



Photo credit: Nikki Thapa

GoodWeave Certification Nepal

GoodWeave Certification Nepal (GWCN) is a nonprofit organisation based in Kathmandu, and an affiliate of GoodWeave International headquartered in Washington, DC and founded in 1994 by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi. GWCN is an approved service provider for Inspection, Monitoring and Certification (IMC) against the GoodWeave International Generic Standard in Nepal and has addressed child, forced and bonded labour in carpet production for nearly 30 years. In this time, GWCN has carried out over 73,000 audits and inspections of licensed exporters and their suppliers, and today approximately 50 percent of the carpet industry in Nepal is assessed against the GoodWeave Standard. Carpets displaying the GoodWeave® label provide the best assurance they were made free from child, forced and bonded labour.

Reinforcing our IMC work, social programmes provide direct support to families and producer communities by enrolling children in school and engaging them on topics such as workers' rights, the importance of early childhood education and vocational training. During the COVID-19 pandemic, GWCN delivered humanitarian aid to workers and families in supply chains where we operate which included food, protective gear, COVID-19 awareness and access to vaccinations. Importantly, GWCN is embedded in the communities we serve and this proximity ensures programmes are worker and survivor-informed, as well as results-oriented.

Child Labour in Nepal

Though child labour is illegal in Nepal, an estimated 1.1 million children are in the workforce according to the International Labour Organisation's 2021 National Child Labour Report. Of these, 200,000 children, or 3.2 percent, were engaged in hazardous work according to government-published data from the 2017/2018 Nepal Labour Force Survey. Thousands are found in Kathmandu's carpet factory loom sheds and brick kilns, another sector where GWCN works, within and outside of the Kathmandu Valley. Both industries are considered among the worst and most hazardous forms of child labour.



Photo credit: Nikki Thapa



"The peacock can open its feathers and doesn't have to be held in. That's freedom." – 13-year-old Rahul, describing the peacock he painted while healing and studying at Hamro Ghar, GoodWeave's home for former child labourers.

Photo credit: Nepal GoodWeave Foundation

What We Do

Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and guided by international policies to protect children, GWCN and our social programming partner, Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF), carry out the following programmes:

Supply Chain Monitoring

Manufacturers who become GoodWeave licensees agree to regular audits and inspections of their supply chains and subcontractors. Inspectors trained in best practices related to auditing, inspection and child and worker protection visit licensees' facilities on an unannounced basis. Supply chains are fully mapped to cover subcontractors down to home-based units. This practice serves as a powerful deterrent to child and forced labour. Additionally, coordination of any required remediation in connection to IMC work is in alignment with Nepali regulations.

Rehabilitation

When exploitation does occur, we ensure individuals are provided rehabilitative services and interventions.

• Community-Based Rehabilitation

Community-based rehabilitation is provided to children found working who are able to return home and be reunited with their families. They are given resources to attend their village school and receive regular visits from GoodWeave case workers.

• Centre-Based Rehabilitation (Hamro Ghar)

Centre-based rehabilitation and education is provided to freed children at Hamro Ghar ("Our Home") when they have no family to return to or when there is a likelihood of being trafficked or sent to work again. Here children are able to restart their education and rebuild their lives with the support of a specialised team. Most children graduating from Hamro Ghar then transition to community-based rehabilitation.



• School-Based Rehabilitation (Laboratory School)

School-based rehabilitation is an option after graduating from Hamro Ghar when a child's further rehabilitation within their family or community environment is still not possible despite all efforts. This is a residential programme where children are provided with education and full hostel facilities. For this programme, NGF has an agreement with the Laboratory Higher Secondary School, one of the most elite schools in Nepal.

Preventative Programmes

We address root causes to prevent recurrence through social programmes in worker communities that keep children in school and learning, as well as improve conditions and rights for workers.

• Sponsored Education Programme (SEP)

The SEP supports select, high-need children of workers in GoodWeave licensed facilities. GoodWeave pays for school associated fees, uniforms and supplies, as well as provides enrollment support for children ages 6-18.

• Early Childhood Education Centres

Daycare and early childhood education are provided at two centres in Kathmandu for at-risk children of carpet workers. Children of carpet weavers are offered an early on-ramp to education while mothers are able to concentrate on their work and increase earnings.



• Worker Awareness Workshops

Awareness workshops in carpet and brick kiln supply chains educate workers about their rights and the value of sending sons and daughters to school.

• Mobile Medical Services

Mobile medical services, such as eye care and other health care services, are offered to carpet workers and their families.



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