



Annual Report 2020

Good Change for the World

 **Good Neighbors**
International



Empowering People, Transforming Communities

Good Neighbors exists to make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony. We respect the human rights of our neighbors suffering from poverty, disasters and oppression, and help them to be self-reliant and have hope.

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Message From The Country Director

The novel corona virus caught the world off guard. The first case was recorded in January and within a few months, it had swiftly spread across the globe including Nepal. Thus, the Government of Nepal announced a timely lockdown. 24th March onwards till the end of the year, children and their families had to stay indoors.

For containing the virus and anticipating a surge in cases, GNI Nepal supported frontline health workers with specialized medical equipment and supplies. Communities were truly shaken by this new and mysterious virus as scary rumors started spreading but they lacked knowledge and means to deal with it. We reached them with public service announcements to allay their fears by helping them to be able to discern facts from myths.

Joining forces with the central and local governments, we delivered medical equipment, PCR diagnostic kits, conducted campaigns and interventions on community WASH, installed and renovated hand-washing facilities, strengthened local health system, and supported girls living under COVID-19 to manage their menstrual hygiene.

While children remained safe within the confines of their homes, their parents' livelihoods suffered, food insecurity burgeoned, and their education lagged. To address the critical learning gap for children living under COVID-19, we launched three alternative educational initiatives which reached more than a million learners in 59 districts across the country.

We provided food-insecure families with food packages, smallholder farmers with seeds, and youths with agriculture inputs and local business promotion opportunities.

In the latter half of the year, after the lockdown lifted, we resumed regular thematic operations across 19 districts. We partnered with schools, health facilities and communities for construction/renovation of physical infrastructure and capacity development. Furthermore, we supported rural communities to have better livelihoods through skills and technology transfers.

2020 marks the end of the fourth Project Agreement between the Government of Nepal and GNI Nepal. In one way or another, COVID-19 is likely to distress communities in the coming years. Along with drafting a new Project Agreement document for 2021-2026 period, we have drawn up a COVID-19 Response Strategy 2020-2022 as well.

The corona virus has taught an important lesson to humankind: No nation on earth is immune to disasters. With meticulous planning and preparation, the loss of life that we saw in 2020 can be averted. Virus attack the weakest part of the human body. Likewise, the world is witness to the fact that the vulnerable sections of our society are attacked the most by disasters like COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to build up our strengths to quickly and better respond to potential disasters that affect vulnerable communities.

Last but not least, I want to appreciate the unsung heroes, frontline health-workers who put their lives on line to save fellow human beings. I extend my sincere gratitude to all of you who supported us in our effort at combating COVID-19.

Jaekyun Rho
Country Director



Good Neighbors International (GNI) is an international development and humanitarian organization that responds to the call of the neglected, vulnerable, and marginalized beyond the barriers of race, nationality, religion, ideology, and geographical distance.

GNI empowers people in 40 countries across the world through social development activities and places particular emphasis on economic development in order to break the vicious cycle of poverty that people in developing countries suffer from. Established in 1991 in Seoul, South Korea, GNI has fundraising offices in the USA, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, United Kingdom and an International Cooperation Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

In Nepal, GNI has been working since 2002 for improving the lives of poor people, especially children through child protection, education, income generation, health services, water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy programs. Currently, GNI Nepal serves marginalized, vulnerable, and poor children, families, and communities in 19 districts across Nepal.

Highlights 2020

VISION

Make a society where people live together in harmony

MISSION

We strive in promoting wellbeing of children, their families, and communities and help them to achieve self-reliance

CORE VALUES

- Empowerment and self-reliance
- Promotion of rights of children
- Cooperation and solidarity
- Networking and partnership
- Transparency and accountability



Partnered with

22 non-governmental organizations

Worked with

459 schools

282 health facilities

194 child clubs

65 cooperatives

Worked in

1 metropolis

19 municipalities

35 rural municipalities

19 districts

Sponsored

11,435 girls

9,393 boys

Reached

1,200,000 students across 59 districts with *Radio Kaksha*

327,000 community members through public service announcements

Benefited

57,232 females

58,583 males

Sponsorship Service And Child Protection



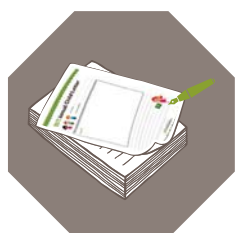
Even after decades of effort, campaigning, and action, millions of children in Nepal are deprived of their fundamental rights to education, nutrition, self-determination, and health care. Apart from persistent issues of child marriage, sexual abuse, child labor, and neglect, children in Nepal are at risk from new forms of online abuse, bullying, predation, etc.

In 2020, working together with children, child clubs, schools, and local governments, we sensitized and promoted participation of children so that they are able to deal with child protection issues at home, school, and in their community. Along with capacity development, we helped local governments formulate and implement child protection policies that contribute to institutionalize and make grassroots child protection systems sustainable.

As schools closed down in March and remained closed until December, children were virtually confined to their homes. Following safety protocols, we reached out to 20,828 sponsored children across 14 districts and addressed their educational needs.



19,238 annual progress reports of sponsored children prepared



1,615 sponsored children wrote thank you letter



1,612 children received gift money and letter



3,201 new children enrolled in sponsorship service program



17,441
sponsored children
living under
COVID-19 had their
needs assessed



24 units of IEC/BCC
materials developed
and disseminated



74 children
received psychosocial
support



525 persons oriented on
preventing school dropout and
against early child marriage,
trafficking, *chhaupadi*, and alcoholism
39 local stakeholders received
training on child protection

Keshari Goes Back To School



Keshari and her family lived a happy life despite poverty. Working as a day laborer, her father provided for all the family members. Her mother, Birashpati, is a housemaker and her elder brother, Surya, is a college student. Keshari's father died a premature death which upended the Bayalkotis' lives. Surya had to fill in his father's shoes and Birashpati too had no choice other than engaging in back-breaking labor.

Keshari stopped going to school regularly because she had to help her mother run the household. Although she knew school was important but buying books and stationery was beyond her impoverished family's means. Her friends and teachers noted her long absence when she missed school for more than two months in a row. Her teachers advised her to rejoin school which she was not against or unwilling but her family's financial status held her back.

In 2014, GNI Nepal was looking for children from ultra-poor families to enroll in its sponsorship service program. Keshari's teachers had her in mind and recommended her. GNI Nepal's staff members visited her home and had one-on-one with Keshari and her family. That same day, Birashpati was informed about the benefits of becoming a cooperative member. The meeting marked a good start for the family.

Keshari got enrolled in the program and started receiving stationery, bag, uniform, and counseling. Last year, Keshari passed the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) with a 2.4 GPA. She is now studying in the eleventh grade. Birashpati got to participate in the pig farming training as a cooperative member and started rearing pigs. At present, the Bayalkotis own seven pigs and have a stable income. A significant portion of the income goes towards Keshari's education. Birashpati also saves some money.

Keshari has grown up to be an active member of her community. She never misses any training opportunity. Recently, she attended a child rights and protection training organized locally. She aspires to become a teacher and educate children who are unable to go to school. Keshari remembers her father and recalls, "That year, I could not have rejoined school, if GNI Nepal had not enrolled me in the sponsorship program."

Keshari Bayalkoti

Shree Saraswati Secondary School, Ward No. 4, Gorkha Municipality, Gorkha District

Education



In the past two decades, many different educational policies, programs, and institutional reform measures have been adopted along with corresponding financial investments. Nepal has achieved substantial results in creating greater access to high school-level education. Enrolment rates are also highly encouraging.

Despite progress on key indicators, inequality in access persists due to socio-economic, geographic, and ethnic factors. Key barriers in children's enrolment and regular attendance are a consequence of poverty, social exclusion, disability, migration, social norms, and gender bias. Primary focus should be on ensuring access, quality, retention, and learning achievement.

In 2020, GNI Nepal supported partner schools in construction/renovation, strengthening their institutional capacity to adapt and implement school safety measures including making physical infrastructure resilient, and ICT (information, communication and technology) integration into education.



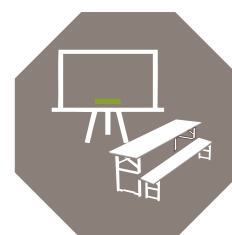
14 ECE centers received material support



18,018 students received educational materials and school uniform



61 schools received teaching-learning materials



54 schools received child-friendly furniture



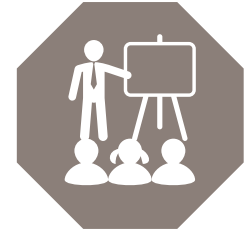
12 computer labs established



1 school building constructed and **1** school building renovated



2 libraries and **1** science lab established



300 teachers trained
21 parents received parental education

Computer Science Classes For Curious Minds

Schools in rural areas of Nepal lag behind their urban counterparts due to a number of reasons. Poor infrastructure is one of the most prominent. Even today, most of the rural schools do not have basic facilities, let alone, ICT infrastructure. Setting up computer laboratories and running computer science classes is a big challenge in itself. Additionally, majority of teachers are not computer or IT literate. Lack of ICT-integrated teaching-learning deprives rural students of the benefits their urban counterparts enjoy.

Shree Saraswati Secondary School located in Ward No. 2, Malikarjun Rural Municipality (RM) was one such school before the local government established a computer lab at the school. However, teachers had no prior training on or experience in using computers. No wonder, computer science classes could not run smoothly. Only grade six to eight students were offered computer science classes while other students were left out. To make matters worse, a landslide hit the school in 2018 and it struggled to run the classes for some months. Quality of education also begun to degrade.



Recognizing the need for computer science classes at rural schools, GNI Nepal trained two teachers each from seven schools on ICT-enabled teaching-learning. Over five days, teachers enhanced their computer skills and learnt to use E-path, an ICT-enabled teaching-learning tool. GNI Nepal provided laptops, projectors, sound system, headphone, printer, and flash drives to all the seven schools, and also helped to establish smart classrooms.

These teachers now know how to use ICT tools optimally. Projectors that had been lying around unused, now display lessons in big screens. For students, learning has become easy with the use of E-path. All seven schools are now connected to the outside world with broadband internet and teaching-learning materials are just a few clicks away.

Shree Saraswati Secondary School
Ward No. 2, Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula District

Happy Teachers, Happier Students

Kalika Katheri Basic School was established in 1998. Currently, it is a learning space for 38 students (20 girls and 18 boys) of ECED (early childhood education development) to fifth grades. Located in the hills of northern Kathmandu away from the bustling city areas, the school provides safe and sanitary learning environment for young ones.

However, before GNI Nepal started to support the school with education interventions in 2008, it was suffering from poor infrastructure and lack of teaching-learning materials. The school building and boundary wall needed immediate maintenance. Chalk sticks were still being used which caused health risks to both teachers and students. Due to this, the school failed to live up to standards and both children and their parents, were not much positive about the teaching-learning environment at this school.

Initially, GNI Nepal aided in renovating the school building and boundary wall. Next, the library received necessary ECED materials and books. Another small but most important support was replacing chalk sticks, black-board, and dusters with dust-free white boards and marker pens. Finally, to let children engage in outdoor games and activities, playing materials were also provided to the school.

The school had a makeover of sorts. Now the teachers and students are free from chalk dust. Parents are happy to see their young children enjoying learning, and playing at the school. Teachers also feel proud to see their workplace turn aesthetically pleasing. Head teacher, Sudip Sapkota happily shares, “When we see our students happy, our happiness doubles. Now it is our duty to keep our school as it looks now.”

Kalika Katheri Basic School
Ward No. 1, Tarakeshwar Municipality
Kathmandu District





EDUCATION

Education sector was hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. It resulted in countrywide school closures leaving more than eight million children in a limbo for almost an entire year. Over the months, Nepal saw many remote and e-learning initiatives in a bid to offer students the opportunity to learn from the safety and convenience of their homes.

To address the critical learning gap children were facing, GNI Nepal with technical assistance from the Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) and in coordination with Nepal Education Cluster designed and launched *Radio Kaksha*, *Sundai Sikdai*, a radio schooling initiative for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. These classes aired six days a week via Radio Kantipur and reaired via local radio stations: Malika FM, API FM, Saarathi FM, Radio Gorkha, Doti FM, and Tiger FM from June to December. *Radio Kaksha* reached an approximate 1.2 million learners in 59 districts across the country.



Led and contributed to the development of self-learning materials for grades two, three, and five jointly with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Center for Education and Human Resource Development



3,400 grade ten students in Bajura reached through Radio SEE Preparation Class



1,200,000 grades six, seven, and eight students in 59 districts reached five days a week with radio classes



172 radio phone-in shows conducted (5889 students benefited)



75 community-based learning sessions conducted (1449 students participated)





COVID-19 Response



Prerana Chanda
Grade 8, Janata Basic School
Ward No. 9, Janaki Rural Municipality, Kailali District

Continuing Education At Home With *Radio Kaksha*

Prerana had just finished her seventh-grade final exam in March 2020. Soon after, COVID-19 lockdown took effect. She did not have much to do as she remained at home most of the time. Like every other underprivileged student, she had no access to guided learning. Her school neither had facilities to provide virtual classes nor her parents could buy expensive gadgets. Worse still, she did not have learning resources at home and there was no other way to continue her classes.

To help such children, GNI Nepal started airing a radio schooling program which Malika FM, a local radio station also broadcast. Classes for grade six to eight students on three core subjects: English, Science and Social Studies were offered six days a week in the mornings and evenings. It was a one-and-half hour program.

Prerana was fascinated by the newfound source of learning. She could learn just by listening to the teachers speak on the radio. She listened to the classes regularly from the comfort and safety of her home, and enjoyed them as well. Even her parents supported and freed her of household chores so that she could take part in the classes. Every day she readied herself with a notebook and pen to take down important notes. She paid attention to the tutors' instructions. She experienced a classroom-like learning environment as she and all the student-listeners like her were given interesting homework which helped all of them to maintain their learning curves.

Sundai Sikdai radio classes were born as a response to an unprecedented necessity and were able to help underprivileged students like Prerana. These sessions did not cost Prerana's family anything and also kept her safe from the virus. Prerana shares, "For me, radio was the only option available for learning. Thanks to all the teachers who made us feel as if we were in our classroom."

Keshav Tamata, Principal of Shree Amarawati Basic School claims, "The radio program was a big hit among local students and they all benefited from it."



Alisha Budha
Grade 8, Shree Khoriya Basic School
Ward No. 2, Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality, Myagdi District

Community-based Learning Classes During Lockdown

Before the pandemic hit, everything was going normally in Alisha Budha's life. An eighth-grader at a public school, she attended classes daily. Teachers know her as a laborious and active student who keenly participates in extra-curricular activities. At home, she finds time to help her parents do chores. She also guides her younger brother in his studies.

As the nationwide lockdown progressed, life as we know came to a grinding halt. Alisha along with her family had to stay indoors. They had plenty of time but not much to do. She and her siblings spent many weeks away from school and academics took a back seat in their lives. They had heard about virtual classes but their rural school did not have such a facility.

In the second week of August 2020, GNI Nepal stepped in with 'coaching classes' for children of seven communities of Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality under a community learning center approach. Alisha and her siblings attended classes close to their home in a COVID-19 secure environment. Along with other students they continued their studies in a classroom-like setting.

Unlike regular classes, these classes were run in open spaces for two hours a day and six days a week maintaining physical distance and all participants wearing masks at all times. At the end of each day, students were encouraged to showcase their hidden talents like singing, dancing, reciting poetry, or drawing. Alisha had never given a dance performance in her life. Nevertheless, she decided to give it a go. And to her own surprise, she enthralled everybody present throughout her performance. Her parents were the happiest people in the audience as they saw how much good she was at this newly discovered talent.

Most of the parents of these communities were worried about their wards' education. These supplementary educational sessions helped their young offspring feel and learn like at school. Parents were very supportive of their children and made sure that they did not miss these alternative classes.

Health

Health system reform, equitable access, improved quality of services, and multi-sectoral approaches are national health priorities. Poor management plagues the public health care system in Nepal. Quality and affordable health services for the poor and marginalized is another important issue. Many health facilities lack basic infrastructure and equipment. Adequacy and availability of skilled human resource and capacity of the health personnel are major challenges facing the health system.

In 2020, we focused on construction/renovation of health facilities and providing equipment and utilities for strengthening operational capacity of health facilities. We built capacity of community health workforce and health facility operation and management committees and promoted preventive measures through increasing awareness.



14 health facilities provided with medical equipment



3 children received critical treatment support



7 health facilities constructed
17 PHC/ORC strengthened



3,037 community members benefited from health education sessions

Takam Birthing Center Is Back In Service

Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality which lies approximately 32 km from the district headquarters has 878 households and a population of 3,754 (2,114 females and 1,640 males). Takam Birthing Center established in 2008 is one of the health facilities serving the local communities. Community members, especially women from surrounding communities of Takam, Gurja, Lulang, Muna, Mudi, and Devasthan visit it for general, maternity, and reproductive health services. Walking up to two hours, people from surrounding communities go to get health services here. In a typical week day, about 30 patients visit the birthing center.

In July 2020, a massive landslide severely damaged the birthing center and all medical equipment was buried in the huge mound of rubble. Even basic and maternity health service could not be provided. Beds were in ruins and new mothers had to sit/wait and be treated on the floor.

GNI Nepal provided funds for damage assessment, subsequent repairs, and medical equipment purchase. To help the birthing center resume maternity services, damaged

equipment was replaced with a new delivery bed, suction mask, and mattress. Since then, 19 women have received maternity services. They did not have to suffer complications and delivered healthy infants as well. The birthing center has, once again, become a safe haven for expecting mothers.



Takam Birthing Center
Ward No. 7
Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality
Myagdi District



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH)

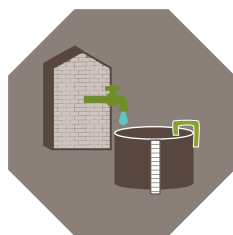


Despite lack of adequate resources, poverty, difficult terrain, and recurring disasters, Nepal has made notable progress in the WASH sector. Aiming to bring universal WASH coverage to its citizens, the Government of Nepal has enacted and implemented a number of WASH acts, policies, and guidelines. Shortfall in resources, technology, and limited capacity of stakeholders including WASH committees mar the prospect of ensuring WASH services and facilities at rural schools and communities. A sizeable number of households still lack access to safe and reliable water supply and sanitation facilities.

In 2020, GNI Nepal constructed and renovated WASH facilities including drinking water schemes and toilets at schools and health facilities, organized menstrual hygiene management (MHM) interventions and campaigns, promoted health-seeking behavior, and educated community members on various health issues.



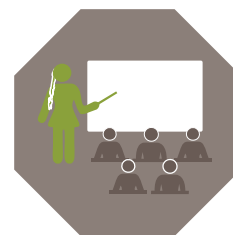
1 public and **4** gender- and MHM-friendly toilets at schools constructed



20 drinking water systems constructed/renovated



4 schools received support for providing MHM services and facilities



4,983 community members benefited from WASH education sessions

Training Improves Access To Sanitary Pads

Safe menstrual hygiene practice is still a far cry for many girls and women in rural areas of Nepal. They lack knowledge of and access to MHM materials. Sharmila, a GNI Nepal-sponsored child, had a similar story. She had her menarche in grade seven, when she barely knew what it was. Neither her parents nor her teachers had told her about it. Discussing menstruation openly was almost a taboo but she somehow managed to share about it with her mother.

Since Sharmila's mother could not afford expensive disposable sanitary pads available on the market. She gave her pieces of clothes to be used to stanch the menstrual flow. Psychological and biological changes she was going through made her life difficult. Sharmila could not even attend school for a week.

Even after many periods later, Sharmila had to make do with strips of old clothes. And it was neither safe nor easy. Blood leakage and stains on clothes were a matter of shame and embarrassment, be it at school or in public places. Moreover, using

old clothes, she had high chances of getting infections. Like many girls at her school, Sharmila chose to stay home during periods. Every month, menstruating girls like her miss four to five school days.

In order to help girls to manage their menses, GNI Nepal conducts a one-day pad-making training at schools. Sharmila along with her friends participated in the training and they learned to craft their own sanitary pads using locally available materials. Participant girls also learnt about the menstrual cycle, and how to take care of themselves during periods and properly use and dispose the pads.

Girls like Sharmila can now make safe and cheap sanitary pads at home. No more Sharmila has to use old clothes to manage her monthly bleeding as they have been replaced by reliable, safe and convenient-to-use homemade pads. Skipping classes due to lack of safe sanitary pads is also over for Sharmila and her menstrual hygiene management is much safer now. She wants to campaign against menstrual discriminations women and girls have to face and pass on the pad-making skills and raise awareness of menstruation at other schools in Gorkha so that adolescent girls can go to school happily during periods.



Sharmila Pariyar
Shree Saraswati Secondary School
Ward No. 4, Gorkha Municipality, Gorkha District



HEALTH AND WASH

As the spread of coronavirus got steeper, health facilities needed ICUs, ventilators, and protective equipment. Frontline health workforce needed them the most. At the community level, families lacked sufficient knowledge or deeper understanding of COVID-19, sanitation materials and reported an increasing shortage of money for health check-ups. Local governments needed support for establishing and managing quarantine centers. GNI Nepal supported them with much needed medical equipment.

GNI Nepal supported the central and local governments to combat and curb the spread of COVID-19 through providing medical equipment, testing kits, installation, and renovation of hand-washing facilities, conducting campaigns and interventions on community WASH, strengthening local health system, and menstrual hygiene management support for girls living under COVID-19.



44,500 surgical masks provided to Government of Nepal and health institutions in 12 districts



2,200 KN95 masks provided to Government of Nepal



2,330 households received sanitation materials



30,080 RT-PCR kits

30,167 RNA extraction kits

10,100 VTM swab collection kits provided to Government of Nepal



1,395 PPE sets provided to Government of Nepal and health institutions



22 hand washing stations installed in Gorkha, Nawalparasi East and West, and Darchula districts

7 water purifiers provided to a quarantine centre in Jhapa District



14 local governments received quarantine management support



350 bottles of hand sanitizer, **2,000** pairs of sterile gloves,

1,200 goggles, and **65** infrared thermometers provided to Trisuli Hospital, Nuwakot and health posts



COVID-19 Response

Holding Center For Fighting A Crisis

Ward No. 5, Mahakali Municipality, Darchula District

COVID-19 has gone on to become a global health crisis. Nepal stands as one of the highly vulnerable countries in Asia. In March 2020, Government of Nepal enforced a nationwide lockdown to respond to the crisis. By May 2020, the government had already imposed a ban on cross-border movement of people.

It is estimated that more than one million Nepalis live and work in India. Due to the restriction, thousands of homebound migrant workers were stranded at the Nepal-India border. They lacked access to basic personal hygiene materials and facilities, and medical care.

To support the efforts of the Government of Nepal at containing the virus and managing the humanitarian crisis, GNI Nepal helped establish a holding center at Ghaat Bazaar of Mahakali Municipality, installed a handwashing station at the Nepal-India border, and provided personal hygiene materials: water purifiers, buckets and mugs, dustbins, PPE sets, surgical masks, KN95 masks, hand sanitizers, soaps, thermal guns, plastic chairs, wooden tables, and awareness-raising flex banners.

After the handwashing station was installed, more than 400 incoming and outgoing travelers used the facilities and hygiene materials. With help from GNI Nepal staff members, the labor migrants learned proper handwashing technique and maintained personal hygiene, an important step in containing the virus.



Handwashing Station Helps To Curb COVID-19

Ward No. 6, Gorkha Municipality, Gorkha District

After the nationwide lockdown was announced, uncertainty loomed large. As the COVID-19 pandemic peaked, migrant workers became more desperate to return home and similar was the level of desperation among the people of Gorkha District. Gorkha's Aarughat Bus Park located at Haramtari saw a huge number of people just like around Dashain Festival. Every day, at least, 500 people arrived in Gorkha Municipality from various parts of the district and foreign countries.

Prior to the pandemic, community members seldom washed their hands frequently. Even if they did, it was not done properly. While national media reported about rising COVID-19 cases in the country each passing day, the bus park did not have a handwashing station. This had put people of Ward No. 6, Gorkha Municipality at a serious risk.

To lessen the risk of contagion, GNI Nepal collaborated with the Municipality, Health Unit and Tole Bikash Samittee to install a handwashing station at Chalise Tole. From March to June, every day, an estimated 1,200 locals travelling from Gorkha Bazaar to Aarughat, Dharche, Chumnuhari, and Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipalities used it.

The handwashing station is still intact and in use to this day. These days, around 80 people including locals and travelers are using it daily. Chairperson of Chalise Tole Bikash Samittee shares, "Since the threat of COVID-19 is still lingering, the station will remain as it is. We are also planning to use this handwashing station as a drinking water facility in the future."



Livelihood



Lack of income generation and entrepreneurial opportunities is the number one cause of rural poverty in the country. Many rural youths are involved in low paying and low productive agricultural and informal sector employment. Climate change and natural disasters also affect agriculture. Food security in Nepal has improved but more than four million people are food-insecure. Lack of adequate knowledge, skills, technology, entrepreneurship, and financial capital are major hindrances in commercializing traditional agriculture. Economic and employment opportunities for youths, women, and indigenous communities are also significantly low.

Mobilizing local resources and in collaboration with community-based social enterprises, GNI Nepal promotes income generation and employment through agro-value chain development of key products, technical and vocational training, and agricultural inputs and technology transfer.



4 cooperative buildings constructed



246 cooperative members trained on cooperative management



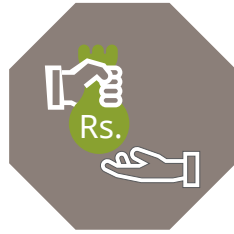
531 farmers sensitized on agriculture insurance basics



3 cooperative sales outlets established



54 animal health camps conducted



NRs. 4,968,163
(42,563 USD)
revolving fund mobilized



4,141 persons
received technical and
vocational skills trainings



88 persons trained on
entrepreneurship and
business literacy

Rabbit Farming Brings In Handsome Income

Main Kala, 40, is a resident of Humla District, one of the remotest districts in the highlands of Nepal. She is a subsistence farmer by occupation. But farming has not been easy for the people of Humla. Every year, this district experiences six months of harsh winter rendering it snowbound and unfit for cultivation. Trying to make a living out of conventional agriculture is almost impossible for Humlis.

For ultra-poor persons like Main Kala, livelihood opportunities are limited. Gaining modern agricultural skills/techniques can unlock many options which can help break the vicious cycle of poverty. GNI Nepal supports cooperatives to provide trainings to ultra-poor individuals. In 2017, Main Kala was invited to become a member of Pokhari Agriculture Cooperative. She attended meetings and learned what cooperatives are for and how she could benefit by being a member. In 2018, she got to participate in a training where she learned everything about rabbit farming. After its completion, she received a revolving fund of NRs. 12,000 (103 USD) to buy five pairs of rabbits and build a shed. This was the beginning of Main's journey into commercial rabbit farming.

Rabbit farming has been going very well for Main. As rabbits breed in a short time (35 days), a pair of rabbits would be ready for selling every two months and would bring in NRs. 1,500 (13 USD). In the first lot, she sold 81 rabbits and made NRs. 121,500 (1,047 USD). And after seven months, in the second lot, she sold 50 rabbits for NRs. 75,000 (646 USD). In two years, she earned NRs. 196,500 (1,693 USD). She spent some of her earning to improve the rabbit shed. These days, neighbors flock to Main's farm to buy rabbits. Currently, there are 50 pairs.

Income from rabbit farming has been a blessing for Main Kala and her family. It covers her children's education and household expenses. She paid her daughter's junior technical assistant admission fees of NRs. 100,000 (861 USD) out of her savings. Every month she pays off the loan installments and saves some money at the cooperative. Recently, her son was also enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship program, and now receives education support which will continue up to the tenth grade.

Main is confident that rabbit farming will continue to be profitable and shares, "We don't have much meat production going on in our place. Rabbit meat is different from other kind of meats but I think, it will compete well locally."



Main Kala Shahi
Ward No. 5, Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla District

Dairy Farming Creates Viable Livelihoods

Dairy Farming
Ward No. 1, Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya District



Ashal Krishi Sahakari (Ashal Agriculture Cooperative) established in 2014 in Daulatpur, Bardiya District is a GNI Nepal-supported cooperative. There are around 700 households in the cooperative's catchment area and it has more than 350 share members. Out of them, 223 are from GNI Nepal-sponsored families.

Though it was an agriculture cooperative, it initially offered saving and credit services only. For promoting cooperatives' businesses and sustainability, GNI Nepal initiated 'one cooperative, one business' model and provided technical and financial support. Considering the milk production potential in Daulatpur area, GNI Nepal trained board members and staff of the cooperative on dairy value chain.

Ashal Krishi decided to start a milk collection center as an alternative business. In 2018, GNI Nepal provided NRs. 500,000 (4,307 USD) for constructing a building and also supported them with a deep freezer, ghee-making machine, digital weight scale, milk cans, and other equipment worth NRs. 156,000 (1,344 USD). The center came into operation in 2019 collecting 30 liters of milk from 14 farmers.

GNI Nepal further supported the collection center to purchase a milk analyzer which cost NRs. 200,000 (1,723 USD). Within two months of operation, milk was being collected from 30 farmers. At present, 139 farmers sell more than 260 liters of milk to the center each day and it is gradually increasing. The cooperative collects and sells over 7,800 liters of milk every month.

GNI Nepal also trained one of the cooperative members on making dairy products. The collection center has also started

producing locally in-demand dairy items. To expand its service to the local farmers, the cooperative also started artificial insemination (AI) center with technical and financial support of NRs. 240,648 (2,073 USD) from GNI Nepal. Along with its establishment, GNI Nepal also trained a cooperative member on AI who now provides AI services to local farmers at a subsidized rate. The cooperative is making substantial profit from its dairy operations and they continue to grow. This has helped the cooperative to expand its business and make itself sustainable.

Cooperative members and local farmers are benefiting from the collection center as they are getting a fair price for their milk. Before its establishment, they had to rely on middle-men as they did not have access to formal markets. They got thirty rupees for a liter of milk. Now they get up to fifty rupees depending on the quality of the milk.

Bal Krishna Tharu, a local milk farmer says, "Before the establishment of this collection center, we lacked market for our milk and had to depend on middle-men to sell it. We did not get a good price either. But now, it is very easy and we are getting a reasonable price. Being a member, I can easily trust the cooperative on the price I am getting. So, we are excited and motivated to produce more milk."

With the establishment of the collection center, more farmers are engaged in dairy farming and making a steady income. The cooperative has plans to expand its dairy business, establish a chilling center, and start a dairy shop. It plans to collect 500 liters of milk per day from 200 farmers in the near future and is coordinating with district-level collection centers to sell the surplus milk.



LIVELIHOOD

COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the livelihoods of informal sector workers and low-income households. More than one-third of such workers lost their jobs and those employed also had to accept pay cuts. Most of the low-paid workers like daily wage laborers, private sector employees, hospitality sector staff and returnee migrants' livelihoods were severely impacted. Across 19 districts, GNI Nepal provided food packages to food-insecure families, seeds to smallholder farmers, and agriculture input support and local business promotion opportunities targeted youths.



**NRs. 7,235,855
(62,333 USD)**

provided to 37 local government units for food distribution



4,593 farmers in Lalitpur, Gorkha, Kaski, Parbat, Myagdi, Bardiya, Doti, and Mugu received seeds



553 farmers received cash for business startup support in Humla, Gorkha, Bajura, Darchula, Doti, and Lalitpur



17,150 food-insecure households received groceries



local women made **14,000** masks



986 farmers in Bardiya and Kailali received fertilizer



Making Masks, Making Money

Ward No. 5, Sunwal Municipality, Nawalparasi West District

At the start of the nationwide lockdown, masks were not easily available in Nawalparasi East and West districts because nobody used them. Overnight, it became a vital need and the demand skyrocketed.

During the lockdown many people became jobless and also got stuck in their homes. Realizing an employment potential and solution to an emerging demand, following safety measures, 20 local women of Ward No. 5, Sunwal Municipality were provided a one-on-one mask-making training under the Inclusive Rural Development Project.

They produced 14,100 masks in total which contributed partially to fulfilling the local demand. The ready-to-use masks were distributed among the project's 6,000 direct beneficiaries and 13 wards of Sunwal and Madhyabindu Municipalities, and Susta, Pratappur, Sarawal, and Palhinandan Rural Municipalities.

Each of the trainee mask-maker got NRs. 15 (0.13 USD) for a mask. On an average, they earned NRs. 10,575 (91 USD) for 705 masks, working for 17 days. These female mask-makers helped their community to fight the pandemic and also helped themselves by earning much needed cash in uncertain times.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Project

In Nepal menstrual hygiene management is hindered by social, cultural, and religious restrictions. In rural areas of far-western Nepal, girls lack resources, knowledge, and social support more than their peers in other parts. At home, schools, and public spaces difficulties and challenges galore. In 2020, GNI Nepal helped girls and women of Bajura, Darchula, and Bardiya to have better menstrual hygiene management.



Ending Child Marriage Project

Thousands of young girls and boys are pushed into child marriage in Nepal every year. It forces them into child labor, abuse, exploitation, unemployment and neglect. Girls are at more risk as they are deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education, safety, recreation and freedom more than boys. Protecting children from this illegal practice and other forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation is what the project aims at.

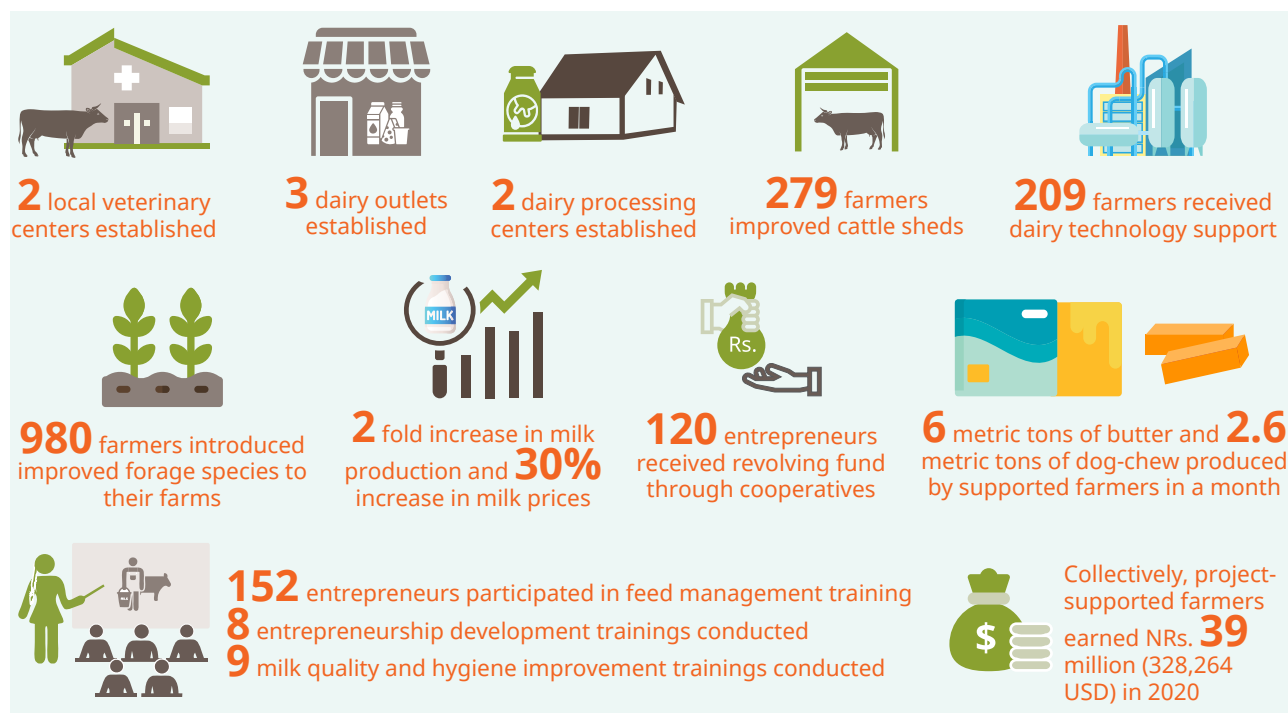


5 radio jingles aired on **11** local radios of Bajura, Darchula, and Doti districts (Icon: Radio)

Child Helpline (1098) Bajura responded to **178** distress calls including calls related to child marriage (Icon: Person on phone)

Dairy Value Chain Development Project (DVCDP)

DVCDP has adopted a public-private partnership approach and aims at enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers of Panchthar District through strengthening dairy value chain. It supports 1865 small-scale milk producers to enhance their productivity, and strengthen the capacity of local business service providers (BSPs) and cooperatives to facilitate the institutionalization of dairy value chain and helps farmers diversify and improve quality of dairy products to expand their domestic and international markets.



Skilled And Gainfully Employed!

Devraj lives in a family of six: his wife, parents, and two younger siblings. His parents are farmers and relied entirely on agriculture to make ends meet. Due to fragile economic condition, they could not afford to send him to university. He spent his childhood in scarcity. Without good education or any skills on hand, it was difficult for Devraj to get employment and improve his lot. Married at the age of 21 and as the eldest child, his responsibilities towards family increased with his increasing age. So, like many young people in his community, he decided to go abroad to work, but again financing it was an obstacle which he or his family could not overcome. It seemed like Devraj had no other option but to stay idle and painfully see his youthful energy go to waste.



For enhancing agricultural extension service and local youth employment, DVCDP organized a 35-day, Center for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) certified village animal health worker (VAHW) training in which Devraj got to participate and also duly completed. After completing this training, he worked as a mobilizer for a veterinary vaccination program run by his rural municipality. He is now busy providing basic veterinary services to the locals in his ward including medicines and vaccination services and he makes around NRs. 15,000 (129 USD) in a month. With his skills, he not just earns a livelihood, but provides valuable service to his community. Devraj states, "Not only I learned skills but the training changed my life. It has invigorated me in ways like never before and I feel really proud that I can contribute to household expenses."

Seeing Devraj's determination, his family agreed to farm buffaloes and cows. His father became a member of Shree Phikchukhola Agriculture Cooperative, and now makes a regular saving, although a small amount. Skills Devraj acquired at the VAHW training is helping him and his family to improve their economic condition and brought forth greater possibilities in his life.

Devraj Phejong, Ward No. 2, Phalgunanda Rural Municipality, Panchthar District

Inclusive Rural Development Project (IRDN)

IRDN is a two-year (2019-2021) Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded project which aims to improve the income of 6214 households of Nawalparasi East and Nawalparasi West districts. In 2020, 26 locally initiated projects were implemented with substantial local participation.



Vegetable Farming Transforms Ranitar Community

Ishwor Paudel, 38, a foreign migrant worker is a resident of Ranitar, Ward No. 8, Madhyabindu Municipality, Nawalparasi East District. After spending three years abroad, he returned home with no livelihood options. His family owns five *kattha* (0.17 hectares) of land. Produce from the land was just enough to feed his family of five for three to six months only.

With the support from IRDN Project, Paudel decided to cultivate vegetables in all of his farmland in 2019. He received training, improved vegetable seeds from the project and agro-inputs also. In the first season, he harvested 1,300 kg of vegetables. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the vegetable market was down but the project supported him to sell his vegetables door-to-door out of which he earned NRs. 37,000 (319 USD). It was just an ordinary income but he realized that vegetable farming could be a secure livelihood for him if he upscaled it.

And, in the second season, Ishwor rented 10 *kattha* (0.3 hectares) of land. The project supported him to install an irrigation system on his farm. He also received training on commercial and off-season vegetable farming, and became familiar with improved farming techniques. He started off-season vegetable farming in 15 *kattha* (0.5 ha) of land in 2020, produced and sold 3,200 kg of vegetables, and earned NRs. 259,000 (2,231 USD).

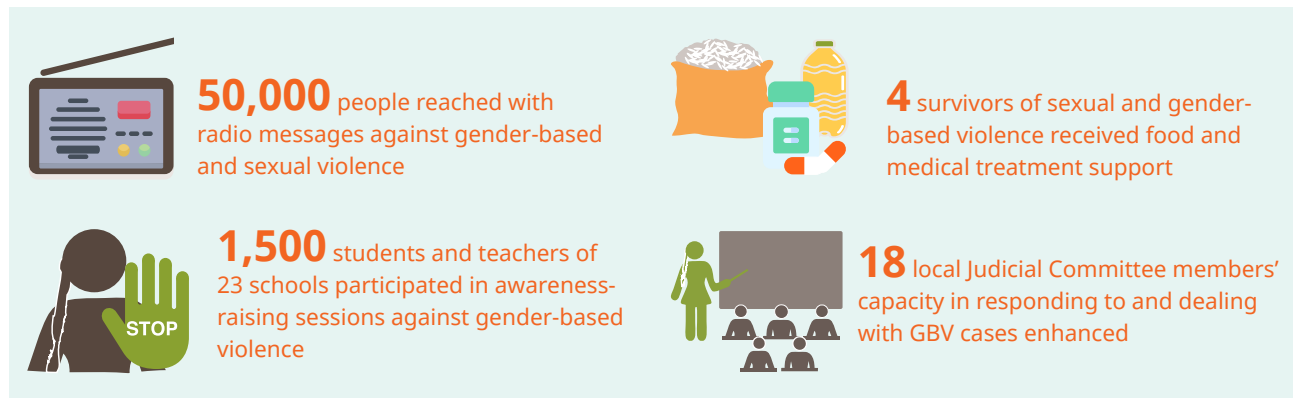


Ishwor is determined to continue vegetable farming. He is grateful to IRDN Project for all the support and encouragement. He shares, "If only all of us could cash in on such an opportunity, our youths would return home from foreign employment." In 2020, like Mr. Paudel, 78 youths of Ward No. 6, 8, and 9 of Madhyabindu Municipality with the support from IRDN Project engaged in commercial vegetable farming, produced and sold 160 metric tons of vegetables and collectively earned NRs. 4,800,000 (41,343 USD).

Ishwor Paudel, Ward No. 8, Madhyabindu Municipality, Nawalparasi East District

Supportive Actions For Women Empowerment (SAFE) Project

Working with local governments, security agencies, justice officials, and community members of Kaski, Parbat, and Myagdi districts, SAFE Project strived to create a supportive and safe environment for women and girls where they could enjoy an active and productive life. The project raised awareness against gender-based violence (GBV) and of women's rights and protection, responded to GBV cases, and facilitated socio-economic reintegration of GBV survivors.



A Sexual Violence Victim Finds Solace

A young woman in western Nepal lived with her eight-member family: parents and five sisters. No one in the family had a stable occupation, until one of her elder sisters, went overseas to work. Although her sister was sending money back home, this young woman also wanted to help her sister, so she decided to look for jobs right after passing the tenth grade.

The young woman worked various odd jobs nearby her home but the pay was so little that she felt exploited. She decided to leave home and went to Parbat District. She landed a job at a new company which paid reasonably well. She was happy and satisfied. But, little did she know what was coming her way.

In May 2020, a senior employee sexually abused her. This horrendous incident deeply scarred her. Out of fear, she kept silent for a very long time. Thanks to social stigma and negative perception towards such victims, she did not talk about it, not even with her confidants. She was emotionally traumatized and felt helpless.

In June 2020, when the same person attempted rape, she stood strong and fought back. She took the right step in duly registering a complaint at the Parbat District Police Office. GNI Nepal's partner organization coordinated with the police and sent her to Pokhara in the vehicle provided by the Provincial Hospital.



At Pokhara she quarantined for seven days at a local hotel. Meanwhile her PCR test was also done and additional clothes were provided to her by GNI Nepal. After she tested COVID-19 negative, she was sheltered at Kopila Nepal, a safe-house for women and GBV survivors. GNI Nepal provided food items worth NRs. 15,000 (129 USD) to Kopila Nepal which lasted her three months.

She is recovering from the trauma and doing well now. She is a fighter and we salute her for her courage and bravery.

Health Rights Improvement Project

In Bajura like elsewhere in far-western Nepal, inadequate knowledge and services made it challenging for girls and women to safely manage their periods. Health Rights Improvement Project is a three-year Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded project aimed at attenuating menstrual hardships faced by adolescent girls. Launched in 2020, the project aims at building MHM-friendly toilets, establishing MHM corners, provisioning MHM kits at schools and health posts, and conducting trainings and awareness-raising campaigns.

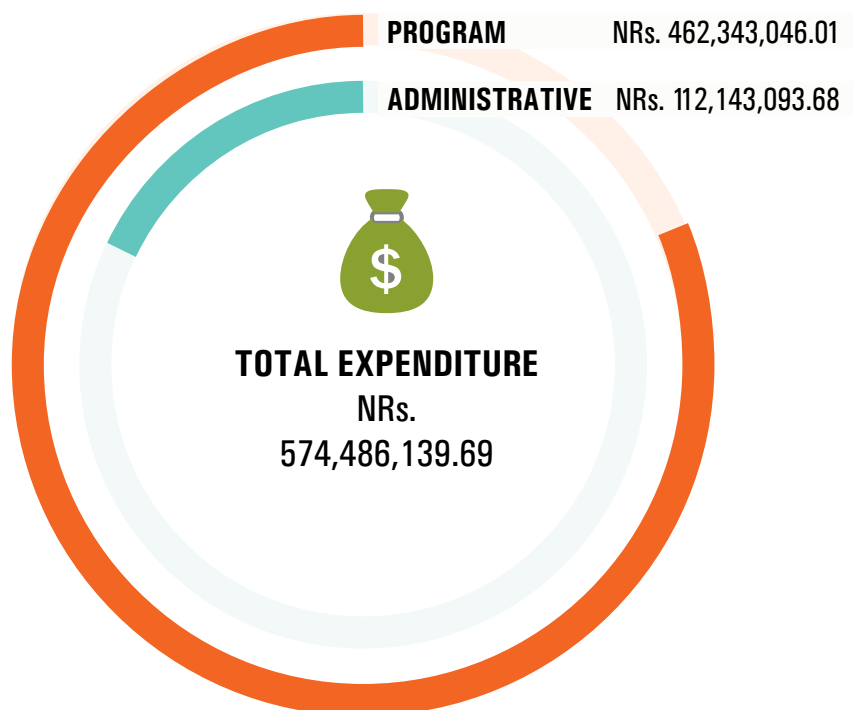


Resilient School For Improved Learning Project

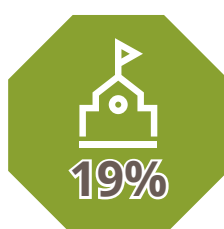
Kachankawal Rural Municipality (RM) is prone to monsoon floods which inundate school buildings and affect classes almost every year. Majority of the seven schools in the RM also lack improved WASH facilities and services, and it disproportionately affects menstruating girls. Resilient Schools For Improved Learning Project has an objective of improving quality education through strengthening safer and healthier school environment at the seven community schools.



Financials



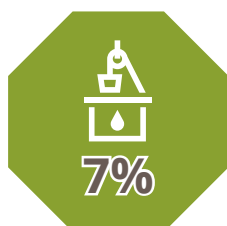
Child Sponsorship



Education



Health



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH)



Livelihood Enhancement



Advocacy And Partnership



Emergency Relief



Research And Development



Project Management

Partners



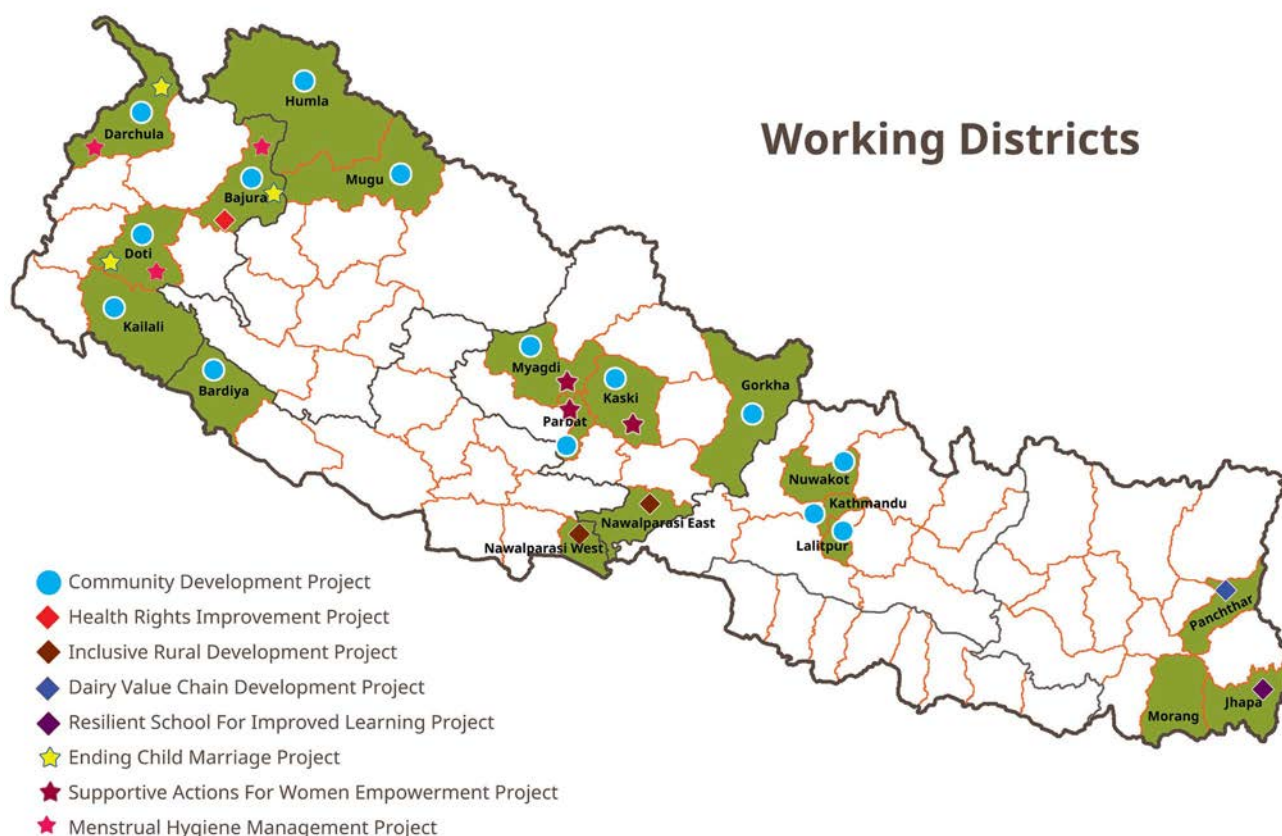
1. Community Development Centre (CDC) - Doti
2. Community Development Forum (CDF) Nepal - Doti
3. Community Rural Development Society (CRDS-NEPAL) - Darchula
4. Generating Income Foster Transformation (GIFT) - Bajura
5. Kaligandaki Community Development Munch (KADAM) - Myagdi
6. Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal - Humla and Mugu
7. Lele Community Development Centre (LCDC) - Lalitpur
8. Milan Kendra Nepal - Panchthar
9. Naba Chetana Community Development Centre (NCCDC) Nepal - Parbat
10. Nari Kalyan Samaj - Jhapa
11. Naulo Ghumti Nepal - Kaski
12. PEACEWIN - Bajura
13. Rural Women Development Centre - Morang
14. SAHAMATI - Nawalparasi East and Nawalparasi West
15. SANKALPA - Darchula
16. Shree Karnali Poverty Abatement and Development Forum (KPADF) - Mugu
17. Snow Land Integrated Development Center (SIDC) - Humla
18. Social Welfare Resource Development Centre (SORDEC-Nepal) - Parbat
19. Sonaha Bikash Samaj (SBS) - Bardiya
20. Sustainable Approach on Natural Resource Management and Gender Awareness for Micro Enterprise (SANGAM) - Myagdi
21. Sustainable Enterprises and Environment Development Working Awareness Centre/Nepal (SEEWAC/Nepal) - Kailali
22. System Development Service Centre (SDSC) - Gorkha





COVID-19 Response





Empowering People, Transforming Communities

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