

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Good Change for the World

Good Neighbors International (GNI) exists to make the world a place without hunger where people live together in harmony. GNI respects the human rights of the people suffering from poverty, disasters, and oppression, helps them to achieve self-reliance, and enables them to rebuild their hope.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear well-wisher,

In 2016, Good Neighbors International (GNI) Nepal marked its 14th annual anniversary which coincided with my assumption of responsibility as the Country Director. Throughout the year, I and the senior management team worked towards conducting the need assessments of working communities, developing realistic activities for community development, and selecting competent implementing partners.

GNI Nepal's Third Project Agreement with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) matured in November 2015. The Fourth Project Agreement with SWC was signed in June 2016, officially paving the way for us to serve the vulnerable, poorest of the poor, and marginalized people of Nepal for the next five years through programs in education, health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), livelihood enhancement, sponsorship service, and child protection.

Under our sponsorship service program, this year also, we supported more than 24,000 children with stationery, uniform, and health services. Around 1600 new children were enrolled in the sponsorship service from earthquake affected Gorkha District as well as remote parts of Bajura, Mugu, and Humla districts. I hope that this support will assist the children in improving their quality of life.

In terms of reorganization and learning, 2016 was a remarkable year for GNI Nepal as well as me. All thematic departments, based on the new Project Agreement, engaged in reviewing their policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures. GNI Nepal changed its program implementation approach from a few to multiple partners. In 2016, 14 local non-governmental organizations were selected through an open and competitive selection process for implementing our programs.

For streamlining services and reaching out to the lowest strata, we merged existing 20 community development projects into 12 and established 12 district offices to support them. We closed our area offices in Pokhara, Doti, and Nepalgunj and established general and special project implementation units at the Head Office. Additionally for better coordination with local implementing partners and stakeholders, coordination and liaison department was established.

To build the capacity of local people and increase their ownership in community development, GNI Nepal started working with community-based organizations (CBO) as well. This year, 28 CBOs were engaged in collection of annual child letter and annual progress report of sponsored children.

In 2016, based on local development needs, we initiated three annex projects: Gorkha Reconstruction Project, Health System Recovery Project (HSRP) and Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities Project (SZHCP) Phase II. These projects will benefit an approximately 150,000 earthquake survivors and poverty-stricken people.

I strongly believe that community development in Nepal can succeed only with the active involvement of all concerned stakeholders: communities, community-based organizations, local government agencies, and development partners. Appreciating this fact, GNI Nepal's community development approach also encourages and engages all stakeholders. In 2017, GNI Nepal will work for the poorest of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized children, their families, and communities with an added vigor taking into account their development aspirations.

I deeply appreciate the contributions and efforts made by local communities, partners, stakeholders, donors, and staff amidst challenges and hardships. I look forward to continued cooperation, coordination, and collaboration with all stakeholders in the days to come.


Min Ho Choi
Country Director

GNI NEPAL 2016-2020

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT CREATED FOR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, HEALTH, LIVELIHOOD, AND CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Our Strategic Priorities



EDUCATION

Outcome 1:

Enhanced equitable access to and participation of children in education

Outcome 2:

Increased internal efficiency and learning outcome of students

Outcome 3:

Improved management system in school



LIVELIHOOD

Outcome 1:

Financial and marketing services boost enterprise development and income generation activities

Outcome 2:

Micro-enterprises generate profit and employment

Outcome 3:

Ultra-poor households achieve food sufficiency through income stabilization

Cross-cutting Issues



Advocacy



Disaster Risk Reduction



Environmental Management





HEALTH AND WASH

Outcome 1:

Enhanced health-seeking behavior of target community members

Outcome 2:

Enhanced safe hygiene and sanitation practice among target communities



SPONSORSHIP SERVICE AND CHILD PROTECTION

Outcome 1:

Increased support to sponsored children

Outcome 2:

Child protection mechanism strengthened at the local levels to protect children from all forms of exploitation and abuse

Outcome 3:

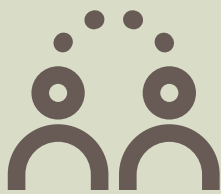
Awareness of children raised and they are capable of claiming their rights



**Good
Neighbors
International**



Gender



Partnership and
Network Building



USD

Total Budget
USD

21,562,125





COUNTRY STRATEGY 2016-2020



Good Neighbors International's (GNI) motto is to bring good change for the world irrespective of race, religion, gender, geographical boundaries, class or ideology.

GNI Nepal believes that people from the most remote parts of Nepal are capable of changing their lives for better with a little external help. The organization creates conducive environment for enabling children, families and community members to have a better future.

GNI Nepal envisions self-reliant communities which allow children to thrive and have a dignified life. Towards achieving this vision, GNI Nepal will continue to work on improving the lives of poor people, especially children through focused education, income generating, health care, child protection, disaster risk

reduction, advocacy, and network building activities.

Family, school, and community comprise the social environment of a child with which he/she is in constant interaction. The interaction with and interplay of these components shapes his/her day-to-day experiences and future. If one of the environmental components is rendered dysfunctional, then a child's development is adversely affected. Keeping this 'ecological perspective' in mind, GNI Nepal's thematic activities focus not only on helping children — to develop a sense of dignity and grow in an enabling environment for their holistic development — but their families and communities as well. GNI Nepal will build on its experiences and leverage its strengths for delivering lasting transformations to the children and people of Nepal.

GNI Nepal has committed an estimated program budget of USD 4.3 million per year for the coming five years excluding emergency, earthquake reconstruction, and annex projects' fund.

GNI Nepal will continue to serve poorest of the poor children, their parents, disadvantaged and marginalized communities in 67 Village Development Committees (VDC) and 11 municipalities of Humla, Doti, Bajura, Bardiya, Mugu, Darchula, Myagdi, Kathmandu, Kailali, Gorkha, Parbat, Kaski, and Lalitpur districts which were selected based on GNI's mission, vision, and goals; human development index (HDI) ranking, location, literacy rate, quality of education, health status, and level of poverty.

A staggering one-quarter of the population lives below the poverty

GNI Nepal's programs in sponsorship service, child protection, education, livelihood, and health and WASH will contribute to attain the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set out by the United Nations:

line in Nepal. Bearing in mind that there are many more children and communities to be reached out, GNI Nepal will continue to expand its programs in those poverty-stricken areas in the coming days aligning with the SDGs.

GNI Nepal's all thematic programs have been integrated into a child-centered community development approach. This approach puts the most marginalized, deprived, and hardest to reach children (individuals under the age of 18) at the center and focuses not only on them but on improving the quality of life of their family members, and helping their communities to achieve their long-term development aspirations. GNI Nepal encourages community members to come together and supports them to: identify the existing problems and needs in their community; enhance their knowledge, skills, confidence and capacity; engage in decision making processes; take action to address existing inequalities in power and participation; deal with local issues, improve collaboration with the local government for maximizing local development efforts, and increase their involvement in community development.

The organization is well aware of the fact that without meaningful engagement with concerned stakeholders (government, public service institutions, international community, and civil society organizations), the effectiveness of its programs remains inconsequential. Therefore, GNI Nepal seeks active partnership with government line agencies, local non-governmental and community-based organizations, stakeholders, and beneficiaries for implementing programs and to reduce the gaps and duplication in service delivery.



GNI Nepal's programs prioritize use of local resources, skills and knowledge, and their ownership by the concerned stakeholders and community at all phases of planning and implementation, thereby, maximizing long-term sustainability

of GNI Nepal's efforts at community development.

GNI Nepal's programs strive to enact lasting changes, and the organization is constantly challenging itself to bring 'good change for the communities'.



SPONSORSHIP SERVICE AND CHILD PROTECTION



Child sponsorship is the main fund generating source of GNI Nepal. The organization receives majority of its fund from Good Neighbors Korea, Good Neighbors Japan and Good Neighbors USA which is mobilized for bringing good change for children and people of Nepal through an integrated community development approach.

By the end of December 2016, there were 26,039 children sponsored by GNI Nepal in 13 districts.

GNI Nepal mobilizes community-based organizations (CBO) to implement sponsorship service activities. The organization builds the capacity of the CBOs and instills a sense of ownership in them of the development efforts targeting

their communities. Local volunteers (members of CBOs) were trained for assisting sponsored children to write their annual child letters, surveying households, and taking GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates of sponsored children's households as well as their photographs.

Annual Child Letter (ACL) is a medium for forming an emotional connection between a sponsor and the child. Sponsored children usually express their gratitude in text and drawings—giving the sponsors an opportunity to know them better. In March, an orientation was organized for the sponsorship service and child protection department personnel focusing on organizational overview, ACL writing, child protection policy,

communication mechanism, code of conduct, and sponsorship service strategy and guidelines. In total, 56 GNI Nepal personnel participated in the orientation.

GNI Nepal mobilizes local youths and members of CBOs as short-term volunteers to help the children write their ACL and deliver them to respective GNI Nepal district offices. District level ACL workshops were conducted for the volunteers to acquaint them with the entire ACL writing process. A total of 161 volunteers belonging to 30 CBOs collected 22,803 annual child letters in 13 working districts.

Annual Progress Report (APR) is prepared once in a year to update sponsors about the changes, growth, and development of sponsored



In the beginning, he was lost most of the times. He would not mingle with other kids.

Bright Future Dawns on a Young Child Laborer

Arjun Tamang (name changed), 12 years, is a resident of Lele in Lalitpur District. For his age, he looks quite young—short and skinny. Arjun comes from a family of farmers. Arjun's mother left the family along with his younger sister for another man. Arjun's father, Kaley, was heavily traumatized after his wife left, and the trauma gave rise to a debilitating mental illness in him. Ever since, he has been taking strong medications. Kaley almost always sleeping, a side-effect of the pills he takes. His senile grandmother, Kanchi, also could not take care of him properly. On top of it, she blamed and scolded him every day for the misfortunes that befell the family.

Arjun, for the lack of love and care at home, started doing the rounds of his neighborhood instead of attending school. Eventually, he stopped going to the school and started working and living at a small restaurant. After some time, Arjun's grandmother found and took him home. He started going to school again. His interest in studies was quite alive but the environment at home was not conducive.

After the Gorkha Earthquake, GNI Nepal started to distribute relief to the survivors in Lele and surrounding areas. During the relief operation, the homeless Tamang family was identified as a needy family. After a few days, a team from GNI's headquarter in South Korea visited them and listened to their story. Arjun's father requested to take care of his education and future. After many discussions and consultations, GNI Nepal decided to invest in Arjun's education.

GNI Nepal's team searched for a school with modest fees but high-quality education. After assessing reading, writing and speaking skills, Arjun was admitted to grade three in a school in Kathmandu. He lives in the hostel located on the school premises along with his seniors and classmates. Binda Nepal, his teacher and hostel warden relates, "In the beginning, he was lost most of the times. He would not mingle with other kids. Now, he is an active kid in the class and on the playground".

Arjun is the monitor of the class and is responsible for maintaining discipline in the classroom. According to his social studies teacher this duty he is carrying out excellently. He is a diligent kid: wakes up at six every morning without a fuss, eats his breakfast and studies until eight o'clock. After that, Arjun eats his morning meal, puts on his uniform and goes for the morning assembly. At nine, classes begin.

For a kid who worked at a restaurant before joining the school, he is progressing quickly at academics. He is good at math and his spoken English has also improved significantly over the last few months. He regularly participates in extracurricular activities and athletics; among which he has excelled at sprinting. As a sign of his excellence, he came first in a recently held sports competition. During leisure, he dances and watches TV.

Arjun will continue to study in the same school for the coming years.



53 staff members and
161 CBO members
participated in ACL
workshop



22,803 annual
child letters collected



1,254 sponsored
children received
gifts

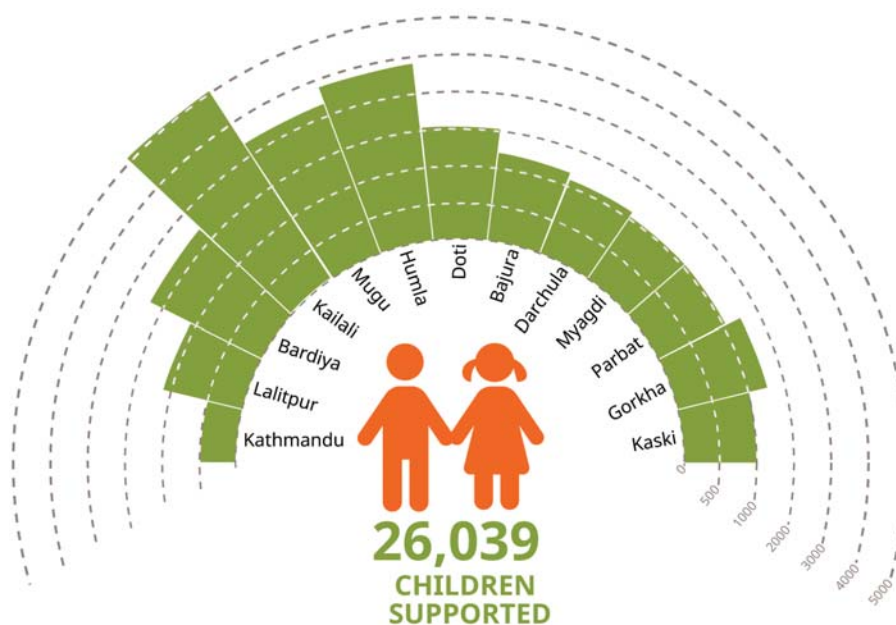


53 staff members
oriented on child rights
and child protection



children. To train the sponsorship service and child protection staff on APR and child protection, a workshop was organized in October 2016 focusing on interview methods, measuring height and weight, photography techniques, entering data into the child management system, and updating child profiles. Altogether, 53 staff members participated in the workshop. Later, these staff members oriented 337 volunteers of CBOs in 13 project districts and collected 24,755 APRs.

On the occasion of sponsored children's birthday or a major festival, sponsors generally send gift money apart from the regular amount committed to them. GNINepal informs the children and their parents about the gift money and enquires about their needs. On the basis of the needs, gifts are procured and sent to children and their families. After receiving the gifts, the children write 'Thank You Letters' to the sponsors as a mark of gratitude. In 2016, altogether 1254 children received gifts.





Sujan is a very disciplined student. He seems meek on the outside but he is really clever...

Surakheti's Lives Take a Turn for the Better

Sujan Surakheti 11 years, lives with his family – father (Lal Bahadur), mother (Januka), younger sister and elder brother – in Maitrinagar, Kritipur. The Surakhetis family originally comes from Limpatar VDC, Udayapur – four hours drive on an earthen road from the nearest blacktopped highway. They belong to the Bhujel Community, a marginalized ethnic group of subsistence farming families.

The family owned a small thatched house. In the Gorkha Earthquake, the house developed cracks. It became unsafe for inhabiting. So, Sujan along with his mother and younger sister joined his father in Kathmandu. The entire family stayed in the rented room Lal Bahadur was living for a few years.

In the vegetable market, Lal Bahadur hauled sacks and Januka separated rotting vegetables from the fresh ones, and Sujan and his elder brother did odd jobs. However, the entire family toiled every day, they could barely survive in an expensive city like Kathmandu.

Lal Bahadur, having worked in the vegetable market for a long time, knew the nitty-gritty of the 'vegetable business'. Sadly, neither he had the savings nor did he have any close relatives from whom he could borrow for starting a 'vegetables and fruits shop'. For the want of a hundred thousand rupees, he was working for others. Januka and Lal Bahadur having faced a life of constant drudgery as unskilled wage laborers, wanted to educate their children—their only hope out of eternal poverty.

A few days after the Gorkha Earthquake, a team from GNI Headquarters in Seoul arrived in Nepal to support the ongoing relief efforts. While taking stock of the situation in the Kalimati area, they came across a boy of almost 9-11 years carrying vegetables. The team sat Sujan down, and asked him to talk about himself and his family.

Januka and Lal Bahadur proposed for opening a vegetables and fruits shop—as Lal Bahadur and Januka were dealing with vegetables and fruits for some years now. Six months house rent, educational materials for Sujan and his younger sister, utensils, beddings and food items were also provided to the Surakehti family.

A 'vegetables & fruits shop' was established in Kalanki after a few months of initial contact with the GNI Nepal team. As the customers started demanding juices and cold drinks, they added those items as well. They also purchased a juicer and freezer. Januka cooks lunch and dinner for ten workers of a shoes factory which makes her four-five thousand rupees per month. During the day, she looks after their vegetables and fruits shop. Lal Bahadur has recently started peddling vegetables from a cart and earns a decent income.

The family now lives in a small rented room, a few meters away from the shop. Sujan and his younger sister Parbati attend a public school. Lal Bahadur shared, "Sujan is a very disciplined student. He seems meek on the outside but he is really clever... doesn't pick up a fight with anybody or disobeys his teachers ... he was a top student at his previous school ... and because we changed his school he is lagging now but I am sure he will catch up".

Sujan lends a hand to their parents along with his brother whenever he is free—usually before and after school and during weekends. The family is saving 150 rupees every day at a local finance company. The Surakehti duo wants to expand their business.

Life has never been easy for this family of five, nor is it easy now. However, things have started to look up. With a little help from GNI Nepal and lots of hard work on their part, the Surakehtis are on the path to prosperity.



EDUCATION

Over the years, the government and development partners have invested significantly and policy, legal, and institutional reform measures have been adopted for eradicating illiteracy and improving access to quality education at all levels. As a result of these efforts, the number of children enrolled in the first grade with early childhood development experience has reached 62.4%, net enrollment rate (NER) at the basic level (grade 1-5) is 96.6% and net intake rate in grade one is 93.6%. The ratio of girls and boys having basic education (grade 1-8) has reached parity. Attendance, completion, retention, and pass rates and learning

achievement of students also have improved in the past decade.

Despite such impressive achievements, public schools face immense quality improvement challenges. Poor enabling conditions in the schools, insufficient teaching-learning materials, ineffective school management system, and traditional teaching-learning and assessment practices are major hindrances in improving the quality of education.

GNI Nepal's education activities are designed focusing on quality early childhood education and development (ECED) facilities (priority of School Sector

Development Plan), access and equity (priority of School Sector Reform and Development Plan) and efficiency in the system (School Sector Development Plan theme). GNI Nepal's educational activities prioritize improving net enrollment rate, reducing gross enrolment rate, increasing attendance rate, decreasing dropout rate and improving learning achievement of the students in more than 420 schools in 13 districts.

ECED strengthening and empowerment, aimed at building a firm educational foundation of young children and preparing them for primary education, received a significant priority this



24,401 students received stationery and school uniform



71 schools received ECED learning materials



33 schools established a library, science lab, and computer lab



17 ECED's classrooms refurbished

A Poor Boy's Rise to Academic Excellence

Aasutosh Khadka, 14 years, lives in Bardiya District with his family – father, mother and three elder sisters. For the family of six, they have a tiny thatched hut. The family survives on the small income of the father, who works as a daily wage earner in India. He is absent from the home nearly all year round. Devi, Ashutosh's mother, takes care of the domestic chores, livestock, and cultivates the small plot of land the family owns. The Khadka family faced one financial problem or another at any given time.

Aasutosh, a shy and meek child, was an average performer in the primary level (Grade 1-5). Most of the days in a week, he would be seen in the local market doing menial jobs to support his family and buy stationery. His poor parents could not provide for all the necessities of their four school-going children. Aasutosh used to carry a worn-out shabby bag to school that his elder sister had used for years. Stationery and new uniform were perennially absent. He also never had khaja (lunch) at the school. As far as he can remember, he has spent almost all winters without shoes. "I missed many school functions, extra-curricular activities and VDC level competitions because I would never have a single set of nice clothes or uniform", reminisced Aasutosh.

GNI Nepal under its sponsorship service started supporting Ashutosh in 2013. Educational materials (exercise books, pen, pencils, eraser, geometry box, etc.), uniform, and bag were provided to him. His hobbies were also nurtured. Now, he had no reasons for staying away from school.

This small support motivated him greatly and changed his daily routine for better. He went to the school regularly and started studying at home. In the class seven board exams, he scored 55.86%, a notable improvement compared to his class six score of 51.86%. Encouraged by his progress, he started to study much harder.

Meanwhile, Devi also got involved in a GNI Nepal supported income generation (IG) group. In a few months, she started to earn cash from the income generation activities – leading to a better family environment. Aasutosh happily shared, "there came a time after that, I did not have any other worry except getting good marks". In grade eight and nine, he secured first position with a score of 73.57% and 73.63% respectively.



*There came a time
and after that, I
did not have any
other worry except
getting good marks*

School Leaving Certificate (SLC), the so-called iron-gate, is a cause of worry among students and parents alike. Aasutosh, the brightest student in his class also took coaching classes for mathematics, science, and english subjects for which support was provided by GNI Nepal.

As expected by himself, his parents and teachers, he scored 3.25 GPA (Grade A). "The day I got the SLC result was the happiest day of my life. Such an achievement, I wouldn't, for sure, have achieved if I had not received continuous support from GNI Nepal", Aasutosh expresses his happiness.

Currently, Aasutosh is studying science and doing quite well. He is one of the brilliant students at the college and popular among teachers and students.



year. Altogether, 71 ECED centers were supported with indoor learning materials and outdoor playing tools. 17 ECED centers received support for flooring, carpeting, furnishing, painting and coloring. In total, 1281 young children now have better learning opportunities.

Enabling conditions in the school is an essential aspect of a child-friendly environment. This year, maintenance of buildings was carried out at two schools; support for classroom flooring, furnishing, and painting was provided to six schools; and one school was supported for erecting a fence.

Integrating information communication and technology (ICT) in education for enabling students to discover the world, and gain knowledge and computer skills is a high priority across the globe today. Eight different schools were supported for establishing fully equipped computer laboratories. Science laboratories were established in another eight schools for promoting experiment-based learning.

This year, for improving the learning habits of students, and more importantly, facilitating the teachers' access to teaching resources and materials, 17 schools were supported to set up libraries.

A classroom equipped with child-friendly furniture helps to effectively conduct group work, pair work, and eases cooperative learning. This year, 26 schools were supported with child-friendly furniture.

24,401 sponsored children from poor, marginalized, and excluded families across 13 project districts received stationery (exercise books, pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener, refills, and geometry box) and school uniform (a pair of pants, shoes and socks; shirt, bag, and sweater). Access to education and participation is expected to improve as a result of this support.

A sense of ownership among parents and functional school management committee (SMC) and parents-teachers

association (PTA) are instrumental in making a school an ideal place-of-learning. In light of this, 65 principals and SMC and PTA members were trained on effective management of the school.

This year, emphasis was laid on teachers' professional development. 209 teachers were given the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills on child-centered pedagogy in a classroom setting. 58 schools were supported with teaching-learning materials for assisting the trainee teachers to utilize the skills in the classroom. GNI Nepal is proud of the fact that 564 sponsored children from 94 GNI Nepal supported community schools successfully completed School Leaving Certificate (SLC) this year.

In 2017, our education program aligned with the sustainable development goals will continue to increase access to and improve the quality of education and strengthen the school management system.





*... my team
knocked the door of
many organizations
but we did not get
any support.*

Computer Education for the Next Generation

Navajyoti Tham Secondary School lies in Bhukatangle VDC in Parbat District at a distance of 20 km from the district headquarter, Kushma. Currently, 243 students (147 girls and 96 boys) of grade one to ten are studying at the school. Majority of these students belong to poor Gurung, Magar, and Chhetri communities. Since 2013 AD, GNI Nepal is working with the school to improve the quality of education, and at present, 100 students (50 girls and 50 boys) are benefiting from GNI Nepal's Sponsorship Service Program.

Navajyoti Tham School, like elsewhere in Nepal, also started computer education, albeit, without having a single computer. Theoretical portion only was taught to the students: the computer teacher lectured about computers along with showing the students a few drawings/pictures every now and then. The black and white computer course books also multiplied challenges for the teachers to portray an exact picture of computers. Naturally, the students were neither impressed nor motivated.

In 2013, the school bought seven desktop computers with funding from the district education office. After a few days of usage, two computers started malfunctioning. One computer was permanently reserved for official use. Four computers only were not enough for all teachers and students for gaining any practical skills. Students had to queue for using the computer. The limited theoretical lecturing that went in the computer class also had no effect on the students. Some students passed the exams even without touching the keyboard once.

Students started to leave for private schools in the area for not getting to use the computer at the school. "Retaining the students was a real challenge for us. My team knocked the door of many organizations, but we did not get any

support", recalls Mina Kumari Gurung, the principal of the school.

During a community need assessment (CNA) in 2015, the school requested GNI Nepal to help establish a computer lab. In 2016, GNI Nepal provided twelve computers, eight tables, twenty chairs and one round study-table to the school. The computer lab was carpeted and painted in vibrant colors to create a visually appealing environment. In addition, fourteen teachers received a seven-day computer literacy training.

Equipped with all-round theoretical knowledge, practical skills and adequate number of computers, the teachers are now enthusiastically imparting knowledge and practical skills to the students. Students are so eager to use the computer that they can be found in the computer lab during recess and leisure hours. The principal of the school remarked, "After the establishment of the new computer lab, not a single student has left the school. The attendance rate has also gone up compared to the past".

For facilitating easy access to thousands of books for all (grade 1-12) students, the school has plans for setting up an offline library in the computer lab. Currently, the school offers computer classes to lower secondary level students only. Since the school has enough computers now, computer classes to primary as well as secondary level students will also be offered in the near future.

In an effort to ensure smooth operation and long-term sustainability of the lab, all school management committee and parents teachers association members and guardians are scheduled to meet regularly and take necessary actions. And two teachers will train on the hardware and software components.



LIVELIHOOD

GNI Nepal aims at developing self-reliant communities through the establishment and promotion of social enterprises. GNI Nepal supported income generation groups and co-operatives are creating employment, and enhancing social, financial, physical, natural and human capitals in rural parts of Nepal. 7399 locals in 13 project districts are members of GNI Nepal supported cooperatives. Cooperative members increased by 430 in 2016.

To turn current and potential entrepreneurs into successful businessmen, business plan development training sessions on entrepreneurship, leadership, resource

mobilization, market opportunities, weakness analysis, record-keeping, profit making, personnel management were conducted in Bardiya, Darchula, Myagdi, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur districts which benefited a total of 114 participants. The participants developed a business plan for their enterprises based on their resources, experiences, and interests at the end of training.

Traditional knowledge and practices of entrepreneurs need to be upgraded. Participants of the entrepreneurship development training received skills training on the basis of their business plans. This year GNI Nepal supported

to conduct training sessions on off-seasonal vegetable farming, goat and dairy cattle raising, turmeric and ginger cultivation, and kitchen gardening in Bardiya, Humla, Doti, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur districts. Altogether, 131 young and old farmers were trained in modern farming practices.

Participants of the entrepreneurship development training were required to develop a business plan based on their interest and available resources. This year, 90 participants from Bajura, Bardiya, Humla, Kailali, and Kaski districts received revolving fund via the cooperatives they are a member of. Under the revolving fund support, the





... If they show interest, we want them to take some kind of vocational training course and become entrepreneurs

A Couple Overcomes Poverty with Entrepreneurship

Fulkumari Tharu, 32 years, lives in Sonpur, Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya with her son Nitish (14 years), daughter Pritam (11 Years) and husband Karan (35 years). For generations, they were landless and worked as sharecroppers. The Tharu family owns four kattha (0.13 hectares) of land with poor soil, enough for a homestead but severely inadequate for producing grains to feed a family of four for a year.

As the family did not own much land, there was not much work at home. Both Fulkumari and Karan did whatever work came their way. The produce from the land could barely feed them for two months. In 2001, searching greener pastures, Karan went to Simla, a hill station in India and worked there for three years as a coolie (hauling sacks of apple). For another three years in Srinagar as apple-picker and farm-hand.

In 2007, Karan came back home for good and started to learn to tailor. After a few months of training, he along with Fulkumari started visiting homes and offering door-to-door services. They charged each household in paddy which they collected after the harvest season. With the paddy so collected, they could only feed their children and themselves.

In 2008, the couple was able to collect six quintals of paddy, which they sold in the market. With the money they made, Karan bought a tailoring machine and started a tailoring shop— a small start on the path towards self-employment. Business went slow for years to come. The family could not become financially stable.

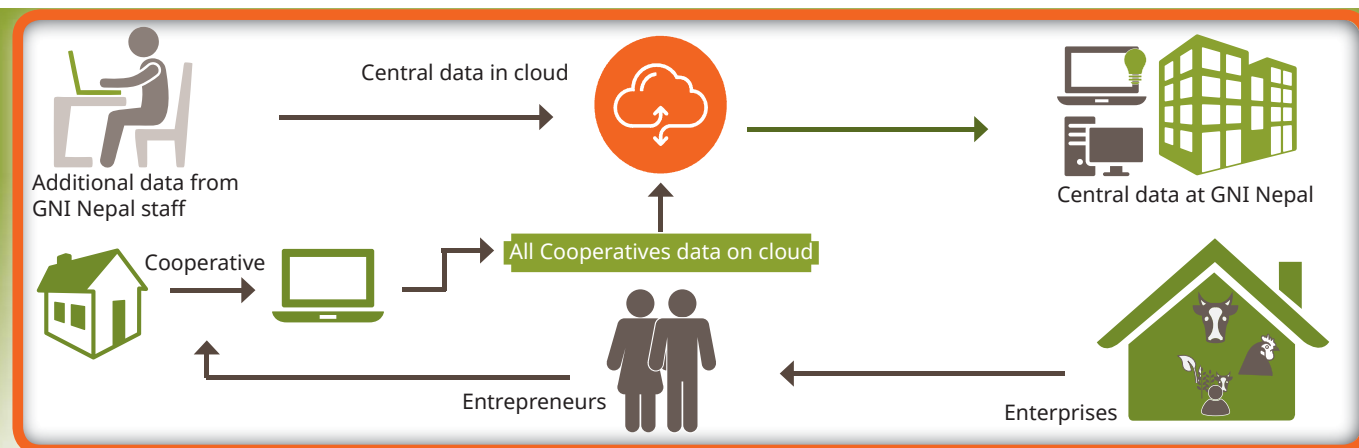
Nitish was enrolled in GNI Nepal's Sponsorship Program

in 2009, easing the Tharu family's financial hardships. Ever since, he is getting support to continue his studies. Fulkumari joined a GNI Nepal funded cooperative in 2013. In early February 2014, she got support from the cooperative for starting a fresh house: NRs. 29,607 as loan and NRs. 12,708 as subsidy.

Fulkumari looks after the tailoring shop, putting into use the tailoring skills that she learned from her husband over the years. The tailoring shop also doubles as a training center for young women offering a two-year long tailoring course which is reasonably priced — six thousand rupees a year. The shop has a monthly turnover of NRs. 20-25 thousands and net income of NRs. 12-15 thousand rupees. Karan sells pork at the fresh house. 20 kilograms of fresh pork is sold daily, bringing in around NRs. 15,000 every month. Both the tailoring center and the fresh house are run from the same building.

As the businesses have become profitable, Karan no more goes to India. The Tharu couple is now capable of affording a quality education for their children. With the profits from the businesses, they have built a three-roomed reinforced cement concrete (RCC) house.

Fulkumari and Karan are planning to expand the fresh house into a fish and meat collection and sales center. Looking at the pace their profits are growing, Fulkumari is certain that she will be able to build a concrete roof on their house this year itself. On a positive note, Karan said, "our children are still young, their interests are still taking shape but we want them to take some kind of vocational training course after they finish high school and become entrepreneurs".



maximum amount an entrepreneur can get is NRs. 42,000, for which the grace period varies according to the nature of the enterprise.

In rural parts of GNI Nepal's working districts, most of the farming families do not have easy access to animal health care services. Poor farming households cannot afford the services even if they are available as they are usually expensive. Awareness of health problems occurring in domestic animals is another major overlooked issue. This year, GNI Nepal organized animal health camps in Bajura, Bardiya, Doti, Parbat which served more than 3000 domestic animals of 1517 households.

A cooperative was formed in Bajura. Currently, it has 45 share members. For fostering business, financial, and technical collaboration among the cooperatives, two cooperatives union were formed in Bardiya and Kailali. One

cooperative and five income generation groups received stationery support.

To enhance knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for good money-management practices: earning, spending, saving, borrowing and investing of the rural household, financial literacy classes were organized in Mugu and Kailali. 120 locals participated in the classes.

For instituting long-term sustainability of GNI funded cooperatives, a total of 53 cooperative managers and board members of 18 cooperatives in Darchula, Kailali, Kaski and Parbat were trained in cooperative management covering objective, principles, policies and programs of a cooperative, standard accounting practices, importance of bookkeeping, monthly saving and credit, and overall management practices. 474 locals were oriented on the basics of cooperative formation and

management in Darchula and Kailali districts.

In 2016, GNI Nepal provided a computer pre-installed with a customized accounting software and printer to ten cooperatives in Kailali and Bardiya districts. One cooperative in Lalitpur district was provided with the accounting software. Apart from performing standard cooperative accounting operations, the software keeps a detailed record of loans disbursed to enterprises during and after the grace period. Cooperative managers and treasures were coached one-on-one for making them capable of using every feature of the software.

Retaining the manager is a big challenge for a large number of cooperatives in Nepal. Low pay is one of the major factors behind the trend. To motivate the managers to take-up disbursing and monitoring of loans supported by GNI Nepal, NRs. 5,000 has been added to their monthly salary. Twenty-two cooperative managers are receiving the salary top-up starting this year.

This year GNI Nepal expanded its support to three additional cooperatives; one each in Bardiya, Kailali, and Bajura to improve their member's livelihood.

For providing a platform to local entrepreneurs to showcase their products, GNI Nepal supported District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) Bardiya to conduct an agro-fair. 33 entrepreneurs of four cooperatives participated in the event and it saw more than 200 visitors.





*This year we
will double the
cropping area. ...
and our life is also
quite better now.*

Commercial Banana Farming Changes Lives

Sarshwoti Chaudhary, 35 years, is a resident of Sitapur Kailali. She is a mother of two beautiful girls; Anjali (14 years) and Salina (six years). She was married to Hiralal at a very young age of 10-12 years. Hiralal was also of the same age. She and her husband were sharecroppers—getting 50 % of all the produce. Life for the couple was a struggle every day.

The Chaudhary family grew paddy once a year in their one bigha (0.67 hectares) of rice paddies. The total yield a year was 20 quintals of paddy— not enough for fulfilling the necessities of the family six. Hence, Hiralal went to India at the young age of seventeen to the Garhwal Mountains in India. There he worked menial jobs. Every year he came back home during Dashain, stayed for another 3-4 months and went to India again. When at home, he pulled rickshaw in the nearby Tikapur Bazaar.

Anjali is a GNI Nepal sponsored child and a seventh grader at a nearby school. Salina is a third grader. In 2011, Sarshwoti became a member of GNI Nepal supported agricultural group. NRs. 85,000 was provided to the group by GNI Nepal as seed money to be revolved among the members for starting agricultural enterprises.

After receiving entrepreneurship and banana farming training funded by GNI Nepal, Sarshwoti and Hiralal planned to start commercial banana farming in 2015. She received NRs. 42,000 loan from the group and NRs. 18,000 grant from GNI Nepal. They cultivated William Hybrid Variety of banana in five Kattha (0.17 hectares) of their land. This much land would produce around seven quintals of rice worth NRs. 15,000 only, while banana fetches almost fifteen times that amount.

They made NRs. 200,000 from the first harvest and earned a net profit of NRs. 70,000 and repaid the loan. In 2016, they earned NRs. 120,000. All banana plants except, a very few, are healthy. This season monkey finger disease was seen in some fruits. Otherwise, for Sarshwoti and Hiralal, their future in banana farming is rosy. As a contingency plan, Sarshwoti is regularly saving a small portion of their earnings at a GNI Nepal supported cooperative.

Sarshwoti shared, "This year we will double the cropping area. I want to tell other people like me that it's possible to make a good amount of money from banana farming ... and our life is also quite better now".



HEALTH AND WASH

According to the Nepal Living Standards Survey 2011, only 61.8% of the Nepalese households have access to health facilities within a thirty-minute walking distance. A significant discrepancy exists between urban (85.9%) and rural (59%) households. Existing public health facilities lack health care professionals, equipment, and medicines. Poor funding and transportation links have further aggravated the situation—depriving rural communities of basic health care services.

GNI Nepal's health program aims at improving the health status of children, families, and communities; enhancing

knowledge of preventive health care measures; and improving their health seeking behaviors. Strengthening access to and capacity of the public health system is another major focus area of GNI Nepal. Similarly, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) program promotes equitable access to WASH services and facilities and enhances knowledge of and attitude towards safe hygiene and sanitation practices. Altogether health and WASH programs have five major components;

I. Health System Strengthening: Health facilities receive health equipment, workforce, infrastructure, and basic utility support.

II. Health Education and Capacity Building: Awareness-raising/education activities, training, exposure visits for health workers, management committees, female community health volunteers, mother groups, child clubs, school students, etc.

III. Health Camp: Sponsored/non-sponsored children and community members receive health checkup service and basic medicines.

IV. Critical Situation Treatment Support: Sponsored children receive a support of up to NRs. 50,000 for the treatment of severe medical cases.



11 health camps conducted



10 children received critical treatment support



14 health facilities strengthened



Life-Saving Health Services Resume in Pahade

Pahade, one of the settlements in Lele VDC, is located three kilometers far from the PHCC (Primary Health Care Center). The community consists of 122 households (Pahari: 84, Chhetri: 37 and Dalit: 1) and has a population of 640.

Previously, primary health care out-reach clinic (PHC/ORC) was conducted in Pahade from a private house. Monthly 35-40 locals visited the clinic for antenatal check-up (ANC), immunization, family planning services, and nutrition programs— for newly delivered women and infants, growth monitoring and arm circumference measurement of the mother and child.

As the Gorkha Earthquake toppled the house to the ground, completely buried all medical equipment with it, ORC was conducted irregularly from shops or temporary shelters. Due to lack of a fixed address of the PHC/ORC, locals were unable to get health care services. Pregnant women were forced to travel a long distance to the primary health care clinic (PHCC) just for an ANC checkup.

Earthquake damage assessment conducted by GNI Nepal in its catchment area identified the need of a PHC/ORC

building in Pahade. Coincidentally, a South Korean actress, on a tour organized by GNI visited Pahade Community and learned about the lack of the PHC/ORC building, the problem it was creating in providing of life-saving medical services and GNI Nepal's reconstruction plans for the area. She immediately pledged financial support for constructing the building.

GNI Nepal shared the building reconstruction plan with the District Public Health Office (DPHO). DPHO later coordinated for a meeting with the Health Facility Operation Management Committee (HFOMC) – laying foundation for the reconstruction. One of the community members, without request, wished to donate the required land. Community members contributed manual labor. GNI Nepal provided technical and financial support.

In December 2016, a single story PHC/ORC building with a check-up room, waiting room, and toilet was constructed and it was handed over to the community in January 2017. Now, the residents of Pahade can access basic health services on a regular basis and at a fixed address.



V. Total Sanitation: Construction and maintenance of child, gender, and disabled-friendly toilets, construction of hand washing facility, distribution of sanitation materials, construction/maintenance of drinking water schemes, water quality tests, campaigns on food safety, clean house and clean environment, waste or placenta pits construction, etc.

For providing basic health care service to the marginalized communities in remote areas of the country, extensive general and eye health camps were conducted in 11 districts benefiting 30,248 people including 15,342 sponsored children. Free-of-cost health examination along with medicines was provided to the people who attended the camps. GNI Nepal's annual health checkup service will continue to reach the lowest strata of the communities.

Critical situation treatment support is provided to the sponsored children who

need financial support for treatment of health problems. Throughout the year, critical situation treatment support was provided to needy sponsored children. In total, ten sponsored children received financial support for covering medical treatment and transportation expenses.

GNI Nepal bolsters public health facilities for optimizing their services. Medical equipment including delivery kit, dressing set, incubator, autoclave machine, weighing machine, delivery bed, etc. was supported to six birthing centers in Kaski District. 16 items of medical equipment including a stretcher, BP set, stethoscope, weight machine, examination bed, refrigerator, etc. were supported to Dattu Health Post in Darchula District. Primary health care center in Sangla of Kathmandu District was provided with lab equipment. Computer and medical equipment were supported to Chapagaun Health Post in Lalitpur district. The equipment support was made as per need and request of

health facilities for making the services effective.

This year, GNI Nepal supported to declare Nallu VDC in Lalitpur an open defecation free (ODF) zone. As recommended by the village water sanitation and hygiene coordination committee (V-WASH-CC), GNI Nepal provided NRs. 1500 to 20 households for constructing a toilet. Post ODF follow-ups and monitoring programs were conducted in Bardiya.

In total, 1056 community members including health facility operation management committee (HFOMC) members, female community health volunteers (FCHV), school students and labor migrant workers benefited from education programs conducted on various health and WASH issues like HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD), reproductive health and safe motherhood, maternal and child health, personal hygiene and hand washing, sanitation, and oral health.

For strengthening the public health system, GNI Nepal will focus on health services delivery, commodities (equipment, medicines, and infrastructure), and workforce. With strengthened health facilities, GNI Nepal hopes reliable health care services will be available to all and the referral system to function optimally. WASH activities at schools and Post ODF campaigns will take the center stage in 2017.





Nallu Declared an ODF VDC

Nallu, a scenic Village Development Committee (VDC) about 25 km far from Lagankhel Buspark lies in the southern part of Lalitpur District. There are 550 households in the VDC with a population of 2761 (1390 male and 1371 females). Tamangs make up the dominant ethnic group in the VDCs.

Lalitpur district was planned to be an open defecation free (ODF) district by the end of 2016. Under this broad goal, Nallu VDC was also planned to be declared an ODF VDC. Despite many earlier piecemeal efforts and a strong determination of Nallu V-WASH-CC for ODF declaration by 17th September 2016, a combination of factors prevented the VDC from being declared ODF. With support from D-WASH-CC Lalitpur, Nallu V-WASH-CC organized a workshop with participation of international non-governmental organizations (INGO) and CBOs working in the VDC in June 2016. The workshop gave the ODF declaration drive a fresh impetus. Many facilitators and staffs of INGOs were mobilized and toilets construction was intensified. To encourage families for constructing toilets, incentives, presents, and certificates were also arranged.

GNI Nepal supported the remaining 20 households (eight single women, two elderly, one orphan, and one

differently-able headed and eight poor households) to construct a toilet. These families are living in temporary shelters as their houses got damaged in the Gorkha Earthquake. They are using their cracked mud-stone houses for cooking and storing domestic stuff.

These almost landless, livestock-raising, and daily wage earning families are just getting by. They needed a toilet direly but could not afford to build it. V-WASH-CC Nallu recommended GNI Nepal to support these families without a toilet. All of the twenty households were provided money for purchasing requisite cement, iron rod, and zinc sheet. Beneficiary households, by themselves, collected locally available materials like mud, stone, and wood. Toilet pan and pipe were provided by Nallu VDC Office.

Finally, in December 2016, Nallu was declared an ODF VDC in the presence of Mr. Shree Prasad Jawegu, Honorable Minister for Federal Affairs and Local Development. The ODF status will be maintained under the 'ODF Code of Conduct' that has to be mandatorily followed by the residents of Nallu. Village Secretary and V-WASH-CC Nallu Coordinator Mr. Damodar Rijal specially thanked GNI Nepal for its contribution.



GORKHA RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Gorkha District was heavily affected by the earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015. Immediately after the earthquake, representatives of Good Neighbors Japan along with a team of engineers visited the earthquake affected villages in Gorkha to assess the damage to the infrastructure. The first anniversary of the earthquake is an opportunity to look back at the work done to assist the survivors, the challenges faced in the recovery and reconstruction, and assess the progress made.

In the first phase of the WASH reconstruction project, 32 drinking water schemes (DWS) and 41 temporary toilets were constructed in Phinam, Aruarbang, Thumi, Manbu and Lapu VDCs, directly benefiting around 20,000 locals. In the second phase of the reconstruction 10 more DWS were built, benefiting approximately 3427 people.

In an effort to revive health care services at the earthquake damaged

health facilities, four health posts and five outreach clinics (ORC) are being built in Phinam, Thumi, Lapu, Manbu and Aruarbang VDCs. Among them, the construction of the health post in Phinam has been completed and other remaining 3 health posts in Thumi, Manbu, and Lapu are in the final stages of construction. Eight schools having a child and disabled friendly design, 'standard size' classrooms, natural air circulation, lighting and earthquake resistance features are under construction in Phinam, Aruarbang, Thumi, Lapu and Manbu VDCs. Approximately, 5000 students will be benefited.

Heavy rainfall and subsequent road blockades, labor scarcity, construction materials shortage, and transportation problems delayed the construction work. Despite various challenges, GNI Nepal was able to complete the second phase of the WASH facilities reconstruction project.



42 drinking water schemes constructed



41 temporary toilet constructed



4 health post and **5** outreach clinic constructed



HEALTH SYSTEM RECOVERY PROJECT

Health System Recovery Project (HSRP), Nuwakot covers 10 earthquake affected VDCs in Nuwakot District. It is a three-year project aiming to empower communities in the aftermath of the earthquake for improving their physical and psychosocial status. The project is funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and is under implementation in coordination with the District Public Health Office Nuwakot.

HSRP aims to build back better by reconstructing the damaged health system and strengthening the capacity of community health workers, address reproductive health issues of women and adolescents, and support communities to overcome psycho-emotional trauma induced by the earthquake.

Four components of HSRP are maternal and child health (MCH), adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), psycho-social support (PSS) and medical equipment support.

Approximately, 75,000 individuals in Bidur Municipality and Belkot, Charghare, Duipal, Ghyangphedi, Likhu, Okharpauwa, Panchakanya, Ratmate, Suryamati and Thaprek VDCs will benefit from the project.

For improving the MCH status of the communities, support was provided to improve MCH services at health posts and strengthen the capacity of female community health volunteers (FCHV). Introductory meeting was conducted for 190 FCHVs in all 10 target VDCs. Freshly recruited 13 FCHVs received an eighteen-day basic FCHV training. HSRP team members have been attending FCHVs' monthly meetings since September and collecting data and information about their activities and achievements.

As a part of the capacity building of the workforce at the health posts, 10 auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM) were trained at Western Regional Hospital, Pokhara. One MCH center at the district hospital and six health posts were supported with one ANM each. Various IEC/BCC (information education communication / behaviour change communication) materials, promotional items, fact sheets and display boards were developed for promoting MCH services at the newly constructed health posts in the ten working VDCs.

Under the ASRH component, ASRH Guidebook for grade 6-10 students was developed. In coordination with the



190 FCHV capacity strengthened



Developed IEC/BCC materials



50 adolescent girls involved in girls club

DPHO 10 reproductive health assistants working in the target, VDCs were trained on ASRH. For raising awareness on ASRH, a radio jingle was produced. One girls club titled GNI Pragatishil Girls Club was formed in Charghare VDC. 50 adolescent girls are involved in the club. These girls will be trained on and serve as champions for raising awareness of ASRH and girls' rights.

To strengthen the psycho-social resilience and enhance mental well-being of students, a training for teachers program was designed and delivered by a team of Korean experts benefitting 17 teachers and one health post in-charge. The trainee teachers provided psycho-social support to the students at their schools and will continue to do so for years to come. Altogether, 718 students of nine schools received psychosocial support.



SAEMAUL ZERO HUNGER COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities Project (SZHCP), a partnership initiative between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and World Food Programme (WFP) is a rural development and livelihoods project currently under implementation in Doti District in Far-Western Nepal. The project combines the best rural development practices of Korea's SaemaulUndong (New Village Movement) Rural Development Model; World Food Programme's Cash for Assets (CFA) and Cash for Training (CFT) programs; and Good Neighbors International's Community Development Project (CDP) model.

SZHCP aims to strengthen food and nutrition security through promoting sustainable livelihoods, rural asset building, and community capacity enhancement. The project offers an integrated approach to address the challenges of food security and

rural poverty in Nepal. Focus areas are community capacity building (community empowerment, disaster risk reduction, health care services, strengthened governance and community capacity), sustainable infrastructure construction (constructing/rehabilitating roads, trails, irrigation ponds and canals, drinking water supply systems), livelihood enhancement (training cooperative members, conducting agriculture, livelihood, vocational, business training, support to entrepreneurs for improving food consumption and dietary diversity score and strategy index).

SZHCP Phase I, implemented from 2012-2015 covered 1,743 households in Ladagada and Pokhari VDCs in Doti District. Phase II (2016-2018), a scale-up of Phase I, continues to work in those two VDCs and also covers Ganjari, Sanagaun, Khirsain,



5020 beneficiary households



45 irrigation projects' physical verification conducted



817 locals trained



Gaihragaun and Kadamadaun VDCs. By July 2018, 5020 households will be benefited by the project.

The project conducted gender-segregated focus group discussions and three technical surveys: water resource mapping, business potential survey and cooperative status assessment for assessing the needs of the communities in the target VDCs. For carrying out planned activities, two implementing partners (IP) were selected in August.

Enhancing skills of the community members is very important for achieving sustainable community development. Planning activities by and with the community based on their needs is a key element for successful project implementation and ensuring its sustainability. Every year VDCs have to prepare an annual plan with the participation of community leaders and members. However, most

of the VDCs do not follow the process/procedure set by the government.

To enhance the capacity of community members and VDC staff; support VDC to disseminate Village Development Plan (VDP); and analyze/prioritize activities for SZHCP, a four-day VDP training session, based on '14 Steps of Planning Process' was conducted in each intervention VDC. In total, 239 representatives (148 male and 91 female) of government agencies, ward citizen forums, mothers groups, child clubs, youth clubs, cooperatives VDC level networking groups; and ward representatives, local leaders, and school teachers participated in the event. SZHCP Phase II Annual Plan, jointly developed with VDCs was endorsed by the District Project Management Committee (DPMC).

The physical verification of 45 irrigation projects (surface canal and pipe with pond) identified in the

VDP planning training session and specified in the prioritized list of DPMC was conducted; and construction work of two irrigation projects has begun in Khirsain, and Gaihragaun.

Compost/farm yard manure making, nursery management, sweet making, masonry, and kitchen gardening training sessions were conducted for skill enhancement of the community members in the target VDCs. In total, 578 community members (196 male and 382 female) benefited from the training sessions.



SMART CLASSROOM PROJECT

The extensive benefits that information and communication technologies (ICT) bring to education are undeniable. A multimedia tool with features for flexibility, interactivity, and integration of different media is very helpful and fruitful in classroom teaching-learning.

Nepal spent 4.7 % of the GDP (gross domestic product) in education in the 2006-2010 period (World Bank) which is lowest among its South Asian neighbors. Government spending on ICT in Nepal is negligible. Private schools have some form of ICT facilities and computer education in their curriculum but public/community schools lack even the most basic ICT-based educational facilities.

In 2016, GNI Nepal designed a new projection based ICT project aptly named 'SMART CLASSROOM PROJECT' having the objective of narrowing down the digital divide, promoting quality education at public and community schools, and raising

awareness of students and community members.

Every target school will have a SMART CLASSROOM that will, primarily, be a multimedia-aided teaching-learning, and secondarily, an IT facility for designing, processing, and management of all information generated at the school; and for lesson planning, developing course related materials, printing, and scanning.

Every SMART CLASSROOM will have a LED projector, three laptops (one each for multi-media aided teaching, school information management and general use by all teachers), a 350 Watt solar power system, sound system, three-in-one scanner-photocopier-printer and have a seating capacity of 50 students. All SMART CLASSROOMs will be connected to the internet wherever possible.

GNI Nepal in collaboration with the government of Nepal and local partners is digitizing the educational materials for grades one to eight,

which will be stored in a laptop. In the pilot phase, 15 schools in Parbat and Kaski districts will receive support for establishing the SMART CLASSROOM.

A baseline study was conducted in Parbat and Kaski districts in October to identify the level of ICT penetration and feasibility of piloting the project at the schools. All of the participants of the study: principals, teachers, and students expressed a clear need for a multimedia-aided teaching-learning tool — for improving the quality of education at their schools.

Project implementation will start in 2017 and expand to another 50 schools in Mid-Western and Far-Western Nepal in 2018. Altogether, this project will benefit around 22,500 students, 750 teachers, and 50,000 community members.



MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Menstruation starts with the onset of puberty signifying the transition of a girl from childhood to womanhood and is one of the very important physiological processes in females. It is a sensitive issue and remains a taboo in many communities in Nepal. Most of the adolescent girls, all over Nepal, lack information as regards to reproductive health and rights and requisite facilities and services for menstrual hygiene management (MHM), resulting in school absenteeism during periods.

GNI Nepal decided to implement a two-year (2017-2018) MHM pilot project in Doti, a district having one of the highest prevalence of Chhaupadi practice in the country and significantly low access to and use of MHM resources and services. Major stakeholders are adolescent students, teachers, parent-teacher associations, school management committees, school water sanitation hygiene coordination committee,

and health institutions. Main aim of the project is to enhance knowledge and awareness of adolescents on key sexual and reproductive health issues, increased access to and use of sexual and reproductive health resources and services as well as menstrual hygiene management in schools. Around 1050 adolescent students and adults will directly benefit from this project.

A baseline survey conducted for the project in November showed that 83% of adolescent students had the idea that menstruation is a natural physiological process. Contrary to this correct understanding, more than half of them still believed that gods (local deities) curse their family members if they do not follow the culture/taboo associated with menstruation. WASH facilities at the surveyed schools are inadequate for the girls to safely manage their menses leading to absence from the classroom and below average academic performance. Psychological support

to menstruating girls from their family was also found to be missing.

A large majority (83%) of the respondent girls have knowledge of MHM but it hasn't clearly translated into the right attitude and practices, hence, behavior change activities have been envisioned by the project. Grassroots advocacy campaigns will also be organized to combat the deeply ingrained religious and cultural malpractices, restrictions, and taboos related to menstruation. Accessibility and availability of improved menstrual hygiene services and facilities at the schools and health facilities will be enhanced by the project.



EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Employment Generation and Value Chain Development Project intends to improve the livelihood of poor farmers and landless people of Panchthar, Jhapa, and Morang districts by strengthening dairy industry, pig farming, and vocational training. This three-year (2016-2018) project will benefit 1778 households (HH) and two cooperatives.

The project has adopted an integrated approach for improving both production and marketing of the milk and milk products in Panchthar and Morang districts, whereas, it aims to provide employment opportunities to the landless people in Jhapa District. Targeted vocational training programs for the landless and land-poor families will increase self-employment opportunities.

Apart from strengthening two existing cooperatives and a local

dairy processing center and capacity building of farmers, this project aims at increasing long-term income generation opportunities for and resilience of peasants.

In Panchthar District, cooperative members and dairy farmers will be the main project participants. They will be trained on entrepreneurship, pig raising, and cattle rearing. Successful participants will be provided with grants and loans and they will be linked to local, domestic as well international market for selling their produce.

Landless and land-poor youths will be the main project participants in Jhapa District. To improve their household income vocational training and initial start-up grant for starting an enterprise and they will be linked with potential employers.

In Morang District, dairy farmers will

receive skills training on improved dairy cattle rearing and they can apply for a grant and loan after completion of the training. A local cooperative will be supported to establish a milk processing plant capable of producing packaged milk. Simultaneous improvement in the value chain will raise the demand of milk in the market – leading to increased income of the project participants.

The project has a feedback mechanism that includes women, men, household heads, social and political leaders, government agencies for identifying gaps and ensuring transparency and accountability. For ensuring sustainability, the project promotes capacity building of farmers and cooperatives and is establishing linkage and channels of communication between them and local government agencies.

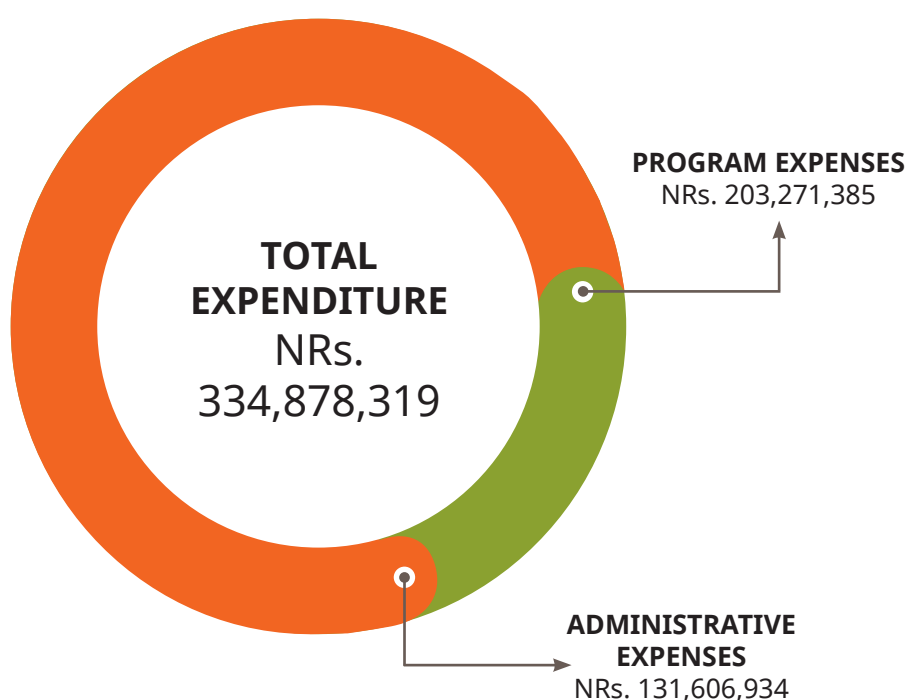
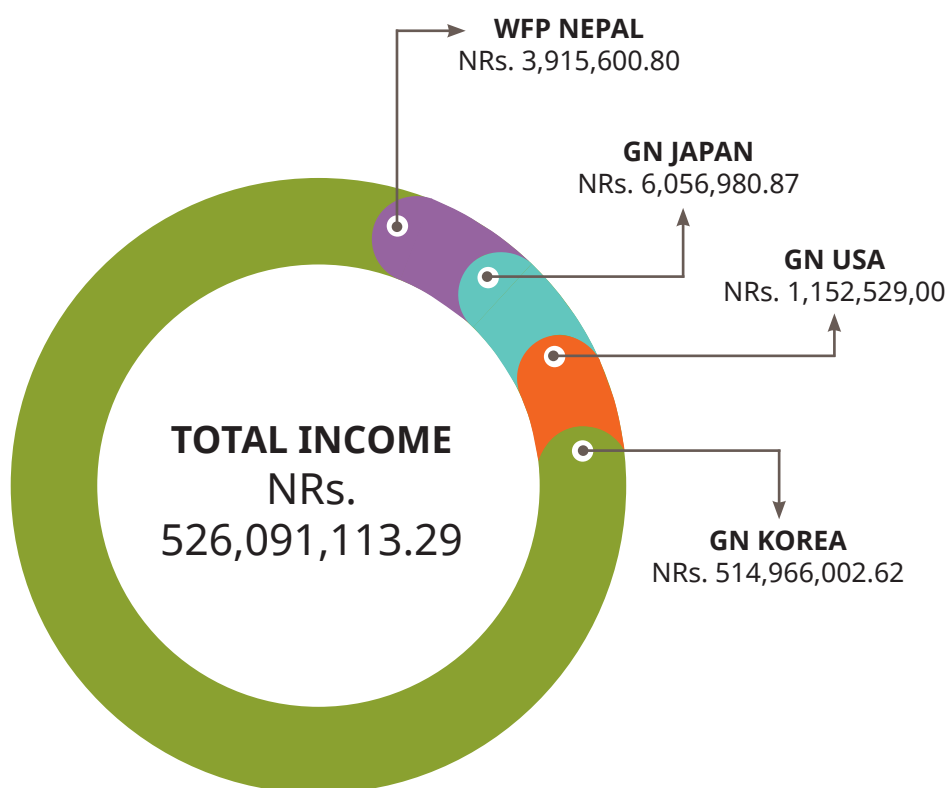
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This year, Finance Department at GNI Nepal's Head Office was segregated into grants management, disbursement management, and internal audit units. Collectively these units are responsible for ensuring the control and management of all finances – organizing, managing, auditing, controlling, distributing, planning, and accounting. The department also ensures that all finances are delivered to and utilized in the most effective manner by all of its 14 implementing partners, six annex projects and two pilot projects.

The total income was in 2016 was NRs. 526,091,113.29 including funds from Good Neighbors Korea, Good Neighbors USA, Good Neighbors Japan and World Food Programme (WFP). The total expenditure remained at NRs. 334,878,319.

Out of the total utilized budget, total administrative cost was 25% whereas the program cost was 39%. The remaining 36% balance will be spent in regular programs and annex or pilot projects in 2017. In year 2016, NRs. 61,62,891.30 went towards WASH promotional activities in Gorkha. Similarly, out of NRs. 225,459,107 committed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered into with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and Department of Education (DOE), NRs. 17,459,097 was spent on health posts and school buildings reconstruction in Gorkha.

For building the capacity of its implementing partners' finance officers, GNI Nepal organized a workshop on Financial and Management Accounting System (FAMAS) which is used for reporting budget utilization. FAMAS software was provided to 14 implementing partners.





WORKING DISTRICTS



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