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Nazhoen Lamtoen
Transforming Children & Youth through reintegration

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



www.nazhoenlamtoen.org



Message from Executive Director



Nazhoen Lamtoen is a registered public benefit organization with the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan since December 2016. The aim of the organization is to provide aftercare services for children in difficult circumstances (CIDC) and children in conflict with the law (CICL) coming out of juvenile centre and providing services to children in contact or affected by the criminal justice system. Till date the Nazhoen Lamtoen has reintegrated 44 CICL into the society.

It is observed that children who are referred to YDRC more often than not, belonged to broken families devoid of care and guidance. Thus children in difficult circumstances (CIDC) has high risk of becoming children in conflict with the law. Through the initiative of providing long term sustainable support to CIDC, the organization has supported more than 500 children with establishment of 300 micro business for the families in 5 districts, Mongar, Zhemgang, Chukha, Paro and Thimphu. Moreover, 70 children are supported with shelter home and out of which 60 are reunified with their parents and guardians.

As we move forward into the coming year, we remain committed to building upon our successes and continuing to work towards our long-term goals. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners and stakeholders to achieve these objectives and make a meaningful impact in the lives of the individuals and communities we serve. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission, and we look forward to your continued partnership in the years ahead.

On behalf of Nazhoen Lamtoen Board and Management, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donor development partners- Save the Children, UNICEF, Opening Your Heart to Bhutan, Helvetas Bhutan, National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Bhutan Police, JSWL, Austria Development Agency, members, stakeholders, friends, members, volunteers a dedicated team of Nazhoen Lamtoen and our well-wishers for your benevolent support in meeting our common mandate for the best interest of our children.

Tashi Delek

**Thinley Tobgyel
Executive Director**

Vision

To be the nationally recognised CSO in Bhutan that advocates and serves the needs of children in difficult situation

Mission

To advocate and serve children in difficult circumstances by providing timely intervention, empowerment and reintegration into communities

The concept of 'Nazhoen Lamtoen' germinated in the beginning of 2013 due to live and distressing encounters with many vulnerable children and youths.

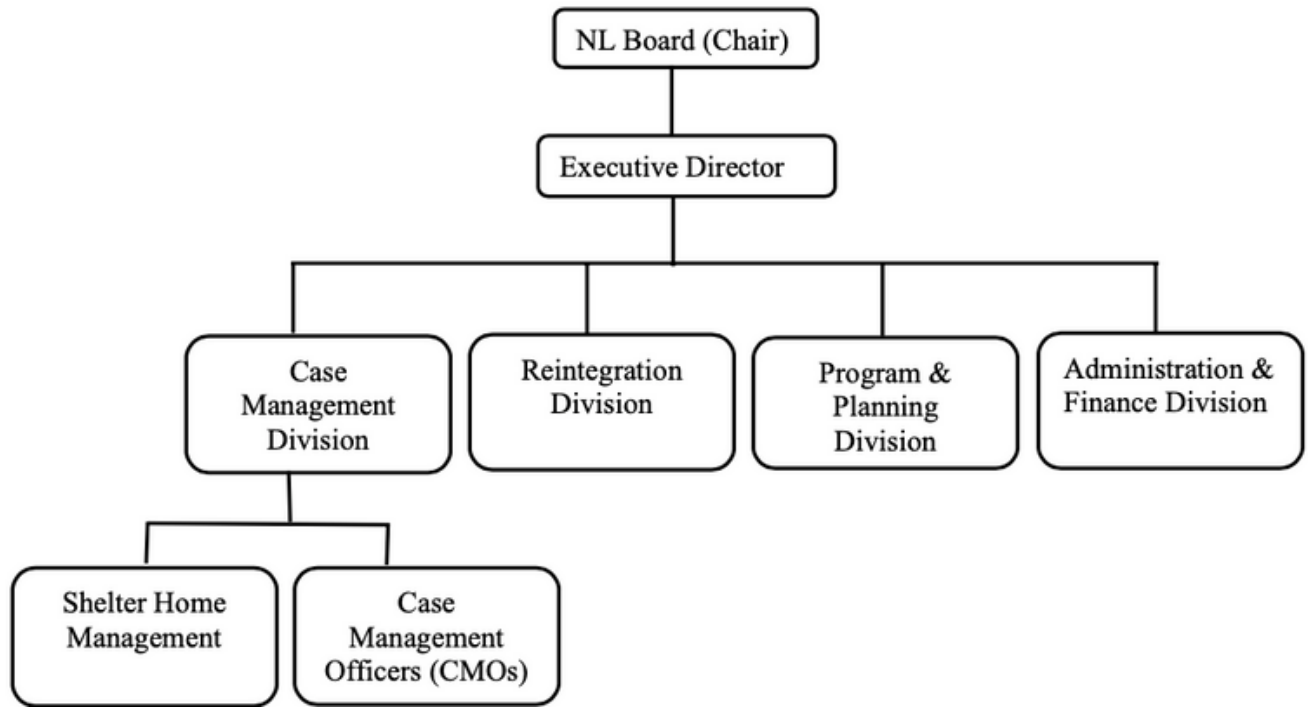
The country has many vibrant other government and private institutions to provide services to many situations for the youth, but what about the after care services soon after their post released from Youth Development Rehabilitation Centre (YDRC) and other similar facility.

The studies has shown many children and youth eventually repeat the cycle and land up in square one, mainly due to lack of after care services.

Nazhoen Lamtoen challenges these kind of situation to break the cycle, through providing after care services through many life skills training to reintegrate these lost children and youth back into society as productive citizens



Organization Structure



New home to recovery for youth with SUDs

Happiness Centre, after care home

The two-roomed Happiness Center, near the Amochhu, accommodates recovering addicts and has been operational since 2019. The Happiness Center has received more than 356 young drug abusers as of now.

The centre provides self-help programmes, conduct yoga and meditation, games and sports activities, and educate the young men on addiction and recovery. As Phuentsholing shares a porous border with Jaigaon, the town is notorious for illegal drug abuse and trafficking. Despite measures, abuse and smuggling have increased.

The centre is a small place providing after care services for the substance user and alcoholic. The centre takes SU and alcoholic and eventually hand them to their parents and relatives for rehabilitation and also takes in those who return from rehabilitation to prevent relapse.



Happiness Centre team during capacity building training



Strengthening self help group, HC members attending NA Bhutan symposium at Thimphu

HC in house members preparing for the monthly cleaning campaign in Phuentsholing Thromde



Daily session, begins with Yoga and meditation

HC members certification on electronic, carpentry and plumbing



INAGURATION OF RECOVERY CORNER CAFE HAPPINESS CENTRE.

Happiness Centre an umbrella project under Nazhoen Lamtoen inagurated a recovery corner cafe with the funding support from Save the Children International- Bhutan Country Office . The recovery corner was mainly set up for the sustainability and to create employment opportunities for the members in centre. Happiness Centre is a after care home for recovering individuals from substance and alcohol use disorder. The centre also reintegrate the recovering individuals into mainstream society and conducts outreach program in Phuntsholing. The centre also work closely with Phuentsholing Thromde RBP Phuntsholing in creating awareness. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to @Phuntsholing Thromde and RBP Phuntsholing for your continued support.



**PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REHABILITATION CENTRE FUNDED BY UNICEF
BHUTAN**

Nazhoen Lamtoen in collaboration with Royal Bhutan Police conducted a photography workshop at Youth Development Rehabilitation Centre from 5th - 9th January 2022 with the funding support from UNICEF Bhutan

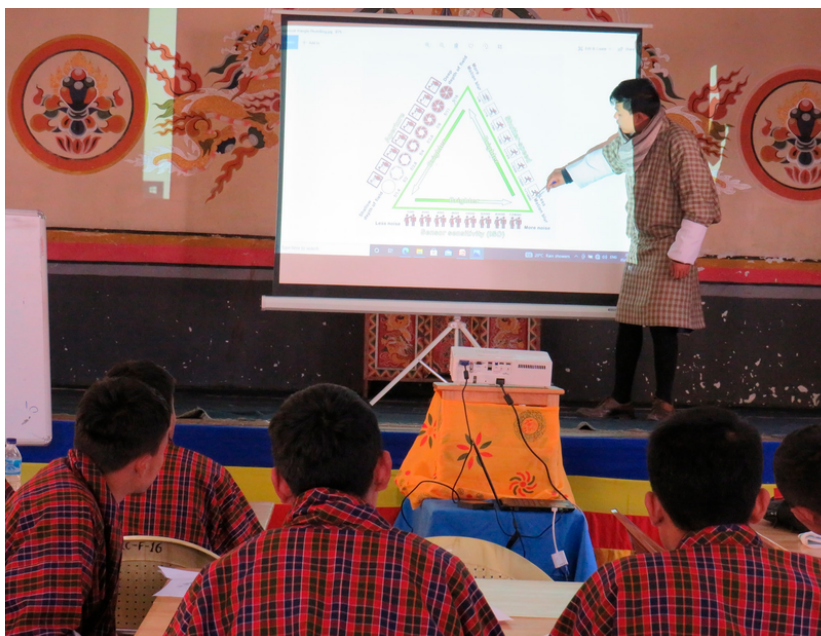
The workshop offered the residence an opportunity to express through image's and learn a skill they never thought they had. During the five days training the residence learned about composition, lighting techniques, and key information to take quality photograph.

The residence also went on a field to apply what they have learned. At the end of five days workshop, residence selected their favourite picture under the category of best picture with attention to the details.

They all expressed their joy and supprises with their outcomes at the end of the five days Workshop. We have updated some of the best photograph by the residence from many and we are really amazed with their outcomes.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Major Tshering Zam and the Management of YDRC for your support during the program.

Thank you Unicef Bhutan for supporting the Workshop.



10 WAYS TO RAISE A CONFIDENT CHILD

1 LOVE YOUR CHILD



This seems obvious, but it's probably the most important thing you can give your child. Your child needs to feel accepted and loved. Unconditional love builds a strong foundation for confidence.

6 MODEL POSITIVE SELF-TALK

Whatever you model, your child will learn. Positive self-talk has been shown to improve our ability to master difficult tasks, unlike the self-disparaging comments many of us so automatically make.



2 HELP TO SET REALISTIC GOALS



Your child needs to focus on more realistic goals. Guide your child to set reasonable goals to help avoid feelings of failure. If the goal is a stretch, discuss some reachable short-term steps along the path.

7 UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS

It's okay for children to get frustrated and to be disappointed. Your child may cry all day, but your unconditional understanding will help their grief, your empathy will be a critical factor in overcoming it.



3 TEACH RESILIENCE



No one succeeds at everything. There will be setbacks and failures. Help them learn that setbacks are a normal part of life. When they do succeed, they will take pride in their accomplishment.

8 ENCOURAGE SPORTS

Through sports they learn that they can practice, improve and achieve goals. They also learn to recognize their strengths, accept or strengthen their weaknesses, handle defeat, and learn teamwork.



4 INSTILL INDEPENDENCE



Set up situations where they can do things for themselves. Encourage exploration, whether it's a trip to a new park or new foods at mealtime. This will expand their horizons and build confidence to handle new situations.

9 SET RULES

Children are more confident when they know who is in charge and what to expect. Every household will have different rules. Learning and following rules gives children a sense of security and confidence.



5 TEACH SELF-ENCOURAGEMENT



All humans need encouragement. Encouraging your child not only keeps him feeling more positive and motivated, it also gives him an inner voice that will help him to encourage himself for the rest of his life. Otherwise the harsh criticizing voice steps in, triggered by the disappointment.

10 COACH RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Confidence in relationships is key to your child's self-confidence. The important initial relationship is the loving parent-child relationship. But as your child's social circle expands, help them to see how their actions affect others—and help her learn to maintain their confidence when someone else's actions affect them.



**Women and Child Helpline, NCWC: 1098 or
77161214**

Royal Bhutan Police: 113

RENEW: 17126353

Nazhoen Lamtoen: 1257

Training on Child and Women Protection

On 11 February 2022, JICA and NCWC successfully completed the Country Focused Training for Bhutan - Protection and Care for Women and Children. The training was attended by 34 Gender and Child Focal Points drawn from 19 Dzongkhags and 4 Thromdes, as well as other relevant organizations including Royal Bhutan Police, RENEW, Nazhoen Lamtoen and NCWC. The training provided the participants with the knowledge and skills to allow them to effectively respond to the needs of women and children who need care and support.

The training covered a range of important topics such as: Japanese government's policies and measures to end violence against women and children; various support services and stakeholder coordination mechanisms; understanding trauma and its effects from survivors' perspectives; and how shelters are managed and operated and their associated challenges in Japan.



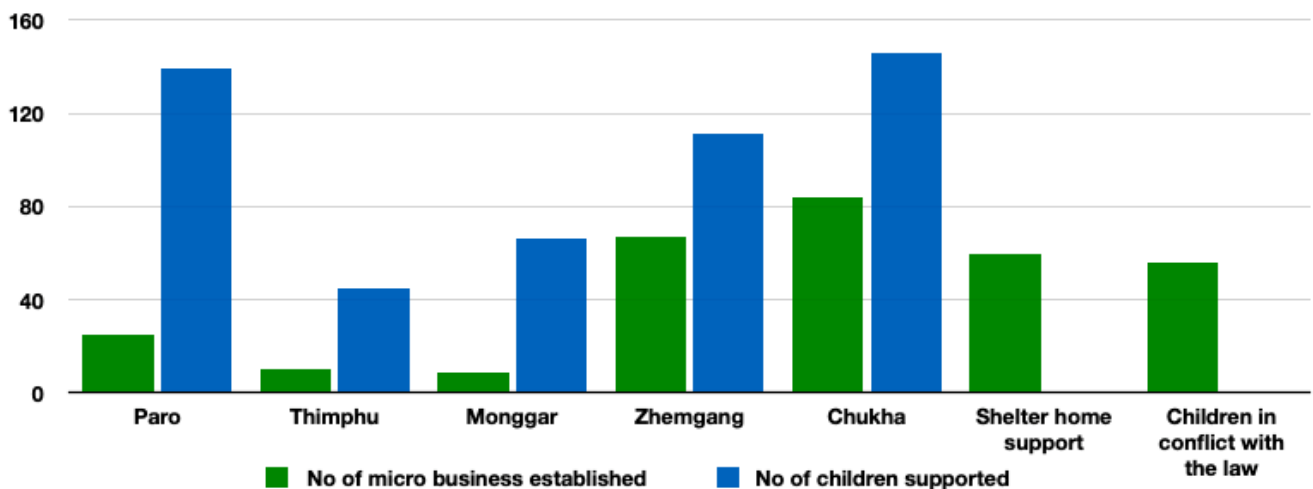
One training does not change everything, or things don't change overnight. Yet, the participants have seen a different edge to gender equality and child protection. We hope to see, with some adaptation of the learning to the cultural, political and social context in Bhutan, more collaborations, new initiatives and positive changes in the field. During the closing sessions, Dasho Karma Drukpa, Director-General of the NCWC also encouraged the participants to put the learning into practice at their place of work in his closing remarks.

Congratulations to all the participants on their successful completion of the training, and we hope to continue our great collaboration further!

Transforming the lives of children in difficult circumstances through livelihood intervention

The project- Strengthening Child Protection and response services for most deprived children in the country funded by Save the children-2018-2021 in 5 piloted districts; Thimphu, Paro, Monggar, Zhemgang, and Chukha was aimed to support children in difficult circumstances in long term support by establishing micro-business so the family can depend on it for livelihood. The project produced tangible results in transforming the lives of many children. We would like to thank our development partner Save the Children International- Bhutan Country Office for having trust in us in funding this huge project, Opening Your Heart To Bhutan for your timely support and UNICEF Bhutan for supporting the Children in conflict law Projects. our competent authority National Commission for Women and Children - NCWC, Bhutan for guiding us Royal Bhutan Police, Dzongkhag Administration of 5 piloted districts, local government and education sector for their unconditional support and not the least our Case Manager Officers (CMO) who risk everything in making difference in the lives of our children and all the relevant agencies, volunteers and members who walked along in this journey.

Children in difficult circumstances (CIDC) Children in conflict with the law (CICL)-long term support in 5 piloted districts 2018-2021



Sonam Tobgay
Zhemgang
CMO



Samten Tshering
Paro
CMO



Sonam Zam
Chukha
CMO



Pem Dorji
Monggar
CMO

PROJECT SUPPORTS MORE THAN 500 CHILDREN

A SINGLE MOTHER SANGAY PEMA WAS LIVING WITH HER THREE DAUGHTERS AND SISTER IN A SMALL HUT. SHE LIVED IN CONSTANT FEAR OF HOW SHE COULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER THREE CHILDREN AND HER SISTER'S EDUCATION WITH NO SOURCE OF INCOME.

A single mother Sangay Pema was living with her three daughters and sister in a small hut. She lived in constant fear of how she could continue to support her three children and her sister's daughter education with no source of income.

But that was two years ago. Today, she lives in a rented house and provides for the family by operating a small grocery shop.

She is one of the beneficiaries of a pilot project called "Building Social Protection for the Vulnerable Children," which started in 2018 for three years by Nazhoen Lamtoen, an organisation dedicated to youth with funding support from Save the Children, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and Opening Your Heart to Bhutan.

The pilot project supported children in remote pockets of the country with the main goal to protect vulnerable children by empowering their families with self-sustaining businesses and preventing children in difficult circumstances (CIDC) from coming into conflict with the law.



In many cases, children were exploited when families were under financial crisis, and there is a high correlation of CIDC coming in conflict with the law.

"About 99 percent of juveniles serving sentences in the Youth Development Rehabilitation Centre (YDRC) belong to dysfunctional families or families with difficult circumstances.

The project focused on children in villages and rural communities, as children faced protection issues, abuse, violence, neglect, and were not aware of their rights, and many were not aware where to report and seek support.

They do not have access to national protection and services due to remote locations and circumstances.

Despite the challenges, her children are bright and continue to excel in academics. "The business is good and I am thankful for Nazhoen Lamtoen's support to make my family independent." There was a concern her children might drop out of school and marry early to support their mother. The office rented a house and established a shop with Nu 200,000 in seed money. The project was tried in five dzongkhags; Paro, Chukha, Mongar, Zhemgang, and Thimphu to provide livelihood self-sustaining business to families of CIDC.

The beneficiaries includes orphans, single parents with no income, many siblings in one family vulnerable to exploitation, children with disabilities, and incapacitated parents.

About 200 various businesses were established, ranging from dairy farms, grocery shops, agricultural farming, tailoring, mushroom farming, poultry farming, and garment shops.

Thinley Tobgyel said that case management officers ensured Nu 2,000 per month is deposited to children's accounts from the profit generated from the businesses. "Families for whom establishing businesses were not possible due to family's incapacity and lack of market were provided monthly support."

He said that the organisation was looking forward to forming a community child protection team in each gewog to address the issues and fast track cases. "Alcoholism, divorce, domestic violence, and lack of parenting skills is the major cause of issues which has a huge impact on children's mental health and increases their vulnerability."

Thinley Tobgyel said that 56 children in conflict with the law (CICL) from all parts of the country would also be provided support after their release from the YDRC.

From children in conflict with the law to musician in making-A story



Pratap Darjee was 13 years old when he was caught for burglary. As a juvenile convict, he was sent to Youth Rehabilitation Development Centre (YRDC) in Tsimasham, Chukha.

While serving his prison term at YRDC, he met counsellors from Nazhoen Lamtoen, who made him realise the importance of life.

"I also found out what I have to do in my life and how much potential we have to change other's life," he said.

He is 23 years now and is a musician in the making. He is also a father and makes a living working part-time in a meat shop in Thimphu and composing songs.

"All that I am today is because of the support I got from Nazhoen Lamtoen," he said. "The organisation helped me to start my life again."

He said that he feels lucky to have been caught at the first instance of the crime. "If not, I could have committed worst crimes."

Pratap had a difficult childhood.

With three siblings and a single mother supporting them, he said he could not get many things he wanted in an urban place where many children got as desired.

He went under depression after his father passed away and got into drugs. "Everything fell apart after that. I lost my childhood to it," he said.

Pratap said there were moments when he contemplated about helping those who were passionate about music.

Today, Pratap is working towards his dreams of setting up a music studio. Nazhoen Lamtoen has helped to promote his music and establish the studio.

Going by the stage name Naku, Pratap is equipped with sound editing and music composition skills.

There are 41 songs that he composed and plans to release once he completes his music studio. "Despite Nazhoen Lamtoen's help, I am short on capital," he said.

Earning was much easier in the past two years, he added. He earns about Nu 7,000 for a song he composes.

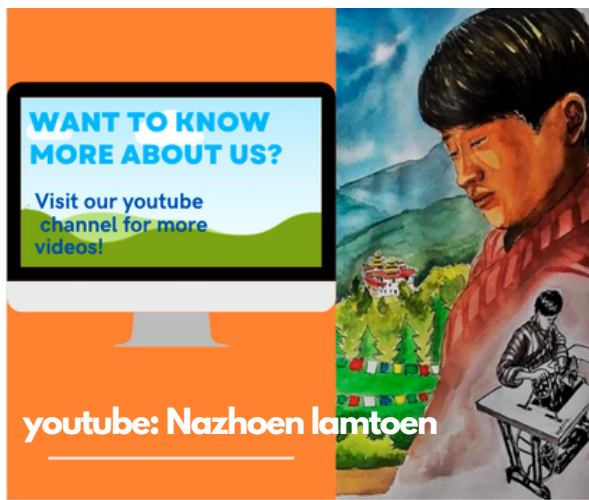
He said he is working hard to achieve his dreams so that he could help others to have an easier path towards their journey than his. "There will always be obstacles in life but we have to keep striving."

He said he is happy and lucky that he got another chance in life. "I want all youth who are into drugs and other problems to understand that you can overcome anything."

Pratap said it is not possible to become successful overnight and continuous effort is necessary to become somebody.

Studies show that earlier investment in an individual ensures greater chances of preventing violent behaviours through adulthood. "Youth violence can be prevented and young offenders rehabilitated through appropriate policies and interventions."

Nazhoen Lamtoen is dedicated to reintegrate youth who came in conflict with the law and completed their prison sentencing from YRDC.



JICA Bhutan joins Nazhoen Lamtoen's efforts

JICA Bhutan Office and Nazhoen Lamtoen signed handing over of items worth Nu.0.8m for children's shelter home and children at YDRC juvenile centre. The items include materials for teaching, learning, ICT equipment, and clothing. The Board, Management, and children of shelter homes and children at juvenile centers would like to express our sincere gratitude to the JICA Bhutan office for supporting the items for our children in times of covid-19 pandemic



COLOURS BEYOND THE WALLS

Every stroke of the brush tells us a story. The artists are children at YDRC, with the artworks for the exhibition “Colors beyond the wall Volume II” are from our youths at the Youth Development Rehabilitation Center. All the artworks speak of the youth's love for creative expression. The five days of the art workshop at YDRC, youths immersed themselves in just creating their art, discovering the techniques, the magic of mixing colours, and using it as a way to communicate their emotions and thoughts. We have seen the joy art has brought to our youths.

The proceeds from the sale of the artworks is to support the reintegration of children who come in conflict with the law. The event was covered by BBS and Kuensel.

The art workshop was resourced by Wang Rana Gurung and Sangita Rai from VAST Bhutan.

Thank you VAST Bhutan for sending us two wonderful resource person.

Funded by our development partner UNICEF.



Poster for the art exhibition at Work space, Changlam Plaza



art lovers at exhibition

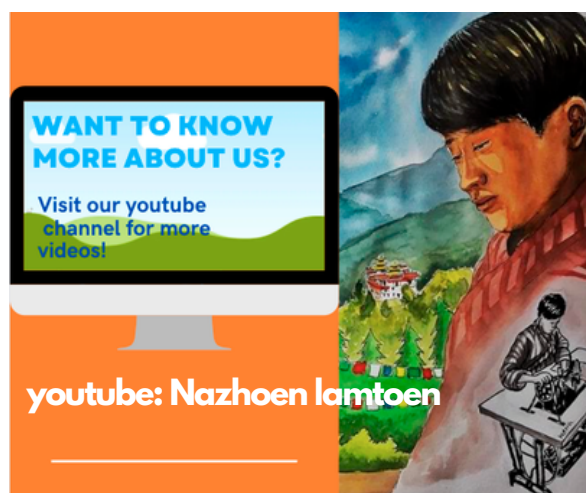
Quarterly Board meeting

Nazhoen Lamtoen conducted it's 6th board meeting on 6th May 2022. During the meeting the management presented the progress report and the financial update to the board . Further discussed on Nazhoen Lamtoen way forward and plan. Thank you board of directors for your continued support.



Reaching out more

50 Children in difficult circumstances were supported with academic expenses for the academic year 2022 with funding support from our Development partner Save the Children International- Bhutan Country Office. The beneficiary was selected through a rapid situation assessment in coordination with respective schools in Thimphu and Dagana. With the limited fund, we are not able to reach out to all the beneficiaries that we have registered, however, the office will make sure to follow up on this and reach out soon. Thank you Save the Children for your support.



Observing International day against Drug abuse and illicit Trafficking

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June. The only after care centre in the country Happiness Centre in Phuentsholing observed the day with various activities creating awareness in the community against combating drug use and its ill effect. They also talked about the recovery and its benefit. The centre today has more than 40 beneficiaries seeking after support. Till date the centre has supported 540 clients providing various support like referrals to rehabilitation, reintegration, counselling and shelter support.

The Happiness centre is affiliated with the umbrella branch of Nazhoen Lamtoen since 2020

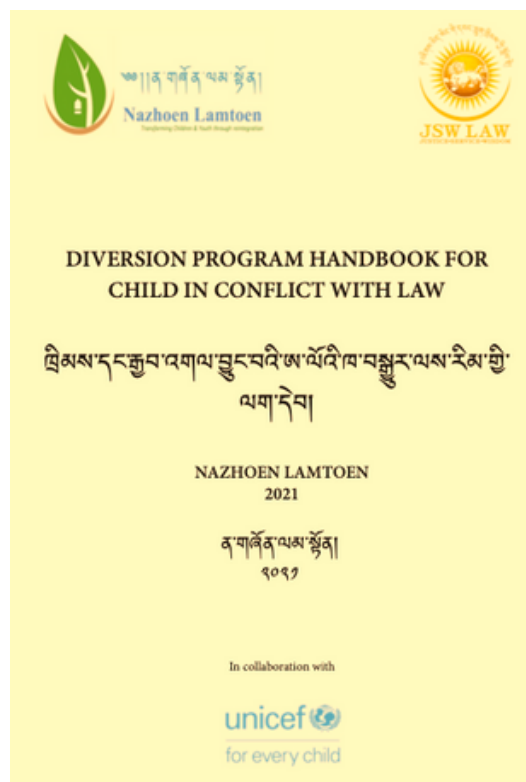


Happiness centre members creating awareness in the Phuentsholing Town

Sensitization of Diversion provision for the Children coming in conflict with the law

Awareness talk on Diversion Hand book for child in conflict with the law. Diversion means alternative measures for dealing with CICL other than judicial proceedings. It aims to prevent the involvement of children in the criminal justice system, but at the same time, allows them to acknowledge the harm they have caused and holds them accountable to the victim and community. It connects children with resources to prevent future offences while promoting public safety and encouraging responsible citizenship.

The Diversion handbook was developed in coloration with Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law HDC with the funding support from development partner UNICEF Bhutan. Joined by Mr. Tashi Dorji, Counsellor at NCWC.



A visit from UK and US



Our Development partners Opening your heart to Bhutan, a charity based in UK, founder Gyalongma Pema Deki (Emma Salde) Country Representative Ugyen Tshering visited for further support.

A visit from the US Embassy led by Mr. Andrew H.Ou and Mr. Karma Gyeltshen.

A visit from CSOA Secretariat

New member secretaries and officials from CSOA for visited our office. During the visit NL had an opportunity to present our activities and plan to new member secretariat Dasha Sherab Dorji and simultaneously we had an opportunity to hear plans from CSOA.





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



Save the Children



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Establishing and institutionalizing community-based child protection through Parenting without Violence Common n Approach.

GOAL

Parenting without Violence (PoV).



KEY ACTIVITIES

- Training and orientation for children, parents community mentors, district administrations officials and national task force on Child Protection and gender-based issues, policies and legislation, and existing systems and procedures in the pilot districts.
- Develop and disseminate PoV advocacy, communication, and visibility materials as per the SBCC strategy.
- Advocate with the government for allocation of budget for child protection activities in the pilot districts.
- Establish reporting, counseling, and prevention measures in schools with linkages to the community-based protection mechanism.
- Establish Community-based Child Protection Committees with operational and reporting mechanisms in place.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

National Commission for Women and Children,
Ministry of Education and
Nazhoen Lamtoen



KEY OUTCOMES

1. Increased understanding of positive parenting.
2. Increased resilience and confidence in children
3. Increased access to community-based child protection.

CHILDREN AND ADULTS PARTICIPATION AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Community mentors deliver PoV group sessions in their community.
- Parents of children 6-17 years old participate in the parenting sessions.
- Children 6-17 years participate and benefit from the children session.
 - Access to community based support to protect children.
- Beneficiaries can also access the NCWC toll free Helpline 1098.



ABOUT SAVE THE CHILDREN: WHAT WE DO

Save the Children in Bhutan provides technical and financial assistance to the Royal Government of Bhutan and National CSOs. We complement the efforts of the government in pioneering innovations in critical areas of Early Childhood Care and Development, Basic Education, Child Protection, Health & Nutrition. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard.

OUR PARTNERS

Our key partners include:



00975-2-323419/322599

www.bhutan.savethechildren.net

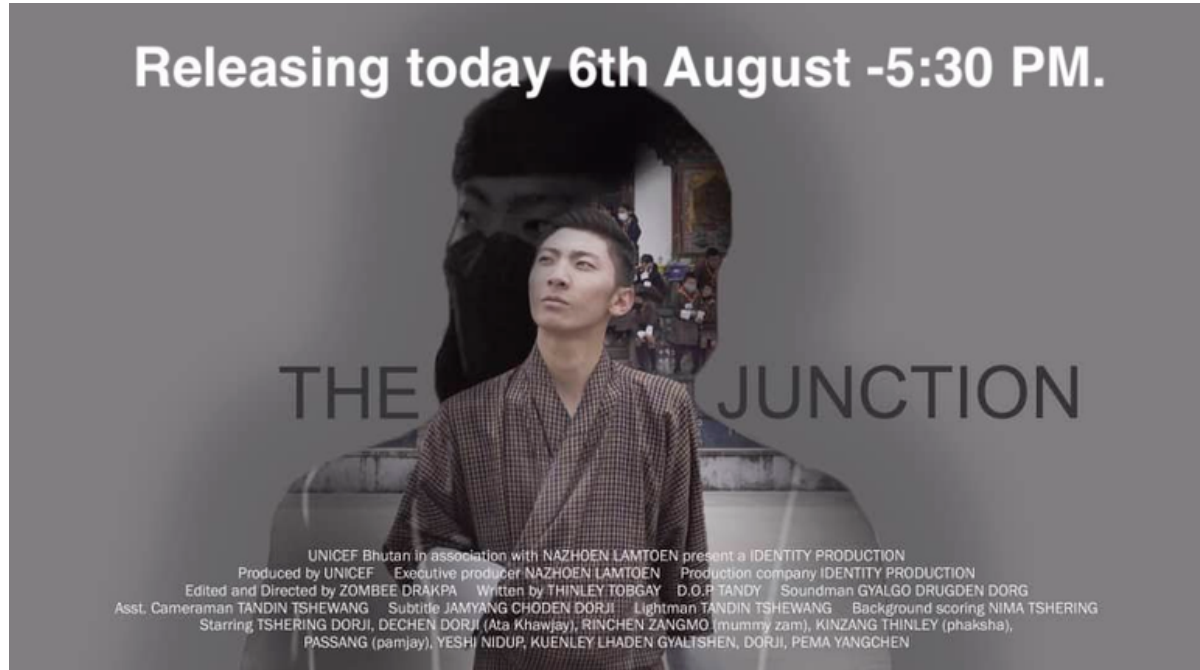
feedbackSCBhutan@savethechildren.org

Nazhoen Lamtoen is a key partner for the project Parenting without violence (2022-2024) collaborating with Save the Children, NCWC and Ministry of Education. The project aims to train and sensitize to parents and care givers on providing parenting skills and child protection.

Awareness through films

The Junction is a short film based on a child coming in conflict with the law.

The film was made with financial support from UNICEF Bhutan supported by Human Dignity Clinic of Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in association with Identity Production



Signing of MoU on Diversion Programs

The Nazhoen Lamtoen conducted a meeting with various CSO's and businesses instituted in Thimphu ,Paro, Monggar, Chukha and Zhemgang to streamline community services for Diversion of Children in Conflict with the Law(CICL). The meeting that was conducted for period of two days each in every districts for initiating a multi-organizational collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and Social Enterprises for Diversion of CICLs.

Bhutan ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the year 1990, only a year after the Convention was open for signature. With the ratification of the convention, and the other two optional protocols to the convention, Bhutan affirmed its dedication towards protecting Children and their inalienable rights.

The Constitution of Bhutan provides that “The State shall endeavour to take appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected against all forms of discrimination and exploitation including trafficking, prostitution, abuse, violence, degrading treatment and economic exploitation.” Furthermore, the Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan ensures the consideration of the best interest of the Child, through protection of the rights of children and the protection of children in difficult circumstances and CICLs. The Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan, among other initiatives, provides ‘Diversion’ for Children who come into conflict with the law.



Diversion is an alternate measure for dealing with CICLs other than the conventional criminal justice system. Born out of the principle of ‘Restorative Justice,’ diversion ensures the reintegration of CICLs into the community and a child’s mental and physical development. Nazhoen Lamtoen, pursuant to Bhutan’s dedication towards safeguarding the rights and the best interest of the child, and pursuant to the organization’s own vision of “Transforming Children and Youth through Reintegration” has constantly committed itself to providing diversion programmes CICL.

Nazhoen Lamtoen signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 9 of the participants. The MoU was signed with the promise from both the parties to support and provide a well planned, transformative diversion program to CICL diverted by Nazhoen Lamtoen. The following organizations and businesses have promised their support and collaboration to safeguard the lives of our children who come into conflict with the law:



Through this project, we aim to streamline services for diversion programs by creating an ecosystem of collaboration within various organizations in and for the best interest of the child. We will continue this project and continue community service mapping in other Dzongkhags within the country. Today Nazhoen Lamtoen stands with 29 partners.



Signing of Project Agreement- Save the Children

Nazhoen Lamtoen signed a project agreement with Save the Children Bhutan to support children in difficult circumstances due to poverty, disability, neglect, and abuse. The project will be initiated in Monggar, Zhemgang, and Chukha. Similar projects in the past building social protection for children (2017-2019) and strengthening child protection services for the most deprived children in Bhutan (2019-2021) in Monggar, Zhemhang, Chukha, Paro, and Thimphu had reached out to more than 500 children in difficult circumstances. Thank you Save the children for your continued support in transforming the lives of children in difficult circumstances.



Signing of Project Agreement -Opening Your Heart to Bhutan

Opening Your Heart To Bhutan , charity based in UK has been supporting Children shelter home annual rental since 2020- 2022 for last 3 years. Further the charity has also supported utility vehicle for the shelter home.



Signing of Project Agreement - Helvetas, Bhutan

Nazhoen Lamtoen signed a memorandum of agreement with Project Nyamdrel, a project grant of the European Union implemented by International IDEA and Helvetas Bhutan. The project “An advocacy on child protection to create an enabling environment for our children”

This sharing event will be led by the children's representatives on the process and their findings, and learnings from the sensitizations.

The event will allow Nazhoen Lamtoen to create a platform for more dialogues to strengthen child protection at the national level. Helvetas Bhutan ventured into supporting CSOs, Nazhoen Lamtoen received similar grand support in 2018 and 2020.



Nazhoen Lamtoen in media

Nazhoen Lamtoen seeks support from CSOs and CBOs

By Sonam Deki
Thimphu

Children who come in conflict with law (CiCL) with offences graded misdemeanour and below, will now serve their sentencing, which is called a diversion programme or alternate sentencing, by working in civil society organisations (CSO) and community-based organisations (CBO).

This is because Nazhoen Lamtoen signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 11 CSOs and CBOs to engage CiCL.

With overwhelming referrals of CiCL, Nazhoen Lamtoen is seeking support from other agencies to provide service for CiCL, who are given alternate sentencing to serve the community.

As the civil society organisation (CSO) dedicated to serving children in difficult circumstances, Nazhoen Lamtoen provides diversion programmes,

which act as a rehabilitation programme to help remedy and reform the behaviour and reintegrate CiCLs into society.

Nazhoen Lamtoen's executive director, Thinley Tobgyel, said the alternate sentencing is called diversion.

“Police handle diversion programmes for CiCL, whose cases are graded petty misdemeanour and below,” he said. “Cases above petty misdemeanour are forwarded to the Office of Attorney General and prosecutors assess the case in presence of probation officer and the child's legal guardian.”

He explained that a diversion agreement is then drafted and the child is sent for a diversion programme to Nazhoen Lamtoen through the National Commission for Women and Children.

According to the executive director, Nazhoen Lamtoen identifies the interest of the child and provides

immediate attention and interventions wherever necessary. “We assess the child based on case background, family situation, living and care arrangement, and education.”

as suicide risk, any other risk posed to themselves, others, society including past records of such behaviour and mental illness that needs an immediate response.”



Nazhoen Lamtoen
Empowering Children & Youth through reintegration

He explained that they assess the nature of the crime committed by the CiCL, the severity of the charges faced by the CiCL and the circumstances under which the crime was committed. “We assess identity mental health of the CiCL such

Thinley Tobgyel said Nazhoen Lamtoen allows children to choose their own diversion programme. “We give them the choice of community services to give the CiCL the opportunity to choose the most suitable community service option and encourage full partici-

pation in the service.”

He said all diversion programmes must be in the best interests of the child and any programme should take into account the child's age and developmental needs, educational level, cognitive ability, and domestic and environmental circumstances, the safety of the child and the community, and the child's cultural, religious and linguistic background.

Meanwhile, diversion programmes in Bhutan are guided by diversion guidelines for CiCL 2019 and standard operating procedures for dealing with CiCL.

Nazhoen Lamtoen envisages interventions in the gap of societal care with the emphasis on post-released children from the juvenile and rehabilitation center and other such orphaned and suddenly disadvantaged youths.

Art exhibition from youth in conflict with the law

April 21st, 2022 | Post Views: 947



Yangyel Lhaden

Nazhoen Lamtoen reintegrates 39 youth who returned from YRDC

June 24th, 2021 | Post Views: 1,224

NAZHOEN LAMTOEN REINTEGRATES 39 YOUTH WHO RETURNED FROM YRDC

Youth organization, Nazhoen Lamtoen, has reintegrated 39 youth who completed their prison sentencing from the Youth Rehabilitation Development Centre (YRDC). Data compiled by the organization from 2018 stated that the 39 youth continued their education, learned tailoring, hairdressing and driving. Some even obtained chef training.

JUNE 24, 2021

Project supports more than 500 children

February 17th, 2022 | Post Views: 1,010

PROJECT SUPPORTS MORE THAN 500 CHILDREN

A SINGLE MOTHER SANGAY PEMA WAS LIVING WITH HER THREE DAUGHTERS AND SISTER IN A SMALL HUT. SHE LIVED IN CONSTANT FEAR OF HOW SHE COULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER THREE CHILDREN AND HER SISTER'S EDUCATION WITH NO SOURCE OF INCOME.

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Yangyel Lhaden

TheBhutanese

LEADING THE WAY

First ever shelter for disadvantaged children

Pema seldon 12/08/2018 ABOUT TOWN Leave a comment 1,409 Views

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The children's shelter in Changgedaphu is the first ever interim children's shelter home established by Nazhoen Lamtoen to provide aftercare services to disadvantaged children. Nazhoen Lamtoen provides aftercare services to children and youth in conflict with law and in difficult circumstances.

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JUNE 24, 2021

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Nazhoen Lamtoen reaches to 12-year-old in Samdrupjongkhar

June 9th, 2021 | Post Views: 1,538

A non-profit organisation dedicated to youth, Nazhoen Lamtoen, reached out to the 12-year-old girl, who gave birth in Samdrupjongkhar last month.

The organisation's executive director, Thinley Tobgyel, said the moment they heard the news, they looked for the girl and contacted her through her parents to assess her mental health and provide emotional support.

He said that during the counselling process, they found the girl and her parents need financial support and amount of Nu 10,000 to buy essential items. "The organization agreed to look after the child and also the girl's education."

INVOLVING COMMUNITY TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Nazhoen Lamtoen launched a project, Community Child Protection Team (CCPT), in Paro earlier this week to address the problem of child abuse and neglect. Despite the place and various agencies providing services for effective child protection systems in the country is urgent.

JUNE 16, 2021

LACK OF AFTER-CARE FOR TEENAGE PREGNANCY WILL IMPACT THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE

The past few months have been difficult for the 12-year-old child, who was raped during the lockdown and became a mother in Samdrupjongkhar.

Despite support from her school authorities, where teachers visited her house to teach lessons and facilitated her to sit her mid-term exam, the 12-year-old had to quit after writing two papers as her child became sick and was referred to a dzongkhag hospital.

AUGUST 19, 2021

Protecting our children needs collective effort

June 9th, 2021 | Post Views: 1,231

While many people are still trying to comprehend how we failed to protect our children, which resulted in 330 reported teenage pregnancies last year, a non-profit organisation dedicated for youth reached out to the 12-year-old girl in Samtse.

As an immediate response, Nazhoen Lamtoen has provided cash support for the girl and her parents to continue her education. Counsellors from the organisation and teachers of the girl are also providing counselling, which is the need for the girl. The organisation and school authorities ensured support for her to continue education.

The minor had also gone through physical and mental trauma. She is not alone. A 13-year-old girl referred to the organisation, RENEW, is expecting.

Domestic violence: Cause of violence against children in Pling

There are no studies conducted to ascertain why domestic violence is high in the border town of Phuentsholing. Many say the bordering town that caters to a floating population, the prolonged lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic (Phuentsholing was under lockdown for almost five months in 2021) and urban poverty could have led to domestic violence, which in turn led to violence against children.

KUENSEL
August 27, 2022

A multi-sectoral campaign to end violence against children

A multi-sectoral campaign was launched yesterday to end violence against children. The campaign is expected to address barriers that prevent children and youth from availing child protection services and to raise awareness on the prevalence of violence against children as it remains underreported.

Schools in Thimphu prepare for a better academic year

Thimphu thromde education office and relevant agencies are working up with appropriate solutions to address the issues of students, especially the

MINOR WORKING IN MASSAGE PARLOUR IDENTIFIED AS A CHILD IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE

A 16-year-old minor who was working in a massage parlour in Deki Line in Phuentsholing and was alleged to be offering sexual favours to clients has been identified as a child in difficult circumstances.

KUENSEL
Feb 3, 2023

LACK OF AFTER-CARE FOR TEENAGE PREGNANCY WILL IMPACT THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE

The past few months have been difficult for the 12-year-old child, who was raped during the lockdown and became a mother in Samdrup Jongkhar.

Her school authorities, where teachers visited her and facilitated her to sit her mid-term exams, had to quit after writing two papers as her child was referred to a dzongkhag hospital.

 **Bhutan Times**
September 23, 2019 ·

Nazhoen Lamtoen identifying potential children in difficult circumstances Sangay Rabten

Nazhoen Lamtoen has carried out rapid situation assessment in five piloted dzongkhags which includes Chhuka, Paro, Monggar, Thimphu and Zhemgang to identify potential children in difficult circumstances (CIDC).

This is done with the objective to provide long term support to under 18 children who had conflicted or is going to conflict with law. In later years, it will be conducted in other dzongkhags.

The executive director and the founder of the organization, Thinley Tobgyel said that assessment will help to provide effective after care services to those children who are in difficult circumstance. He said, "99 percent of children who conflicts with law are from destitute background and the reason is they are in difficult circumstances."

**BBS**

June 14, 2021 ·

Nazhoen Lamtoen to pilot Child Protection and Community Child Protection teams to address child abuse cases

To enhance protection and reporting of any form of child exploitations, Nazhoen Lamtoen, a civil society organisation, in collaboration with Paro Dzongkhag launched a pilot project on Child Protection Team in schools and Community Child Protection team on Wednesday. Nazhoen Lamtoen plans to replicate the project in all the schools and gewogs if all goes well. <http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=151605>



The Bhutanese

LEADING THE WAY

National Youth Awards, the first of its kind, to be held

👤 Sonam Yangdon 🕒 08/04/2018 📁 LOCAL NEWS 💬 Leave a comment 👁 985 Views

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Youth Caring Community (YCC) in collaboration with Nazhoen Lamtoen will be marking the International Youth Day on 11-12 August, highlighting the theme "Safe Spaces for Youths". The day will also recognize and award outstanding young leaders.

**Bhutan Times**

September 23, 2019 ·

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Dzongkhag	Male	Female	Total
Chhukha	9	13	22
Monggar	33	29	62
Paro	20	44	64
Thimphu	104	85	189
Zhemgang	31	44	75
Total	197	215	412

and exciting platforms for the youth to make the right
ing spirit of volunteerism to realize their higher purpose in
t relationship, and more importantly to help individuals
y in shaping the nature of our societies.

Reintegration and transformation activities with children in conflict with the law

Since its inception, Nazhoen Lamtoen in 2013 has been instrumental in reintegrating children who complete their time from the Youth Development and Rehabilitation Center (YDRC) at Tsimsham under Chhukha Dzongkhag. Children who come in conflict with the law and who are found to have committed serious offences are referred to YDRC to undergo rehabilitation. It is observed that the children who are referred to YDRC more often than not, belong to broken families devoid of care and guidance contributing to their unwarranted behavior. The lack of care and protection for such a child does not end with a mere referral to a rehabilitation centre as 'aftercare' is equally important in trying to ensure a meaningful reintegration of the child back into the society. In the absence of aftercare, it is seen that the child upon completion of their time at the rehabilitation centre have no alternative but to resort to a life that they were previously accustomed with, resulting in an increasing rate of recidivism among them. Seeing this challenge of reintegrating children back into the society, Nazhoen Lamtoen spearheading in providing support and guidance to the children completing their terms from YDRC. The initiative has success stories to share, which range from getting children from YDRC employed in restaurants, to workshops to individuals starting their own small business .



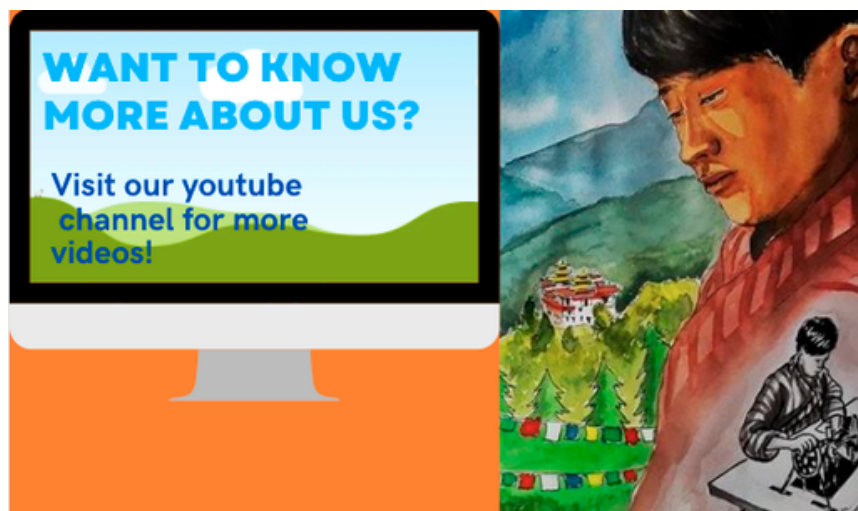
3rd Exposure field visit -Paro, Thimphu and Punakha for the 25 YDRC residence.

A week long Musical program-song composing and music composing training for YDRC 18 residence.



Rangi Bushi Rangi Norbu- A multi-sectoral social and behaviour change campaign to End Violence Against Children.

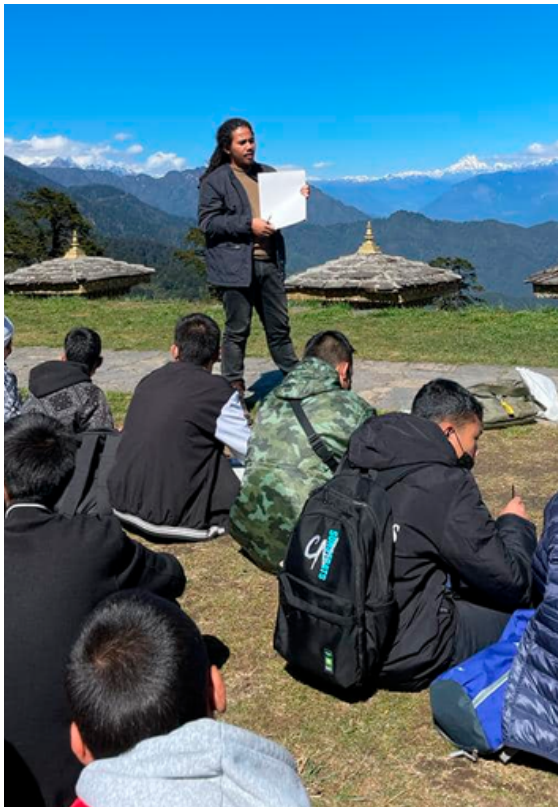
Nazhoen Lamtoen roll out the campaign through training of trainers and advocacy to the officials of local governments within the Dzongkhag on Violence against Children. The trained officials further implement our plan and strengthen platforms for participation at the grassroot levels for EVAC while also streamlining communication channels to ensure that no case of Violence against Children goes unreported. The campaign covered 9 Gewogs with 45 Chiwogs in Thimphu Districts



Weekend Diversion Program for Children in conflict with law

Thimphu has recently seen a rise in cases of Children coming into conflict with law due to their participation in physical altercations or substance abuse. We see this to be a matter of huge concern and acknowledge the need for immediate intervention through rehabilitation services and one on one psycho-social support.

Through our experience of working with children for almost a decade, most of the children who come into conflict with law have been children who had to battle with difficult economic and social circumstances every day of their lives. As minute as it may sound, just a lack of attention to your child, despite being in a position to give your child everything the world has to offer can trigger attention seeking behaviors that can have life-long impact on a child's mental and physical development.



Recognising the need to address such issues through a holistic and societal approach, Nazhoen Lamtoen began its Week- end diversion program yesterday. The program will engage children who have come into conflict with law on week- ends apart from their community service engagement (for out of school children) in productive educational activities.

The activities include but are not limited to, educational movie screening, excursions to educational and spiritual institutions, getaway camps and picnics, leadership workshop and sessions among many more. We will be reaching out to organisations, business entities, institutions and the community for the execution of this program. We look forward to your support.

Total of 44 children who were diverted for diversion program were engaged for more than 3 months every weekends in various life skills activities like, art, film, retreat, sports, talks and many others.



International Children Day observed in Paro

Celebration of World Children's Day, 20th November, Paro- A part of the series of celebrations



Retreat -capacity Development for Nazhoen Lamtoen's Care Giver at the children shelter home.



Caregivers play an important role in the overall development of the child. At the Children's halfway home(children shelter home) our caregivers are more than that, they are creative and innovative and create a healthy living environment to live and grow. Annual capacity building training was conducted to support the growth of our caregivers.



The training was focused on building the communication skills and wellbeing tools and practices. The caregivers learned and shared, to take care of others, they must first care for their own wellbeing. The group shared that even recognising their own emotion is important in communications. This self-awareness can really change the outcome of the conversation. The group developed a plan of action where they will focus on wellbeing practices for themselves and the children.



Annual -capacity Development training for Nazhoen Lamtoen's team

A week long capacity building and retreat was held for staff of Nazhoen Lamtoen and Happiness Center at Zhemgang- Berti Lodge.

The first two days of the retreat saw capacity building for our staff on mental health and child psychology facilitated by the counselor of Changangkha Middle Secondary School. Nazhoen Lamtoen and our friends at the Happiness Center work on a daily basis with children and adults living in difficult circumstances. The workshop, while increasing our capacity in dealing with children and adults living in difficult circumstances, will also help us with taking care of our own mental health in the discharge of our duties.



Along with the workshop, the retreat saw the endorsement of a project management tool, media guideline for Nazhoen Lamtoen and a uniform manual for case management and reporting structure. The organisation is also coming up with a central data portal for case management statistics and record. The retreat ended with reaffirmed promise from our team to further serve our community of children living in difficult circumstances, conflict with law and substance use disorders.

2022 budget at glance

Financial Report for the past two years.		
Applicant Organization: Nazhoen Lamtoen.		
		(Currency: Nu).
Items	2021	2022
Income:		
Save the Children:	7,363,815.00	2,308,460.00
UNICEF:	1,578,543.86	6,764,423.00
Opening Your Heart to Bhutan:	422,490.00	180,000.00
NCWC:	-	700,000.00
Helvetas:	-	397,410.00
Membership:	373,428.00	700,355.00
Interest Received:	18,609.00	40,011.02
Donation :	166,722.00	1,211,337.00
Others:	94,500.00	87,158.00
Total(A)	10,018,107.86	12,389,154.02
Expenditure:		
Save the Children:	7,183,193.00	2,119,531.31
UNICEF:	1,578,543.00	6,364,423.00
Opening Your Heart to Bhutan:	422,490.00	180,000.00
Donation :	679,007.42	1,301,480.00
NCWC:	-	700,000.00
Total(B)	9,863,233.42	10,665,434.31
Balance(A)- (B)	154,874.44	1,723,719.71

Our Development Partners



Save the Children



for every child



HELVETAS
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BHUTAN



This project is funded by
the European Union

Opening
your heart to
Bhutan 



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Thimphu Dzongkhag. Paro Dzongkhag. Mongar Dzongkhag. Zhemgang Dzongkhag. Chukha Dzongkhag . Dagana Dzongkhag

