



# Annual Report

## 2020-2021

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## Acknowledgements



*"It is my great pleasure to present the annual report 2020/2021 of LIFE Nepal to our beneficiaries, stakeholders, well-wishers, and funding agencies. We executed different programs like Promoting Girls Education Though Ending Child and Early Marriage, Risk Communication and Community Engagement Addressing Exclusion Error of Child Grant and Child Protection Response on COVID 19 including Flood Preparedness and Response as well as Blanket Supplementary Feeding and*

*Psychosocial Support to Girls and Boys Vulnerable to Child Marriage and Violent Discipline Extended MHPSS Response in Province No. 2, Nepal with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, GFF, TPO, WFP and in coordination with Provincial and local governments. The programs obliged for ending child marriage, protecting the rights of adolescent girls and boys, plummeting violence and discrimination, preventing community people from COVID-19 Pandemic, learning response to school students, equipping local governments and local youths for disaster preparedness with simulation on flood. In addition, program aware community people pregnant and lactating mothers and care takers on optimal nutrition and feeding practices, ensure supplementary feeding for children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Also, program enhanced knowledge of people on mental health, psychosocial wellbeing, psychosocial problems, causes, symptoms and ensure mental health and psychosocial counselling and referral services for Girls and Boys vulnerable to Child Marriage and Violent Discipline.*

*I am grateful to all the actors and colleagues as well as government and funding agencies who supported us in numerous ways and encouraged us for this integral achievement made so far.*

*We promise to continue our efforts and will move ahead with the mission and goal of the organization in 2021 also. Your suggestion and feedback for the improvement of the program in the future would be highly appreciated."*

**Surait Thakur, Chairperson**

*LIFE Nepal*

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## Acronyms

ANC	Antenatal Care
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
BR	Birth Registration
CG	Child Grant
CAO	Chief Administration Officer
CM	Community Mobilizer
CoC	Code of Conduct
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CPSW	Community Psychosocial Worker
CDO	Chief District Office
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDCU	Education Development Coordination Unit
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FNJ	Federation of Nepal Journalist
FWD	Family Welfare Division
FCHVs	Female Child Health Volunteers
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPAL	Good Practices and Learning
GFF	Girls First Fund
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
IMO	Information Management Officer
ID	Information Desk
IEC	Information Education Communication
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
MT	Metric Ton
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PNC	Postnatal Care
PSS	Psychosocial Support
PWD	People with Disability
PASA	Problem Analysis and Solving Approach
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual, and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSDP	School Sector Development Plan
SOP	Standard Operating Guideline
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

TPO	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WSB	Wheat-Soy Blend

# 1. Organization in Brief

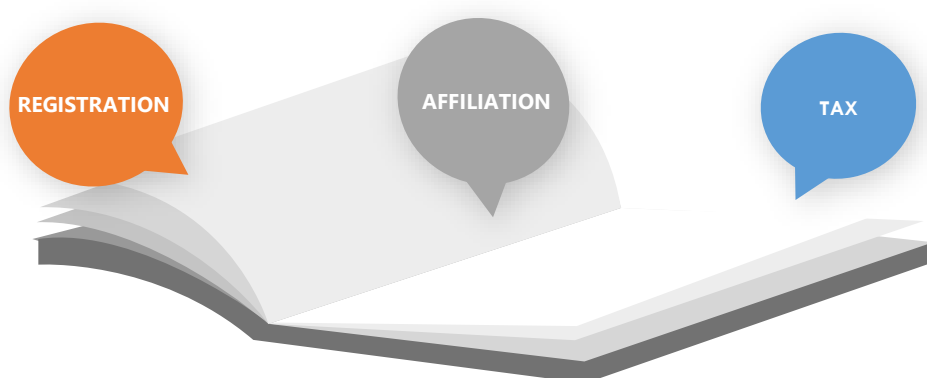
## 1.1 History

LIFE Nepal is a non-profit organization registered at the District Administration Office, Dhanusha in 2012. It is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu. LIFE is women and youth led organization. It is centered in Province No. 2. LIFE Nepal aims to ensure the basic needs like education, health, social protection, and livelihood of people (especially girls, Dalit, Muslim, women, youth, and people with disability). Therefore, it endeavours to build up the capacity or community people and key stakeholders through modern technology transfer that contributes to the key thought of LIFE Nepal "Information is the means of empowering people" (<https://lifenepal.org.np/>).

*District Administration Office, Dhanusha*  
Regd. No. 1929/2068/10/18

*Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu*  
Regd. No. 34352/2068/10/27

*Inland Revenue Department*  
305360506 /2068/10/23



Since its establishment in 2012, LIFE Nepal has been raising awareness and advocating for key community issues like promotion of girls' education, literacy (numeracy, reading and writing skills) quality education, early grade reading, gender based violence, zero discrimination, strengthening civil society for accountability, local governance, women and youth empowerment, life skills and income generation opportunity to pro-poor and marginalized communities, conflict resolution and peace building, cultural promotion through curriculum development in local language, and capacity building, education response in emergency (earthquake, flood, firing, windstorm, cold wave, heatwave, and COVID-Corona Virus Disease pandemic), disaster risk management, and climate change resilient from local government to district and provincial to national level in partnership with key stakeholder and like-minded organizations and through the mobilization of young champions especially girls, as well as local, national and international volunteers.

## 1.2 Values

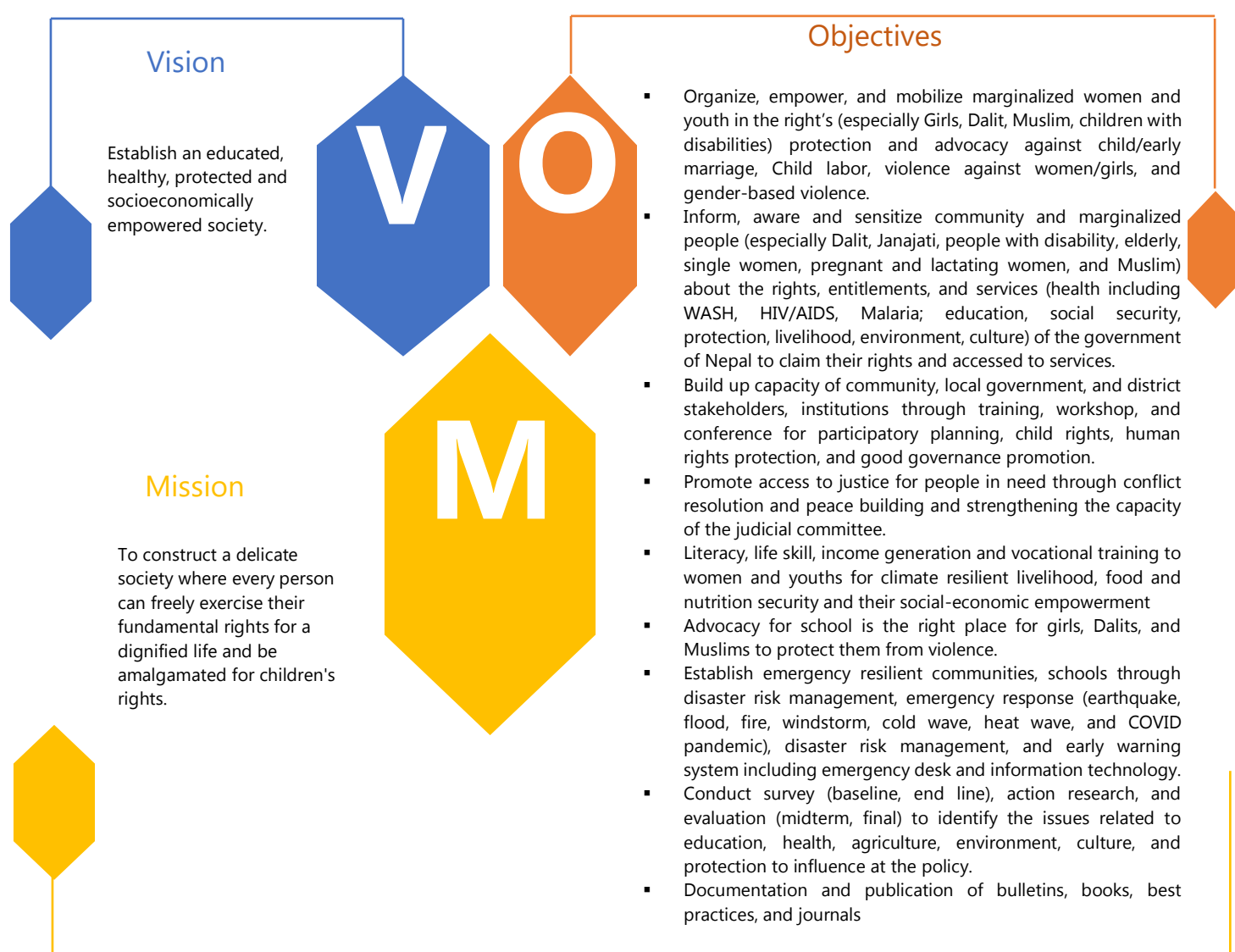
The core values of the organization are:

- **Children are the base of new Nepal. They should get priority in the development** (Children are the pedestal of new Nepal, therefore their voices and choices are respected by the people for their active and meaningful participation and development; so that they can freely exercise their rights and entitlements in the society for their rights protection and survival.)
- **All forms of violence and discrimination are intolerable and unacceptable** (All forms of violence and discrimination, likewise caste and ethnicity based, gender

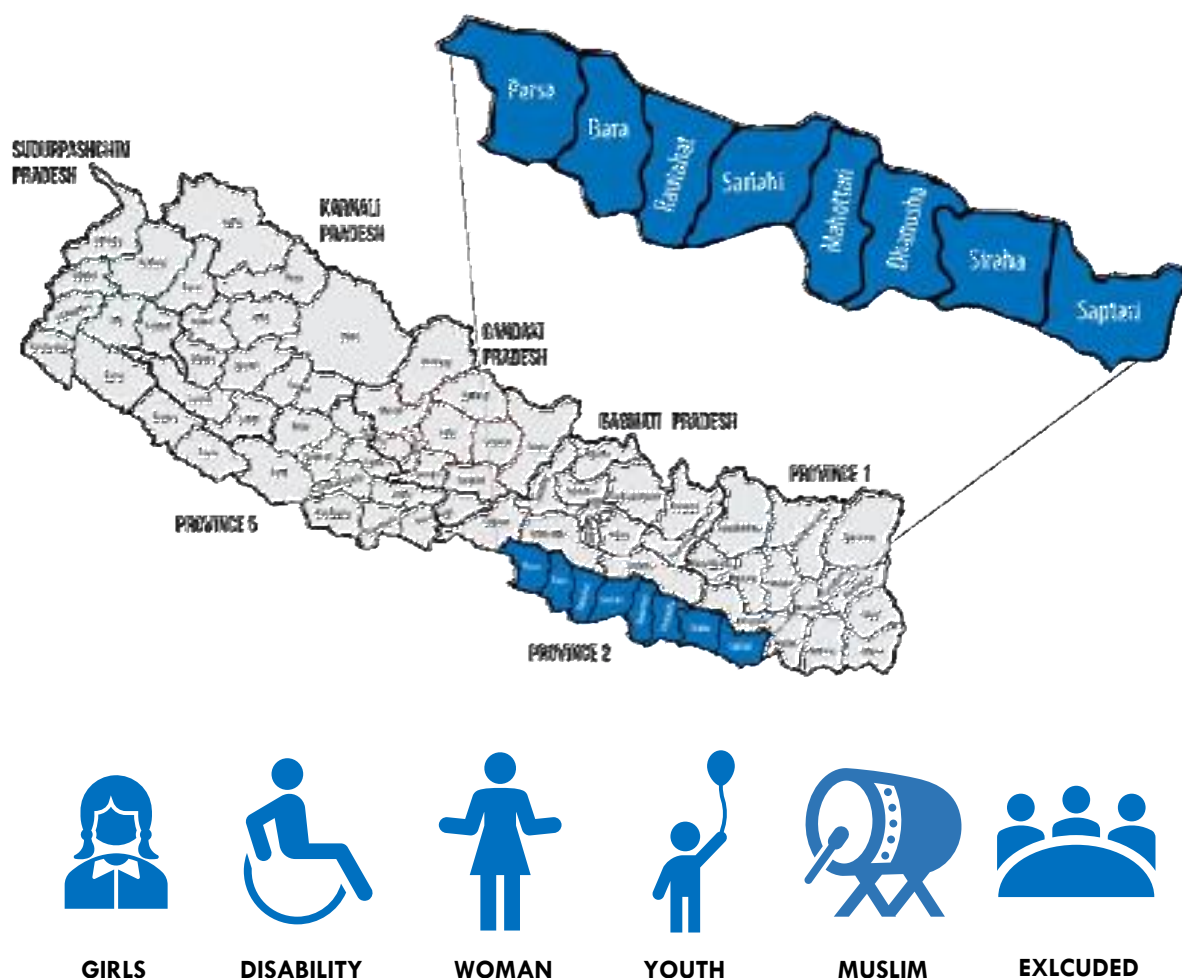
based domestic violence against girls, women, Dalit and people with disability are intolerable and unacceptable in the area where LIFE Nepal is engaged.)

- **Information empowers people. Deprivation of the right to information is non-negotiable** (LIFE Nepal believes that Information Campaign empowers the people to claim their fundamental rights and entitlements through providing basic information regarding services of the government for people of the nation, hence denial of right to information is non-negotiable in terms of marginalized people especially girls, women, youth, Dalit, Janajati, Muslims, and people with disability.)
- **Education is the solution of poverty** (LIFE Nepal realizes that people are poor in the absence of education rather than uneducated ones, due to poverty, therefore LIFE assumes that Education is for the diminution of poverty.)

### 1.3 VMO (Vision, Mission, Objective)



## 1.4 Working Area and Target Group



## 1.5 Strategic approach

### Community engagement

The uniqueness of LIFE Nepal is engaging the communities i.e., support groups in the project cycle management i.e., need assessment, issue prioritization, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It believes that the interventions can only succeed when the key stakeholders are engaged in the program from the very beginning. The involvement of the community support groups likewise SMC (School Management Committee), PTA (Parent Teacher Association), child clubs at different levels and more importantly local leaders meant that the project has become a community project. The involvement of the community has increased their vigilance in child protection.

### Reached to unreached people

To reach the most marginalized community like Dalit, Janjati, Madhesi, Muslim, and children, including children with disability and girls, there will be no other choice rather than gender equity and social inclusion-GESI as experienced by LIFE. Because people in the society due to social class, structures and culture always neglect these targeted groups. Therefore, LIFE first targets to ensure their participation in each aspect of the program; likewise, staff selection process, staffing, planning, implementation,

monitoring, and evaluation. To mainstream them in the program policy, certain criteria of their participation and representation is developed by the program and is strictly implemented— like at least 50% participation and representation of woman from a gender perspective and 35% participation, representation of marginalized community i.e., Dalit (18%), Janjati (10%) and Muslim (4%) and people with disability (3%) from the social inclusion perspective should be implemented. It's based on their population and representation in the community.

### **Networking and partnership**

LIFE has taken networking and partnership as the key approach for the success of the program. LIFE believes that the partnership with different like-minded actors having diverse skills and competencies complements the program. More importantly, program interventions require a whole range of skills and competencies. Therefore, LIFE increased the partnership with other significant players, mainly the district line agencies, like education, health, child protection, administration, women and child development offices, district development committees, NGOs, police and law enforcement officers, the probation and social welfare officers, the parent's/community members and a wide range of institutional partners at local and district levels.

### **Local resource mobilization**

It is observed that there is minimal participation of targeted group people, like women, Dalit, Janjati, Madheshi and Muslim both at RM/Municipality and district level planning and decision-making processes. While the participation of children and people with disability seem negligible. They are sometimes participating just for the formality. Once they participated, their voices were not heard, and plans were not prioritized and reflected in Rural Municipality and DCC (District Coordination Committee) level program plan and budget. 35% of the targeted group RM/Municipality budget in reference to local bodies' resource management and mobilization procedure is not even planned for them and utilized properly. Therefore, LIFE focuses on this area and ensures their active and meaningful participation in planning and decision-making process, so that their voices and choices are reflected in RM and DCC level planning, and targeted group's budget is properly mobilized and utilized.

### **Human rights-based approach**

LIFE will apply this approach in terms of empowering people to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions, which are responsible for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling rights. This approach will help LIFE to analyze inequalities, which lie at the heart of development problems and redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede development progress and often result in groups of people being left behind. Furthermore, it will help to empower the most vulnerable people to participate in decision-making processes. Similarly, it will strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers who have the obligation to respect, protect, promote, and fulfil *human rights*. Rights-holders are individuals or social groups.

### **Do No Harm principle**

LIFE has been practicing safeguarding policies for the protection and safeguarding of the project beneficiaries, staff, and stakeholders. In addition to that, LIFE has an effective complaint response mechanism that enables beneficiaries and stakeholders to raise their voice, and that voice is heard at all levels. Through these tools, LIFE will inform all the components of the project interventions and related information to the beneficiaries. Similarly, LIFE will apply this approach in the targeted communities, so that project does not cause any complications, or harms to the beneficiaries, and they should pay for anything from conflict sensitivity and confidentiality perspective.

## **2. Remarkable Change Through Thematic Engagement**

### **2.1 Protection**

#### **Ending Child Marriage and Promoting Girls Education**

This project mainly addressed the harmful gender and social norms like **“Girls are the property belongs to the marital family”, “Investment in educating girls like putting water in soil”, “Girls are economic burden: more educate, more dowries require.”**

Dowry perpetuates child marriage as it encourages parents to marry off their girls early to avoid an increase in the dowry amount (more educated girls usually require a higher dowry). Girls are considered an economic burden for their family of origin and a “parayadhan” or property that belongs to the marital family. Hence, the tendency is to marry girls as early as possible and reduce investment in their daughters. Investing in girl’s education is not considered worthy as girls will be moving to the groom’s household and will be employed in household chores.


This is barring Girls and young women to enjoy their educational, sexual, and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with informed choices free from coercion, violence, discrimination, and abuse. Despite the rights ensured by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*, and the *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development*. In addition, it is violating the educational rights “Every citizen shall have the right of access to basic education” that is ensured by the Constitution of Nepal (2015) in article 31(1) and SSDP-School Sector Development Plan (2016-2023) “to ensure equitable access to quality education for all.”

Hence, this program implemented the campaign of “marry after 20 only” in line with the provision of “Twenty years is the minimum age for marriage for both men and women [General Code (Muluki Ain) 2020 (1964)]” and prohibition of child marriage as it is punishable offence, and this law will provide justice to survivors and serve as a deterrent to would-be violators. Furthermore, it will contribute to SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, SDG 5: to

achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and specifically to SDG target 5.3 to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage. Similarly, it will help to fulfil the requirement of 2013 Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage, Nepal ratification on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1991, which obligates states to ensure free and full consent to marriage.

LIFE Nepal had set a goal (Impact) for this project was “A gender responsive and sensitive (child protection friendly) environment enabled at local level”. To measure the goal the indicator used was “No evidence of child marriage captured in wards or Palikas”. LIFE Nepal collected data on child marriage in the targeted Palikas on annual basis by mobilizing girls champion through a checklist.

The result shows that the incidence of child marriage decreased from 49.76% in 2019 to 37.21% in 2020 (by 12.55%). Similarly, the incidence of child marriage decreased at Pailka level as well

	2019	2020
	49.76%	37.21%

e.g., 28.94% in Janaknandani Rural Municipality, 18.89% in Sahidnagar Municipality, 15.48% in Mithila Bihari Municipality, 11% in Dhanushadham Municipality, and 10.53% in Sabaila Municipality.

In response to achieve the goal, the purpose (outcome) “Created essential local structures are responsive to ending child marriage (child protection)” contributed healthy because committed local structures were facilitated and referred 109 cases of people at risk, married, and formerly married to Judicial Committee, Women and Children Cell and became able to successfully stop 37 cases child marriage. In relation to measure the outcome, LIFE used an indicator: number of early marriage cases responded by local structures jointly and collected data for that in the project area.

### Worked directly with girls

Through engaging with Girls, LIFE became able to reach total 315 girls i.e., 99% (Girls club members 150, girls champions 10, community mobilizer 2, Project Coordinator 1, and 152 girl students) against the target of 317. The following outputs were yielded by the project:

- ⊗ 10 Girls Club/Network formed with 150 girl's members.
- ⊗ Plan of action of 10 girls club is in place and functional.
- ⊗ 10 girl's champions, 2 community mobilizers, 1 Project Coordinator, 150 girls club members oriented or trained on facilitation and life skills conducted Life Skill (Including SHRH) sessions to 1285 students and 268 parents.
- ⊗ 10 young women trained with vocational skills i.e., tailoring and beauty parlour and supported kit box of materials to start small scale business.
- ⊗ 152 girls trained and enhanced knowledge how to prepare sanitary pad by using local materials available at home.



## Worked directly with boys

- 10 boys' clubs formed with 150 members.
- Plan of action of 10 boys club is in place and functional.
- 34 boys club members oriented or trained on facilitation, leadership, and life skills.

To ensure gender equality, boy's leadership development, and their engagement in the process of raising voice for girls' rights especially ending child marriage through no more marriage before 20



campaign, LIFE Nepal also worked directly with boys through this project. Finally, LIFE formed 10 boys' clubs in the target area with 150 members and they were rigorously engaged in developing 24 months action plan that included, **'No marriage before 20 years of age', 'act against child marriage in their community', 'Ignore to attend child marriage', 'Awareness raising against child marriage', and 'Assist girls' club/networks to fight against child marriage'**. The plan was presented by boys' clubs to local government in March to allocate the local resources by local governments for the implementation of their plan of action. In addition to that, LIFE oriented or trained 34 boys club members on facilitation and life skills as well as leadership. They conducted Life Skill (Including SHRH) sessions to students and parents.

## Worked directly with parents and/or family members

Parents and family members are the prime actors who decide for the marriage in the family. Sensitizing them for deciding marriage after 20 years only is crucial. Hence, LIFE Nepal worked directly with parents and families. In doing so, LIFE engaged 268 parents and family members in life skill sessions facilitated by girls' champion, girls/boys' club's members. Also, LIFE informed and aware about 15000 mothers/parents, community people on the causes and consequences of early/child marriage and legal provision of the government of Nepal through a Radio PSA in local language (Maithili) having key message of child marriage. Similarly, LIFE Nepal designed, developed BCC-Behavior Change Communication Materials of child marriage in local language Maithili, and disseminated Posters, Pamphlets, Flex, Sticker, and bulletin in the project area. Also, LIFE established social media page BAL SAROKAR and BETI RANI especially for ending child marriage. Through those materials, LIFE Nepal reached 20000 community people.



Radio program 20000 pieces



268 parents



35000 community people

### Worked directly with educators



One of other key actors of this is students because they are the key agent of knowledge transfer among school students and in the family. Hence, LIFE Nepal worked with them. In doing so, the trained Girls Champions conducted a classroom session on early child marriage, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of Girls Education in coordination with teacher.



Through this activity 744 (240% against the target) students reached. After the session, they aware about the side effect of early child marriage and why education is important and how it play an important role in girl's life.

### Worked directly with leaders

Local government is the key agency responsible for ensuring girls rights and protecting them from any form of violence. For that, local level child protection and safeguarding policy, plan, and program were essential, however, local governments have scarce technical capacity. Hence, LIFE trained 57 local



- ⊗ Aware community people on marriage after 20 only (Snapshot Survey)
- ⊗ No incidence of child marriage in ward or palika in a year (Snapshot Survey)
- ⊗ A functional local level child protection policy in place (Child protection policy)
- ⊗ If happened, then there would be legal actions applied (Palika database)

government representatives (deputy-mayor) and officials (women and children cell, district GVB network, Nepal Human Rights Commission) on child protection, safeguarding, gender responsive and sensitive local level planning, local resource allocation, implementation, and monitoring. Through this, they enhanced their technical capacity and committed for the development of safeguarding policy at local level in relation to announce child marriage free Palikas and establish complain response and referral mechanism. Through the discussion with local government representative potential

indicators of child marriage free wards or municipalities were identified.

At the same time, to incorporate the issues of girls, boys' club/networks in local level development plan and participate them in local level planning and decision-making process time to time influence on local governments is required. Hence, LIFE Nepal created 10 Citizenship Pressure Groups with 168 community leaders.



They were actively engaged through participating in the meeting, discussing on the agenda of girls, boys' networks regarding child marriage and dividing their roles to dialogue with concerned Palikas. Deputy Mayor is the coordinator of this pressure group. To advocate and influence local government for stopping child marriage and act to response child marriage cases are their main roles.



Religious leaders are also equally responsible for fighting against child marriage, therefore, LIFE Nepal engaged 133 Religious Leaders in a dialogue where they actively participated and discussed the agenda of fighting against child marriage.

### **Worked with other key population**

In addition to above, LIFE Nepal worked with 14 other population like district based key stakeholders that included board members of LIFE, journalist, representative from ministry of social development, Province No.2 in terms of program joint monitoring to ensure the quality of delivery of the program. They visited in the program area, observed project activities, interacted with beneficiaries and key stakeholders. Also, they provided their feedback and suggestions based on the field observation for the further improvement.



## **2.2 Emergency**

### **Humanitarian Program: Risk Communication and Community Engagement Addressing Exclusion Error of Child Grant and Child Protection Response on COVID 19 in Province No. 2**

The COVID-19 pandemic affected wider society throughout the globe. People from marginalized, excluded, and minority communities in Nepal are particularly vulnerable to its most devastating impacts in the short and longer term. They were unaware of the dangers posed by COVID-19. Due to that, they were on high risk of spread of the virus and disruptions to their lives and livelihoods. At the same time, COVID exacerbated pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children those living in poor or rural areas, girls, refugees, persons with disabilities and forcibly displaced persons to continue their learning. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress, not least in support of girl's educational access and retention. Additionally, children may drop out or not have access to school next year due to the pandemic's economic impact alone.

Hence, LIFE Nepal with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, implemented "Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) on COVID 19" programme in all 32 selected local governments of eight districts namely Saptati, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, and Parsa districts and reached to the entire province through FM radio and social media events. Because RCCE effort is an effective strategy in terms of gender-responsive and including all segments of societies, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized social groups for COVID-19 preparedness and response.

The following key achievements were made by this program:

- Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in Province No.2, Nepal has daily updated the status of COVID through its online portal and media conference. For that, upon the request of the Ministry of Social Development, LIFE Nepal supported an Information Management Officer (IMO) to the Ministry of Social Development. The IM Officer technically assisted MoSD in COVID related data collection and

information management that was helpful to MoSD in the daily COVID status update.

- Total 70,000 fliers (50,000 on COVID-19 symptoms and use of cloth face mask and additional 20,000 flyers on applying SMS targeting to the people at POE), 32 display flex (on vaccination) and 10,000 pcs of format printed to collect information from the communities on applying SMS behavior in COVID-19 through door-to-door campaign and massively disseminated in 32 palikas through lead/volunteers, MPA and Staffs of LIFE Nepal in the communities.
- 260 display flexes (on CG and BR), 55,000 fliers on child grant and birth registration printed out and disseminated to the community people from 70 local governments of 4 districts through FCHVs, youth volunteers and megaphone announcement.
- 20 hoarding board set up in 4 palikas (5 in each) with the message of Birth Registration and Child Grant. Total 284 school teachers aware on COVID 19, importance of PSS and activities to be taken before school reopening.
- Total 15,342 learning materials distributed in 5 district and hand over school sanitization materials to 100 schools.
- Palika supervisor selected from 15 Palika in 5 District Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari and Sarlahi for close monitoring and facilitating the Radio programme.
- Total 5 Local FM radios (Radio Sahalesh - Siraha, Max FM - Mahottari, Radio Malangwa - Sarlahi and Radio Madhesh Masala) selected for the broadcasting of Rupantaran programme as well as PSAs on BR and CG.
- Radio program's promo was developed and on aired before and during all the episodes broadcasting period. All 40 episodes were on aired within the agreed timeline through all FM radios.
- Rupantaran radio programme reached to 70,830 people (out of them 24,973 are boy and 26900 are girl and 9309 are male and 9653 are females) till the end of March 2021.
- Total 15 PSAs were developed and recorded COVID 19 symptoms, preventive measures, immunization and birth registration and child grand in both Maithili and Bhojpuri languages. All the PSAs were on aired through 4 FM radios (under SPEE) and Megaphone announcement (both SPEE and RCCE).
- About 52,500 people reached through FM radios in 4 districts.
- Completed coordination with palikas and schools in 32 selected palikas and received authorization/approval letters from them.
- Completed 30 palika level orientation where total 522 palika representative (male 410 and female 112) actively participated. Palika Level orientation is ongoing in remaining palikas.
- Total 352 lead/volunteers oriented on door to door visit and information collection and among them 328 (194 male and 134 female) have mobilized to promote social distancing, use of mask and sanitization and collecting SMS behaviour information through door to door visit and Megaphone announcement intervention.
- Carried out rapid assessment with 100 and more people to look the reason behind not vaccination.
- Operated 3 information desks (ID) at POEs (Jatahi - Dhanusha, Bhattamod - Mahottari and Raxaul - Parsa) for about 2 months to aware returnees on applying safety and healthy behaviors against COVID 19 by megaphone announcement,

distributing flyers and hanging display flexes in the public areas and total 4800 people (including 557 children/B-334 and G-223) directly benefited through the IDs. Among them 7 cases were referred to the other stakeholders/palikas for further support.

- 437 FCHVs and LG health focal persons (65 health focal person/ representatives) oriented on the provision of CG and roles for promoting importance of BR and CG at the palika level. Among them, total 372 FCHVs mobilized at the community level of all palikas of 4 selected districts for awareness raising on birth registration and child grant issues.
- Total 384 local government representatives oriented on the importance of BR and CG through physical and virtual ways.
- Reached with 5345 people (2471 male and 2874 female) PSS including group sessions. Among them total 1728 people (852 male and 876 female) received PSS.
- Total 156 cases (70 male and 86 female) referred to the counselor for high level PSS by the CPSWs.
- Megaphone announcement completed in 32 selected palika of 8 districts in province no. 2 in close coordination with UNICEF health team and office of provincial health directive. The key message on Covid-19 vaccination including social distancing, use of mask and sanitization was on aired by using the sound system (rechargeable) and horn with amplifiers. Around 217,000 people (104,356 male and 112,644 female) reached with the message on vaccination, use of mask and sanitizer, physical distancing and other key information on Covid 19.
- Megaphone announcement on birth registration and child grant carried out in 70 palikas of 4 focused districts. Total 2,200,073 people (51.90 percent female and 48.09 percent male) got the information about child grant and birth registration.
- Reach to more than 4 lakhs people through megaphone and to more than 10 thousand people through social and mass media with the message of prevention and symptoms of COVID 19.
- This project offered a new platform to work in COVID awareness among rural communities and targeting marginalized people who are needy one and no other agency initiated such type of activities before in those areas. In addition to that, this project was helpful for LIFE Nepal in terms of building collaboration with UNICEF and establishing coordination with local government, COVID Management Coordination Committee, and provincial government.
- The project helped to enhance the skills of staffs on developing IEC materials in local languages and disseminating it through print media, radio, TV, social media, and using techniques of digital platform like animation especially in the COVID pandemic situation.

For that the strategic Interventions were

*Design, Develop, and Disseminate (3'D') COVID Related IEC Materials*

### Poster and flyer on COVID 19 symptoms and protection measures

Total 5000 pieces of designed posters and 12500 flyers having message on COVID 19 symptoms and 5000 posters as well as 12500 flyers having message on COVID 19 preventive measures were re-printed in 3 languages i.e., Nepali, Maithili, and Bhojpuri with the close coordination with local governments and consultation with UNICEF. The posters and flyers with key messages on symptoms and preventive measure of COVID delivered to 16 health facilities and 24 local governments (convergent palikas) along with quarantine and isolation centers and police office. All the printed IEC materials were distributed to the target people and rural communities with close coordination of local and provincial governments and line agencies. Through this about 35000 community people became inform about the symptoms and preventative measures of COVID as well as hand washing.



### Flex for display (COVID, Nutrition, WASH) and Flex for hoarding board

Total 30 designed flexes for hoarding boards, 15 sets hoarding boards, and 20 sets stands boards on COVID 19 symptoms and preventive measures, 450 display flex on 5 conditions of and six steps hand washing were re-printed in Nepali, Maithili, and Bhojpuri



Languages. Also 10 hoarding boards, 10 display flex on six steps hand washing and 27 display flex on five conditions of hand washing were set up and hanged at the strategic locations of 16 health facilities.

Similarly, flexes on COVID 19 symptoms and preventive measures for hoarding boards, display flexes on hand washing and symptoms of COVID 19 were handed over to 24 local governments (convergent palikas) of 8 districts in province No 2. Through this

community people who went to health facilities and municipalities for the services were benefitted. Also, community people were informed about COVID symptoms and preventive measures from the nearby strategic locations where hoarding boards were installed.



## Develop and Disseminate (DAD) COVID Related Behavior Change (BCC) Communication Materials

### FM programmes in Bhojpuri and Maithili, air PSAs, broadcast interview and phone in Programme on WASH, Health, Education, Nutrition and Protection



Total 11 PSAs on COVID 19 symptoms and preventive measures, continuing education in COVID 19 emergency, advice for infected or suspected mothers, pregnant women, six and above childcaring, etc. were recorded in both Maithili and Bhojpuri languages and aired through 32 FM radios of province no 2 (4 FM radios in each district) in coordination with Federation of Nepal Journalist (FNJ). Also, during that period, 2 extra PSAs recorded and

played through megaphone announcement. In addition to that, total 64 interviews were recorded with people belonging to different sector (WASH, Health, Education, Nutrition, Protection) from Birgunj and Janakpur program production hubs. That included the interview with CM of province 2, vice-chairperson of policy and planning commission, president of FNJ, doctors, psycho-social counselor, mayor, security personals etc. and aired through FM radios. Finally, around 320000 people were directly reached through the program and around 255 phone call and SMS were received as the feedback and follow up of the radio program.

### Design story board, take key interviews and broad cast through social media (WASH, Health, Education, Nutrition and Protection)



A Facebook account named Covid Kura was operated where more than 5000 friends connected. Total 76 interviews of people related with WASH, Health, Nutrition, and Education, Protection etc. were recorded and posted on Covid Kura Facebook wall. Each interview was viewed by 470 (minimum) to 9000+ (maximum) people and was shared by 1 to 64 people. In addition to that, events of federal and

provincial governments' on COVID 19 were LIVE telecasted that covered by Covid Kura account. From this, 12000 people directly reached at a time. Similarly, boosting technology was used to reach with more people with the message of COVID 19 prevention and symptoms.

### Key megaphone announcements at the local level

Megaphone announcement on symptoms and preventive measures of COVID 19, continuing education in COVID 19 emergency, and advice for infected or suspected mothers, pregnant women, six and above childcaring were carried out in 29 local governments (24 convergent and 5 non-convergent palikas) and total 1,121,764 community people were benefited directly. Most the people were catch out by megaphone announcement focusing to the core village areas, religious community, far away from the access to the mass media. To ensure reach out needy community and

household, a three-wheeler auto-rickshaw was used with a volunteer and horn set (sound system).

#### *Access to continuous ECD, education, and child protection services*

##### **Orientation on education response plan COVID 19 at province and below to the stakeholders and head teachers**

A team of LIFE Nepal continuously participated in the provincial protection cluster meeting and supporting on meeting facilitation and minute taking. Similarly, LIFE provided technical support to develop and finalize Province Level Education Cluster Coordination Committee Guideline and ToR which was later endorsed by province government. In addition to that, LIFE supported to drafting the District Level Education Cluster Preparedness and Response Plan of Dhanusha and shared with respected agencies. Finally, it was endorsed by District EDCU.



##### **Learning Materials support to children**



In the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown period, all schools were closed from 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 onward. Children lost their learning and even faced difficulties for alternative learning because of no access to internet and coaching facilities for them at home or community. Targeting them, LIFE Nepal distributed learning materials to 14599 (6844 boys and 7755 girls of 81 schools in 5 districts i.e., Siraha, Dhanusha, Rautahat, Bara, and Parsa) children from ECD to Grade 3 in close coordination with Education Development & Coordination Committee and UNICEF. LIFE supported learning materials with a bag that had included textbook, notebook, pencil color, ludo, skipping rope etc. This provided an

alternative learning opportunity to children of Province No. 2 during the lockdown period.

##### **Orientation on learning packages to primary school teachers and parents**



Distributing of learning materials was not sufficient. Use of the learning materials was important. Hence, LIFE oriented on proper and best use of learning materials for the continuity of learning of children to 220 primary level teachers of 55 schools in the first week of July 2020. This helped children to engage for their learning even during the lockdown period.

### Schools' sanitation before regular school opening

During the lockdown period led by COVID-19 pandemic schools were closed after 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020. About 50% of schools were used as quarantine and isolation centers for two months plus. For the schools reopening, it was important that precautions should be taken both inside and outside the classroom to be prevented from the spread of COVID-19. Hence, LIFE Nepal conducted the school sanitization activities in schools before reopening by following the school reopening guideline of the government of Nepal. For that, LIFE Nepal supported sanitization materials such as bucket, jug, hand brush, toilet brush, surf, gallon, hand glob, dustbin etc. to 100 schools of Province No. 2 with the support of UNICEF Nepal. This contributed to study children in a safe school environment.

### Coordinate with Cluster and monitor at Provincial and Local level



Total 7 personal's interviews related with education were published by LIFE Nepal on Covid Kura Facebook wall in coordination with provincial, district, and local level education clusters. Similarly, LIFE mobilized provincial and district level education cluster heads in monitoring of education response activities. This event was implemented during the COVID context. Hence, for the safety and security of all staffs and volunteers, the following key strategies were applied by LIFE Nepal to carry out the activities smoothly.

Strictly follow the safety/protective measures as

recommended by GoN and WHO.

Maximum use of social media, virtual technology, email, phone communication to maintain physical distancing and to reach with mass of people at a time.

Close coordination with province and local governments and line agencies to move vehicle (megaphone announcement and learning package and school disinfectant materials distribution) at the time of restriction.

Applied work from home modality and allowed very limited staffs movement in the office.

### Information Management Support to Provincial Government

LIFE Nepal technically assisted the Health Directorate of Province-2 during Covid-19 pandemic in maintaining critical databases related to Covid-19 and other information products that required regular updates from April 2020. For that LIFE's IM Officer assisted Health Directorate to collect, analyze and share the key data related to COVID-19 response at both Provincial and National levels in close coordination of health emergency team. This helped directorate to manage the COVID data properly used for the COVID response planning and COVID prevention. The major roles of IM Officer were to: Support the Province Health Directorate of province-2 in managing Covid-19 related data. Maintain the databases and information sharing systems deployed for COVID-19 emergency operation.

Create info graphics, dashboards and other data visualization products filling needs and requirements and disseminate.

### Survey on Mask Use, Physical Distancing and Hand Washing



LIFE Nepal conducted a survey on use of mask, maintain physical distance at public places, and hand wash practicing by people. The survey was conducted in 25 selected municipalities of eight districts i.e., Bara (4), Parsa (4), Rautahat (4), Sarlahi (1), Dhanusha (3), Mahottari (3), Siraha (2), and Saptari (4) of Province No.2 Nepal. For that, LIFE mobilized its project staffs and volunteers to collect data from the field during March-April 2021. Before that, they were oriented on checklist that was developed by a project team in consultation with UNICEF Nepal and local governments. The overall objective of survey was

to get the status of use of mask, practice of handwash, and maintaining physical distancing by project beneficiaries during and after COVID pandemic. The specific objectives of the survey were:

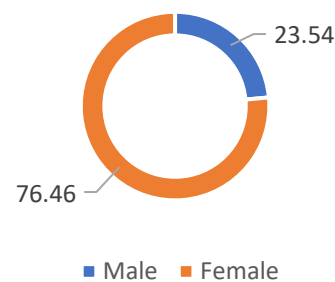
- To find out the status of use of mask by project beneficiaries during COVID pandemic.
- To find out the status of practice of handwash by project beneficiaries during COVID pandemic.
- To find out the status of maintaining physical distancing by project beneficiaries during COVID pandemic.

### District Wise Participants Details

District	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Bara	3757	42.59	5064	57.41	8821	11.58
Dhanusha	3007	26.73	8244	73.27	11251	14.77
Mahottari	3063	23.46	9992	76.54	13055	17.13
Parsa	3222	31.13	7129	68.87	10351	13.59
Rautahat	856	7.13	11144	92.87	12000	15.75
Saptari	2261	18.20	10161	81.80	12422	16.30
Sarlahi	308	8.56	3292	91.44	3600	4.72
Siraha	1458	31.08	3233	68.92	4691	6.16
Total	17932	23.54	58259	76.46	76191	100.00

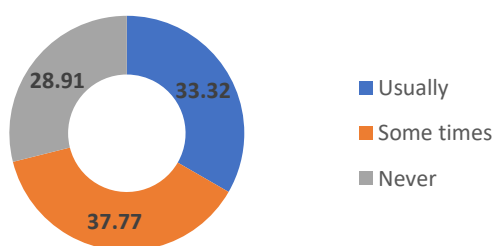
Altogether 76191 people were participated in the survey. Out of them, 17932 (23.54%) were male and 58259 (76.46%) were female. There was maximum participation from Mahottari 17.13 percent and lower participation from Sarlahi 4.72 percent. The reason was high populated municipalities from Mahottari and only one municipality from Sarlahi were covered in this survey.

Fig. 1 Gender Wise Participation



Survey had covered mainly three areas i.e., use of mask, practice of hand wash, and maintain physical distancing by project beneficiaries during and after COVID.

Fig.2 Status of Use of Mask



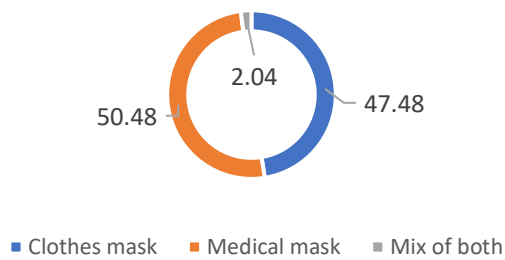
It was found that, out of total beneficiaries participated in survey, one third (n=25386 i.e., 33.05%) of them usually wear mask during and after COVID when they went outside home. Similarly, about two fifth (n=28777 i.e., 37.47%) of beneficiaries wear mask sometimes only when they went outside home while 28.68 percent (n=22028) beneficiaries never wear mask during and after COVID despite of a clearer and strict guideline

and instructions from the Government of Nepal and related information dissemination by the project in local languages targeting rural community people through megaphone announcement, social media , radio broadcasting as well as behavior change communication materials dissemination.

In this way, about one third of people were still not using mask and they are on high risk of COVID and will be an agent of COVID spreading either in the family and community. Through the interaction with selected beneficiaries the qualitative information were taken basically on why people were only using mask sometimes and what are the reason behind people were not using mask. In addition, the qualitative information includes the people who were using mask from which demographic background and why they were convinced for that.

The rural community people who were either partially used mask or not using mask expressed that they could not afford the cost for using mask as they are socio-economically deprived. In addition, about 40-50 percent of people are illiterate, have not proper access to information regarding COVID via mobile, TV, and FM radio. Most of them even do not understand the COVID message (use of mask) from IEC or BCC materials. Hence, they are not aware on significance of using mask and consequences of not using mask. The people who were using mask expressed that they informed about COVID message through megaphone announcement, and they were economically sound.

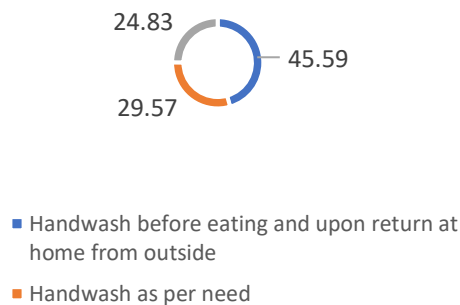
Fig. 3 Types of Mask Used



Out of the people who used mask (n=54163), about half of the people (n=27343 i.e., 50.48%) used medical mask, about half of the people (n=25714 i.e., 47.48%) used clothes mask while very few people (n=1106 i.e., 2.04%) shared that they used both types of masks. In this way about half of the people used clothes mask despite of the recommendation for the

Government of Nepal for the use of medical mask only for the COVID prevention. The people who were using clothes mask are on high risk of COVID and will be an agent of COVID spreading either in the family and community. People expressed that they were using clothes mask because of reusable (after cleaning). Most of the people were socio-economically deprived and they could not afford medical mask because have to change after a certain hours or daily basis.

Fig.4 Handwash Status



Similarly, it was found that, out of total beneficiaries participated in survey, about half (n=34738 i.e., 45.59%) of them washed hand before eating and upon return at home from outside during and after COVID. Similarly, about one third (n=22531 i.e., 29.57%) of beneficiaries washed their hand as per need while 24.83 percent (n=18922) beneficiaries did not wash their hand during and after COVID despite of one of the major COVID

prevention area.

In this way, about one fifth of people were still not practicing hand wash and they are on high risk of COVID and will be an agent of COVID spreading either in the family and community. According to the beneficiaries who were not practicing hand wash were facing problem of management sufficient soap and water frequently. In addition, due to their economic deprivation some of them could not afford for that. Similarly, most of them had not proper access to information regarding COVID via mobile, TV, and FM radio. Most of them even do not understand the hand wash message from IEC or BCC materials. Hence, they are not aware on significance of hand wash and consequences of not practicing hand wash. The people who were practicing hand wash expressed that they informed about COVID message through megaphone announcement, and they were economically sound as well.

Also, it was found that, out of total beneficiaries participated in survey, one third (n=23037 i.e., 30.24%) of them usually maintain two-meter physical distancing when they physically interact with other people. Similarly, about one third (n=22436 i.e., 29.45%) of beneficiaries maintained physical distancing sometimes only while 40.32 percent (n=30718) beneficiaries never maintained physical distancing during and after COVID

despite of a clearer and strict guideline and instructions from the Government of Nepal and related information dissemination by the project in local languages targeting rural community people through megaphone announcement, radio and TV program broadcasting as well as behavior change communication materials dissemination.

In this way, most of the people were still not maintaining physical distancing and they are on high risk of COVID and will be an agent of COVID spreading either in the family and community. The rural community people who were not maintaining physical distance expressed that they had not proper access to information regarding COVID via mobile, TV, and FM radio. Most of them even do not understand the COVID message (use of mask) from IEC or BCC materials because about 40-50 percent of people are illiterate. Hence, they are not aware on significance of maintaining physical distance and consequences of not maintaining physical distance. The people who were using mask expressed that they informed about COVID message through megaphone announcement. Based on those findings the following recommendations were suggested:

The people who were using mask, practicing hand wash, and maintaining physical distance from which demographic background and why they were convinced for that are not clear in the absence of demographic information. The best practices from them might be useful for the people who were using mask, practicing hand wash, maintaining physical distance partially or not practicing. Hence, these types of gaps should be considered during the tool's development for the data collection and survey. Though the data was collected on mass scale, such information should be collected on sampling basis incorporating those gaps to make survey findings more precise and relevant. The behavior changes communication materials designed and disseminated by the project had only concentrated on the use of mask but not covered the area of use of medical mask, consequences of not practicing hand wash and maintaining physical distance for COVID prevention. Hence during designing behavior change communication materials and developing tools for the data collection such type of gaps should be considered in the day to come.

#### [Addressing Exclusion Error of Child Grant on COVID 19](#)

The Child Grant was introduced in 2009/10 to support better nutrition for children under five years of age. The Government of Nepal with technical support from UNICEF is implementing the child grant programme to the entire country with universal approach (i.e., all children under 5 years of age) using its own resources. 70 local governments from four districts i.e., Siraha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat of province no 2 covered under the universal child grant from 2019 aiming to cover all 8 districts by 2022. The programme is expected to increase the coverage of birth registration (which is a prerequisite to be enrolled under the scheme) which in turn will help further promote child rights as their fundamental basis. This programme is considering the Government's policy commitments and the country's political and socio-economic situation. The Child Grant is situated in the context of social protection and child-sensitive policymaking, directly building on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floors, as well as national-level commitments in Nepal's Constitution.

A reliable and effective Child Grant - with appropriate benefit levels, timely payment, and wider - or ideally universal - national coverage - is likely to reduce poverty and have a positive impact on human development, notably health, education and nutrition. Most importantly, it can improve child wellbeing and fight child poverty. In addition, it can promote universal birth registration, thereby strengthening civil registration and vital statistics which in turn are foundations of good governance. Since the end of 2019, the COVID 19 pandemic, local governments were engaged for the management of the lockdown and restriction situation and its follow up. This situation has forced many children to be deprived basic child rights including birth registration and child grant. There is the existence of barriers against CG such as lack of information and awareness, confusion around the details of the registration process, delays in sending the registration information to and receiving budgets from the federal level, limited capacity at the local governments and lack of capacity building of the work force etc. As, local officials are overburdened, grant distribution often takes a couple of days and delay receiving of the grant has not support for proper utilization. Therefore, to support local governments on timely birth registration and information management system, capacity building on information updating, orient to the palika heads and to bring the ownership from province governments on monitoring and technical support LIFE Nepal has started implementation of the programme "Improving Access of Households to the Child Grant Programme in Province No. 2, Nepal" in financial and technical support of UNICEF Nepal. The objectives of the programme were:

- To aware community people and households on Child Grant services of the government of Nepal and registration processes.
- To influence and lobby with local governments to provide and ensure effective and efficient Child Grant services.
- To support local governments on capacity building on timely information management and registration.

The following key activities were implemented by LIFE Nepal under this project.

- IEC materials development, production and dissemination
- Palika level orientation (physical and virtual)
- PSA Production and on airing
- Orientation to FCHVs and Youth Volunteers
- Megaphone announcement
- Social Audit in (not completed)



Finally, below mentioned progress were achieved by those interventions:

- Total 317 PWD aware on CG and BR through megaphone announcement, virtual meeting and FCHV door to door visit, flyers distribution.
- Around 384 palika representatives (mayor, deputy mayor, CAO and other) and officials oriented on BR and CG issues through physical and virtual meeting.

- Massive interventions conducted at palika level (mainly in 4 focus palikas) to declare as fully BR and CG covered local governments. The final information collection is going on (now the field level intervention has paused due to COVID 19 second wave).
- Altogether 55260 display flexes and flyers printed and disseminated in the communities, local government units through FCHV, youth volunteers and megaphone announcement.
- Total 20 hoarding boards prepared and among them 4 set up at the strategic locations of palika (the remaining hoarding board will dispatch to respective palikas after the normalize situation of COVID 19).
- Total 4 local FM's selected and continuously airing jingle and PSA on BR and CG in local languages (10 times each day).
- Around 297+ FCHVs mobilized to disseminate message on BR and CG through door to door visit after 1 day orientation in two focus districts i.e., Siraha and Sarlahi.
- More than 367 children under five years identified by FCHVs who had BR and CG related issues and referred to local government unit (ward offices).



### **Flood Preparedness and Response Program**

Nepal is being one of the disaster-prone countries suffers from various kinds of disaster every year. Floods, landslides, earthquake, fire, windstorm, and epidemics are common disasters that occur almost every year. The heavy rainfall from June to August (mainly monsoon season) in Nepal resulted in flood throughout the country, however, the southern part of Nepal mainly the Terai region is highly affected. From the many districts of the Terai, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, and Rautahat district are highly affected. The continuous downpour led to massive overflow of rivers (mainly Koshi, Kamla, Ratu, Bagmati, Lal Bakaiya, Jhanjh, and Chandi) which caused floods every year and severely damaged and displaced thousands of households and their family members. In addition to that, people lose their livelihood, livestock, and houses. People are compelled living in community building, river embankment, school, and any other safe places due to flood where they do not have easy access over food neither they have space and utensils to cook food and eat. They face food crisis and have stay without food for a weeklong. Even they do not have access to safe drink water.

Therefore, LIFE Nepal with the technical and financial assistance of UNICEF Nepal implemented "Flood Preparedness and Response Program in 4 Palikas i.e., **Shahidnagar Municipality, Janaknandani Rural Municipality of Dhanusha and Rajpur, Ishnath Municipality of Rautahat** district of Province – 2 from June-September 2020. The overall objective of the program was to strengthen the technical capacity of local governments for disaster risk management and empower local community for their resiliency to cope with the disaster.

The following strategic activities were successfully accomplished in this reporting period:

*Flood preparedness and response plan considering COVID-19 based on DPRP / LDCRP guidelines*

#### Flood preparedness and response plan workshop considering COVID-19 in 4 Municipalities

In relation to develop the flood preparedness and response plan considering COVID-19



pandemic, LIFE Nepal facilitated local governments to organize a Palika level workshop. Finally, 4 Palikas i.e., **Shahidnagar Municipality, Janaknandani Rural Municipality of Dhanusha and Rajpur, Ishnath Municipality of Rautahat** district organized workshops dated 29-30 June, 28-29 June, 2-3 July and 1-2 July 2020 respectively. In the workshops, 250 Palika level stakeholders like, mayors, deputy-mayors, executive officers, DRR focal persons, ward

commissioner, and members were actively participated. They were informed about the vulnerability status of their communities, risks in those areas. Further, they discussed and identified possible areas for the safe shelter, mapped locally available rescue materials arrangement, etc. In this way 148 (Male-96, Female-52) people engaged, informed, and sensitized to the need of proper implementation and monitoring of local level disaster and climate resilient plan, in relating to disaster preparedness and response to flood impacted people. Finally, DRR focal points of municipalities took initiation and developed municipality level flood preparedness and COVID response plan. Based on that, municipalities are preparing right now for the upcoming cold wave in December and January. Youths from the Palikas are demonstrating simulation exercises on prevention from cold wave. Similarly, municipalities are supporting food materials to marginalized people and COVID impacted people as well.



#### Establish a coordination mechanism (cluster mechanism) at municipality level for COVID-19 pandemic and flood preparedness and response

During the workshop, an issue of a functional coordination mechanism at municipality level (among different clusters) was strongly raised by the participants. Hence, LIFE had facilitated local governments to identify the existing clusters at local government level first. For that, all four Palikas formed a task force at municipal level and the DRR committee at ward level. In the event, altogether



632 communities participated out of them 517 were male, and 115 females. After the workshop, a task force in coordination with DRR committee and local governments developed a coordination mechanism at municipality level and following the same coordination channels in terms of COVID pandemic and upcoming cold wave preparation and response.



### Strengthen Municipality level Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) to update COVID 19 and flood situation



To strengthen the municipality level disaster information management system, LIFE supported one desktop computer to Shahidnagar Municipality upon the demand from the municipality. During the handover of computer to the municipality, LIFE Nepal highlighted on the significance of the Palika level disaster management information system in terms of data based local disaster and climate resilient plan formulation incorporating COVID and response to the real and needy disaster and pandemic survivors. Information Management

Officer expressed that desktop support, and an orientation were very much helpful for him, and he would be able to manage the disaster related data at Palika level that was missing before. IMO has managed the record of potential vulnerable households from a flood. IMOs were initiated to prepare the list of pro-poor and marginalized people who are potential survivor of the upcoming cold wave so that they should be responded properly.

### Development of SOP (One Pager) for COVID-19 and flood preparedness and response

A standard operation guideline-SOP was essential for the Palikas because they had not any specific document in response the COVID-19 and flood impacted people in the Palika. Hence, LIFE facilitated local governments to develop their SOP dated 13<sup>th</sup> October in Rajpur and 15<sup>th</sup> October in Ishnath, 29<sup>th</sup> October in Shahidnagar, and 8<sup>th</sup> October in Janaknandani. Finally, they developed one pager SOP including response mechanism for COVID-19 and flood survivors and local governments committed that SOP will be endorsed by the following meeting.

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१.७७	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.७८	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.७९	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.८०	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.८१	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.८२	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.८३	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.८४	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.८५	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.८६	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.८७	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.८८	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.८९	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.९०	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.९१	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.९२	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.९३	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.९४	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.९५	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.९६	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.९७	खानी व्यवस्थापन	१.९८	खानी व्यवस्थापन
१.९९	खानी व्यवस्थापन	२.००	खानी व्यवस्थापन



## Prepare Emergency Fund Mobilization Guideline

Everyone knows that there is flood every year, however, the local governments have not established an emergency fund at municipality level. Once people affected by flood or pandemic like COVID-19, they started to search the fund for response to the survivors because that have not allocated the budget for emergency assistance. Hence, LIFE facilitated local governments to establish an emergency fund at municipality level. For that emergency fund mobilization guideline was essential. Finally, with the technical assistance from LIFE Nepal, local governments developed an emergency fund mobilization guideline and committed to endorse by following meeting.

## Province level planning and lesson learnt sharing meeting on COVID-19 and flood preparedness and response plan



LIFE Nepal organized a provincial level planning and learning, sharing meeting with the coordination of the Provincial government of Province No. 2, Nepal and in consultation with UNICEF Nepal, where 83 (Female 37, Male 46) key provincial level stakeholders, representative from UNICEF Nepal participated. In the meeting, major achievement and learning from this program was shared. To scale up the learning of this

program in other municipalities and districts, it was recommended provincial government to incorporate in the upcoming planning. Provincial government has also committed for that.

## Capacity building of local government

### Two days training on IRA (Initial Rapid Assessment) to IMO, LDMC members, Ward Commissioners, Municipality Level Task Force Team members



used for IRA and filled up the prescribed format for the assessment.

As a part of capacity building of local governments, LIFE in consultation with UNICEF Nepal and local governments facilitated four events of two days training on initial rapid assessment to four targeted municipalities where 142 (female 22, male 120) information management officer local disaster management committee member, ward commissioners, and municipality level task force team members actively participated. They informed on the terms

### Four days training on Light Search and Rescue (LSAR) and First Aid (FA)

Similarly, LIFE Nepal facilitated four events of light search and rescue and first aid training in four municipalities dated 19-22 October in Rajpur, 28-31<sup>st</sup> October in Ishnath 10-13<sup>th</sup> October in Shahidnagar, and 14-17<sup>th</sup> October in Janaknandani where altogether 142 (Female 22, Male 120) people from the disaster management committee member, ward commissioners, and municipality level task force team members participated. They enhanced their rescue skills and knowledge on first aid through this training. They became the local level human capital to rescue and providing first aid to COVID-19 pandemic and flood survivors in the municipalities.

### Two-day training on flood preparedness to child club members/graduates



activities in emergencies. They are demonstrating simulation exercises, especially on upcoming cold wave with the facilitation of DRR focal teachers.

In relation to advance the flood preparedness capacity of the child club members in those municipalities, LIFE Nepal in consultation with local governments and coordination with concerned schools organized a two-day training on flood preparedness to child club members and graduates. In the training total 150 (female 65, male 85) child club members actively participated and enhanced their knowledge on the precaution and pre-alert

### Community level flood preparedness and response discussion in most affected communities

LIFE Nepal conducted in total eight community level discussions (two discussion in each four Palikas). The discussion was held in most emergency affected communities of the targeted Palikas and concentrated mainly on flood preparedness and response. The community stakeholders oriented on flood emergency preparedness, identified the local

level rescue materials, and finally formed ward level committees. They prepared a life jacket by using the local materials like plastic bottle and waste clothes.

### *Support for evacuation shelters and its operation*

#### Identification of shelter, evacuation route, and dissemination at strategic locations

In coordination with local governments, LIFE Nepal identified existing or potential shelters in the communities of targeted municipalities as safe spaces to the flood survivors. In addition to that, LIFE identified and developed evacuation routes in the communities after the discussion with community people so that people could use those routes and go to the safe shelters in relation to save their life once any disaster happens. Evacuation routes were printed and disseminated at the strategic locations in the communities.



#### Early warning supplies/set up (mike, siren etc)

Early warning is the key to preparedness and saving the life of the people from the disasters. Hence LIFE Nepal procured the early warning supplies like a megaphone, siren based on the need of the communities and handed over to the local governments, etc. The local governments were also oriented on the use of those materials and store properly with visibility.



#### Establish a communication channel



To save the life of vulnerable communities' people from the disaster like flood early warning is crucial. For that a proper communication along with the information related to disaster by municipalities to the communities is essential. Hence, LIFE in coordination with local

governments developed a guideline for the communication channel in relation to establish a functional communication channel in those municipalities.



#### Evacuation drill (simulation)

To strengthen the skill and knowledge of community people in relation to cope with the disaster and make them resilient to save their life from the disasters, four events of simulation exercise were accomplished (dated 13<sup>th</sup> September in Rajpur, 18<sup>th</sup> September in Ishnath, 18<sup>th</sup> July in Shahidnagar, and 28<sup>th</sup> July in



Janaknandani) by LIFE Nepal in coordination with local governments where 945 people participated. For that trained human resources were mobilized by LIFE, they oriented community people properly disaster coping skills, working modality, and the use of local materials.



#### Provision of WASH facilities in shelters

LIFE Nepal in coordination with local governments supported the identified safe shelter for the repair and maintenance of WASH facilities like a hand pump, bucket, mug, jug, and cleaning materials etc. based on their demands.

*Support for (Matching fund: municipality and UNICEF) for covid-19 and flood preparedness*

#### Stock taking of supplies at Palika level (need vs gaps)



LIFE Nepal procured rescue materials like life jackets, rope, siren, rubber tub, swimming tube, helmet, tarpaulin, etc. based on the need assessment of the municipalities and



priority and handed over to the municipalities. LIFE oriented municipalities for the proper use of those materials during emergencies for the lifesaving of people by the trained human resources at local level, storing properly after the use with safety and security as the property of local governments.



#### Search & rescue, first aid supplies

Similarly, LIFE Nepal procured the light search and rescue and first aid materials those are useful for search and rescue and first aid with the demand from municipalities as per the preparedness and response plan and handed over to the local governments with highlighting on the proper use of materials by trained persons and storage with safety.

#### Emergency prepositioning (as per preparedness & response plan) - 4 Municipality for covid-19 and flood preparedness and response



Furthermore, emergency prepositioning materials like boats were purchased by LIFE Nepal as per the preparedness and response plan and handed over to the local governments for COVID-19 and flood preparedness and response in four targeted municipalities of Dhanusha and Rautahat districts of Province No. 2. Total 622 (female 328, male 294) supported in emergency prepositioning (distribution

of Tarpaulin, Jug, Bucket, Mineral Water to 4 Palikas Ishnath, Rajpur, Janaknandani RM, and Sabaila Municipality of Rautahat and Dhanusha districts respectively).

#### Coordination meeting against COVID 19 and flood preparedness (refer to DPRP)



In close coordination with municipalities, one-time coordination meeting with municipalities completed in each Palika where 99 people actively participated and shared the existing situation of emergency response in the Palikas. A functional Palika level coordination established, and local governments are supporting LIFE Nepal for the school, ward, and community level coordination.

#### Mapping of vulnerable community/HH, maintain roster

LIFE Nepal in coordination with municipalities and consultation with UNICEF Nepal completed mapping of vulnerable communities in all 4 Palikas, that included no of households, family members, children under 5 and 18, number of lactating and pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with disability. That information is being encoded by IT officer of concerned Palikas.

#### Information management (personnel, equipment)

LIFE Nepal technical staffs and team members are assisting IT officers of the Palikas in terms of disaster related database management information system.

Finally, the following achievements were made:

- Flood preparedness and response plan developed in 4 palikas of Dhanusha (Sahidnagar, Janaknandani) and Rautahat (Rajpur, Ishnath) districts, including the information of vulnerable community, risk areas, possible shelter areas, locally available rescue materials arrangement, etc.
- The existing clusters identified at local government level.
- The task force formed at the cluster level and DRR committee at ward level.
- One desktop computer supported to the Shahidnagar Municipality for Palika level disaster information management by IMO.
- SOP developed and introduced in all 4 palikas of Dhanusha and Rautahat district for the endorsement by upcoming meeting.
- Emergency fund mobilization guideline developed and introduced in 4 palikas of Dhanusha and Rautahat district and got a commitment of endorsing by upcoming meeting.
- Total 632 municipality level stakeholders enhanced skills and knowledge of first aid, search and rescue and they became as a local level human resource for rescue and first aid.
- Total 96 child club members trained and enhanced their knowledge on the precaution and pre-alert activities in the emergency.
- Total 4 hoarding board designed, developed, and installed in high-risk areas of the community to aware people on shelter area, evacuation route if any emergency occurs.

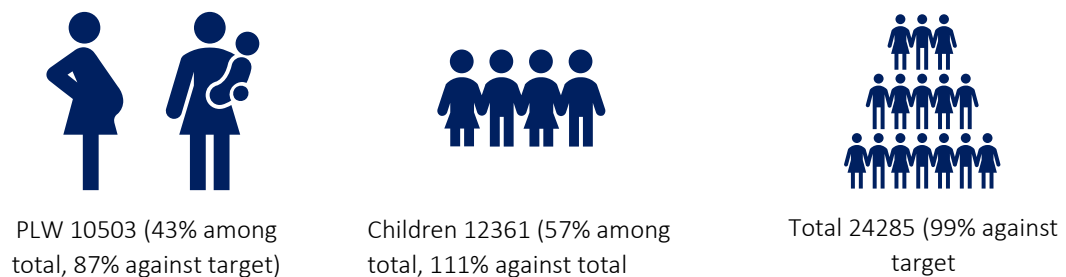
- Procured early warning materials like a siren, hand mike, etc and handed over to local government to establish an early warning system at municipality level.
- A communication channel drafted and shared to the local government DRR focal points.
- Simulation exercises on flood completed in all 4 municipalities facilitated by trained human resources. Community people oriented on the working modality during the emergency, including the use of local materials.
- Identified shelters in the municipalities were equipped with materials like hand pump, bucket, jug, and cleaning materials etc as well as renovated or constructed toilet, installed hand pump for the proper use of the shelter house.
- Local Governments were supported with rescue materials i.e., life jacket, rope, siren, rubber tub, swimming tube, helmet, tarpaulin etc. as well as materials useful in search and rescue, first aid as per the preparedness and response plan.

### 2.3 Health

#### Humanitarian Program: Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program

The corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has revealed the global food systems can become vulnerable and lead to increase in food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty especially among marginalized groups. Nepal had also witnessed various adverse impacts of COVID-19 in terms of human casualties, physical and mental health as well as on the country's nutrition and food security. The impact of malnutrition especially on women, children, and adolescent brings long-term and irrevocable physical and intellectual weaknesses, and impaired growth and development.

Rautahat and Sarlahi districts in Province No.2 also has one of the highest prevalence of stunting among children less than five years of age. In the efforts to combat both chronic and acute malnutrition, LIFE Nepal, in technical and financial support from UN-WFP implemented Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program in 10 rural/municipalities of Sarlahi and Rautahat districts. LIFE Nepal had aimed to contribute to the prevention and reduction of the secondary socio-economic impact of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups through preventing malnutrition among children 6-23 months of age, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and enhancing knowledge of mothers, care takers and community members on optimal nutrition and feeding practices.



Through the blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP) LIFE Nepal directly reached to the 10503 PLW, i.e., 43% among total people reach while 87% against the target. Similarly, the program reached to 12361 children directly i.e., 57% among total and 111%

against the target. In this way, program directly reached to 24285 PLW and children directly i.e.,99% and almost achieved the target. The coverage of PLW seems low because many of the PLW were away from their home as a part of their culture of stay at their maternal home during pregnancy. Also, some of them were out of village to attend the marriage ceremony of their relative. However, the coverage of children appears higher due to the high number of existence of children from age group 6-23 months in the targeted communities against the data taken from secondary sources like municipality and health facilities. In addition, the following major achievements were made by this program:

### **Knowledge transferred**

- 183 (M 140, F 43) key stakeholders like mayor, deputy mayor, chief district officer, chief of health division of municipality, health coordinator, ward chairperson of respective wards, female ward members, office assistant, chief of health post oriented on the BSFP program based on the interim BSFP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), endorsed by the Family Welfare Division (FWD)/Nutrition Cluster
- 491 FCHVs, 347 health workers, 229 volunteers, 116 casual workers oriented on the WSB distribution process and mobilized during the distribution
- About 24285 community people informed and aware on optimal nutrition and feeding practices through nutrition IEC materials
- *ANC, PNC, and Immunization card of children was mandatory for the verification of beneficiaries, however, some of the children and mothers had not card. Hence, LIFE Nepal facilitated for the card as well. Mothers aware that they must have such a card in terms of getting government services. About 500 PLW and children formed ANC, PNC, and Immunization card.*

### **Coordination established**

- A functional coordination at province, two districts, and ten municipalities established

### **Food distributed**

- 145.71 MT of required WSB transported from district head quarter to targeted ten municipalities of Rautahat and Sarlahi districts and stored at warehouses
- WSB distributed to 10503 PLW and 13782 children aged 6-23 months, in total 24285

The following key activities were executed for the BSFP:

#### *Programme Orientation and Coordination Meeting*

LIFE Nepal organized 10 programme orientation and coordination meeting at municipality level where 183 (M 140, F 43) key stakeholders like mayor, deputy mayor, chief district officer, chief of health division of municipality, health coordinator, ward chairperson of respective wards, female ward members, office assistant, chief of health post oriented on the BSFP program based on the interim BSFP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), endorsed by the Family Welfare Division (FWD)/Nutrition Cluster were actively participated. They were informed about the programme and requested for establish a functional coordination for the smooth selection and setting up of WSB distribution sites/facilities. In addition to that, LIFE provided a guidance to the Local Government to adhere to the interim BSFP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP),

endorsed by the Family Welfare Division (FWD)/Nutrition Cluster for the safe implementation of BSFP in the context of COVID-19.

#### *Orientation and Mobilization of Volunteers and Health Workers*

LIFE Nepal coordinated with concerned health facilities and organized an orientation program to 491 FCHVs, 347 health workers, 229 volunteers, 116 casual workers on the WSB distribution process. They were mobilized for successful distribution of WSB to PLW and children 6 to 23 months of age. They also assisted in identifying targeted PLW and children, counseling them with providing a coupon.

#### *Distribute nutrition related IEC or BCC materials*

In relation to orient and aware targeted beneficiaries about the programme, LIFE Nepal conducted regular social mobilization at local level through mobilizing staffs, volunteers, FCHVs, and health workers in coordination with local governments as well as health facilities. In doing so, LIFE distributed IEC materials to the beneficiaries with highlighting key messages. 48000 pieces of pamphlets printed in Nepali, Maithili, and Bhojpuri languages materials provided by WFP.

### 3. Good Practice with Innovation

#### *Girls are united and leading the issue of girls' rights*

10 Girls Club /Network reactivated. They were facilitated by LIFE Nepal staffs and



volunteers to review their action plan formed last year and developed a new action plan for 24 months based on their need and priority. There was participation of 150 Girls Club members in the plan review and formulation meeting. They



discussed in a group and developed a new action plan. The plan of actions is being documented by a team of LIFE. 150 girls committed for the marry after 20 years only. After that, those plans were presented by girls' club/networks to local government to allocate the local resources by local governments for the implementation of their plan of action.



One of the best action of girls' club/network was influencing local governments by



requesting for the **availability sanitary pad at school for their menstruation health.**

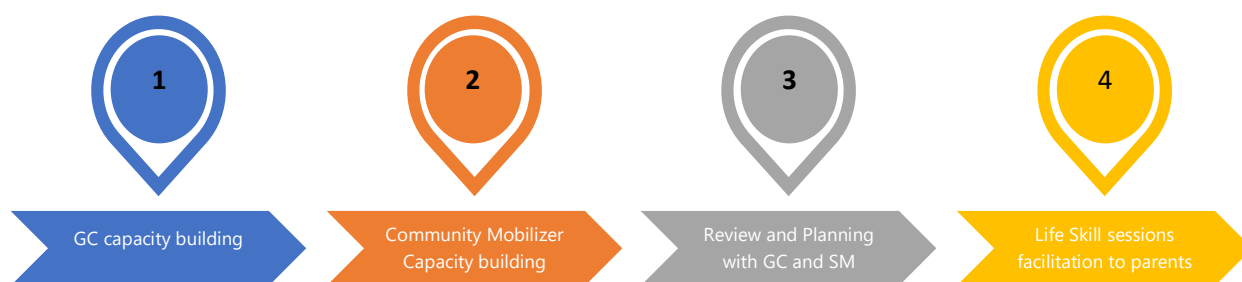
Similarly, girls' club/networks organized an extra-curricular event (interaction, speech, drawing) on International Girl's Day on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with

the facilitation of teacher, girls champion and community mobilizer of LIEF Nepal.

In addition to that, for the proper operation of secretariat and mobilization of girls' club/network, LIFE supported 10 sets of first aid kit to girls' club/network and material like register, marker, paper tape, glue stick, stapler, and punching as a secretariat operation assistance and 10 sets of Gender responsive Game Play materials like skipping, ludo, chess, volleyball to Girls Club /Network in November 2020.



Another successful activity of the project in this reporting period was social mobilization. A set of activities were accomplished by LIFE Nepal in terms of social mobilization. The main purpose of the activity was to build the capacity of girls' champion and social mobilizers in response to facilitate Life Skill (Including SHRH) Sessions with Problem Analysis and Solving Approach (PASA) to Girls Club/Network and Mothers/Parent Groups.



In doing so, LIFE recruited and oriented 10 Girls Champion, 2 community mobilizers (CM) and mobilized them in the field from 15th June 2020. Similarly, LIFE conducted 7 events of review and planning meeting with GC and CM from July to December 2020. In terms of their capacity building 2 days life skill sessions facilitation

training to Girls Champion organized by LIFE from 29-30 July 2020 at Perfect Plaza hotel in Janakpur. Through the training GC and CM trained and enhanced their knowledge on facilitation and life skills. They are now able and to conduct life skill (including SHRH) session with problem analysis and solving approach to Girls Club and Mothers/Parent Groups members, and students. In this period, GC facilitated 32 classes on child marriage to 1285 students in coordination with teacher in working 10 schools.



## Case Story-1

### ***Bimala Rai returned to school after the marriage***

*This case study is based on interviewing with Bimala Rai. She is the chairperson of Girls Club in Benga Dabur school of Mithila Municipality and studying in grade 10. Now she is 17 years. Five years ago, when she was just 12 years old, and she went out with a boy from a nearby village as in love. Everything was*



*fine until that boy started pressuring her to marry him. If she didn't, boy threatened to marry someone else. After*

*1 year her father passed away and she became orphan. Her mother took care her along with her sister and brothers despite dependent on farming vegetables in a small piece of land to sustain her family. Times were difficult, and her mother struggled to look after her children. Marrying at a young age is a very common practice among the people there. When this boy came to her and threatened to marry someone else, she was hurt and sad. Finally, she married with this boy as eloped marriage with him. When Bimala told him about her dream was to continue school, it was hard for him to resist.*



*Just a few days later, her husband left for India to work, like many of the other young men from the community. Then her carrying depend on her mother-in-law and brother-in-law. After some days, she was not allowed even to have a phone conversation with wife and husband. Her mother-in-law and her family disturb her in her life. Mother and brother-in-law started to assault. Her mother and brother came and tried to take her home, but in laws would not allow it. After a few days on the day of BhaiTika of Hindu festival, she escaped and returned to mother's home.*

*Now she is single and pursuing her high school education, focusing on management studies. She is the chairperson of Girls Club after being associated with Girls club, she has gained confidence, and able to share her story with others. She is working to stop child marriage in her village and making parents aware of the issues caused by child marriage and the laws against it.*

## **2. Parents and mothers are also playing a vital role in ending child marriage**

Similarly, 20 events of life skill sessions facilitated by GC, CM, girls/boys clubs to 268 (M-16 and F-252) parents in 10 Palikas. During the sessions, they identified and prioritized their issues mainly high incidence of child marriage during COVID pandemic, developed plan of action with role division, implemented those actions. Finally, total 109 child marriage cases were explored and referred to judicial committee as well as women and children cell reported by them during the review of their actions. Out of them, 37 cases have been successfully stopped. In six cases, marriage was happened in India, so they were not responded as it was not in their control.

## Case Story-2

### **Child marriage survivor got the opportunity of vocational training.**

*This case study is based on interviewing with Janaki Sharma, a resident of Mujeliya, ward no. 14, Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitan City. Janaki grew up in poor family and living with parents. Her father is a farmer, and her mother is a housewife. She was married at the age of just 14 years of age. When she was 18, her husband divorced due to some mysterious circumstances from Saudi Arab where he worked. Her husband went in Saudi Arab after 1 year of marriage. She became alone with her one daughter. Her financial condition*



*was also weak. She was having very much trouble in taking care her children. One day, she came to know about the program of LIFE Nepal. She visited to the organization and shared her status and requested for the vocational training (like beauty parlor training). She got 2 months training of beauty parlor.*

*LIFE Nepal has also a plan to support vocational training with kit box to the survivor with child marriage from marginalized communities under **Ending Child Marriage and Promoting Girls Education** Program. She participated in the training and skilled with parlor as well as supported a kit box with materials. Now she is very happy. She says that this is a good initiative of LIFE Nepal/GFF which is providing a platform for those married girls who became a victim of child marriage (like me) and doesn't have any skill to generate income for her family. She feels very lucky to be a part of this vocational training. She added that no one should suffer like me. She suggested every parent not to marry their daughter before 20 or against their will.*

### **3. Union of boys are leading and contributing to the girl's rights issue**

Boys are also the key actor who can play a vital role in stopping child marriage though no more marriage before 20 campaign and their commitments. Therefore, 10 Boys Club /Network reactivated. They were facilitated by LIFE Nepal staffs and volunteers to develop an action plan for 24 months based on their need



and priority.

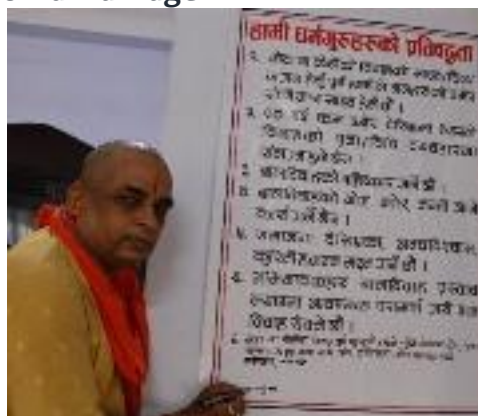
There was participation of 150 Boys Club members in the plan review and formulation meeting. They discussed in a group and developed an action plan those includes, '**No marriage before 20 years of age**', '**act against child marriage in their community**', '**Ignore to attend child marriage**', '**Awareness raising against child marriage**', and '**Assist girls' club/networks to fight against child marriage**'. The plan of actions is being documented by a team of LIFE. After that, those plans were presented by boys' club/networks to local government to allocate the local

resources by local governments for the implementation of their plan of action. In addition to that, they are taking the sessions to parents in the community as well. 150 boys committed to marry after 20 only.

Before that, LIFE Nepal organized one-day leadership training to Boys Club/Networks on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at Welcome Hotel in Janakpur. The main objective of the training was to enhance the leadership capacity of boy clubs/networks. In the training 34 boys club/network members from 5 schools Shahid Nagar, Mithila Bihari, Laxminiya, Janakpur and Chhreshwar Nath Municipality actively participated and enhanced their knowledge on leadership skills, concept of CRC, Child Marriage, and roles of Boys Club.

#### 4. Religious leaders are also committed for ending child marriage

Religious leaders who participated in a dialogue to discuss on the agenda of fighting against child marriage committed and announced their declaration for ending child marriage like ***“We will ask the age of boys or girls who are going to be married before fixing the day for marriage ceremony”***, ***“We will not attend the marriage ceremony if child marriage is going to place”***, ***“We will boycott child marriage”***, ***“We will boycott feast of child marriage”***, ***“We will work for establishing a positive social norms”***, and ***“We will motivate and convince parents if they come up with the proposal of child marriage”***.



#### Case Story- 3

**Campaign on say to no marriage before 20 years started from religious leaders.**



This case study is based on interviewing with Religious leaders **Mr. Krishna Chandra Jha**, **Mr. Man Bahadur Lama** and **Mr. Maulana Abdul Rahman** who were participated in a dialogue to discuss on the agenda of fighting against child marriage committed and announced their declaration for ending child marriage like ***“We will ask the age of boys or girls who are going to be married before fixing the day for marriage ceremony”***, ***“We will not attend the marriage ceremony if child marriage is going to place”***, ***“We will boycott child marriage”***, ***“We will boycott feast of child marriage”***, ***“We will work for establishing a positive social norms”***, and ***“We will motivate and convince parents if they come up with the proposal of child marriage”***. They were jointly started the campaign against child marriage through their religion side. After their commitment they have been stopped a few cases of child marriage. They were also started the awareness against child marriage.

#### 5. Local government is also committed and accountable for ending child marriage

Local government representative who participated in child protection, safeguarding, and gender responsive and sensitive local level planning, local resource allocation, implementation, and monitoring training enhanced their technical capacity. *Ten local governments developed child protection and safeguarding policy at local level, incorporated those components in local level development plan*



and established complain response and referral mechanism in relation to announce child marriage free Palikas. In addition to that,10 local governments allocated local resources as well for the implementation of plan of action of girls, boys' club/networks.

#### **6. District based women and children cell under district police office is also supporting the issue of ending child marriage**

LIFE Nepal supported a Desktop Computer to Women and Children Cell of District Police Office Dhanusha, in the presence of SP Mr. Prakash Rana Bhatta, Mrs. Subhadra Alae (Chief of GBV Network), Mrs. Dipika Ojha (Chief of Cell) on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The main objective was to fulfill the gap of recording and maintaining database of all the cases of child marriage in Dhanusha district. It helped a cell to manage all the data of Dhanusha district related with child marriage and protection. Furthermore, all the related data from the project area also stored and managed at police cell.

#### **7. Local governments are taking initiation against flood**

Local governments developed municipality level disaster preparedness and response plan incorporating flood, cold wave, and COVID, started to manage and store rescue materials at the local level and simulation exercise on flood, cold wave before flood and cold wave, renovating and properly managing identified safe shelter houses in the communities based on their local level disaster risk management, rescue, and response plan before the flood and collected the information of highly vulnerable communities and the people who are at high risk of flood in the area.

#### **Case Story-4**

##### **Impact of Flood Preparedness and Response Plan in Shahidnagar Municipality**

Shahidnagar Municipality is recognized as one of the extremely remote and prone to flooding in Dhanusha District. Every year, dozens of people are dying, and several goes missing due to flood disaster which ends up with human casualties, infrastructure damage, and agriculture production loss. Hundreds of houses are flooded, and people are displaced as well as domesticated animal and agricultural fields are inundated due to flood. It mostly affects the Terai region of Nepal, where more than half of the total population resides and is the hub for agriculture production. Therefore, floods are a serious problem, especially in Province 2. There are fear and panic among the people due to flood hazards and lack of search and rescue materials.

Therefore, LIFE Nepal in technical and financial support from UNICEF, implemented Flood Preparedness and Response Plan in Shahidnagar Municipality of Dhanusha District. The major activities were preparation of flood disaster management fund operation procedure by identifying risk areas including rescue materials management of shelter place in coordination and cooperation with Shahidnagar municipality.

As a result, the municipality has currently a shelter in place, skilled manpower including information management in the state of readiness. According to the Mayor, the wealth loss has been decreased compared to last year. Also, the stakeholders could implement flood preparedness and response plan.

### Case Story-5

#### BSF program ensured nutrient essential for child



Mohar Lal Ray lives in Ward # 6, Basbariya Rural Municipality of Sarlahi district. He works as a labor and makes a living by earning from a daily wage. He has 6 members in his family (He and his wife and 4 children). His younger son named Yubraj Yadav aged 11 month and 15 days has been a beautiful godsend for his family. The financial condition of Mohar Lal Ray is very weak as the source of income depends upon his daily wages. Due to this, his 11-month son did not get proper nutritious food. One day, Mohar Lal overheard his neighbors talking about a distribution of nutritional supplements for children under two and pregnant and lactating women in the health post. He felt happy and quickly brought his eleven-month

son to that BSF distribution point (Sahodawa Health Post, Basbariya RM). A LIFE Nepal team along with the help of few health workers and FCHV provided counseling about nutrition education, about BSF program and how this program will help him get the nutritious food for his 11-month child.

Later, he explains *"I was unaware about this program but later I came to know through one of my neighbors about the nutritious food distribution for children under 2 years and pregnant/lactating women. So, I went to the health post and one mahila swamsevika didi (he refers to a FCHV) helped us reach out to the program. During the lockdown, it was very hard for me to even manage food for myself and my other family members in a regular basis. Then how can I buy nutritious food for my 11-month son which is very costly. I am very happy that they have provided us some nutritional intake for our son and his mother. Since I belong to a poor family, it is hard for me to buy extra food than our basic diet. The super cereal received through the BSF program will help me get the nutrient essential for my child. I am very grateful towards the program and LIFE Nepal team who supported us in the difficult time."*

## 4. Peoples Voices

### Testimonial 1



Ending child marriage and promoting girl's education campaign is one of the appreciative programs. It is playing a vital role in empowering the parent as well as girl's child. It is also supporting to educate the girls. Without girl's education, we can't stop child marriage in our community. So, we must unite for girl's education. We have planned the declaration for child marriage free municipality, we are committed to jointly work with LIFE Nepal for ending child marriage.

**- Mr. Uday Kumar Barbariya, Mayor, Shahid Nagar Municipality**

### Testimonial 2



We appreciate the ending child marriage campaign. Child marriage is the social crime especially in our communities. Religious elements also support to increase child marriage. Here people are understanding that religion is higher than law in the community. So religious leader should be organized to change this negative social norm. This programme helps to eradicate the child marriage. We also support from our Municipality. We unite against child marriage.

**- Mrs. Rita Mishra, Deputy Mayor, Janakpur Sub- Metropolitan City**

### Testimonial 3



Child Marriage is burning issue in Maithili communities. Parents marry their children before 20 years. It is the crime. There were many cases recorded in Women and Children Cell under the District Police Office Dhanusha. Ending Child Marriage program is supportive for the girl's child. We also support to this campaign from our police team as legally. We have been able to stop some child marriage cases that support from LIFE Nepal. If any child marriage happens, please inform us we will surely stop this.

**- Mrs. Dipika Ojha, Women and Children Cell, Dhanusha**

### Testimonial 4



This is good slogan as Ending Child Marriage and Promoting Girls Education for communities' people. From this campaign, girls will empower and able to save from child marriage grasp. We appreciate this campaign. Child marriage is the social crime especially in province no.2. This programme helps to eradicate the child marriage. We also support from our GBV Network.

**- Mrs. Subhadra Ale, Chief of GBV Network, Dhanusha**

### Testimonial 5



Child marriage should be prohibited in society. It is crime and creates dowry. We unite for girl's education. Girls' education is playing an important role to end child marriage. We boycott to child marriage from society. We appreciate to this campaign. We have been able to know about effects of child marriage and its legal provision. We are also aware against child marriage.

**- Mrs. Sunita Jha, Parent Group, Kachuri**

### Testimonial 6



Girl's Education is one of the best solutions to eradicate the child marriage. It is powerful tools to help girl avoid child marriage. When girls will be educated then child marriage will be stopped. Providing girls with access to education is a key strategy to prevent child marriage. We appreciate the campaign against child marriage. Educating girls provide them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make inform decision about if, when and who they marry.

**- Mr. Bhola Yadav, Head Teacher of Mujeliya School, Janakpur**

### Testimonial 7



We boycott to child marriage if happen incidents here. I know that child marriage is a big issue in our society. We must unite for this. We boys groups are committed to marry myself after 20 years and graduation. We appreciate the ending child marriage campaign. We always support this campaign through the Boys Club. We inform to women and children cell if any cases identify in our school.

**- Mr. Abhishek Mandal, Boys Club Chairperson, Mithila Bihari Municipality**

### Testimonial 8



We became ready for self-defense. We are got knowledge and skill through the self-defense training. Now we can defense if someone bullying us. We appreciate the self-defense training. It is really support us to make empower. We have started the awareness against child marriage and collect information about the incident of child marriage.

**- Miss Laxmi Das, Girls Club, Chairperson, Janakpur Sub -Metropolitan City**

### Testimonial 9

“ A mayor monitored a Megaphone Announcement program. He found that this program very much helpful in terms of informing, awareness raising, sensitizing rural communities, religious minority, and marginalized people basically with major symptoms of COVID and its preventive measures. Though this program targeted rural communities, religious minorities, and marginalized people and they are needing one, he became happy and appreciate the work of LIFE Nepal.”

**Mr. Anil Yadav, Mayor**

(A local level decision maker) of Mithila Bihari Municipality of Dhanusha district in Province No. 2

### Testimonial 10

“ A director of Education Development Directorate of Province No. 2 quoted the effectiveness of ‘Campaign for COVID’ program of LIFE Nepal as the IEC materials, like a poster, leaflet, animated videos, radio, and TV programs produced in LIFE Nepal in local language i.e., Maithili. He highlighted that those materials were playing a very vital role in aware rural community, religious minority, and marginalized people. He added that the animated video is a very much effective method to attract the children and disseminate the key message on COVID.”

**Mr. Chudamani Phuyal**

Director of Education Development Directorate of Province No. 2

### Testimonial 11

“ Under Secretary of Ministry of Social Development, appreciated the campaign of LIFE Nepal on COVID and the materials produced in local languages and used by this program in terms of raising awareness among marginalized people. In addition to that, he also appreciated the technical assistance of LIFE Nepal in developing the Province Level Education Cluster COVID Response Plan.”

**Mr. Mahendra Mahato**

Under Secretary of Ministry of Social Development

### Testimonial 12

“ During the megaphone announcement, a local level social activist particularly from Musahar Community quoted that the program was very much helpful for the rural communities and Musahar people to understand the COVID context, its symptoms, and the precautions to be taken for the safety.”

**Kamali Sada**

(A local level social activist particularly from Mushar Community of Dhanushadham Municipality)

### Testimonial 13



“With support from UNICEF, LIFE Nepal has done a very commendable job in the flood zone in Dhanusha district. The rescue materials provided by LIFE Nepal are very useful and the rate of wealth and human casualties will decrease. The provincial government is also preparing a 10-year disaster management plan.”

**-Mr Gyanendra Kumar Yadav, Honorable Minister of Internal Affairs and Law, Province 2**

### Testimonial 14



“The flood preparedness and response plan have supported and aware us on many things like planning, fund including management of rescue materials. We can manage many things and in better preparation for flood hazards. The rescue materials provided by LIFE Nepal with support from UNICEF will help us in saving many lives and wealth loss can also be reduced. We have also successfully prepared the Disaster Management Procedure 2077.”

**-Mrs. Bharati Karki, Vice-Chairwoman, Janaknandani Rural Municipality, Dhanusha**

### Testimonial 15

“I would like to thank LIFE Nepal and UNICEF for giving me a chance to provide a successful training on search, rescue and first aid which created the skilled manpower in the municipality.”

**-Mr. Lalbabu Hathi, Nepal Red Cross Society,**

### Testimonial 16



We are very happy to develop the flood response plan as well as fund mobilization guideline. Rajpur Municipality is vulnerable Palika in Rautahat District. Rescue materials supported from UNICEF and LIFE Nepal, is helpful for us. We will endorsement of response plan and guideline from our board and continue follow up on the same.

**-MD. Sakil Akhtar, Mayor of Rajpur Municipality, Rautahat**

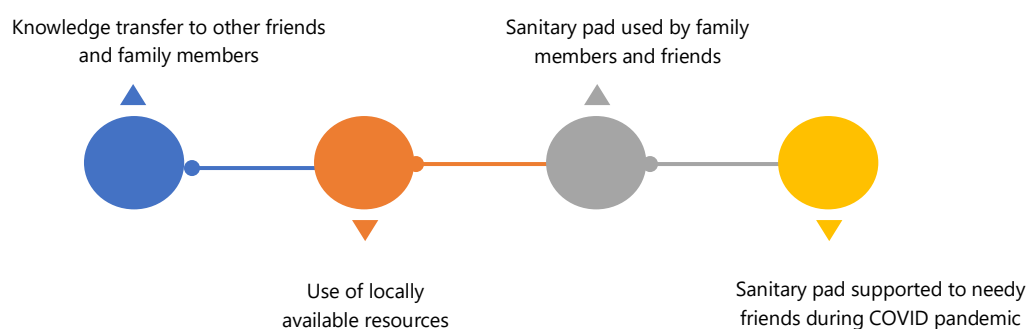
## 5. Lesson Learned

- Application of knowledge and skills in behavior and local resource mobilization is crucial in terms of cost effectiveness and sustainability

One of the most needy and essential activity for adolescent girls, i.e., 10 events of sanitary pad making training for menstrual hygiene was organized by LIFE Nepal in a small group with safety measures like social distancing, mask, venue, and hand sanitization. From this activity 152 girls from 10 schools were benefitted. They enhanced knowledge how to prepare sanitary pad by using local materials available at home.



Most of the trained girls are using sanitary pad developed by themselves at home through using local and available resources. Those are cost effective and safe for them as well. Sanitary pad developed by girls was used by their family members as well. This was very much caring for them because during the COVID pandemic there was a fear to move outside home, go to shop and purchase sanitary pad either for girls or their family members. In addition to that, girls skilled their other friends in the community how to make sanitary pad through available local resources and provided sanitary pad to their friends who required during COVID pandemic. It was very much helpful in terms of ensuring menstrual hygiene and health for adolescent girls that was very much crucial for them during COVID pandemic and stay at home. Through this activity LIFE Nepal learned about **peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, local resource mobilization, cost effectiveness, sustainable, and safety.**



- For the longer impact and behaviour change to people for applying SMS (hand washing or sanitization, use of mask and social/physical distancing-2 meters) local governments must continue awareness raising by social mobilization or megaphone announcement or door to door visit until WHO declare as there is no risk of COVID 19.
- Need to support teachers, students, and parents on PSS both in emergency and normal situation.
- Vital need of close coordination and technical support to local governments on implementing social protection policy and programme (child grant, senior citizen

grant, free health facilities, immunization campaign, etc.) in COVID 19 situation, so that children will receive benefits and ensure rights to food and identity.

- In a short-term program, consultation, coordination, and collaboration with concerned agencies, key stakeholders, and local government is essential to implement program smoothly.

To establish a functional coordination at health facilities, municipalities, districts, and provincial level, staffs and volunteers of Life Nepal consulted and coordinated formally or informally with two district health offices, 10 local governments, 83 wards, 43 local health facilities and other stakeholders. The overall objective of the program shared with them. In addition, they were requested for the support in coordination and monitoring of the program. They committed and supported in the coordination at municipalities and health facilities level. Chief of Health Office, CDO, Mayor, Chief of Health Division actively participated in the programs and closely monitored the food distribution. Also, in consultation with local government and health facilities distribution venue was finalized. *Basbariya Rural Municipality in Sarlahi disseminated nutrition and BSF distribution message through megaphone announcement in the community. Also, they developed the distribution plan based on the data provided by health facility, local government, endorsed by local government in all 10 municipalities. In this way, the ownership of the local government seen towards the program.*

- Complain response and feedback mechanism is a key component for emergency and support program in terms of beneficiaries' satisfaction.
- Engagement of concerned agencies, key stakeholders, and local government throughout the project cycle (designing to monitoring) is important for their ownership.

## 6. Way Forward

Based on the gaps identified, LIFE Nepal drawn the following way forwards:

- No wards or municipalities were recorded as child marriage free zone in this reporting period. Hence LIFE has planned to announce some wards or palikas as child marriage free zone in coordination with local governments. For that, LIFE has been continuously facilitating and technically assisting in child protection to local governments.



Teachers for facilitating girls /boys' clubs at school level.



Youths and Indigenous leaders for positive social norms setting at community level.



Lawyers and media for influencers at district and provincial level.



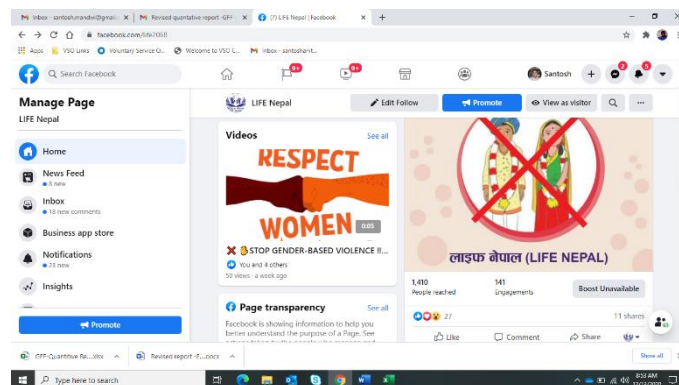
Bankers for easy access to financial services.

- LIFE Nepal realized that other populations like teacher at school level, youth and indigenous leaders at community level, lawyer, print or online media, and banker should be also engaged in this programme. Teachers are the key actors for school level interventions. Also, youth and indigenous leaders are positive social norms setting at community level. Besides that, lawyer and print or online media are key influencers to change at policy level at district and provincial level. Similarly, this program supported young women with vocational skills and seed money, bankers are also the potential actors who can play a vital role in providing easy loan to them in relation to start small business and uplift their economic status. Hence, LIFE has planned to target teachers, youths, indigenous leaders, lawyers, media, and bankers in the day to come.
- ANC, PNC, or other government card is essential for the verification of the beneficiaries. Hence, such a component should be in built with the program.
- Rigorous process is required for this type of program; however, quality of the program must ensure in a very limited time. Hence, program should be design accordingly in a day to come.

## 7. Institutional Development

In this reporting period, LIFE Nepal was concentrated in institutional development. For that, LIFE accomplished development of an annual report, published and disseminated in (<https://lifenepal.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Annual-Report-LIFE-Nepal-2019-2020.pdf>). **Two hundred people were access to the annual report and information about the best initiation of project regarding ending child marriage.**

Similarly, it updated the major achievements of the project at its social media handling website



(<https://lifenepal.org.np/ending-child-marriage/>) and Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/life2068/photos/a.771039489698181/2124674974334619/>).

The main purpose was to document the good practices and learning (GPAL) of the project, publish an annual report and disseminate through both print media (printed copy) and online media (website). Finally, **1410 people reach and 141 fully engaged.**

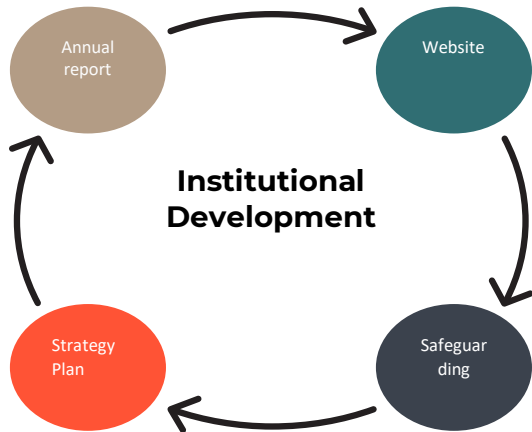
Furthermore, for the fund diversification in response to sustainability of the organization, LIFE developed a strategic plan for the period of 2020-2024 in September and endorsed through its general assembly. Based on that, it submitted its EOI, concept note, and proposal to different organizations. Finally, it became able to **diversify fund from UNICEF, GFF, Minority Rights Group International, WFP, and TPO) in child marriage, food security, COVID, and flood response and psychosocial first aid support.**



Strategic-Plan-2020 LIFE NEPAL Safe  
-2025 LIFE Nepal.pdf-Guarding Policy.pdf

In the same way, LIFE revised its child protection policy and amended as child protection and safeguarding policy as safeguarding component was missing in the policy before.

The diagram illustrates the interconnectedness of four key documents in a circular flow, all contributing to the central goal of **Institutional Development**. The documents are represented by colored ovals: a brown oval for 'Annual report' at the top left, a teal oval for 'Website' at the top right, a dark blue oval for 'Safeguarding' at the bottom right, and a red oval for 'Strategy Plan' at the bottom left. Arrows connect them in a clockwise cycle: from 'Annual report' to 'Website', from 'Website' to 'Safeguarding', from 'Safeguarding' to 'Strategy Plan', and from 'Strategy Plan' back to 'Annual report'.



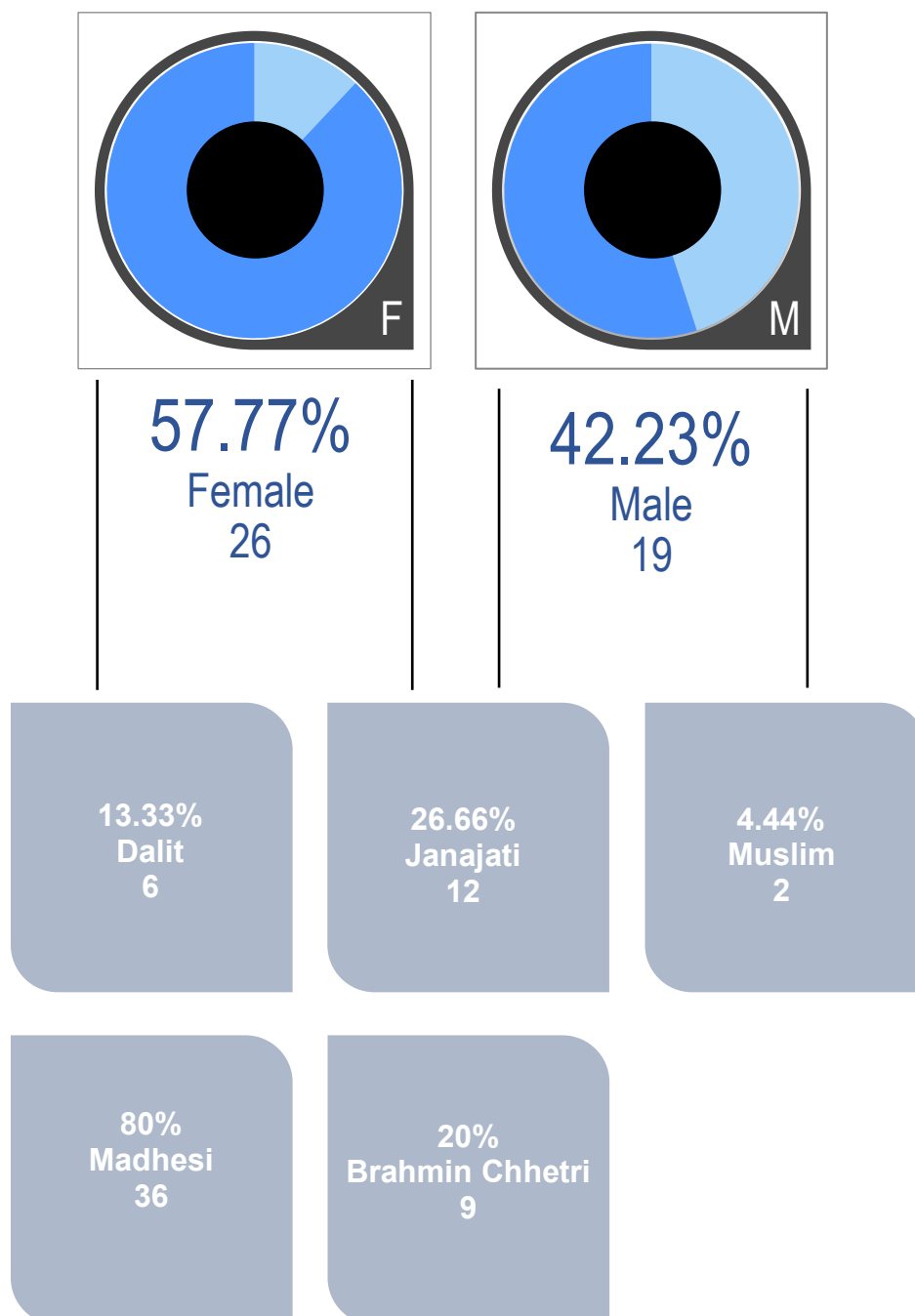
### Safeguarding Code of Conduct

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Significance

## 8. Human Resource Mobilization

LIFE Nepal is committed for guaranteeing gender equality and social inclusion through ensuring the participation of Dalit, religious minority and Janajati in the decision-making positions of the organization. Hence, LIFE Nepal ensured participation of female and marginalized community (Dalit, Muslim, and Janajati) in senior positions. There were 57.77% (n=26) presentation of female, 44.44% marginalized people, and 80% Madhesi in staffs.



## 9. Financial Status

## 10. Supporting Hands



# LIFE Nepal

For Child Rights Protection

*“Information is the means of empowering people”*

## Contact Details

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<https://www.facebook.com/life2068>



[www.lifenepal.org.np](http://www.lifenepal.org.np)

### Liaison Office

Imadol, Lalitpur

### District Offices

Bardibas, Mahottari  
Lahan, Siraha  
Chandrapur, Rautahat  
Birgunj, Parsa