About the Better Brick-Nepal Program
The goal of Better Brick—Nepal is to address labor conditions on brick kilns, which employ approximately 200,000 people and provide critical inputs to a construction industry that is among the largest sectors of the economy. Many of the workers, however, are children or adults bonded by debt that are subjected to extremely harsh living and working conditions. Better Brick—Nepal raises awareness of these issues and advocates for change, but goes further by addressing the underlying economic factors that drive worker exploitation.

Better Brick—Nepal (BBN) seeks to eliminate child, forced, and bonded labor on brick kilns in Nepal by creating a market-driven model for ethical brick production. BBN uses an incentive-based model that includes a robust verification and certification system against the BBN Standard to create improvements in labor and enterprise practices. The BBN Standard was first published in 2015. GoodWeave manages the BBN Standard and certification system.

Better Brick—Nepal is a collaboration between GoodWeave, the Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), local Nepali NGOs, and is supported by Humanity United.

Project Description
GoodWeave International is reviewing the Better Brick—Nepal Standard, Version 1.2 as part of the regular review cycle. The review process follows the recommended best practice by the ISEAL Alliance, the global membership association for credible sustainability standards, of which GoodWeave is a member. The ISEAL code recommends that standards are reviewed and revised regularly to integrate learning about sustainability, good practices and results of monitoring and evaluation activities.

Project Objective and Scope
The BBN Standard was first published in 2015. The purpose of the review is to improve the BBN Standard, to support the improvement of working conditions on brick kilns, and to address any issues that have arisen since the Standard was published.

The objectives of the BBN Standard review is to:
- Review and analyze outstanding issues included on the BBN Standard monitoring log
- Consult on solutions from stakeholders to resolve any standard related issues
- Improve standard language for better clarity and simplicity
- Provide better clarity on requirements for kiln owners to improve compliance and facilitate change;
- Ensure alignment of the BBN Standard with Nepali labor law:
- Consider challenges in implementation, to foster improved uptake of the Standard

**Risk assessment**

1. There is a risk that consensus is not reached regarding proposed revisions to standard requirements.  
*Mitigation:* Through in-person workshops, stakeholders will be brought together to engage and develop solutions together to build consensus.

2. There is a risk that some stakeholder groups will not engage in the review process due to logistical challenges.  
*Mitigation:* Stakeholders will be provided with a number of ways to engage in the consultation process: through workshops, phone calls, meetings, and in writing. GoodWeave will follow up with key stakeholders to ensure a balance in responses.

3. There is a risk that some topics introduced by stakeholders will be out of the scope of the revision.  
*Mitigation:* The scope of the revision is limited to the current BBN Standard topics. Stakeholders will be reminded of the scope when engaging in the consultation. All feedback, even out of scope of the revision, will be catalogued. Rationale for how feedback is integrated into the revised Standard will be provided.

**Stakeholders**

Stakeholder engagement is critical for a robust process. Stakeholders in this project include kilns owners and management participating in the Better Brick-Nepal program, representatives from the Nepali Brick association representatives, BBN implementing partners, local and federal Nepali government officials. Feedback will be solicited during the public consultation phase in April and May, 2020.

**Project Timeline**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb – March</td>
<td>Collect and analyze topics raised for review by stakeholders</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Research and develop proposals for consultation</td>
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<td>April-May</td>
<td>Public consultation and workshops</td>
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<td>May-June</td>
<td>Analysis of stakeholder feedback and recommendations for revisions</td>
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<td>June-July</td>
<td>Draft revised Standard for Standards Committee</td>
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<td>July-August</td>
<td>Standard Committee decision</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>October</td>
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**Comments on the Project Description**

Interested parties may comment on the Project Description by emailing elisabeth@GoodWeave.org. There will be opportunities to provide input into the revision during the public consultation period.