement of the NPA's goals.

Indicators such as prevention from recruitment and re-recruitment, demobilization from armed forces and groups, rehabilitation, etc. will be assessed, while designing and performing monitoring and evaluation.

## 12. Management of Resources

It is difficult to estimate the budget required for the proposed programmes because of the lack of accurate data on CAAC. Therefore, baseline data collection has been proposed for the initial phase. At this stage, the following sources of funds for implementing programmes suggested in the NPA have been identified.

*Government of Nepal:* Budget allocated for NPA implementation.

*Foreign assistance:* Assistance will be mobilized from agencies working with children, multinational organizations and donor countries.

*Integration with ministerial programmes:* The budget for NPA programmes on education, health, agriculture, industry, etc. will be integrated with relevant ministerial programmes and budgets and disbursed accordingly.

*National and international NGOs:* Non-governmental organizations relevant to the NPA will be encouraged to provide financial support.

*Funds channelled through special programme:* A special project proposal will be developed to obtain funds from the Peace Development Fund to implement the NPA.

## 13. Challenges, Constraints and Risks

### 13.1 Priority

The government has placed a high priority on reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure destroyed during the conflict; this is useful for the NPA. Nevertheless, it is also

important that the government ensures sufficient support for programmes for CAAC in addition to other relief and compensation activities.

### **13.2 Availability of resources**

The funding requirement for implementing programmes proposed in the NPA is quite large. Therefore, there is a risk that the budget allocated by the government could be insufficient.

### **13.3 Difficulties to identification**

It is a highly challenging task to obtain accurate information on the number and situation of CAAC and CAAFAG because of their hidden nature.

### **13.4 Complex and protracted process**

The rescue and rehabilitation of CAAFAG is a complex and long-term task.

### **13.5 Lack of information**

There is a severe lack of information on basic questions such as: What is the number of CAAC? Where are they? What is their economic condition? What types of income-generating programmes are required for their guardians? What is the best model and strategy of programme implementation for rehabilitation of children?

### **13.6 Dispersal of the programme**

Small-scale programmes that target CAAC scattered throughout the country will be implemented under this NPA. This creates serious challenges for management, monitoring and evaluation of such extensively dispersed programmes.

### **13.7 Difficulties in obtaining political consensus**

The task of obtaining consensus for preventing the involvement of children in political activities and programmes is extremely challenging.

### **13.8 Difficulties to unobstructed monitoring**

Unhindered monitoring of armed forces and groups by NGOs working with children could be difficult to achieve. Obtaining the cooperation of such forces or groups is complicated.

### **13.9 Geographical constraints**

Different armed groups are active in different parts of the country. Therefore, implementing programmes simultaneously throughout the country is likely to be difficult in respect to human and economic resources.

## Annex 1: National Plan of Action for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict

The following programmes will be undertaken to identify CAAC and CAAFAG, and to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into their families and society through the creation of an environment that is conducive to leading an active life like other citizens.

### A1.1 Identification and Data Collection

Figures for the actual number of CAAC are not yet available. Such basic data are essential for allocating resources and designing appropriate programmes. Therefore, information regarding the number and situation of CAAC and CAAFAG will be gathered in the initial phase of support.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To collect baseline information and perform mapping of CAAC and CAAFAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of CAAC and CAAFAG</li> <li>• Data collection and mapping of identified children</li> <li>• Identification of situation and status of CAAFAG</li> <li>• Special scrutiny and monitoring to prevent the concealing of children by armed groups</li> </ul>	Secretariat of NPC, MoPR, MoWCSW, MoLD	CSB, CCWB, DWD, DCWB, DAO, DDC, LPC, CAAFAG Working Group, donor agencies, NGOs, local civil society	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on details of CAAC and CAAFAG, and mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full cooperation from stakeholders</li> <li>• Lack of human resources/ enumerators for data collection</li> </ul>

## A1.2 Rescue and Care of CAAFAG

The following activities will be carried out to rescue CAAFAG and facilitate their return home.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ basis for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To rescue CAAFAG within a short period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of formal and informal means to demobilize CAAFAG from armed forces and groups</li> <li>• Identification and development of detailed profiles of children requiring special and long-term relief</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, WCO, LPC, CAAFAG Working Group, NGOs, local civil society	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record/ profile of CAAFAG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of cooperation from armed forces and groups</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ basis for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
2. To provide assistance/ support for children to return home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of following measures for CAAFAG to return home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Management of transit home for children to stay in after demobilization prior to return home</li> <li>– Expenses to cover transport, food, etc. for homecoming</li> <li>– Psychosocial counselling, as required</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Management of following measures for children at transit homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Severing contacts between CAAFAG and adult combatants</li> <li>– Adequate security for children</li> <li>– Health checkups and medical care services</li> <li>– Special arrangements for girls, considering their specific needs</li> <li>– Special arrangements for pregnant girls and young mothers such as provision of female staff, nutritious food, separate toilets, etc.</li> <li>– Nutritious food, accommodation and other facilities for children unable to return home immediately and, where a child is unable to return to his/her home immediately, an assessment conducted and an environment conducive for return created, if possible</li> <li>– Regular monitoring of the situation of children who have returned home</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR	CCWB, WCO, DCWB, DDC, DAO, DPHO, DPO, CAAFAG Working Group, armed forces and groups, donor agencies	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record of returned children</li> <li>• Record of children receiving short-term assistance in process of return</li> <li>• Establishment of transit homes and number of children living in them</li> <li>• Record of pregnant girls and young mothers receiving relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate resources and full cooperation of government agencies and NGOs</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ basis for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
3. To inform/ raise awareness of stakeholders on children's rights so as to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups or their re-recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform stakeholders of the following through extensive dissemination               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provisions of international and national laws prohibiting the recruitment and use of children in armed forces or groups</li> <li>– Legal provisions preventing use of children by armed forces or groups</li> <li>– Involvement of CAAFAG in designing programmes, taking into consideration their rights and aspirations</li> <li>– Creation of an environment for acceptance of children by their families and communities, recognizing the priorities and values of society</li> <li>– Conducting of awareness-raising/ motivational programmes for families, schools, peers and society to create an accepting environment for CAAFAG returning home</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MoPR, MoIC, MoWCSW	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, CAAFAG Working Group, CAAFAG, donor agencies, child clubs	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness-raising and interaction programmes, and participant numbers</li> <li>• Details of information disseminated through media</li> <li>• Details and number of special programmes implemented for children</li> </ul>	

### A1.3 Family Reintegration

The following activities will be carried out to reintegrate CAAFAG in their families and communities or find alternatives for children unable to be reintegrated in their families.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ basis for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To reintegrate with priority children demobilized from armed forces and groups as well as children separated from their families due to conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family tracing for children separated from their families</li> <li>• Transportation and other costs associated with travel as well as some short-term assistance, according to stipulated standards, for families and communities during the process of reuniting children</li> <li>• Provision of psychosocial counselling, as required</li> <li>• Development of mechanisms for referral, if required, from one district to another, considering the interests and well-being of the child</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR, MoHP	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, MoHA, LPC, CAAFAG Working Group, NGOs, DPHO, donor agencies	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of short- and long-term standards</li> <li>• Records of children staying at transit homes for certain period</li> <li>• No. of children receiving psychosocial counselling</li> <li>• No. of children reintegrated in their home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-identification of families of CAAC</li> <li>• Death of parents or lack of guardian to take care of CAAC</li> <li>• Lack of resources</li> </ul>
2. To arrange for rehabilitation or alternatives for children unable to be reintegrated in their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative rehabilitation measures, such as with relatives, legal guardian, community or adoption, for children whose families could not be identified or who do not want to return home</li> <li>• Negotiations with armed forces or groups to rescue children who do not opt for voluntary demobilization</li> <li>• Adoption of community-based rehabilitation approach for children unwilling to be involved in the regular rehabilitation process</li> <li>• Identification of and provision of ID card as well as original documents for CAAC requiring relief</li> <li>• Placement of CAAC at children's homes, as last option, if child could not be rehabilitated as above</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR, MoHP	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, MoHA, CAAFAG Working Group, NGOs, DHO, child clubs, donor agencies	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of rehabilitated children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of families willing to accept CAAC</li> <li>• Lack of adequate resources</li> <li>• Negotiations and agreements with armed groups</li> </ul>

## A1.4 Rehabilitation in Family and Community

CAAC and CAAFAG will be rehabilitated in their places of origin, if possible. The following education, health, vocational skills training, and self-employment programmes will be launched to rehabilitate them sustainably with their families and communities.

### A1.4.1 Education

Education programmes for CAAC will be integrated within programmes implemented by the Ministry of Education, such as Education Programme for Conflict-Affected Families, Scholarships, School Sector Reform Plan, Second Higher Education Project, etc. Similarly, the Alternative Schooling Programme, School Outreach Programme and Income-Generating Programme under the Non-Formal Education Programme will be modified and implemented in a manner that is friendly to CAAC. The following programmes will be launched.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To increase access to school for all school-aged children who have dropped out of school due to the conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and enrolment of CAAC, and conducting of bridge courses, as required, to cover classes missed because of the conflict</li> <li>• Free education for CAAC, according to their interest and capacities, for a certain period (up to aged 18 years) and certain level (up to Grade 12)</li> <li>• Measures to prevent drop out of CAAC from school</li> <li>• Development and implementation of a fixed standards for relief and support of CAAC</li> </ul>	MoE, MoPR, MoWCSW	CCWB, DDC, DEO, DCWB, WCO, donor agencies, child clubs	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of children enrolled in school</li> <li>• No. of bridge courses and other programmes</li> <li>• Formulation of standards</li> <li>• Forms of support</li> <li>• No. of children benefiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of resources</li> <li>• Interest of children in study</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
2. To ensure active participation of CAAC and other stakeholders in developing programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of CAAC and local clubs and organizations in developing programmes</li> <li>• Awareness-raising, orientation, training, workshops and interaction programmes on sensitivity of CAAC for education stakeholders</li> <li>• Encouragement for private schools to provide support to CAAC and be sensitive to their needs</li> <li>• Encouragement for formation of children's groups including child clubs to promote their participation</li> </ul>	MoE, MoPR, CCWB, DCWB	DoWC, DEO, donor agencies, child clubs	Throughout programme period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of child clubs and groups, and no. of children involved</li> <li>• No. of orientations, interactions, training, etc</li> <li>• No. of new child clubs formed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of resources</li> </ul>
3. To manage special programme for children aged 14–18 years who are unable to continue schooling due to poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of general education as well as vocational training (skills development and technical education) to CAAC</li> <li>• Implementation of open school education, non-formal education and so on for CAAC with conducting of classes in either morning or evening</li> </ul>	MoE, MoIC, MoLTM, MoAC, MoPR, Non-Formal Education Centre	CCWB, DCWB, UNICEF, CSIDDO/C, donor agencies	Throughout programme period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of vocational programmes implemented</li> <li>• No. of participant children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of resources</li> </ul>
4. To prioritize reconstruction and improvement of damaged and destroyed school buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritization of construction of additional classrooms, separate toilets for girls, drinking water supply, etc. with child-friendly and disabled-friendly facilities in reconstruction and reform programmes</li> <li>• Construction of hostels at potential locations, as required</li> </ul>	MoE, MoPR,	CCWB, DCWB, MoPPC, donor agencies	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of schools reconstructed</li> <li>• No. of additional classrooms constructed</li> <li>• No. of additional drinking water, toilets, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of resources</li> </ul>
5. To declare schools as zones of peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority implementation of policy to declare schools as zones of peace</li> </ul>	MoE	MoWCSW, MoPR	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on peace zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full cooperation from all sectors of society</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
6. To mobilize private schools in programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of procedures in collaboration with the network of private schools</li> </ul>	MoE	MoPR, MoWCSW	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process for partnership with private sector</li> <li>No. of private schools participating in programmes, and no. of scholarships awarded by them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full cooperation from private sector</li> </ul>
7. To manage Early Childhood Development Centres for children below school-going age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation of Early Childhood Development Centres, as needed</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR	MoLTM, MoHP, CCWB, DCWB, local agencies	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Early Childhood Development Centres, and no. of children at them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of resources</li> </ul>

### A1.4.2 Health

The health-related needs of CAAC will be addressed through the following programmes.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To provide special health care services to CAAC as well as free health services to poor families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting of health checkups for CAAFAG as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Implementation of programmes for special health checkups, free health services, etc. for CAAC who are disabled, victims of sexual exploitation, neglected or abandoned by their family and community, drug addicted, etc.</li> <li>• Provision of treatment to children wounded or disabled by the conflict or by detonations of abandoned explosives and mines</li> <li>• Conducting of health checkups for CAAC</li> <li>• Operation of special programme of security, medical care and treatment/ assistance for children who are victims of gender-based violence due to the conflict, according to needs</li> <li>• Conducting of regular health camps for CAAC, as required</li> <li>• Provision of free health care services for poor families of CAAC</li> <li>• Management of reproductive health and safe motherhood services for girls affected by conflict</li> <li>• Establishment of a Social Security Unit at hospitals to address the problems of CAAC</li> <li>• Development of standards for provision of services</li> </ul>	MoHP, hospitals, MoPR	MoWCSW, CCWB, district hospitals, DHO, health posts, donor agencies, NGOs, private nursing homes	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of CAAC receiving services</li> <li>• No. drug-addicted children undergoing treatment</li> <li>• No. of children treated who suffered from sexual violence</li> <li>• No. of camps organized</li> <li>• Standards on health services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of financial and human resources</li> <li>• Lack of adequate medicine</li> <li>• Full cooperation of service seekers</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
2. To encourage private health institutions to increase their contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting of programme to encourage and mobilize private hospitals and clinics to provide health services to CAAC and the development of a policy to this end</li> </ul>	MoHP, MoPR, MoWCSW	Medical Council, private hospitals	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of private health institutions participating in programmes</li> <li>No. of patients served</li> <li>Policy paper prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of sufficient cooperation and enthusiasm of private sector</li> </ul>

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### A1.4.3 Psychosocial care

The following programmes will be implemented for CAAC and CAAFAG requiring psychosocial assistance for rehabilitation.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To offer psychosocial counselling services together with the reconciliation and reintegration programme to address the problems of CAAFAG and CAAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of psychosocial services for CAAC with the help of experts and mobilization of their families and communities</li> <li>• Conducting of orientation and training programmes to supply psychosocial and mental health counsellors, and provision of such training also to school teachers, medical personnel and government stakeholders</li> <li>• Establishment of referral mechanisms for children with mental health and psychosocial problems to institutions where higher level services are provided</li> </ul>	MoHP, MoPR, MoWCSW	CCWB, DPHO, DAO, DCWB, donor agencies, NGOs, family members of CAAC	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of children receiving psychosocial services</li> <li>• No. of counsellors</li> <li>• No. of cases referred</li> <li>• No. of training and orientations, and no. of participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate psychosocial counsellors and counselling centres</li> <li>• Full cooperation of children and families requiring psychosocial counselling</li> </ul>
2. To prevent children (aged 14–18 years) joining armed forces or groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting of awareness and counselling programmes for children potentially attracted to armed forces or groups, since adolescence is a period of great change for children</li> <li>• Conducting of expertise and skills training, and interaction programmes for creating mutual understanding and sensitivity between health workers providing service to children and service seekers</li> </ul>					

#### A1.4.4 Vocational training

The following programmes will be implemented for CAAC and CAAFAG aged 14–18 years who are unable to continue their education due to poverty.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
<p>1. To provide vocational training in suitable occupations for children aged 14–18 years who are unable to continue schooling in order to rehabilitate them</p> <p>2. To provide employment opportunities to parents of CAAC from poor families, bearing in mind the overall well-being of the child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting of following programmes based on interests of children and guardians, market feasibility, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Skills development training</li> <li>– Income-generating programmes</li> <li>– Agricultural technology training</li> <li>– Business management training</li> <li>– Support for equipment and tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provision of necessary equipment and tools either free or at affordable prices to operate business, based on training received by children</li> <li>• Financial assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provision of interest-free or low-interest credit facilities for a certain period to operate business, based on training received by children</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Programme for family or guardian of CAAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Designing of income-generating programmes for family members or guardians of CAAC for their economic and social security</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>MoIC, MoAC, MoF, MoLTM, MoHP, MoPR, MoWCSW</p>	<p>DAO, DVSO, WCO, CSIDO/C, VTC, CIC, trades unions, NGOs, Nepal Rastra Bank, commercial banks, MoFLC, FTQCD</p>	<p>3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of training programmes, and no. of participants</li> <li>• No. of children employed or in vocations or in trades after training</li> <li>• No. of vocational trainings for guardians of poor children</li> <li>• No. of guardians employed after training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective coordination between ministries and agencies</li> <li>• Stability in policies</li> <li>• Effective market management</li> <li>• Management of accessible and affordable credit facilities</li> </ul>

### A1.4.5 Self-employment programme

The following programmes will be implemented for CAAC aged 15–18 years who have acquired skills development or income-generation or entrepreneurship training.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To implement self-employment programmes for the families of CAAC aged 15–18 years who are not going to school or are unable to continue schooling due to poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise development or entrepreneurial support programme               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provision of training on entrepreneurship to establish and operate trade or business</li> <li>– Establishment of small industries in rural areas to provide employment to CAAC</li> <li>– Provision of interest-free or low-interest credit facilities for CAAC completing vocational training and self-employment programme to establish trade or industry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MoIC, MoLTM, MoPR, MoYS	MoF, MoWCSW, CCWB, Nepal Rastra Bank, commercial banks, ADB, DCWB, CSIDO/C	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation</li> <li>• Details of training conducted, and no. of participants</li> <li>• Amount of credit provided, and no. of credit recipients</li> <li>• Trained entrepreneurs</li> <li>• No. of enterprises established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable industrial and commercial environment</li> <li>• Full participation of target group</li> <li>• Full commitment of financial institutions for discounted loan and credit flow</li> <li>• Coordination amongst ministries and agencies</li> </ul>

### A1.4.6 Security and protection

Special attention will be given to ensure that CAAC are not discriminated against on any grounds or exploited sexually or physically. The following activities will be carried out, recognizing that families offer the best protection for children.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To protect the rights and interests of CAAC and prevent all forms of discrimination, sexual and labour exploitation and abuse against them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring of safe environment for CAAC and CAAFAG for rehabilitation and reintegration</li> <li>Eliminating of potential exploitation of rehabilitated children by their families and communities</li> <li>Special arrangements for protection of infants born to girls in cantonments and of young mothers, and provision of birth certificate after registering the child</li> <li>Strengthening of organizations concerned with CAAC so that they are able to conduct monitoring</li> <li>Establishment and operation of Child Protection Homes</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR, MoHA	MoF, CCWB, DCWB, DDC, DAO, donor agencies	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of rescued CAAC</li> <li>No. of Child Protection Homes established, and no. of children living in them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective roles of implementing and security agencies</li> </ul>
2. To protect children from the potential risks of abandoned explosives and mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritization of activities to de-activate mines</li> <li>Implementation of awareness programmes for protecting children from the hazards of mines through public media including education at schools</li> </ul>	MoD, MoWCSW, MoPR, MoE, MoHA	MoFA, MoF, donor agencies	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of relief and treatment received by children disabled by detonation of mines</li> <li>No. of schools conducting education on mine hazards, and no. of participant children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full cooperation from schools</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
3. To provide necessary documents such as transfer certificate, citizenship certificate, identification card, etc. to CAAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of the following vital and basic documents to children               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Birth registration certificate</li> <li>– Transfer certificate required to enrol in school and identification certificate to receive services and facilities from the government</li> <li>– Citizenship certificate for children aged 16 and above</li> <li>– Certificate of disability for the disabled</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR, MoLD, MoHA, MoE	DAO, CCWB, DDC, DCWB, donor agencies	1–3 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record of children receiving basic documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full cooperation from agencies providing certificates</li> </ul>

## A1.5 Participation

Recognizing the right of children to participate in programmes concerning them, participation of CAAC will be ensured from the initial planning phase, as follows.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To create environment for participation of children in all phases— planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation—of programmes and, as required, for their parents to support them by promoting their intellectual development and involvement in social activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilization of local child clubs and promotion of establishment of child clubs and children's libraries at places without these facilities</li> <li>• Inclusion of CAAC in child clubs</li> <li>• Development of network of child clubs</li> <li>• Implementation of financial and technical support programmes for organizations working for children</li> <li>• Implementation of necessary awareness programmes to ensure children's participation</li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, political parties, donor agencies, NGOs, civil society	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of child clubs and children's libraries established and strengthened</li> <li>• No. of child clubs receiving support</li> <li>• No. of child club networks established</li> <li>• No. of local organizations receiving financial/ technical support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient financial resources</li> <li>• Full cooperation from local organizations</li> </ul>

## A1.6 Community Awareness, Peace and Reconciliation

Government organizations and NGOs working with children in the districts will be identified so that they can coordinate on programmes for awareness, peace-building and reconciliation.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To sustain rehabilitation and the peace process by informing all stakeholders about children's rights through awareness-raising and peace and reconciliation programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive use of audio, visual and other communication media as well as training/interaction programmes to raise awareness focusing on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Creating a welcoming environment for CAAC and acceptance by families, schools, peers and society</li> <li>– Mobilizing local participation for child rights and peace and reconciliation through school teachers, civil society, influential people, religious teachers, priests, conflict-affected persons, child clubs, organizations working for the interests of children, political parties, etc.</li> <li>– Launching awareness-raising and counselling programmes to prevent children aged 14–18 years from joining armed forces and armed groups</li> <li>– Replicating of success stories as models throughout the districts by documenting achievements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MoWCSW, MoPR, MoE, MoIC	CCWB, DCWB, DDC, LPC, influential people, armed forces and groups, mass media, NGOs	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of programmes and organizations supporting programme implementation</li> <li>• Population benefiting from programmes</li> <li>• No. of programmes targeting potential child recruits to armed forces and groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full participation of concerned stakeholders in awareness-raising and counselling programmes</li> </ul>

## A1.7 Transitional Justice

Since existing structures/mechanisms are not yet capable of providing adequate services during the transitional phase, the following programmes will be implemented to protect CAAC in conflict with the law.

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
1. To promote transitional justice that protects the rights and interests of CAAC, focusing on their special needs to justice and reparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for legal provisions to proscribe recruitment of children in armed forces or groups and for declaring it an act punishable by law; and the prohibition by law of physical and mental torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment of children, including sexual and labour exploitation, and declaring such acts as criminal offences</li> <li>• Identification of institutions providing transitional justice services and development of referral mechanisms</li> <li>• Arrangements for children in conflict with the law to be pardoned or sent to reformatories, according to the nature of their alleged offence</li> <li>• Establishment of rehabilitation, correction or socialization centres, etc. for community and family reintegration with appropriate counselling</li> <li>• Execution of relief and reparation programmes, giving due consideration to the special needs of children while formulating and implementing such programmes</li> <li>• Creation of a child-friendly environment in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission to investigate the Whereabouts of Disappeared Persons</li> <li>• Establishment of child-friendly system</li> </ul>	MoPR, MoWCSW, MoPR, MoHA, MoLJ	CCWB, DCWB, donor agencies, human rights organizations, NGOs, networks related to children	1–3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of children receiving transitional justice</li> <li>• No. of child rights violators brought to justice</li> <li>• No. of situations where child-friendly approach implemented</li> <li>• No. of counselling centres established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate sensitivity of children's needs in implementing agencies</li> <li>• Full cooperation amongst implementing agencies</li> </ul>

Objectives	Programme and activities	Implementing agency		Period/ timeframe	Development indicators/ base for evaluation	Assumptions/ risks
		Responsible	Partnership/ collaboration			
	at Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, Courts and so on for effective implementation of juvenile justice procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and operation of                additional reformatories, rehabilitation                homes and counselling centres for                children</li> </ul>					

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