



# Self-help Group for CEREBRAL PALSY (SGCP) Nepal

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## World Health Organization

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva  
Switzerland

Dear Respected Members of the Expert Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Self-help Group for Cerebral Palsy, Nepal to express our strong support for the application made by the International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS) to include Baclofen—both oral and intrathecal forms—in the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines.

SGCP Nepal is a national non-governmental organization that has been working for more than three decades to improve the lives of children and adults with cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions. Since 1986, we have provided multidisciplinary rehabilitation services, special education, outreach, and caregiver support programs to thousands of individuals and families across Nepal, particularly in rural and underserved areas. We are an associated member of the International Cerebral Palsy Society based in the UK.

Spasticity is one of the most challenging symptoms of cerebral palsy, limiting mobility, causing pain, and increasing caregiver burden—especially in low-resource settings like Nepal. With limited access to specialized neurological care, oral Baclofen is often the only affordable and practical treatment option. In our clinical and community work, we have seen how Baclofen helps reduce stiffness and pain, improve motor function, and enable children to participate more fully in therapy, school, and daily life. Caregivers frequently report greater comfort and ease in caregiving after its use. Despite its proven effectiveness and low cost, Baclofen is not currently included in Nepal's National List of Essential Medicines (2021). As a result, it is often unavailable at government health posts and district hospitals, limiting access for families who need it most. If Baclofen is included in the WHO Model List, it would strongly encourage countries like Nepal to follow suit—improving national availability and affordability of this important medicine. The inclusion of Baclofen as an essential medicine would also support broader access to rehabilitation and rights-based disability care, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It would further align with the WHO Global Disability Action Plan and advance the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)—ensuring that no one is left behind.

We believe that recognizing Baclofen as an essential medicine is a crucial step toward equitable healthcare for persons with disabilities, especially in low- and middle-income countries. We urge the WHO to take this action and support global access to this vital medication.

Sincerely,  
Sushil Man Singh Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer



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