

ANNUAL REPORT

20 Years of Transforming
Lives of Children and
Communities in Nepal



यदि चिला नै गर्नु
भने विवाहको होत्र
शिक्षाको गर्नु होत्र

यदि चिला नै गर्नु भने
नेपाको ब्यापार गर्नु होत्र
नेपाको होत्र

नेपाको विवाहको होत्र
नेपाको २० वर्ष पूरा

मेरो विवाहको होत्र
मेरो शिक्षाको होत्र
चिला गर्नु होत्र

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चिला गर्नु होत्र

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



2022 was a year of action for GNI Nepal. Having faced lockdowns and slowdowns in activity implementation in the previous two years, we stepped up our work in twenty-two districts across Nepal towards building an equitable and inclusive society for children, their families and communities in 2022. This year, we signed a Project Agreement with the Social Welfare Council to implement an Integrated Community Development Project in 20 districts for the next five years.

Children from poor and marginalized communities in Nepal are particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse and exploitation. Child protection measures are necessary to prevent and respond to these issues and ensure that children are safe, healthy, and able to reach their full potential. This year, my team at GNI Nepal worked with child clubs, local governments, and duty bearers to formulate/adopt local-level policies on child marriage and prevent child marriages, early unions, and violations of child rights.

Providing quality education to children is crucial for breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, promoting better health outcomes, and advancing gender equality. It also enables girls to break free from discrimination and contribute to society. We spearheaded several educational interventions for our sponsored children and their peers in rural public schools to improve academic outcomes. These initiatives covered introducing information technology in schools, improving early literacy and childhood education, supporting inclusive education for disabled students, providing educational materials, and developing child-friendly school infrastructure. Our interventions helped over 600 schools give children better access to education, enhance academic outcomes, and allow students to develop their skills and talents.

GNI Nepal supports national efforts to improve health outcomes by strengthening local health systems and improving health behaviors and practices of communities. While we were engaged in improving maternal, newborn, and child health services and sexuality education for adolescents and women of reproductive age, we also provided much-needed medical equipment, built health personnel's capacity, and upgraded physical infrastructure at health facilities this year.

I have seen how improving menstrual hygiene management (MHM) helps girls in Nepal stay in school. This year, we organized a national traditional healers' conclave to reduce menstrual taboos and I was surprised to see the participation and commitment of Traditional Healers to overcome menstrual-related discrimination. We phased out an MHM project this year; however, MHM will remain a core intervention of Good Neighbors in Nepal. By addressing barriers related to menstruation, we will continue to reduce absenteeism and dropouts and enable girls to fully participate in education.

For the first time in its 27-year history, this year's Conference of the Parties (COP) dedicated a day to the theme of agriculture and launched the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative. In alignment with this initiative, we have established a Green Enterprises and Climate Justice Department to assist communities in Nepal in combating the challenges they face due to climate change by focusing on climate-smart agriculture, social enterprise development, natural resource management, and resilient community infrastructure development.

In a post-covid situation and a world battered by climate change, where more families are getting poor by the day and more children and families need our support. My experience working with communities tells me that every challenging situation brings a wealth of opportunities to make good changes. Therefore, we will ramp up our efforts to reach more children and their families in need across Nepal.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jaekyun Rho
Country Director



Empowering People, Transforming Communities

Good Neighbors exists to make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony.

We respect the human rights of our neighbors suffering from poverty, disasters and oppression, and help them to be self-reliant and have hope.

VISION

Make a society where people live together in harmony

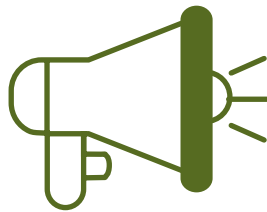
MISSION STATEMENT

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

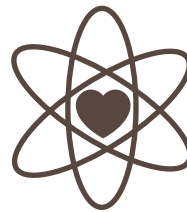
CORE VALUES



Empowerment and
self-reliance



Promotion of rights
of children



Cooperation and
solidarity



Networking and
partnership



Transparency and
accountability

Good Neighbors International (GNI) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) that works to improve the lives of children and families in need around the world. Since 2002, through its programming in child protection, education, public health, and social economy, it has been implementing programs to support children and communities in need across Nepal.



Education: Supporting schools to improve equitable access, quality of education, and strengthening management through construction and renovation initiatives, promoting child-friendly environment, educational materials support, information and communication technology (ICT) integration in education, early grade reading and capacity development of teachers, school management committee (SMC) and parent-teacher association (PTA).



Child Protection: Strengthening local child protection mechanism by capacitating local stakeholders, raising awareness of child rights among children, community members, and stakeholders, and partnering with child clubs and their networks to make them capable of claiming their rights.



Public Health: Promoting local health system strengthening through construction/renovation of health facilities, medical equipment support, capacity development of health workers, public health education campaigns, and provisioning a broad range of services in maternal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health including menstrual hygiene management, and school-led total sanitation.



Social Economy: Supporting communities through institutional development of cooperatives, vocational skills training, enhancing access of entrepreneurs and small-scale farmers to financial and non-financial services, along with empowering communities with climate-smart agriculture, green enterprises, and climate-agri solutions.

Highlights of 2022

- ➔ **Worked in**
434 wards
23 municipalities
36 rural municipalities
22 districts
- ➔ **Worked with**
683 schools
393 health facilities
141 cooperatives
- ➔ **Partnered with**
23 non-governmental organizations
- ➔ **Sponsored children**
12,499 girls
10,930 boys
- ➔ **Local sponsorship**
1,318 children
- ➔ **Benefited**
163,438 females
133,451 males

GNI Nepal partners with local communities, government agencies, and like-minded organizations to bring transformation and lasting changes in communities.



2022

• **43,328** sponsored children

• **14** CDPs

• **20** districts

• **29** partner organizations

Maternal and Child Health Project



2021

• **39,348** sponsored children
13 CDPs • **22** districts

2020

• **36,097** sponsored children
13 CDPs • **22** districts

Inclusive Rural Development
Health Right Improvement

• **24,123** sponsored children
18 CDPs • **11** districts

2013

2014

• **28,324** sponsored children
20 CDPs • **13** districts

• **19,734** sponsored children

Saemaul Zero Hunger
Community Project
Phase I

2012



2011

• **13,692** sponsored children
14 CDPs • **7** districts



Establishment of Village Income
through Value Addition

2010

• **8,625** sponsored children
11 CDPs • **6** districts

• **16** sponsored children
Hostel Project
• Lalitpur district

2003

2004

• **32** sponsored children

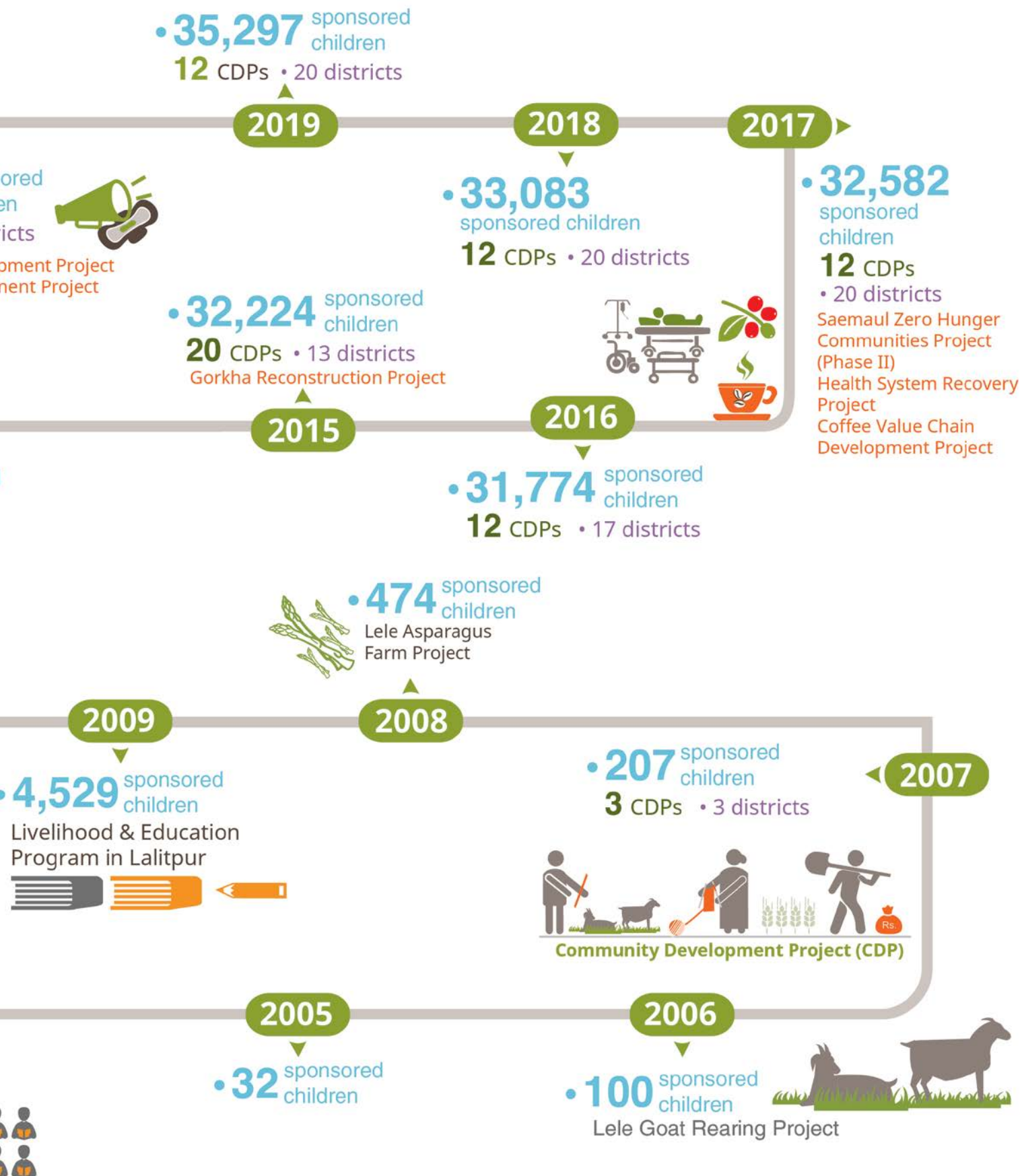


2002

• **16** sponsored children
Hostel Project
• Kathmandu district



2002 - 2022





Education

Children enjoy the rights to quality education



130,321

students improved access to
quality education



3,217

parents' parenting skills
improved



8,431

children's learning and development
boosted



1,031

teachers and educators skills
enhanced



The Constitution of Nepal (2015) guarantees education as a fundamental right. The Government of Nepal has implemented various measures to ensure access to compulsory and free school education. Equitable access to quality learning opportunities for all children is a national priority. The School Sector Development Plan 2016-2023 emphasizes equity, quality, efficiency, governance and management, and resilience.

Public school education in Nepal has not improved despite constitutional guarantees. Challenges include low enrollment rates, poor infrastructure, and inadequate resources. Many children are unable to attend school due to poverty, child labor, and early marriage. In addition, schools lack basic facilities, qualified and trained teachers, and sufficient funding, especially in rural areas, making it difficult to provide quality education.

National Education Policy (2019) emphasizes providing “competitive, technology-friendly, employment-intensive, and production-oriented education.” Current educational priorities have been redefined to expand knowledge, incorporate digital technology in children’s learning, address national and international issues, and promote value-oriented learning for all children (National Framework on School Education Curriculum, 2019).

GNI Nepal’s educational interventions aim to expand equitable quality learning opportunities for children from low socioeconomic backgrounds, remote areas, challenging circumstances, and struggling for the want of basic educational materials.

In 2022, GNI Nepal implemented information communication and technology (ICT) in education, early grade reading, early childhood education and development (ECED) strengthening, inclusive education for children with disabilities, educational materials support, and educational infrastructure development interventions which helped children in more than 600 schools to have better educational opportunities, improve academic achievement, and nurture their talents.

These initiatives underpinned child-, technology-, gender- and disability-friendly principles, fostered learning environment, strengthened management, and promoted parental participation at schools we worked with this year.

Infrastructure



1 school building constructed



2 ECED centers constructed



3 libraries established



22,434 continued their education

20,856 counseled during home visits



3,980 children enrolled in sponsorship service

1,318 children locally sponsored

Sponsorship Service

We enroll the poorest children in our sponsorship program every year. They receive school supplies, uniforms, general health checkups, home visits, and counseling services at least once a year. Having sponsored more than forty-two thousand children to finish school (grades 1 - 10) in the past twenty years, we have observed that our educational support to children, although modest, has positively impacted enrollment, school attendance, and retention rates.

In 2022, we supported 22,434 children from poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged families with educational materials, school uniforms, general health checkups, health education, home visits, and counseling. This year, we enrolled 3,980 young learners in twelve districts in our sponsorship program.

Good Neighbors as a part of localizing its education efforts worldwide encourages local governments to sponsor children's education following our child sponsorship model. This year local governments in Darchula, Doti, Gorkha, and Myagdi districts supported 1,318 children to continue their education.

A young boy's aim for independence reaches greater heights!

Bigyan Sanjyal, Lamki, Ward No. 1, Lamkichuha Municipality, Kailai District

Fun-loving, Bigyan Sanjyal is the youngest in a family of seven. The cheerful child comes from a low-income family. They own a small grocery shop and 169 square meters of land. Bigyan's father works as a secondary school tutor at a government school in Kailali District.

In 2013, second-grader Bigyan and his older brother, Prashant, enrolled in GNI Nepal's sponsorship program. They started receiving stationery materials, which motivated Bigyan to focus more on his studies. Owing to excellent academic performance he was promoted from grade 1 to 2 in a month. Bigyan continued to secure the first position in grades 1-10 and ranked number one among all students in Lamkichuha Municipality at the district level in the 2078 (2022) Secondary Education Examination (SEE).



Bigyan is an all-rounder who actively participates in extracurricular activities and has a stellar academic track record. He won a recharge card worth NRs 1,500 from the radio phone-in program organized by GNI Nepal and NRs 200 four times in a TikTok Q&A competition. More importantly, his outstanding performance on the SEE earned him a full scholarship to college.

Bigyan is well-known in Lamkichuha Municipality for his outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. Wanting to become financially independent at an early age and pursue a career in engineering, he is preparing for the engineering entrance exams fervently. His family is proud of the achievements he has had at such a young age.

Success follows determination

Samita Lama, 18, Ghyangphedi, Ward No. 1, Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality, Nuwakot District



Samita's family had a hard time making ends meet due to their low economic status. In 2008, they moved to Kathmandu in search of a better life. The Lama siblings got admission to Jhor Mahankal Secondary School. The family of four struggled to survive, but the parents worked hard as daily wage workers to provide for their children's basic needs. Despite the difficulties, they kept a positive attitude and believed in equal opportunities for girls and boys.

GNI Nepal emphasizes holistic development of children. In 2012, Samita and her elder brother got selected to participate in GNI Nepal sponsorship

program. It provided them with better educational opportunities, including stationery, school uniforms, shoes, and bags. Participation in GNI Nepal supported extracurricular activities helped Samita and her brother to learn better and whet their talents. GNI Nepal also supported their school to have child-friendly environment, a science lab, and Samita's parents to have a better income through vocational skills training and startup support. Samita also had her health examined every year. GNI's support started to ease the Lama family's financial burden.

Studious Samita attended her classes regularly and secured first position in grades 1-10. She actively participated in extracurricular activities like dance, quiz, and speech competitions and proved her talent by winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places multiple times. Samita's inquisitiveness also led her to engage in Scouts, volunteering, and first-aid training. She passed her Secondary Education Examination (SEE) in 2020 with an A+. Samita left her school on a high note.

Following her dream of becoming a nurse, she joined Proficiency Certificate Level (PCL) Nursing Course at a college in Kathmandu. Recently, she completed a one-month internship at a hospital. As a first-year nursing student, she participates in community health-related tours, skits, awareness-raising events, and exhibitions. She devotes six hours per day to clinical practicum and studying.

Determined to become a successful nurse, Samita spends a lot of time in the library. To have her family invest in her education is a source of motivation and confidence for her. Samita's generous and optimistic attitude has made her popular among her peers. Currently, she is focused on preparing for her exams, which are set to start in a month.

"Education is the best way to improve people's situation. My family is grateful to GNI Nepal for supporting a poor child like me. I want GNI Nepal to support more poor children and communities to help them have a good change," said Samita.

— ◆ —
"I want GNI Nepal to support more poor children and communities to help them have a good change."
— ◆ —



59 schools in five districts benefited

Early grade reading

Reading is vital for all learning. Sufficient reading skills help to boost knowledge and foster better comprehension among young learners. Improving children's literacy skills, beginning in the foundational grades (grades 1-3), is crucial. Lack of sufficient reading materials, proper classroom instructional methodology, and appropriate physical facilities are some of the major causes behind poor reading skills in the early grades, which result in poor learning achievement.

GNI Nepal's *Ramaro Padhai and Ramro Sikai* (early grade reading) initiative aims to increase teachers' capacity for effective reading instruction and increase family and community support. It emphasizes the 5T modality (adequate time, frequent testing, adequate text, effective techniques, and use of mother tongue). Our early grade reading interventions prioritize adequate reading resources and opportunities for children at home with proper parental support and at school with availability of mother tongue-based reading opportunities. In 2022, children of fifty-nine schools in Bajura, Mugu, Humla, Doti, and Darchula districts improved their reading skill.



Parental education advances children's learning

Pabitra Sagar, Ward No. 4, Budhiganga Municipality, Bajura District



Pabitra Sagar is a parent to three young children. Her daughters, third grader Argentina, first grader Akansha, and son, Albhat in early childhood education and development (ECED), would hurry home from school, drop their bags and uniforms, grab a snack, and run off to play. In the evenings, they would return with dirty feet, dust on their clothes, and go to bed without washing up. This created not only a mess but also resulted in damage and loss of reading and learning materials. Many of her neighbors also faced a similar challenge.

In 2022, our early grade reading interventions improved children's learning attitudes at home through community mobilization and parental education. They learnt about creating a home-based reading corner and engaging in learning activities such as storytelling, poetry recitals, and preparing reading materials.

“... I realized that even a semi-literate mother like me could help my children learn using available resources, materials and knowledge.”

Pabitra shared, “After participating in the sessions, I realized that even a semi-literate mother like me could help my children learn using available resources, materials, and knowledge. I also learned that a safe and separate reading corner at home encourages children to spend more time studying, drawing, and coloring.”

Sixty-seven families in the community now have reading corners with bookshelves in their homes. This has motivated both kids and their parents. Children enjoy showcasing their artwork, photos, and writing on the walls, while parents are more involved in their learning. Some parents have also bought storybooks for their children.

With help from their children in higher grades, many parents prepared reading materials, including charts, drawings, district lists, map of Nepal, etc., to be hung on the walls. “My younger children also use the reading materials and do their homework in the evening. I am glad to see this change in them,” said Pabitra.

Some children display storybooks borrowed from the school library on their bookshelves and request adults at home to read them stories. “Srijana, my daughter, who is a fifth-grader, brings home storybooks from school, and I read them to her. I am happy to see her interest in stories,” said Pushpa Sunar, a mother.



Print-rich classroom kindles early grade reading

Chaudaleshwar Basic School, Meltoli, Ward No. 8, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti District

Two years ago, Chaudaleshwar Basic School lacked a favorable learning environment for young learners. Poor learning materials, infrastructure, and traditional ways of learning — rote memorization and lecturing — made the classes ineffective and tedious for the young pupils. They dozed off instead of participating in classroom activities.

To continue creating a favorable learning environment for young learners, GNI Nepal supported Dal Bahadur Saud, a new teacher at the school to attend a three-day training. He learned to make playing-learning materials for a print-rich classroom environment, conduct fun-filled classes, and incorporate vernacular storytelling and poetry recitals. During the training, he realized why his tutoring style had been ineffective. Equipped with new insights and skills, he prepared printed materials, including word cards, flashcards, hanging cards, job cards, attendance charts, and weather charts.

Primary school teacher, Dal Bahadur Saud, shared that as a new teacher at the school, he worried about providing a conducive learning environment for the children. He said, “When I entered the classroom for the first time, I saw a well-furnished room with a reading corner and adequate reading materials supported by GNI Nepal. I thought to myself that I should make good use of these resources.”



His young students enjoyed storytelling sessions and poetry recitals, visibly improving their vocabulary and speaking skills. Now they love to listen to stories, tell stories, learn with new materials, and actively participate in all classroom activities. School attendance has gone up, and so has their cognitive development.

Only three years ago, children in grade three could not read basic texts. However, now, majority of the third graders can read anything they are given with ease. “Last year, many children from our school participated and won prizes in an inter-school reading competition,” remarked Chakra Saud, the school principal.

A parent, Amar Saud, stated, “In Doti, most men migrate to India for seasonal work, and mothers lack the skills and time to help with their kids’ education, which hampers their learning. These days, they are really enjoying school because the learning environment has gotten better.”

— ◆ —
“Last year, many children from our school participated and won prizes in an inter-school reading competition.”
— ◆ —

ECED center strengthening

GNI Nepal's early childhood education and development (ECED) focused initiatives aim to create playful learning opportunities for children aged three-five years by expanding access to quality ECED services at home and school and better prepare them for school education. ECED center management, learning, playing materials and musical instrument support, capacity building of teachers, and imparting parenting skills are our major interventions. GNI Nepal's animated rhymes, songs, and videos have further helped young learners explore learning in new ways.



Infrastructural support stimulates early childhood education

Gorkhanath Basic School, Lapukhani, Ward No. 7, Dharche Rural Municipality, Gorkha District



The school offers classes up to the fourth grade and primarily serves students from Dalit and indigenous families. Their parents, who are often illiterate and work as laborers, livestock farmers, or porters, do not understand the value of education. Many children enrolled at school also did not attend classes regularly, and those who did would also get dust on their clothes. Due to the absence

of furniture, students sat on the floor or studied on the school playground, which affected their health. Dank classrooms worsened the problem even more.

GNI Nepal supported the school to build ECED classrooms and furnish them with low tables, carpets, cushions, and cupboards stocked with educational toys and reading materials; trained the teachers at the ECED center on developing and managing learning materials; and oriented the parents on how to help their kids with their studies at home.

“The trainings were a real game-changer for our students and parents. Parents are more engaged and interested in their children's education now. We've seen such improvements in our ECED classes that we want to introduce this learning environment in other classrooms. Our school management committee could benefit from some additional training in terms of management skills. We're grateful for the opportunity to work with GNI and look forward to future collaborations,” said the school's principal, Lok Bahadur Bhul.

Young learners at the ECED center are benefiting from a comfortable and conducive learning environment. Their attendance has increased, and their academic performance has also improved.

ICT integration in education

GNI Nepal aims to create better access to quality education by integrating information and communication technology (ICT) into daily instructional processes. We support to create a conducive school and classroom environment for the adaptation of ICT-assisted learning, developing teachers' capacity for effective and successful integration of ICT in daily lesson plans, and prioritizing the development of ICT infrastructure in school plans.

GNI Nepal pioneered Smart Classrooms for promoting digital and multimedia-based learning. This year, through full-fledged and refresher training, more than 350 teachers successfully adapted ICT-assisted teaching and learning.

ICT-aided teaching-learning empowers rural students

Jalkumari Secondary School, Swara, Ward No. 3, Arughat Rural Municipality, Gorkha District

In 2017, a French national affiliated with a foundation visited the community while trekking, and he donated his laptop to the school for its curious students. This increased the enthusiasm of teachers and students alike for information and communication technology (ICT), computers in particular.

In 2018, the school furnished a classroom for the lab and received support from GNI Nepal in the form of eight desktop computers. The following year, GNI Nepal provided additional support by supplying laptops, projectors, speakers, and headsets and installing E-Paath, digital lessons on the laptops. The school boasts a collection of fourteen desktop computers, five laptops, three projectors, two smart TVs, and internet access now.

At Jalkumari Secondary School, students in grades 6-8 have access to computer classes in a well-equipped lab. Other students also receive lessons in technology-integrated classrooms as needed. Teachers have received training on using computers and laptops, and an ICT teacher is present in the school to solve technical issues. Classrooms have been designed keeping the needs of visually impaired children in mind, and the audio-visual mode of learning has greatly enhanced daily teaching-learning. As a result, students are actively engaged in classroom activities.

"Earlier, I would struggle to understand the lessons right away, and I didn't feel comfortable asking the teachers to repeat the topics multiple times. Even my friends weren't always able to help me with my questions. But now, I can get answers to my questions using a computer," said ninth-grader Tara Thapa.

We have found that around 73% of students in grades 6-8 can use laptops," stated English teacher Binod Dawadi. "Students prefer to use this new



technology to get answers to their queries," added a science teacher.

The integration of ICT has made the learning process more efficient for its 219 students. Jalkumari Secondary School has seen an improvement in its students' academic performance. It is now ranked among the top three best schools in the rural municipality. During leisure periods or in the absence of a teacher, students can be found busy learning on computers.

The school plans to equip all classrooms with ICT taking the needs of visually impaired children into consideration. They are seeking assistance from local bodies and hope to receive it. The school's principal Tek Bahadur Dahal expressed his gratitude to GNI Nepal for the support.



आज शिक्षामा
लगानी, भोलीको
राम्रो आम्दानी।

Child Pr

Children are prevented and protected from

बाल दुर्व्यवहार
अन्त्य गरौं ।



Nepal continues to face significant challenges in protecting children and promoting child rights. Inadequate awareness of child rights and child protection, poor formal child safeguarding structures, traditional malpractices, poor enforcement of children's laws, and weak implementation of programs and policies are significant problems related to child rights violations. As a result, children are deprived of their fundamental rights to participation and protection.

Despite the fact that child protection is a major concern, local governments rarely prioritize and invest in child rights and child protection. While there exist child protection mechanisms such as child protection and child rights committees at the local level, these structures are currently not equipped with sufficient resources and capacity to fulfill their duty bearer obligations. Child protection cannot be realized without concerted efforts by all actors, functional committees, and mechanisms.

Protection

from violence and exploitation



20,939 people increased their awareness of child rights



9,542 children protected from violence, abuse, discrimination, and other threats



3,735 children and local stakeholders trained on child rights and protection



2,844 children sensitized on child rights



166 children championed child rights in their communities



Awareness raising and sensitization

This year, we conducted different awareness-raising campaigns and produced, placed, or distributed information, education, and communication / behavioral change communication (IEC/BCC) materials like hoarding boards, brochures, pamphlets, and radio programs to sensitize child clubs, parents, and stakeholders. Activities like rallies, street dramas, cultural programs, and child rights focused extracurricular activities (ECA) were conducted.

Remote community blazes a trail in ending child marriage

Sahuwada Community, Ward No. 4, Budhiganga Municipality, Bajura District

Families belonging to different castes live in this community. Historically, poverty, poor education, awareness and cultural and social traditions led to a high occurrence of child marriages. In the past few years, misuse of social networks has been emerging as a leading cause of early marriages in rural communities.

In order to curb child marriages in the community, since 2019, GNI Nepal has been coordinating and collaborating with local organizations, police offices, schools, child clubs, children's networks, and monitoring groups to organize interactions, discussions, trainings, meetings, street dramas, rallies, radio programs, murals, voting against child marriage, collecting pledges, extracurricular activities, cultural programs, home visits, and counseling.

These grassroots initiatives engendered dialogue and discussion on the detrimental effects of child marriage on children and ways to prevent it within homes and neighborhoods. While these initiatives have had a favorable impact on the community as a whole, the impact on the community of Ward No. 4 was relatively greater compared to other communities.

In collaboration with GNI Nepal, the ward office supported Pragatisil Child Club to conduct a survey on the status of child marriage in Sahuwada Community in August. No child marriages took place in the community last year. In recognition of this achievement, Sahuwada Community was declared a child marriage-free community on National Children's Day.

Pragatisil Child Club President, Akriti Khati said, "Believing that child marriage is a social crime, we



have made and implemented various action plans, raised voice against child marriage in our community and made everyone aware of marrying only after twenty. So we can declare our community a child marriage-free community. And, it has made us happy."

Ward Chairman, Min Bahadur Shah stated that they are working towards declaring their ward a child marriage-free ward on the first day of the next Nepali new year.

— ◆ —
"Believing that child marriage is a social crime, we have made and implemented various action plans, raised voice against child marriage in our community and made everyone aware of marrying only after twenty."
— ◆ —



517 children honed
their child protection skills



56 child protection
committees strengthened

Capacity enhancement

Different trainings, orientations, and workshops focusing on child rights, child protection, and against child marriage were provided to enhance the capacity of child clubs, adolescent girls' groups, child marriage vigilance groups, and stakeholders. Such capacity enhancement activities equipped and spurred child clubs, actors, self-help groups, and stakeholders to act against child marriage and other child protection issues rife in their communities. These grassroots change agents organized regular meetings, reviewed progress, prepared action plans, and carried out various extracurricular activities, events, and community campaigns.

Children break the mold with complaint handling mechanism

Jana Bikash Secondary School, Marang, Ward No. 6, Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality, Myagdi District

In Myagdi, GNI Nepal works with forty-seven schools. With technical assistance, coordination, and collaboration from the rural municipality office and schools, twenty-two child clubs and twenty-two complaint-handling committees were formed under them. We provided logistical support and leadership development training to the complaint handling committees covering operations and their duties and responsibilities.

At Jana Bikash Secondary School, the complaint-handling committee received many complaints and has already taken action on three complaints. As a result, children have started to attend school more regularly and actively participate in the classroom. Now, young learners at the school feel that their voices are being heard and their concerns are being addressed.

Yaman KC, Chairperson of Complaint Handling Committee at the school, shared, “Recently, GNI Nepal supported us to establish a nine-member complaint-handling committee, and it has been a great success. Now, students can express their opinions and have their complaints heard and addressed. The committee is working effectively, and I believe it will continue to do so in the future.”

The complaint-handling committees are working in a good and effective manner. At least once a month, they meet and address the collected complaints. As the students’ complaints are addressed now, they feel confident that they can raise their voices about their problems and even their rights.

Complaint-handling committee members have improved their knowledge, skills, and participation in addressing child protection issues at their schools. A complaint-handling mechanism in a school not only gives students an outlet for problems and issues troubling them but also can help them find lasting solutions.



“Recently, GNI Nepal supported us to establish a nine-member complaint-handling committee and it has been a great success.

Now, students can express their opinions and have their complaints heard and addressed.”



56 child protection committees
reformed/reactivated



100 child clubs reformed and
institutionalized

System strengthening

As a part of our system strengthening efforts, child rights committees, child clubs, adolescent girls' groups, and child marriage vigilance groups were formed or reformed. Need-based training and orientations were provided to capacitate them and help them sustain their operations. In Nuwakot and Myagdi districts, we encouraged local governments (LGs) to participate in a child marriage-related survey. We also supported Dharche and Arughat Rural Municipalities of Gorkha District to formulate and adopt a Local Strategy for Ending Child Marriage.

A year of victory

Kalena, Ward No. 8, Ladagada, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti District

In a survey conducted in 2019, child marriage rate in Ladagada for the preceding three years was found to be 45.6% (163 child marriages).

With support from GNI Nepal, Ward No. 8 adopted a Local Strategy for Ending Child Marriage in 2019. GNI Nepal also supported child protection system strengthening, capacity development of children, stakeholder empowerment, and community mobilization in 2022. Local child protection committee, ward office, and other existing structures in the area received technical support in the form of strategy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

GNI Nepal further worked with the ward office to raise awareness, strengthen child protection mechanism, build capacity, and mobilize different actors. Based on Local Strategy for Ending Child Marriage 2019 indicators, Kalena was declared a child marriage-free ward in mid-2021.

The local child protection committee has been conducting regular meetings to receive progress updates from other groups/actors and submit them to the ward office. It regularly assists and mobilizes child clubs, sisters' groups, vigilance groups, and mother groups. The local police post also conducts child marriage focused awareness-raising programs every month at every school in the ward.

GNI Nepal supported school-based Sunadevi Child Club is also playing an important role in achieving the zero child marriage status. It conducts extracurricular activities against child marriage at schools and encourages truant students to regularly attend school by organizing meetings, rallies, street dramas, and awareness-raising events. If a child marriage is about to occur, child club members immediately report it to the child



protection committee members. As a result, arranged child marriages in the ward have completely stopped.

After frequent meetings and regular follow up, the ward office has allocated funds for maintaining zero-child marriage status. Meetings are organized regularly, and girls' groups, child clubs, and child protection committees mobilize frequently. Street plays and other sensitization programs were conducted in all settlements of the ward this year.

Ward and Child Protection Committee Chair said, "If any issue related to children arises, we discuss it. I want to make this municipality completely child marriage-free; therefore, I want to table my proposal at the next municipal executive body meeting."

— ◆ —
“If any issue related to children arises, we discuss it.
I want to make this municipality completely child
marriage-free.”
— ◆ —



23,584 children
had their health check-up



11,142
community members and
children participated in
public health education events



2,124
health workers capacitated

204 adolescents
capacitated on ASRH



66
health facilities strengthened



47
schools have improved MHM
facilities and services

Public Health

People exercise essential healthcare service and facilities



GNI Nepal supports national efforts to improve health outcomes by improving health service delivery at the local level and improving health behavior and practices. We have continuously supported local health system strengthening to advance the country's overall health gains while addressing critical barriers to equitable and sustainable delivery of quality health care services. Our comprehensive package of interventions aims to improve local health system performance.

In 2022, our health interventions focused on improving access to and quality of maternal, newborn, and child health services and comprehensive sexuality education, primarily targeting women of reproductive age and adolescents. We strived to address the root causes of morbidities and mortalities by improving access to and quality of essential services, addressing knowledge gaps, supporting behavior change, and leveraging cross-sectoral approaches to improve the lives of children, families, and communities.

Functional water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and consistent practice of key WASH behaviors are critical preventive measures to promote public health. GNI Nepal's health and WASH interventions comprehensively incorporate hardware and software interventions. Intervention packages, in-house infrastructure designs, mobilization of community leaders in combating harmful cultures and traditions, and mobilization of community health volunteers are the key components that make our projects effective.

This year also we continued our efforts in sustaining WASH behavior in healthcare, school, and community contexts through a multimodal approach, including systems-level change to improve access to WASH facilities and services, training and education, monitoring of practices, reminders, and nudges, and reinforced better WASH practices through coordination and collaboration with local governments and relevant stakeholders.

Infrastructure



6 toilets renovated



3 drinking water systems constructed



1 hand washing station installed



1 outreach clinic constructed and **1** renovated

Trained health worker saving lives

Dattu Health Post, Dattu, Ward No. 9, Mahakali Municipality, Darchula District



In Dattu, pregnant mothers, in particular, were concerned about their health and the health of their unborn children during the pandemic. Two pregnant women from Dattu went to the district hospital to give birth. They were immediately referred to Dadeldhura District Hospital. But one child was stillborn on the way to the hospital. Like these mothers, pregnant women and other patients had to go to India or Darchula District Hospital to get ultrasound services as no health worker at the health post could operate the ultrasound machine.

GNI Nepal provided a twenty-one-day ultrasound machine training to Gomati Samant, a health worker at the health post. She went to

Mahendranagar for training, where she learned to operate ultrasound machine. She stated, “After I received training on ultrasound, pregnant women who came here were able to have checkups on time. I have identified the problems seen in pregnant women early and sent them to health institutions for a consultation about the problems.”

Thanks to the training and new ultrasound machine, residents of Ward No. 9 can now access ultrasound services within their community. They no longer need to travel to Darchula District Hospital, which can take an entire day, and wait for their turn for hours. It has greatly reduced inconvenience that pregnant mothers faced and decreased transportation costs and travel time.

Harisha Nagari, an expectant mother, shared, “I am four months pregnant, and this is my second pregnancy. During my first pregnancy, I suffered a lot. I had to miss a whole day’s work every month just for a checkup. The cost was high, and it was also very difficult to get a ride on time. On top of that, I had to stand in long lines after getting to the district hospital.”

“After I received training on ultrasound, pregnant women who came here were able to have checkup on time.”

Better toilets, better school attendance

Shree Dhanjanata Secondary School, Muna, Ward No. 3, Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality, Myagdi District

109 students sponsored by GNI Nepal, and 234 other students, totaling 343 children, are studying at the school. Of these, 210 are female students, and 133 are male. The school's focus was on managing internal resources for hiring teachers. Due to lack of toilets in proportion to the number of students, clean toilets and personal hygiene of students suffered. This posed additional challenges, particularly for teenage girls during menstruation.

Lack of toilets and water made it unsafe for girl students during menstruation. It led to fewer girl students attending school and more of them leaving classes during their periods. On average, in the final examination, marks obtained by male students were higher than those of female students. During lessons, teenage girls suffering from menstrual pain would go to a health institution with their friends for treatment and advice. Around ten teenage girls of grades 6-10 would leave their classes and go home every day.

In addition to constructing menstrual-friendly toilets in the school, GNI Nepal provided personal hygiene materials, sanitary pads, hot bags, panties, first-aid medicines, and toilet cleaners along with an orientation to the students.

Female students studying here have started using menstrual-



friendly toilets regularly. The number of female students dropping out of class during menstruation has decreased. Now, they can clean themselves properly, and have started receiving first-aid for menstrual pains in the school.

Anisa Subedi said, "Looking at the health institution data, the number of teenage girls with menstrual problems has gone down. Thus, following the construction of menstruation-friendly toilets and girls dropping out of class, it is necessary to set up a fund to make the school menstruation-friendly and local health institutions should organize health education in schools at least once a month."

Purna Bhandari said, "If attention can be paid to the personal hygiene management of female students during menstruation in school, then there will be an increase in the cleanliness of the entire school and learning achievement."

He claims that the school plans to become a model school by implementing programs such as adolescent counseling classes. As a result, it will help to improve the menstrual hygiene management of girls, change overall student cleanliness and habits, and increase the school's learning achievement.

◆
"Looking at the health institution data, the number of teenage girls with menstrual problems has gone down."
◆



Community health education drives up institutional deliveries

Betini Health Post, Betini, Ward No. 4, Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality, Nuwakot District



Local communities have limited access to healthcare and health education, which leads to a high number of home deliveries and a high incidence of ovarian diseases such as endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, and ovary cyst formation. The Tamangs, an indigenous ethnic community in the ward, constitute more than 90% of the health post's service area population. The health post generally sees a low patient turnout on a daily basis.

GNI Nepal in collaboration with local partners oriented fifteen female community health volunteers (FCHVs) to assist with the immunization program, raise awareness about family planning, promote antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) for institutional deliveries, and improve the accessibility and delivery of health services. FCHVs then disseminated the knowledge they acquired to the local mothers' groups.

Health mothers' group (HMG) meetings have been standardized to allow mothers to present health issues and receive knowledge on the prevention, promotion, and

“Implementing this sort of health system strengthening programs in such a remote location resulted in increase of our institutional delivery rate.”

protection from diseases. Minutes are taken for any health education sessions organized by FCHVs, which helps identify community health needs and take action.

In 2021, there were thirty-nine births in the health post's service area, of which five were institutional deliveries and thirty-four were home-based deliveries. In 2022, there were twenty-four births in the same area, with twelve institutional deliveries and twelve home-based deliveries.

Basudev Shrestha, Health Section Head of Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality said, “Implementing this sort of health system strengthening programs in such a remote location resulted in increase of our institutional delivery rate.”



WASH FIT

Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) Project, funded by Good Neighbors UK, aimed to improve the health of communities in Modi Rural Municipality, Parbat District by addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) related issues at health facilities. The project objectives included increasing access to WASH services and promoting hygiene and WASH practices in the community. It had physical infrastructure improvements and training for health workers and community members.



The project trained health workers on WASH FIT tools and infection prevention. It also facilitated the preparation of facility-specific WASH FIT plans, trained health facility operation and management committees, and female community health volunteers (FCHVs) in WASH. Additionally, it helped to regularize health mothers' group (HMG) meetings and mobilize FCHVs to conduct monthly WASH education sessions. FCHVs also conducted community behavior change communication campaigns through media mobilization, information, education, and communication/behavioral change communication materials distribution, and street plays.

Water for health and hygiene

Deurali, Ward No. 3, Modi Rural Municipality, Parbat District

Settlements in the ward face a significant challenge in accessing basic services such as healthcare, as it takes them six-seven hours on foot to reach the nearest health post in Deurali. Many of these individuals come from marginalized communities.

The health post was facing a severe water shortage. GNI Nepal convened a meeting of the health management committee and decided to take action to address this issue. Ward and Health Management Committee Chair, Devendra Bahadur Chhetri, released NRs 36,915 as ward's contribution. GNI Nepal constructed a distribution tank at a spring 1,500 meters above the health post and laid a pipeline from that point to the health post at a cost of NRs. 173,385.

Thanks to this new water management system, the health post no longer experiences water shortages and is able to maintain cleanliness both inside and outside the facility. Health post in-charge Humnath Sharma, noted that this timely intervention has also helped prevent the spread of diseases.

Looking forward, the ward chairperson plans to raise funds for its proper maintenance and utilization for the health facility and



the entire community. He shared, "We are grateful for the support provided by GNI Nepal in various fields such as health, drinking water, sanitation, and physical infrastructure, and we thank GNI Nepal for its invaluable contributions to improving the lives of the people in Deurali."



Menstrual hygiene management (MHM)

In remote parts of Nepal, menstruation is often stigmatized, and girls and women are often banned from participating in public and religious activities. This mistreatment increases their vulnerability, particularly in Bajura District, which ranks at the very bottom of the human development index. Due to a lack of access to basic healthcare and education services, socio-political and geographical challenges, harmful traditional customs, and illiteracy, adolescent girls and women in Bajura are at high risk of health problems related to menstruation.

With funding from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Good Neighbors International (GNI) implemented Health Rights Improvement Project (HRIP) from 2020-2022 in three municipalities and two rural municipalities of Bajura District. The project aimed to improve the health rights of adolescent girls by promoting menstrual health education and creating a menstruation-friendly environment in communities.



22 MHM-friendly
toilets constructed and
40 toilets renovated



40 school-based
adolescent girls club formed,
mobilized and educated



10,000 community
members participated in
MHM campaign

Improved accessibility of MHM services and facilities

- 40 school toilets renovated
- 22 MHM-friendly school toilets constructed
- 40 S-WASH-CC (School WASH Coordination Committee) in schools were formed, capacitated, and mobilized
- 40 schools and 16 health facilities received MHM materials and services, and handwashing facilities
- 40 MHM corners in schools established

Enhanced knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) of menstrual hygiene management among adolescent girls

- 5 types of IEC/BCC materials (brochure, flyer, flipchart, training module, handbook) developed
- Provided MHM education and capacity-building workshops to 40 MHM focal teachers, 16 health workers, and 160 FCHVs
- 3,000 plus HMG members received MHM education through FCHVs for three years
- 6,500 adolescent girls received MHM education and MHM kits for three years
- 40 school-based MHM adolescent girls club formed, mobilized, and educated
- 4,000 adolescent girls of 40 schools received reusable sanitary pad-making training

Decreased menstruation-related stigma and prepared system related to menstrual discrimination

- 10,000 community members participated in MHM Campaign
- 4,000 adolescent boys received MHM education
- 200 traditional healers received MHM education
- 41 ward-level meetings were conducted to advocate for MHM-related policies
- 1 MHM awareness-raising radio show, Daughter's Voice, produced and broadcast
- 9 online media portals and 1 print newspaper published MHM messages regularly



BASELINE 2020 vs. ENDLINE 2022

1% of adolescent girls experienced isolation in *Chhaupadi* huts during menstruation in 2022 compared to 5.5% in 2020

48.5% of adolescent girls experienced restrictions on having milk and milk products during menstruation in 2022 compared to 74.6% in 2020

94.8% of adolescent girls received MHM services when needed in 2022 compared to 36% in 2020

93.3% of adolescent girls used MHM-friendly facilities in 2022 compared to 0% in 2020

94.3% of adolescent girls scored 80 points or more on the MHM knowledge-related questions in 2022 compared to 0% in 2020

84.3% of adolescent girls changed sanitary pads three or more times a day in 2022 compared to 10.3% in 2020

15.7% of community members agreed that "menstruation is an impure and dirty process" in 2022 compared to 42.6% in 2020

Prepared health facilities to respond to Covid-19

- 16 health facilities, 1 district hospital, 5 dedicated Covid-19 hospitals, 1 District Covid-19 Crisis Management Center (DCCMC), 160 FCHVs, 40 Schools, and 2 public colleges received Covid-19 response materials

Adolescents herald a change in MHM

Satyabadi Secondary School, Baduwal, Ward No. 2, Badimalika Municipality, Bajura District



Gayatri, 16, a student and secretary of the Adolescent Girls Club at Satyabadi Secondary School, narrates the prejudices she faced after menarche. In Bajura, nonadherence to menstrual taboos is believed to bring misfortune to one's family. Gayatri recalls days when she slept in the *Chhaupadi* hut feeling anxious all night. Her parents were scared of discarding traditional practices lest the community members disapprove of their move.

Despite efforts by the local governments, *Chhaupadi* practice is deeply rooted in local communities. HRIP formed an adolescent girls club in her school and educated her and her friends on the importance of menstrual hygiene management.

During the initial days of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) education, girl students hesitated to discuss menstrual hygiene, so they jotted down their queries on paper and passed them to the public health assistants (PHAs). Gayatri shared that the adolescent girls club brought a positive change in their menstrual hygiene behavior and practices. She shared, "It was tough to

discuss periods and cramps with friends, parents, or teachers, now we have realized menstruation is a biological process. We openly discuss issues related to menstruation and ask teachers for pads without any hesitation."



“It was tough to discuss periods and cramps with friends, parents, or teacher, now we have realized menstruation is a biological process.”

Traditional Healers' Conclave

In Nepal, traditional healers act as unregulated healthcare providers, including spiritual or faith healers, religious leaders, shamans, herbalists, and diviners. Local culture accords deep faith in these faith-based or traditional healers. They play an important role as traditional healthcare service providers in the far-western local communities. Educated locals believe that these traditional healers tap into psychological aspects of the human mind to treat sick people. Sometimes an illness might be only psychological, and their practices, remedies, and herbs could heal a person. However, they can have disastrous consequences.



Against this backdrop, GNI Nepal, with financial support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and in collaboration with Sudurpaschim Province, Good Neighbors Japan, and partners, organized a Traditional Healers' Conclave For Dignified Menstruation. It aimed to turn traditional healers into ambassadors of safer menstrual hygiene management at the local and district levels so that they could contribute to creating an enabling environment for dignified menstruation.

The conclave brought together thirty-three traditional healers (ten females and twenty-three males), fourteen elected officials, adolescent girls, women, government officials, media representatives, representatives from I/NGOs, activists, and experts on menstrual hygiene management. This diverse group of about seventy participants from Bajura, Doti, Achham, Mugu, Kailali, and Kathmandu districts engaged in learning, dialogue, sharing, group work, reflection, and discussion sessions.

Participant traditional healers worked out individual action plans, and deputy mayors from their respective constituencies expressed commitment to supporting their implementation. This group of traditional healers also adopted a Declaration for Dignified Menstruation, wherein they committed to:

- Play an important role in creating a dignified menstrual environment at home and in their communities and take special initiatives.
- Treat girls and women equally for 25 normal days and 5 days of menstruation.
- Inform people who seek their services about proper menstrual practices and put up informational posters or materials about dignified menstruation in their homes.
- Provide positive support for nutrition, housing, sanitation, health, education, and participation for menstruating girls and women.
- Coordinate with the rural municipality or municipality to create a dignified environment at schools and encourage girls to go to school even when they are menstruating.
- Request that their respective municipalities make menstruation-friendly clothes, water, sanitation materials, and messaging available to build a dignified menstruation-friendly school.
- Coordinate with the rural municipality to draw their attention to raising public awareness of dignified menstruation in the community; budget allocation for training, seminars, street plays, poster, pamphleteering, and other activities.
- Request the government, civil society, and private sector to reward and honor those traditional healers that promote dignified menstruation.
- Celebrate special days and spread awareness about laws related to menstruation.

Shaman trades taboos for safer menstrual practices

Bhakta Bahadur Aidi, 45, Toli Dhogdina, Ward No. 4, Triveni Municipality, Bajura District



In the past, touching a menstruating woman in his family was regarded as unholy, so Bhakta had to use special gold ornament-soaked water or cow's urine for ritual purification. Menstruating adolescent girls and women faced many discriminations. They had to stay in the *Chhaupadi* (menstrual) hut for five days of menstruation and could also be restricted from going to school.

Only a few years ago, community members, including him, were reluctant to listen and participate in menstruation management trainings or programs. Bhakta said, “When the Health Rights Improvement Project staff informed us about the activities related to menstrual hygiene management, we took them as a bunch of crazy people. But later, having participated in many discussions, capacity-building sessions, and trainings, my perception shifted. I realized various aspects of menstrual hygiene management and discrimination imposed against menstruators.”

After participating in the GNI Nepal organized Traditional Healers' Conclave in Dhangadi, Bhakta decided to become a change-maker and abolished the *Chhaupadi* practice observed in his family. His wife initially opposed this decision, but it brought smiles to the faces of his daughter and daughter-in-law.

Bhakta started a campaign to reduce menstrual discrimination in his community. With regular campaign activities, positive changes can be seen in the community. Bhakta is thankful to the actors working in the menstrual hygiene management (MHM) sector. He declared, “Discrimination against menstruating females in any form is unacceptable.”

“... having participated in many discussion, capacity-building sessions and trainings, my perception shifted. I realized various aspects of menstrual hygiene management and discrimination imposed against menstruators .”

Maternal and neonatal health

In the remote district of Mugu, a three-year Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded Subsequent Management of Improving Maternal and Child Health Care Project is under way. It aims to address high maternal and child mortality rates in the district through a combination of community education, improved access to health services, and enhanced quality of care. It covers one municipality and three rural municipalities.

The project will construct birthing centers, provide medical equipment, and promote the use of Health Management Information System (HMIS) to improve access to maternal and child health services along with enhancing the operational capacity of Mugu District Hospital.

Achievements:

- 10 health posts and 1 district hospital supported to deliver maternal and child health services
- 10 health posts' Health Information Management Systems strengthened
- 9,707 people (2,302 men and 7,405 women) educated on maternal-child health services
- 27 health workers participated in maternal and child health care trainings
- 20 staff members of Mugu District Hospital participated in a capacity development program on hospital management



Social Economy

People achieve economic empowerment





Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for a large portion of the population in Nepal. Agriculture accounts for more than one-third of Nepal's gross domestic product (GDP) and employs around 65% of the labor force. Farmers in Nepal face a number of challenges, including limited access to markets, credit, and technology; poor infrastructure; and a lack of investment. Climate change is also a significant threat to agriculture, as it can lead to more frequent natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, which can damage crops and infrastructure.

To promote the expansion of local businesses and cooperatives, this year our livelihood initiatives focused on capacity development, access to finance, and establishment of business networking opportunities. Like years past, we prioritized strengthening cooperatives as key institutions and partnered with sixty-six cooperatives, helping them to add 1,076 new members collectively. We supported individuals with NRs 95,960,528 for businesses startup in 2022. They generated a revenue of NRs 44,992,118, thereby contributing to the growth and development of the local economy.



3,778 (57% females) individuals skills enhanced



7,606 individuals (53%) have better access to financial services



2,220 local businesses established



26 cooperative businesses strengthened and promoted



1,076 new members added by cooperatives



NRs 95,960,528

supported for business establishment. GNI Nepal supported enterprises generated a revenue of NRs 44,992,118



Inclusive Rural Development

The Inclusive Rural Development Nawalparasi (IRDN) Project, implemented by GNI with financial assistance from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in partnership with SAHAMATI, was a three-year initiative (July 2019 - June 2022) that aimed to improve the quality of life of community members in the Sunwal, Susta, Sarawal, Pratapur, and Palinandan Municipalities of Nawalparasi West, and Madhyabindu Municipality of Nawalparasi East through sustainable and independent community development models.

One of the key components of the project was the Locally Initiated Projects (LIPs). It focused on commercial agriculture, commercial livestock, economic infrastructure, youth and women's skills development, and employment themes. The local partner communities had control over the entire development process, resources, and decision-making. The IRDN Project implemented twenty-six LIPs and directly benefited 6,215 households, while indirectly benefiting around 11,000 households. Local communities designed the projects by themselves, with active involvement from local governments and technical experts. These community-initiated and implemented projects improved farmers' standard of living.

Major interventions and achievements:



Commercial agriculture

IRDN Project aimed to modernize farming practices by promoting commercial vegetable and banana farming, seed production, and farm machinery through training programs and inputs. Farmers received training and resources to improve skills and crop yields and establish cooperatives for better prices and market access. Seed farmers were supported through training and seed cooperatives. The project provided leadership and integrated pest management (IPM) training to enhance group management and institutional development. Custom hiring centers with agricultural machinery were established to reduce production costs and increase productivity and profitability.

Commercial vegetable farming

- 580 vegetable farmers received intensive vegetable cultivation training and agro-input
- 110 commercial vegetable farms established
- 3 vegetable collection centers established
- Productivity increased by 674% (baseline- 2.5 ton/ha to 19.36 ton/ha)

Commercial banana production

- 149 banana farmers trained on commercial banana cultivation, and postharvest management
- 162,100 tissue-cultured banana saplings and 12 sets of banana weeder provided to farmers
- 149 commercial banana farms established in 55.25 hectares
- 1 banana resource center established
- Banana productivity increased by 7.4% (30.8 ton/ha to 33.1 ton/ha)

Seed production

- 1 seed processing center established

- 124 farmers trained in cereal seeds (rice and wheat) production technology and received 18.16 tons of foundation seeds
- 15 sets of agriculture machinery (tractor, tractor trolley, paddy/wheat reaper, laser land leveler, seed driller, rotavator, cultivator) provided to Susta Agricultural Cooperative Limited

Farm machinery

- 4 custom hiring centers received 139 sets of agro-machinery of 27 types, i.e., combined harvester, potato planter, potato harvester, tractor, land laser leveler, rice/wheat reaper, rotavator, cultivator, trolley, pit digger, thresher, banana weeder, banana stem chopper, brush cutter, power tiller, happy seeder, fertilizer spreader, disk harrow, straw bailer, straw reaper, pressure machine, and tool kits
- Cooperatives trained on operation and maintenance of farm machinery

Commercialize livestock

IRDN Project aimed to improve management practices, access to services, and economic returns by adding value to dairy products and developing structured marketing channels. To enhance farmers' skills in dairy value chain, trainings were conducted on improved farming technologies, clean milk production, quality management, feeding practices, and diet diversity for dairy animals. Business plan, literacy, and leadership training promoted commercial dairy farming, while chaff cutters, wheelbarrows, milk cans, shed improvement, and animal purchasing support was also provided.

For commercial fish farming, farmers received training on fish feed, feeding and health management, and technical backstopping from fish experts. Basic inputs such as fish fingerlings, aerators, tube wells, and fishing nets were also provided.



Dairy value chain

- 1,208 local farmers enhanced skills on improved dairy practices and knowledge
- 629 commercial dairy farms established
- 9 milk collection centers established
- Milk production increased from 4.4 liters/day/farm to 14.76 liters/day/farm

Commercial fish

- 123 farmers excavated/renovated fishponds with a surface area of 21.52 hectares
- 2 live fish shops established for promoting fish marketing
- 2 fish nurseries established for producing high-quality fingerlings
- Fish production increased from 0.21 tons/year/farmer to 1.25 tons/year/farmer

Economic infrastructure

IRDN Project promoted economic growth by developing sustainable infrastructure such as irrigation schemes, collection centers, and markets. Water user groups were formed to ensure proper management and community involvement in installing shallow tube wells. Training and guidelines were provided for sustainable operation, and maintenance of irrigation bore wells.

- 306 bore wells installed which cover 785 hectares of land
- 306 water user committee formed and trained on facility operation and maintenance
- 15 facilities (cooperative building, machinery shed, market center) established
- 1 agricultural road constructed

Youth and women development

The project provided vocational skills training to unemployed youth and women in local communities, where seasonal migration for employment is a major source of household income. A needs assessment identified fifteen suitable trades, and organizational development training was given to thirty-five women. The training aimed to equip beneficiaries with skills to establish enterprises and contribute to their economic growth.

- 474 individuals (290 males and 184 females) capacitated on entrepreneurship development
- 375 young men and women completed 15 different types of vocational skills training
- 267 youths and women (161 males and 106 females) started a business
- Women Enterprise Center established a garment enterprise that employs 33 women

Covid-19 response

It was initiated to help local businesses offset the economic effects of the pandemic and enhance institutional capacity of health and school facilities in their fight against Covid-19.

- 275 local Covid-19 affected businesses received business revival support
- 13 local health institutions received Covid-19 related health equipment
- 24 handwashing stations were established at schools to promote handwashing behavior among students
- 3,372 Covid-19 and 45 flood-affected poor households received food items and sanitary materials

Major highlights

- Created on-farm and off-farm business opportunities for 2,422 and 529 locals respectively, resulting in increased employment and income for local communities. 5 custom hiring centers with farm machinery were established, benefiting 901 farmers and boosting agricultural productivity and efficiency.
- Installed 306 bore wells, bringing 785 hectares of land under irrigation and increasing crop yields and food security. 11 economic infrastructures, such as collection and processing centers, were established to revive 275 local businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Participating households saw their average annual income increase by 57%, from NRs. 285,734 to NRs. 447,469 improving their standard of living. Active partnership and collaboration with community members, cooperatives, and the local government, who contributed 15% of the budget, ensured the project's success and sustainability.
- Promoted culture and tradition of local communities by supporting agriculture and livestock farming, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 8 by improving agricultural productivity and income. IRDN Project brought significant improvements to livelihoods and well-being of local communities.



From smallholder farmers to seed producers

Shree Susta Agricultural Cooperative Limited, Kudiya, Ward No. 2, Susta Rural Municipality, Parasi District

Pampha Devi Aryal, Vice-president of the Cooperative, explained that prior to partnering with Inclusive Rural Development Nawalparasi (IRDN), farmers in Susta lacked confidence in buying grain seeds from India due to concerns about quality and lack of credible labeling. Without quality assurance and certification, farmers had no recourse if their crops failed due to seed quality.

To address this issue, IRDN Project organized farmers into groups, provided training and necessary inputs to produce improved wheat and paddy seeds. The project established a custom hiring center under the cooperative and facilitated to secure financial support from the local government.

Farmers have enjoyed significant benefits from the use of high-quality seeds, including a crop productivity increase of almost 1.5 times and a 20-25% rise in income from seeds compared to grains. Adoption of high-quality seeds has led to a 50% increase in seed replacement rate for wheat and rice crops. In the previous season, 104 farmers produced 217.2 tons of rice seeds, and 105 farmers produced 121.4 tons of wheat seeds.

With an increase in seed production among its members, the cooperative plans to establish a seed production business with custom specifications and branding. The cooperative has consulted with a regional seed testing laboratory to ensure that quality assurance measures are in place and has made arrangements for foundation seed supply.

According to Bhimlal Mukhiya, the cooperative chairperson, “We decided to run our own seed business after seeing a significant disparity between market prices of branded seeds and the prices received by producers like us. By providing extra benefits to farmers through our own seed business, we hope to address this issue.” Thanks to the eight million rupees funding from the provincial government, the cooperative has constructed a spacious warehouse within its premises.

The cooperative has become a successful seed producer with support from the local and provincial government and the IRDN Project. 124 farmers have produced wheat and paddy seeds over two years under the guidance of the Kalika Seed Company, with a



buy-back guarantee agreement. Financial assistance from the provincial Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperative Development, machinery and equipment support from IRDN, and land allocation from the local government enabled the cooperative's establishment. Susta has been designated as a “seed production zone” by the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project (PMAMP).

“we decided to run our own seed business after seeing a significant disparity between market prices of branded seeds and the prices received by producers like us.”

Commercialization draws youths to dairy farming



With rapid urbanization, the demand for milk and other dairy products is increasing. Many dairy industries have developed in the country with private sector investment. Local governments have also prioritized dairy development. However, huge price differences between what consumers are paying for and what dairy farmers are getting is a serious issue across the country. Availability and access to critical inputs such as feed and veterinary services are also critical limitations in the dairy business.

1,370 dairy farmers - a substantial number of them are youths - have benefited from the IRDN Project. Forty model milk farms and 1,276 dairy value chain farmers have received a livestock shed improvement grant (NRs 15,000 - 80,000) from the project. Local agricultural cooperatives have also received a significant sum (almost up to NRs 10 million) in support for infrastructure development and capacity building.

The project provided financial and material support to farmers for livestock shed improvement, chaffcutters, cow mats, nutritious forage seeds, training on livestock management, and exposure visits to model farms. Likewise, the project also built capacities of local cooperatives with

training and infrastructure, including building and dairy equipment to assist in dairy marketing.

With improved management, better feeding, and improved forage management, milk productivity increased by 20-25% among project-supported farmers. Farmers have experienced higher milk productivity thanks to better shed management and increased availability of fodder and forage. Access to physical facilities such as chaffcutters, feed makers, and mats was also crucial.

IRDN Project focused on both ends of the milk value chain to increase production and productivity through improved housing, forage management (forage and forage crops) and to strengthen agricultural cooperatives for marketing. With the project's support, many farmers started dairy farming. Many youths now see growth prospects in dairy farming backed by cooperatives and have found that they could gradually establish/expand dairy farms as their core business.

Compared to other agricultural products, the milk market is better institutionalized through cooperatives. Returnee migrant youths, especially those from Gulf countries and Malaysia, are more attracted to dairy farming. Thanks to improved access to subsidized loans, insurance, and local government grants, dairy farming has emerged as a beacon of hope among local youths.



Green enterprises and climate justice



Nepal is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change and has already seen changes in temperature and precipitation patterns that are greater than the global average. These changes have led to several consequences, including prolonged heat waves, droughts, and altered rainfall patterns. Most of Nepal's population, including those engaged in agriculture and in rural areas, are at high risk from the impacts of climate change. The country has already seen reductions in agricultural production, food insecurity, and loss of forests and biodiversity.

To address these challenges, GNI Nepal has prioritized climate resilience by incorporating climate change adaptation into its Community Development Projects. We aim to protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems through the development of green enterprises and climate justice initiatives. Our programs focus on climate-smart agriculture, social enterprise development, natural resource management, and resilient community infrastructure development, along with raising awareness and developing policies and plans to address climate change at the local level.

Climate resilient agriculture

GNI Nepal implemented a one-year Climate Field School (CFS) Project in the Godawari and Konjyosom Rural Municipalities of Lalitpur District. It introduced climate-resilient agricultural practices through twenty climate field schools (CFS). 300 farmers learned climate smart agricultural (CSA) techniques through hands-on experimentation in their fields.



450 households established commercial goat farms with an average herd size of 12 goats



2,509 male goats sold generating a revenue of NRs 23,923,245

25% increment in goat productivity in terms of weight



Developed collective marketing mechanisms by establishing a goat collection center



6 local feed processing units
2 local veterinary service centers under cooperatives established and providing access to veterinary services for 1,068 households

Goat value chain development

Our Commercial Goat Farming Development Project aimed at improving the livelihoods of local households in Bajura through the establishment of commercial goat farms. It introduced Boer breeding bucks (a group of five-ten goat farmers get one breeding buck) and improved local goat farms' productivity by providing access to better quality feed and improving shed conditions. It also established local feed processing units, a collective marketing mechanism through a goat collection center, and veterinary service centers.

Agro-vet service improves livestock health and productivity

Khaptad Agriculture Cooperative, Kanda, Ward No. 1, Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality, Bajura District

Nepalese livestock sector faces several challenges, such as diseases and parasites, which diminish productivity, raise financial losses, and even cause animal fatalities. These issues adversely affect livestock health, agricultural industry, and farmers' profits. They can also impede reproduction, complicating the maintenance of healthy and productive herds. Rapid disease transmission can result in extensive illnesses and deaths, causing more economic harm.

Khaptad Agriculture Cooperative works to improve the livestock sector in Nepal. With 534 share members (255 from sponsored families), it plays a crucial role in supporting the local economy. Previously, farmers faced difficulty in reaching the nearest government veterinary office, located seven hours away in Dogadi, and veterinarians did not visit the community, resulting in many sick animals dying without proper diagnosis.

With support from GNI Nepal, it has implemented an agro-vet service to improve accessibility and quality of veterinary services. Introduction of agro-vet services in the local communities has enabled farmers to have access to regular veterinary services provided by the cooperative. It



has been met with positive response from farmers, as it allows for convenient and accessible checkups and treatment for their livestock.

The cooperative is trying to ensure that the profit generated from its service is maintained at a reasonable rate, as evidenced by NRs 25,000 profit generated from livestock checkups and treatment services provided by the agro-vet. By the end of 2022, 1,200 goats, fifty-seven buffaloes, eighty-one cows, and 1,500 other livestock, such as pigs, poultry, horses, and dogs, have been treated. A majority of these animals had reproductive or breeding problems.

Khaptad Agriculture Cooperative is making a significant impact on local pastoral communities by providing vital services and addressing their challenges. It is enhancing the well-being and productivity of livestock, thereby supporting the local economy.



Goats transforms a farmer's life and livelihood

Prem Bahadur Dhami, 38, Jayabageshwori, Ward No. 2, Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality, Bajura Distirct



Prem has found success with his goat-rearing business. With a family of six to support, including his father, mother, wife, and two sons, Dhami struggled to make ends meet and provide for his family's basic needs. In an effort to improve their circumstances, Dhami borrowed a loan of NRs 80,000 from local moneylenders and left for Malaysia to work as a security guard when he was 29 years old. Though he could earn some money from the job, being away from his family took an emotional toll on Dhami. After three years, he returned home feeling happy and determined to find a way to provide for his family without being away from them.

"I used to feel lonely being separated from my family and loved ones in Malaysia," Dhami said. "I knew there had to be a better way to provide for my family and be with them."

Dhami decided to start a business in Nepal, and with the support of his family, he started raising goats. Initially, he had nine goats, but he saw the growth potential and applied for seed money at the GNI Nepal supported Masteshwori Multipurpose Cooperative in 2022. The cooperative was impressed with Dhami's desire to do business and provided him with NRs 60,000 to purchase more mother goats, NRs 10,000 to improve the goat shed, and NRs 24,000 to purchase a male Boer. With this funding and some self-investment, Dhami bought fifteen mother goats, and one Boer breeding buck with a matched grant from GNI Nepal. He also built a separate shed for his goats.

"We were happy to support Prem Dhami in his goat farming," said Chairperson of Masteshwori Multipurpose Cooperative. "He had a concrete business plan and a strong commitment to succeed, and we knew he had the potential to become a model goat farmer."

Prem's business has seen great success. This year alone, he was able to earn NRs 135,000 from the sale of twelve goats. Thanks to the income, he can provide for his two sons' educational and other needs. He determined to continue expanding his business—he has thirty-five goats now and plans to increase them to 100 by next year.

"I am so grateful for the support and opportunity to start goat-farm," Dhami said. "It has been a satisfying experience to see my business grow and provide for my family. I am confident that raising goats in Nepal is better for my family and me than working abroad as a security guard. I want to become a model goat farmer, and hopefully, I would also inspire others to follow in my footsteps."

Dhami's goat farm has not gone unnoticed in his community. "Prem Dhami is a great example of what hard work and determination can achieve," said a local leader. "His success with the goat-rearing business has not only improved his family's circumstances, but it has also had a positive impact on the community. We are proud to have such a hardworking and dedicated member among us, and we hope his success will inspire others to pursue entrepreneurship."

Building Climate Resilience and Reintegrating Economically Displaced Workers through Climate Smart Agriculture in the Terai Flood Plain, Nepal



In July 2022, GNI Nepal partnered with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to implement a project in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts of the Madhesh Province. It aims to promote the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture from January 2023 to December 2025 to improve food and job security, reduce vulnerability, and benefit 7,090 households directly, particularly women and returnee migrant workers.

This project is in line with the long-term national plans and policies, such as the 15th Periodic Plan 2019/20-2023/24, Agriculture Development Strategy 2015-2035, and National Climate Change Policy 2019. Interventions planned under this project align with the targets set in Nationally Determined Contributions 2021-2030, which prioritizes Climate Smart Agriculture as the most important sector for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Project launching

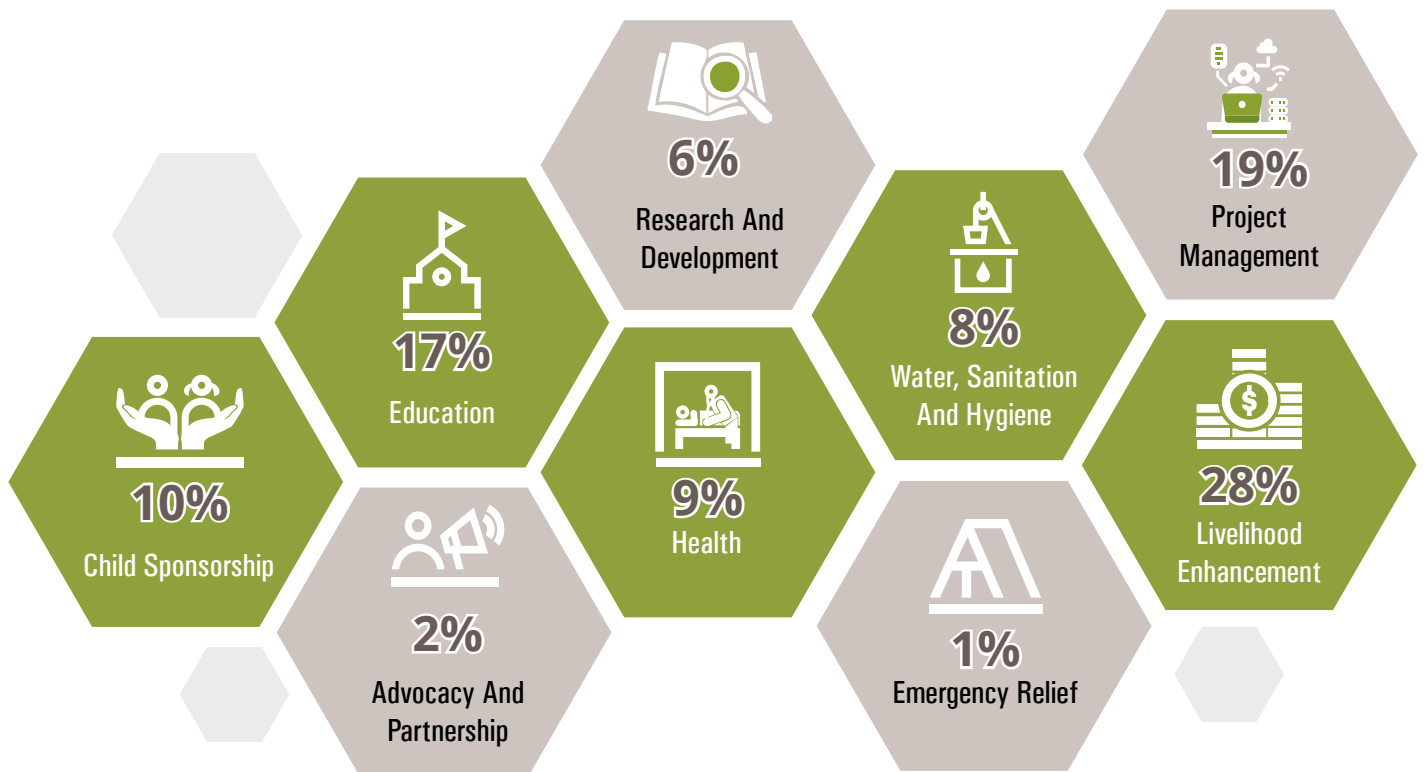
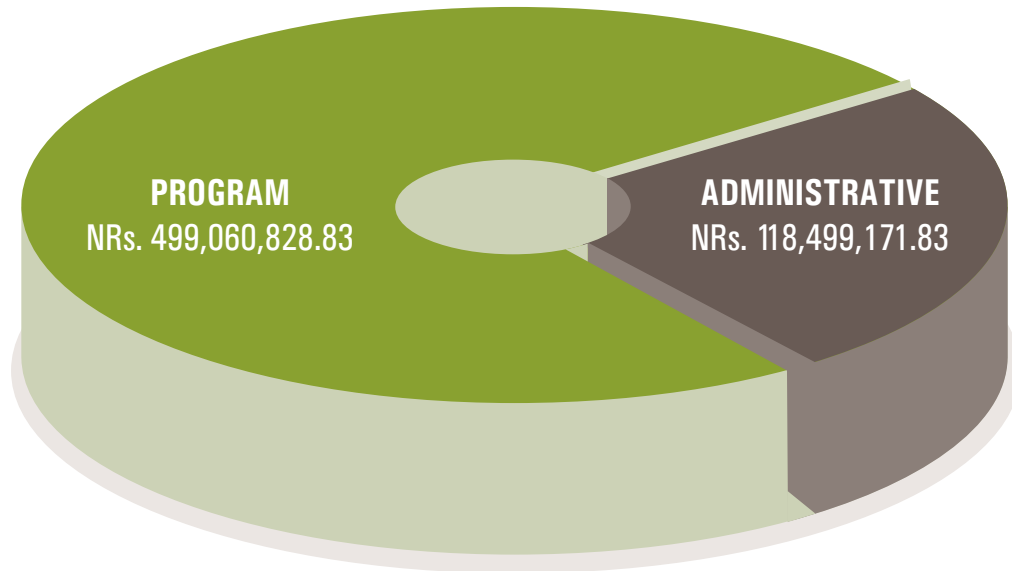
On August 31, 2022, the Building Climate Resilience and Reintegrating Economically Displaced Workers through Climate Smart Agriculture in the Terai Flood Plain, Nepal Project was officially launched in Janakpur, Dhanusha. The event was attended by key figures from federal and provincial governments, Korean Ambassador to Nepal, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Country Representative, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Country Director, Good Neighbors International (GNI) Nepal Country Director, and mayors/chairpersons of ten municipalities/rural municipalities.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between GGGI and the provincial agriculture ministry and municipalities/rural municipalities. Following the MoU signing, a project inception workshop was held in which representatives from GGGI and GNI Nepal provided an overview of the project's main themes, objectives, working methodology, timelines, and key interventions.

Financials



TOTAL
NRs. 617,560,000.66





- AASAMAN Nepal, Dhanusha
- Community Development Centre (CDC) - Doti
- Community Development Forum (CDF) Nepal - Doti
- Community Rural Development Society (CRDS-NEPAL) - Darchula
- Dalit Society Welfare Community Nepal (DSWCN), Mahottari
- Darchula Development Organization (DDO), Darchula
- Generating Income Foster to Transformation Nepal (GIFT Nepal) - Bajura
- Kaligandaki Community Development Munch (KADAM) - Myagdi
- Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC) Nepal - Humla and Mugu
- Karnali Community Development Centre (KCDC), Mugu
- Lele Community Development Centre (LCDC) - Lalitpur
- Naba Chetana Community Development Centre (NCCDC) Nepal - Parbat
- Naulo Ghumti Nepal - Kaski
- PEACEWIN - Bajura
- Public Awareness Campaign Nepal (PAC Nepal), Dhanusha
- Rural Development and Empowerment Center (RUDEC), Nuwakot
- SAHAMATI - Nawalparasi East & Nawalparasi West
- Snow Land Integrated Development Center (SIDC) - Humla
- Social Welfare Resource Development Centre (SORDEC-Nepal) - Parbat
- Sonaha Bikash Samaj (SBS) - Bardiya
- Sustainable Approach on Natural Resource Management and Gender Awareness for Micro Enterprise (SANGAM) - Myagdi
- Sustainable Enterprises and Environment Development Working Awareness Centre/Nepal (SEEWAC/Nepal) - Kailali
- System Development Service Centre (SDSC) - Gorkha

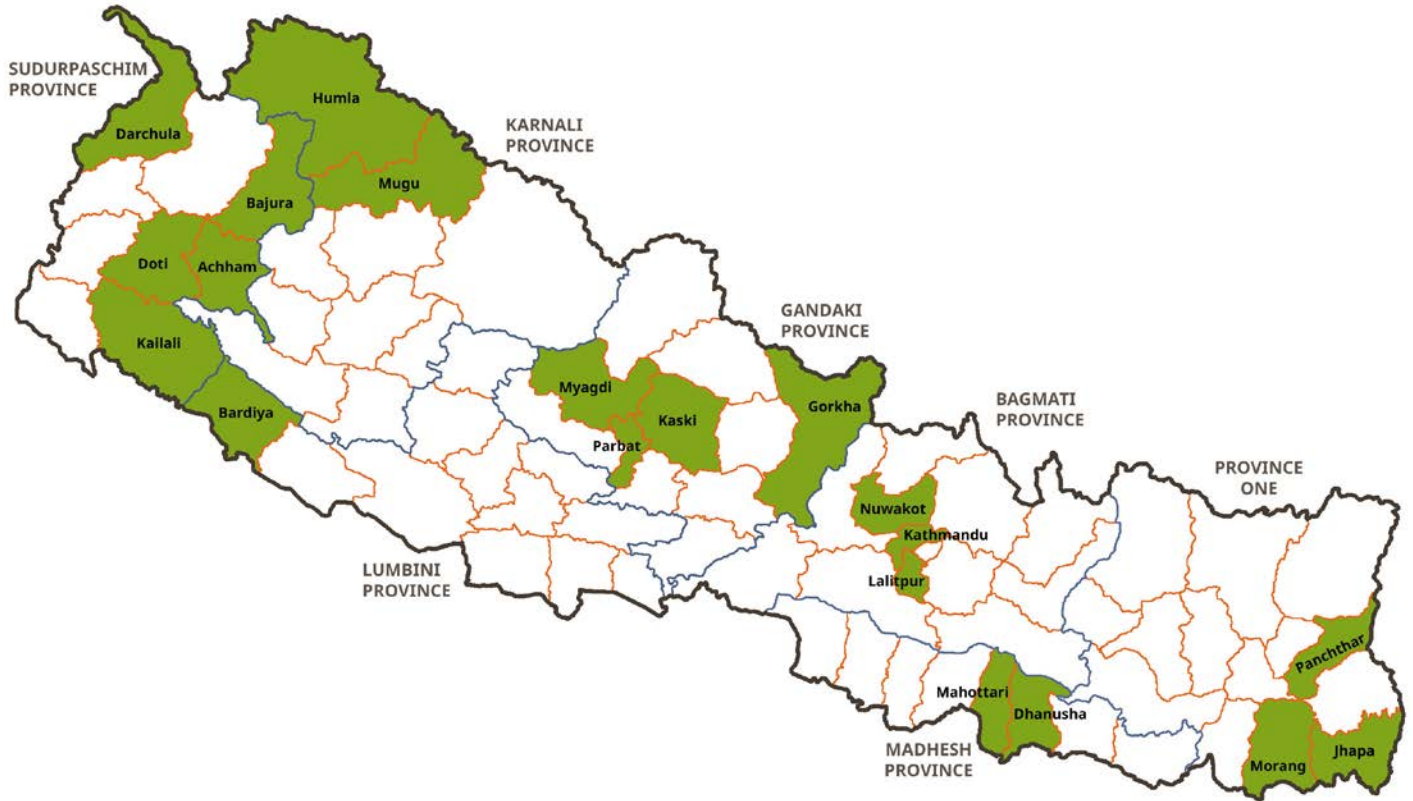








Working districts



Good Change For The World



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