Youth on the Move is World Education’s safe migration initiative in three countries in Asia: China, Nepal, and Cambodia.

The Initiative addresses the education and well-being needs of migrant and vulnerable youth who are potential migrants through interventions such as:

- Literacy, post-literacy, and life skills programs for out-of-school youth;
- Extra curricula activities, teacher training and school management capacity building for in-school youth;
- Youth mobilization and leadership;
- Child protection system strengthening;
- And local capacity building.

World Education and partners work with migrant youth in Beijing and Shanghai and potential migrant youth in Henan province whose parents have already migrated. In Cambodia and Nepal we work with vulnerable girls and boys in rural areas where child labor, unsafe migration and trafficking are prevalent.

Unsafe migration presents a growing challenge in Nepal as many youth live with their families in rural areas with stagnant economies and limited income generation opportunities. A high occurrence of school dropout and a lack of quality education services have led to a growing number of young people in these areas reaching adolescence under-skilled and without work prospects. As a result, many youth leave their villages in search of work. Without the support networks, knowledge and skills that are necessary to help them migrate safely and attain gainful employment, many youth are left vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Youth on the Move in Nepal works in the Sarlahi and Sindhuli districts where child labor, unsafe migration and the risk of trafficking and exploitation remain high. These districts have the poorest educational status and the most out-of-school children in the country. Increasing poverty, conflict and a growing demand means youth from this area are sent as child laborers to work as domestic workers, or in brick or carpet factories. Even for youth that escape these situations, most will still need to be economically active and migration in search of work is often the only option.

Youth on the Move works with local NGO partners to provide vulnerable youth who are at risk of unsafe migration with nonformal education classes, self-employment education activities, and youth voice activities. Through these interventions, the program works to ensure that vulnerable youth have access to the knowledge, skills and healthy behaviors that can reduce their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

Youth on the Move is generously supported by the Oak Foundation and implemented by World Education, Inc.
EDUCATION AND SKILLS BUILDING
The Youth on the Move program uses World Education’s tested GATE (Girls’ Access to Education) curriculum which combines a health education curriculum with literacy and numeracy skills, and information on safe migration, sexual abuse, child labor, and trafficking. Bridging classes and scholarships are provided to participants who wish to re-enter school after the GATE NFE classes. In addition, World Education runs the Self-Employment Education Program (SEEP) to equip older girls who do not return to school with the knowledge and skills they need to be self-employed through a ‘discovery learning’ process.

PROMOTING YOUTH VOICE
Youth on the Move establishes youth clubs in each village to carry out their own community actions. They conduct awareness-raising activities around topics such as child labor and unsafe migration. The program also works closely with select youth and community-level activists, referred to as “Change Agents,” to influence policy and to advocate for local services to better serve vulnerable youth. Youth club members are also trained along with adults in program methodology and assessment techniques; as a result, youth are now taking responsibility for implementing, monitoring and overseeing a number of program activities.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL SERVICES
Youth on the Move also works to increase the effectiveness of local services for vulnerable youth over the long term through institutional capacity building, professional development, more relevant curricula, and improved monitoring and evaluation systems. World Education Nepal holds training sessions and meetings with local NGO supervisors, program coordinators, and facilitators to discuss program strategies and new ways to teach, mobilize youth, and interact with parents of beneficiaries, as well as to provide training in areas such as child protection and safer migration.

IMPROVING CHILD PROTECTION AND AWARENESS OF SEXUAL ABUSE
Given the high rates of child exploitation, trafficking, and abuse that youth face, Youth on the Move works to form and strengthen community-based child protection committees (CPC) and provide a safe forum for youth, community leaders, and teachers to openly discuss issues around sexual abuse and exploitation. Furthermore, through their NFE courses, youth learn about such issues as gender discrimination, harmful cultural and social norms, sexual abuse, abuse of child rights, and positive relationships with parents.

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