



Better Brick Nepal (BBN)
Standard Development Public Summary

GoodWeave works to end child labor in the carpet industry and to replicate its market-driven model in other manufacturing sectors. Its work includes standard-setting and certification, supply chain monitoring, rescue and remediation, and offering social programs in worker communities. The Better Brick Nepal (BBN) project was initiated in August 2013 to address labor challenges in the brick kiln industry. Three organizations are partnering to implement the initiative: the BrickClean Group Nepal (BCN), Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) and GoodWeave International. GoodWeave will develop and monitor against the BBN Standard in participating brick kilns and provide technical support, as well as provide educational and rehabilitation services for child laborers. This work is supported by Humanity United, an organization dedicated to building peace and advancing freedom in the world.

The brick kiln industry in Nepal employs approximately 175,000 people and provides critical inputs to a construction industry that is among the largest sectors of the economy. Many of the workers are children or adults bonded by debt and subjected to extremely harsh living and working conditions. There is little to no regulation of working conditions in the industry, where prevailing wage schemes compel laborers through their debt to continuously return to kilns each season, often bringing their entire families to work on the kilns in order to meet production quotas. These practices have led to widespread use of child labor and inhumane working conditions in the industry.

While previous programs have raised awareness of these issues, BBN aims to change the incentives within the industry. BBN seeks to create a market preference for a “better brick” such that buyers of these bricks— including international agencies, construction firms and end-consumers—are assured of more ethical and high quality production. At the same time, the kilns benefit from technical assistance and access to new high value markets. The BrickClean Group Nepal (BCN) has worked to improve overall conditions on kilns by monitoring conditions and support programs. Thus the BBN certification standard is being developed to build upon the previous work of BCN in the brick kiln industry, while aligning with existing labor rights standards, particularly those of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The BBN standard

will meet the need to address these labor issues in Nepal's brick kilns by setting measurable, verifiable criteria against which a "better brick" can ultimately be certified.

Scope:

The BBN Standard currently addresses child labor, forced and bonded labor, and working conditions in Nepal's brick industry. GoodWeave will develop the standard and verification methodology that will be used to assess the labor rights and working conditions at participating brick kilns. The geographic and industry scope of the BBN Standard is thus intended to be limited for application to the brick industry in Nepal. GoodWeave will also work with the BBN initiative partners to find sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the brick industry in Nepal in meeting the Standard.

Objective:

The broad aims of the BBN standard are as follows:

- To reduce forced, bonded and child labor on brick kilns
- To facilitate the development of a market-based model to certify bricks

Mitigation of Risks:

Compliance Capabilities

Participating kilns will have varying capabilities to meet the proposed BBN Standard and currently none of the pilot kilns are able to meet all of the BBN Standard criteria. Therefore, the original draft Standard has been divided into two categories: minimum and progress criteria. Minimum criteria are requirements that the kilns must implement at the outset. Progress criteria will be phased in after a majority of the kilns demonstrate an ability to meet minimum requirements. By splitting the Standard into minimum and progress criteria, kilns will have time to adjust their business practices as needed.

Transparency and Accountability

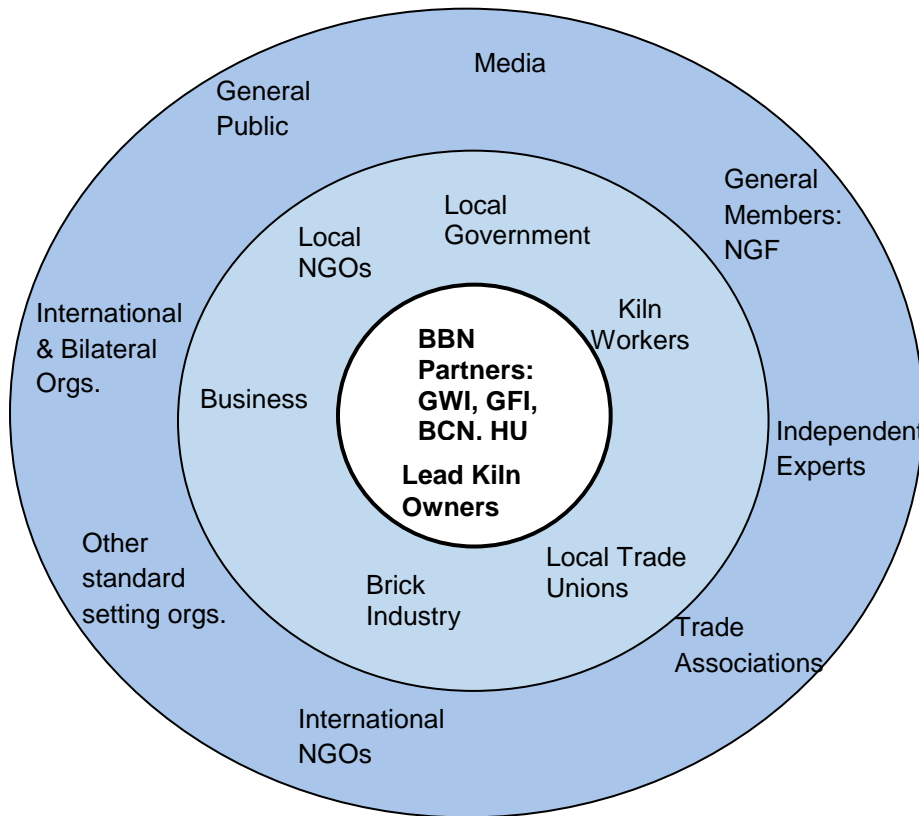
The Standard will likely require significant changes to the business practices of the kilns. Thus when non-compliances are identified over time, kiln owners may be less willing to remain transparent. The BBN Initiative will incentivize kilns to maintain complete transparency and accountability by providing them access to new markets, technical assistance aimed at greater efficiencies and higher quality, as well as offering assistance in adapting business practices to meet the BBN Standard.

Complex Circumstances

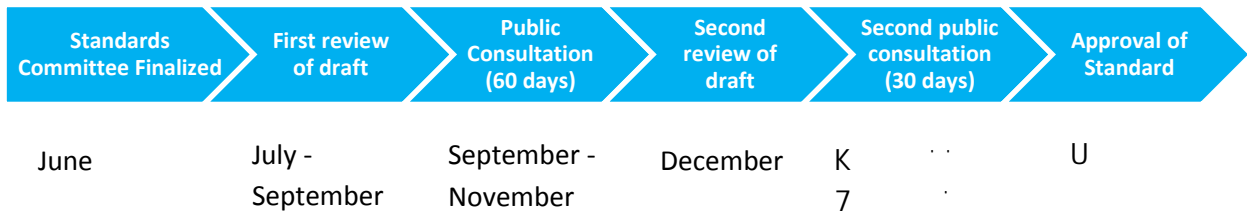
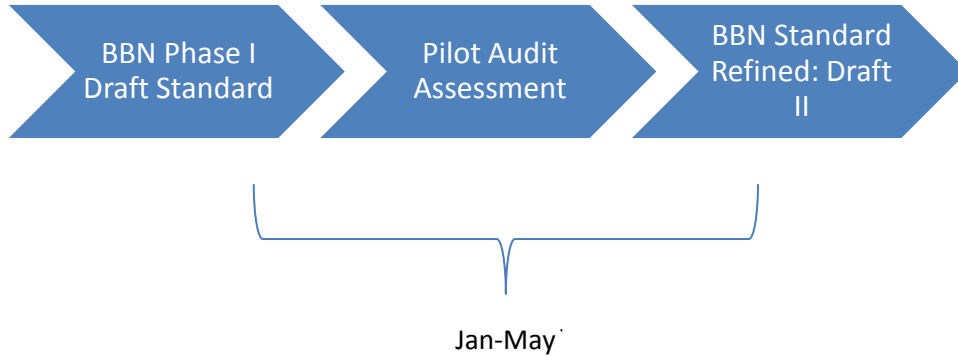
To ensure that certified bricks are able to compete at a market level, and to ensure the sustainability of the standard, a cost benefit analysis will be conducted to better understand the cost implications of the Standard. The technical assistance that will be provided will also improve efficiency in the brick making process, as well as lead to output of higher quality bricks, both of which will mitigate or potentially offset any possible cost implications. Other external risks, however, such as a downturn in the construction industry or overall economic environment may impact the ability of kilns to implement changes to their operating model.

Stakeholders:

The stakeholder map below identifies each category of stakeholder and divides them into tiers. The center of the circle, the core tier indicates direct stakeholders, those working to implement the BBN standard. The next layer indicates second tier stakeholders and the outer layer indicates a third tier of stakeholders.



Timeline:



- June: Project description posted
- July-September: First convening of the Standards Committee and review of draft
- September-November: 60 day period for stakeholders to provide feedback and comments
- November-December: Stakeholder feedback incorporated into the standard draft and second convening of the Standards Committee
- ~~January~~ / K 7: 30 day period for further stakeholder outreach
- U: Final meeting of the Standards Committee to review and approve the standard.

Contributing to the Public Consultation

Interested parties may contribute to the consultation by submitting comments online at www.goodweave.org/brick or by email at BBNstandard@goodweave.org. Comments on the process as well as the content of the draft standard are welcome. All comments will be considered in the next revision of the draft standard.