



Participatory statistics to measure prevalence in bonded labour hotspots in Nepal: Report on findings of the baseline study

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Purpose of report

This report was produced by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Action Aid Nepal, and the Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices (India) for the Freedom Fund. It is an output of the programme '*Planning, learning, monitoring and evaluation activities for the South East Nepal Hotspot*'. The project aims to support learning about the most effective community and NGO activities in combatting modern day slavery and bonded labour in the Freedom Fund South East Nepal Hotspot. The project is funded by the Freedom Fund and directed by IDS. This report details a baseline study of bonded labour in three districts in South East Nepal with documented evidence of adults and children working through a system of agricultural bonded labour known as Harwa-Charwa¹. The baseline study focuses on NGO intervention areas over time with a view to seeing whether and how NGO interventions are impacting on prevalence and the factors that enhance the risks of bondage.

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¹ In Maithili, Charwa denotes a landless person who grazes cattle. Harwa denotes a landless person who works on other people's land. Both terms have connotations with bondage.

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List of abbreviations

DDC	District Development Committee
HH	Household
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
VDC	Village Development Committees
BIDC	Bhawani Integrated Development Centre
CIC	Community Improvement Center
CDF	Community Development Forum
DSAM	Dalit Samrakshyan Aviyan Manch
JDS	Janachetana Dalit Sangam
TSWO	Tapeshwori Social Welfare Organization
UDS	Utpidi Dalit Samaj
OBC	Other Backward Classes

Executive Summary

This report details a baseline study of bonded labour in three districts in South East Nepal with documented evidence of adults and children working through a system of agricultural bonded labour known as Harwa-Charwa². The baseline study focuses on NGO intervention areas over time with a view to seeing whether and how NGO interventions are impacting on prevalence and the factors that enhance the risks of bondage.

Data was collected from 572 respondents relating to 1,660 households in 52 wards that were served by NGOs and interpreted by community participants. Participants discussed and analysed the findings at village level. The data was then aggregated at the hotspot level.

Below are the major summary findings of the baseline study:

Broadly speaking the interventions are in the right location. There are significant variations in the prevalence of bonded labour in the different NGO intervention areas – with prevalence ranging from 15% to 72%. In some villages, bonded labour does not seem to exist. Nevertheless, in all intervention areas, levels of bonded labour are significant. Almost a third of all households (29%) have members in bonded labour, with households split between 17% with all working family members in bonded labour and 12% with at least one bonded family member.

The prevalence of bonded labour correlates with the remoteness of the community. Communities near roads have a lower prevalence of bondage. Rural communities that are more remote—and consequently less well-served by slavery and poverty eradication efforts—are likely to have a higher prevalence of bondage.

A remarkably low number of child labourers and child bonded labourers was reported. This stands in contrast to a narrative analysis of life stories³ in which child labour and bonded child labour are reported to be widespread. One possible explanation is that children who work alongside their parents are not considered to be workers because they are not paid.

Unsurprisingly in this system of agricultural bondage, fewer people who own land are bonded. 50.5 % of households with no bonded labour own land compared to 29.4 % of households that are comprised exclusively of bonded labourers. Similarly those bonded are less likely to have a bank account, which probably also reflects that these are remote villages with fewer banks.

The link between loans and bonded labour is significant. Most households in the intervention areas have taken loans, but households with bonded labourers have slightly more loans and loan more often from money lenders and employers at relatively high interest rates. Interest rates from family and friends also go up when somebody already has a loan from somewhere else. Borrowing from a moneylender who is also the debtor's employer is most common among households in which all workers are in bonded labour. The vast majority of loans taken are responses to health crises, with a high proportion of loans also for the purpose of covering marriage expenses, migration, and house repairs. Interestingly, most people in the study sample reported having access to healthcare whether or not they have members in bonded labour, but these health facilities do not provide enough of the services that people in the communities want and need to prevent them from taking out health related loans. Loans for migration are higher in the non-bonded categories reflecting the fact that most bondage is agricultural in nature--tying people to the land. It suggests that people coming out of bondage might also want to migrate to find alternatives. This will have implications for the dynamics of local social and economic life.

² In Maithili, Charwa denotes a landless person who grazes cattle. Harwa denotes a landless person who works on other people's land. Both terms have connotations with bondage.

³ D. Burns B. P.Sharma P. Oosterhoff, S. Sah (2017) Patterns and dynamics of agricultural bonded labour in South Eastern Nepal: Findings from life story analysis (forthcoming)

1. Introduction

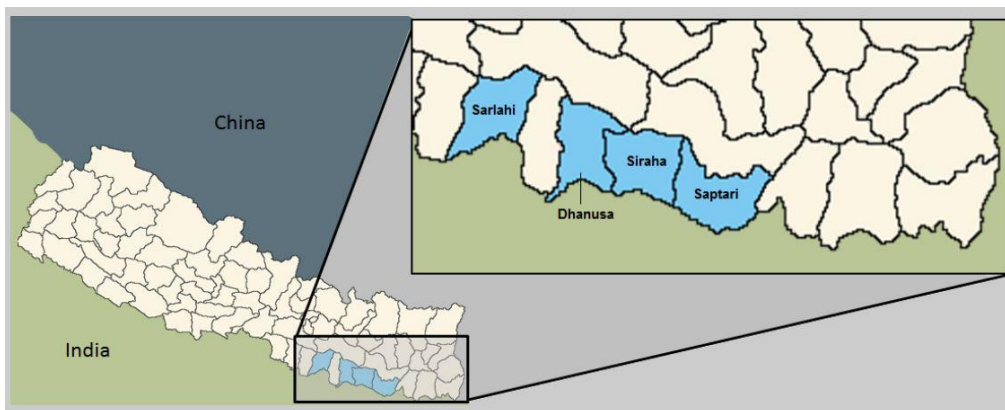
1.1 Background

Forced labour of adults and children in the agricultural sector in Nepal is a well-documented problem. A survey conducted in 12 districts – seven in the central and eastern Terai (lowlands) and five in the far-western hills in south-east Nepal – estimates that 111,149 households (12%) of a total of 942,595 households residing in the 12 districts are affected by forced labour.⁴ This study finds that adults and children working through a system of bonded labour known as “Harwa-Charwa”. Within these households, men work growing crops, and women, children, and the elderly work as cattle herders or as domestic servants. Two-thirds of these households are from “Dalit” castes, traditionally considered “untouchables”. Migration is a major overlaying factor. Historically, most migration was rural to urban within the country’s borders, with some people going to neighbouring India and Tibet. With globalisation, however, workers have migrated further afield, in particular to the Gulf States and Malaysia. The eastern Terai region now has the second highest emigration rate in Nepal⁵.

The Freedom Fund and seven partner organisations in south-eastern Nepal are focusing geographically on “hotspots” where Harwa-Charwa is most prevalent. The Freedom Fund programme aims to contribute significantly to the eradication of this form of bonded labour. It runs a comprehensive community-based programme which supports local and specialist NGOs through interlinked interventions at the community level and advocacy at policy levels. The overall objective of the programme is to reduce the prevalence of bonded labour in the Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusa districts of Nepal. Sub-objectives are:

1. Sustained liberation: 3,000 to 5,000 households in the Harwa-Charwa community participating in community freedom groups and taking progressive steps to liberate themselves from slavery and protect other local residents at risk
2. Wider social mobilisation and government action against Harwa-Charwa bonded labour
3. Proof of an effective method for eradicating slavery.

Below is a map of the hotspot regions. The programme currently has partners in each district highlighted with the exception of Sarlahi (map provided by the Freedom Fund).



⁴ Kumar KC, Bal; Subedi, Govind; Suwal, Bhim Raj (2013) Forced labour of adults and children in the agriculture sector of Nepal: focusing on Haruwa-Charwa in eastern Tarai and Haliya in far-western hills. ILO Country Office for Nepal.

⁵ Sharma, Sanjay, et al. (2014). "State of migration in Nepal." Kathmandu: Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility.

1.2 Study context and methods

As part of the Freedom Fund programme, an independent evaluation of the hotspot is being carried out by the Institute of Development Studies, UK (IDS) with ActionAid Nepal and Praxis India. While individual NGO partners have monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the progress of their own interventions, the aim of the independent evaluation is to assess the impact of interventions across the Freedom Fund hotspot as a whole, with a focus on the relevance and effectiveness of partners' work.

The Freedom Fund supports local NGO level intervention programmes in six hotspots globally where there are known to be high concentrations of modern-day slavery. The aim of each hotspot programme is to reduce the prevalence of slavery in the hotspot as a whole, with partners working in specific communities on: direct prevention, protection and prosecution interventions; improving the wider enabling environment for freedom; increasing civil society's capacity for sustained and effective anti-slavery action; and supporting rigorous research and evaluation. Similar processes are currently taking place in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in Northern India in Tamil Nadu in Southern India and in other parts of the world.

Partners were chosen based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria: (1) a track record of addressing bonded labour; (2) established links with those working directly in the target programme districts; (3) ability to directly implement a range of programme activities (such as education, awareness raising, rescue and reintegration programmes); (4) positioning to contribute to systemic change, including through community-based reflection and collective action against bonded labour; (5) engagement in local, district, state and/or national-level advocacy; (6) capacity and organisational reliability, trustworthiness, and transparency.

An empirical measurement of interventions and change processes requires documentation of at least two points in time to offer comparison from start to finish, which is why a baseline and follow-up study are being facilitated for the evaluation of the overall hotspot programme. As there was no prevalence data available at the village level, the selection of locations for the study was based on an ILO 2013 survey report⁶, the numbers of Dalit and landless amongst the population, the presence of landlords, the prevalence of landlessness, and observations of traditional agricultural bonded labour in these communities. Selected partners also undertook discussions with Village Development Committees (VDC) and District Development Committees (DDC) stakeholders to identify the most vulnerable VDCs and wards. One of the local NGOs, JDS, had already conducted a baseline survey which attempted to understand whether minimum wages were being paid, prevalence of landlessness, poverty levels, loan levels, and ethnic composition. Based on this information, partners selected their working areas.

Nine partners started interventions in 111 villages. Seven are now working in 93 villages in total.

The current baseline study was seen as the first step in providing context for the partners' work and for offering inputs to their ongoing programmes to decrease the prevalence of bonded labourers during the intervention period. **The aim of the prevalence work is not to show overall prevalence for the districts but to show prevalence in the intervention areas and how it changes over time.**

The choice of participatory statistics as a method for undertaking this baseline was influenced by a range of different factors including: multiple understandings of bonded labour between NGOs and within and between affected communities; the difficulties associated with identifying hidden populations; the extractive nature of traditional surveys; and the need to give feedback to the communities affected so that they can validate the results and take action themselves.⁷ Participatory census and generation of numbers was seen as a methodology with potential for overcoming some of the issues of traditional survey methods. With participatory tools such as social maps, details of disaggregated socio-demographic data on families and village institutions can be collected, analysed, and discussed at the local level. When statistical principles are used, this data can be analysed at a higher aggregated level, in this case at the hotspot level. Having been successfully used for monitoring and evaluation in other contexts, participatory statistics was selected as the best method for measuring prevalence and other indicators of change as part of an overall integrated mixed methods approach to the evaluation of the hotspot as a whole—including life story analysis, system mapping, and action research.

⁶ Kumar KC, Bal; Subedi, Govind; Suwal, Bhim Raj (2013) Forced labour of adults and children in the agriculture sector of Nepal: focusing on Haruwa-Charwa in eastern Tarai and Haliya in far-western hills. ILO Country Office for Nepal.

⁷ More details are available in CDI Practice Paper, Number 16, February 2016: <http://cdiimpact.org/publications/using-participatory-statistics-examine-impact-interventions-eradicate-slavery-lessons>

This experiment in the use of participatory statistics for collecting prevalence data on bonded labour has wider importance within the global movement, as anti-slavery agencies around the world struggle to generate accurate prevalence data in a way that is cost-effective and therefore scalable. It is consequently particularly important to explore the validity and reliability of the results from this research so that we can inform the wider movement about the extent to which this method can be re-used.

1.3 Tool development and sample

The hotspot area in south-eastern Nepal is a complex and dynamic setting where bonded labour co-exists with other forms of labour exploitation and many other types of socio-economic and political inequality. Each partner NGO has its own expertise and history and operates in different working areas. For some NGOs slavery was a new issue while others had worked on slavery for some time; some NGOs were working in remote areas while others were working close to the roads etc; some are older and larger NGOs while others are quite small and newly established.

Nine NGOs participated in a workshop to identify key indicators of significant change that programmes should focus on. In order to be most relevant, discussions were based on sharing tools from two other hotspots and coming to an understanding on similarities and differences with this hotspot.

A key issue was understanding and measuring various forms of risky migration and its relation to bondage and trafficking. Many people in the Terai migrate by choice in a context with limited options. However, some people are at risk of being trafficked and getting involved in situations that can trap them and their whole families in a web of local and international bondage. Migration for work can start as voluntary but change into a situation of bondage over time--for example when the debts of the individual or his/her family increase. Some NGOs highlighted how cross-border marriages could –in some cases- also be a form of trafficking.

The operational definition of bonded labour used in the study is as follows:

In a bonded labour situation, the relationship between employee and employer may be characterised by, or formed due to, a loan taken by the employee or his/her family or an advance paid to the employee or his/her family in cash or in kind; involves force or compulsion; is reinforced by custom; is entered into by the employee voluntarily because of economic compulsions but can involve paid or unpaid labour (individuals might have started off the arrangement voluntarily but are now being forced by the employer as part of the arrangement or being prevented from working for someone else).

In such a relationship, the employee does NOT have the freedom to choose his or her employer and CANNOT negotiate the terms and conditions of her/his working arrangements. Additional characteristics are: sole dependency on the landlord for a livelihood; fear of loss of land or home if they do not do what the landlord says; less compensation than received by others in the market and/or payment only in-kind; no other employment options in the market. These characteristics are detailed in the guidebook for survey facilitators.

In addition, the study looked at the following diagnostic indicators: age, gender, relationship with household owner, ethnicity, religion, landownership, citizenship certificate, birth registration certificate, bank account, number of family members, number and age of children, number of school dropouts and age at which they dropped out, number of children between 5-14 who never attended school, number of working members in the family, number of working members in the family in a situation of risky migration⁸, fraudulent marriage, number of loans, loan triggers, loan size, saving group membership and age of marriage.

Based on a joint analysis and testing of the original pictorial self assessment survey tool, which involved removing some diagnostic indicators⁹, we narrowed the categories of modern slavery to: (1) bonded labour in the village; and (2) bonded or trafficked labour outside the village.

Following discussion and piloting, we then identified three primary indicators to use within the statistics study at baseline and follow-up. These were: (1) prevalence and incidence of bonded labour, (2) access to health services and (3) reason

⁸ Some people argued that the migration of poor illiterate rural persons is always risky-or even that it is always a form of bonded labour involved because people need to borrow money for the journey, but others pointed out that there are also success stories. Agreement was reached that somebody could only be marked as a case of 'risky migration' if he/she has gone overseas with false documents or he/she is treated contrary to his/her agreement with agent or if he/she is paid less than that of agreed salary or if he/she is given other work than was agreed.

⁹ The NGO's suggested collecting information on fraudulent marriages either as a risk for bonded labour and trafficking or as a form of trafficking in itself but during the piloting phase of data it became clear that data on this could not reliably be collected at the community level.

for taking out loans. These are the key indicators that we use to measure change between the baseline and the endline study.

In addition to partners defining their own goals and indicators, the programme has an upwards reporting function. The danger of this, as with all such systems, is that monitoring and evaluation can be perceived as a report-writing exercise for upward accountability, rather than an opportunity for learning, analysis and sharing to generate new knowledge and inform change strategies. As such the IDS, ActionAid Nepal and Praxis team was keen to evolve a tool that could utilise the expertise of field staff, retain the interest of participants, stimulate interest, and encourage sharing of experiences of community members in a simple, non-threatening manner.

A two-part prevalence measurement process was evolved, through which each NGO collected data in a set number of predetermined wards¹⁰. Part 1 comprised a mapping exercise to generate background details on the ward and a line listing of houses to randomly select respondents. Part 2 was facilitated a week to 10 days after the mapping exercise and used a pictorial self-assessment tool to generate detailed information about certain households in the wards, serving as the baseline data. For this, 10 to 15 individuals¹¹, from randomly selected households, provided the information in a safe space facilitated by NGO staff. Respondents indicated the appropriate answers to the questions posed, both for themselves and for their two adjacent neighbours on the sheets of the pictorial self assessment tool – one set of sheets per household, giving a total of three households per respondent. The advantage of this approach for non-literate community members was that all questions were depicted pictorially. Responses could also be clarified with other respondents if individual participants were unsure. In each village, after completion and compilation of data collection, a discussion took place among the participants around the significance and meaning of what was found. These notes will be analysed with the participating NGO at a future date in more depth.

One of the criticisms of participatory quantitative methods is that they lack statistical robustness. However, for this study, we adopted rigorous statistical methods. As no survey data was available we had to use an estimate of current prevalence to calculate our sample size. Overestimating baseline prevalence or expected changes between the baseline and follow-up could result in a sample too small to detect changes. However, given that the NGOs had to collect the data, and that this would take them away from other activities, we also wanted to keep the sample small enough for them to manage. The NGOs expected a reduction of 50% in bonded labour and estimated that prevalence rates would vary between 50% and 80%. We felt this was over-optimistic and in discussion with the Freedom Fund we proposed a maximum reduction of 15%. For the hotspot as a whole, we took a conservative estimate of reduction - from 60% to 55%, which required a minimum sample size of 1,533 for the baseline study and the same number for the end line study. This meant that eight NGOs needed to collect data from 210 households each - allowing for the chance that some forms might contain errors and that some NGOs might deliver a smaller sample we would then still have enough household level data to assess changes in the hotspot as whole. During the data collection one NGO did drop out and this meant that the other NGOs had to collect data on more households in order to gather enough data for the whole hotspot. The total number of entries and the number of correct and incorrect entries per NGO is in the table below.

¹⁰ Locally known as Basti

¹¹ We first asked the head of households, if that person was not available we asked if there was a member of the household who was a member of a community based group that was formed by a partner - and if neither of these two were available we asked if there was somebody in the household who knew the neighbours' family well.

Table 1: Overview of data collected and used per NGO

	Villages per NGO	Total entries	Wrong entries	Complete information	Included in analysis
CIC	8	249	12	237	237
DSAM	7	258	4	254	254
CDF	8	258	5	253	253
BIDC	6	240	8	232	232
UDS	8	234	15	219	219
TSWO	8	225	2	223	223
JDS*	7	252	10	242	240*
Total	52	1716	56	1660	1658
*In JDS, two households did not provide information on who was working and under what conditions and were removed from the sample. These were small families (2 or less members) who may not have any working member and they may be dependent on extended family members.					

52 villages were covered by 7 NGOs. We had anticipated that each NGO partner would have an equal workload and visit the same number of villages.

However, during the data collection we learned that there was variation in the estimated and the actual number of households in each village. Some estimates were higher and others were lower. This meant that some NGOs had to collect data in more villages.

In order to select villages, each NGO shared the list of villages it currently operates in, giving a total of 93 villages. They also indicated which of these villages had experienced prior interventions on bonded labour - these villages were taken off the eligibility list. Villages were then randomly selected from the sample list – ensuring they had not been funded before by the Freedom Fund. Villages that had less than 20 households were excluded. NGOs were also asked to inform the team about any security concerns that should lead to the village being excluded from prevalence research. There were no security problems in any of the villages on the list.

An average number of households per ward was then shared, and random numbers were applied to select the final list of wards. To arrive at the desired sample size across all partners an average of 70 respondents (who would share data on about 210 households) per NGO had to be met.

1.4 Study process and timeline

The process followed by the study team for the baseline study is detailed below:

Scoping involving visits	8-10 February 2016
Workshop on participatory statistics	4-6 April 2016
Field test/piloting	6 April 2016
First validation	1st week of September 2016
Feedback on initial data collection	24 July 2016
Workshop on life story collection	13-14 September 2016
Second level validation	4th week of November 2016
Review meeting between IDS and ActionAid Nepal for progress of prevalence study	13-15 December 2016
Review meeting and refreshment training to each partner (for life story collection) individually	1st week of January 2017
Data collection completed from NGO level	21 January 2017
Data entry completed	27 January 2017
Data verified and first round of cleaning	2 February 2017
Workshop on life story analysis	6-9 March 2017
Data analysis feedback from NGOs	10 March 2017
Report drafting	April 2017
Second and third round of data and analysis verification and cleaning	May 2017
Report revisions	June 2017
Fourth round of data and analysis verification and cleaning; report revisions	July 2017

1.5 Validation

ActionAid Nepal undertook data validation to explore the extent of any deviation from data collected by the partners and to understand the reasons for it (see Annex 3). Within a month of the training, the ActionAid Nepal team visited a random selection of 30 households and provided NGO staff with advice and support on data collection. Validation visits were then conducted in the middle of the data collection. We wanted a minimum of 5% of the total of 1,533 households to be validated (i.e. 73 respondents per NGO) and for validation visits to be completed among all seven NGOs covered under the study.

To meet the minimum target, ActionAid Nepal met 27 respondents (covering 81 household responses), which is 5.14% of total sample. In each of the organisations, data on between nine and twelve households was to be collected in one randomly selected location where the partner NGO had collected data previously. The data was checked halfway through the process of collection to allow lessons to be learned and for improvements to be made to the process if needed. The survey was repeated with the same respondents who shared details during the study (this was verified by the individual whose name was on the original form, the other respondents in the group and the NGO colleague). If another family member chose to represent the respondent, they were included as part of the process but the data from their sheets was not included in the analysis. Most questions – including the questions on the prevalence of bonded labour – had less than 10% variation. The questions that had most variation were on access to healthcare, number and ages of children, number of working members in the family and whether the household had taken a loan and the source.

These problems were discussed with the NGO and addressed. The reasons for the inaccuracies were that facilitators did not pay sufficient attention to detail and reformulated specific questions as general questions. Each NGO was given hands-on training in the field to improve this and ActionAid Nepal checked and double-checked forms again by phone.

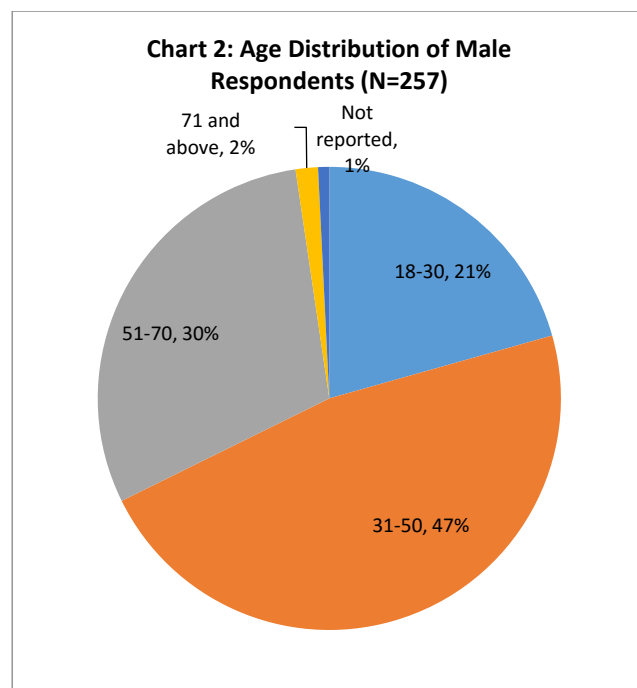
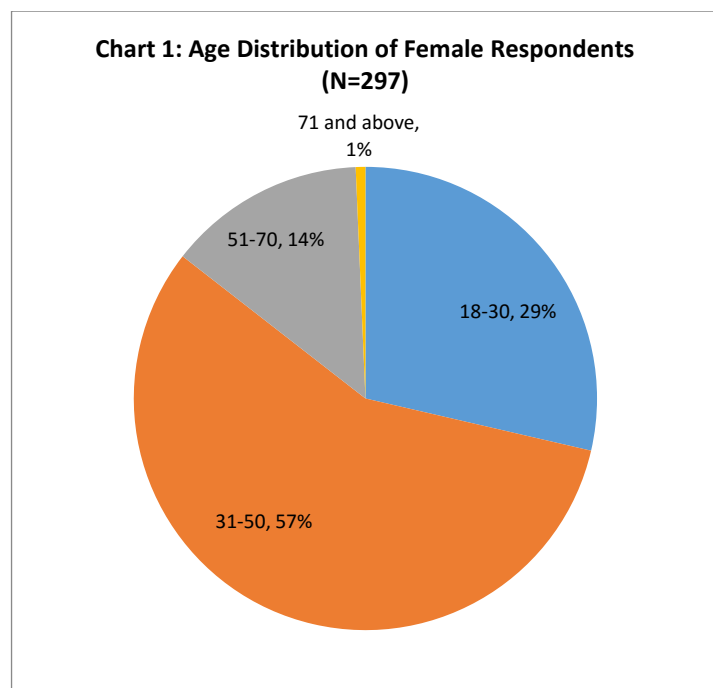
We also validated the results with all NGOs at a meeting between IDS and ActionAid Nepal in March 2017. At this meeting, we validated the numbers and discussed their meaning and programme implications. We concluded that the results are valid but that caution must be made with making statements or drawing conclusions about questions that have only a small number of respondents.

1.6 Respondents

1.6.1 Respondent profile

A total of 572 respondents were surveyed across 52 wards in locations covered by seven NGOs. With each respondent sharing data about three households (their own and their immediate neighbours on either side), the total number of households about whom data was generated was 1,716. We removed 56 records (18 respondents and 38 neighbours) due to incomplete information and of the 1,660 records, two further records were removed as they did not indicate who among the family members was working or working in conditions of bonded labour. Therefore, 1,658 records were included in the final analysis. Of the remaining 554 respondents 54% (297) were female and 46% (257) were male. The aim of all the NGOs was to try and interact with a group of female respondents in 50% of the wards they visited. In each ward, the NGOs could decide whether they would invite men or women. Due to the gendered division of labour in these villages, the time of the day was an important factor in whether men or women were willing and able come and work with facilitators on a study.

Respondents' age distribution is detailed in Charts 1 and 2.



Among male and female respondents, 47% and 57% respectively were from the 31-50-year-old age group.

1.6.2 Location of data collection

Of the seven participating NGOs, two work in relatively remote areas, one of which is near the Indian border. The other NGOs work closer to main roads. As we will discuss later the location does seem to have an impact on the prevalence of bondage.

1.7 Ethical considerations

This baseline is part of a larger research project, which has been reviewed and approved by the IDS Ethical Review Board.

1.8 Study limitations and challenges

The focus of the study was to go beyond token participation and to move towards research grounded in the community – enabling community members to share information and insights through discussions. Challenges associated with this community-focused process included: crowd management (due to people’s mistaken anticipation of a government scheme or NGO programme making beneficiary lists); difficulties incurred by mixing participants from different social categories (especially across caste hierarchies); communication gaps or delays between senior staff at each organisation and front-line staff carrying out the research; NGOs dropping out; difficulties in following the sample frame resulting in having to do data collection in extra villages to fulfil the sample; and timeline slippages due to other programme-related activities and priorities, earthquakes, festivals, political unrest or the fuel crisis.

Some limitations of the study include:¹²

- Having a baseline of a cross-sectional design without a comparison group means it is not possible to identify causal relations. In other words, even if prevalence increases or decreases over the period, the study cannot directly attribute this change to our partners’ interventions.
- A baseline designed to measure changes within the intervention areas of selected NGOs in a certain geographic location cannot be used to draw conclusions about prevalence outside these areas.
- The tool was prepared for use by largely non-literate groups and not all data could be tallied up for a group analysis while the group members who had given the information were waiting. The participants verified the findings and discussed the causes of slavery, the past sources of support for escaping slavery, and the people and organizations who could be approached today to get out of slavery.
- In the early stages of intervention, people tend to perceive coercive work relationships as normal (especially in a context of inter-generational bonded labour). As awareness about rights grows, people may increasingly be able to perceive the exploitation and force within the relationship and so reported prevalence may increase. Trust dynamics raise important issues in a context where actual reductions in prevalence might be expected to be relatively small. It is not unlikely that a programme’s impact in terms of a decrease in prevalence might only be measurable after many years and might actually lead to a reported increase during the first years.

Training, refresher group training, and hands-on individual training - as well as follow up long distance support was provided to the NGOs who collected the data. One of the challenges was that the people who collected the data had not always been in the training and consequently did not follow the sample or conducted the questions incorrectly or incompletely. As a consequence, data collection in a number of villages needed to be redone after validation. Another challenge was a lack of local coordination of the operational and research programme implementation due to illness, which meant that ActionAid Nepal had to do considerably more coordination of the research than anticipated without having the overall details of the operational programme and without having clear authority. The operational programme was delayed due to earthquakes, which put both the research and the operational programme under pressure.

Due to the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal the pictorial self assessment tool for the Nepal modern slavery hotspot was based on the North Indian experiences, discussions with the NGOs and field observations –rather than an extensive joint life story analysis.

The research team tried to accommodate some of the questions on migration and fraudulent marriage that came out of these discussions. Eventhough a post-piloting agreement decision was reached to discard fraudulent marriage and to emphasise the need to ask detailed questions on risky migration, these decisions were not always followed, and we are not convinced that it is possible to establish data on risky migration concerning neighbours with this method.

2. Findings

This section details the profile of the respondents and the bonded labour status of the households studied, with further comparisons made based on the socio-economic and demographic profile of those households.

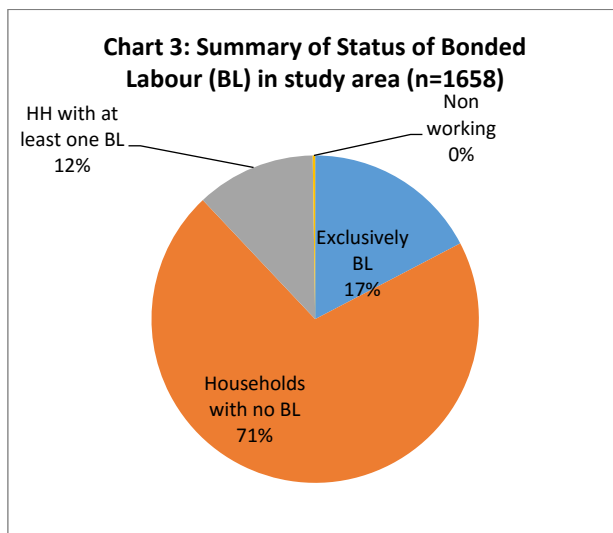
2.1 Bonded labour status and types

2.1.1 Bonded labour status

¹² The validation process also highlighted some issues which were ironed out with individual NGOs. These are detailed in Annex 3.

Respondents were asked to indicate how many adults and children, disaggregated by gender, were working in each household. If a household was found to have one working member who was in any form of bonded labour, it would fall into a category referred to as 'At least one person in bonded labour'. If a household was found to have all the working members of a household in bonded labour, it would be referred to as 'Exclusively in bonded labour'.

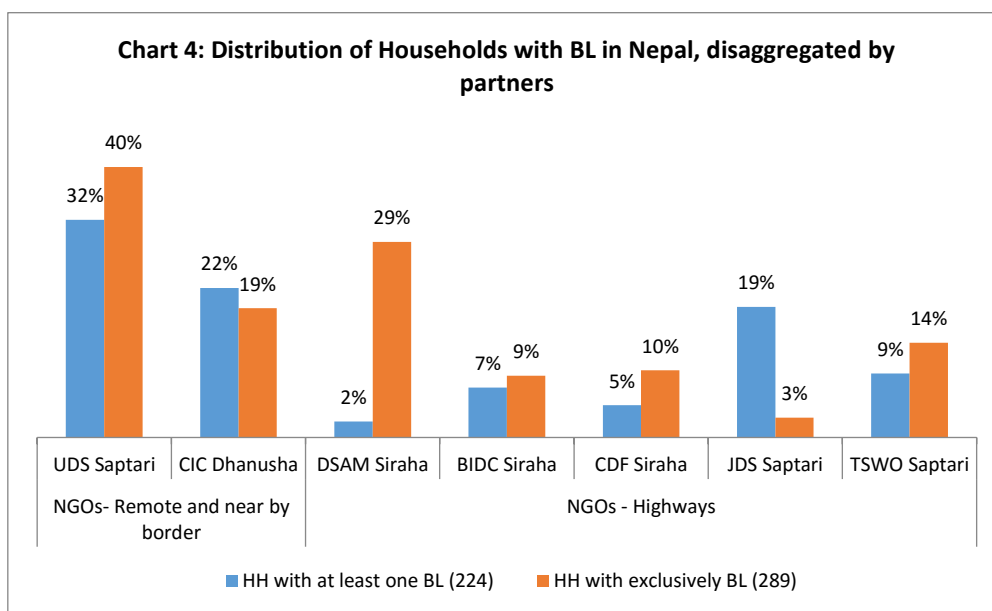
A summary of the overall status of the working population and the status of bonded labour among them is presented in Chart 3.



Out of all households, only two had¹³ no working members. These were households with either just one or two people, who were old and supported by either their children or other members of their extended families.

Of the 29% of households that had people in bonded labour, 17% had all working family members in bonded labour and 12% that had not all, but at least one enslaved family member.

The distribution of these two categories of enslaved households by partner organisation is in Chart 4:



NGOs that are working in more remote areas - UDS (72%) and CIC (41%) - found higher prevalence rates than NGOs working nearby a highway- DSAM (31%), TSWO (23%), JDS (22%), CDF (15%), and BIDC (16%). The average household prevalence across the sample area is 31.3%.

During a discussion with the NGOs, we concluded that prevalence was likely to be lower among NGOs that work near a road because the road allows people exposure to new ideas and alternative working options, loosening the hold that

¹³ These two cases (0.12%), are depicted as a rounded percentage (0%) in the pie chart.

landlords have over workers. A shift in working relations does not mean that these new working options are necessarily better in terms of income, or that bondage disappears – as people can get trapped in another form of bondage - but when people have employment options and can choose to leave, the prevalence of bonded labour to a landlord decreases. In the isolated working area of UDS, whole families are still tied through bondage to a landlord.

Table 2: Hotspot-level prevalence rate

Organisation	Total sample	HH with at least one BL	Prevalence%	Prevalence with inflation weights
UDS Saptari	219	157	72%	71.0%
CIC Dhanusha	237	97	41%	41.0%
DSAM Siraha	254	79	31%	30.6%
BIDC Siraha	232	38	16%	16.8%
CDF Siraha	253	37	15%	15.9%
TSWO Saptari	223	52	23%	24.0%
JDS Saptari	240	53	22%	22.4%
Total	1658	513	31%	31.3%¹⁴

Most of the NGO's found household prevalence rates of between 25% and 40%. In a few cases prevalence is lower but still substantial. UDS Saptari has more than 70% household prevalence. What is clear is that there is considerable variation between different areas and between villages in areas - but all areas have a significant number of bonded labourers to justify intervention.

2.1.2 Bonded labour types

This section details the location (i.e. inside or outside the village), gender and age of those in bonded labour. Chart 5 combines these three categories: males and females divided into two age groups i.e. 14 years and below (<=14 years) & 15 years and above (>=15 years).

The prevalence tool classified the working population into six categories as follows:

1. Bonded labour within the village;
2. Bonded labour outside the village but in Nepal;
3. Gone overseas but unaware of current situation;
4. Risky migration and unaware of current situation;
5. Risky migration and currently bonded;
6. NOA=Not in bonded labour.

The data did not report any case of "risky migration and unaware of current situation" (category 4), therefore data for five categories is presented in Chart 5 and Chart 6.

¹⁴ With a mean of 0.3133 (31.33% of households with at least one member in bonded labour), a standard deviation of 0.4639588, and a desired confidence level of 90%, the corresponding confidence interval would be ± 0.0188 ; meaning that we can be 90% confident that the true population mean falls within the range of 29.45 to 33.20%.

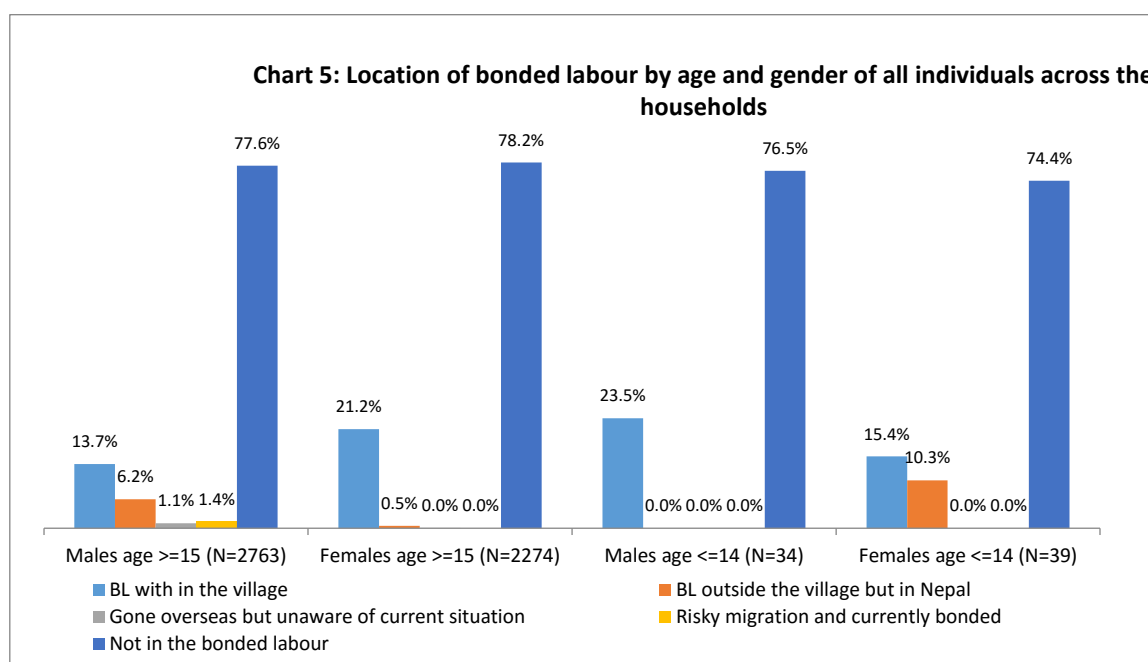


Table 3: Age distribution of bondage by household

	Males age >=15 (N=2763)	Females age >=15 (N=2274)	Males age <=14 (N=34)	Females age <=14 (N=39)
HH with exclusive BL living within the village	275	339	5	4
HH with exclusive BL outside the village within Nepal	107	1	0	0
HH with exclusive BL & gone overseas but unaware of current situation	15	1	0	0
HH with at least one BL living within the village	104	143	3	2
HH with at least one BL outside the village within Nepal	65	11	0	4
HH with at least one BL & gone overseas but unaware of current situation	15	0	0	0
HH with exclusive BL & risky migration and currently bonded	2	0	0	0
HH with at least one BL & risky migration and currently bonded	37	0	0	0
Not in the bonded labour	2143	1779	26	29
Total	2763	2274	34	39

Most of the people in bonded labour are adults. There is a clear difference between men and women, with more women staying in the village - reflecting wider cultural gender norms that restrict women's and girls' movement. More men work outside of the village than women, including those in overseas, those in in-country bonded labour and those working in a nearby village. Of those 31 bonded labourers reported as "gone overseas but unaware of current situation", 30 are male. Only males aged 15 years and over have undertaken risky migration and all of them are currently bonded, which is rather surprising as trafficking of young women and girls from Nepal into India –and its consequences- has been reported by various NGO and researchers¹⁵. One explanation might be that female trafficking and sex work are both public secrets which people –for various reasons- do not want to report.

¹⁵ See for example: Tsutsumi, Atsuro, et al. "Mental health of female survivors of human trafficking in Nepal." *Social Science & Medicine* 66.8 (2008): 1841-1847.

IDS, ActionAid Nepal and the associated NGO expected child labour to be more widespread than they found - based on their observations, experiences and reports from life stories. One possible explanation for this is that children are not paid for their work and work informally alongside parents or family members and are therefore not recognized as workers. If they are reported as working it is mostly in the village with very few going outside - because parents fear that children may not be able to manage by themselves.

2.2 Demographic and socio-economic linkages with bonded labour

2.2.1 Religion, ethnicity and social group distribution of households

The study enabled respondents to select from a range of options, such as different religions, social groups, and ethnicity. A high proportion of them were Madhesi (96%) by ethnicity and Hindu (96%) by religion. The social group distribution showed that 61% were Dalits, 25% were Other Backward Classes (OBC), 12% were Janajati and 2% were from none of these, which means that either they were Muslim or belonged to one of the higher castes in the Hindu religion. The household distribution by ethnicity, religion, and social group is presented in Chart 7.

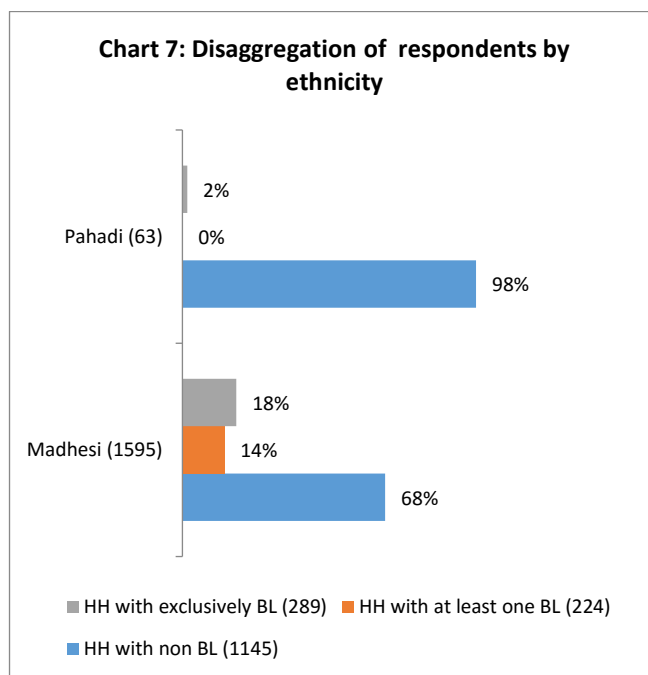
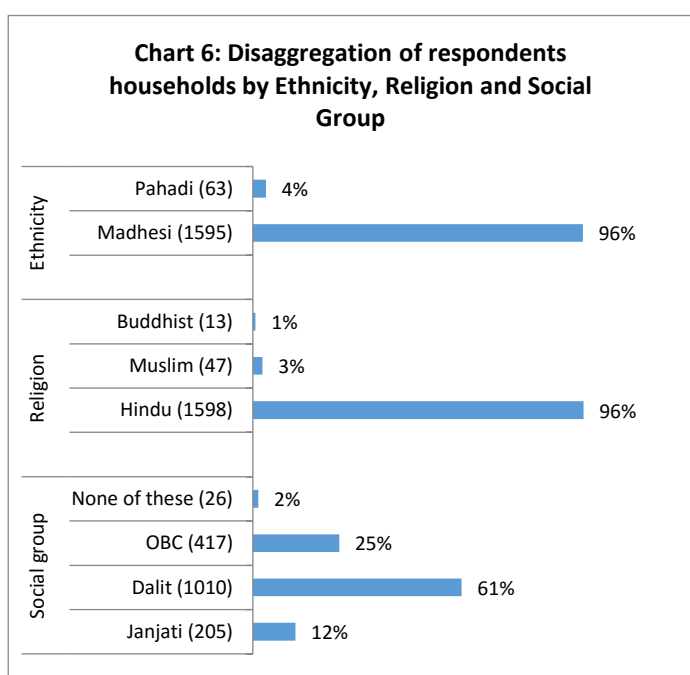
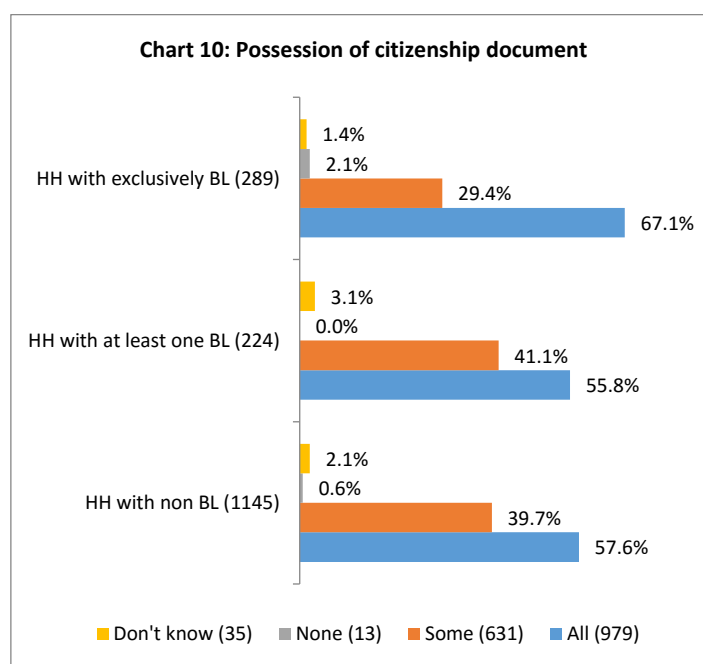
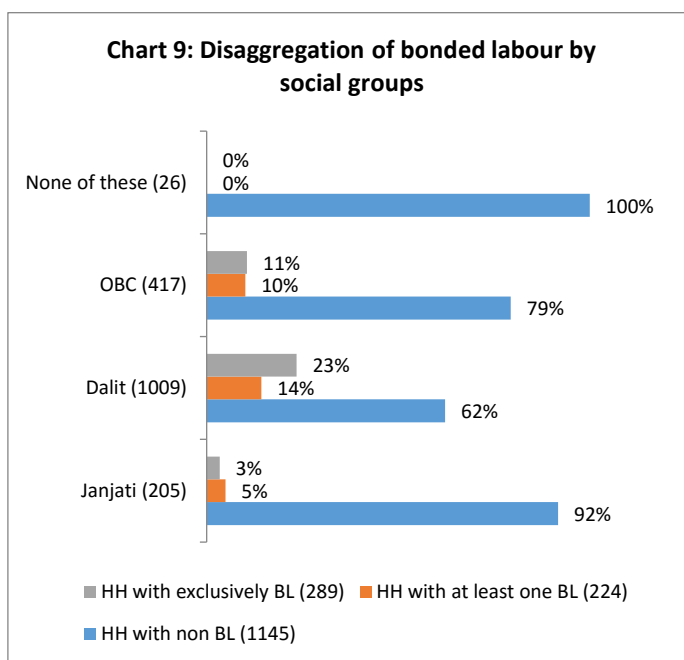
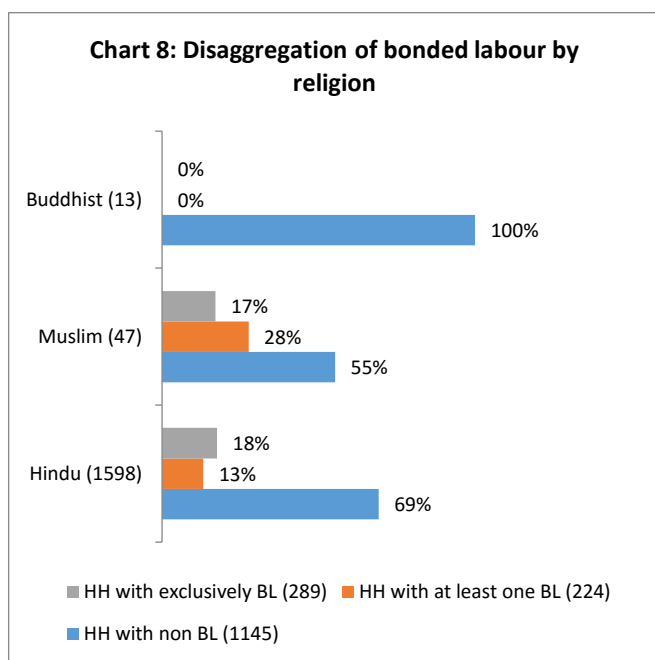


Chart 8 shows that in ethnic terms, bonded labour is a problem affecting mainly Madhesi households, while Chart 9 shows it affecting households of the Hindu and Muslim religions, but none of the very few Buddhist households. Chart 10 shows that in terms of social group, Dalit and OBC households are proportionally more likely to be affected by bonded labour than Janjati and other social groups¹⁶.

Dahal, Pranab, Sunil Kumar Joshi, and Katarina Swahnberg. "‘We are looked down upon and rejected socially’: a qualitative study on the experiences of trafficking survivors in Nepal." *Global health action* 8.1 (2015): 29267.

Ottisova, L., Hemmings, S., Howard, L. M., Zimmerman, C., & Oram, S. (2016). Prevalence and risk of violence and the mental, physical and sexual health problems associated with human trafficking: an updated systematic review. *Epidemiology and psychiatric sciences*, 25(4), 317-341.

¹⁶ Labelled as "non-of these"



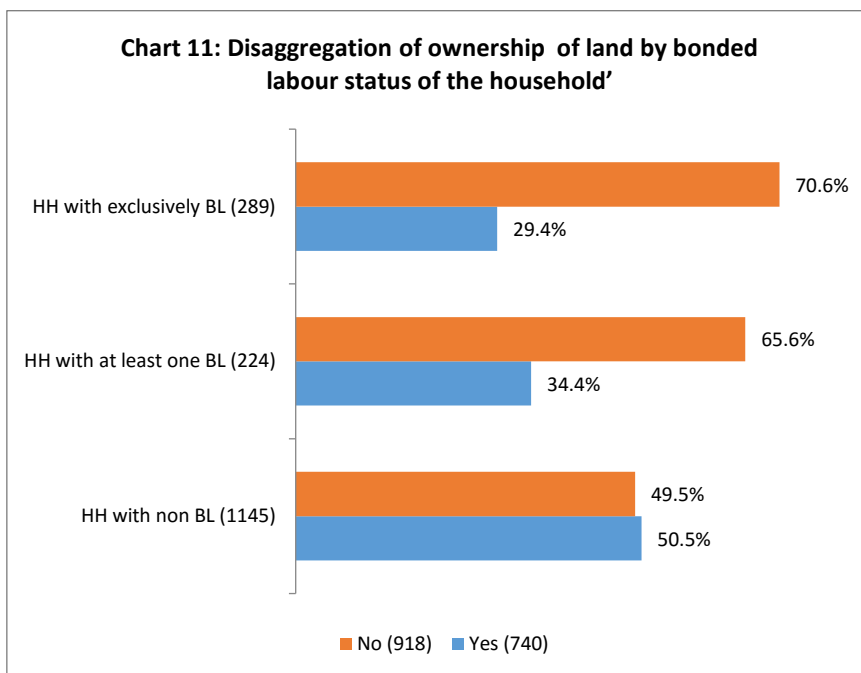
The possession of citizenship documents does not ‘protect’ households or individuals – households with members exclusively in bonded labour are more likely to possess such documents. This is interesting because NGO partners expected that not having citizenship documents would make people significantly more vulnerable to being in bonded labour: This is one of the reasons why NGOs spend time forming groups in community in which they discuss the importance of vital registration and also motivate group members to get vital registration on time to claim public services.

2.2.2 Economic status of households

In order to understand the economic status of households, four parameters were used: (1) ownership of the land on which they live; (2) ownership of any cultivable land; (3) someone in the household holding a bank account, and (4) membership to a self-help group. Ownership of homestead land and cultivable land¹⁷ would indicate that the family is economically better off, and access to a bank account or self-help group membership indicates easier access to loans

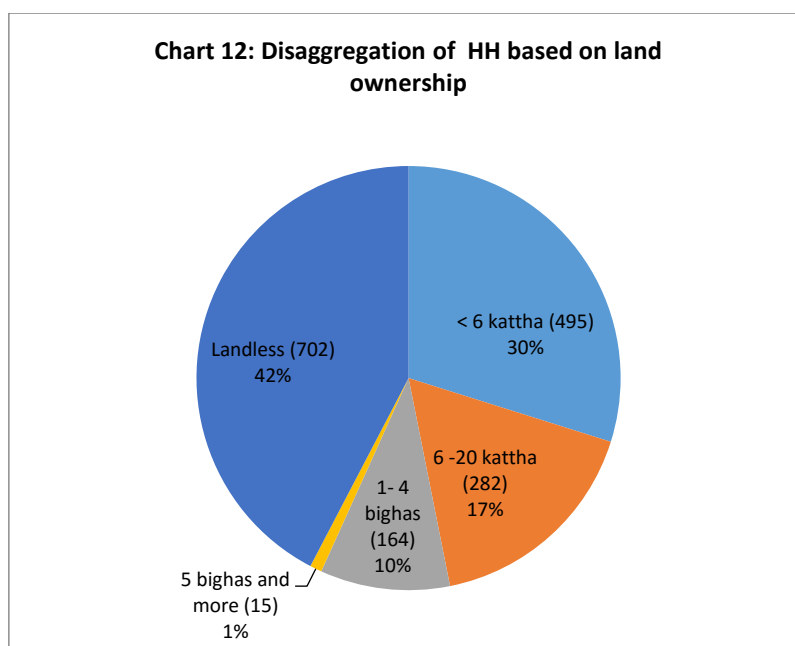
¹⁷ Respondents know if they own the homestead land that their house has been built on and the cultivable land around it. They have documents for these. These rights to the homestead land and cultivable can be transferred if the person dies.

and finance. The underlying assumption is that a viable economic status would be associated with a smaller number of working individuals per household in bonded labour.

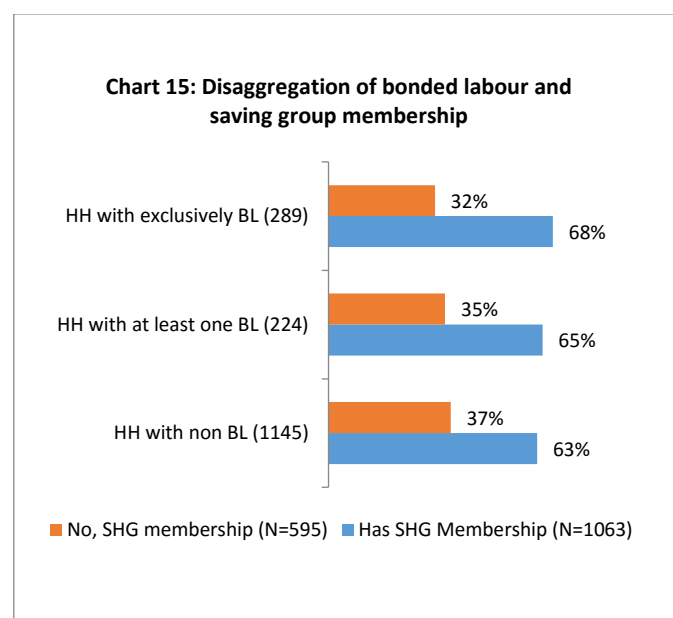
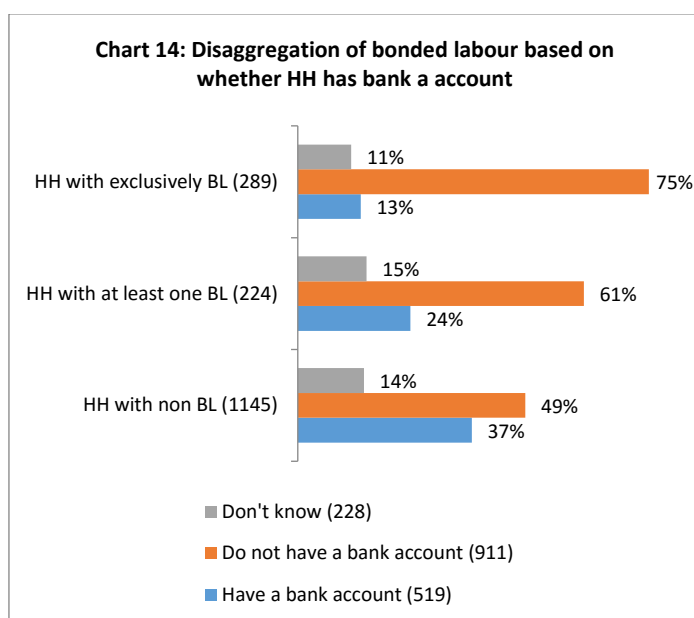
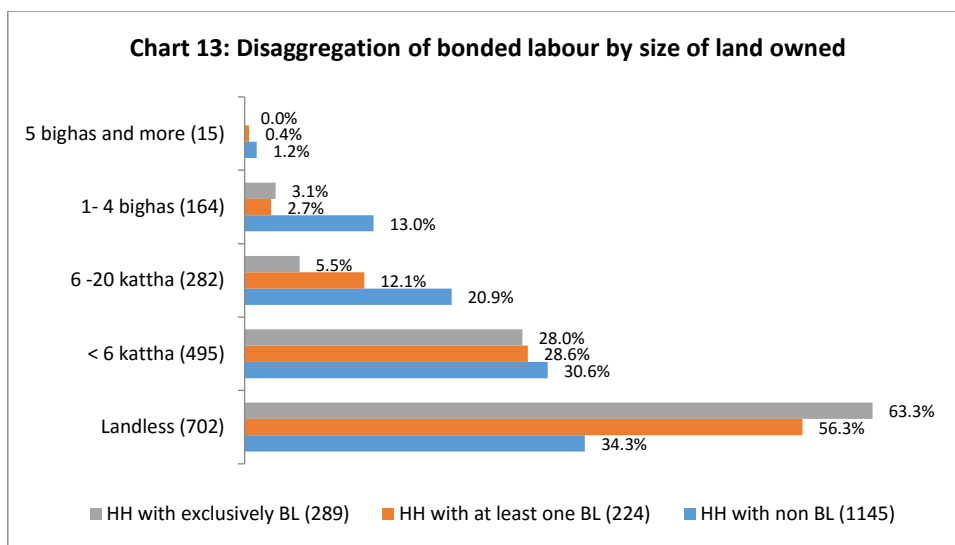


Of the 1,658 households for which a response was recorded to the question about ownership of the land on which they lived, 45% owned the land on which they lived and 55% did not. Chart 11 breaks this down by the bonded labour status of the households, showing the highest proportion of ownership (50.5%) is among households with no bonded labour, while the lowest proportion (29.4%) is among households with exclusively bonded labour. This is in line with the assumptions made about homestead land ownership and bonded labour.

The respondents were asked to share information about the size of the land they own. Charts 12 and 13 detail the distribution of households across the various categories as well as the status of bonded labour among them. The data shows a link between land ownership status and bonded labour. As the size¹⁸ of the land holding increases, the prevalence of bonded labour in those households' decreases.



¹⁸ In Nepal land is measured in Katthas and Bighas: 1 Kattha = 3645 sqft (and 20 Kattha = 1 Bigha).

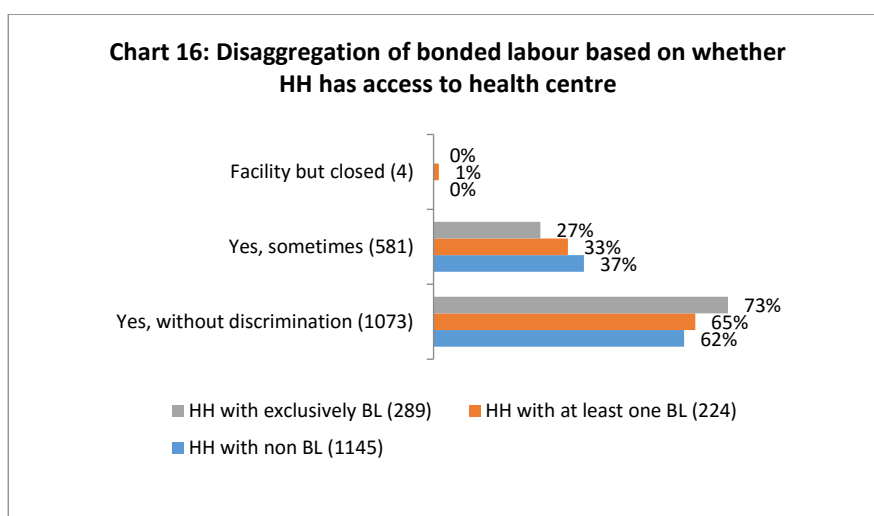


Charts 14 and 15 show households' bonded labour status in terms of whether an individual in the household has access to a bank account or membership of a self-help group, respectively.

Households with at least one member in bonded labour were less likely to have a bank account than households with no members in bonded labour. Households with every working member in bonded labour were slightly more likely to have SHG membership compared to the other categories.

2.2.3 Access to healthcare

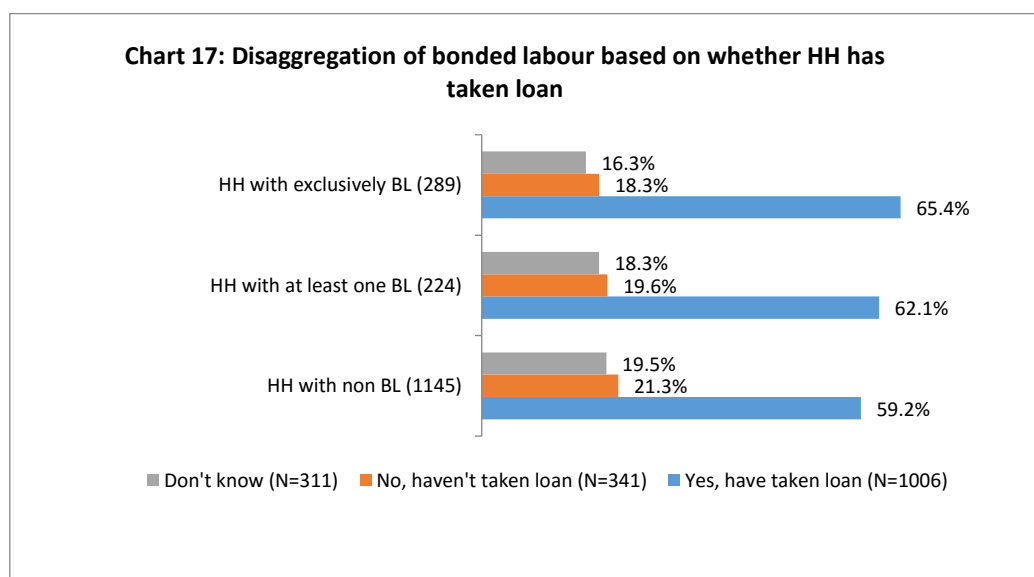
The constitution of Nepal addresses health as a fundamental right, stating that every citizen has the right to basic health services free of cost. While in many places in Nepal the population has no health facilities nearby¹⁹, most people in the study sample report having access to healthcare: 65% of households with at least one person in bonded labour, 73% of households with all workers in bonded labour, and 62% of households without bonded labour had access to a health facility close by without facing discrimination based on their social category or status (Chart 16). The result is significant at $p < .05$. Barriers to accessing health care do not seem to be primarily caused by discrimination but seem more structural in the sense that these health facilities do not provide enough of the services that people in the communities want and need to prevent them from taking out health loans. During the feedback and validation meeting with the NGOs, people reported that most of these facilities do not have the staff, equipment and medicines necessary to provide the care that people need – including emergency care. All people have to travel to get healthcare and people take out loans to do so - these costs weigh heavier on the poor.



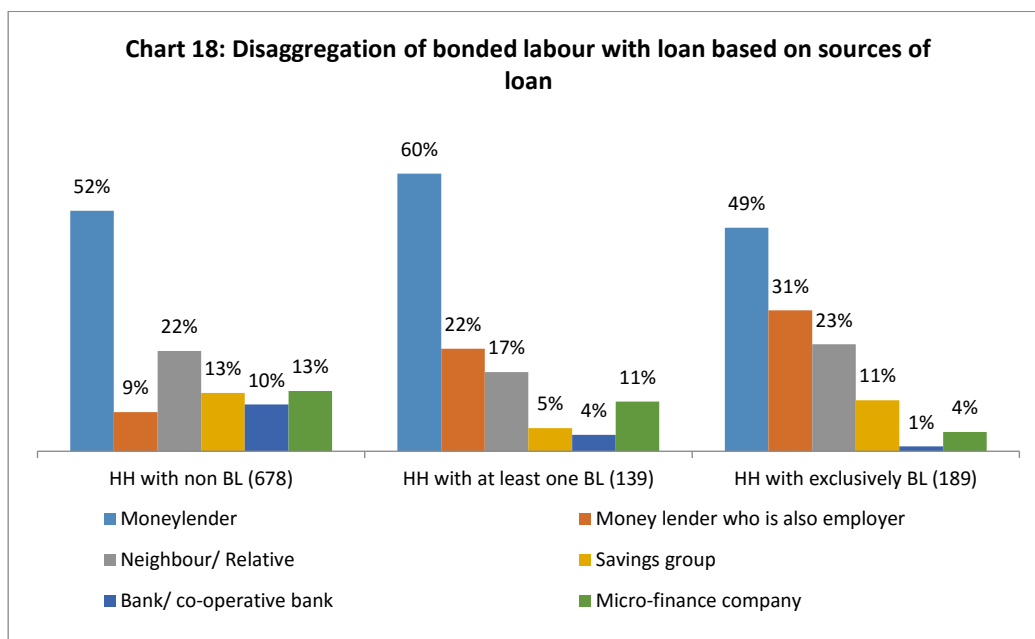
2.2.4 Loans and bonded labour

Links between loans and bonded labour emerged as significant during the story analysis workshop and were corroborated by the findings of the baseline study.

Chart 17 details the status of bonded labour and loans. A slightly higher number of households with members involved in bonded labour reported taking out a loan as compared to the other households. For example, 65.4% of the households with all workers in bonded labour had loans and this included inherited loans/debt of their fathers and grandfathers. The corresponding percentage for households with at least one person in bonded labour is 62.1%. The corresponding percentage for households with non bonded labour is 59.2%.



¹⁹ Mishra, Shiva Raj, et al. (2015) "National health insurance policy in Nepal: Challenges for implementation". Global health action 8.



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Sources of loans tended to be wide-ranging with people borrowing from multiple sources. Borrowing from various sources across the household categories can be seen in Chart 18. Moneylenders were named as the major source for borrowing money by all households. Borrowing from a moneylender who is also the employer is most common among the households where all workers are in bonded labour (31%). Institutions such as banks, micro-finance institutions, and savings groups are relatively more significant sources of loans for households that have no one in bonded labour. What is not clear is how many moneylenders there are and what differences there might be between their ways of lending or dealing with defaulters. The major reasons for the loans are detailed in Chart 21- reported by all categories as being disease/illness, marriage, migration, and house renovations. The paradox of having access to health care and having health expenses can be explained by the discrepancy of the services needed and those that are offered. Highly perishable mud houses and thatched roofs need to be fixed frequently.

Table 4: Comparison of rates of interests three sources ²¹(Per month per 100 Rupees)

Monthly rate of interest	Money lender (531)	Money lender who is employer (147)	Relatives/neighbour (246)
1	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
2	0.9%	0.0%	4.2%
3	46.7%	32.7%	56.0%
4	18.1%	23.8%	12.5%
5	33.3%	43.5%	22.2%
6	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
10	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Don't know	0.6%	0.0%	4.2%
Mean interest rate	3.91	4.10	3.57

Comparisons of calculated rates of interests indicate higher rates charged by moneylenders, employers and landlords (on average 3.91%), and relatively lesser rates charged by relatives (3.57% on average). The difference between the two is statistically significant. Further, data collection found 89 households who have borrowed money from both - moneylenders, employers, and landlords, as well as from family and friends. The first rate at 3.92 is very similar to the

²⁰ Chart 18: The total % will not add to 100 due to more than one sources of loans mentioned by respondents.

²¹ Interest rates are written on a monthly basis, e.g. if a person borrows Rs. 1,000 per month on the interest rate of Rs. 3 he/she needs to pay Rs. 30 in a month and Rs. 360 in a year.

overall rate for moneylenders, but the second rate from friends/family at 3.69 is higher than the average rate imposed by relatives and friends. This could be explained by friends and family members perceiving it as more risky to lend money to households that have other debts too. This difference is also statistically significant.

Average number and size of loan

We have tried to understand whether the number and amount of loans taken by people in bonded labour is different from that of people who are not in bonded labour. The findings are in Table 5 below.

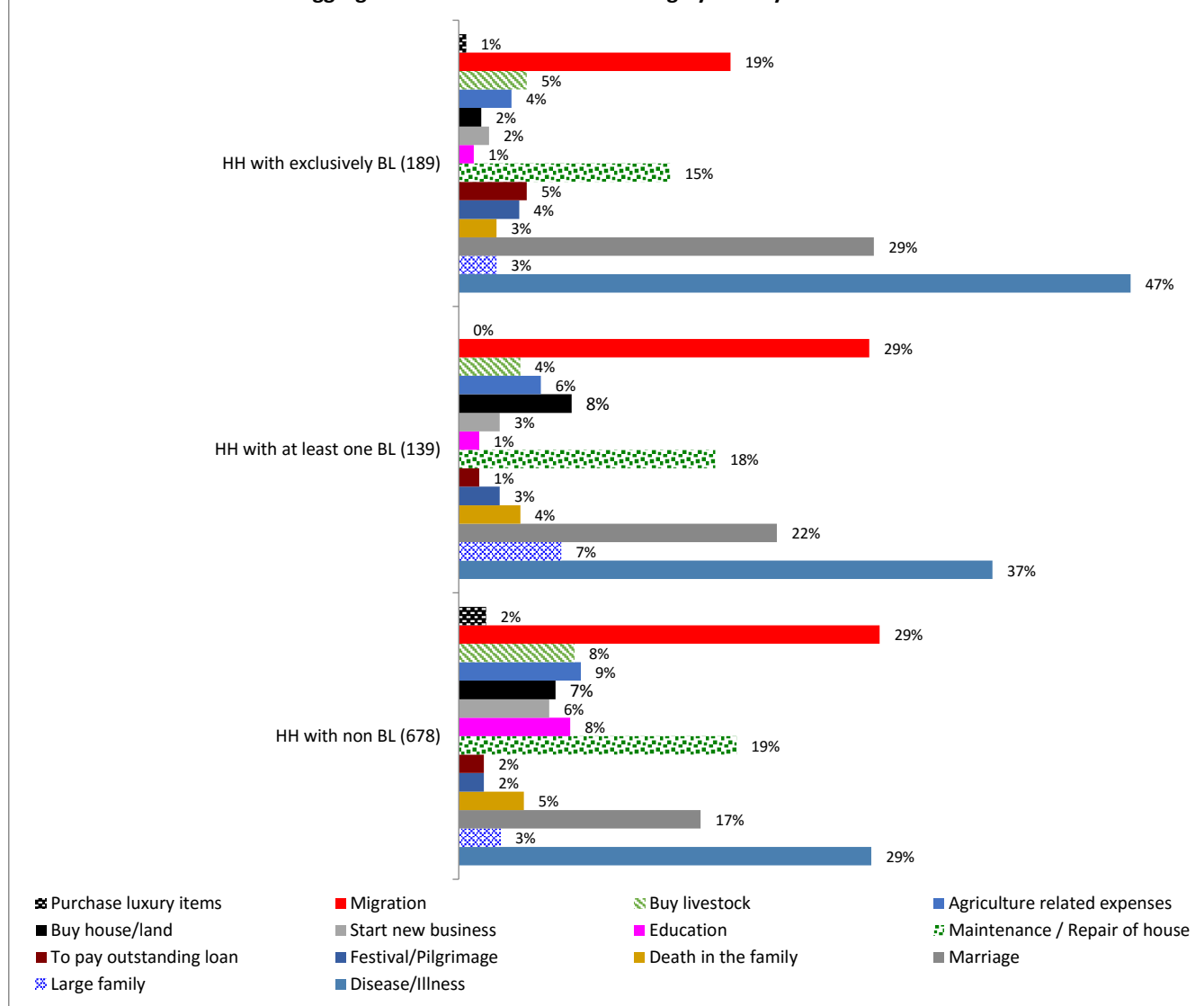
Table 5: Average number and amount of loan taken

	Non Bonded Labour (361)	At least one BL (90)	Exclusive BL (103)
No. of persons taken loan	280	75	86
% loan taken	77.6%	83.3%	83.5%
Average amount of loan taken (RS.)	159846.4	120973.3	121558.1
Mean no. of loan taken	2.32	2.73	2.40
No. of loans taken			
1	35.4%	20.0%	32.6%
2	31.1%	30.7%	29.1%
3	16.4%	22.7%	19.8%
4	8.2%	17.3%	10.5%
5	4.6%	4.0%	5.8%
6	2.5%	2.7%	1.2%
7	0.7%	2.7%	0.0%
8	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
10	0.4%	0.0%	1.2%

Analysis of 441 respondents (out of 554 respondents)²² who have taken a loan demonstrates that households without bonded labours have higher loans than households with bonded labourers. Households with bonded labourers seem to have more and smaller loans, some of which are taken from money lenders who are also their employer.

²² Only 441 of the 554 respondents have taken a loan. And we only look at the size of loans of respondents because respondents are unlikely to know the size of loans of their neighbors.

Chart 19: Disaggregation of reasons for loan taking by slavery status of household



As indicated by Chart 19, most loans are taken for health expenses, followed by migration costs, marriage costs, and house repair expenses. Expenses for migration reflect that the hotspot is a geographical area with limited income opportunities and that residents are spending money on travel and travel documents in order to look for employment alternatives. Expenses for house repairs in this area are not exceptional nor due to the earthquake. Houses in the hotspot are made of perishable materials- and therefore are in regular (almost annual) need of repairs. Marriage costs are most likely to be dowry costs. 6% of the households that did not have people in bonded labour took loans for entrepreneurship (“to start something new”) as compared to 3% and 2% of households that had either one person or all workers in bonded labour. Smaller percentages of families with one or all members in bonded labour took loans for the purpose of education or buying livestock compared to households with no bonded labour. People are not borrowing money to buy luxury items such as televisions.

2.3 Early marriage and bonded labour

Linkages between the bonded labour status of families and the incidence of early marriage were explored. Nepal still has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world²³. The minimum age of marriage by law is 20 years, which is relatively high compared, for example, with a legal age of 16 in UK (with parental consent). We define early marriage as marital union under 18 years of age for both girls or boys. The table below shows the percentage of marriages under 18, segregated by gender and age.

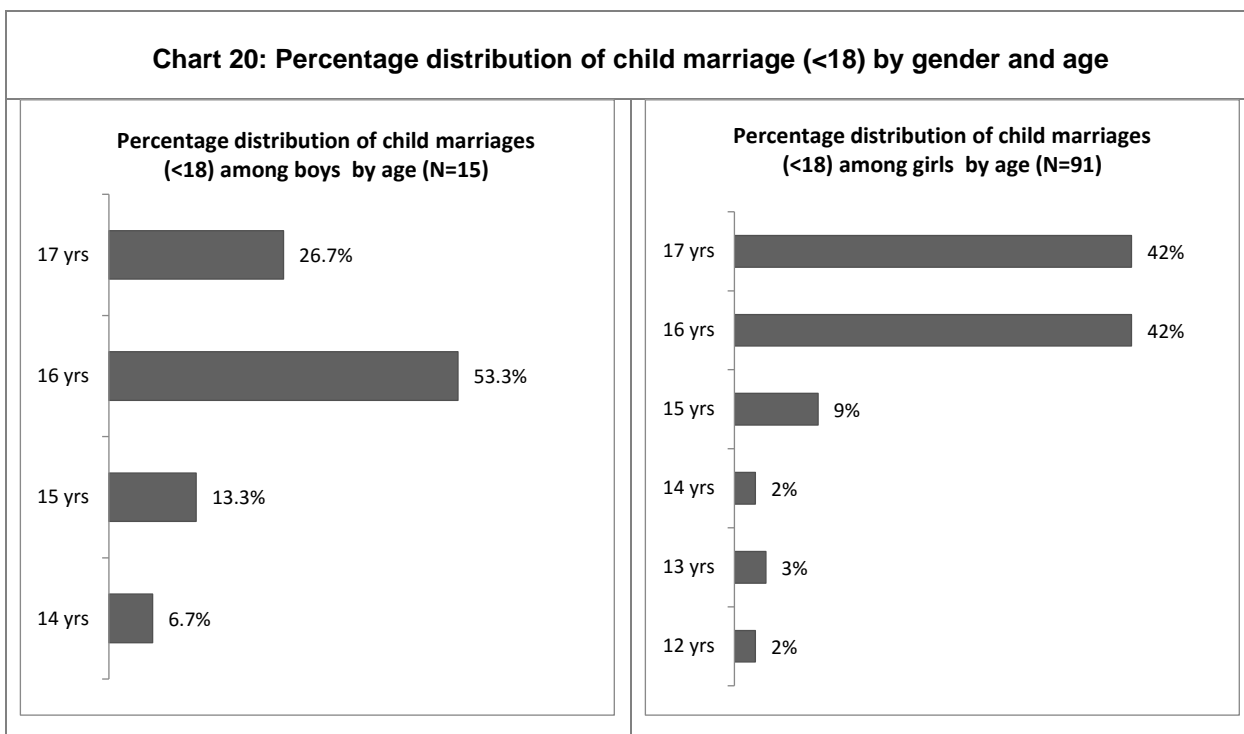
²³ See www.hrw.org/report/2016/09/07/our-time-sing-and-play/child-marriage-nepal and www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/nepal/

Table 6: Distribution of households reported marriage in the last two year by bonded labour status

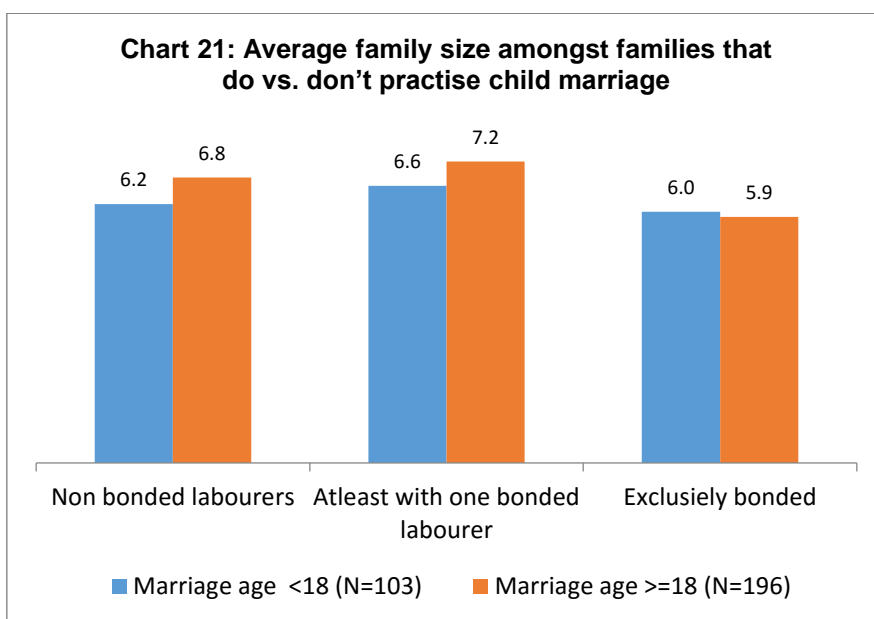
Age at marriage - boys	No bonded labourers (1,145)	Exclusively bonded (N=289)	At least with one bonded labourer (N=224)
14 yrs.	1	0	0
15 yrs.	0	0	2
16 yrs.	4	3	1
17 yrs.	4	0	0
18 yrs.	11	2	1
19 yrs.	9	2	1
20 yrs. +	49	11	8
No. of marriages reported in the last two years	78 (6.8%)	18 (6.2%)	13 (5.8%)
No. of marriages below 18 of those that have reported a marriage in the last two years	9 (11.5%)	3 (16.7%)	3(23.1%)
Age at marriage- girls	No bonded labourers (1,145)	Exclusively bonded (N=289)	At least with one bonded labourer (N=224)
12 yrs.	0	0	2
13 yrs.	1	2	0
14 yrs.	1	0	1
15 yrs.	4	1	3
16 yrs.	24	7	7
17 yrs.	22	11	5
18+ yrs.	75	20	15
No. of marriages reported in the last two years	127 (11.1%)	41 (14.2%)	33 (14.7%)
No. of marriages below 18 of those that have reported a marriage in the last two years	52 (40.9%)	21(51.2%)	18 (54.5%)

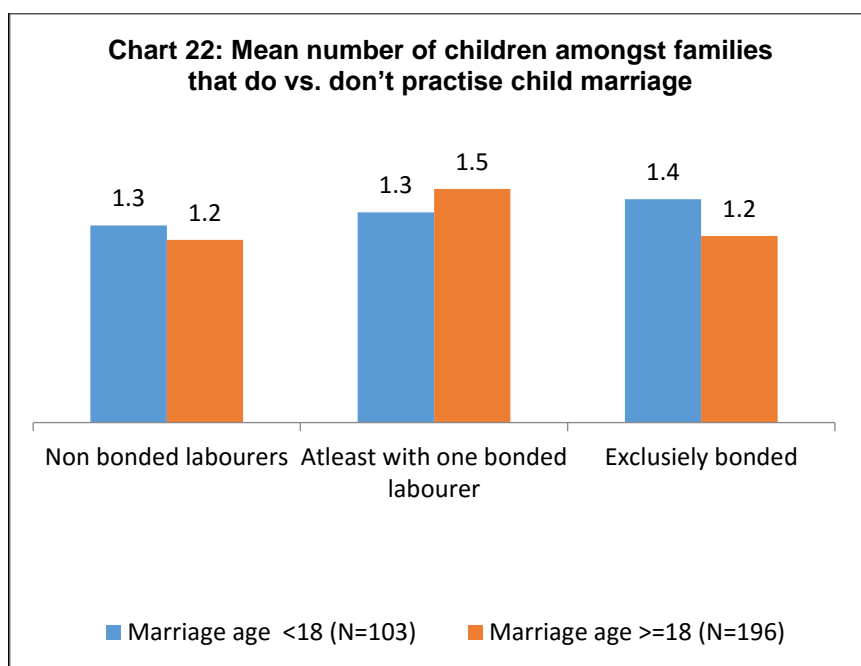
At first glance, Table 6 shows an association between bonded labour status and early marriage - in the case of both boys and girls. Relatively more numbers of families with all or at least one member in bonded labour reported early marriage in the last two years. However, the difference between the groups in relation to early marriage was not found to be statistically significant (at $p < .05$).

Chart 20 shows the distribution of boys and girls married before 18 years. Most of the boys and girls who are married before 18 years are 16 or 17 years old with a few cases of younger age of marriage.



There are important health consequences to early marriage that could be relevant for bonded labour. Child brides will have more children across their lifetime, are much more likely to face complications in child birth, die during child birth or suffer from chronic conditions such as prolapsed uterus. These all result in higher health bills and lower incomes, which could increase risky loan taking. During discussions with the NGOs a question was raised around whether large families have more child marriages - the reasoning being that larger families might marry their daughters off earlier because this will reduce dowry prices and maintenance costs. However, no statistically significant association was found between child marriages and size of family. However in the life story exercise and the discussions with the NGOs about the prevalence of bondage, child marriage was a recurring theme that was often brought up in relation to the need for women and girls to be able to determine their family size. The tables below show that family sizes are relatively large but it is not clear to which extent these reflect fertility desires.





3.Feedback on findings

3.1 Community feedback and discussions

Discussions on the results of the survey took place after the participants had completed the questions. The facilitators tallied up the prevalence data from the forms to facilitate a discussion on the prevalence results in 52 hamlets and asked people the following questions:

Questions for discussion

1. What happens when one attempts to come out of bonded labour?
2. Who supported the persons who managed to escape from bonded labour?
3. Who can help people to come out of bonded labour?
4. What can be done to reduce and respond to bonded labour from your perspective?

Facilitators wrote down the answers that had reached a group consensus. All the participants were encouraged by the facilitators to take part in the discussion. Discussions on the pathways out of slavery showed the key roles of communities, families, and self-organization. In contrast, when people were asked who was capable of providing help, participants prioritized NGOs and leaders. This suggests a lack of confidence in community's own capacities to take action against bonded labour. There are wider political and economic structural limitations to development which communities cannot address by themselves. However they have also been able to take actions to get people out of bondage which should be acknowledged –not in the least by themselves.

3.2 NGO feedback and analysis of the findings

IDS presented the preliminary findings of the survey to the NGOs to gain understanding of some of the patterns and to validate the results. The NGOs felt the results would help to plan actions and also provide valuable baseline data. They also asked questions that helped us to explore the data in more depth – such as the correlations between large family size, bondage and early marriage – and unpack the vicious cycle of bondage. Three NGOs had expected a higher average prevalence rate than was found. The reasons for loans and the landlessness of the bonded labourers were as expected. Bonded labourers have fewer options for getting loans from banks because they are often landless and have few assets. People with land are less likely to be bonded labourers and have more borrowing options. The NGOs had also expected more child marriages and wanted to see percentage of child marriages overall, which we added to the report. Most child marriages are at 16 or 17 years old (for boys and girls).

The study found significant differences in prevalence rates between the NGOs' working areas. Prevalence in general is lower north of the highway probably because from there it is easier to migrate within Nepal-compared to having to cross

a border southwards to India. UDS, which sees the highest prevalence rate in its working area, works close to the border. There, landlords have a strong hold over the Dalit population, most of who are landless. Few NGOs work in these areas, which are relatively isolated with few alternative sources of employment. JDS, by contrast, works in villages where we found very little bonded labour. JDS argued that this was the result of the random sample strategy which picked villages without bonded labourers, but we used the same sampling strategy for all villages. The low prevalence in BIDC's working area might be because the NGO works in villages where there are other NGOs. BIDC works south of the highway but not close to the border, so the presence of the highway might have reduced the prevalence as people can travel more easily to larger cities and avoid working for the landlords. CDF faces similarly low prevalence rates and attributed this to the same factor: proximity to the highway. CIC Dhanusha works far from the district capital, south of the highway towards the Indian border and is one of only two NGOs working there.

Some households' family members have migrated overseas. The majority of people are Musahar, the "lowest" among the Dalits. There can be differences within one NGO's working area. TSWO's area, for example, covers four villages: one, north of the highway, has low prevalence while the three in the south are populated by landless Musahar and have higher prevalence.

Opinions about whether it is easier or more difficult to work in high prevalence areas differ. In remote high-prevalence areas, travel time and costs can be high, whereas in low-prevalence areas NGOs felt it might be easier to have intensive contact with fewer people. On the other hand, ActionAid Nepal and IDS gave some examples of social change – for example, access to education or vaccination– where expanding coverage gets increasingly difficult as prevalence decreases. Getting the last 5% of children in school or vaccinated for polio is often hard as that group has not responded for whatever reason to the standard approaches. Difficulties reaching people do not mean it is not worth the effort because every bonded labourer is one too many. An emphasis on efficiency might lead programmes to focus on "low-hanging fruit", which can be at odds with rights-based approaches.

4. Conclusions

1. In general, the hotspot is located in the right area as in most localities there is a significant level of bonded labour. Nevertheless, there is considerable unevenness around the mean of 33% household prevalence. At present, NGOs are working mostly in lower prevalence areas. Within these areas some villages have very low levels of modern slavery. As the work on bonded labour is relatively new for these NGOs, working in these areas could be seen as a way to learn with a relatively manageable caseload before scaling up to more remote areas.
2. Landlessness is correlated with bonded labour. The Freedom Fund could consider more direct support for the enforcement of new laws regarding land seizure and debt repayment. The majority of households in the hotspot are landless, but 45% own some land. The term Harwa-Charwa is associated with landlessness and it would be good to explore how and when people in these communities accessed land. Are these former Harwa-Charwa?
3. The Terai offers few opportunities due to structural economic and political inequalities. Out-migration of the Terai is consequently high. It is not clear if people who are now in bondage would like to stay in their villages. The pattern of loans for migration, which is higher in the non-bonded category, suggests that one of the potential consequences of their liberation might be that migration increases – including risky migration.
4. Within the Terai there are also important disparities. Prevalence rates are highest in the remote areas close to the Indian border. There more people bonded to landlords through intergenerational feudal ties - while they have less opportunities to look for alternative work. Most NGOs in the programme work closer to the highway.
5. Health, dowry, and migration expenses are the main factors that lead to people taking loans - including high-interest loans -which in turn lead to the perpetuation of bondage. Health and gender inequalities need much greater attention. The lack of safe loan options - loans with reasonable interest rates that also do not have to be paid back in labour - is a widespread problem.
6. There is still a high prevalence of child marriage across all categories.

5. Programme recommendations

5.1 Location and activities

1. Freedom Fund should try to identify and support new NGOs in remote areas where there is likely to be high prevalence. The creation of alternative employment in a border area might be too challenging in terms of costs-benefits and risks– but it is worthwhile to explore if awareness raising about labour rights is practically feasible and safe.
2. It is important to hold discussions with NGOs about whether the areas with 12-16% prevalence are the right areas. This is still a significant level of slavery.
3. Work in villages within the intervention areas where the NGOs found few or no bonded labourers should be phased out. Exit and transition strategies for low-prevalence areas need to be considered. Rather than ending the relationship with groups who successfully reduced the prevalence of slavery in their working areas, these relationships can be transformed. Successful groups could still be active and mentor others who are trying to do the same.
4. Freedom Fund could consider promoting access to formal loans for local cooperative members and develop loan graduation strategies that help members improve and increase their safe loan options.
5. Given that the deeper underlying drivers of migration are unlikely to be resolved by Freedom Fund and its partners, it might be useful to reflect on ways to mitigate the consequences of continued migration.

5.2 Process and uptake recommendations

1. Freedom Fund needs to ensure that the results of the narrative analysis and the prevalence study are shared with the field staff who worked on the data collection - and who are in a position to continue the discussions at the field level – including with the participants of the survey. Helping people to reflect on their own strengths and accomplishments based on these findings could build their confidence and also the sustainability of the interventions. IDS and ActionAid Nepal have shared the results with the NGOs. Geneva Global and the Freedom Fund should now explore how the results will be shared with field staff and how discussions of the results at the *ward* level can be used for operational programme activities including activities that can be led by the community themselves and IDS/Praxis-supported action research.
2. Refresher training will be carried out for the follow-up survey and NGOs need to make sure that only people who have been trained can conduct the survey. There is also a need to be clearer around local lines of authority and for more local coordination of the programme and the research to avoid an overload of work. The question on risky migration will need to be taken out or limited to the respondents to yield more reliable results.

5.3 Methodological reflections

1. Training, refresher group training, and hands-on individual training as well as follow-up long distance support was provided to the NGOs who administered the questionnaire. One of the challenges was that the people who administered the survey had not always been in the training and consequently did not follow the sample or conducted the questions incorrectly or incompletely. As a consequence, a number of villages needed to be redone after validation. Another challenge was a lack of local coordination of the operational and research programme implementation due to illness meant that ActionAid Nepal had to do considerably more coordination of the research than anticipated without having the overall details of the operational programme and without having clear authority. The operational programme was delayed due to earthquakes which put both the research and the operational programme under pressure.
2. Due to the earthquake the pictorial self assessment tool of this hotspot was based on the North Indian experiences, discussions with the NGO and field observations –rather than an extensive joint life story analysis. The research team tried to accommodate some of the questions on migration and fraudulent marriage that came out of these discussions. Eventhough a piloting agreement was reached to discard fraudulent marriage and on the need to ask detailed questions on risky migration, it was not always followed and we are not convinced that it is possible to establish risky migration of the neighbours with this method.

ANNEX 1: Spot checks for prevalence data collection in South East Nepal

A1.1 Background

ActionAid Nepal in coordination with IDS and Praxis India is engaged in a three-year programme entitled *Planning, learning, monitoring and evaluation activities for the South-East Nepal Hotspot*. The project aims to support learning about the most effective community and NGO activities in combatting modern-day slavery and bonded labour such as Harwa-Charwa in the Freedom Fund South-East Nepal Hotspot. The project is funded by the Freedom Fund and is directed by the Institute of Development Studies UK (IDS). ActionAid Nepal is subcontracted by IDS to ensure the validity of work using participatory tools and techniques.

Freedom Fund, with its local partner NGOs, has for the last few years been implementing the Harwa-Charwa empowerment programme in three districts of south-east Nepal. IDS is doing an evaluation of the hotspot as a whole to explore the circumstances and causes of bonded labour using participatory tools and techniques including a participatory prevalence study. Seven local partner NGOs are implementing this participatory research programme at the local level.

Each partner NGO has collected information from 73 respondents (219 households), with 80 respondents (10% of the cohort) being selected for data validity checks /extra information. The 80 respondents were selected randomly based on social mapping. Each respondent gave information for three households (their own and two neighbours).

As a quality control mechanism, ActionAid Nepal undertook data validation twice during the prevalence study. The first time after each partner had completed their prevalence study in one settlement - where variance and problems were found, partners were given inputs to complete the prevalence study -the second validation round came in the middle of prevalence study, designed as such to explore the extent of deviation from the data collected and to understand the reasons for this. Input was given to help partners to complete the rest of the study.

A1.2 Sample

The first step was to generate the sample. Validation visits were to be done in a minimum of 5% of 1,533 households (i.e. 73) and visits were conducted with all seven NGOs in the study. To meet the minimum target, Action Aid Nepal met 27 respondents (covering 81 households) which is 5.14% of the total sample.

Data for between nine and twelve households was collected from one location per organisation. The data were checked halfway during the wider process of collection to allow lessons to be learned and conveyed to the NGOs. The locations and households were selected randomly. The same member of the household who served as the respondent before was interviewed again.

The organisations randomly selected the households for responses in the validations and the number of households for which data was collected is presented in the table below:

Table 1: Number of respondents selected for second level of validation

S. N.	NGO	District	Total number of respondents for prevalence study (Plan)	Selected number of respondents for spot-check	Total number of HHs for prevalence study (Plan)	Selected number of HHs for spot-check
1	TSWO	Saptari	80	3	240	9
2	JDS	Saptari	80	4	240	12
3	UDS	Saptari	80	4	240	12
4	BIDC	Siraha	80	4	240	12
5	DSAM	Siraha	80	4	240	12
6	CDF	Siraha	80	4	240	12
7	CIC	Dhanusha	80	4	240	12
Total			560	27	1680	81

A1.3 Validation results

The schedules with 27 questions (plus 5 sub-questions) were redone with respondents from 81 households. The table below as well as the graph present the numbers of households that had responses that differed from the first time data was collected. The table also provides an explanation in cases where the variance found was more than 10%.

Table 2: Total variance across questions as per Validation Visit

Questions	Total no of responses	No. of HHs with variation in responses	% of HHs with variation in responses	Reason for variance
Gender	81	0	0	
Relation with head of family	81	0	0	
Ethnicity	81	0	0	
Religion	81	0	0	
Caste	81	0	0	
Do you own the land you live on?	81	4	4.94	
Land ownership in Kattha <i>landless, less than 6 Kattha, 6-20 Kattha (1 Bigah), 1 Bigah-4 Bigah and 5 or more Bigah</i>	81	5	6.17	
Number of family members who has citizenship certificate	81	4	4.94	
Number of children (below the age of 16) who have birth registration certificate	81	8	9.88	
Able to access healthcare (<i>facility is available but remained closed, yes sometimes, yes always without discrimination</i>)	81	10	12.35	Facilitators found it difficult to make respondents understand the differences between 'yes sometimes' and 'yes always without discrimination'. Each NGO was given training in the field to make sure facilitators could communicate this question
Bank account (<i>yes, no, do not know</i>)	81	7	8.64	
Number of family members	81	5	6.17	
Number and age of children between 5-14 (including 14)	81	17	20.99	The facilitator asked the question too generally and not according to the guide and did not sufficiently check the status and ages of each child. Some of the ages listed are guesses, because some respondents did not know the actual age of their neighbours. And some answers had the wrong sex with an age. Each NGO was given hands on-training in the field again to make sure facilitators checked sex and age of children
Number of school drop outs and age at drop out	81	2	2.47	
Number of children between 5-14 (including 14) who never attended	81	4	4.94	
Number of working members in the family with work category	81	20	24.69	The facilitator asked the question too generally and not according to the guide and mixed up working status with slavery status. They did not sufficiently check the working status of each member and if this was bonded or not.

				Each NGO was given hands on-training in the field again to make sure facilitators would list the categories correctly and check more thoroughly
Has household taken a loan? (Yes/No)	81	14	17.28	Some respondents had responded by guessing. Each NGO was given hands on-training in the field again to make sure facilitators would check more thoroughly
If yes where has the loan been taken from? <i>Money Lender/ landlord, Money lender where he/she works, neighbor/relatives, saving groups, bank/ cooperatives, micro finance company, Do not know, not applicable</i>	81	15	18.52	The facilitator asked the question too generally and not according to the guide Respondents therefore did not correctly specify the different types of loans and wrote for example bank/cooperatives instead of micro finance company. Some sources of loans were missing
Interest rate in case of loan taken from (<i>money lender/ employer/ landlord (Rs. 1 to 10 per 100 per month)</i>)	81	0	0	
Interest rate in case of loan taken from relatives/ neighbors	81	0	0	
What has triggered the loan? (<i>illness, Large family, Marriage, Addiction/Gambling, Death in family, Disaster/emergency, Accident at work, Festival/Pilgrimage, Pay outstanding loan, Maintenance/repair house, Education, start some new, Buy house/land, Agri purpose, Livestock, Luxury, Migration NA</i>)	81	8	9.88	
Number of loans in current date	27	3	3.70	
Size of biggest loan	27	5	6.17	
Why the biggest loan was taken	27	0	0	
Part of saving group (Yes, No)	81	4	4.94	
Marriage in last two years in families	81	8	9.88	

***Detailed variation per category of work and per NGO in Table 4**

CHART 1: Variance in data as per validations

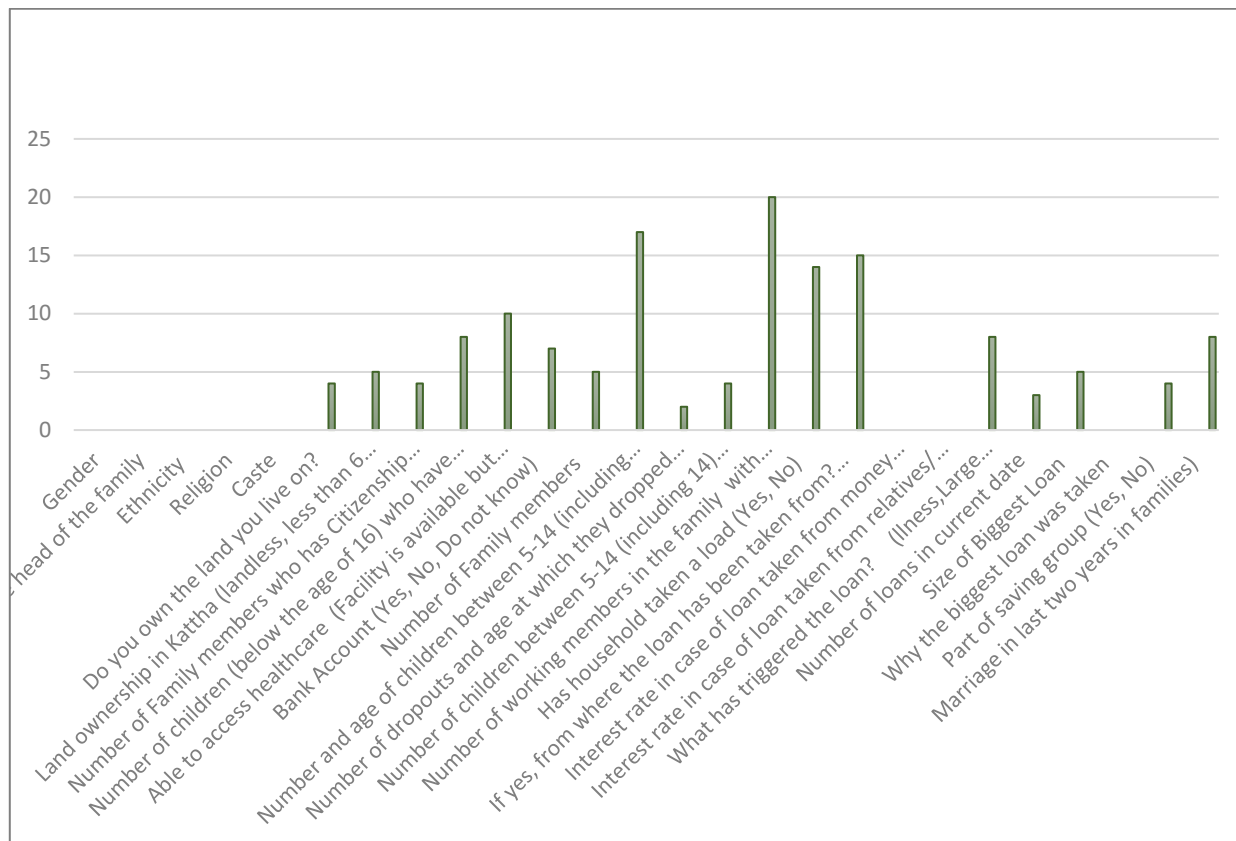
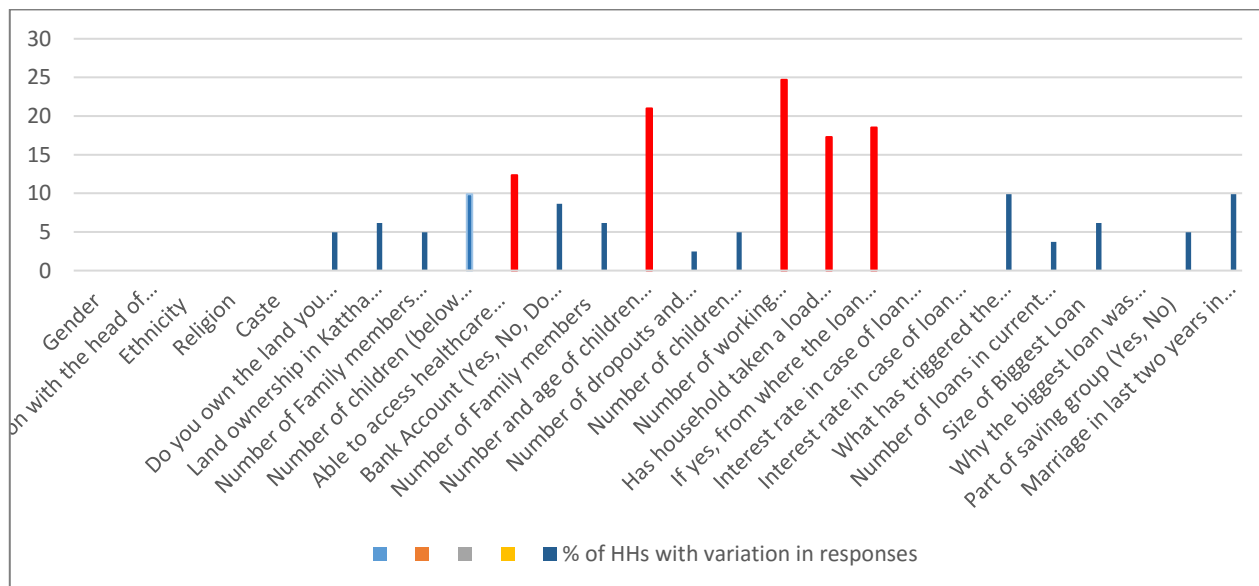


CHART 2: % of Variance in data as per validations



■ = Variance above 10%

Table 3: Variance across questions as per validation visit by NGO

Questions	CIC	CDF	DSAM	BIDC	TSWO	JDS	UDS	Total
Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Relation with the head of the family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Religion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Do you own the land you live on?	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Land ownership in Kattha (landless, less than 6 Kattha, 6-20 Kattha [1 Bigah], 1 Bigah-4 Bigah and 5 or more Bigah)	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	5
Number of family members who have citizenship certificate	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
Number of children (below the age of 16) who have birth registration certificate	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	8
Able to access healthcare (<i>Facility is available but remained closed, yes sometimes, Yes always without discrimination</i>)	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	10
Bank account (Yes, No, Do not know)	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	7
Number of family members (<i>Male, Female</i>)	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
Number and age of children between 5-14 (including 14)	2	2	4	3	2	0	4	17
Number of dropouts and age at which they dropped out	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Number of children between 5-14 (including 14) who never attended school	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
Number of working members in the family with work category*	4	0	2	4	2	4	4	20
Has household taken a loan (Yes, No)	3	0	2	4	0	1	4	14
If yes, from where the loan has been taken from? (<i>Money Lender/ landlord, Money lender where he/she works, neighbor/relatives, saving groups, bank/ cooperatives, micro finance company, Do not know, not applicable</i>)	4	3	1	1	2	3	1	15
Interest rate in case of loan taken from money lender/ employer/ landlord (Rs. 1 to 10 per 100 per month)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest rate in case of loan taken from relatives/ neighbors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
What has triggered the loan? (<i>illness, Large family, Marriage, Addiction/Gambling, Death in family, Disaster/emergency, Accident at work, Festival/Pilgrimage, Pay outstanding loan, Maintenance/repair house, Education, start some new, Buy house/land, Agri-purpose, Livestock, Luxury, Migration NA</i>)	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	8

Number of loans in current date	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3									
Size of biggest Loan	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	5									
Why the biggest loan was taken	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Part of saving group (Yes, No)	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	4									
Marriage in last two years in families)	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	8									
Total	17	14	24	36	9	19	24	17									

*Breakdown of this number per category and per NGO in separate table below.

Table 4: Number of Bonded Labour in family by NGO

Questions	CIC		CDF		DSAM		BIDC		TSWO		JDS		UDS		Total	
	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC	PV	SC
Number of working members in the family (who are currently working)																
Men>15	13	15	22	23	19	19	21	22	18	18	14	17	20	26	127	140
Women>15	11	12	20	18	23	26	15	16	5	7	13	16	16	17	103	112
Boys<14	3	2	0	0	0	0			1	1	6	2	0	0	10	5
Girls<14	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	4
Numbers of bonded labourers (in side and outside the village – in Nepal)																
Men>15	6	5	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	15	9
Women>15	7	5	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	17	12
Boys<14	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Girls<14	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Gone overseas but unaware of current situation																
Men>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Women>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boys<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Girls<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risky migration but unaware of current situation																
Men>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boys<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Girls<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risky migration and currently bonded																
Men>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women>15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boys<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Girls<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PS = Participatory Statistics SC = Spot check

ANNEX 2: Questions used in participatory statistics tools in Nepal²⁴

Name of the NGO:

Name of VDC:

Name of the Settlement:

- 1. HHs Number:**
- 2. Name of Respondent / HH owner**
- 3. Age (Applicable for Primary respondent only):**
- 4. Gender:**
- 5. Relationship with HH owner (Applicable for Primary respondent only) :**
- 6. Ethnicity**
 - a. Pahadi
 - b. Madhesi
- 7. Religion**
 - a. Hindu
 - b. Muslim
 - c. Isai
 - d. Baudha
- 8. Caste**
 - a. Dalit
 - b. Janajati
 - c. OBC
 - d. NA
- 9. Do you own land you live on?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 10. Land ownership in Kattha**
 - a. Landless
 - b. <6 kattha
 - c. >6 kattha <20 kattha
 - d. 1-4 bighas
 - e. 5 bighas and more
- 11. Number of family members who has citizenship certificate.**
 - a. None
 - b. Some
 - c. All Members
 - d. Do not know
- 12. Number of children (below the age of 16) who have birth registration certificate)**
 - a. None
 - b. Some
 - c. All
 - d. Not applicable
 - e. Do not know
- 13. Able to access healthcare**
 - a. Facility is available but remains close
 - b. Yes some sometimes
 - c. Yes without discrimination

²⁴ The actual tool that was used in Nepali has more details and images. Interviewers also has an interview guide with instructions and had received training on using the guide

14. Bank Account

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Do not know

15. Number of Family members:

16. Number and age of children between 5-14 (including 14)

Boys	a. 5 years	b. 6 years	c. 7 years	d. 8 years	e. 9 years	e. 9 years
	f. 10 years	g. 11 years	h. 12 years	l 13 years	j. 14 years	
Girls	a. 5 years	b. 6 years	c. 7 years	d. 8 years	e. 9 years	e. 9 years
	f. 10 years	g. 11 years	h. 12 years	l 13 years	j. 14 years	

Do not Know

NA

17. Number of dropouts and age at which they dropped out

Boys	a. 5 years	b. 6 years	c. 7 years	d. 8 years	e. 9 years	e. 9 years
	f. 10 years	g. 11 years	h. 12 years	l 13 years	j. 14 years	
Girls	a. 5 years	b. 6 years	c. 7 years	d. 8 years	e. 9 years	e. 9 years
	f. 10 years	g. 11 years	h. 12 years	l 13 years	j. 14 years	

Do not Know

NA

18. Number of children between 5-14 (including 14) who never attended school.

- a. Number of boys
- b. Number of Girls
- c. Not Applicable

19. Number of working members in the family (who are currently working)

- 1. Bonded labour with in the village
- 2. Bonded labour outside the village but in Nepal
- 3. Gone overseas but unaware of current situation
- 4. Risky migration but unaware of current situation
- 5. Risky migration and currently bonded.
- 6. None of the above

20. Has household taken a loan

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

21. If yes, from where the loan has been taken from?

- a. Money Lender/ landlord
- b. Money lender where he/she works
- c. Neighbour/relatives
- d. Saving groups
- e. Bank/ cooperatives
- f. Micro finance company
- g. Do not know (It is Applicable for only in neighbour case)
- h. Not applicable

22. Monthly interest rate in case of loan taken from money lender/ employer/ landlord

- a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5 f. 6 g. 7 h. 8 i. 9 j. 10 k. 10+
- l. Don't know m. Not applicable

23. Monthly interest rate in case of loan taken from relatives/ neighbours

- a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5 f. 6 g. 7 h. 8 i. 9 j. 10 k. 10+
l. Don't know m. Not applicable

24. What has triggered the loan?

- a. Illness
- b. Large family
- c. Marriage
- d. Addiction/Gambling
- e. Death in family
- f. Disaster/emergency
- g. Accident at work
- h. Festival/Pilgrimage
- i. Pay outstanding loan
- j. Maintenance/repair house
- k. Education
- l. Start new business/activity
- m. Buy house/land
- n. Agriculture related expenses
- o. Buy livestock
- p. Luxury good
- q. Migration
- r. Don't know (applicable only in neighbour case)
- s. N/A

25. Number of loans in current date (Applicable for Primary respondent only)

- i. 1 ii. 2 iii. 3 iv. 4 v. 5 vi. 6 vii. 7 viii. 8 ix. 9x. 10+xi. NA

26. Size of Biggest Loan (Applicable for Primary respondent only)

- a.... b.... NA

27. Why the biggest loan was taken (Applicable for Primary respondent only)

- i. Illness
- ii. Large family
- ii. Marriage
- iv. Addiction/Gambling
- v. Death in family
- l. Disaster/emergency
- vii. Accident at work
- viii. Festival/Pilgrimage
- ix. Pay outstanding loan
- x. Maintenance/repair house
- xi. Education
- xii. Start some new
- xiii. Buy house/land
- xiv. Agriculture related expenses
- xv. Buy livestock
- xvi. Luxury goods
- xvii. Migration
- xviii. Don't know
- xix. NA

28. Part of saving group

- a. Yes b. No

29. Marriage in last 2 years in families

Boys	a. 10 years	b. 11 years	c. 12 years	d. 13 years	e. 14 years	e. 15 years
	f. 16 years	g. 17 years	h. 18 years	l 19 years	j. 20+ years	
Girls	a. 10 years	b. 11 years	c. 12 years	d. 13 years	e. 14 years	e. 15 years
	f. 16 years	g. 17 years	h. 18 + years			

ANNEX 3: Additional findings tables

Household level distribution of bonded labourers by age and gender

	BL with in the village		BL outside the village but in Nepal		Gone overseas but unaware of current situation		Risky migration and currently bonded		Not in bonded labour	
	No. of BLs	% of HHs	No. of BLs	% of HHs	No. of BLs	% of HHs	No. of BLs	% of HHs	No. of BLs	% of HHs
Male >=15										
HH with exclusively BL (N=289)	275	68.9 %	107	29.1 %	15	4.2%	2	0.7%		
HH with at least one BL (N=224)	104	41.1 %	65	24.1 %	15	6.3%	37	13.8 %	204	66.1%
HH without BL (N=1145)									1939	98.1%
Female >=15									2763	
HH with exclusively BL (N=289)	339	87.5 %	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	0			
HH with at least one BL (N=224)	143	46.9 %	11	2.2%	0		0		203	63.8%
HH without BL (N=1145)									1576	88.3%
Boy <=14									2274	
HH with exclusively BL (N=289)	5	1.7%	0	0.0%	0		0			
HH with at least one BL (N=224)	3	1.3%	0	0.0%	0		0		1	0.4%
HH without BL (N=1145)									25	1.9%
Girl <=14									34	
HH with exclusively BL (N=289)	4	1.4%	0	0.0%	0		0			
HH with at least one BL (N=224)	2	0.9%	4	0.9%	0				2	0.9%
HH without BL (N=1145)									27	2.3%

Distribution of children between 5-14 by bonded labour status

Distribution of male children (5-14 years) by type bonded labour status								
No. of boys	Exclusively BL (289)		At least one BL (224)		Non BL (1145)		All (1658)	
	% of HHs	Total no. of boys	% of HHs	Total no. of boys	% of HHs	Total no. of boys	% of HHs	Total no. of boys
0	50.9%	0	47.3%	0	47.0%	0	47.7%	0
1	30.4%	88	32.6%	73	34.8%	399	33.8%	560
2	16.3%	94	18.3%	82	15.4%	352	15.9%	528
3	2.1%	18	1.3%	9	2.4%	81	2.2%	108
4	0.3%	4	0.0%	0	0.3%	16	0.3%	20
5	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.1%	5	0.1%	5
6	0.0%	0	0.4%	6	0.0%	0	0.1%	6
	289	204	224	170	1145	853	1658	1227
Distribution of female children (5-14 years) by type bonded labour status								
No. of girls	Exclusively BL (289)		At least one BL (224)		Non BL (1145)		All (1658)	
	% of HHs	Total no. of girls	% of HHs	Total no. of girls	% of HHs	Total no. of girls	% of HHs	Total no. of girls
0	59.5%	0	55.8%	0	54.8%	0	55.7%	0
1	27.7%	80	25.4%	57	30.5%	349	29.3%	486
2	11.1%	64	14.3%	64	11.8%	270	12.0%	398
3	1.7%	15	4.5%	30	2.5%	87	2.7%	132
4	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.4%	20	0.3%	20
	289	159	224	151	1145	726	1658	1036
Distribution of all children (5-14 years) by type bonded labour status								
No. of children	Exclusively BL (289)		At least one BL (224)		Non BL (1145)		All (1658)	
	% of HHs	Total no. of children	% of HHs	Total no. of children	% of HHs	Total no. of children	% of HHs	Total no. of children
0	32.9%	0	33.9%	0	29.1%	0	30.4%	0
1	24.2%	70	17.4%	39	27.2%	312	25.4%	421
2	31.1%	180	29.0%	130	25.9%	594	27.3%	904
3	9.0%	78	12.9%	87	13.3%	456	12.5%	621
4	2.1%	24	4.9%	44	3.5%	160	3.4%	228
5	0.3%	5	1.3%	15	0.8%	45	0.8%	65
6	0.3%	6	0.4%	6	0.2%	12	0.2%	24
	289	363	224	321	1145	1579	1658	2263

Number and age of children between 5-14

Boys	<i>HH with non BL (1145)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>HH with at least one BL (224)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>HH with exclusively BL (289)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>Total no. of children</i>	<i>Total no. of HHs</i>
5 years	141	136	24	24	26	26	191	186
6 years	89	89	29	29	17	17	135	135
7 years	104	103	22	22	33	33	159	158
8 years	89	89	23	22	28	28	140	139
9 years	60	60	14	14	15	15	89	89
10 years	104	104	23	23	34	34	161	161
11 years	42	42	8	7	8	8	58	57
12 years	84	84	13	12	19	19	116	115
13 years	59	59	7	7	10	10	76	76
14 years	81	81	7	7	14	14	102	102
Total	853	847	170	167	204	204	1227	1218
Girls	<i>HH with non BL (1145)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>HH with at least one BL (224)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>HH with exclusively BL (289)</i>	<i>No. of HHs</i>	<i>Total no. of children</i>	<i>Total no. of HHs</i>
5 years	109	109	20	19	19	19	148	147
6 years	86	86	13	12	19	19	118	117
7 years	88	88	19	19	22	22	129	129
8 years	102	102	18	18	18	18	138	138
9 years	46	45	17	17	9	9	72	71
10 years	89	89	16	16	21	21	126	126
11 years	33	33	7	7	12	12	52	52
12 years	75	74	19	18	18	18	112	110
13 years	41	41	13	13	10	10	64	64
14 years	57	57	9	9	11	11	77	77
Total	726	724	151	148	159	159	1036	1031

Of the 1,227 boys and 1,036 girls in 5-14 years (Table 5A and Table 5B), from all the villages, only a few girls (3.7%) and boys (2.8%) < 15 years old are reported to work: the absolute numbers are small -25 .

²⁵ The prevalence tool classified the population into two age groups (14 years and below & 15 and above). Therefore, it will be difficult to understand incidence and type of child work among the children between 15-17 years as they are captured in the “15 years and above age group” along with the adults.

ANNEX 4 Hamlet Level Discussions on the Survey Results

Community feedback and discussions

Discussions on the results of the survey took place after the participants had completed the questions. The facilitators tallied up the prevalence data from the forms to facilitate a discussion on the prevalence results in 52 hamlets. The facilitators wrote down the answers that had reached a group consensus, and one group could give multiple answers to a question. All the participants were encouraged by the facilitators to take part in the discussion.

Questions for open discussion

1. What happens when one attempts to come out of bonded labour?
2. Who supported the persons who managed to escape from bonded labour?
3. Who can help people to come out of bonded labour?
4. What can be done to reduce and respond to bonded labour from your perspective?

1. What happens when someone attempts to come out of bonded labour?

Response of Group	N	%
The Landlord will threaten them in multiple ways	47	90.4
The bonded labourer will be put under pressure to pay outstanding loan	27	51.9
Family's poor economic condition will force them not to leave landlord	20	38.5
Loan was paid but landlords still making demands for payment on the loan, as bonded labours do not have written papers	8	15.4
Landlord will take all thing return from them	4	7.7
Landlords motivate further bondage by saying they can arrange for children's study and marriage.	4	7.7
Forbidden to go outside from house	3	5.8
Landlord will claim they stole from them and others.	3	5.8
Misbehaviour based on caste	2	3.8
Landlord will suggest to bonded labourer that they are sent for foreign migration	2	3.8
Landlord take out from shelter	2	3.8
When bounded labourer wants to search for a new job then the landlord will design different obstacles to ensure the labourer is unsuccessful in it	2	3.8
They can't think what to do after leaving from bounded labour	1	1.9
The bonded labourer will make a transfer to another place	1	1.9
The bonded labourer will be forbidden to meet with anyone	1	1.9
Nobody to give proper advice and suggestion	1	1.9
Total Response	128*	

*The total number of group answers was 128 – reflecting the fact that multiple answers were given by each group to the same question.

2. Who supported people who managed to escape from bonded labour?

Response of Group	N	%
Community people/ neighbours and relatives	24	46.2
NGOs/NGOs which work on bonded labour	19	36.5
Local Leaders/Intellectual leaders	16	30.8
Shared help	7	13.5
Police/Administration Office	5	9.6
Employment opportunities from another place	5	9.6
Government offices and NGOs Jointly	3	5.8
Human Rights Organizations	3	5.8
Payment of loan via earning money from foreign migration	1	1.9
Total	83	

Above table shows the response of group where people got success to get rid from bonded labours. However, the number of bonded labour was not counted and noted who came out from bonded labour.

3. Who do you think can help people to get out of bonded labour?

Response of Group	N	%
Local Leaders/Intellectuals/Political Leaders	35	67.3
Local NGOs	32	61.5
Government and non-government agencies (Jointly)	15	28.8
Police/Administrative Offices	11	21.2
Officers of Local Government (Municipality/ VDC)	7	13.5
Relatives	6	11.5
Legal process/ Advocates/ Judiciary	5	9.6
Self-organised support groups at the community level	4	7.7
Human Rights Organizations	3	5.8
Talking with landlords about bonded labourer and its ill effects	2	3.8
Mediation Centre	1	1.9
We do not approach anyone because none support	6	11.5
Total Response	127*	

*The total number of group answers was 127 – reflecting the fact that multiples answers were given by a group to same question.

4. What can be done to reduce and respond to bonded labour from your perspective?

Response of Group	N	%
Alternative employment / livelihood opportunities created for adults and youths	35	67.3
Free and quality education for children of bonded labours	24	46.2
Awareness raising programmes	23	44.2
Provision of vocational training and entrepreneurship skills (with loan facility)	20	38.5
Health services (preventive and curative support)	18	34.6
regular meetings and discussions in group on this issue	10	19.2
Sanitation programmes	9	17.3
Bonded free campaign in community	8	15.4
Government should enforce strong laws for this kind of human rights violation	8	15.4
Most bonded labourers/their family members are cheated in the name of foreign employment. Provision of advice around foreign employment is needed that helps us in foreign employment.	8	15.4
Irrigation support for agriculture	8	15.4
Government must keep prioritise action and punish perpetrators	8	15.4
Government must fulfill the basic needs of bonded labourers families	7	13.5
Campaigns against child marriage	6	11.5
Measures providing motivation for saving	6	11.5
Orientation of public services which are available at local level	5	9.6
Lobbying and advocacy	2	3.8
Street drama	5	9.6
Legal support	4	7.7
Informal education for women	4	7.7
Interface meetings between bonded labourers and landlords	4	7.7
Provision of shelter for bonded labour/ landless people	2	3.8
Programmes addressing domestic violence	2	3.8
Total Response	226*	

* The total number of group answers was 226 –reflecting the fact that multiple answers were given by a group in same question.