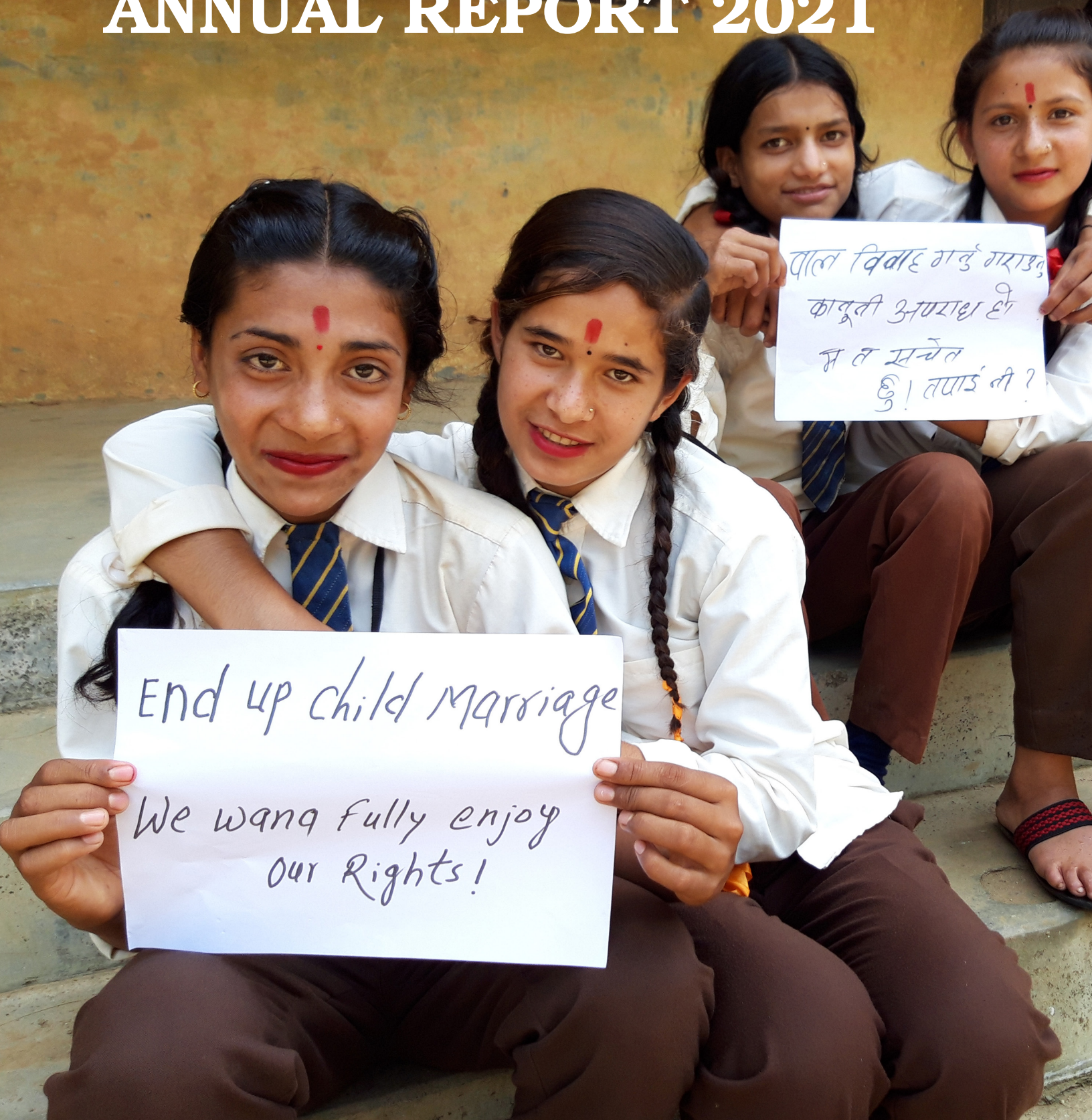


ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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 geography.

GNI empowers people in 46 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 Chile, Mexico, 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/climate change adaptation, and advocacy programs. Currently, GNI Nepal serves marginalized, vulnerable, and poor children, families, and communities in 22 districts across Nepal.

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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.


VISION

Make a society where people live together in harmony

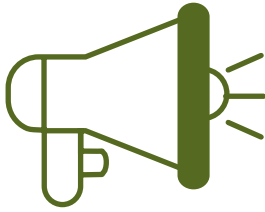
MISSION STATEMENT

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

Message From The Country Director



2021 marks GNI's two decades of service to the children and people in Nepal. Beginning from a humble start of sponsoring thirty-two children to continue their education, at present, our work has expanded to twenty-two districts across the length and breadth of Nepal. GNI's Nepal country program now covers child protection, education, income generation, health, WASH, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation sectors.

2021 also coincided with the end of GNI Nepal's Fourth Project Agreement (2016-2020) with the Social Welfare Council. We spent the whole year reviewing our achievements of the past five years and working out a plan of action for the 2021-2026 period. The Country Strategy 2021-2026 outlines our strategic objectives and thematic priorities in four major sectors: child protection, education, public health, and social economy. I believe the Country Strategy will contribute to meeting Nepal's national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. In all this, the well-being of children, their families, and communities, as always, takes center stage.

My colleagues and I had anticipated Covid-19 continuing for longer period and had drawn up a Covid-19 Response Strategy 2020-2022. While we continued to build up our strengths to rapidly respond to potential disasters, in April, the coronavirus spread across Nepal at a lightning speed, forcing Nepal to lockdown for four months. Despite the closures, cases spiked. The already burdened public health system was strained to the limits of its capacity. We provided essential medical equipment, supplies, and essential ICU equipment such as ventilators, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flow meters, personal protective equipment, etc. to public health institutions to cope with the increased demand for Covid-19 related health care during this second wave. Frontline health workers benefited from the specialized medical equipment, PCR diagnostic kits, and supplies we provided.

We continued our preparatory work during the four months of lockdown and project execution picked up pace after it ended. Working together with schools, health facilities, and local communities we constructed/renovated physical infrastructures, developed capacities, strengthened local and institutional governance, and created better livelihood opportunities for women and the poor.

While all of our work directly or indirectly affects the lives of children, at GNI Nepal, we highly prioritize child protection. Our child protection program has been supporting children to become leaders and take lead to make institutional and social changes in their communities. This year alone, the child clubs we support disrupted 21 about-to-happen child marriages, and local governments adopted a strategy for ending child marriage. While under our sponsorship service program, this year also, we supported more than 22,000 underprivileged children to continue their education.

In 2022, my team and I will strive more to reduce inequalities in education, put more children in school, build better infrastructure for schools, health facilities, and communities, and bring improved WASH services to them, help farmers to commercialize agriculture and livestock farming and build their capacity to have better livelihood options.

I hope GNI Nepal will continue to receive wishes and support from the government, partners, local communities, and stakeholders in our endeavors for **Empowering People and Transforming Communities**, for which Good Neighbors International has got a divine calling and for which we invite all as a good neighbor.

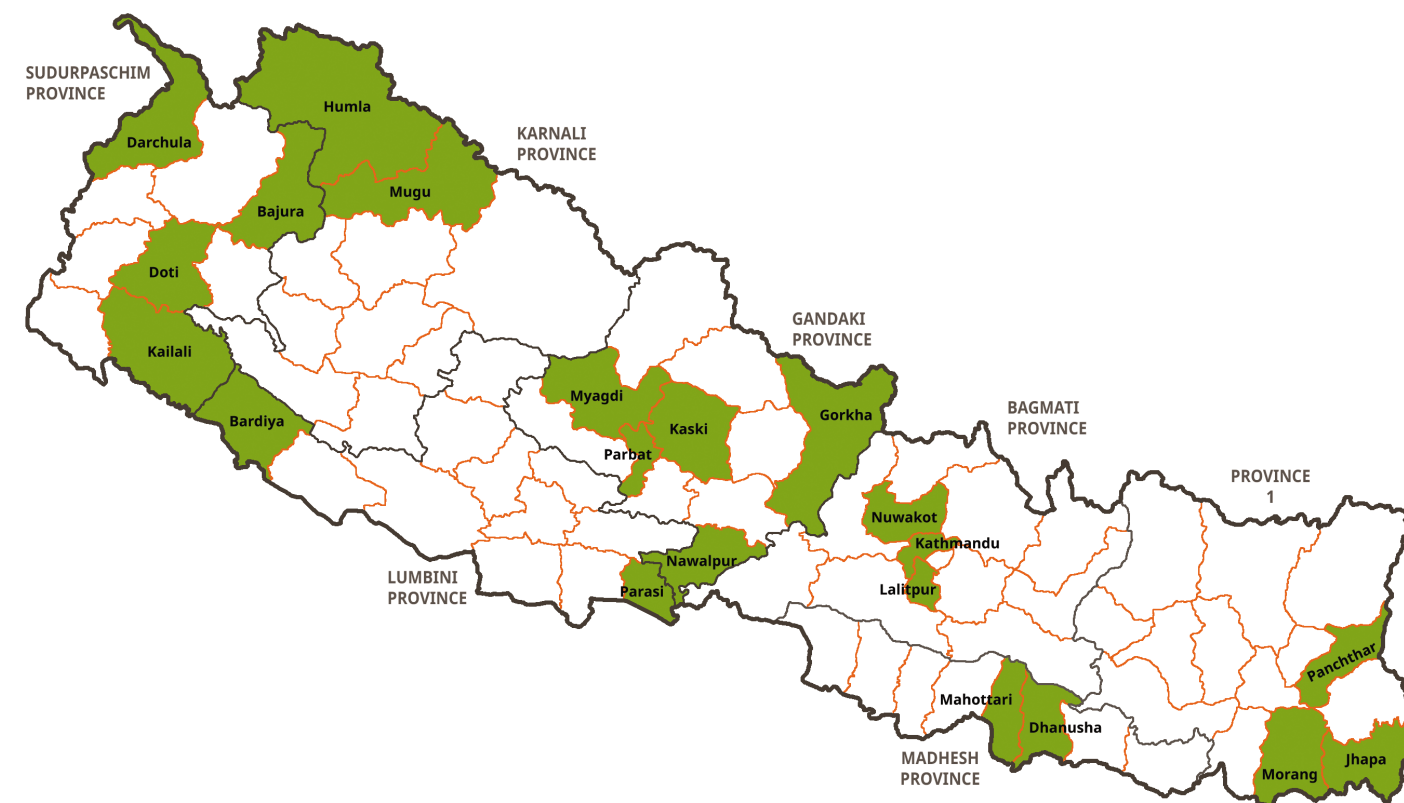

Jaekyun Rho
Country Director



Highlights of 2021

- ➔ **Worked in**
434 wards
23 municipalities
36 rural municipalities
22 districts
- ➔ **Worked with**
568 schools
282 health facilities
65 cooperatives
- ➔ **Partnered with**
29 non governmental organizations
- ➔ **Sponsored children**
11,264 girls
9,687 boys
- ➔ **Local sponsorship**
1,318 children
- ➔ **Benefited**
260,986 community members

Working districts





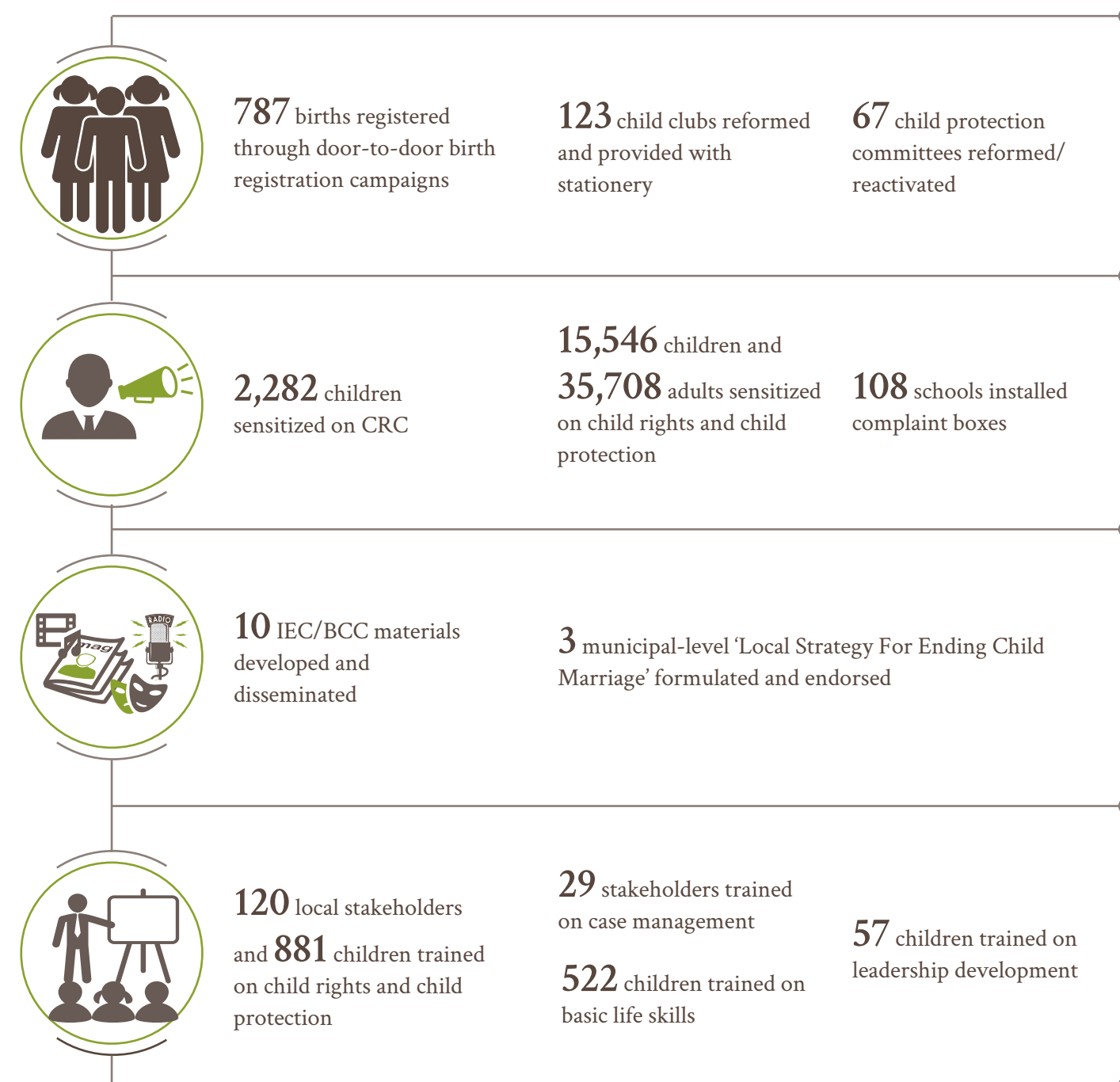
Child Protection



Children are prevented and protected from exploitation and abuse

Child protection is at the center of GNI's work in Nepal. While Covid-19 continued to ravage towns and villages like last year, we continued to raise awareness, build capacity, and mobilize child protection mechanisms amid the pandemic. Ending child marriage remained our top priority this year as well.

Our local, contextual, and integrated, interventions have helped to bring down the rates of child marriage in Bajura, Darchula, and Doti districts. Building on the momentum of past years, local child protection actors also spurred into action and stopped many about-to-happen child marriages in their communities this year. Child club members, especially girls, played a central role in disrupting child marriages.



Child Helpline-1098 Operation



Children in Nepal face all kinds of issues. They do not get the support or counsel they need from their family members, elders, school, etc. To help children in distress to have advice and support, GNI Nepal has been supporting in Child Helpline-1098 operation in Bajura District.

In total, 170 distress calls were received in 2021. Among them, 16 were serious cases that were responded to with relevant support. 7 children were provided stationery and uniform, 4 children got health treatment support, 1 child received warm clothes, and 1 child got groceries. 1 child marriage was also averted.

A Young Child Activist In Action

Nirmala Kumari Kadayat, 18
Grade 12
Shree Sunadevi Secondary School
Ward No. 8, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti District



Nirmala is a high school student. As far back as she can remember, she had always wanted to do something new. She dreamt a lot about doing many things, but she was an utterly shy person. Even speaking in front of a few people made her feel like her heart would leap out of her chest. She realized this stage fright was a big handicap for her and had to do something about it.

Nirmala while studying in grade ten got to become the member secretary of her school's Sunadevi Child Club. She started receiving training, orientation, and opportunities to participate in child rights events organized by GNI Nepal. Her parents got concerned about her participating in so many extracurricular activities lest her education suffer.

Meeting students from other schools regularly, she learned that studies and activism can go together. Extra- and co-curricular activities could aid her studies. Exposure to group facilitation, emceeing, and leading campaigns boosted her morale and public speaking skills. As she overcame her fear of speaking in public, got noticeably better at it, and continued to advocate for child rights, she became the chairperson of Sisters' Group and member of Ward Child Protection Committee, School Management Committee, and GNI Nepal's Project Management Committee. All of this just in a year.

Changing deep-rooted malpractices is not easy but we should seek the help of relevant persons and authorities

In her community, Nirmala is a leading young anti-child marriage activist. She organizes and leads awareness-raising campaigns at her school and in the communities. She provides prompt advice to her peers about studies, career paths they could choose, and against falling into the abyss of child marriage. Always the vanguard of the fight against child marriage, in her lead, her child club and girls' group stopped three about-to-happen child marriages (two arranged and one love marriage). These young activists immediately alerted the police and local child protection committee. Thanks to their timely action, all three planned child marriages did not happen.

Nirmala said, "Initially my family was against me getting involved in the anti-child marriage campaign. Additionally, some community members threatened us. Changing deep-rooted malpractices is not easy but we should seek the help of relevant persons and authorities. We have completely stopped arranged child marriages for some time now and are working towards eradicating it."



Exercising A Birth Right

Ward No. 2-4, Malika Rural Municipality, Myagdi District

In Malika Rural Municipality, a door-to-door birth registration program had never been conducted before. Ethnic and *Dalit* community members of this rural part of Nepal are not aware of many social issues, let alone, birth registration and its importance. Like the majority of the parents in these communities, Shiva Pun's parents were also completely unaware of the importance of registering their children's birth and the office that does it. Even though birth registration is mandatory for enrolling in a school, parents were still unaware of it.

As a part of its child protection program, GNI Nepal conducted a birth registration campaign in Ward No. 2, 3, and 4 of Malika Rural Municipality from the fourth week of March to April end. Members of child clubs, local representatives, ward secretaries, school teachers, and health care personnel took out a rally—with placards and chanted slogans about birth registration, child rights, and child protection. Meanwhile, door-to-door birth registration service was offered. The rally was followed by an interaction.

Three such events were conducted in collaboration with the local government, schools, child clubs, and health workers. Due to an increase in parents' awareness of birth registration after the campaigns, 730 children got their birth registration certificates.

Shiva Pun's family also got their three sons' birth registration certificates after the campaign. Shiva also did not know why birth registration needs to be done. At the campaign, he came to know that it is mandatory for all children. Children who have a birth certificate can access public services easily.



Shiva shared, "After the campaign, my parents told me that we were deprived of many services because our births were not recorded. Since they came to know about the importance of birth registration, they got mine and my brothers' births registered at the office, and we got the certificates. I want all of my friends to have one as well."

Shiva's parents are grateful to the organizers for alerting them by conducting such public awareness programs. Shiva's teacher has also noted that the number of students submitting their birth certificates to the school is increasing.

Ward No. 2 secretary said, "These days, the number of people visiting the ward office for getting the birth registration certificate and the awareness that birth registration should be done within thirty-five days after birth is rising."

People visiting the ward office for getting the birth registration certificate and the awareness that birth registration should be done within thirty-five days after birth is rising



Ending Child Marriage Project

In order to contribute towards minimizing child marriage, child protection system strengthening, capacity development of children and stakeholders, advocacy, campaign, community mobilization, and helpline operation were carried out in 2021. With support from GNI Nepal, Budhiganga Municipality, Bajura, Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula, and Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Ward No 8, Doti adopted 'Local Strategy For Ending Child Marriage' as a commitment to eliminating child marriage in their jurisdictions.



144 child rights and child protection groups formed, reformed, activated, and mobilized



1,038 children and **391** adult activists cultivated
24,318 adults and **6,669** children sensitized on CRC



1,360 stakeholders and **1,751** children capacitated on CRC and against child marriage



10 units of IEC/BCC materials on child right promotion and against child marriage produced and disseminated

10 % decrease in child marriage rate (44.3% in 2019 and 34.6% in 2021)

8.4%, the rate of arranged child marriage in 2021 compared to **30.1%** in 2019

21 about-to-happen child marriages stopped by child clubs

16 child marriage cases filed at local police stations in 2021 compared to zero cases before 2019

2 schools in Darchula, **2** communities in Doti and **1** community in Bajura declared child marriage free zones

On Its Way To Making A Child Marriage Free Community

Shankarpur Child Club, Shree Shankarpur Secondary School, Ward No. 8, Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula District

Shankarpur Child Club, a school-based child club was established in early 2017 to bring children together and provide them a platform to discuss and seek solutions for issues that concern them. Initially, its work was limited to maintaining hygiene and sanitation on the school premises and supporting to conduct the morning assembly. By the end of the year, the club started receiving training and technical support from GNI Nepal: meetings were regularized and plans of action were drawn up.

With support from GNI Nepal, in two years (2017-2019), the child club organized twelve extracurricular activities, nine school sanitation programs, and a few awareness-raising events. After displaying successful event organizing capacity, the club was included in the planning mechanism under the local government.

Additionally, from February 2020 to December 2021, under Ending Child Marriage Project trainings, orientations, and resources for organizing peer-to-peer discussions, issue-based extracurricular activities, cultural programs, street dramas, interactions with community leaders were organized. These events reached adolescents, parents, and stakeholders alike.

In December 2021, Shankarpur Child Club busied itself in organizing a voting campaign against child marriage. Of the 350 votes, 331 (94.57%) were cast against child marriage. Based on indicators in the Local Strategy for Ending Child Marriage

2019, Shree Shankarpur Secondary School was declared a child marriage-free zone in the same month.

In the past one and half years, the child club has stopped five child marriages. Two of such marriages had been arranged by the would-be brides' families. The child club was prompt in alerting the municipal office and saved two young girls from being victims of child marriage. These two young girls, saved from the hell of child marriage, are studying in eighth and ninth grades now.

Shankarpur Child Club deserves a huge appreciation for its service. Spurred on by the support they are receiving from GNI Nepal, club members have been unwaveringly continuing their fight against child marriage, a local scourge of great proportions.



Voting Campaign Against Child Marriage

In Bajura, Darchula, and Doti districts child marriage remains rife. To build momentum against child marriage, voting events were organized. **1,993** persons including children, parents, and teachers cast their votes at 8 separate events. **92.7%** votes were cast against child marriage highlighting the fact that only a miniscule segment of the local communities supports child marriage.



Supportive Actions For Empowerment Project

Under this project funded by the King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium, depending on the degree of vulnerability, needs, potential, and interests, early-married young women from disadvantaged, low-income, *Dalit*, marginalized, women-headed, landless, and land poor households in Malikarjun Rural Municipality received orientation, vocational skills training, and counseling services.



49 early-married women trained on entrepreneurship and sensitized on GBV

23 early-married women trained on off-seasonal vegetable and fruit farming

Finding Success Amidst Hopelessness

Janaki Khatri, 23, Ward No. 5, Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula District



Janaki is a single woman belonging to a poverty-stricken family. There are four members in her family including her son, father-in-law, and mother-in-law. Sadly, none of them has a stable income. Subsistence agriculture in their small plot of marginal land is what the family depends on for survival. The plot is barren, the soil infertile. Produce from the land hardly feeds the family for three months.

Janaki got married at the age of fourteen. Six years later, just at the age of twenty, she lost her husband in a road accident. Main income earner of the family was gone. Food and clothes started to become scarcer. Janaki fell into a state of deep grief. Psychological problems followed. Loss of sleep and appetite became regular. For a change, Janaki felt like going to the fields or the forest, but she had to keep a constant watch over her little son.

For the sake of her son and her future, she decided to take a vocational skills training and start a business. Neither she had the capital, nor she knew anybody that could guide her. Amidst this hopelessness, she was selected as a project beneficiary.

Janaki participated in enterprise your life training, orientation on gender-based and domestic violence, training on better life skills and better life options, vocational skills development training, and received counseling for coping with the psycho-emotional stress she was undergoing. Rays of hope started to shine, she could see better days ahead, but they were still distant.

As a part of her vocational skills training, she opted for a three-month tailoring training. She had an eye for design, she learned quickly and turned ideas into actual designs. Among the seven participants, Ms. Khatri showed promise.

Investing in promising young women was the project's aim. She was supported with furniture, hangers, and raw materials for establishing the Janu Tailoring Center at Dadakot of her native municipality. Locals can order pants, shirts, ladies suits, and get their old clothes mended at her shop.

She has added some grocery items to her tailoring shop. She makes four thousand rupees in a month. It's not much but she can buy essentials for her young son and ailing in-laws and afford an education for her son at least. He has started attending school again. Janaki plans to take advanced tailoring training and increase the range of services. Janaki thinks her worst days are behind her.



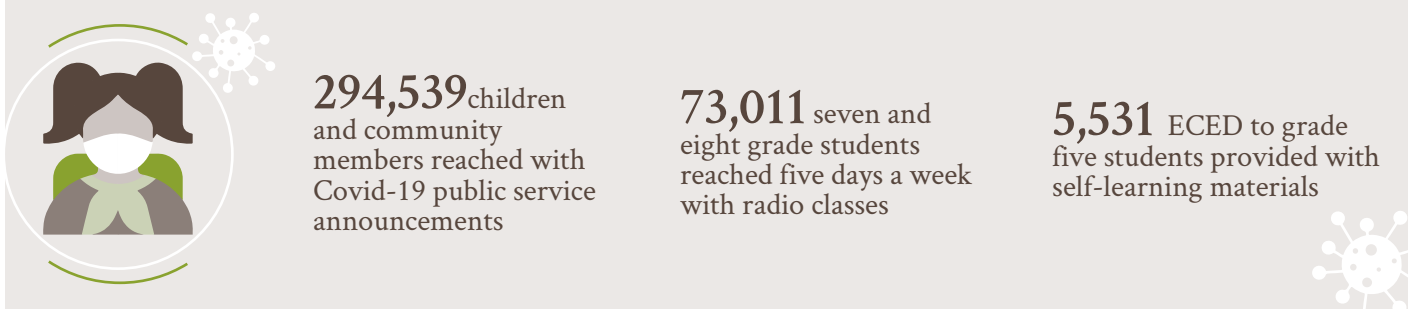
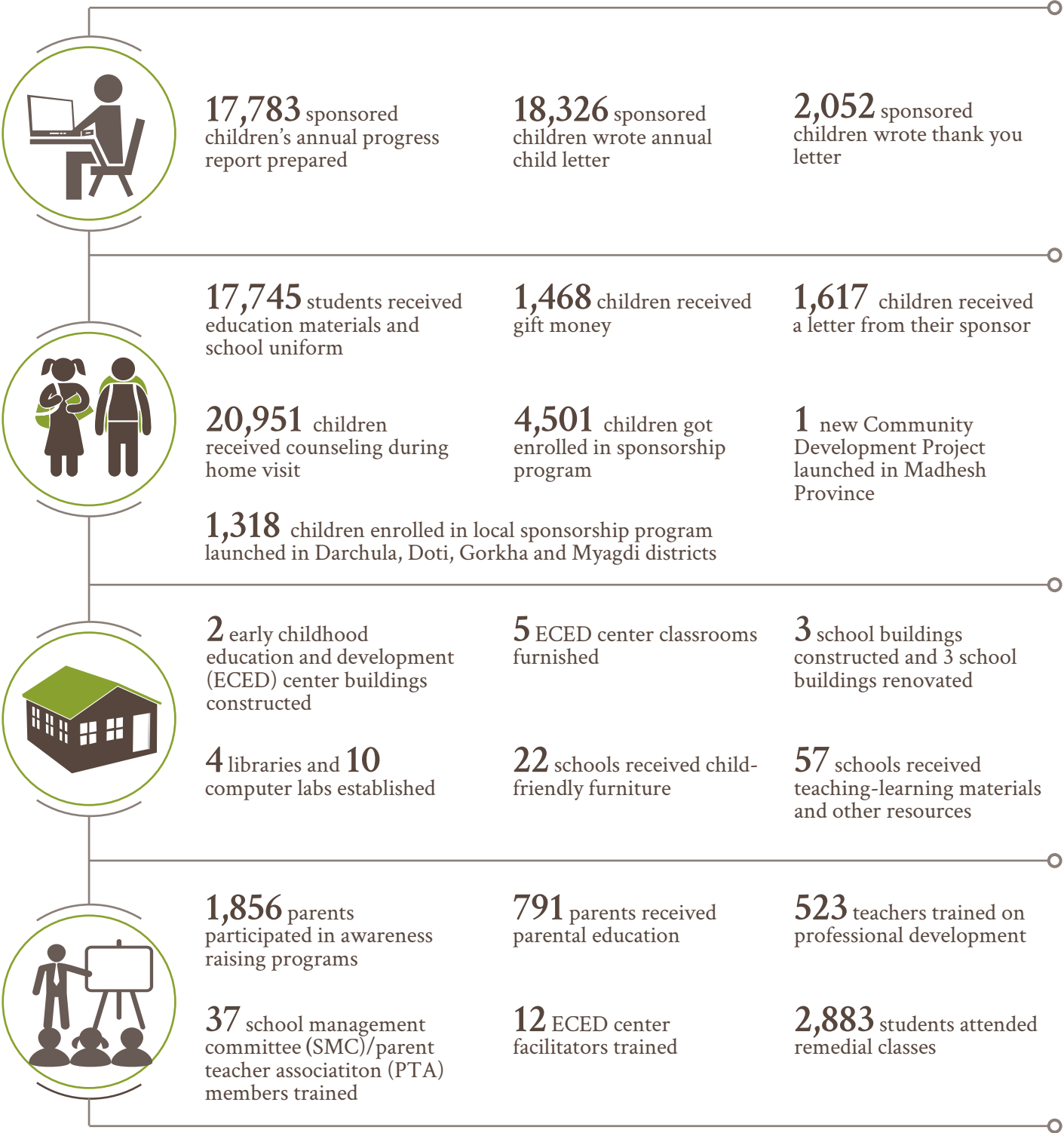
Education

Children enjoy the right to quality education

Since 2002, GNI Nepal has been at the forefront of national efforts to reduce inequalities in education. In the past two decades, we have seen notable increase in the number of children being enrolled in schools and, in turn, reductions in out-of-school children and gap in educational attainment.

To match children with the support they need, this year we supported 20,658 children in Bajura, Bardiya, Darchula, Doti, Gorkha, Humla, Kailali, Kaski, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Mugu, Mygadi, Nuwakot, and Parbat districts from poor, marginalized, and excluded families to continue their education.

Working closely with local governments, and partners, this year also we installed laboratories, libraries, furniture, and supported rural public schools to expand their infrastructure.



Continuing Education In Times Of Covid-19

Ward No. 1-7, Dharche Rural Municipality, Gorkha District



For a child, school is perhaps more important than home in terms of learning. It is also a platform for children to express themselves. But when the Covid-19 pandemic swept through the world, schools started to shut down. Education was one of the hardest-hit sectors. No school was fully prepared for a prolonged closure.

Likewise, in Nepal, the lockdown came into immediate effect in April 2021. Schools were closed for an indefinite time including the twenty-five community schools in Dharche Rural Municipality.

Students attending these schools were left to their own devices. While schools in cities conducted online classes, for the want of information and communications (ICT) infrastructure and capacity, offering online lessons was beyond these rural public schools' abilities.



It has been proven that students can learn anywhere provided they have learning materials and support from their parents

Dharche is an ethnic Gurung community dominated rural municipality where education does not happen to be a top priority. On the other hand, school reopening was also uncertain. The majority of the students did not have enough books and stationery to learn by themselves at their homes.

Aware of the situation, the rural municipality planned to support the children in self-initiated learning. With support from GNI Nepal, 2,294 early childhood education and development center to grade five students in the rural municipality were provided a set of crayons, pencils, sharpeners, and books each. Such self-learning materials motivated the children to utilize their time learning new things.

Headteacher, Mr. Chet Bahadur Gurung expressed, "It's good to see parents encouraging their children to learn at home." Similarly, Headteacher, Mr. Ram Chandra Gurung shared, "It has been proven that students can learn anywhere provided they have learning materials and support from their parents."

Unsurpassed Academic Achievements

Prakash Dholi, 18
Grade 11, Shree Mastamandu Secondary School
Ward No. 7, Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Doti District

Prakash lives with his mother and three other family members. His father passed away a year ago due to blood cancer. He is the youngest in the family and currently studies in grade eleven (Intermediate in Science) away from home in a town in the plains. His mother is a homemaker and farmer.

Prakash is from a poor *Dalit* household. He shared the grim situation he was facing then, "I didn't have a good uniform nor stationery and I went to school without them." Grinding poverty, the family was going through led to his poor reading and writing skills. He was an average performer till third grade. A shy and meek child, Prakash feared speaking in front of a few people. Likewise, he kept his talents hidden.

In 2012, GNI Nepal under its sponsorship service started supporting Prakash with educational materials (exercise books, pens, pencils, eraser, geometry box), uniform, bag, health checkup, and counseling. As he started getting needed support, his absence from school came down dramatically. In one of the academic years, out of the 220 days the school remained open, he missed school for four days only.

In the subsequent years, he received opportunities to participate in leadership development, child rights and child protection programs, and extra-curricular events. Similarly, GNI Nepal also established a science lab, library, smart classroom, and built the capacity of teachers of his school.

The entire school is thankful to GNI for sponsoring Prakash's and other poor children's education



With regular encouragement and support from GNI Nepal, he ranked first in grades four to seven. He scored a 3.82 GPA in his eighth-grade district-level examinations. Topping it all off, he scored a 3.95 GPA (Grade A+) in his Secondary Education Examinations (SEE). At his school, his scores remain unsurpassed until now.

Over the years, he got many prizes and participated in many extracurricular activities. In 2018 and 2019, he won inter-school quiz and essay-writing competitions and the rural municipality-level extempore speech competition.

He excels not only in academics but has a passion for social activism: He was also active as the secretary of Mastamandu Child Club and never missed club events and programs which helped him to shed his shy personality. Thanks to the trainings, he is a good leader, natural speaker, and event facilitator. Moreover, he is a brilliant student with a bright future."



Headteacher of Prakash's school said, "He is a disciplined, diligent, and hardworking student who has been successful in achieving outstanding grades in the SEE exams. The entire school is thankful to GNI for sponsoring Prakash's and other poor children's education."



Playing For Learning Project

Aiming at better physical, social, mental, and emotional development of rural children, Playing For Learning Project was implemented at Shree Malika Basic School, Doti, and Shree Dhuralshain Secondary School, Bajura. Adequate learning opportunities, education for parents and local stakeholders, and enhanced capacity of early childhood education and development (ECED) center facilitators have helped to improve foundational educational skills of and better prepared 82 young children for pre-primary school.



2 ECED center building and **1** child-friendly water tap constructed



76 ECED center attending children received school bags



45 mothers received parental education



2 ECED centers provided with playing and learning materials



69 animated educational videos for young children developed



24 ECED center facilitators trained



1 ECED center provided with a laptop



4 community- and school-level awareness-raising campaigns organized



Disaster Preparedness And School Resilience Project

Aiming to help better prepare against disasters/natural hazards, disaster-resilient school buildings, menstrual hygiene management (MHM)-friendly toilets, and disabled-friendly water taps were constructed at Shree Kuwadi Devi Secondary School, Shree Mahendra Secondary School, Shree Simalbari Basic School, and Shree Sarswati Basic School in Jhapa Rural Municipality of Jhapa District. Capacity-building programs on school-based disaster risk management, comprehensive school safety, and school improvement plan were also conducted for students, parents, and teachers.



1 school building, **2** MHM-friendly toilets and **3** child-friendly water tap stands constructed

1 hazard map installed at each 4 schools



109 teachers, SMC/PTA members trained on comprehensive school safety plan

29 SMC/PTA members and focal teachers trained on school-based disaster risk management plan



40 school management committee members and focal teachers oriented on school improvement plan preparation

100 child club members oriented on school safety and disaster risk reduction

Improved Resilience For Conducive Teaching-learning

Shree Kuwadi Devi Secondary School, Ward No. 2, Jhapa Rural Municipality, Jhapa District

For Mr. Mukesh Karna, the headteacher of the school, each day had its fair share of administrative and teaching duties. Even so, there were other worries that consumed him.

On rainy days, the zinc sheet roofing of the five dilapidated school buildings would leak and raindrops hitting the roof would make noise so loud that teaching or learning was rendered impossible. Classrooms got unbearably hot in the summers.

Toilets for girl students also did not exist. All students queued up to use the only toilet in the school. Menstruating girls either stayed home or ran home from school if they menstruated suddenly.

During the monsoon, floods from Kankai and Biring rivers hit the school. Not many years ago, the whole school was inundated with floodwater, classrooms got water-logged. Many school records, documents including students' learning materials, books, furniture, etc., got damaged.

Along with three other schools, Shree Kuwadi Devi Secondary School received support to build a disaster-resilient school building, MHM- and disabled-friendly toilet block, and disabled-friendly water tap stands. Teachers, SMC/PTA members, parents, and child club members participated in various capacity enhancement events.

The school has developed a comprehensive school safety plan along with a map of possible hazards, and a disaster risk reduction preparedness plan. All the students are now aware of potential floods, disasters, and how to keep themselves safe if disaster strikes.

"We are happy to see so much change at our school within a year. I am happy not because we are safe in new classrooms, but classes can run without disturbances even if it rains heavily

or the day gets extremely hot or the rivers flood", said Mr. Bikas Rajbanshi, chair of the school-based child club.

Now girl students are glad that they have access to MHM-friendly toilets. "At least five girls can use the toilets at a time, I am sure it will help menstruating students to be in the class, not home", said headteacher Mr. Karna.

Mr. Jaya Narayan Shah, Chairperson, Jhapa Rural Municipality expressed, "The rural municipality will support Shree Kuwadi Devi Secondary School with a two-room building. And we are encouraging all schools in the rural municipality to develop a detailed school safety plan. We will allocate budget for implementing those plans."

Students engage in maintaining a sanitary and hygienic environment. The child club has started planting trees on the school premises. Students, parents, teachers, and local government are appreciative of the changes that have taken place for creating a safe and conducive learning environment at the school.



Better Infrastructure, Happy Tutor

Shree Malika Basic School, Ward No. 5, Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Doti District

Ms. Manisha Devi Bogati is a proud tutor. When addressed as a teacher, she is filled with a sense of fulfillment and a big responsibility. Ms. Bogati recalls the time when the classroom did not have proper furniture and playing-learning materials for the little children that attend her ECED center.

Moreover, the children did not pay attention to what she taught. They would easily grow weary, and she would, in turn, get frustrated. She resented not being able to do much in the way of getting the young learners interested in learning. Ms. Manisha often yelled at them and called it a day. That was not how an ECED center class is run. She knew that they deserved much better.

A few months ago, her happiness doubled after GNI Nepal helped the school add a well-furnished ECED classroom at a cost of NRs. 2.85 million. The new classroom boasts child-friendly furniture, carpets (over a p-foam as a form of insulation), and other much-needed playing learning materials. The classroom also got a makeover with beautiful wall paintings.

GNI Nepal supported her to become a better ECED center facilitator. It started with a

five-day training on early childhood development and children's learning approach. The training enabled her to gain skills in using ECED materials, improve children's learning experience, build interest in the classroom, and keep the children engaged throughout the day. Now, as the children play and learn by themselves, she gets enough time to be more creative and make lesson plans for the next day.

Ms. Bogati also educates parents on hygiene, sanitation, and cleanliness including the need for dressing their children in neat and clean clothes. She shared, "GNI Nepal's support has set the standard for an ECED center classroom, and every child deserves it."





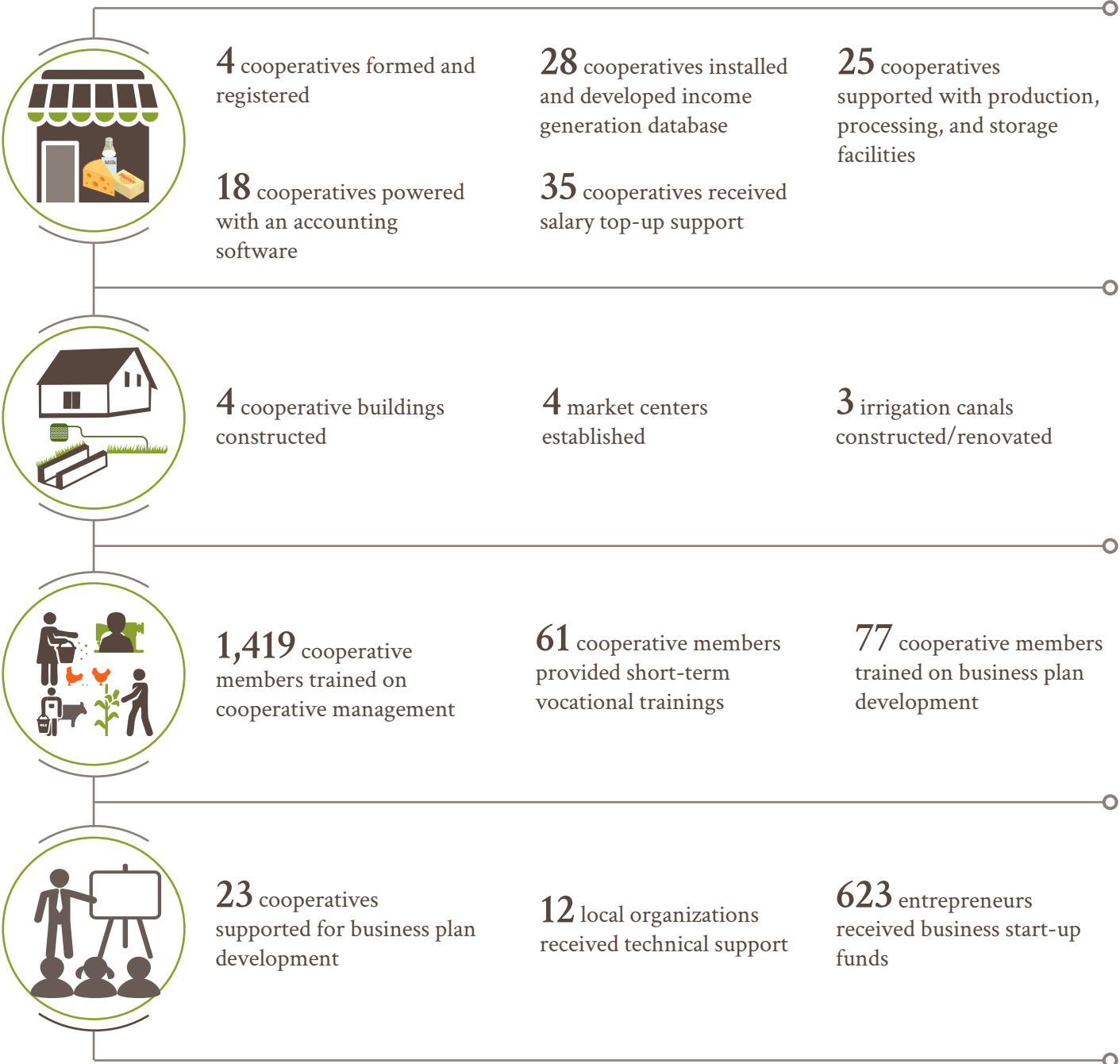
Social Economy



People achieve economic empowerment

GNI Nepal is committed to improving the quality of life in rural areas by supporting the development of self-sustainable communities. We promoted livelihood opportunities for individuals across our working districts through technical training, skills development programs, savings and credit services, female-focused jobs creation, agricultural extension services, and climate-smart agriculture.

Improved rural livelihoods have the potential to contribute to better socio-economic benefits and social security of farming households lacking proper income generation options. Our livelihood initiatives have been furthering rural Nepal's economic well-being and making farmers competitive.



NRs. 66,325,089
(USD 602,955)
seed money moibilized through cooperatives

Business Diversification For Sustainability

Deuthan Krishi Sahakari
Ward No. 1, Geruwa Rural Municipality, Bardiya District



Established in 2014, Deuthan Krishi Sahakari, an agricultural cooperative has 515 share members. The majority of members are subsistence or smallholder farmers. The cooperative provides savings and credit services along with agricultural inputs to its members. These are important stimuli for improving rural livelihoods and lifting households out of poverty.

Though registered as an agricultural cooperative, Deuthan Krishi Sahakari offered basic savings and credit services only. GNI Nepal helped the cooperative with NRs.1,600,000 to construct a building. In 2019, grants were provided to cooperative members for buying hybrid seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural tools.

Farmers used to buy seeds at agro-vet centers located fifteen-twenty kilometers away. Many a time, they would return home empty-handed due to seed shortages. Suppliers would not keep their promise leading to more than two-week delays in getting the seeds, which in turn pushed the harvesting dates.



Before the cooperative started selling fertilizers and improved seeds, members had problems getting them on time

With GNI Nepal's support, the cooperative started a seeds and fertilizer exchange. In 2020 the cooperative sold 296 quintals of wheat produced by local farmers to Global Seeds (an agricultural seeds firm) enabling them to get a better price for their produce. Timely availability of quality seeds and fertilizers has saved local farmers' precious time.

In 2021, GNI Nepal provided NRs.1,862,330 to the cooperative for promoting modern farming technology locally. Cooperative members who are smallholder farmers can get subsidized loans to purchase farm machinery and equipment now. It will help farmers to increase their yields. Meanwhile, the cooperative has got an opportunity to diversify its services and increase revenue.

Sarita Chaudary, Cooperative Manager stated, "Before the cooperative started selling fertilizers and improved seeds, members had problems getting them on time. They had to rely on the market for such inputs. Sadly, they were pricey as well. Whereas our member farmers got paid thrice the market rate for their produce. Selling seeds, our cooperative earned NRs.159,900 in profits."

The cooperative has plans to establish a seed processing center and generate more local employment.



Dairy Store Breaking Caste Barriers

Janakalyan Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd.
Ward No. 5, Budhiganga Rural Municipality, Bajura District

Janakalyan Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. started small with only 25 members circa 2007. Its foray into business started by investing in a small paper and printing shop. It ran well and gave the members more confidence and ideas to invest in.

Their next venture was in the lucrative education sector. Running a private school was challenging, but it also sustained the cooperative well enough to take another big step into establishing a dairy.

Milk is a perishable food. Starting a dairy needed technical knowledge on storing milk and operating modern machines. The cooperative needed help and reached out to GNI Nepal. They pitched their idea in a meeting, envisioning the benefit of having a dairy as a milk collection center for all farming households.

In November 2019, the idea was approved and the cooperative was provided with cans, a deep freezer, cream separator, milk powder, lactometer, and weighing machine. A milk collection center was established under the cooperative.

Prior to its establishment, no milk-producing household sold milk. Moreover, it was believed that selling milk can bring harm to the cattle as anybody could consume the milk after it's sold. For example, menstruating girls and women. Hence, the scarcity of milk in the local market forced teahouses to sell 'black tea'. Although the local favorite is milk tea.

After the dairy started selling milk, the artificial scarcity of milk was solved. Teahouses and roadside eateries have added 'milk tea' to their menu. Since the dairy is in the same

Dairy encourages all the farmers to sell their excess milk and does not discriminate in terms of their gender, caste, and culture



vicinity as the cooperative and a school, most of the visitors now prefer drinking milk tea. Tea breaks at programs, meetings, trainings and events have replaced the 'black tea' with delicious 'milk tea', increasing the milk demand. At religious ceremonies, market-bought or borrowed milk was considered impure but is easily accepted now.

The dairy encourages all local farmers to sell their excess milk and does not discriminate the sellers in terms of their gender, caste, and culture. Before the dairy's establishment, *Dalits* refrained from selling milk to the so-called 'upper castes' as it would not be accepted by the locals. However, the dairy opened the door for all local dairy farmers irrespective of their caste or creed.

15-20 liters of milk is collected daily and sold at NRs. 80 per liter. In 2021, the cooperative sold milk worth NRs. 362,414 and reaped a profit of NRs. 14,124. Currently selling milk is not a big part of the farmers' livelihood but eventually, it will be. More importantly, it has provided a platform to the *Dalit* dairy farmers to sell their produce which did not have social sanction in the past.

The cooperative has grown quite large with 1,415 share members and plans to open a milk distribution center at a local marketplace to ease supply.



Dairy Value Chain Development Project

In its last year of implementation, Dairy Value Chain Development Project (DVCDP) partnered with Phalgunanda, Kummayak, and Miklajung Rural Municipalities of Panchthar District and local cooperatives to uplift the livelihood of smallholder dairy farmers. This King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium funded project supported 1,865 small-scale milk producers to enhance their productivity and strengthened the capacity of local business service providers and cooperatives, and helped farmers diversify and improve the quality of dairy products.



2 milk collection centers, **1** milk processing plant and **1** agro-vet and input supplier established/strengthened



22 farmers participated in exposure visits and experiential learning



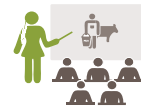
60 farmers improved their cattle sheds



18 locals attended cooperative policy formulation workshop



90 dairy farmers received seed money and grant support



278 local farmers trained on entrepreneurship development, milk quality and hygiene improvement, milk product development, digital accounting and

874 locals trained as village animal health workers

Finding Hope And Better Livelihood Back Home

Durga Rai, 38, Ward No. 5, Miklajung Rural Municipality, Panchthar District

Durga and her husband lived a humble yet fulfilling life. The Rais owned a little bit of land on which they grew vegetables for their small family. As the family grew into five members after they had two children, the couple's responsibility grew bigger. The small income which once sustained the family was no longer enough. In the absence of stable income sources and savings, the Rais were teetering on the brink of poverty. Being uneducated and underemployed forced the couple to think of better alternatives.

A few months later, Durga's husband left the country to try his luck in a foreign land. But things went south for him. The job did not pay him as handsomely as he had expected. Even after laboring for years, he came back home with very little savings in 2018. The Rais were back to square one. They started cultivating the land again but struggled to feed their children well.

In 2019, the DVCDP was launched. Ms. Rai was keen on having a better livelihood for herself and her husband. She joined Kurumba Agriculture Cooperative—a DVCDP partner—as a member. Among the many trainings that Ms. Rai participated in, dairy farming interested her the most.

The cooperative encouraged her to participate in other dairy farming-related trainings such as improved livestock farming, clean milk production, feed management, entrepreneurship development, etc., and also connected her with local veterinary and livestock insurance service providers. To get the Rais' dairy



farm started, DVCDP provided a grant of NRs. 27,000 to buy an improved breed of cow and construct a shed. She took out a loan of NRs. 75,000 from the cooperative.

Durga sold the milk to a DVCDP-supported milk collection center. After six months, she learned the ropes well and added one more cow to the farm. She also asked her husband to help her on the farm more. Now the couple earns about NRs. 25,000 in a month. They have paid back all the loans and started to save at the cooperative every month.

Durga is one of the cooperative's 500 share members that the project supported to improve their livelihoods. Ms. Rai expressed, "I am happy to have my hubby back at home, helping me with the cows. And we do make a great team, I guess."



Inclusive Rural Development Project In Nawalparasi

With the technical and financial support of KOICA Nepal, GNI Nepal has been implementing Locally Initiated Projects (LIP) in Nawalparasi East/West. Working with local governments, cooperatives, self-help groups, and private sector, Inclusive Rural Development Project in Nawalparasi (IRDN) supported local farmers to commercialize their agriculture and livestock farming, build economic infrastructure, and opportunities to improve their skills, and find better livelihood opportunities.



7,208 farmers received commercial vegetable, banana, dairy, and fish farming trainings and equipment



146 tubewells installed and 372.85 ha of land came under irrigation



49 women established the enterprise



946 farmers supported in procuring agriculture equipment and their management



165 training graduates linked with employers

310 youths received vocational skills training

223 farmers participated in enterprise your life training

266 training graduates received business startup support

120 youths participated in job placement workshop



3,712 farmers participated in different agriculture-related trainings

275 entrepreneurs received business establishment and revival support

1,070 cooperative members participated in cooperative institutional development training

263 locals participated in technical guidance and business counseling sessions

105 locals participated in skills training for income generation activities

Agro-machinery Helps Double Farm Income

Sunwal Agricultural Cooperative Ltd., Ward No. 9, Sunwal Municipality, West Nawalparasi District

Sunwal Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. was registered in September 2020 with technical support from IRDN. The cooperative aims at helping farmers to modernize their farm and agricultural practices by integrating modern agricultural technology and creating better opportunities for income generation.

To date, the cooperative has raised a share capital of NRs. 539,400 from 260 members, and its total savings and loan issuance stand at NRs. 771,860 and NRs. 487,000 respectively. Inclusive Rural Development Project provided agriculture machinery and other equipment worth NRs. 8,100,000 that are helping farmers to increase their productivity.

Ward No. 9 of Sunwal Municipality is gifted with fertile land. The cooperative has identified this ward as having the most suitable land for agricultural production. It has further encouraged the farmers. Adoption of modern machinery and equipment means less physical effort or exertion but manifold harvest. Labor costs have fallen, and the time needed for tilling has almost halved.

The cooperative also conducts trainings/workshops for the members on optimal utilization of the agro-machinery. As a result, the cooperative earned NRs. 1,118,748 in the first five months and NRs. 1,442,745 in the fiscal year by renting out the machinery and equipment.



In the past year, this fledgling cooperative has been able to adhere to and meet all legal requirements and be a part of the cooperative movement. Sunwal Agricultural Cooperative Ltd. has plans to join the District Cooperative Union in Bardaghat Susta, West Nawalparasi.

Cooperative Chairperson, Mr. Gir Bahadur Thapa shared, "We encourage women farmers to be active and independent to help reduce patriarchal thinking, and also discourages social evils such as dowry, child marriage, and violence against women."



Public Health

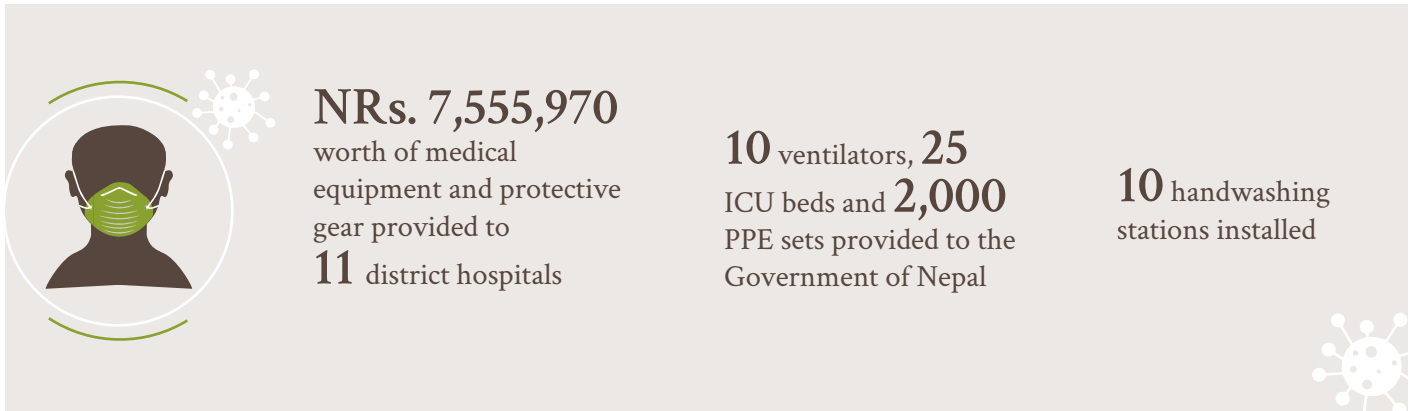
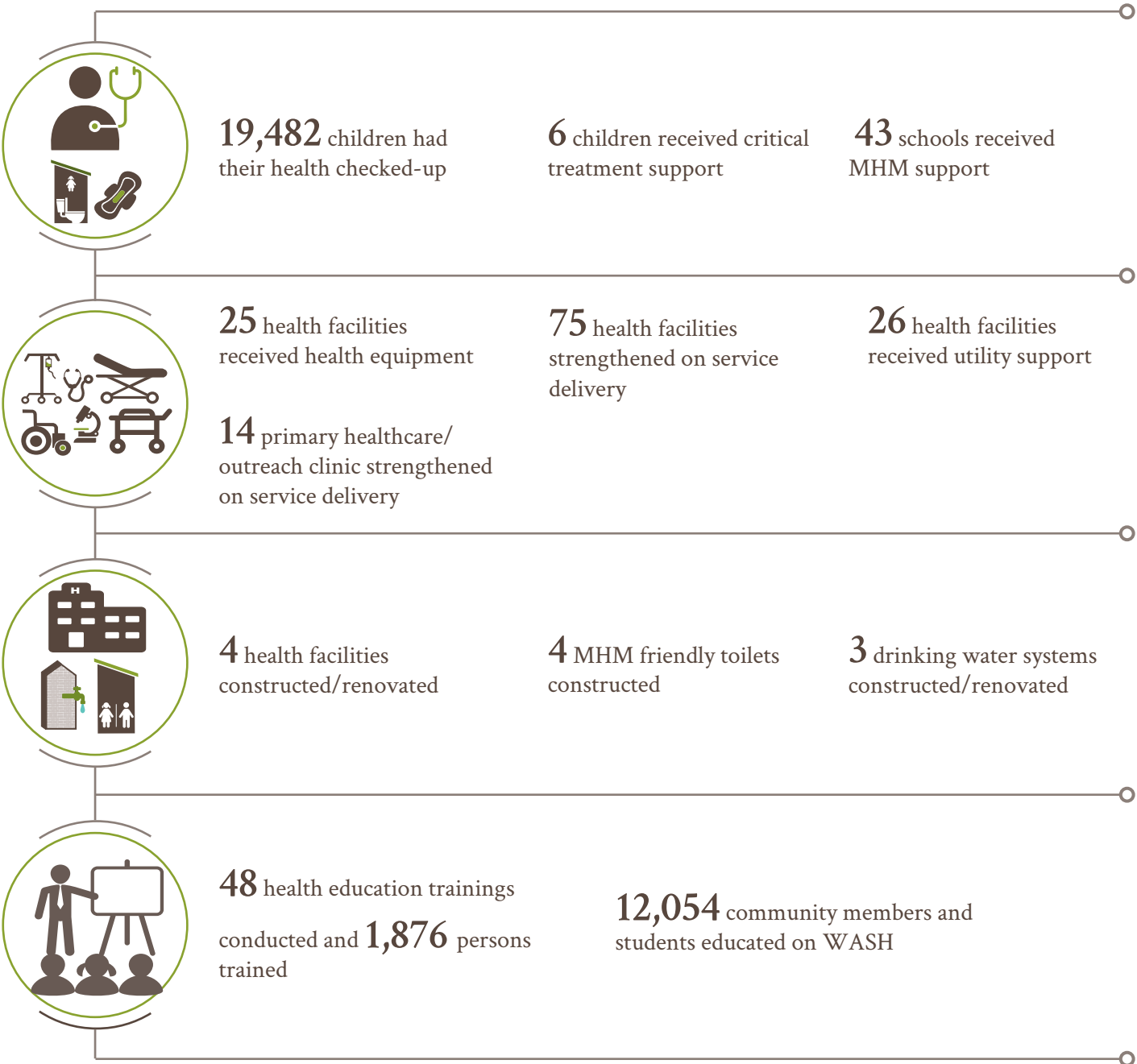


Community members utilize essential healthcare services and facilities

Universal health care is achieved on the back of a strengthened health system. Of the World Health Organization's six health pillars, GNI Nepal's interventions for strengthening the health system focus on service delivery, health workforce capacity building, and governance. We strive to make health services accessible to all by creating functional public health facilities. This year, we focused on Covid-19 response, system strengthening, adolescent and sexual reproductive health, and maternal and neonatal child health.

As a part of our effort to bring better WASH services to rural communities, we helped them to build better infrastructure, and educate health workers, female community health volunteers, and community members. Our menstrual hygiene management programs continued to support schools and students to have better facilities, infrastructure, and education.

Construction of physical infrastructure, provisioning of basic equipment, and utilities, enhancing the capacity of health workers, health facility operation and management committees, female community health volunteers, schools, adolescents, students, and educating communities on various issues related to health and WASH remained our top priorities in 2021.



Handwashing – First Step To Curbing Coronavirus

Ladagada and Pokhari Health Posts
Ward No. 7, Purbichauki Rural Municipality
Ward No. 8, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti District



Nepal shares a long open border with neighboring India. It is estimated that about one to three million Nepalis live and work in India. As the world prepared for lockdown, migrant workers made desperate attempts to return home, only to be stopped at the borders. Nepal's most affected border areas were in the western region.

GNI Nepal provided Covid-19 health kits such as PPE set, p-foam, thermal-gun, brush, bucket, mug, toilet cleaner, soap, sanitizer, broom, etc., to Ladagada and Pokhari health facilities in Doti District. Generally, entire families migrate to India in search of work and return to Nepal on holidays. Therefore, health facilities in these districts serve a large mobile population even during normal times.

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, two handwashing stations were also established at the health facilities that benefited around 200 passersby every day. Reluctant passersby were encouraged to sanitize themselves, follow

“
Not having a proper handwashing station had put all of us at a big risk.
”

safety protocols so that they could save themselves and others from the virus.

Health workers felt safer continuing their service after they received support from GNI Nepal. An adequate supply of health kits and proper handwashing stations boosted their morale. In charge, Mr. Yogendra Bista shared, “Not having a proper handwashing station had put all of us at a big risk. We thought all of us would contract the virus and were thinking of shutting down all the services until help arrived.”

Thanks to the small yet timely support, he did not have to stop essential medical services. Migrant workers and returnee families also reached home feeling safe.



Equipment Support Elevates Health Service Delivery

Kharpunath Health Post
Ward No. 5, Kharpunath Rural Municipality, Humla District



Humla in Karnali Province is one of the least developed districts of Nepal. Due to poor health infrastructure and rugged topography, people have limited access to basic health services, and it is even worse beyond the district headquarters.

Kharpunath, one of the seven Rural Municipalities of Humla, has a population of 6,000 and five health posts. With six health workers, Kharpunath Health Post in Ward No. 5, serves over 1,400 people of Dharpu, Takla, Bamta, Yangchu, Shiyalwada, and Kherpal.

Owing to a lack of vital medical equipment, the health post was unable to offer essential basic services despite having adequate human resources. In the absence of essential reliable medical including birthing services, locals journeyed a whole day to the district hospital. Not only did they lose their precious time, but it added an extra financial burden on the already poor locals. Not having a skilled attendant delivery service, families resorted to home delivery and traditional midwifery.

GNI Nepal supported Kharpunath Health Post with the needed medical equipment and tools. Along with the delivery bed, delivery set, ENT diagnosis set, autoclave machine, infant incubator, ECG machine, examination table, hospital bed, forty-two different items of medical equipment were provided. Staff members were trained on epidemic and hazards management.



Currently, all essential basic health services are offered by the health post. Critical cases only are referred to the district hospital, saving time and money for the locals. The availability of 24/7 delivery service has been a great boon for local women and their families.

Barma Devi Shahi who recently gave birth at the health post stated, “We had to face many difficulties at the time of delivery, having a well-equipped birthing center closeby, it is very convenient for us to get there, and mothers can have a safe delivery.”

As the service delivery has gotten better, patient flow has also increased. On average, 300 patients visit the OPD (out-patient department) and five deliveries are attended every month. Bishnu Shahi, ANM (auxiliary nurse midwife) at the health post stated, “As safe delivery service is available at the health post, expecting mothers can now give safe birth without risks to the newborn child and mother. And I encourage all women to give birth at the health post.”

Health post-in-charge Haribhakta Shahi promised to fully utilize available equipment to further improve the health services so that people don't have to go to faraway health facilities even for basic health services.

After the support, there has been a visible improvement in the quality and range of services offered by the health post and residents of the ward now have better and easier access to basic health care services.



Resilient Schools For Improved Learning Project

Among the many problems public schools in Nepal face, lack of WASH services is one of them. Under our Resilient Schools For Improved Learning Project, we supported eight schools in Kachankawal Rural Municipality, Jhapa to have safe drinking water, disaster-resilient infrastructure, and menstrual hygiene management for around 4,037 socioeconomically marginalized students.



1 school building constructed



2 handwashing facilities built and **7** water filter systems installed in local school quarantine centers



4 MHM-friendly toilets constructed and 5 toilets renovated



35 teachers trained and **401** students oriented on Covid-19, WASH and MHM



7 drinking water systems constructed



283 adolescent girls and female teachers trained on sanitary pad making

WASH Services For Marginalized Students

Sharmila Kumari Rajbanshi, 31, Ward No. 5, Kachankawal Rural Municipality, Jhapa District

Sharmila has been a teacher at Janaki Basic School for the past year. Students from several ethnic groups and socioeconomically marginalized communities attend this public school.

Sharmila teaches her students about menstrual issues, sanitary pad disposal, and menstrual hygiene management. As a woman, she is naturally concerned about women's health and well-being, particularly menstrual hygiene management.

"Stigma and taboos around menstruation are loosening at schools and in the community; however, it is not enough" she further adds, "there was a lack of healthy and open dialogue about menstrual health and sanitation. It made students uncomfortable to freely talk about and seek help regarding matters related to menstruation and potential health issues."

Janaki School provides one packet of sanitary pads to each female teacher/student every month. However, it is not enough for them to manage their menses. It saddened her to see that many poor students could not afford to buy the extra sanitary pads they needed direly.

School providing sanitary pads to students and teachers is a commendable initiation but without having a proper place to safely dispose of them, the waste management side was also not addressed.

GNI Nepal constructed an MHM-friendly toilet at the school and conducted menstrual hygiene management and sanitary pad-

making trainings for adolescent students. It has not only made the girl students more confident but helped them to gain more knowledge about menstrual hygiene management. No more do menstruating girls have to suffer for the want of sanitary pads or a proper place for their safe disposal.

Sharmila is committed to sharing knowledge and skills she learned in the training sessions among her students and local women. She noted, "Homemade pads that use local resources are more affordable, long-lasting, and effective for our health and are eco-friendly as well."



Health Rights Improvement Project

Menstrual taboos that are common in the far-western region hurt the overall health and wellbeing of girls and women. Absurd restrictions on diet, living space, hygiene, sanitation, etc., hinder girls and women from attaining their right to health, education, social participation, and growth. This year, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded-project facilitated the formation of adolescent clubs at 40 schools in five rural and urban municipalities of Bajura. Girls club members and students were educated on menstrual hygiene management through orientations, competitions, and grassroots campaigns. On the materials side, the schools were supported with MHM kits and for establishing MHM corners.



4 MHM-friendly toilets constructed and **25** toilets renovated



644 adolescent girls enrolled in adolescent girls' clubs



6,542 adolescent girls received MHM kits



40 teachers trained on MHM sustainability
214 ward members participated in ward-level planning on MHM issues



56 health care institutions received MHM materials



67,646 units of IEC/BCC materials distributed through health and educational institutions



83,000 community members reached with MHM-related radio program



15 oxygen cylinders and **3** concentrators supported to district hospital
5 municipalities received 5 concentrators



37 MHM corners established at schools



162 FCHVs, **4,110** adolescent girls and **3,230** adolescent boys sensitized on MHM



2,783 locals benefited from MHM campaigns



78 S-WASH-CC members oriented on sustainability of in-school MHM services
494 traditional healers oriented against menstrual discrimination, stigmas, and taboos

The Winds Of Change

Sangita Aidi, Grade 10, Shree Kailasheshwori Secondary School
Ward No. 7, Triveni Municipality, Bajura District

Sangita Aidi, 16, is a tenth-grader at Kailasheshwori Secondary School and a member of the adolescent club of her school. Sangita recalls having menarche at fourteen and she found the entire experience wholly unpleasant. As the custom required, she had to stay in the *chau goth* (menstrual hut) for five days.

She requested her family to let her sister stay with her for company. But her family denied this minor request. Nights were scary and cold. Sangita couldn't sleep well because of the fear, and constant pain that accompanied the menstrual cramps. Diet for five days she bled was wheat roti (unleavened bread) and pickle. Following ancient local customs, she was not given dairy products or other foods.

She was not to touch water sources or for that matter, the water tap. The entire time, Sangita relied on others when she had to quench her thirst or clean herself. Attending school was out of the question. Oddly but sadly, as per customs, she could work. And work she did—collecting firewood—instead of resting and celebrating her first period.

Both physically and mentally, this was a great deal for a fourteen-year-old to cope with. She fell sick but her family took her to a health facility only on the sixth day as she was considered ritually chaste.

Sangita shared, "After my first period, I was appalled to face so many restrictions. Though I had seen my mother and sister face menstrual taboos, I had never realized their intensity until I had to observe all of them."

Right from an early age, Sangita was vocal about what mattered to her. She joined the Kailasheshwori Adolescent Club as a member and got opportunities to participate in various trainings, orientations, and awareness-raising activities. With support from GNI Nepal's Health Rights Improvement Project, the club promotes safe menstrual hygiene management in their school and community. Later, Sangita was chosen as the 'focal student' for her school.

Thanks to her effort, Sangita's parents have had a change of heart. Now they let their menstruating daughters stay in their



rooms. No more do they have to suffer the privations of the menstrual hut. She discusses myths and useless taboos around menstruation, encourages her friends, adolescent girls, and elders to discard them for the sake of their daughters' health, hygiene, and safety.

Sangita and the members of the Kailasheshwori Adolescent Club are responsible for the general upkeep of the menstrual hygiene management-friendly toilet block and facilities built by the project. Victims of archaic menstrual regimens have now become menstrual hygiene management champions. Sangita, a focal menstrual hygiene management student for her school is one of them. Now, girl students in her school consult her whenever they face problems related to menstruation.

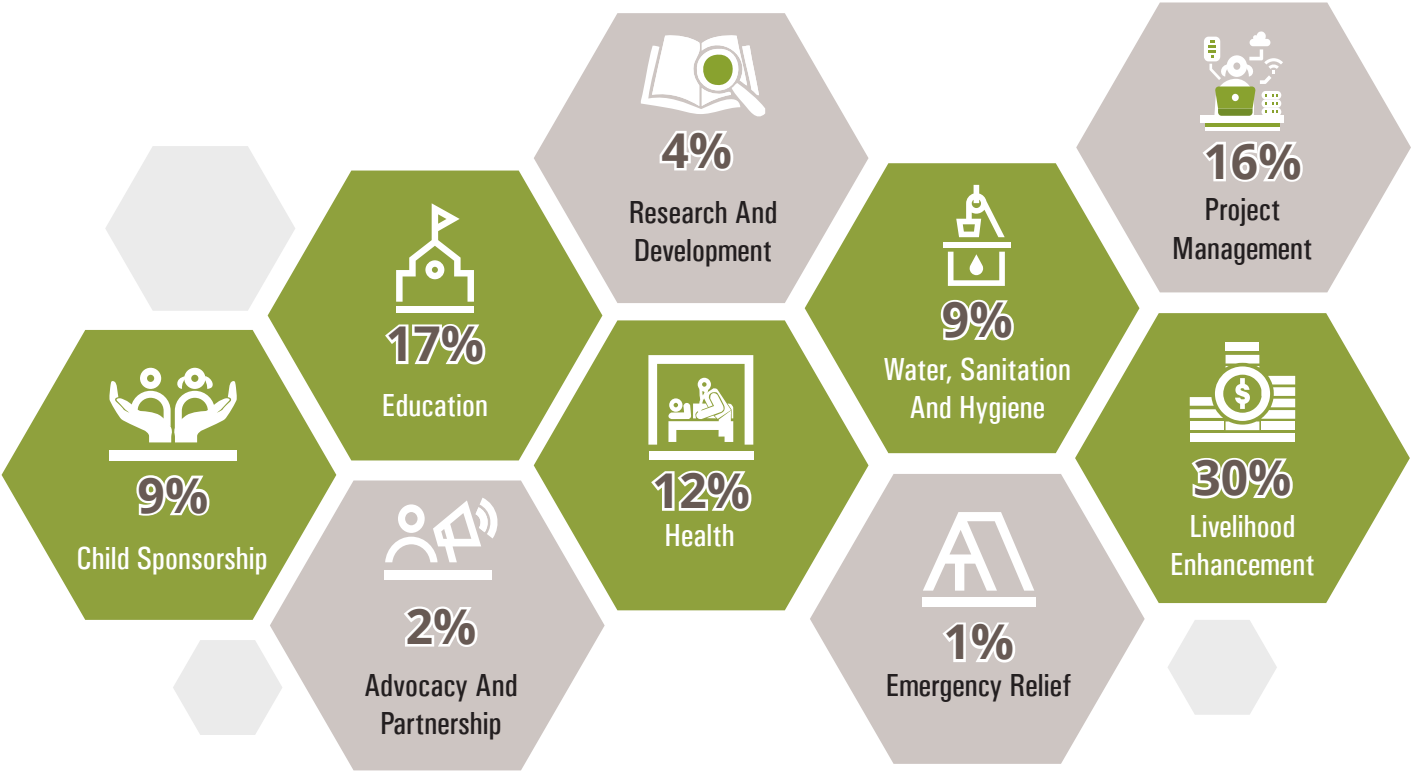
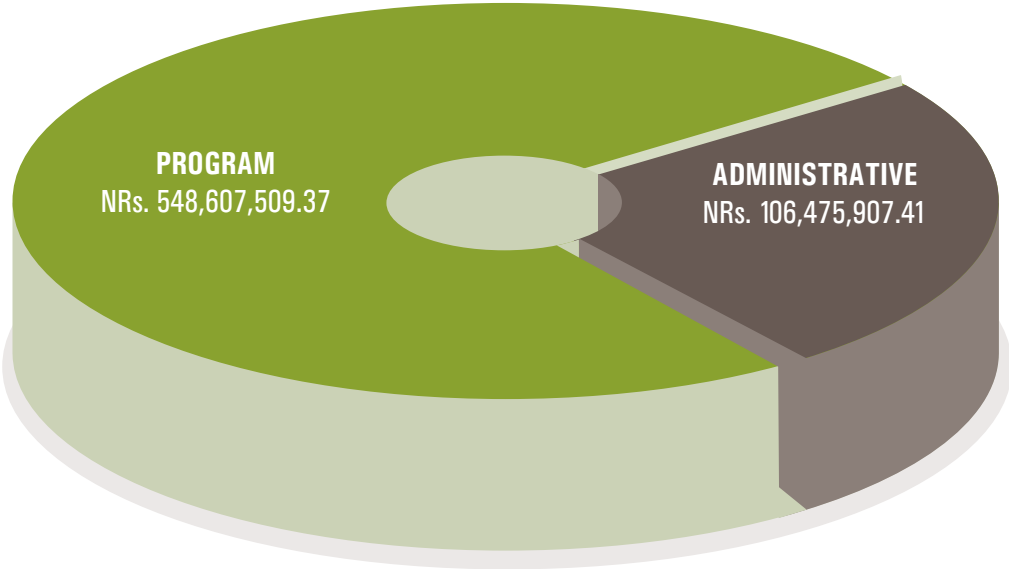
Sangita shared, "After getting involved in the adolescent girls club, I have come to know that safe menstruation is a right and a must for females. I don't want to stop spreading this knowledge among my friends, family, neighbors, community, and change their perceptions."



Financials



TOTAL EXPENDITURE
NRs. 655,083,416.78



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 to Transformation Nepal (GIFT Nepal) - 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

2021 In Photos





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