

# BHUTAN

## Child Protection Thematic Report

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

BMIS	Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey
BNCA	Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency
BNF	Bhutan Nuns Foundation
BNLI	Bhutan National Legal Institute
C4D	Communication for Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSHD	Comprehensive School Health Division
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CWD	Children with Disabilities
DYS	Department of Youth and Sports
GBV	Gender-based Violence
NCWC	National Commission for Women and Children
NSB	National Statistics Bureau
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHCA	Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
MOLHR	Ministry of Labour and Human Resources
RBP	Royal Bhutan Police
RENEW	Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC	Violence against Children
VAW	Violence against Women
YDF	Bhutan Youth Development Fund

## Executive Summary

Children constitute 37 per cent of the estimated total population of 757,042 in Bhutan.<sup>1</sup> The rights of children, youth and women are reflected in the 2008 Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which the country has ratified. The Government has codified into law the protection and care that Bhutanese families have always provided for their children in the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA).

Yet simultaneously, the forces of modernization and urbanization are putting increasing pressure on the traditional dynamics of family life. This is posing new threats to the safety and well-being of children and women. UNICEF, through its Child Protection programme is supporting the Royal Government to address protection-related risks and threats, as well as the empowerment of girls and women in a holistic way.

To this end, UNICEF Bhutan received US\$340,126.00 for the child protection programme. In 2016, the country office was able to achieve key results for children and their protection from violence, abuse and neglect. Some of the key results are outlined below:

- i. At the **policy and enabling environment** level, Bhutan initiated significant steps to strengthen protection of children. The first-ever national research on violence against children was completed in 2016. The research provided substantive data on the prevalence of violence, including its location, perpetrators, typology and variance. The findings will guide the development of a National Child Protection Strategy as well as a revised National Plan of Action for Child Protection (NPACP). Towards strengthening and harmonizing legislation to enhance protection for children, the Women, Children and Youth Committee of the Parliament undertook a review of relevant legislations such as the Penal Code, Child Care and Protection Act and the Marriage Act. As a result a number of legislative changes are expected, including the repeal of the existing Marriage Act and drafting of a new, and more gender-just legislation that also addresses child marriage.
- ii. At the **services, system and supply** level, significant progress was made in institutionalizing capacity among child protection service providers in a more systematic manner to address the limited capacity of partners on child rights and child protection. A comprehensive training programme for police on child and women friendly procedures has been introduced for in-service police personnel. It is also being institutionalized into the curriculum of the Royal Bhutan Police training institute. With the support of a pool of trainers on child rights and child protection, the capacity and knowledge has also been strengthened for child protection partners both in the government and civil society.
- iii. At the **demand promotion** level, for advocacy and awareness raising on improving child protection and empowerment, there have been numerous activities on enhancing teenage girls' civic participation and leadership, strengthening skills of women and girls to protect themselves and promoting positive attitudes of adults towards violence against girls.

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<sup>1</sup> Population Projections 2005 – 2030, NSB, 2005

## Strategic Context of 2016

The enactment of the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) in 2011 laid the foundations of a national child protection system in Bhutan. The focus now is on strengthening methods and capacities for identifying, preventing and responding to protection risks.

Up to now, the Government, with the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) and its partners including UNICEF, have established and strengthened programmes to follow a 'vertical' process for dealing with specific issues such as: corporal punishment, child labour, child/early marriage, trafficking, and children in conflict with the law. The child (and women) protection systems are now being strengthened to address risks and threats in a holistic way to support comprehensive prevention and response.

UNICEF's Country Programme Document (CPD) 2014 – 2018, is closely aligned with the Royal Government of Bhutan's national planning cycle and has been based on robust analysis and evidence. The work followed a bottleneck analysis process focusing on barriers across three dimensions: i) Policy and enabling environment; ii) Services, system and supply; and iii) Demand promotion. The result is a more relevant and evidence-informed balance between upstream policy engagement, strengthening service delivery, and community level empowerment. Thus, UNICEF Bhutan's Child Protection programme contributes through the One UN Programme (2014 – 2018) to the following outcomes and outputs:

**Outcome 2:** By 2018, increased and equitable access, utilization, and quality of inclusive essential social services for all with a focus on sustaining the MDGs and addressing emerging challenges.

**Output 2.7:** In-school and out of school youth have increased access to and utilize youth friendly services.

**Outcome 3:** By 2018, communities and institutions strengthened at all levels to achieve enhanced gender equality, empowerment, and protection of women and children.

**Output 3.1:** Strengthened legal and policy environment to advance the rights and protection of women and children.

**Output 3.3:** Boys, men, girls, and women have increased awareness of and positive attitudes towards preventing and eliminating gender-based violence.

**Output 3.4:** Institutions, communities, families, children in minimum four districts have the knowledge, skills, resources, mechanism to prevent, respond to violence against children.

**Outcome 4:** By 2018, governance institutions and communities exercise the principles of democratic governance at the national and local levels with a focus on inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision making.

**Output 4.3:** Women and youth have increased opportunities to participate in leadership as well as in policy making, planning and implementation of development plans.

The key specific areas of focus under Child Protection are:

- Strengthen legal and policy environment to advance the rights and protection of women and children and mainstream gender in key ministries, autonomous bodies and non-governmental organizations.
- Develop the capacities of children and youth to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), violence against women and children (VAW/C) and domestic violence through delivery of multi-sectoral services.
- Building strong foundations towards participation and engagement of Bhutan's youth in civic life and governance by providing opportunities for teenage girls to come together and initiate collective actions that will stimulate girls to be their own champions of change.
- Strengthen engagement of civil society and religious organizations to promote empowerment of women and girls and advocate for implementation of existing laws, policies and programmes that engage men, boys and youth.

The Child Protection Programme contributed to the 2030 Development Agenda. The focus of the programme is especially on the following goals and indicators:

<b>Goal 5.</b> Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
	5.4 Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
<b>Goal 16.</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

The programme contributes to **Outcome 6** of the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017): Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. It also contributes to **target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals**: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

Implementing partners for the Child Protection Programme are: National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), Department of Youth and Sports (DYS) under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Commission for Monastic Affairs (*Dratshang Lhengtshog*), Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), and non-government organizations like Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW), Bhutan Youth Development Fund (YDF) and Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF).

## Results in the Outcome Area

**Outcome 2:** By 2018, increased and equitable access, utilization, and quality of inclusive essential social services for all with a focus on sustaining the MDGs and addressing emerging challenges.

**Output 2.7:** In-school and out of school youth have increased access to and utilize youth friendly services.

- Following a training of trainers' workshop on counselling for primary school teachers, the DYS rolled out the programme for 68 primary teachers and appointed them as focal persons in the three districts (Lhuentse, Mongar and Samdrupjongkhar).
- UNICEF partnered with Bhutan Narcotics Control Agency to train 100 parents from two districts (Thimphu and Chhukha) to equip them with the knowledge on patterns of substance use, its harmful effects and legal consequences. The parents were trained on basic parenting skills to help prevent their children from harmful substance use.

**Output 3.1:** Strengthened legal and policy environment to advance the rights and protection of women and children.

- The National research on violence against children and the research on online sexual exploitation of children in five countries in South Asia including Bhutan was completed in 2016.
- Towards strengthening and harmonizing legislation to enhance protection for children, UNICEF engaged with, and provided technical assistance to the Women, Children and Youth Committee of the Parliament to review relevant legislations such as the Penal Code, Child Care and Protection Act and the Marriage Act.
- UNICEF supported NCWC in developing guidelines for shelter management to ensure safe homes for children in difficult circumstances in line with the Child Care and Protection Act.

**Output 3.3:** Boys, men, girls, and women have increased awareness of and positive attitudes towards preventing and eliminating gender-based violence.

- To increase awareness and promote positive attitudes for prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, 335 young nuns from ten nunneries in six districts were trained on child protection, and were informed about the services available to victims of violence and children in difficult circumstances.
- With 11 of the 20 districts having a Women and Child Protection Desk/Unit, a review of the Desks/Units was initiated in November 2016. The review will directly contribute towards improving the delivery of services in the existing desks, and incorporate the recommendations before extending such facilities to the remaining nine districts.

**Output 3.4:** Institutions, communities, families, children in minimum four districts have the knowledge, skills, resources, mechanism to prevent, respond to violence against children.

- UNICEF worked with the Ability Bhutan Society to strengthen protection of children with disabilities. More than 800 teachers and 335 professionals working in the field of disability were trained to enhance their knowledge about vulnerabilities and ways of protecting children with disabilities.
- At the annual education conference, 75 school guidance counsellors and officers, National Commission for Women and Children, and UNICEF discussed the findings of the research on violence against children in Bhutan. Among other child protection issues, the conference deliberated on corporal punishment and positive disciplining, and identified strategies to address these concerns within schools.
- A two-day consultative workshop on social work education was conducted jointly by the Royal University of Bhutan and UNICEF, attended by 30 participants from the Government, civil society

and UN agencies. A study tour to three premier social work institutions in India resulted in a concept paper outlining steps towards initiating social work programmes in Bhutan. A Bachelors' programme and a tailored programme for existing untrained social workers will be designed and rolled out over the next two years.

**Output 4.3:** Women and youth have increased opportunities to participate in leadership as well as in policy making, planning and implementation of development plans.

- Based on a systematic needs assessment carried out in 2015, UNICEF worked closely with the Department of Youth and Sports (DYS) under the Ministry of Education to roll out a comprehensive training package for out-of-school adolescents and youth.
- UNICEF supported Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) to conduct multimedia production and photography trainings for 69 out-of-school adolescents and youth (Girls: 26; Boys: 43) in Paro and Thimphu districts.
- UNICEF supported the local NGO "Respect Educate Nurture and Empower Women" (RENEW) in expanding the Druk Adolescents' Initiative for Sexual Awareness Network (DAISAN) to 15 districts. Youth groups in five districts (Dagana, Gasa, Tsirang, Sarpang and Trongsa) reached at least 400 adolescents and youth.
- UNICEF supported the local NGO Bhutan Youth Development Fund (YDF) to develop a manual on resilience building of vulnerable adolescents and youth. It is aimed at increasing emotional resilience and decreasing risky and self-harm behaviour among adolescents and youth. The curriculum was piloted in two districts (Thimphu and Samste) for over 60 out-of-school adolescents and youth.

## Challenges

While key legislations have been put into place, implementation is a continual challenge as the capacity of key partners are limited.



## Financial Analysis

With the support provided through the thematic funds, UNICEF Bhutan has been able to achieve the results towards protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse and empowering women and girls. The tables below provide the financial analysis of the contributions.

**Table 1: Planned Budget by Outcome Area**  
**Outcome Area 06: Child Protection**  
**Bhutan**  
**Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2016 (in US Dollars)**

Intermediate Results	Funding Type	Planned Budget
Unknown	RR	164,570.00
	ORR	703,185.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>867,755.00</b>

**Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2016**  
**Outcome Area 06: Child Protection**  
**Bhutan**  
**Thematic Contribution received for Outcome Area 06 in 2016 (in US Dollars)**

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
<b>Czech Committee for UNICEF</b>	<b>SC149906</b>	340,126.00	316,318.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>340,126.00</b>	<b>316,318.00</b>

**Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area**  
**Outcome Area 06: Child Protection**  
**Bhutan**  
**2016 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)**

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount		
	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
06-02 Child Protection systems	32,529.00	75,725.00	108,254.00
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	61,497.00	54,965.00	116,462.00
06-04 Justice for Children	2,757.00	65,718.00	68,475.00
06-07 Child Protection - strengthen families and communities	315.00	11,105.00	11,420.00
06-08 Child Protection - General	133,167.00	103,772.00	236,939.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>230,265.00</b>	<b>311,285.00</b>	<b>541,550.00</b>

**Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2016
Business Area Hierarchy	Bhutan - 0490
Prorated Outcome Area	06 Child Protection
Donor Class Level2	Thematic
Row Labels	Expense
<b>Other Resources - Regular</b>	<b>170,017</b>
06-02 Child Protection systems	27,232
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	17,536
06-04 Justice for children	3
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	1
06-08 Child Protection # General	125,245
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170,017</b>

**Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2016
Business Area	Bhutan - 0490
Prorated Outcome Area	06 Child Protection
Row Labels	Expense
06-02-01 Child Protection systems strengthening	77,020
06-03-01 Violence against children (general)	90,871
06-03-03 Prevent and address GBV, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation	4,615
06-03-06 Prevent and address child labour	957
06-04-01 Access to justice (for all children)	47,482
06-07-03 Child Protection focused on care and support for CWDs	7,879
06-08-01 Child Protection # general	198,160
08-01-06 Planning # General	34,719
08-02-06 Secondary analysis of data	2,499
08-02-08 Monitoring # General	2,949
08-03-01 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	11,921
08-04-03 Early Childhood Development # General	203
08-06-02 Building global/regional/national stakeholder evaluation capacity	779
08-07-01 Adolescent development # General	47,928
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	1,984
09-02-05 CO Programme coordination	2,984
09-02-06 CO Advocacy and communication	6,870
5012 Support to Dev Info and other databases	21
5903 Support to C4D interventions for multiple OTs within FA5	238
7921 Operations # financial and administration	1,471
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>541,550</b>

**Table 6: Planned budget for 2017  
Outcome Area 6: Child Protection  
Bhutan  
Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2017**

Output	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
<b>2.7 Youth Friendly Services</b>	RR	33,156.00	60,000.00	-26,844.00
	OR	170,117.00	3,841.00	166,276.00
<b>3.1 Right/Protection of Children</b>	RR	29,230.00	14,996.00	14,234.00
	OR	131,680.00	32,683.00	98,997.00
<b>3.3 Positive Attitude - GBV</b>	RR	23,384.00	41,700.00	-18,316.00
	OR	108,270.00	82,300.00	25,970.00
<b>3.4 Establishing CP System</b>	RR	141,187.00	53,289.00	87,898.00
	OR	594,915.00	429,878.00	165,037.00
<b>4.3 Women &amp; Youth Led Group</b>	RR	19,255.00	40,000.00	-20,745.00
	OR	146,801.00	70,677.00	76,124.00
<b>Sub-total Regular Resources</b>		<b>246,212.00</b>	<b>209,985.00</b>	<b>36,227.00</b>
<b>Sub-total Other Resources-Regular</b>		<b>1,151,783.00</b>	<b>619,379.00</b>	<b>532,404.00</b>
<b>Total for 2017</b>		<b>1,397,995.00</b>	<b>829,364.00</b>	<b>568,631.00</b>

## Future Work Plan

In line with the priorities of the One Programme and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, the Child Protection programme will support the following key interventions in 2017:

**Outcome 2: By 2018, increased and equitable access, utilization, and quality of inclusive essential social services for all with a focus on sustaining the MDGs and addressing emerging challenges.**

**Output 2.7:** In-school and out of school youth have increased access to and utilize youth friendly services.

- UNICEF will work with the Department of Youth and Sports to strengthen counselling services in schools, with a special focus on building capacities of counsellors to work with children in residential central schools.
- The integrated youth friendly services, being introduced by the Department of Youth and Sports will be strengthened in the existing centre in Gelephu (Sarpang), and expanded to cover an additional centre in Punakha.

**Outcome 3: By 2018, communities and institutions strengthened at all levels to achieve enhanced gender equality, empowerment, and protection of women and children.**

**Output 3.1:** Strengthened legal and policy environment to advance the rights and protection of women and children.

- UNICEF will work with the National Commission for Women and Children to review and revise the National Plan of Action on Child Protection and develop a new National Child Protection Strategy.

**Output 3.3:** Boys, men, girls, and women have increased awareness of and positive attitudes towards preventing and eliminating gender-based violence.

- UNICEF will facilitate the development of a national Communication for Development (C4D) strategy on child protection, with a focus on violence against children. Among others, the strategy will identify key activities to be implemented with adolescents and youth groups by building their capacity to become agents of change.

**Output 3.4:** Institutions, communities, families, children in minimum four districts have the knowledge, skills, resources, mechanism to prevent, respond to violence against children.

- UNICEF will continue to strengthen the capacities of agencies who work for teenage girls, so that their acquired knowledge and skills will enhance protection services for women and girls.
- In partnership with Royal Bhutan Police, UNICEF will work on sensitizing police on gender-based violence to strengthen their knowledge and skills of dealing with women and teenage girls and further advocate on implementing the curriculum for child and women friendly policing.

**Outcome 4: By 2018, governance institutions and communities exercise the principles of democratic governance at the national and local levels with a focus on inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision making.**

**Output 4.3:** Women and youth have increased opportunities to participate in leadership as well as in policy making, planning and implementation of development plans.

- UNICEF will partner with local NGOs such as RENEW to work towards reaching out to and engaging with girls who attend schools (including nunneries) as well as those who have dropped out-of-school.
- In partnership with NGOs, UNICEF will offer an opportunity for teenage girls to put their new acquired skills into practice through the expansion of an already existing grant programme meant to encourage young people to take up innovative community-based interventions.



- To enhance participation and empower women and girls, UNICEF will support Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education to strengthen services and facilities in youth centres and further encourage to initiate activities that interest adolescent mother and teenage girls.
- UNICEF through its partners, will also strive to reach marginalized and at-risk teenage girls to provide them opportunities to explore their potential in a safe and non-threatening environment.

## Programme approach

Building on the gains made so far, the child protection programme in the current programme period (2014 – 2018) will work on institutionalizing strong systems to keep children safe with a high priority on demand promotion for child protection among communities, families and children. To this end, UNICEF will:

- i. Facilitate monitoring and reporting on National Plan of Action for Child Protection and implementation of the concluding observations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child; advocate for increased commitment to child protection and child rights as social policy priority; support enhanced evidence base for child protection and its incorporation into child protection policy and legislative reform.
- ii. Promote and engage children and youth as agents of change to eliminate gender-based violence; empower children and youth to explore and address gender-based violence including by strengthening peer-support mechanisms such as youth-led groups. Develop a diversified partnership framework for addressing violence.
- iii. Model a comprehensive child protection system at the district level with all elements operational and functioning in synergy including establishment of services; conduct equity analysis to understand and track determinants and bottlenecks to successful operation of child protection systems at the district level. Support analysis and research to identify norms and practices that hinder essential protection practices and support development of communication for development strategies for behaviour change. Train children to know and claim their rights through training and create space for open discussion of protection rights, including through youth-led interventions.

## Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Bhutan expresses gratitude for the generous thematic contribution from the Czech Committee for UNICEF. The continued support through thematic contributions for the child protection programme has been effective in providing increased protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse in Bhutan. UNICEF, on behalf of all the women and children in Bhutan, thank the donors for their support.

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## Annexes

### Annex I: Human Interest Story – Sparing the rod

*Teachers and seniors in monastic institutions alter their methods in 'disciplining' novice monks and nuns. The hand today continues to be raised, but to guide youngsters in the right direction.*

UNICEF effort to educate and train people of the robe about the rights of the child is slowly but surely bringing about change in monastic schools across the country. It has led to a mindset change in elders, whilst for the children the development is a welcome transformation.

One among those who have taken seriously such trainings on rights and protection of children is Ngawang Pal, a senior nun at the Zilukha Nunnery in Thimphu.

“Up until the training in 2014, I did not know that children had rights,” she says.

Not much time has passed since it was permissible in a traditional sort of way for teachers and elders to shout at or beat up a youngster, and the practice was ground enough to permit abuse. Now, the Dratshang Lhentshog (Commission for Monastic Affairs) has an expert committee on child protection working to close loopholes that encourage such practices. A complete overhaul will take some time still, but the works to achieve it is well underway.



Nun Ngawang Pal (left), a senior nun at the Zilukha Nunnery in Thimphu, says the trainings on child rights and child protection has helped her tremendously.

“The historic evolution of child rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), defining child protection and, issues pertaining to child rights in Bhutan were all made known to us,” says Ngawang Pal.

She is quick to point out that before the trainings and workshops were conducted, there were many like her who firmly believed in the old adage ‘spare the rod, spoil the child’ and, so, did not think twice to mete out a beating or scolding when they deemed necessary.

“Nobody thought much of it then, even the young ones who were at the receiving end,” she says. “Today, they all understand their rights. Forget a beating; even if they are shouted at they are quick to report the incident to concerned authorities in their nunneries.”

As far as the nunneries are concerned, the Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF) actively engages alongside UNICEF and the Dratshang Lhentshog to spread awareness and educate the 1,000 plus nuns in 26 nunneries around the country.

The formation of an expert committee for child protection in 2009 helped put the spotlight on the rights of the child. Since its formation, the focus has been to make members of the monastic community aware of the need to safeguard and promote the rights of child monks and nuns. What started as an 11-member committee has today 13 members in its fold, of which three are nuns.

A Child Care and Protection Office (CCPO), too, has been created in the Dratshang Lhentshog to oversee plans, programs and activities for children. Recently, the CCPO with UNICEF support also set up an emergency shelter to house young monks and nuns.

“We want to ensure that the rights of the child are applied and upheld in all monastic schools,” says Lopen Sherab, a child protection officer with the CCPO.

He explains there are cases of beatings and abuse that do surface at times. And, to deal with such cases, the committee has formulated strict guidelines.

“If a case does surface and is reported to the committee, we investigate it first,” he says. “And, if found guilty, looking at the gravity of the case, appropriate action is taken by the monastic body against the person involved.”

As of now, no cases that grave in nature have come to light.

“This is because teachers and senior monks have been trained and are aware of their limitations with regards to raising their hands or voice,” he says.

Unlike in the past, where such ideas would have been met with derision, today, seniors, who have attended child protection trainings, accept their roles as facilitators and educate counterparts in their respective monasteries and nunneries.



11-year-old Selden (right) is the youngest nun at the Zilukha Nunnery. The nunnery houses 55 nuns.

“It was not easy for the older ones to grasp the concept of child rights and child protection immediately. But with time and with constant advocacy, they are changing and so are their attitudes,” nun Ngawang Pal says. “What is interesting is that the younger nuns know more about their rights and this prevents the older ones from doing something they might regret.”

11-year-old Selden, a young nun at the nunnery in Zilukha, says she is happy there because no one shouts at her or beats her up.

“I don’t know much about my rights,” she says. “All I do know is if someone hits me or shouts at me, I can report the matter. “So far, no one has done that. Instead, because I am the youngest here, everybody pampers me.”

At some point, it is likely the few remaining loopholes, too, will be closed. Ani Namgay of the Bhutan Nuns Foundation has been clamoring to put a stop to traditional methods of disciplining. And, UNICEF has been one of the Foundation’s staunch supporters thus far.

“From teaching nuns about menstrual hygiene and proper sanitation to child protection and CRC, UNICEF has been BNF’s biggest support partner,” she says. “It is not easy to change overnight the customs and practices ingrained in monastic schools. But we are getting there. A lot has changed. I am confident, with time, a lot more will change for the better.”

Mitra Raj Dhital  
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## Annex II: Donor Feedback Form

Please evaluate the quality of this report and contribute towards improving the quality of future reports that we share with you. Kindly send your comments by email to [thimphu@unicef.org](mailto:thimphu@unicef.org); [unicefbhutan@gmail.com](mailto:unicefbhutan@gmail.com).

Name of the Report:

Reference/Grant Number:

### SCORING:

5 - "Highest level of satisfaction"

4 - "Good"

3 - "Fair"

2 - "Poor"

1 - "Complete dissatisfaction"

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1
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2. How useful was this report in helping you respond to queries from the donors?

5	4	3	2	1
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3. Were there any aspects or sections of this report that were difficult to understand? If YES, what sections or aspects were difficult to understand

4. Which aspects of this report were most useful?

5. What suggestions do you have to improve the quality of such reports in future?

6. Any other suggestions or comments you would like to share with us.

*Thank you for completing this form.*





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