Good Neighbors International (GNI) has been working in Nepal since 2002 with the objective of improving the lives of poor people, especially children through education, income generating activities, health services, child protection, disaster risk reduction, advocacy, and governance. GNI Nepal employs a child-centered community development approach to protect the rights of the children and promote their holistic development. This approach helps families and communities achieve ‘self-reliance’ and serves as the basis for sustainable development.

Currently, GNI Nepal works with 194 child clubs, 523 schools, 126 cooperatives, 424 health facilities in 22 districts through 22 local nongovernmental organizations.

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal is a Nepali non-governmental national organization, registered at District Administration Office, Jumla in 1999, and currently, operates in 15 districts of Karnali Province and Province 5, and 6 districts of Province 3.

KIRDARC Nepal engages more than 500 community institutions and enables people and communities to claim and exercise their human rights, including the right against poverty and neglect by way of educating, organizing and mobilizing primary right holders in human rights promoting actions; research and evidence-based policy advocacy; providing complementary services; economic empowerment and promoting socially responsible investment.

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
www.gninepal.org        facebook.com/gninepal.org        twitter.com/gni_nepal
instagram.com/gninepal        www.linkedin.com/in/gni-nepal
Since 2018, Good Neighbors International Nepal in collaboration with its local partners has been organizing stakeholder dialogues on the issues of children in Darchula, Bajura, Doti, Kailali, Humla, Mugu, Bardiya, Myagdi, Parbat, Kaski, Gorkha, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur districts of Province 3, Gandaki Province, Karnali Province, and Sudurpaschim Province.

These stakeholder dialogues are called balkachahari in the vernacular of Karnali. This year more than 1000 grassroots stakeholders participated in 16 municipal-level balkachaharis organized in thirteen GNI Nepal working districts and province-level balkachaharis organized in Karnali, Sudur Paschim, and Gandaki Provinces. Children, students, child club members, teachers, parents, elected officials, local and provincial

Key Preliminary Findings:

- 40.1% of the respondents did not have knowledge of legal age of marriage
- 94.3% of the respondents under 18 think that child/early marriage is not good
- 38.8% of the respondents believe child marriage is increasing
- 67.3% of the respondents believe that child marriage rates can be reduced
- 66% of the respondents ascribe child marriage to love affairs
- 28.7% of the respondents take poverty as contributing to child marriage
- 61.7% of the respondents perceive spread of social media/mobile telephony/internet contributing to child marriage
This year Good Neighbors International Nepal and Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) conducted a research on Changing Dimensions of Child/Early Marriage in Nepal. Districts sampled for the research included Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha, Parbat, Kaski, Myagdi, Bardiya, Kailali, Doti, Bajura, Mugu, Humla, Kalikot, and Kapilvastu and represented Terai, hill, and mountain regions of Nepal. For the research, 1032 unmarried adolescent girls and boys, parents and persons who married before legal age provided quantitative data. Qualitative data was obtained from adolescents, parents, social, political and religious leaders, local governments, and police.

An eighteen-point declaration urging all stakeholders to take concrete steps for securing child rights and child protection was made at the National Balkachahari 2018 held in Kathmandu last year. Towards this end, Good Neighbors International Nepal supported Malikarjun Rural Municipality of Darchula, Ward No. 8, Dipayal Silgadi Municipality of Doti and Budiganga Municipality of Bajura to design and adopt Child Marriage Elimination Strategies; and GNI Nepal nurtured child clubs prevented 15 child marriages from happening.

From November 2018-2019, Good Neighbors International Nepal reached;

- 1418 students with child club reactivation/formation support
- 1371 children with CFLG training programs
- 1256 child club members with leadership training programs
- 25 schools with MHM and WASH training programs
- 4946 children with sensitization program on CRC
From November 2018-2019, Good Neighbors International Nepal reached;

- **2840** girl students of 40 schools with Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits
- **4500** child club members with logistics support
- **25,963** children received general health checkup services
- **132** schools supported with complaint boxes installation
- **41** schools with MHM-friendly (27) and gender-friendly toilets (14)
- **1353** stakeholder with awareness-raising messages
- **3108** Total Participants
- **354** Schools Participated
- **413** students: drawing
- **323** girl students: extempore speech
- **354** students: poetry
- **552** students: essay-writing
- **536** students: spelling bee
- **930** students: quiz

**AWASAR:**

It is a well-known fact that teaching-learning limited to paper and pencil and confined to a classroom only cannot meet the developmental needs of children. To help children explore their innate talents and raise their awareness of sociocultural issues and their rights, GNI Nepal conducted school-municipality- and national-level poetry, drawing, extempore speech, quiz, and essay writing competitions and noncompetitive awareness-raising drama performances among 80,000 Grades 1-12 students of 354 schools in 13 districts across Nepal.

- **2840** girl students of 40 schools with Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits
- **4500** child club members with logistics support
- **25,963** children received general health checkup services
- **132** schools supported with complaint boxes installation
- **41** schools with MHM-friendly (27) and gender-friendly toilets (14)
- **1353** stakeholder with awareness-raising messages
- **3108** Total Participants
- **354** Schools Participated
- **413** students: drawing
- **323** girl students: extempore speech
- **354** students: poetry
- **552** students: essay-writing
- **536** students: spelling bee
- **930** students: quiz