



## EVALUATING AND DOCUMENTING COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH AND WOMEN'S CLUBS IN NEPAL THAT ADDRESS THE RISK FACTORS FOR ABUSE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND CHILD MARRIAGE.

**Location** Falkirk, Scotland; Kathmandu, Nepal  
**Duration** 6 months – 1 year

### About the Project

Participants will conduct research on the effectiveness of community-based clubs to prevent abuse, human trafficking and other forms of modern-day slavery, and child marriage. They will develop a report of their findings, the methods and contents of which is described below, and will contribute to the development and testing of an improved curriculum. Following their time in Nepal, participants will return to the training center in Scotland for two weeks, revise the final report in collaboration with Global Family UK's research team, and host a seminar on their findings.

### Background

#### THE ORGANIZATION

Global Family is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 that aims to preserve the family and protect at-risk children with the assistance of local community organizations, volunteer caregivers, and donors. It aims to adopt a three-pronged approach to solving the issue of child abuse and exploitation and human trafficking, improving child protection, and providing alternative care to children who have lost biological familial support. This approach consists of prevention (community-based youth clubs (including girl's empowerment programs), women's clubs, vigilance groups, and awareness activities), intervention (risk factor identification and targeting, partnering with law enforcement and other NGOs, and short-term residential therapeutic programs for victims of human trafficking), and aftercare (alternative family care programs). Global Family seeks to research and implement a best practice model for protecting children and preserving families, and to share effective approaches with other organizations and agencies.

Girl's empowerment clubs are a key preventative intervention that Global Family and its partners utilize in partnership with local organizations and volunteer club leaders. Clubs are founded and run by community volunteers, who may be youth or mentors from the surrounding area. The model for club development was established in response to the environmental and individual risk factors of child trafficking and abuse. Clubs follow a curriculum that often meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in local community centers, public spaces, schools, or alongside partner organizations.

A club sustainability framework has been developed in Nepal. This represents a systems strengthening innovation to both girl's empowerment clubs run by Global Family as well as youth-led and community-based programs in the development space. While the inherent 'community-based' nature of such clubs often detract from its inclusion in research on institutionalized development efforts, the coordination, training, and evaluation of such clubs by one or more organizations point towards the need to develop systemic characteristics and trends of these interventions. The sustainability model represents a shift from

the implementation of youth clubs as singular interventions towards an intervention whose processes and outcomes can not only be generalized across settings but also potentially theorized in the future.

## CURRENT LITERATURE

A small number of published studies focus on interventions that implement preventative programs which aim to reduce prevalence and/or mitigate the risk factors of human trafficking and/or child abuse. Youth clubs are a small but growing segment of research on interventions that address modern-day slavery. Many studies evaluate clubs that are either inherently or self-pronounced 'community-based'. Clubs are often led by youth themselves or adults such as teachers and community volunteers. Other preventative programs that are assessed within the literature base include awareness programs, which often consist of programs that implement awareness campaigns or distribute educational materials.

Overall, reviews and assessments of evidence on preventative programs are far from achieving data saturation. Robust evaluations of girl's empowerment and other youth club programs are most often found in high-income countries, while evaluations from (or focusing on) interventions in low- and middle-income countries tend to be sub-sets of evaluations on general anti-human trafficking programs implemented by NGOs. Studies and evaluations often do not define or report outcomes, which is largely a result of the lack of a comparison group and lack of data on incidence of trafficking and child abuse. Additionally, many clubs are located in rural areas, which presents challenges for researchers, especially independent evaluators, to conduct in-depth research.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

Leaders are volunteers and are trained by the Global Family staff who work in their country. Global Family staff liaise with and support club leaders on an ongoing basis, however do not dictate the functions of clubs other than providing them with guidance and curricula. Clubs utilize a curriculum that was developed in 2010 and which is contextualized and translated into each country context. When clubs are started in a new country, a pilot club is established during the translation and contextualization of materials, during which time feedback from the pilot group is gathered and the curriculum is amended accordingly to fit the local context. Each lesson includes a story, discussion points, activities, and a journal entry prompt.

Similarly, a standard training for the establishment of clubs is provided and contextualized with the aim of improving effectiveness in the specific country context in which trainings take place. Training for club leaders consists of understanding the definitions of human trafficking (including labor and sex trafficking) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC); the impact on children's rights; the importance of a strong family and whether it is important for a child to live at home; child rights; brainstorming the types of abuse and behavior that causes harm to children that occurs locally, who causes the harm, whether these are linked to traditional or cultural practices, and how it affects children; tools for community organizing; principles and steps of community development; community asset mapping; social and institutional mapping; taking strategic steps for mobilization; engaging stakeholders; gathering research around the issue as it occurs locally; implementing preventative clubs; and evaluation. Training on implementing preventative clubs includes information on starting a club, identifying groups with similar objectives, facilitating club meetings, and using the curriculum. The curriculum was originally written in 2010 for clubs Nepal and has since been translated and contextualized into the current implementing country contexts and languages.

## Objectives

This project aims to assess the extent to which girl's empowerment clubs have mitigated the risks of child trafficking and abuse by identifying key risk factors, measuring risk factor prevalence amongst club participants, and understanding the perception of mitigation amongst club leaders. The findings of this evaluation will be used to improve program effectiveness; identify the components of the curriculum, training, and reporting structure that are effective and those that are ineffective; inform current programming across implementing countries; improve contextualization of the curriculum, training, and reporting structure across implementing countries; and contribute to knowledge around community-based youth club implementation and preventative interventions targeting human trafficking and child abuse.

## Methods

- Conduct a baseline survey of clubs with participants and community leaders, followed by an end-line survey.
  - Design the surveys to collect data on changes in risk factor prevalence amongst club participants and to measure the club's ability to mitigate those risks.
  - Survey questions for club participants should be written in a topic-sensitive manner so that participants who themselves or whose friends may have been affected by trafficking or abuse will not be adversely affected or triggered.
  - Survey questions should be informed by EMpower's research and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation programs for youth<sup>1</sup>.
  - Questions that measure self-esteem will be adapted from the Rosenberg self-esteem scale<sup>2</sup> and questions that measure gender attitudes will be adapted from the GEM scale developed by Promundo<sup>3</sup>.
- Develop a report on the findings, which will include significant findings and what these mean for Global Family's programs and an analysis of effective components, ineffective components, or components with unknown effectiveness.
  - The report should also include sub-group analysis for groups of participants (e.g. age, location, duration of participation, time the club has been active), as well as a discussion of how the findings contribute to the current evidence base and their implications for policy and practice.
- Collaborate with the local team to develop and test an improved curriculum.

## Compensation

Interns are provided with room and board as well as an online fundraising account through Direct Good they can use.

## Apply

Please send your resume/CV to [info@globalfamilyuk.co.uk](mailto:info@globalfamilyuk.co.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> EMpower. (2018). Evaluating programs for youth. New York, London, Hong Kong: EMpower.

<sup>2</sup> Rosenberg, M. (1965). *Society and the adolescent self-image*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

<sup>3</sup> UN Women. (2013). *Making women count: An annual publication on gender and evaluation by UN Women multi country office for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives*. New Delhi: UN Women.