Good Neighbors International (GNI) Nepal is an international non-governmental organization working in Nepal since 2002 with the objective of improving the lives of people, especially children through education, income generating activities, health and WASH services, advocacy, network building and disaster risk reduction.

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All artworks in this annual report were drawn by students from grade 1-10 of GNI Nepal supported schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts for CHITRA: Art Competition organized by GNI Nepal in September 2017.

Message From The Country Director

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you the Annual Report 2017. This year, we reached out to more than 300,000 poor, vulnerable, and marginalized children, their families, and communities through programs in child protection, education, health and WASH, livelihood, and advocacy work.

Like years past, in 2017, GNI Nepal sponsored 23,338 poor children to continue their education. To enable schools to provide quality education, we supported renovation/construction of school buildings, gender friendly toilets, drinking water supply systems; establishment of book corners, libraries, computer labs, child clubs; and capacitated teachers.

Under the livelihood enhancement program, this year we served more than 16,000 poor households through cooperatives. Graduation model is one of our major intervention models along with market-based intervention, value chain financing, and business and vocational skills enhancement. Furthermore, we worked to strengthen local level health facilities as well as local child protection mechanism in working districts.

Our reconstruction project in Gorkha District is nearing its end. We will continue to work for the earthquake affected populations in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Parbat, Myagdi, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur districts through our regular and ‘annex projects’.

2017 marked fifteen years of service to the people of Nepal and was an opportune time for us to further review our work of one and half decade and align policies, guidelines and standard operating procedures with Nepal Country Strategy 2016-2020, the policies and programs of the Government of Nepal, and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I am also happy to share that GNI as a part of restructuring its governance established Global Partnership Center (GPC) in 2017, of which I have been appointed the Coordinator for program countries in Asia. GPC, I believe, will bring all 35 program country teams around the world closer and provide them an accessible platform to contribute and collaborate for bringing good change for the world.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to our donors, partners, collaborators, staff, and stakeholders for making 2017 a meaningful year.

Min Ho Choi
Country Director
Good Neighbors International’s (GNI) work in Nepal started with Sangla Hostel Project in Kathmandu District. This Project aimed at providing quality education to 16 vulnerable and marginalized children in a homelike environment. Around the same time, Badhikhel Hostel Project, a similar project started in Badhikehl, Lalitpur District. In the following years, GNI’s work in Nepal grew in proportions and diversified.

By 2009, GNI Nepal adopted a new model of community development centering around children that targeted rural communities and included child-focused education, income generation, health and sanitation, advocacy, and community networking and partnership programs. In coordination with the local government and partner NGOs these programs reached-out to the most vulnerable, marginalized, and poor children, their families, and communities.

By 2009, GNI Nepal served around 28,000 children, their families, and communities in 13 districts in Central, Western, and Far-Western Nepal. GNI Nepal’s third Project Agreement (PA) with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) matured in November 2015. The fourth PA with the SWC was signed in June 2016 adopted child protection—allied with sponsorship service—as one of its core programming approaches. The following months were spent in evaluating GNI Nepal’s fourteen years of service in Nepal and revamping the organizational structure. All thematic departments reviewed and updated their policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures accordingly.

In 2017, GNI Nepal celebrated 15 years of service to the children and people of Nepal and adopted UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as guiding goals to its approach to child protection and community development. GNI Nepal’s programs are aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and policies and plans of the Government of Nepal and they contribute towards achieving the SDGs.
Diamonds in The Rough

GNI Nepal started working in former Patharaiya Village Development Committee (VDC) in Kailali District in 2007 by sponsoring thirty children. Majority of the inhabitants are Tharu ex-bonded laborers (kamaiya) and squatter families that migrated from the hills and mountains in the north.

Initially, all 330 households in Patharaiya VDC were supported with materials to build tube-wells. All beneficiary households contributed labor and collected earth, bricks, and stones. Earlier, one tube-well served ten households.

Ful Kumari Tharu, former Project Management Committee Chair, enumerated GNI Nepal’s supports as follows, “Our (1342) children got education (up to tenth grade). They, otherwise, would be roaming the forests and swimming in the streams all day long. GNI Nepal organized health camps regularly for people and domestic animals all these years. With the support of GNI Nepal, two motorable bridges, three kilometers of gravel road, five basic schools, one vaccination center, one cooperative building and one mom-center were constructed, and 18 families received support to build home biogas plants.”

The mom-center was a hub for organizing different awareness raising activities, early childhood education and development (ECED) classes, and long-term vocational skills training programs for women of the surrounding communities.

About the good changes that have happened, Ful Kumari had this to say, “Our kids worked as kamalori (maidservant) in nearby towns, bazaars, and Kathmandu. After GNI Nepal came here, these kamaiya parents also became aware and they brought their kids back and enrolled them in school with GNI Nepal’s support.”

760 girls were enrolled in GNI Nepal’s child sponsorship program and a large majority of these girls have gone on to study up to ten plus two. They, otherwise, would have ended-up with a life of servitude and back-breaking labor just like their bonded laborer mothers.

In addition, parents were also offered adult literacy classes.

GNI Nepal also supported the construction of five school buildings along with toilets, establishment of science lab, computer lab, and library at nine schools, furnishing of three schools, and fencing of one school boundary.

In former Patharaiya VDC, GNI Nepal supported the formation of an agricultural cooperative and its building construction. So far, GNI Nepal has provided NRs. 4,203,852 to this cooperative as revolving fund. At the end of 2017, share money and savings amounted to NRs. 766,000 and NRs. 1,062,030 respectively.

GNI Nepal also supported the cooperative to install a computer-based accounting system. At present, it has a share-membership of 508 (160 females and 348 males). Among the members, 210 have received cooperative education training and 94 have received entrepreneurship development training.

Majority of the cooperative members are rearing pigs, keeping small grocery stores, and engaged in agriculture. In total, 135 share members have started enterprises: 17 – agriculture, 79 – animal husbandry, 39 – cycle repairing shop, retail store, beauty parlor, etc. Among them, 25 received vocational skills training before starting their enterprises.

Ful Kumari, emphatically expressed, “GNI has been supporting our children to study up to grade ten and helping us to develop our community for such a long time now.”
1000 children enrolled in sponsorship service program

23,016 sponsored children’s homes visited

23,016 annual progress reports prepared

21,673 annual child letters written

1281 children received gift money and wrote thank you letters

12 IEC/BCC materials developed and disseminated

2018 children sensitized on CRC

513 children oriented on disaster risk reduction

65 child clubs formed and 1626 children empowered

23,016 sponsored children

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65 child clubs formed and 1626 children empowered

23,338 students supported to receive quality education

Sponsorship and Child Protection

Strengthened child protection system at local level and promotion of child protection and child rights

Raised awareness of children and they are capable of claiming their rights

Support to sponsored children

23,016 sponsored children
GNI Nepal started sponsorship service program in 2009. It is the pivot around which all priority programs center and it particularly caters to students that belong to disadvantaged, indigenous, and marginalized communities. Poor students are identified and enrolled in the program so that they receive quality education, better health and WASH services, and their parents receive income generation/livelihood support.

GNI Nepal's 23,338 sponsored children (10,648 boys and 12,690 girls) keep in touch with their sponsors via personal letters. This year 21,673 annual child letters and 23,016 annual progress reports were sent to sponsors and 23,016 sponsored children's homes were visited and provided counseling.

GNI Nepal's child protection program focuses on strengthening local child protection system for protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and all other forms of violence. In 2017, 61 school-based child clubs were formed in Darchula, Doti, Gorkha, and Mugu districts and four ward-level child clubs were formed in Doti and Bajura districts. In total, 426 sponsored children (217 boys and 209 girls) and 275 non-sponsored children (136 boys and 139 girls) became members of these child clubs.

775 sponsored children (418 boys and 357 girls) and 851 non-sponsored children (414 boys and 437 girls) of 184 child clubs from 180 schools participated in training sessions on child rights and child protection, child club mobilization, gender sensitization, wallpaper magazine publication, Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), leadership development, child marriage, and child abuse. Later on, participants sensitized their fellow child club members.

70 Child Protection Committee (CPC) members were oriented on child protection and child rights. Two child clubs were capacitated for providing psychosocial support.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the main international instrument that incorporates civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights of the children. As right holders, children need to be well-informed about the rights enshrined in the Convention. 2018 school children were sensitized on UNCRC and 513 children were oriented on disaster risk reduction (DRR).

To make community members aware of child rights and child protection seven Information Education Communication (IEC)/Behavior Change Communication (BCC) materials were developed and disseminated at the district and community level.
Mandira Khadka, 19, lives with her mother, elder brother, and sister in Godawari—a village on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Capital of Nepal. She is an undergraduate at a local college. Mandira’s father married another woman when she was two years old and abandoned the entire family. Ever since, Mandira’s mother, Geeta, has run the household.

Geeta cultivates paddy and wheat in an irrigable field of 0.13 acres (1 ropani) and millet and maize in sloped land of almost an equal size. The harvest lasts for three months only and for nine months in a year, they have to depend on the market. As Geeta is illiterate and lacks vocational skills, she had no other option apart from subsistence agriculture and daily wage labor. With low income and agricultural production, it was difficult to even manage two square meals for the entire family.

Although Geeta was poor and struggling financially, she valued education so she enrolled her children in a public school. In order to earn her keep, she kept a few cows and sold milk to a dairy. Despite all her efforts at providing a good education to her children, she could not even provide educational materials to her children sometimes.

In 2010, while Mandira was in grade five, she was enrolled in GNI Nepal’s sponsorship service program and started to receive educational materials: stationeries, school uniform, and personal hygiene products. Motivation and counseling were also periodically provided to her. As Mandira’s education till grade ten was taken care of by GNI Nepal, Geeta was relieved of a huge financial and mental burden.

In the following years, Mandira blossomed in all aspects of her academics and personality. She became a serious, sincere, and determined student and eagerly participated in the extracurricular activities: quiz competition, cultural dance program, sports competition (football, skipping, high jump, long jump) and many more programs organized by the school and GNI Nepal.

Not only she put efforts into education and extra-curricular events but activism also through a GNI Nepal supported child club based at her school. As a treasurer and active member of the club, Mandira hosted quiz competitions, school sanitation events, cultural shows, singing contests, and conducted the club’s regular events and programs. In 2012, she anchored her school’s parents’ day function. Later the same year she got an opportunity to participate in a leadership skills development and water purification method training funded by GNI Nepal. In her activist role, she acted in different street dramas carrying messages of adolescence, against alcoholism and poor community sanitation staged by the child club based at her school and funded by GNI Nepal.

Being the hardworking person she is, as expected by her mother and teachers, she scored 64.5% in her School Leaving Certificate (grade ten) exams, a remarkable achievement indeed for a daughter of a poor and illiterate mother. She majored in mass-communication and sociology in her 10+2 (grade 11 and 12) with an aggregate score of 57.8%. At present, she is a first year Bachelors of Arts in Social Work (BASW) student.

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As she possesses good computer skills, she was hired for entering GNI Nepal’s household survey data. Based on her performance, she was again hired for entering Valley Community Development Project’s entire school profile data. And, one more time she was roped-in for annual progress reports 2018’s data entry. She dutifully and excellently carried-out the data-entry and screened the data. These short-term assignments earned her twenty-four thousand rupees which she spent on college fees, dresses, daily expenses, and household items.

“GNI Nepal has supported me since when I was quite young to this day. When my family was suffering from financial problems, GNI Nepal sponsored my education.”, Mandira said, “From school days to until now, I got lots of opportunities to grow. Now, I have a sense of satisfaction, as I can be independent and also support my family.”

Currently, Mandira works part-time for a GNI Nepal funded organization. And, her mother and siblings are very happy with her achievements. She plans to finish her BASW studies and make a career in professional social work.
Ramesh (name changed), 10, lives with his mother in Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Doti District. He is a single child, a third grader at Bhawani Basic School, and a sponsored child of GNI Nepal since 2011. His family owns approximately 0.13 acres (1 ropani) of land where rice and millet can be grown.

Ramesh's father while working in Mumbai, India as a daily wage laborer contracted HIV. Out of their 0.26 acres (two ropani) agricultural land, Ramesh's mother Rammaya sold half of it for seven thousand rupees to a neighbor for her husband's treatment. Despite her efforts and hope, he passed away. At two years of age, Ramesh was orphaned.

Rammaya had to deal with a double whammy: the chief breadwinner of the family was gone and unbeknownst to her, she had also gotten infected. She was an AIDS patient now.

Even though with fragile health, she carried on as she had no money. Membership of an income generation group or cooperative could have enabled her to receive monetary assistance but Rammaya was so poor that she even did not have the money to pay the small membership fee.

In 2016, under the sponsorship service program's gift money scheme Ramesh received one goat, a shirt, pants, jacket, rice, bucket, cooking pot, jug, cooking oil, bathing, and washing soap. In 2017, he received a jacket, shirt, pants, rice, cooking oil, and cooking pots. Along with the gifts, Ramesh received exercise books, pencils, eraser, sharpener, geometry box, school uniform, shoes, and bag each year as regular educational support.

The goat kidded four times in two years and produced eight babies. Rammaya sold six goats for NRs. 24,000 and bought back the land that she had sold for her husband's treatment. Now, the family has three goats and one among them is pregnant.

This family of two now has their basic needs met. Membership of an income generation group or cooperative could have enabled her to receive monetary assistance but Rammaya was so poor that she even did not have the money to pay the small membership fee.

Seema Chaudhary, 16, is a resident of Tikapur Municipality, Kailali District. She is a tenth grader at Birendra Vidhya Mandir and a GNI Nepal sponsored child since she was in grade three. She lives with her ex-bonded laborer (kamaiya) parents and a younger brother, also a GNI Nepal sponsored child. Both her father and mother are construction laborers.

Seema is a bright and hardworking student. Among her sixty-eight classmates, she secured second position in her grade nine board exams with a decent 79%. Apart from academics, she has a gift for running which was discovered by the school sports and athletics coach, Arjun Thakulla, when she was in grade six.

Seema is a short-distance sprinter and has won many 400 and 800 meters sprinting competitions. So far, she has bagged medals in more than fifteen district level, regional, and national competitions. Among them, she came third in the President Running Shield Competition, a national level event held in Kathmandu, which is her most notable achievement till now.

Seema’s mother shared her happiness, “we did not have the financial means to support our daughter for her games. Our family is very happy with the support GNI Nepal has provided her.”

Arjun Thakulla, her coach shared, “First of all, thanks to Good Neighbors International Nepal for providing nutritious food and sports materials to Seema. If the organization supports her to train regularly and provides needed support, she will become an international sportsperson.”

Along with regular classes, Seema is taking supplementary classes for her School Secondary Examinations (SEE) and training daily.

We did not have the financial means to support our daughter for her games. Our family is very happy with the support GNI Nepal has provided her.
Nitesh Singh, 16, is a tenth grader at Bhawani Secondary School and chairs a child captain group working to end child marriage in his rural municipality. Child marriage is rampant in his and surrounding communities in former Jayabageshwori and Kada Village Development Committees (Chededaha Rural Municipality) in Bajura District. Most of the parents arrange their children’s marriage and their decision prevails. While other child marriages are a result of adolescents in love eloping or negative influence of their peers who have already tied the knot. And this trend seems to be rising. After getting married, these adolescents leave school to fulfill domestic duties and adult responsibilities.

GNI Nepal in collaboration with Srijansil Multipurpose Farmers Group—a local community-based organization—conducted a ‘0 Campaign’ aiming to eradicate child marriage in Chededaha Rural Municipality. A child captain group having 19 members was formed to support the campaign. A set of a long answer and multiple choice questions was administered to these adolescents to test their understanding of harms of child marriage, precautionary measures, and possible actions. Selected captains were capacitated on wall-calendar publication and they discussed strategic actions for the next six months.

With support from GNI Nepal these captains conducted monthly meetings, wall-calendar publications, weekly awareness-raising extra activities sessions against child marriage, deuda (singing) competitions, home visits and counseling, cultural shows, and discussions in their communities and schools. These activities culminated in a broader awareness of physical, emotional, financial, and educational harms engendered by child marriage.

Teenage pairs who could potentially elope were identified by the group and with the assistance from teachers and counseled against marrying early. And, in Kada and Jayabageshwori, three pairs in love, after they were counseled, have committed to not marrying before reaching legal age.

This campaign has had a net positive effect on parents, adults, teachers and more importantly children and they have been encouraged to fight against child marriage in their homes, schools, and communities. As a part of the campaign, a series of school, community and ward level discussions were held, including Chededaha Rural Municipality. In a meeting having the participation of school representatives, child captains, ward chairs, Chededaha Rural Municipality decided to deprive couples and adults forcing children into early marriage from accessing public services, facilities, and attestations. This penal measure will be approved and enforced by the village council.

Nar Bahadur Rawat, Chair, Chededaha Rural Municipality expressed, “It would be a matter of pride for me to be known as the chair of a rural municipality where zero child marriages happen but more importantly, the issue here at stake is children’s lives and their future. That’s why child marriage must end. My team is totally committed to this cause and I will do my part to implement the decisions taken”.

All About Child Marriage
Expanded opportunities for children for getting quality education

- 114,629 students supported to continue education
- 293 ECED facilitators trained
- 475 teachers trained
- 121 headteachers trained on school management
- 379 SMC and PTA members trained on their roles and responsibility
- 124 SMC, PTA, Parents and teachers trained on SIP
- 134 schools received teaching-learning materials
- 29 computer labs established
- 24,661 students received educational materials
- 41 libraries/book corners established
- 24,661 students received school uniform
- 73 schools received child-friendly furniture
- 39 science labs established
- 158 ECED centers received support
- 4 ECED buildings constructed
- 29 computer labs established
- 6 school buildings constructed
- 11 school buildings renovated/repaired
- 16 schools received support to build gender-friendly toilets

Increased equitable access to and participation of children in education

Improved internal efficiency and learning outcomes of students

Improved management system in schools
In many developing countries including Nepal, millions of children have limited or no opportunities at all to receive an education. There are no schools in their communities. Neither enough teachers are posted nor they are willing to work in rural areas. Additionally, their poor parents have no money to pay school fees, buy uniforms, and stationery. Constrained by a lack of resources, parents often prioritize boys’ education while girls are tasked to help with household chores. GNI Nepal supports poor, marginalized, and vulnerable girls and boys to receive education and remain in school.

Design, layout, and visual environment of a classroom affect a child’s learning, creativity, behavior, and interests. This year, GNI Nepal supported the construction and child-friendly furnishing of four early childhood education and development (ECED) centers and provisioning of teaching-learning materials.

GNI Nepal promotes child-friendly, learner-centered and interactive pedagogical methods for effective learning and prioritizes preparing young learners for their primary level education.

To this end, 293 ECED facilitators were trained on pedagogical practices.

After the support, school management committees (SMC) reported a jump in admission rates compared to the last couple of years. Capacity building of teachers including SMCs and parent-teacher associations (PTA) contributes to improved teacher-student relations, conducive teaching-learning environment, and better learning outcomes. In 2017, 121 headteachers were trained on school management and 124 SMC/PTA members participated in the school improvement plan (SIP) designing training programs.

A well-equipped school—complete with a science lab, computer lab, library, gender friendly toilets—is a raison d’être for parents to send their children to a particular school. Among others, for the want of quality education opportunities for their children, rural families in Nepal are migrating to urban areas. This phenomenon emerged primarily in the last two decades and shows no signs of abating. This year, GNI Nepal constructed six and renovated 11 school buildings, set-up five book corners, established 38 libraries, 29 computer labs, and 39 science labs, and built 16 gender friendly toilets.
Bhanodaya Secondary School, established in 1965, is located in Budhiganga Municipality, Bajura District. 566 girls and 453 boys of different ethnicities attend the school. Among them, 68 girls and 44 boys are GNI Nepal sponsored children since 2013.

There were five desktop computers at the school for administrative and official purposes, and some of them malfunctioned frequently. The school introduced computer science as a compulsory subject from grade six to eight without having a single computer. No wonder, the chapters meant to be practiced on a computer were explained only. Later, the school installed five computers from its own resources in the staffroom.

Nar Bahadur Katuwal, Chairperson, School Management Committee recalled, “those five computers were used for administrative works and also for practical sessions for students. A few would get to sit at the computers while others just looked at them most of the times. It is natural that our kids were not interested in the computer subject.” To make matters worse, electricity supply was intermittent and the installed solar power system could not power the computers throughout the day.

The School with GNI Nepal’s support established a computer lab having fifteen brand new computers and a projector in 2017. Tables, chairs, and carpeting support were also provided. Students from grade 6-12 alternatively learn computer skills and watch audiovisual educational and awareness-raising materials. All classes, at the least, visit the lab thrice a week. Computer screen is projected on the wall so that all students in the lab can clearly get the instructions. The lab gets enough electricity from a local micro-hydro power plant built two years ago.

Mr. Manvir Khati, Headteacher, shared, “It is the era of computers. If a student does not have knowledge of and skilled with computers, then s/he can do nothing. Therefore, familiarity with computers is a must for our students. And, these fifteen computers are solely used for teaching-learning not for administrative or official purposes.”

The lab is also connected to the internet, the main attraction among the students. The school is planning to add e-library, 25 computers, and a skilled full-time computer teacher in the coming years and become a model school in information, communication, and technology aided education in the district.

It’s All In The Computers
Navadurga Secondary School is an average public school, located in Gorkha Municipality, Gorkha District. The School was established in 1991 as a primary level school and upgraded to secondary level in 2017. 217 students (115 girls and 102 boys) attend the school. Among them 87% are Muslims and 69 are GNI Nepal sponsored children since 2015.

In the Gorkha Earthquake of 2015, one of the school buildings was totally damaged and the other next to it developed cracks. For a year, classes were conducted in a temporary learning center. At present, the school has fifteen rooms for use in one newly reconstructed and another repaired building.

A library corner with a few books existed in the staff-room. Only a few books were in the corner and visiting it was difficult for students as teachers would be present all the time. The headteacher wanted to set-up a well-stocked library, however, he was bound by financial constraints.

GNI Nepal, after a situation analysis, established a library in the school in 2017 having around 1600 books in history, science, social studies, fiction, non-fiction, environment, science, and pictorial books. The library also boasts reading tables, chairs, insulated flooring, and a child-friendly seating arrangement. A teacher has been designated as the library focal person.

On the positive effects the library has brought, Binita Pariyar, an eighth grader, noted, “We take books with us to our homes. We also use them as reference books to prepare reading notes. We are getting to read about many things”.

“We had plans of setting up a library and unfortunately the earthquake struck. We focused on reconstruction and recovery only…. Due to the lack of resources, the plan had taken a backseat... This library has become the intellectual hub at the school”, shared Abdul Miya, the Headteacher. “And I would also like to thank GNI for the support”.

Mumad Fajal Miya, School Management Committee Chairperson, said, “most of the parents are poor so they could not buy extra books for their children. Our children can now read books on so many subjects.”

The School has plans to add recently published books and instill the habit of reading in the students—targeting to increase the overall-learning achievement.

Magical, Mystical, and Marvelous World of Books

Most of the parents are poor so they could not buy extra books for their children. Our children can now read books on so many subjects.
Micro-enterprises generate profit and employment. Financial and marketing services are utilized for enterprise development and income generation activities. Ultra-poor households achieve food sufficiency through income stabilization. Increased household income of communities through institutional development and creation of employment and income generation opportunities. Livelihood.
Aiming to contribute to the creation of sustainable livelihoods and food security for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable children and their families, GNI Nepal implemented its regular livelihood enhancement program in 13 working districts. In the spirit of holistic community development and for lifting the poorest of the poor farmers out of poverty, GNI Nepal oriented them on basic cooperative concepts, role of cooperatives in creating livelihood opportunities, and empowerment through social and micro-enterprises. GNI Nepal has so far supported establishment of 52 cooperatives and their membership continues to grow each passing month.

In 2017, 7945 individuals were orientated on potential business opportunities in their communities, institutional development, financial literacy, and basic business literacy. Recognizing a saving and credit cooperative's role in helping the ultra-poor with limited or no access to proper financial services, 'cooperative campaigns' were initiated and they raised awareness of the financial services and livelihood opportunities available at a cooperative. Altogether 360 cooperative board members were trained on cooperative operation and management. Six cooperatives organized local trade fairs to promote their products and inform locals on the importance of cooperatives in generating local employment. 42 GNI Nepal supported cooperatives adopted computer-based accounting system which has helped them to cut transaction time and securely store data.

This year, in adherence to the cooperative principle of inclusion and cooperation among all in a community, 6181 persons took membership of cooperatives supported by GNI Nepal. Among them 58% belong to Dalit and indigenous groups. GNI Nepal provided NRS. 38,357,496 as revolving fund to the cooperatives. This amount was mobilized to create 1288 micro-enterprises. 136 youths were trained on 11 different types of vocations and they have found self-employment in their communities.
The Long And Winding Road to Saving-Credit Services

Shova is a village in Chaynanth Rural Municipality of Mugu District. Majority of the households involved in apple, medicinal herbal farming along with growing local staple crops. Shova, although under the jurisdiction of an urban municipality has no access to road transportation and, hence, local produce like beans, apples, paddy, and millet have to be transported by mules or humans. It takes a hike of six to eight hours to reach the nearest bazaar for buying basic supplies.

Farmers also suffered from a lack of saving-credit services and could receive no financial support for adopting new agricultural technologies and techniques. Informed community members tried to register a cooperative, however, due to the poor economic condition of the locals, a general lack of awareness, and distrust for institutional saving schemes, the proposed cooperative establishment did not take off.

GNI Nepal conducted an awareness-raising and training program on the need of a cooperative and a 25 member cooperative was formed six years ago in Shova with an objective of improving the livelihood of community members through micro-finance services and agro-products marketing. GNI Nepal supported the cooperative in formulating its regulations, trained the board members on cooperative management and accounting, and provided chairs, table, wall clock, official seal, punching machine, stamp pad, and stapler for furnishing the office.

An herbal sales store was built by the cooperative with GNI Nepal's support in Thini of the same municipality. Also, for increasing membership, another neighboring community was granted eligibility. GNI Nepal also supported the construction of the cooperative building, membership increasing drive, 13 mules, solar power system, cupboard, CDMA phone, and steel furniture.

In 2017, the cooperative executive board members were trained on cooperative education, book-keeping, leadership, and organizational management. Financial and business literacy training has encouraged non-member locals to join the cooperative, prepare business plans, and borrow credit to start enterprises. Under the financial support from the cooperative, five farmers have started a goat-rearing business while two are growing fruits, and one farmer has started an herbal nursery.

An accountant, a social mobilizer, and a group mobilizer run the day-to-day operations of the cooperative from its own two-storied building. As a measure for avoiding middlemen and increasing profits, the cooperative members are planning to market locally produced products like apples, handicrafts, garments, beans directly to wholesalers from Gamgadi, the district headquarter and Nepalgunj, the nearest biggest city in the plains.

An accountant, a social mobilizer, and a group mobilizer run the day-to-day operations of the cooperative from its own two-storied building. GNI Nepal right from the formation of the cooperative has been continuously providing technical as well as financial support. By the end of 2017, regular savings amounted to NRs. 788,000 and share money amounted to NRs. 433,200. At present, it has 290 shareholders (78 females and 212 males). 16 members have started their own micro-enterprises.

Mobilizing capital as revolving fund, constructing community cooperative irrigation channel, opening a collective retail shop; constructing two-storied building and starting a cooperative canteen in the ground floor and retail shop on the first floor; procuring a locker for the safety of collected cash, projector for the training, photo printer for new shareholders; and setting up internet connection at the cooperative office are the plans for next year.
All You Have to do is Dream

Bahadur Ram Tamata, 23, a permanent resident of Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula District lives with his parents, a brother, and two sisters. For a home, the Tamata family owns a small hut, and for agriculture, a small patch of 0.26 acres (two ropani) infertile land whose produce barely lasts them six months.

Tamata is a Dalit (untouchable) sub-caste. They traditionally fulfilled the role of village ironsmith and in return for their services each client household paid them in-kind. Bahadur Ram’s family was also into iron metal-works and received food grains for their service. He including his parents also worked as daily wage laborers.

Not due to the lack of will or ability but abject poverty, he could not continue his studies after tenth grade. Despite his interest and energy, work was nowhere to be found, driving him into bouts of anxiety and despair. Bahadur’s younger sister was enrolled in the sponsorship service program of Good Neighbors International Nepal and periodically got school supplies, counseling and guidance, affording the family a financial respite.

Meanwhile, he got a chance to participate in a GNI Nepal funded pre-cooperative formation awareness-raising and financial literacy program conducted in his village. The program introduced him to ideas about how to earn and save money and look for alternative ways of livelihood.

Bahadur Ram often visited a GNI Nepal supported cooperative in his locality; there he got the idea of starting his own business. He also urged his father to become a member of the cooperative.

As he had made-up his mind on opening-up a hairdressing saloon, he made a formal request to the cooperative, GNI Nepal supported him to do a two-month training in mid-2017. He also participated in an entrepreneurship development training conducted by GNI Nepal in his locality.

From GNI Nepal supported saving and credit cooperative, he got a revolving fund support of NRs. 24,385, grant of NRs. 10,451, and started a hairdressing saloon at Seemalgairal Bazaar in Malikarjun Rural Municipality. It is a place of religious significance having a secondary school, police post, health post, and a busy market area.

Hairstyling services are absolutely new for this small and surrounding bazaars. Hence, a major source of attraction and interest among villagers. He serves around five persons daily, earns around NRs. 7500 monthly, Bahadur Ram is satisfied with the pace his business is growing and has money to spend on daily household expenses.

In his own words, “First of all, I would like to thank all who directly and indirectly encouraged me to start this business. I hope the same kind of support, encouragement, and motivation will continue to come my way in the coming days as well … and I also have a feeling of being employed now”.

Bahadur Ram plans to add to his range of services from haircuts and face-shaving to massages and facials, which given his sole presence in the bazaar is likely to attract more customers and make him more money.

“First of all, I would like to thank all who encouraged me to start this business … and I also have a feeling of being employed now.”
Improved health status of children, families and communities

Health and WASH

- 55,302 children and community members' medical examination carried out
- 101 health facilities supported with medical equipment
- 54 health workforce mobilized
- 23 children received critical treatment support
- 30 health facilities constructed/renovated
- 206 toilets constructed
- 30 water sources tested
- 284 waste pits/bins installed
- 280 households received sanitation materials
- 284 drinking water systems constructed/renovated
- Enhanced safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practice among target communities
- Enhanced health-seeking behaviors of target community members
- 193 drinking water systems constructed/renovated
Healthcare is considered as one of the most important infrastructures of development. Nepal has made steady progress on many health indicators. With an objective to enhance the health seeking behavior of vulnerable communities and ensure safe, hygienic, and sanitary practices, this year also, GNI Nepal carried out a number of interventions.

Health status of a community is contingent upon the competency, productivity, and responsiveness of health workers. GNI Nepal trained 799 health workers in the areas of health and hygiene behavior change communication. Additionally, 1269 community members including mothers group members, female community health volunteers, children, and husbands were reached out through health education sessions. 785 health workers’ capacity was enhanced through different health-related training programs. 28 primary healthcare out-reach clinics (ORC) were supported to provision basic health care services. 101 health facilities were supported with basic medical equipment, enabling them to provide basic healthcare services.

GNI Nepal has been implementing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) related activities to ensure clean drinking water supply and sanitary conditions at schools and in communities. School - Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene - Coordination Committees (S-WASH-CC) were formed at 73 schools and they were strengthened through different training sessions on WASH including acceleration of open defecation free (ODF) campaign. 30 health facilities were constructed/renovated in compliance with government codes and standards and were supported to install basic utilities. 193 drinking water supply systems (DWS) were constructed/renovated. 30 water sources were tested for quality and seven water sources were treated to ensure potability. 284 waste pits/bins were built at different schools and in communities. 2122 community members were made aware of the Hygiene Master Plan and Total Sanitation Guideline 2073 published by the Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation of the Government of Nepal.
Free as a Bird

Sabita Pahari, 14, is a seventh grader at Kitini Higher Secondary School in Badikhel, Godawari Municipality. Pahari, a regular student, class-topper, and an active member of the school-based child club enthusiastically participates in the majority of the extracurricular activities held at the school.

Like many schools in Nepal, her school lacked basic menstrual hygiene management (MHM) products and menstruation used to be the most significant social stressor and a barrier to schooling for girls at her school. On MHM practices at her school in the recent past, Sabita commented, “you know, I would skip the classes during periods and just stayed home. It bleeds, leaks and aches and sanitation at the school is not so good …and you do not want to embarrass yourself.”

There would be no painkillers at her school. If Sabita and her girlfriends had menstrual cramps, they would skip classes and rush home, while her male classmates continued their classes undisturbed. For a top-ranking student like Sabita, even a day away from school was a huge loss.

In 2017, menstrual hygiene kits were distributed at 18 schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts including Sabita’s. The kit contained hand towel, hand-wash liquid, sterile cotton gauze, toilet disinfectants, sanitary pads, and medicines.

Managing periods for around 3200 adolescent girls is no more a problem. Neither they have to forgo their classes and remain at home during their periods. Now, students and teachers are aware of the importance of good menstrual hygiene management practices, thanks to the awareness-raising program organized by GNI Nepal.

Sabita remarked, “Currently, many girls at our school including me have started using the MHM kit during our periods. Now, we get sanitary pad anytime we need it. So, attending the classes or participating in any event organized at the school is nor more a discomfort.”

Lalit Dhami, 12, is one of the well-behaved and regular eighth-graders at Malikarjun Higher Secondary School in Darchula District. He lives with his grandmother, parents (Thepa and Bhupendra), and younger brother.

Lalit’s parents are subsistence farmers and grow maize, wheat, paddy, vegetables and keeps goats and cows. They lack a regular cash income and their combined monthly earning averages around NRs. 5300, almost all of which goes mostly towards buying groceries and clothes. The Dhami couple rarely has savings to spend on their children’s education, festivals, and in emergencies.

In 2013, Lalit was enrolled in GNI Nepal’s sponsorship service program, while he was in the fourth grade. His younger brother is also a GNI Nepal sponsored child.

In December of 2016, Lalit, while playing with friends, fell off a ladder and broke his left leg. Friends carried him home. Upon seeing him, Thepa fainted. Bhupendra borrowed money and took him to the district hospital where Lalit stayed for a week. Doctors there referred him to another better hospital in the city. Thepa and Bhupendra found themselves in a difficult situation as they did not have money.

Bhupendra sought GNI Nepal for financial help which is available to sponsored children under the critical treatment support.

Lalit was operated on at a Polyclinic in Dhangadi, Kailai District and stayed in the post-operative ward for five days. After a month, he visited the hospital again for a follow-up. All of Lalit’s medical expenses, which amounted to NRs. 38,298, were paid by GNI Nepal.

After a hiatus of three months, Lalit rejoined school. During this time, he took bed rest and recovered completely. Now, he enjoys excellent health and helps his family with easy household chores and runs errands. As conscious Lalit has become of taking care of his health, he is equally conscious of catching-up with his studies. Hence, he is studying hard and wants to become a doctor.
Nepal is one of the four countries that piloted the Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities Project (SZHCP) from 2011-2015 under a global agreement between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and World Food Programme (WFP). SZHCP Phase II is under implementation in Doti District and utilizes an integrated approach to address chronic food insecurity and rural poverty. This two-year project’s main goal is to strengthen food and nutrition security by promoting sustainable livelihoods, building rural assets, and providing vocational skills training.

Strengthening the capacity of community members and community-based organizations is crucial to improving local governance. 257 community members including disadvantaged, marginalized, and women’s groups partook in designing Local Adaptation Plans for Actions (LAPA) for the development of their communities. 2243 community members and teacher were oriented on disaster preparedness, climate change, and development planning.

5519 farmers were trained on seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable cultivation, commercial ginger and turmeric farming and processing, and poultry farming. 1717 potential entrepreneurs were imparted skills on sweets making, blacksmithing, masonry (short-term training); tailoring, mobile repairing, plumbing, hair-dressing, electrician (medium-term training); and advanced tailoring, and carpentry (long-term training).

24 km rural roads were built. 19 taps were installed to ensure constant drinking water supply. And, irrigation canals were built that cover 143 hectares of rice paddies. Altogether, the Project benefited 10,604 community members through its health education sessions, income-generating activities, and infrastructure development support.

For reconstruction and recovery of the health system, a three-year Health System Recovery Project (HSRP) is under implementation in earthquake-hit Nuwakot District. The Project is funded by KOICA.

Seven GNI Nepal supported auxiliary nurse mid-wives (ANM) served at six health posts and the Nuwakot District Hospital which along with other two health posts also received basic medical equipment and furniture. As a part of capacity strengthening, 201 female community health volunteers (FCHV) were oriented on their roles and responsibilities and taken on an exposure visit to Surkhet and Banke districts in close coordination with the Family Health Division and District Public Health Office, Nuwakot. Altogether, 61 FCHVs were given gifts in appreciation of their contribution to maternal and child health in their communities.

The Project initiated the formation of girl child clubs at 10 schools and supported them to act as adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) messengers, resource group, and improve sanitation status at their schools. Altogether, 513 girl students are members of the clubs and they were provided with life-skills training for increasing their participation in the promotion of ASRH in their communities. The Project also provided psycho-social support training to 128 teachers/health post-in-charges. 3788 earthquake-traumatized students were offered psycho-social support.

On the occasion of Teej festival, a singing competition among FCHV of ten different communities was held for raising awareness on menstrual hygiene management. In total, 29,550 brochures, booklets, guidebook, guideline, flip charts, and posters on early marriage, menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health were disseminated.
Coffee Value Chain Development Project (CVCDP)

Coffee, a high-value cash crop, is popular among Nepali farmers and is grown in more than 40 districts. Arabica variety is considered a specialty and is grown in 800-1600 meters altitude range. Nepal has a suitable climate, topography, soil, humidity, temperature, and rainfall for farming Arabica Coffee.

Under the “European Union’s Support To The Competitiveness Of Coffee Quality In Nepal”, GNI Nepal in collaboration with Beautiful Coffee Nepal has been implementing a two-year project in the coffee producing districts of Kaski, Syangja, Gulmi, and Palpa.

64,049 Arabica Coffee saplings were distributed among 1300 farmers and 2341 coffee farmers were trained on coffee plantation and nursery, orchard, and pest management. A group of coffee farmers and representatives of cooperatives and National Tea and Coffee Development Board (NTCDB) numbering 21 visited farms in south India and learned coffee plantation and processing techniques.

SMART CLASSROOM Project

Quality education only can lead poor, vulnerable, and marginalized children towards a bright future. Among others, information and communication technology (ICT) can be an effective and cheap means to deliver quality education to children in the hardest-to-reach areas.

Under the GNI Nepal pioneered SMART CLASSROOM Project, 21 schools in Kaski and Parbat districts have deployed smart classroom technology—a complete ICT aided teaching-learning tool consisting of laptops, LED projector, printer, solar-powered electricity backup system, sound system, offline e-library server, and external storage media. Teachers were trained on operating the SMART CLASSROOM and preparing educational materials on computers.

In collaboration with Open Learning Exchange Nepal digitization of mathematics, science, English and Nepali subjects started in October 2017 and will complete by mid-2018. This national curriculum based collection of digital learning materials will be available for free.

After the introduction of the SMART CLASSROOM students’ attendance has risen and parents are also happy that their children are getting state-of-the-art technology assisted classroom education along with learning computer science.

Village Income Through Value Addition (VIVA) Project

Mugu and Humla districts, despite difficult terrain and limited market access, have a high potential for commercial herbs farming given the climate, topography, soil, and altitude.

VIVA Project works collaboratively with farmers to promote market-oriented farming of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP). This year, in coordination with community forests users groups, and district forest offices, six farmers’ cooperatives engaged in MAPs industry development. Five information books on cultivation, processing, and management of MAPs were published. 12 farmers were supported to venture into independent entrepreneurship, and 40 farmers are currently involved in MAPs farming. 10 farmers groups were trained on sustainable cultivation of MAPs. 14 leading farmers were groomed for leading and guiding MAPs farming in their communities.

Hope Letter Project

Hope Letter Project was implemented in Gorkha and Parbat districts with an objective of ensuring equitable quality education and learning. The Project intends to improve enabling conditions at schools through promoting child-friendly infrastructure and information and communication technology in education.

The Project supported the construction of 18 child friendly classrooms, two gender friendly toilets, and establishment of two computer labs. Parents were made aware of their roles and responsibilities in school management committee (SMC) and parent-teacher association (PTA). Six SMCs and four PTAs held meetings to discuss the roles of school teachers, parents, and communities to support to ensure quality teaching and learning.
The massive April 2015 Earthquake measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale. As its epicenter was in the eastern part of Gorkha District, it is also called as the Gorkha Earthquake. It is the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal in the last eight decades. Gorkha, being the epicenter was the most badly affected district—thousands of human and non-human casualties, massive loss of property, and heavily damaged infrastructure and public services.

A team of GNI Nepal and GNI Japan staff and civil engineers carried out a thorough damage assessment. Based on it, the Gorkha Reconstruction Project was born aiming to reconstruct school buildings and health-posts and restore the most basic services in the earthquake-affected communities.

Enabling conditions at the target schools were enhanced through strengthening school management committees and parent-teacher associations, promoting child-friendly classrooms, classroom refurbishing, and building gender friendly toilets.

Construction of five outreach clinics and seven school buildings is progressing as planned and will complete in 2018. Under the health infrastructure support, four health facilities were reconstructed/renovated, and four primary health care/outreach clinics were provided with medical equipment and furniture.

Employment Generation and Value Chain Development Project (EGVCDP)

Over the past decades, value chain development approach has increasingly been employed to reduce rural poverty. GNI Nepal under this approach is implementing EGVCDP in Panchthar, Jhapa, and Morang districts.

In total, 15 junior technical assistants, an account officer, and members of executive committees of a cooperative in Panchthar District were oriented on bookkeeping and financial management. 230 farmers desiring to start small-scale livestock rearing were provided training. In order to develop a dairy value chain in the working area, 163 farmers were trained on cattle rearing for milk production. To ease collection, processing, and distribution of the milk produced by them, the cooperative is planning to establish a processing plant.

84 would-be entrepreneurs were trained on vocational skills of their interests like mobile repairing, make-up artistry, plumbing, masonry, electrical wiring, pig farming, etc.

In 2017, GNI Nepal piloted a two-year MHM Project in Doti, one of the districts having the highest prevalence of chhaupadi practice. With a focus on improving the menstrual hygiene status of school-going adolescent girls, the Project carried out activities focusing on teachers, parents, and adolescents to create a safe, sound and supportive environment at schools, homes, and community.

419 adolescents were oriented on adolescent and sexual reproductive health (ASRH) and menstrual hygiene management issues prevalent in their communities such as child marriage, menstrual taboos, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. 51 health workers including female community health volunteers and local community leaders—most important and influential actors in the community—benefited from the orientation. Wall painting at public places, radio talk shows, radio jingles/public service announcements carrying ASRH, MHM, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) messages helped in combating menstrual taboos and superstitions.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Project

Menstruation signals a girl’s entry into womanhood, sexual activity; and reproduction, and is a crucial time for adolescent girls to learn about their bodies and reproductive health. Safe and effective menstrual health management is a critical component of, and premise to, adolescent girls’ sexual and reproductive health.
Major Events of 2017

MEAL Workshop
From 16-20 January 2017, a five-day Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) orientation workshop was organized for finalizing district-wise logical framework of project districts. Sharing sessions on monitoring and evaluation framework 2016-2020 were also held.

Livelihood Workshop
From 25-29 July 2017, a livelihood workshop was organized for reviewing GNI Nepal's income generation activities, training implementing partners' staff on business plan preparation, discussing livelihood enhancement program's strategies and plans for 2017, and sharing learning/findings of field monitoring.

Theory of Change (TOC) Workshop
On 5 May 2017, a rigorous full-day session on GNI Nepal's organizational theory of change was held. 19 staff members representing each thematic department reviewed GNI Nepal's existing result chain and developed a new TOC.

GNI Foundation Day Celebration
On 28 March 2017, GNI Nepal marked the 26th GNI Foundation Day. The communal resting place (Kharibot Chautari) at Ekantakuna Chowk was beautified in the morning and in early afternoon, GNI Nepal head office staff and students painted artworks on the walls of classrooms of Shree Devi Secondary School in Lele, Lalitpur. Wall-painting was followed by blood donation, concluding the foundation day celebrations.

Emergency Relief for Flood Affected Families
In third and fourth week of August 2017, as a part of emergency response, food items (rice, sugar, salt, lentils, chickpeas, beaten rice, dalmoth and cooking oils), non-food items (tarpaulin, mosquito net and sari/dhoti), and dignity kits (bathing and laundry soap, flashlight, toothbrush, toothpaste, water purifier, sanitary pad, bucket/mug and ORS) were provided to around 1900 flood-affected families in Kailali, Bardiya, Jhapa, and Rautahat districts.

CHITRA: Art Competition
On 25 and 27 September 2017, GNI Nepal organized CHITRA: Art Competition which witnessed an enthusiastic participation of 1052 students from grade 1-12 of 29 GNI Nepal supported schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts. Along with dreams and aspirations of children, the artworks afforded meaningful insights into the current state of education, health, WASH, child rights, child protection, gender equality and natural disasters.

Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) Meetings
On 5 January and 21 December 2017, the first and second CPAC meetings were held in Kathmandu. Officials from National Planning Commission, Central Child Welfare Board, National Reconstruction Authority, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Law and Justice participated in the program and reviewed the activity progress of GNI Nepal and provided feedback for making programmatic improvements.
Major Events of 2017

Stakeholder Dialogue on Contemporary Child Protection Concerns in Nepal

On 16 November 2017, GNI Nepal in collaboration with Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal organized a dialogue on ‘Contemporary Child Protection Concerns in Nepal’ in the lead-up to the Universal Children’s Day.

A panel discussion was held on child and women trafficking, child protection policies, challenges, and opportunities, child protection under local government, cooperation between the public and private sector for ending child labor, addressing violence against children in the new structure in Nepal, and education and child labor.

The program saw a participation of around 400 representatives from government agencies, 75 national NGOs, 14 INGOs, networks of organizations working for children, child club graduates, eight social work colleges, various child-club networks, and 130 children from 30 public schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts.

Campaign Against Child Marriage

From 26 October-3 November 2017, Health System Recovery Project (HSRP), Nuwakot organized a mass campaign against child marriage in two municipalities and eight rural municipalities in Nuwakot District with an objective of sensitizing the public on the negative health psycho-emotional effects of child marriage and girl trafficking.

Hazards entailing child marriage and ensuing consequences were clearly communicated to the audience. Around 3500 students, teachers, health workers, local leaders, female community health volunteers and other community members viewed the street drama.

Financial Summary 2017

Total Income

- World Food Programme: NRS. 113,338,821.20
- European Union: NRS. 30,359,848.45
- KOICA: NRS. 52,144,977.20
- Others: NRS. 552,684.18
- Total Income: NRS. 1,397,739.90

Total Expenditure

- Program Expenses: NRS. 720,998,002
- Administrative Expenses: NRS. 115,961,115

Expenditure by Category

- Sponsorship Service and Child Protection: 4.04%
- Education: 26.49%
- Health: 7.50%
- WASH: 4.74%
- Income Generation: 25.20%
- Partnership and Network Building: 0.61%
- Advocacy: 1.62%
- Recovery and Reconstruction: 12.44%
- Research and Development: 3.50%
- Administrative Cost: 13.36%
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