

This anthology unfolds the “good changes” that came about among children, individuals, families, groups, schools, and health-posts that we served from 2016-2018 across thirteen districts of Nepal.

Non-discrimination is GNI Nepal's cardinal guiding principle. Our beneficiaries come from different racial, linguistic, eco-geographical, economic, and religious backgrounds. As an organization that believes in social equity, we prioritize the hardest-to-reach, marginalized, and vulnerable. This is mirrored in the stories contained herein.

These stories are of people who are at the margins of society and mainstream development. They are the people who need external assistance most. And, we reached them with the support they needed. Some support was big. Some support was small. Some support continued for years. We consider our external help miniscule compared to the efforts and determination they put in. They are the true authors of these short-stories.

Every human story is unique. Every human experience is different. Every story that we are presenting here is distinct. Above all, these are stories of hope. Sharing these stories of success of the most deprived people of rural parts and peri-urban enclaves in Nepal gives us immense joy and strength to continue our work.



### Good Neighbors International Nepal

Ekantakuna-13, Lalitpur, GPO Box 8975, EPC 1605, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: 977-1- 5538758, 5520493, 5532046, 5532047, 5532050

Fax: 977-1-5524478, Email: ho.admin@gninepal.org

Toll Free Number: 16600-192021

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 Good Neighbors  
International

# Good Changes

Good Change for the World

2016 - 2018

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## Good Changes

2016-2018

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Ranjita Chaudhary lives with her elder brother, mother Sukrani Tharu, and grandfather. She lends a hand to her mother in cooking, washing, and other chores. She even looks after their grocery kiosk when an adult family member is not around.

She is an eighth grader at Rashtriya Ganesh Higher Secondary School in Manau, Bardiya. She was enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program in 2010 when she was in grade one.

Ranjita ranked second in grades one to four. As the number of students increased, her rank in class slipped. In grade seven, in a class of 100, she secured the seventh position. Her favorite subject is science but her school does not have a science lab. However, there are computers in her school but she has never "touched" one. Only grades six to eight students are required to do computer practicals. She is not much into sports or athletics. During recess, she goes to the library along with her friends.

## From bondage to hope

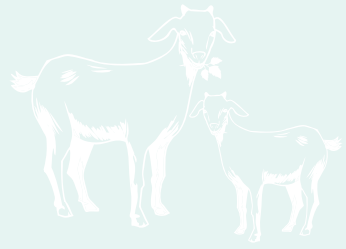
However, Ranjita's parents were not as fortunate as her. At her current age, they were bonded laborers at a relative of theirs where they were forced into slave labor for three years until the government liberated them. "It was a life of utter misery. Now we are free. Obviously, life is completely better now", Sukrani shared.

Seven years ago Sukrani became a member of Saino Cooperative and borrowed a loan of NRs. 20,000 rupees to start a small cosmetic shop which now earns her a profit of four thousand rupees per month. Her family also owns a broiler chicken farm. They are currently raising 300 chickens and earn good profit.

Ranjita wants to be a nurse. Her parents want her to study as much as she can. Their financial status is much better now. "We will support Ranjita's education. We will find a way, although we have not started saving for her education." shared Ranjita's mother.

**RANJITA CHAUDHARY**, Grade 8  
Rashtriya Ganesh Secondary School  
Ward No. 6, Geruwa Rural Municipality  
Bardiya District





## Sunmati's entrepreneurial journey

Sunmati lives with her husband, two daughters, and two sons. One of her children, Karishma, 15, is a GNI Nepal sponsored child, and she is doing well at school. Ms. Rokaya who used to be a traditional farmer is a goat farmer at the present.

In 2013, GNI Nepal started a livelihood program in her community and formed income generation groups to uplift the economic status of ultra-poor families. One of the groups was Janajyoti Agriculture Group which Sunmati joined as a member. Goat farming interested her so she attended an entrepreneurship development and other training programs related to goat-keeping.

As time went by, she continued goat-keeping and gained much knowledge and skills to start a bigger farm.

Currently, she has twenty-two goats. She sold four he-goats and earned NRs. 36,400. Sunmati also sells goats to members of neighboring communities during festivals and other occasions, and supplies goat meat to shops. In the upcoming festival season, she expects to sell four he-goats.

**SUNMATI ROKAYA, 45**  
Kanda, Ward No. 1  
Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality  
Bajura District



Neelpataleswor Secondary School is a learning space to 237 students. Out of the total, fifty-six are enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program. Since 2013, GNI Nepal has been supporting the school.

Library, computer, and science laboratories were missing at this school. The school management was looking for assistance to improve the quality of education and the state of its infrastructure as well. GNI Nepal provided the school with library books, furniture for Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) Center, and materials/equipment for computer and science labs.

Similarly, GNI Nepal supported renovation of a three-roomed school building, construction of a gender-friendly toilet and fencing of the school compound. A child club (CC) was formed to help children voice child rights and child protection

## Educational support rejuvenates school

concerns. Stationery and prizes were provided to the CC members and they were encouraged to organize extra co-curricular activities regularly. School administration and School Management Committee members participated in capacity building trainings and orientations on school management, child-friendly space, psychosocial support, and ECED materials making.

After GNI Nepal's intervention, things are not the same at the School. Students have additional facilities to enjoy. In science class, students study theories and in the lab, they run experiments to test them. Students' attendance rate has improved remarkably and they have plenty of books to choose from. Now, the child club is functioning actively and conducts extracurricular activities regularly.

**NEELPATALESHWOR SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Bhagawati, Ward No. 1  
Malikarjun Rural Municipality  
Darchula District





## Back to school

He would not be found at the school. Streams, forests, fields, became his favorite haunts. He would neither listen to the pleas of his poor uneducated parents nor his learned teachers. Although he liked it that way, it was not meant to be so for more than a month.

Tapta is one of GNI Nepal's sponsored children in the district. He lives with his sister and daily wage laborer parents. When our social mobilizer, Falmati Roka found out about him dropping out of the school, she immediately had a one-on-one with him and discussion with his family.

Falmati discovered that he felt 'belittled' by his teachers, and she requested them to treat him well. In November, he got his share of annual educational material support. After getting the books, pen, pencil, exercise books, he started going back to school.

Later, he got gift money from his sponsor, which has had a net positive effect on him. He took his annual exams as well.

Tapta is a regular student now.

**TAPTA GHARTI**, Grade 7  
Ward No. 4  
Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality  
Myagdi District



Harikala lives with her husband and their two children.

Her husband worked as a security guard in India. With a little income and a small parcel of arable land, sending her two precious little ones to school was obviously difficult. Finding a reliable source of income was even harder. What the family desperately needed was some external succor.

In 2013, one of her children started receiving GNI Nepal's sponsorship support. Educational expenses of the BK family halved. GNI Nepal staff

**HARIKALA BISHWOKARMA**, 32  
Ward No. 5  
Janaki Rural Municipality  
Kailali District

## Harikala finds an alternative livelihood

members also encouraged her to join an income generation group, which she did as a member, and applied for a loan to start commercial milk production. Harikala received loan in the form revolving fund which was supplemented by a small GNI Nepal grant. With the money in hand, she bought a buffalo. That's how it all started.

The buffalo gives three litres of milk every day, which she sells in the market. Not only milk, but this year she also sold a calf for a handsome price. To Harikala, buffaloes are a blessing. Selling milk earns her a stable income which she highly desired and rightfully deserves.





## Laboratory saves precious lives

Shankarpur Health Post (HP) established in 1976 caters to the health care needs of around 4,000 community members of Shankarpur, Hunainath, Maliakarjun, Thaktholi and Devthali Rural Municipalities. Hamstrung by an inadequacy of medical equipment, the eleven member health post staff was could not offer health care services needed by its clientele.

Community members often visited the HP seeking treatment of illnesses like fever, typhoid, common cold, tuberculosis, and jaundice. However, the HP had no equipment for conducting blood, urine, stool and other medical tests. Lacking equipment, the HP staff, guess-diagnosed illnesses and dispensed with medications without running any test whatsoever.

In case of a severe sickness and for simple tests, community members had to take a 3-4 hour

bumpy bus ride to visit the district hospital and part with 300 rupees per person in the form of two-way fare.

GNI Nepal has been supporting this Health Post since 2013 and to improve the quality of service delivered colorimeter, power backup, autoclave machine 12/12, hot-air oven 12/12, incubator 12/12, centrifuge (8 tubes), micropipette fix volume, micropipette variable volume, micropipette stand, test tube stands, ESR stand, counting chamber, ESR tube, ESR needle, reagent, glassware, HIV/pt and microscope at the health post.

Having the medical equipment installed, the HP can now run TC, DC, ESR, hemoglobin, widal, sugar, urea, uric acid, bilirubin, HIV, HB sag, PG, urine REME, stool REME, VDRL, malaria, sputum, RA Factor, ASO title, HCV, creatinine and monotox tests.

### SHANKARPUR HEALTH POST

Ward No. 8, Malikarjun Rural Municipality  
Darchula District



## Age is just a number

Rita is a grassroots community development activist. She serves on the local community development, school management, construction, and other committees. This requires her to travel to places, attend meetings and participate in training programs, and to her dismay, read and sign documents. At those times, how she wished she had learned to read and write.

Her wish came true in the form of GNI Nepal supported 'Adult Literacy Classes'. She did not think twice about it and got herself enrolled. For the six-month classes, she was provided with everything, from stationery to guidance. The classes ran in the morning at a public school near her house.

Rita reshuffled her daily routine, budgeted her time and juggled family, activist, and academic responsibilities. Six months of hard work culminated in her being literate: she could read and write in Nepali. Rita shares, "Travelling has become easier now, because, I can read names of places on the hoarding boards, use a mobile phone and send text messages also".

Education has empowered Rita; boosted her confidence at the face of adversities. She wants to give her two daughters a good education, and have them do well in life.

### RITA BISHWOKARMA, 32

Majhgau, Ward No. 7  
Annapurna Rural Municipality  
Kaski District





## Baking breads, making money!

Tam Bahadur Pun was born to poor farmer parents. He completed college but compelled by circumstances, quit his studies, left the country for employment abroad, where he worked for more than fifteen years.

He came back to Nepal for good and opened a restaurant which lagnished more with time.

In 2017, Tam attended a GNI Nepal supported one-month 'Bakery Training' at Darbang, Myagdi. He learned to make different kinds of pastries and opened his own bakery at Muna. In a short span

of time, his shop became a household name for delicious, cheap, and good quality pastries in the area.

With this business, Tam has managed to give his family a good life. Now, Pun is also a share member of Munal Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., an active community member, and a role model for aspiring entrepreneurs.

**TAM BAHADUR PUN, 39**  
Muna, Ward No. 3  
Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality  
Myagdi District



## Imagination turns into a reality

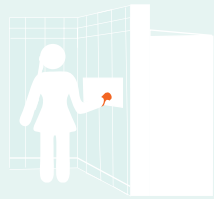
Limithana Secondary School (SS) is a community school. Majority of the students at this school come from Dalit and indigenous households. Among 234 students, 101 are GNI Nepal sponsored children. Although the School Management Committee and the head teacher had envisioned science lab, library, spacious office rooms and smart classroom, securing funds was almost an impossibility.

In 2016, GNI Nepal designed a pioneering information and communication technology (ICT) based teaching-learning tool for public schools. Limithana SS was also selected as one of the target schools and was provided with two laptops, a projector, a printer and a sound system for establishing the SMART CLASSROOM. E-paath (digitalized lessons) were installed on both laptops. The computer teacher was trained on 'Digital Library Use and Teaching-Learning'. All other teachers were trained on computer basics.

After its successful launch, NRs. 600,000 was contributed by the District Education Office for "Promoting ICT in Education". Later, more computers were added to the SMART CLASSROOM which has gone on to become a 'hit' among the students.

**LIMITHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Ward No. 7  
Phalewas Municipality  
Parbat District





## Sanitary pads' sanitary disposal

Often a neglected issue in WASH programming in Nepal is menstrual hygiene management. Absence of pits for sanitary waste disposal results in health and environmental hazards. If sanitary pads are not disposed of properly, they give off a foul smell.

Girl students at various schools we work with in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts shared that sometimes used pads piled up in the toilets and blocked drainage pipes.

To ensure a scientific solid waste management including used sanitary pads at the schools, incinerators were built at Shree Devi Lower

Secondary School, Shree Navajyoti Secondary School, Shree Baudeshwor Secondary School and Shree Phutung Secondary School of Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts by GNI Nepal.

637 girl students and female teachers are benefiting with the introduction of a new waste management system. As waste management has improved at the schools so has the attendance rate of girl students.

**SHREE DEVI BASIC SCHOOL,  
SHREE NAVAJYOTI SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Lalitpur District  
**SHREE BAUDESHWOR,  
SHREE PHUTUNG SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Kathmandu District



## Bye - bye traditional learning

Imagine you are a computer teacher at a school but there is not even a single computer. How would you go about teaching the kids? At Shree Barahi Basic School, Sarika, who had been teaching computer science since 2012 was going through a similar situation. All she could offer to the students was 100 percent pure theoretical knowledge.

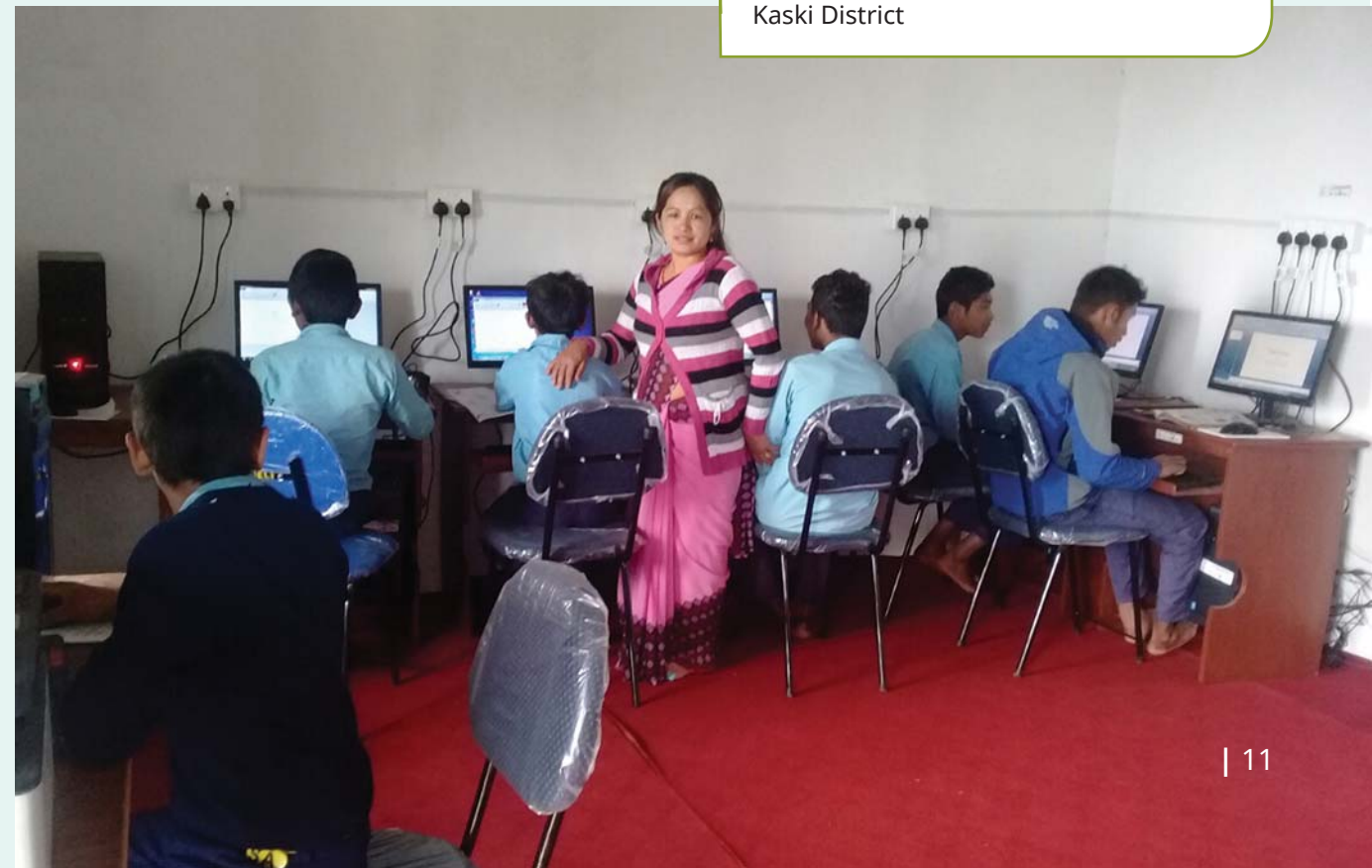
Children obviously did not enjoy her class. Because they could not get their hands on computers, it turned into a boring class for the students and a struggle for Sarika.

But in May 2017, GNI Nepal helped the school to establish a 'SMART CLASSROOM [two laptops installed with e-paath (e-lessons software) , one projector, one three-in-one printer, and a speaker] and a computer lab (eight desktop computers).

Sarika received a training on 'Digital Library and Smart Classroom Teaching Process'. She learned modern teaching skills and how to integrate e-paath software and became quite skilled at it in a few months.

Gone are the days of traditional teaching-learning as the students' wish of studying with real computers turned into a reality. The new laboratory has made it easier for SariKa to teach. She has become more of a facilitator rather than a teacher since the students have started to explore the use of computers on their own. Students also pay unwavering attention in the classroom now.

**SARIKA GURUNG, 28**  
Ward No. 8  
Machhapurchhre Rural Municipality  
Kaski District





## Managing periods with homemade sanitary pads



**MAHAKALI MUNICIPALITY,  
MALIKARJUN RURAL MUNICIPALITY**  
Darchula District

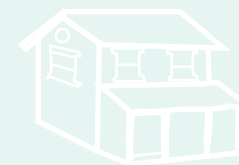
Menstruation is a natural biological process but in Nepal it is still a 'cultural taboo' in many ways. Very often, lack of proper sanitation facilities at schools compels girl students to skip classes. At public spaces, an invisible barrier limits their mobility.

No wonder for many adolescent girl students in Darchula, periods meant more pain and more problems. Sanitary pads might come off as a luxury but they are an absolute necessity. However, girls in Darchula did not have enough of them. Readymade pads were not available and the girls did not know how to make them themselves. Without pads, it was difficult to maintain hygiene and dignity so girls preferred to stay at home rather than attend classes as usual.

GNI Nepal hired a trainer to conduct a one-day 'Training on Sanitary Pad-making and Sanitation' for girl students. The girls were taught how to make sanitary pads using old clothes available at home.

Home-made pads save money for the girls, help raise their confidence to a whole new level and regularly attend school, and engage in day-to-day activities with ease. These girls also passing on the skill to anybody who needs it.

The training has made them conscious of personal health and hygiene during menstruation and helped them to understand the menstruation process and debunk myths. The girls are now capable of raising voice against menstrual taboos in their community.



## Homestay, a new source of income

Ganga Pun dropped out of school due to poverty. When she was sixteen, her father passed away leaving the entire family to her care. A small plot of farm land and no other income source pushed the Pun family of six into financial dire straits. Miraculously there was food on the plates every day but not enough for all.

Ganga was always in search of alternative income sources. But for that she needed to learn some skills so she began looking for organizations offering skills training courses. Around the same time, she came across a 'Vegetable Cultivation Training Program' planned to be organized by GNI Nepal which she fortunately participated in. She started growing vegetables on the land soon after the completion of the training.

Later on, she also participated in a 'Homestay Operation Training' and imbibed all the skills and knowledge. More importantly, on an exposure visit, she got an opportunity to visit one of Nanghi's homestays. The visit helped her to learn new ideas

and gain new insights into proper management and sanitation needed for successfully running a homestay. She also received revolving fund from a GNI Nepal supported cooperative and without much delay started her own homestay.

With hard work came success. Every month, Ms. Pun hosts, at least, ten guests. During peak season, she serves up to eighteen guests, most of whom are Nepali while the rest are foreigners. Ganga makes sure she serves fresh food and the rooms are neat and clean--which is also her secret mantra for running a successful homestay.

Ganga says, "Earnings cover tuition fees of my siblings, household expenses and I save a little". She does not want to stop here, so she is planning to expand the business, add more facilities and services. Moreover, Ganga feels independent, confident and empowered as she plays a decisive role in her family and business. Outside of the home, she gets respect from her relatives, friends, and neighbors.



**GANGA PUN, 30**  
Muna, Ward No. 3  
Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality  
Myagdi District



## Unity restores livelihoods

Posi is a small village endowed with a humid and temperate climate, favorable for cultivation of black cardamom, a high-value cash crop. Over the years, farmers of Posi have received a lot of support from both government and non-governmental agencies for cardamom farming in the form of capital, technology and skills transfer.

With profits earned from selling cardamom, the locals lived a modest but comfortable life, until the earthquake struck the country in 2015. The main cardamom roasting machine was completely destroyed and it affected the livelihood of the farmers.

Posi farmers were forced to carry sacks of cardamom to a neighboring village on a precarious foot-trail through a forest for an hour and wait for hours, even days to get their cardamom roasted. GNI Nepal supported NRs. 115,000 and the rest of the amount were raised by the farmers themselves towards purchasing a new roaster.

In a truly collaborative fashion, while GNI Nepal contributed for required skilled manpower, the community bore expenses for roofing sheets and transportation, and construction materials and unskilled manpower were sourced locally and free-of-cost.

Cardamom farming is labor-intensive and also requires a lot of experience for getting the roasting right. Although it was difficult to maintain the right temperature in the roaster, through much perseverance and a few tweaks, the finished product is coming out as good as before.

Chairperson of Siddha Cardamom Group, Mr. Tej Bahadur Gurung shared, "We are happy to have the roaster restored and will continue with our cardamom farming. We are grateful and hope to receive similar support from our well-wishers in the future."

### POSI VILLAGE

Ward No. 8, Madi Rural Municipality  
Kaski District



## Helped himself, helping others

Leaving his family behind in Nepal, Hemanta worked in India for eight years. Although he was able to send some money to his wife, three daughters and one son, they all lived difficult lives. The Buda family neither owned much land nor had any savings. The children were growing up fast, Hemanta could not do without a better income. When his situation came to light, one of his children was enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program.

Budha participated in GNI Nepal supported activities and found out about income generation (IG) groups. He had good ideas about farming and often shared them with other members. All he needed was a little financial help.

Later, he became an active member of Girikhelne Krishak Samuha supported by GNI Nepal. He participated in vegetable production, pest and

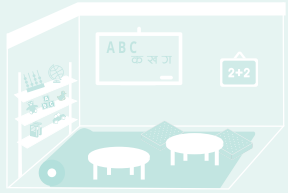
disease management, and marketing training programs. He made excellent use of the skills he had learned and was able to grow various seasonal and off-season vegetables on his land. Next, he started goat farming that helped him double his earning.

Budha is an exemplar for hardworking farmers. He helps anybody who approaches him for ideas and support. These days, Hemant has teamed up with his wife and is working harder to expand the farm. When asked about his plans he shared, "I'm very busy from morning to evening. I recently built a house and am saving some money at different groups and cooperatives for my children's education."

### HEMANTA BUDHA, 41

Barhabis, Ward No. 8  
Budhiganga Municipality  
Bajura District





## New classroom restores smiles and attendance

Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) classes are foundational for all children.

The ECED Center at Bhandaya Basic School is a playing-learning space for nineteen beautiful children. Bhandaya has two spacious rooms for conducting ECED classes.

Over time, for the want of regular maintenance, these classrooms got dusty and dirty. Children sat on the dusty floor and most of the learning materials were either broken or missing some parts. The classrooms no longer had a child-friendly environment.

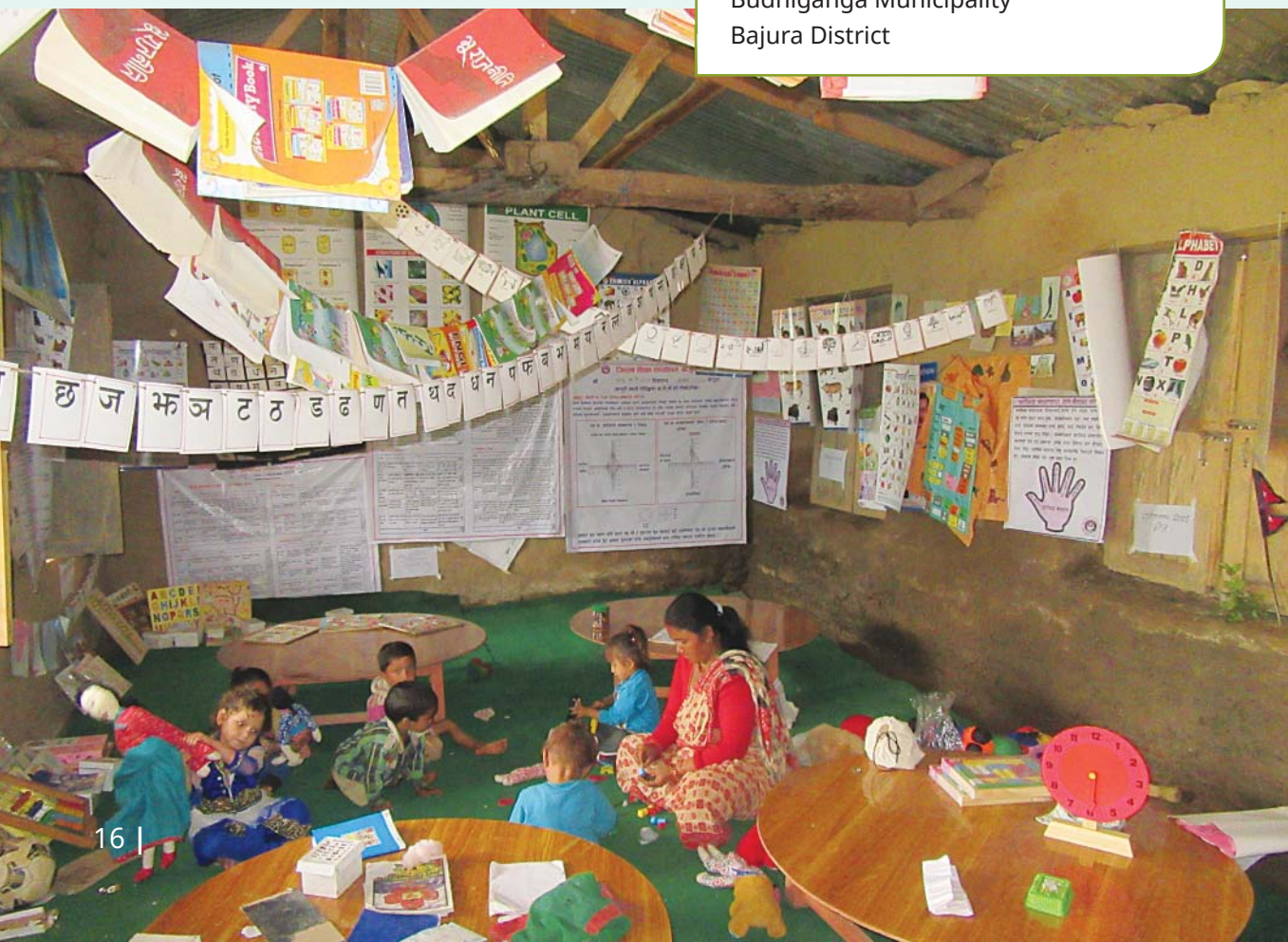
GNI Nepal's restored and restocked learning materials and refurbished the classrooms. Now,

parents face less resistance in bringing their wards to the ECD because they have comfy classrooms, many exciting toys and more friends to play with.

On the day of the ECD handover, the SMC Chairperson of Bhanudaya Basic School remarked, "GNI Nepal has done its best to restore this school's ECD classroom and now it is our turn to look after its proper management, which we are determined to do."

GNI Nepal's timely intervention has breathed a new life into the ECD and restored the smiles of the children.

**SHREE BHANUDAYA BASIC SCHOOL**  
Kuldebmandu, Ward No. 5  
Budhiganga Municipality  
Bajura District



Babita grew up in a remote village in Mugu District. Her parents expected her to help them on the field and with household chores. On the contrary, she wanted to go to school and get an education. Her poor parents neither supported her in getting education nor wanted her to quit school. Babita's parents' daily income was only enough to feed the family for that very day only. Every day, it was the same hard work and the same meager wages.

Babita was the eldest child among four. Being a Dalit ("low-caste") family, they were often looked down upon by other members of the community. "Isn't it a twofold misfortune; to be born a Dalit and poor", Babita often questioned herself.

She was in a dilemma whether to help her parents or to continue school until she was chosen for GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program in 2014. The program has been helping her to continue school. This support has given some relief to her parents. Being a parent of a sponsored child, Babita's father also received livelihood enhancement support. He bought two mules and now makes a living by transporting goods.

Babita emotionally shares, "GNI Nepal is my guardian who guided me to light when I was at the very end of my rope in life." Her dream is to become a health worker. Now her parents want her to continue school and get a good job in the future.

**BABITA SARKI**, Grade 7  
Nakharji, Ward No. 8  
Khatyad Rural Municipality  
Mugu District

## Determination leads to excellence





## Unstoppable little Girl

Swostika lives with her family of six. Her father works in India as a daily wage earner. The Gurungs do not own much land and they depend on whatever the land produces for survival.

Swostika is very active at her school. She is both creative and intelligent and likes to help her friends. Although Gurung excels at studies, unfortunately, she could not go to school regularly. Some times she would run out of stationery and have no money to buy them, and some times she would stay at home to help her mother on their farm and to do chores. Her grades went down fast. The final exam result was no different and she found herself in a hopeless place.

In 2016, Swostika enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program and began receiving necessary supplies for school which resulted in drastic improvement in her grades. That same year, she achieved first position in her class and surprised all her friends and teachers. But for Gurung, it was no surprise because she was determined to be number one.

These days Swostika's teachers present her as an example to her class. They believe she will continue maintaining her grades and reach greater heights of success.

**SWOSTIKA GURUNG**, Grade 5  
Shree Gandaki Higher Secondary School  
Ward No. 4, Aarughat Rural Municipality  
Gorkha District



## Curious Manoj

Manoj Lohar is a seventh grader at Shree Trishakti Secondary School. He lives in Budhiganga Municipality, Ward No. 8. Teachers say that he is a curious student but he often missed his classes to help his parents with domestic chores. Every member of the Lohar family work hard all year around to eke out a living. Most months of the year, his father lived and worked in India to earn for the family.

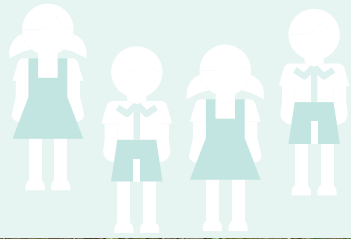
In 2013, Manoj got enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program. After he started to receive support, he re-joined the school. But for a few years, he struggled to catch up with his counterparts and score good grades.

Things changed for the better. He did not have to worry about not having stationery and a school uniform. Staff members of GNI Nepal and its implementing partner organization paid regular visits to his family, counseled him about the importance of education and encouraged him to go to school regularly. They also met with his teachers at school and kept a close tab on his progress.

Dressed up in a new uniform, Manoj goes to school regularly. He asks a lot of questions in the class, helps his classmates and is doing well academically. Little Manoj likes to showcase his talents by participating in different extra-curricular activities. In the future, he wants to become a teacher and educate kids of his community.

**MANOJ LOHAR**, Grade 7  
Shree Trishakti Secondary School  
Ward No. 5, Budhiganga Municipality  
Bajura District





# Child club curbs child marriage



**MAHAKALI MUNICIPALITY  
MALIKARJUNA RURAL MUNICIPALITY**  
Darchula District

Child marriage is one of the major child protection concerns in Nepal. It is more severe in many districts of Far Western Region including Darchula where this inhumane practice is culturally sanctioned and socially accepted among the communities inhabiting the district.

Child marriage adversely affects overall growth and development of children. It deprives them, mostly girls, of their fundamental rights to education, health and social participation, and their vulnerability to life-threatening risks is also amplified. Girls are also more susceptible to child

labor and domestic violence. Despite multiple actors including the Government's efforts to eliminate child marriage, it still exists because of inadequate awareness, poverty, age-old cultural practices, and weak child protection mechanisms.

In coordination and collaboration with Local Government Units and other stakeholders, GNI Nepal conducts different activities to sensitize communities on child rights, child protection and to strengthen child protection mechanisms. To

support child club-led child protection activities, GNI Nepal facilitated the formation, reformation, and strengthening of thirteen child clubs based at different schools of Malikarjuna Rural Municipality and Mahakali Municipality of Darchula District. Sudur Paschim, the child club based at Rastriya Secondary School, is one of the thirteen child clubs supported by GNI Nepal.

To capacitate child club members, trainings on child rights, child protection, and leadership development were organized. Members of child clubs were oriented on child-friendly local governance; local child protection mechanism and legal aspects related to child marriage—provided logistic support to the child club for conducting regular activities and made them functional.

GNI Nepal in collaboration with its partner organization supported to organize community

level workshops on child rights, children's day program, street drama and media campaign against child marriage. This augmented the capacity of child club members and encouraged them to engage in child rights promotion activities at their school and in their community. Sudur Paschim Child Club engages in raising awareness of child rights and child protection.

Now their activism is not limited to campaigning and awareness-raising. They took a step further to combat child marriage in their community. Club members reported a child marriage about to take place to the local police, and in coordination with local authorities and community members, they were able to disrupt it. This discouraged child marriage in the community and at the same time, established the child club as a formidable force in fight against child marriage.





## ECED center kindles learning among kiddos

Hanuman Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) Center was established in 2016. Currently, it caters to thirty children including from neighboring communities of Achham District. The room did not look like an ECED Center since there was almost nothing inside. The room neither looked safe nor the children had toys or any learning materials to play with. No one was regular – children were decreasing every day.

During a monitoring visit, staff members of GNI Nepal did a situation analysis of the school. When the report was presented at a Project

Management Committee meeting, it was decided to renovate the center.

After the renovation, the center has rebounded: attendance has returned to normal. The School plans to collect local learning materials and organize a campaign to enroll more children at the ECED center. The school also plans to construct a new building for ECED classrooms. ECED facilitator, Mr. Devi Dhat is helping children to use new materials and learn.

### HANUMAN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Pokhari, Ward No. 7  
Purbichauki Rural Municipality  
Doti District



## Safe delivery service resumes

Sabiya has a big family, sixteen members in total. She comes from a Muslim community of Gorkha – the epicenter of the Nepal Earthquake 2015. When the earthquake hit, Sabiya was pregnant. Health posts, schools, and other physical infrastructures were razed to the ground throwing the entire community into chaos. Overnight, the residents of Finam turned into homeless survivors without basic health services, schools, drinking water supply, etc.

As their health post was destroyed, Sabiya and her fellow community members were forced to walk two hours to get to Gorkha District Hospital. This was taxing for pregnant women. Delivery service stopped at the health post owing to lack of equipment and personnel.

GNI Nepal has been working in Gorkha since 2014. In coordination with District Public Health Office and the Health Post, GNI Nepal reconstructed

a brand new earthquake-resistant health post building with a separate Out Patient Department (OPD) room and a delivery room. Now, Finam HP has resumed its regular and delivery services.

On 30 July 2017, Sabiya gave birth to her first child at Finam HP. Coincidentally, it was also the first delivery at the HP and the inauguration program had taken place on the same day. Sabiya shares, “I feel bad, for in the past women did not get delivery service. Now I’m happy that we do not have to suffer anymore.”

OPD record shows that more women are visiting the HP for pregnancy-related regular health checkups. Sabiya and other members of her mothers’ group have also started to discuss safe delivery, family planning, and safe motherhood during monthly meetings.

### SABIYA MIYA, 21

Finam, Ward No. 4, Gorkha Municipality  
Gorkha District





## All is well

When Santoshi turned five, she was admitted to Shree Basuki Lower Secondary School. She was a cheerful and gregarious student. Her performance in the classroom was commendable. She also enjoyed writing, sketching, and playing sports. All in all, she was a disciplined student aspiring to do great things in life.

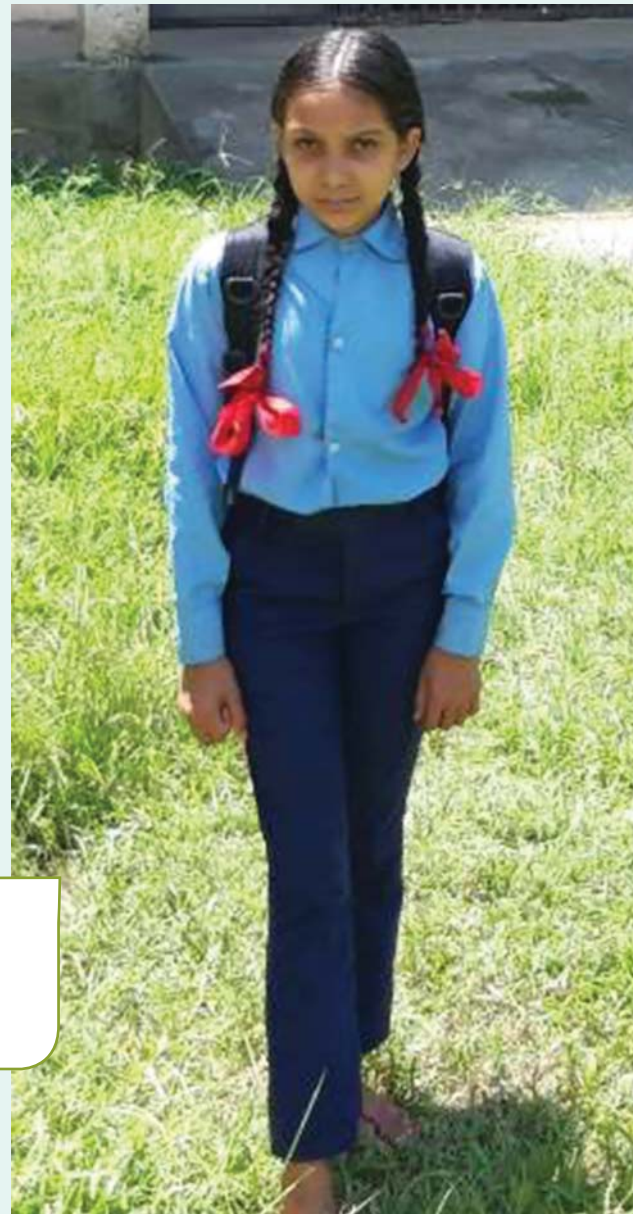
Santoshi's parents did not earn much to give her everything she wished for. With a little income, her parents also had to look after her grandparents. Moreover, she was verbally disadvantaged-- she could not pronounce words clearly and fluently. She would also fall ill frequently. Around the same time, her father also left for foreign employment. But to the Lamichhane family's dismay, her father could not earn well. This led to a point where she was not able to go to school and continue her education. Her family was not able to get stationery for Santoshi, and she also needed frequent medical attention. Her family had to choose between her health and education.

In 2014, GNI Nepal started its community development project in Gorkha which primarily focused on sponsoring ultra-poor children to continue education. Santoshi got selected for the support and started to receive educational materials, school uniform, books, and personal hygiene products.

With support from GNI Nepal, Santoshi is on a treatment regimen. She is recovering well and

now can concentrate normally on her studies. She is also working hard to improve her pronunciation. When her father calls home, she often talks about her school.

When she was sick and bedridden in the hospital, she realized how important it is being cared for by good health workers. Nurses have become a source of inspiration for her, thus, hopes to become one, when she grows up and help sick children.



**SANTOSHI LAMICHHANE**, Grade 6  
Aaruabang, Ward No. 5  
Aarughat Rural Municipality  
Gorkha District



## Where there is a will, there is a way

Humla, one of the least developed districts of Nepal is still not connected to the national road network. Flights are infrequent due to harsh and unpredictable weather conditions, which makes life very difficult for the people in the district.

Schools in Humla are struggling to run and improve the quality of education. Laliguransh Secondary School, established in 1975 was an initiation of a local elite person. The School derives its name *Laliguransh* from the rhododendron trees dotting the school compound.

Since the School Management Committee (SMC) along with Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) and school administration managed to build separate rooms for a library and a computer laboratory. However, due to budget constraint, the rooms were left empty. Students didn't have books to read except textbooks and computers were still

alien to them.

Several meetings were held by SMC with different organizations to get needed support. Finally, GNI Nepal pledged to support the School with books and computers. The school also requested community members to donate racks and tables.

During extreme weather conditions, power-cuts in Humla are frequent. To remedy this situation, the head teacher, SMC and community members requested the local hydropower plant in-charge to supply power during the day so that the computers can run uninterrupted during school hours.

It is indeed a great opportunity for students to be IT literate and compete in a technologically advanced world. The head teacher, Mr. Kali Bahadur Mahatara says that he is determined to look after the new assets and carryout timely

**LALIGURANSH SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Lipne, Ward No 2  
Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla District





## Beating poverty with chicken farming

Belmoti, a mother of three, lives in a joint family of seven. She takes care of her children, husband, in-laws and also looks after her poultry farm. But a few years ago, her life was not as exciting as it is now. She used to be a housewife-cum-traditional farmer. Her husband used to be a tractor driver. They were barely making ends meet.

Belmoti and her husband knew they had to find a way out. When Belmoti heard of an income generation group supported by GNI Nepal, she asked her husband to join. Later, GNI Nepal personnel advised him to become a member of Chhimeki Saving and Credit Cooperative.

In the first week of becoming a member, he participated in an entrepreneurship training and came up with a business plan for poultry farming.

The cooperative was convinced and lent him NRs. 42,000 as loan (revolving fund) and NRs. 18,000 as grant.

At home, he discussed what materials to buy with Belmoti. Next day, they bought feeders, drinkers, net, and other construction materials. The couple started with 400 chickens, out of which, 340 grew up and weighed up to 2.1 kg on average. About 6.59 quintals of chicken meat at NRs. 210 per kg was sold and they earned NRs. 138,390. The couple's poultry farm set an example in their community.

Also, in 2011, GNI Nepal enrolled two of their children (daughter and son) in sponsorship service program relieving them off a major financial responsibility. These days, Belmoti engages full-time in the poultry farm. Her time management and multi-tasking ability helped her to grow as an entrepreneur.

**BELMOTI CHAUDHARY, 38**  
Jagatpur, Ward No. 9  
Janaki Rural Municipality  
Kailali District



## Apples keep poverty away

Being a resident of one of the most remote districts of Nepal, life was hard for Banch. His village lies at a distance of four to six hours walk on foot from the district headquarters and no road link exists till date. Community members mainly rely on mules for hauling their basic necessities from Gamgadi, the district headquarters and also for selling local produce like apple, peaches, milk, curd, ghee, handicrafts, etc.

The produce from traditional farming fed the family not more than six months. Educating his children was another big concern. In search of greener pastures, Budha left his family and went to India in the hope of finding better paying work but he couldn't earn as expected. He was rather abused by his employer and did not get paid for many months.

When Banch returned home, he heard of a cooperative operating in his village. He went to see what the cooperative was there for with his

friends. On the same day, both of them joined as members, and later, were invited to participate in a three-day apple nursery management training. He was completely unaware of commercial apple farming and how it would earn him profit.

As a traditional farmer, he thought it would teach him more about crops and farming. But soon after the training, he decided to start his nursery farm with all the savings made in India. He initially started off with 200 apple seedlings and within a year, he added another 800. Now, Banch has about 7000 seedlings.

Banch is a successful apple nursery farmer in the district. But it did not happen overnight. Coming from a poor family, he struggled a lot to get to where he is now. His monthly income now sums up to NRs. 10,000. With his earning, he is able to provide quality education to his children and look after his family. His wife also helps him on the farm. His family is food secure and lives a comfortable life. In the future, he plans to add more seedlings and rootstocks.

**BANCH BAHADUR BUDHA, 37**  
Ward No. 12  
Chhayanathrara Municipality  
Mugu District





## Life after poverty

Before Phulram left for India in search of a better job, he was living with his family of seven. Although the family was happy, Phulram could not earn enough. Sending his two sons and three daughters to school required more than half of his monthly income. The remainder was too little to buy food for all family members and cover all household expenses.

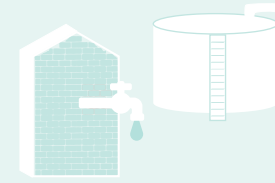
Phulram's wife was quite active in their community. In 2012, she became a member of an income generation group supported by GNI Nepal. She attended monthly meetings regularly and started to save a little money every month. She also engaged in social service whenever she got time.

When GNI Nepal started its sponsorship service program, two of their children were enrolled in the program. From that day on, Phulram and his wife did not have to worry about their education. All the educational materials required for schooling was provided by GNI Nepal.

Chaudhary was much inspired by his wife's active social life back home. He quit his job in India, came back home and became a share member of Sunaulo Bhabishya Agriculture Cooperative supported by GNI Nepal in 2015. He also wanted to start a business so he consulted with the staff members of GNI Nepal, cooperative members, and his entrepreneur friends and prepared a business plan for a grocery store. He put forward the plan and applied for a loan. Within weeks his application was approved and he received loan and grant.

Phulram lives a comfortable life with his family now. He is lucky to have a supportive wife. The children are doing well in studies. The support from GNI Nepal and the cooperative helped him come out of extreme poverty. Now he earns about NRs. 20,000 per month. He often discusses his business expansion plans with his friends.

**PHULRAM CHAUDHARY, 43**  
Premnagar, Ward No. 8  
Tikapur Municipality  
Kailali District



## Keeping water shortage at bay

After the 2015 Earthquake destroyed the village drinking water system, people of Simalswara, Finam in Gorkha Municipality, were forced to walk for about an hour every day to fetch water. Water collected facing such hardship was also of poor quality and it made them sick. Determined to solve all their water woes, people of Simalswara formed a drinking-water user committee and sought support from GNI Nepal.

GNI Nepal provided financial and technical support whereas community members contributed manual labor, the culmination of which is the Simalswara Drinking Water System. There are six child-friendly tap stands which are supplying potable water to 175 individuals of thirty-five households, and students and teachers of Bajrabhairab Basic School.

Sangita Khadka, a local resident shared, "After the

construction of the water supply system, we can conveniently get any amount of water we need, and we save a lot of time as well. And, these days I can give more time to growing vegetables, which has increased my income and more importantly my family has fresh seasonal vegetables. We have clean water now, and we do not suffer from water-related diseases. This water supply system has made our lives really easy."

The Simalswara Water Users Committee is very active and it regularly collects a small maintenance fee from the users. Funds collected are used for regular repair and maintenance of the system and they regularly clean the water source. This has made the water supply system functional, and more sustainable.

**SIMALSWARA, Finam**  
Ward No. 4, Gorkha Municipality  
Gorkha District





## From a laborer to a commercial farmer



**RAGHUBIR BHATTA, 28**  
Bet, Ward No. 9  
Mahakali Municipality  
Darchula District

Raghbir Bhatta is a 28-year-old vegetable farmer from Bet. His family consists of his wife, a son and a daughter, and lives together with his brother's family. Both his son and daughter are sponsored children of GNI Nepal. Though GNI Nepal supported his children's education, he could not meet the basic needs of his family as he was a daily wage laborer bringing in a small and irregular income.

Raghbir participated in a GNI Nepal supported two-day vegetable production training program and received a grant to start a vegetable farm. To help him augment his skills and knowledge, he was provided with an opportunity to attend financial literacy and other related training programs.

Equipped with the knowledge, skills and regular backstopping from GNI Nepal, he is now successfully running a vegetable farm and making decent earning selling vegetables at local markets and in neighboring India. Setting aside his monthly household expenses, the Bhatta family saves around NRs. 70,000 annually.

Raghbir turned himself from a poor wage laborer into a successful farmer. Vegetable production has become a means of sustainable livelihood for Raghbir and it is gradually improving his socio-economic status as well. He has become an inspiration for those who want to improve their livelihood through vegetable farming.



## Library improves access to reading and learning

A library helps children to discover the world for themselves. Books help them to learn how to ask the right questions. Library books complement textbooks. To enhance the access to improved teaching-learning facilities at schools, GNI Nepal supports schools to establish or upgrade their existing libraries.

Library of Khapardebasthali Secondary School in Bajura catered to more than 600 students and fourteen teachers. Books, reference materials, tables, chairs, and bookshelves were lacking. The library doubled up as the school store. Reading space was not enough. It was difficult to find the right book because they were not arranged systematically. The library did not attract students and naturally, library visits were also very low.

GNI Nepal provided 2,635 books and furniture to Khapardebasthali Secondary School whereas the

School arranged for a separate room to house the library. At present, there are more than 3,000 books of different categories for different age groups in the library including reference materials. There is ample reading space. With this many books, all the students can borrow any number of books at the same time.

The newly-furnished library is user-friendly and has extensive resources for students. This has encouraged students to frequent the library daily.

Provision of a well-stocked library at Khapardebasthali Secondary School has ensured students' access to more and better reading and learning materials and is helping students to achieve better learning outcomes.

### **KHAPARDEBASTHALI SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Gudukhati, Ward No. 4  
Khatpad Chhededaha Rural Municipality  
Bajura District





## Grant empowers an ultra-poor woman

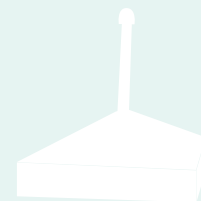
Butta Devi Shahi lives in Chhededaha Rural Municipality with her son and daughter. She owns a small piece of land and was engaged in agriculture as the only source of livelihood, but it was not sufficient to meet her family needs. To ease up their economic hardship, her husband went to India in search of work but unfortunately he did not return. She had to take care of her family on her own. In such circumstances, educating her children was next to impossible for Butta Devi and she was in need of external support. Acknowledging her situation, her son was enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program.

### **BUTTA DEVI SHAHI, 30**

Ward No. 2  
Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality  
Bajura District

Later, Butta Devi became a member of Birjaya Agricultural Group supported by GNI Nepal and she got to attend an entrepreneurship development training program. GNI Nepal further provided her NRs. 10,000 grant to start a small retail shop. It has expanded over time which is not surprising as she put in efforts constantly.

These days Butta Devi makes around NRs. 4,000 a month. Including the income from agriculture, she earns more than NRs. 48,000 annually in cash. She has been able to meet her basic family needs including health care and her children's education. This has not only improved the economic status of Butta Devi but she is also happy that her children have better access to education and health care.



## Support improves delivery service

Mijure Danda Health Post is located at Mijure Danda, remote village. This outpost offers health services to around 600 people predominantly from the Dalit ("low-caste") community. Infrastructure at the health post was poor and equipment was inadequate which resulted in poor quality service. Lack of equipment was a great challenge for conducting safe deliveries, risking the lives of would-be mothers.

The Health Post also lacked placenta pit and posed a health hazard to the community. Unsafely disposed placentas can spread infectious diseases. Despite free-of-cost delivery service available at the health post, the poor quality of service and

associated risks made people reluctant to avail of it. Rather they would travel for more than three hours to Pokhara City. Long travel put the would-be mothers at more risk, made the treatment process more time consuming, and expensive.

In an effort to enhance the service delivery capacity of health facilities, GNI Nepal supported Mijure Danda Health Post with medical equipment and construction of placenta pit. To ensure community ownership and sustainability, construction work was carried out on a cost-sharing model where the community willingly contributed 25 percent of the cost.

Now, Mijure Danda Health Post has a placenta pit and is well-equipped for offering accessible birthing and delivery services.

### **MIJURE DANDA HEALTH POST**

Mijure Danda, Ward No. 8  
Madi Rural Municipality  
Kaski District





## Revolving fund makes a micro-entrepreneur

GNI Nepal provides revolving fund and offers training programs to potential micro-entrepreneurs. This helps them to access much-needed capital and acquire basic know-how and skills to start businesses.

Hima Saud, a resident of Ladagada, is one of the many local women who got involved in income generating activity after receiving revolving fund from GNI Nepal. GNI Nepal supported cooperative provided Hima with NRs. 41,086 revolving fund and NRs. 17,600 grant for buffalo farming. Even before receiving the support, she had a buffalo but she had never realized it could be a steady income source. Whatever milk the buffalo gave was barely enough for the family.

Moreover, it was not a practice to sell milk or yogurt in her community. According to a strongly held superstition, doing so would harm the cattle. Hima sold her buffalo and with this money and the funds combined, she bought a hybrid buffalo.

For the past one year, Hima is producing yogurt

and selling it in the local market despite the traditional ban. Hima sells around five liters of yogurt daily and earns around NRs. 500. With a little extra effort, she is making over NRs. 15,000 every month.

Hima said, "Now ,I no more have to rely on others for general household and personal expenses." This has afforded her a sense of financial independence. With her earnings, she repays installments of the revolving fund, covers educational expenses of her two children and has managed to save a little as well. This has encouraged others in her community to follow in her footsteps.

Hima is an inspiration for many wannabe entrepreneurs in her community. A small support helped her to turn her small time traditional buffalo keeping to an income generating activity and made a significant contribution to uplift the economic status of her family.

**HIMA SAUD, 35**  
Ladagada, Ward No. 8  
Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality  
Doti District



## Healthy life delights

**REKHA TAMATA, Grade 4**  
Saraswati Higher Secondary School  
Ward No. 6, Malikarjun Rural Municipality  
Darchula District

Rekha, a fourth grader at Saraswati Higher Secondary School made a name for herself as a 'laborious student' at her school. Before she was enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship service program, she was not a 'sharp student'. Being a girl child, even her family did not see any benefit in sending her to school. After getting sponsored by GNI Nepal, she received enough stationery and new a school uniform--absolute necessitates for a student. She also received much-needed motivation and a confidence boost.

Coming from an ultra-poor family of farmers, Rekha's father went to India and worked there as a day laborer. Her poor father split stones into coarse aggregate (gravel) under an open sky in the sweltering heat. Thus, her parents were relieved when she got enrolled in the program. They started to encourage her to go to school regularly. In addition to that, with the love and support that poured from her teachers and classmates, she transformed into a bright student, and eventually excelled in her class.

Rekha was also interested in dancing and other co-curricular activities but whenever she took part in sports, she suffered from fever, severe body ache and even discharged blood during urination. Her parents tried their best to get her medical treatment albeit money was scarce as usual. She was suffering from a kidney problem.

After her situation was informed to GNI Nepal, Rekha was immediately admitted to a hospital in Kailali. Doctors put her on medication for three months and advised a follow-up. Rekha has fully recovered and is able to do what she loves to do - dancing and playing sports.

In the future, she hopes to become a nurse and serve sick people.





## Cooperatives strengthened for community development

At the initiation of women of Dattu in Darchula, Laligurash Women Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative was established in August 2006 for the economic empowerment of local women through enhancing access to financial services. GNI Nepal is working with this women-led cooperative since 2015 and support in its institutional development and sustainability.

Laligurash Cooperative had fifty-five shareholders and capital of NRs. 5,500 when they started. Overall management was poor and its office opened only twice a month: for the issuance and repayment of loans. Record keeping was weak. They only kept details of saving and credit as it was mandatory under auditing requirements. Cooperative members lacked entrepreneurial spirit and skills and borrowed money to cover household expenses. Having very few members and limited capital, this cooperative faced a great challenge in terms of growth and sustainability.

GNI Nepal trained cooperative staff and members on management and accounting, business plan development, and sensitized community members on benefits of joining a cooperative. GNI Nepal also provided a desktop computer with a pre-installed accounting software--for improved documentation and data management--along with furniture and other logistic

materials. As an incentive, GNI Nepal topped-up the salary of the cooperative manager.

The cooperative mobilizes revolving fund provided by GNI Nepal and has issued loans amounting to NRs. 266,097 to its members for different income generating activities. In just over three years, cooperative members have reached 355 and their share capital and savings has increased to NRs. 1,721,032. Sixty-four members have borrowed from the cooperative and started different income generating activities. With the support from GNI Nepal and the dedication of cooperative board and staff members, Laligurash Cooperative has grown significantly and is providing regular financial services which are contributing to the economic empowerment of the community.

### LALIGURASH WOMEN AGRICULTURAL MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE

Dattu, Ward No. 9, Mahakali Municipality Darchula District



## Water tank for thirsty children

Shree Shiva Durga Basic School in Madhuwan Municipality has more than 400 students. A hand water-pump served the entire school. Overcrowding at the water-pump forced students to wait for long time and take turns to quench their thirst during breaks and they returned to their classes late.

GNI Nepal along with the contribution from the Ward Office and the School constructed a water tank and child-friendly taps at the School.

GNI Nepal contributed around 60 percent of the cost and the rest was contributed by the Ward Office and the School itself.

After the construction of a water tank and child-friendly taps, the students no more have to queue up and waste time just to drink water.

Now they have easy access to adequate drinking water during school hours. The availability of water has also helped to improve sanitation and hygiene at the school.

### SHREE SHIVA DURGA BASIC SCHOOL

Ward No. 8, Madhuwan Municipality Bardiya District





## Fighting poverty with hope and a little external help



**LAXMI BISHOWKARMA**, Grade 8  
Shankarpur, Ward No. 3  
Tikapur Municipality, Kailali District

Laxmi Bishowkarma, an eighth grader at Saraswati High School lives with her mother, grandmother, elder sister, and younger brother. Laxmi's family originally migrated from Doti District. She was "sponsored" by GNI Nepal since she was a second grader. The family owns five kattha (0.4176 acres) of land and in winter they plant wheat and musuro dal (red lentil). Produce from the land is obviously not sufficient, so they buy food grains at the market.

Bishowkarma's father Jagat works in India as a watchman. He has been working in Maharashtra, India for thirteen years now. Jagat suffers from heart disease. He spends almost all of his earnings (around 10-12 thousand) on medicines and treatment. His health is so frail; he cannot even speak loudly. Occasionally, he sends a small amount of money home. He visits his home once every four or five years for a month. If his condition gets worse, Laxmi's mother Maya visits to take care of him.

Laxmi is a shy person and does not like to speak much with anyone. Her mother, Kausila, attributes it to an incident that she encountered when she was a little girl: She saw a bloodied drunken man die. After she witnessed the death, she was not the same girl. A few years later, she saw one of her cousins swept away by a canal and drowned to death which affected her more. Kausila says, "She is fragile in body and mind and is always quiet and reserved. Neither she talks that much nor she likes people who talk loudly."

Once Laxmi told Kausila that her favorite subject is English. So she wants to buy her daughter books that would help brush up her English with the "gift money" she will get this year. Last year, Laxmi got herself a bicycle with the "gift money". Till now, with the "gift money" she received each year, she bought bedding, bicycle, clothes and a she-goat. The she-goat gave birth to bucklings which they raised and sold for around NRs. 15,000

each and bought a buffalo with that money. They also sold two doelings and another two bucks as well. The buffalo gives two liters of milk which Kausila Devi sells at the local market. She sells the buffalo calves born every year and makes money for covering her children's educational expenses.

Laxmi also loves to sketch. However, there are other more important things to do so she has not been able to pay attention to sketching. Meanwhile, Kausila does all household chores: cooking, cleaning, tending to domestic animals, and washing. During the wet season, Laxmi worked on other people's rice paddies earned some money with which she wants to buy clothes for herself.

"GNI Nepal's help means a lot to us", beaming with a smile, Kausila Devi said, "I am very happy for the help". Laxmi hopes to be a doctor so that she could cure ill persons like her father.





## Studios Rajan

Rajan is the only child of Surendra and Ramkumari Tharu. They live in Geruwa Rural Municipality in Bardiya near Bardiya National Park and the famed Karnali river. The family owns rice paddies close to the river which bursts the banks every monsoon season and sweeps the paddy away. The thatched house that this family inhabits is shared with Rajan's uncle and his family.

Rajan is an eighth grader at Janajagriti Secondary School of which 170 students are GNI Nepal sponsored children. Since 2012 he has been a sponsored child of GNI Nepal. He has been a top ranking student right from class one. He

participates in almost all extra-curricular activities conducted at the school: singing competition, debates, quiz contest etc., and has won prizes.

He plays football with his maternal uncle and cousins. During holidays, he goes fishing. His favorite subject is English. When asked to demonstrate his spoken skills, he promptly agreed and introduced himself in English. He wishes somebody to be around to practice conversing in English every day. His father wants to send him to Japan after he finishes his studies in Nepal. Innocently enough, he replies the reason for which he doesn't know. He wants to become either an engineer or a doctor in the future.

**RAJAN THARU**, Grade 8  
Janajagriti Secondary school  
Gola, Ward No. 4, Geruwa Rural Municipality  
Bardiya District



## Determined to succeed

Tulsi Tamata lives in Janaki Rural Municipality with her family of six. Her father passed away seven years ago. She and her brother are GNI Nepal sponsored children and both receive support to continue education. However, her brother suffers from epilepsy and is not doing well in studies. Her elder sister failed tenth grade, went to India and started working at a garment shop. They did not have any other immediate family members or relatives who they could turn to as they also share the same plight.

When Tulsi received "gift money" sent by her sponsor for the first time, she rejoiced much. The Tamata family decided to get a she-goat. The goat gave birth to three kids the following year but unfortunately, only one survived.

Tulsi was fortunate to receive the "gift money" every year and every time, she would think for the whole family and spend it on much-needed stuffs. With the second "gift money", the family got a quilt and a few clothes. In the third year, she bought a bicycle and in the fourth year, they again bought a bicycle for her mother. Both Tulsi and her mother needed bicycles because her school was three

kilometres away and it would save time for her mother to run errands and commute around.

Tulsi's house is thatched and it leaked in many places in during the rainy season.

"We couldn't sleep all night", says Tulsi. And they did not have a tube-well of their own so had to depend on their neighbors for potable water. In 2015, GNI Nepal supported the family to buy corrugated zinc-sheets for roofing the house, build a tube-well and toilet as well.

This year, they sold the goat they had raised and paid Tulsi's school fees. Currently, the Tamata family has five goats. Surja, her mother had planned to educate Tulsi only until grade eight but GNI Nepal's support has helped her to her keep her children in school.

Despite Tulsi's continuous effort, she failed her Secondary Education Examination (SEE). However, she is determined to take the exam again. Tulsi has not decided what she wants to become in future. For now, she is burning midnight oil and preparing well for her exam.

**TULSI TAMATA**, Grade 10  
Ward No. 8, Janaki Rural Municipality  
Kailali District

