



GWJ Child Protection Committee Biographies



Mr. Pashtoon Atif is GoodWeave Afghanistan's Social Programme Manager responsible for the oversight of all rehabilitation, social and educational programs. He has a B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University. He has more than 10 years of experience including working with the Italian development organization COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale) in Kandahar and serving as their Officer In-Charge in Darfur, Sudan. He was also an Associate Administrator for UNDP in Kabul and has served as a consultant to NATO's Joint Force Training Center. In addition, he has experience working on several USAID programs in southern Afghanistan where he was involved in community engagement in key stability areas



Mrs. Nitu Prasad is the Social Program Manager for GoodWeave India, leading its preventive and rehabilitative social programs to stop child labour. Her key responsibilities include ensuring quality delivery and upscale of GoodWeave's social programs, providing leadership, strategic and technical support, specifically the Child Friendly Community program across operational states of India. She also leads the establishment of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) functions for creation of data and evidence to assess the progress of the programs towards outcomes and desired results. For the purpose of quality implementation and upscale of the program, she undertakes capacity building, reviews, mentoring, supervision and monitoring of the social programs team and their operations. She is a post graduate in rural development from the Xavier's Institute of Social Services, Ranchi and has 15 years of work experience on the issues of child rights and child protection as a Project Management Specialist and a Child Rights Practitioner. Prior to joining GoodWeave, she worked with the child rights organization Save the Children UK and India.



Mrs. Kushum Sharma is Programme Manager of Nepal GoodWeave Foundation (NGF). Mrs. Sharma has a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University, India and over seven years professional work experiences in child rights sector and academic field. Prior to joining NGF, she worked as a Programme Manager at the Consortium of Organization working for Child Participation, a network of 54 organizations. Her work included program planning, monitoring, publishing resource materials and reports; working with Steering Committee members, donor organizations and government ministries; facilitating seminars, workshops, consultations and trainings for member organizations, stakeholders and children; process documentation of reports, guidelines and tools. She was also involved in a research study on mapping of child protection and social services for children without parental care and preparation the curriculum of specialized training course within the perspectives of social work. Additionally, she worked as a lecturer for BSW programmes in different colleges. She has received training in human rights, child protection, child participation, HIV/AIDS and other areas.

Independent Experts



Mr. Jonathan Blagbrough is an independent expert on child exploitation and child domestic work. He has been active on child labour issues since 1989, when he worked with street-living and working children in Puebla, Mexico. He has worked for Anti-Slavery International since 1992, coordinating its child labour programme from 1995 to 2006. During this time Jonathan has collaborated closely with local NGOs in Asia, Africa and Central/Latin America and the Caribbean. He has specialised particularly on the situation of child domestic workers: developing and undertaking research; developing policy; lobbying governments and international institutions; authoring, contributing to and editing publications for Anti-Slavery International, UNICEF and others, including several handbooks for research, action, advocacy and programme interventions on child domestic workers, good practice reports for ILO-IPEC and articles in academic journals such as the International Journal of Children’s Rights and Childhood. He has advised ILO-IPEC, UNICEF and Save the Children UK on the issue. Jonathan holds degrees in Sociology and International, European and Comparative Law and has served on the GoodWeave UK board of directors since 2009. He is also the co-founder and programme director of Children Unite, which works with local partner organisations in Africa, Asia and the Americas, to protect child domestic workers from abuse and exploitation and to promote their rights.



Mr. Uddhav Raj Poudyal is an independent expert and advisor to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF in Nepal. Most recently he served as Chief Technical Advisor to ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), on issues ranging from addressing child rights in informal sectors to and situations of armed conflict. From 1998-2005 he served as National Project Manager for the UNICEF/ILO joint Bonded Child Labour Project, which worked to prevent vulnerable groups from falling into bondage and trafficking, to prevent children from entering into hazardous work, and to collaborate with employers, workers and non-government organizations to document and promote good practices. Previously, he managed programmes for Save the Children UK, including developing programs in health and sanitation, education and income generation for rural communities, as well as work with the Bhutanese Refugee programme in the early ‘90s.



Mr. Venkat Reddy is the National Convener of MV Foundation, India, which works towards the abolition of child labour in all its forms and the mainstreaming of formal schooling for all children. Over the past decade, the organization has built alliances with and provided technical capacity-building support to non-governmental organizations and governments in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Assam, as well as Nepal and Morocco. MV Foundation today works in more than 6,000 villages – including those in some of the most challenging areas in terms of HDI – and more than 300,000 children have been brought from work and enrolled into schools under his leadership. The Foundation has also initiated programs related to right to health and nutrition of children below six years of age, rights of adolescent girls and right to safe motherhood.