



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



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Acknowledgements



"It is my great pleasure to present the annual report 2021/2022 of LIFE Nepal to our beneficiaries, stakeholders, well-wishers, and funding agencies. We are continuously engaged in Promoting Girls Education through ending Child Marriage, promoting 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 Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescent. Likewise, we empower Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, GFF, UNFPA, WFP and in coordination with Provincial and local governments.

The programs contributed to drop incidence of child marriage, protecting the rights of adolescent girls and boys, improved role of adolescents for gender equality, enhanced capacity of young women in terms of negotiation building, communication, and decision making, improved awareness among community people to be prevented from COVID-19 Pandemic. Also, learning response to school students, equipping local governments and local youths for disaster preparedness were initiated by our programs.

In addition, our programs are designed to aware community people with duly focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and care takers on providing optimal nutrition and feeding practices by ensuring supplementary feeding for children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

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 2023. Your suggestions and feedbacks 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
BSF	Blanket Supplementary Feeding
CDO	Chief District Office
CMIS	Community Management Information System
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergency
CSSMP	Comprehensive School Safety Minimum Package
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DMIS	Disaster Management Information System
DPRP	Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan
FCHVs	Female Child Health Volunteers
EDP	External Development Partner
GFF	Girls First Fund
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
ID	Identity
IT	Information Technology
IGA	Income Generation Activities
IEC	Information Education Communication
IRA	Immediate Response and Action
LDMC	Local Disaster Management Committee
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
MoWCYS	Ministry of Women Children and Youth Sports
MGM	Mother Group Meeting
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PNC	Postnatal Care
PHD	Provincial Health Directorate
PHLMC	Province Health Logistics Management Center
PPHL	Province Public Health Laboratory
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWD	People with Disability
RH	Reproductive Health
SMC	School Management Committee
SMS	Short Message Service
SLM	Self-Learning Materials
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WDMC	Warred Disaster Management Committee

1. Organization in Brief

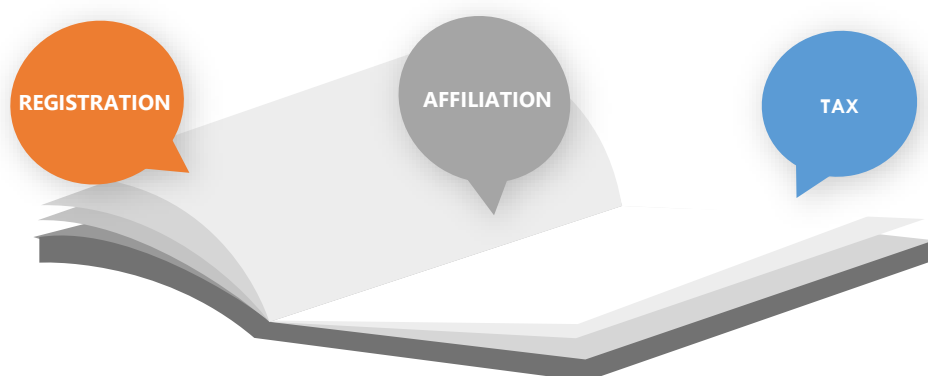
1.1 History

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 Madhesh Province. 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 through ending child marriage, 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, sexual and reproductive health, life skills and income generation opportunities 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 stakeholders and like-minded organizations and through the mobilization of champions especially girls, as well as local, national and international volunteers.

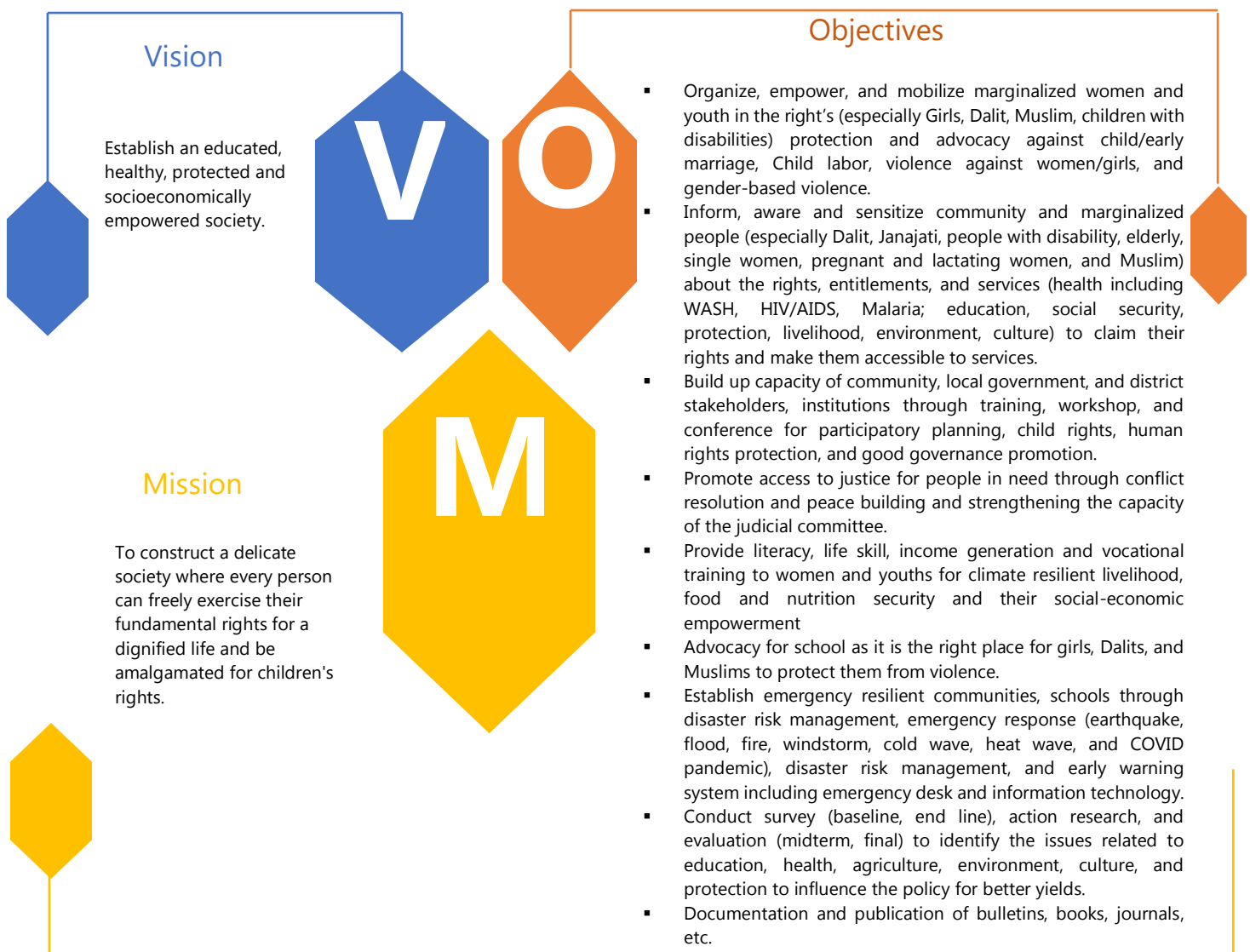
1.2 Values

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 should be 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 on the basis of caste and ethnicity, 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 people to claim their fundamental rights and entitlements by 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



GIRLS



DISABILITY



WOMAN



YOUTH



MUSLIM



EXCLUDED

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 like 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. It is found that people in the society always neglect these targeted groups due to social classes, structures, and cultures.

Therefore, LIFE first targets to ensure their participation in each aspect of the program; by giving due focus on staff selection process, staffing, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. To mainstream them in the program policy, certain criteria of their participation and representation are developed by the program and are 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%), Janajati (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 complement 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 parents/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, Janajati, 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. In a few occasions, they were participating just for the formality. Even when they participated, their voices were not heard, hence Rural Municipality and DCC (District Coordination Committee) level program plan and budget did not prioritize their issues. It was found that 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 is 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. This will increase 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



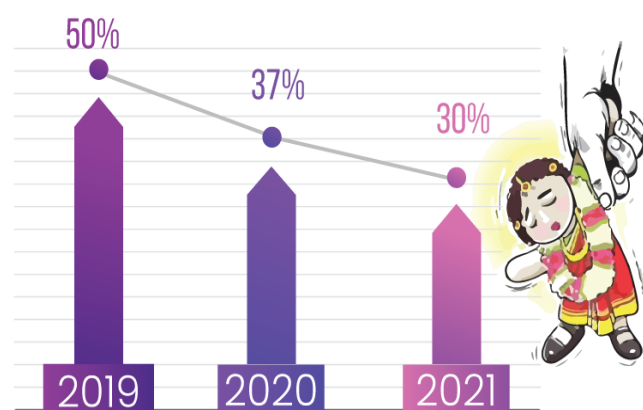
LIFE has been practicing safeguarding policies for the protection and safeguarding of the project beneficiaries, staff, and stakeholders. In addition to this, LIFE has an effective complaint response mechanism that enables beneficiaries and stakeholders to raise their voices, and LIFE makes sure that these voices are 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 Education and Protection

Under this thematic area, LIFE Nepal implemented “Ending Child Marriage” project with the technical and financial assistance from GFF. The project aimed to enable a gender sensitive and responsive environment at local level.

Reduced Incidence of Child Marriage



notch of 50% in 2019.

To see the impact, LIFE Nepal had set an indicator “No evidence of child marriage captured in Wards or Palikas”. For that, LIFE conducted a survey on child marriage through mobilizing its staffs and volunteers. It was found that the incidence of child marriage has been in decreasing trend because the prevalence of child marriage has been reduced to 30% in 2021 from 37% in 2020. It can be clearly seen that the value was on to top

Wards Announced as Child Marriage Free Zone

In addition to that, a total six wards in Dhanusha district were announced as child marriage free zone. These wards are in Dhanushadham Municipality-8, Mithila-3, Laxminiya-6, Mithilabihari-8, Kshireswar-1, and Janakpur Sub-metropolitan city-14.

2.2 Emergency

Targeting the emergency, LIFE Nepal has been implementing Risk Communication and Community Engagement, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, Shock Responsive Social Protection and Flood Preparedness Programme in Madhesh Province with the support of

UNICEF. The purpose of the programme is to establish community led approach to promote and sustain public health safety measures by preventing the loss of life to COVID-19 through supporting responses in risk communication and psychosocial support, addressing urgent humanitarian needs of children, adolescents, PwD, and families arising from the secondary impacts of renewed lockdown measures leading to malnutrition, protection issues, and disruption of learning, and preparing for response to the 2021 monsoon season within the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. There were six major components covered by LIFE Nepal.

2.2.1 Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Improved access of communities for the adoption of Covid-19 preventive measures and services

352 lead/volunteers were mobilized to promote social distancing, guide proper use of mask and sanitization, collect SMS behavioral data, implement vaccination via door-to-door visits and spread megaphone announcement that engaged community people to improve their access to covid preventive measures and services.



Also, action points like school-based, community awareness raising campaign, mobilization of Mass Media, distribution of IEC Materials and mobilization of FCHVs were developed during the review and planning meetings with Palika representatives where 776 people participated actively.



2.2.2 Nutrition

Reduced specific vulnerability of infants and children in context of COVID-19

Through promotion of optimal infant and young children feeding practices, and by effectively mobilizing FCHVs and use of local communication channel, the program was successful in reducing specific vulnerability of infants and children in the context of COVID-19. For that, 70000 pieces of IEC materials containing vaccination information were disseminated. In addition, Megaphone announcement was completed through Tuk-Tuk mobilization in 32 Palikas. Before that, a rapid inquiry was conducted in selected 248 wards. For the data collection, four project staffs and 320 volunteers were mobilized. Before that, they were oriented on the checklist.



Sensitized caregivers, adolescent, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) on micronutrient needs

In terms of sensitization of caregivers, PLWs on micronutrient need, LIFE disseminated 8 nutrition PSAs through FMs in Bhojpuri and Maithili languages. The theme of key message was awareness-raising information on how to care for babies over 6 months of age as well as breastfeeding the baby more than before. Pregnant women were also advised to know about breastfeeding techniques if they were suffering from Corona virus, or if there is a suspicion that the virus is not transmitted through breast milk. Also, LIFE disseminated message about PLW in pandemic situation like how to take care of children above 6 months and breastfeeding infants more often than before in such situation through mobilization of Tuktuk/rikshaw/vehicle at local level. In addition, LIFE distributed 155160 flyers which carried messages regarding proper nutrition.



1627



8



155160

2.2.3 Education

Learning continuity of children ensured through self-learning materials distribution and implementation of safe school protocols

LIFE distributed self-learning materials to 41000 students in 280 schools. For the proper use of learning materials at school 1818 teachers made orientations by explaining their extended role in guiding and orienting parents. In addition, 6219 parents were engaged in parental education session to create enabling environment for learning continuity at home through using SLM.



6219



41000



1818

Similarly, 1028 teachers oriented on safe school integrated with CSSMP package of schools' sanitation campaign before regular school opening. Furthermore, psychosocial counselling sessions for teachers/ parents were completed.

Due to the lockdown ignited by COVID-19 pandemic, schools were closed, and students were restricted in their homes. Most of the parents are poor, uneducated and do not have materials to teach children in home. Parents do not have culture or priority for initiating safe playing and proper learning of children in home due to their low economic status and lack of awareness. So, children were found playing in mud and/or stayed bored with parents doing household things. During lockdown, they did not get the time for learning and playing in schools with friends using playing materials/ facilities of schools. Due to the lack of playing and learning materials at home, they forgot to what they learned during school and were

buried in stressed mood. Distance Learning modalities were, or online classes not applied by schools due to unawareness and insufficient resources.

Hence, to involve children in self-learning and playing, so that they can learn by themselves and do not forget what they learn; LIFE Nepal with the support of UNICEF distributed Self Learning Materials kits to 41000 children of 289 schools of 14 Municipalities in Madhesh Province. A SLM had a bag, pictured books, copies, a colour set, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, a ball, a skipping rope, a ludo set, etc.

Playing materials helped children to remove stress as they learned new ideas. With these involvements in physical activities, they felt happy. Self-Learning Materials also created the learning environment at home and bridged gap between school and home environment.

One of the beneficiaries, Soni Kumari Sah, hailing from Sukhgor of Mithila Municipality, 2 of Dhanusha district got the Self Learning Material kit from LIFE Nepal. She was very happy and enjoyed every bit of it. She did not spend whole day in the field with goats and friends, according to her parents. She spent most of their time on using the learning materials and playing the embedded games. She used to fill colors in the pictures, made different pictures by pencils and colored them. She was writing in provided copies. Sometimes, she played ball with other kids and jumped on the rope like monkeys, according to her parents. Last time when there was lock down, she forgot all the things that she learnt in school, but this time, she had these materials for learning as a result, she did not get bored, she explained. Now school is opened, and she is using those materials in schools as well.

Developed alternative education plan to ensure continuity of learning

Based on the assessment of schools and children in case heavy rain and flood or any other emergency occurrences, education response plans were developed and placed in 20 Palikas. Before that, a provincial level education cluster meeting was completed in the presence of Mr. Ima Narayan Shrestha, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD).

2.2.4 Child Protection

Improved child protection mechanism through psychosocial support

In relation to improve child protection mechanism, LIFE Nepal mobilized community psychosocial workers from which 4555 people got access to psychosocial support. Also, 452 cases were referred to counsellors for the psychosocial counselling. In addition to that, banners with messages about psychosocial support were distributed in the assigned Palikas. Similarly,



interview with 903 Key Informants (social workers 163, elected representatives 94, political leader 94, teachers 92, students 70, community leaders 68) were completed and a total of 6968 incidents like domestic violence, single women harassment, rape cases, child marriage, husband's and family bullying were reported.

Improved services to GBV young survivors in regards with COVID-19 pandemic

To improve services to GBV young survivors, first identification and documentation of GBV cases were completed where a total of 244 GBV (male 7, female 237 including 6 people with disability) cases were identified. These were referred by schools, OCMS,

CPSWs and GBV emergency support provided to 80 (male 2, female 78 including 2 people with disability) GBV survivors.

Also, Income Generation Activities like beautician, tailoring, goat rearing, running snacks, grocery, vegetable, cosmetic, fancy, bangle /bracelet shops, etc. were handed to support 21 young GBV survivors' families. In addition, Child Friendly Material Distribution to WCSC Dhanusha and Saptari got completed. The program handed pillow, mattress, office wardrobe, recreational kits, bed sheet, mosquito net, night gown pillow and pillow cover, and television. Furthermore, awareness meeting with health officials/FCHVs got finished with altogether 206 FCHVs who were oriented about with the vulnerabilities referral to related stakeholders, ensuring birth certificates, citizenship, and marriage certificate in the community. Similarly, coordination meeting with police, concerned stakeholders, and GBV District control Network with 249 people was accomplished.

Improved child protection response services in regards with COVID-19 pandemic

In response to Improve child protection response services in COVID context, coordination with GBV District control Network got completed where 249 people attended the meetings. Also, emergency support was provided to 100 children and families with disabilities. Provided preservation/stipend supported 40 families of children, and Covid orphan children support was provided to families of children.

Improved mobilization of youth violence against children and border transits against trafficking in women and children

To improve the mobilization of youth violence against children, fortnightly visit to border points like Birtamodh, Mahottari, Jatahi, Dhanusha, Madar, Siraha, Kunauli, Saptari, Sonbarsha, Sarlahi, Raxual, Parsa, Feta, Bara was completed in coordination with Nepal Police. The total outflow to India was 105,080 while the entry to Nepal 114,528. Finally, 1506 unaccompanied persons were found, and 168 incidents of human trafficking were discovered. Maiti Nepal provided safe home for referred cases through its network. In addition, 263 religious leaders and social activists oriented against child marriage. They agreed not to be involved in any child marriage functions. Also, Chandrapur Municipality agreed to pass a guideline for discouraging child marriage. Similarly, program orientation to project staffs was completed where 16 Staffs (8 males, 8 females) oriented about the child protection concept at the programmatic area of CPiE project.

Improved coordination and monitoring by stakeholders at provincial level

For the improvement of coordination and monitoring mechanism at provincial level, joint monitoring with province government officials was completed where UNICEF, MoWCYS visited three significant places in Mahottari district i.e., Pipara, Parkauli, and Manrasiswa, for three different types of support: orphan children, family preservation, and income generation activities. In addition, monitoring by agency head/team leader was completed during the program's execution where the team leader kept a vigil on the program's coverage area and provided feedbacks and technical assistance to employees. Similarly, coordination meeting at province level was completed with 16 participants. In the meeting, the chief guest was Debu KC Khatri from Ministry of Women, Children, Youth, and Sports. Furthermore, monitoring of the event was done by UNICEF, child protection team

Program review at province level

LIFE Nepal was recommended to provide the list of supported beneficiaries and alarming vulnerabilities to the Ministry and to the concerned stakeholders, so that they could make priorities for vulnerable children and their families high during any emergency.

PWD		Families		Community People	
44		180		6968	
FCHV		Children			
206		3259			

2.2.5 Shock Responsive Social Protection

Updating list of vulnerable households was completed in targeted 4 flood prone Palikas through mobilizing trained enumerators. Information of 1542 households were collected through KOBO and linked 1437 (93%) households with bank to open bank account. Finally,

- Community people are aware and responsive for social protection services provided by the government of Nepal
- People who do not have account in bank started to open account
- People realized the necessity of identity card for opening bank account, hence they processed for getting their identity cards



2.2.6 Flood Preparedness

Staffs prepared for effective performance in disaster situation

Palika IT person oriented and enhanced knowledge on DMIS/CMIS, using BIPAD Portal to upload and update flood information regularly at website. One information management officer is working at health directorate for cluster or inter cluster coordination and information management in the COVID context. Similarly, 4 Palika level supervisors were recruited and were deployed in targeted Palikas.

Capacity of community people enhanced to anticipate and cope with flood hazards

Review with LDMC and WDMC completed where 85 Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers, Ward Commissioners, Ward Members participated. DPRP are in place, rescue materials are in standby position in custody of the armed police for rescue. Similarly, meeting with search and rescue and IRA team was completed where 74 (Male 48, Female 26) SAR team members were trained, and they were put in standby position.

A strategy for the flood affected areas with reference to mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery formulated

Meeting with shelter management committee was completed with the participation of 12 Mayors, IT personnel, Ward Commissioners, Ward Members, and School Management Committee Chairpersons. They decided to make Helipad in Ward no. 2 of Sahidnagar Municipality, repair river basin at Kamala River for rescue. In addition, shelter house management committee was formed. Also, rescue materials were handed over to the armed police force and were put in standby position for search and rescue. Also, four Palikas updated and endorsed DPRP and finalized them after review.



Efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of disaster emergency response mechanisms increased at the local level

Repair and maintenance of 3 shelter houses, construction of kitchen and helipads in Sahidnagar, boundary wall and gate in Ishanth and toilet as well as installation of shallow tube well in Rajpur municipalities were completed.

2.3 Health

Under this theme, LIFE Nepal implemented **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme** in Dhanusha and Sarlahi district of Madhesh Province with the technical and financial assistance from the WFP. The purpose of the project was to contribute to the prevention and reduction of secondary socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and monsoon flooding among vulnerable groups.

People enhanced knowledge about optimal nutrition and feeding practices

Through this program 645 (Dhanusha 188, Sarlahi 457) FCHVs, 284 health workers (Dhanusha 84, Sarlahi 200), 372 (Dhanusha 112, Sarlahi 260) volunteers oriented optimal nutrition and feeding practices. In addition, 30000 community people were informed and made aware on optimal nutrition and feeding practices through nutrition IEC material i.e., flyers with BSF and COVID messages.

Case 1: A small support of BSFP with demonstration helped in enhancing knowledge of lactating mother and preventing her child from malnutrition
Monika Kumari Yadav is a 5-month-old youngest child in the family. Her mother Ruby Kumari Yadav is just 22 years old and is a permanent resident of Bateshwar Rural Municipality Ward -5. She represents, the dalit and poor families in the community. She is a housewife and usually spends her whole day in performing household chores. Her husband is a daily wage worker. They do not have single piece of land except a mud made house/hut. Her husband's full income goes for feeding family members. Though they want to have diverse food items but are unable to provide sufficient nutritious diet to their children due to economic crisis.

According to the mother, Monika had not yet started complimentary feeding except milk and water. Ruby was recommended by one of her friends to FCHVs programme team through the concerned health facility for the BSF assistance. Through BSFP Monika's mother Ruby gets 6 kg of WSB+. She was very happy



after receiving the food and felt relief because she didn't have to worry about the nutritious meal for following 2 months.

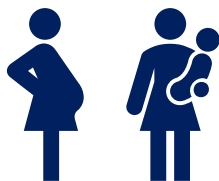
Now, Ruby has learned how to prepare WSB+ well due to the guides demonstration by FCHVs at the distribution point. She also became familiar that WSB+ is not like any other normal flour as it contains nutrients which is very good for her and her baby. In this way, through a small support of BSF with demonstration, it really helped in enhancing knowledge of lactating mother and preventing her child from the worst scenario of malnutrition.

Case 2: BSF program improved nutritional awareness of a lactating mother

Pinku Paswan is a caring mother and a loving wife. She is affiliated to a poverty-stricken family, living in the Mithila Bihari Municipality of Dhanusha district. Her cute baby boy – Ishan Paswan, aged 16 months has been a beautiful godsend for the family.

One day, Pinku overheard about her neighbours talking about a distribution of nutritional supplements for children under two and for pregnant and lactating women in the health facility. She felt happy and quickly brought her sixteen-month son to that BSFP distribution point (Mithila Bihari-8, Kachuri). She contacted the programme team and then was counselled by one of the associates about the FCHV on Nutritional diets provided through the BSF Program.

She expressed that the program was a revelation to her in terms of understanding the nutritional status of her child. She was not aware that nutritional intake is important for healthy growth of the child. She received counselling assistance from the FCHV where she shared the importance of super cereal and additional food in a regular diet of the children. Therefore, she is feeding her child with the supplement every day and visits the FCHVs regularly to monitor the growth of her child. She thanked the team for the great support.”



10615



16624



30000

Nutritional essential ensured for children, pregnant and lactating women

Also, 16624 children aged 6-23 months and 10165 pregnant and lactating women, in total 27239 improved access to blanket supplementary food.

Case 3: BSF program ensured nutrient essential for child



Rohan Paswan is a 16-month-old male child from marginalized community in Bateshwar Rural Municipality Ward No.-4. His father Ajay Paswan works in a construction site and his mother is a housewife. His father usually spends his whole day earning for living. Though Rohan's parents want to provide diverse food items for the child but are unable to provide sufficient nutritious diet due to low income.

One day, Rohan's father came to know about the food distribution from one of the FCHVs. He was excited to learn that he could also get the food for his child. He instantly contacted the ward office and got information about the food distribution. He felt relief that the BSFP was going to support him through the nutritious food for his child for at least 2 months.

According to him, he was not aware about this program previously, however, the FCHV helped him to reach out to the program. During the lockdown, it was hard for him to even manage nutritious food for his child in a regular basis. Now, he is very happy that he has some

nutritional intake for his child. Since he belongs to a dalit family, it's hard for him to buy extra food for his child than the basic diet. The WSB+ received through the BSF program will help him to get the nutrient essentials. He is grateful towards the program and the team".

2.4 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Under this thematic area, LIFE Nepal has been implementing The Complete Safe Motherhood Programme in Madhesh Province with the assistance from UNFPA. The aim of the programme is to announce Madhesh province as completely safe motherhood province. Through this program, the following significant changes are brought by LIFE Nepal:

Increased capacity of government officials to deliver integrated, quality sexual and reproductive health services



In relation to orient and inform local-level stakeholders about the Safe Motherhood Roadmap, as well as to advocate for the inclusion of safe motherhood-related activities in their annual workplan and budget, LIFE Nepal organized one-day "District Level Safe Motherhood Roadmap Advocacy Workshop" for mayors, deputy mayors and health coordinators from four districts in Madhesh province (Dhanusha, Mahottari, Bara, and Parsa) accompanied by 168 participants from government officials and elected representatives. Finally, participants identified gaps and challenges in Safe Motherhood indicators and prepared activities plan to advocate in the annual work plan through local level planning process. Also, they committed to support goal of provincial government to make the province as complete Safe Motherhood Madhesh province. Through the event the following action points were developed:

- ⊗ a well-equipped birthing centre with skilled and enough manpower can be a remedy, hence enhance the safe motherhood activities
- ⊗ to discourage child marriage practices and promotion of complete ANC and PNC visits as per the government protocol that would help to promote a safe motherhood program



In addition to this LIFE supported MoSD health directorate to organize health and nutrition cluster coordination/RH sub-cluster meeting. Finally, on 31st March 2022, Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) organized a

health and nutrition cluster coordination meeting in coordination with Ministry of Social Development and Province Health Logistics Management Center (PHLMC), Province Public Health Laboratory (PPHL), Chief of health office, Mahottari and Dhanusha along with EDPs working in health sector. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vijay Kumar Jha, Director, Ph.D.

Similarly, LIFE supported PHLMC to strengthen provincial health Supply Chain Management Coordination committee quarterly. Finally, on 24th March 2022, Province Health Logistics Management Center (PHLMC) organized a meeting of Provincial Supply Chain Management Technical Working Group in coordination with Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) and External Development Partners (EDPs) working in the health sector.

Young people have skills, knowledge to make informed decisions for health and well-being and to participate in decision making

LIFE Nepal supported ministry of Woman, Children, Youth and Sports (MoWCYS) to celebrate International Women’s Day at Provincial Level. Finally, the 112th International Women’s Day with the theme "Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow" day was celebrated with major three activities like rally, tuk-tuk mobilization, and by showing video related to mitigating gender-based violence, gender equality, child marriage and girls trafficking in Madhesh Province on 8th March 2022. Around 2500 people were aware about gender equality and women's engagement in the sustainable development through Tuk-Tuk Mobilization. Almost 300 people were aware to avoid the harmful practices against women through the video display program.



Also, capacity building of FCHVs on zero home delivery program was organized in two palikas; Gujara Municipality of Rauthat and Godaita Municipality of Sarlahi district. The event oriented 16 FCHVs about the knowledge and counselling skills about ANC, PNC, Institutional Delivery and Mother Group Meetings (MGM). Finally, Zero Home Delivery campaign kicked-off in both ward of the palikas, and they committed for co-financing the zero-home delivery campaign.

Similarly, one day orientation to the ward executives and health coordinators was held on 21st June in Gujara Municipality and 29 June in Godaita Municipality where 35 health officials and executive of palika participated. Finally, the local level policymakers of Gujara and Godaita Municipality were capacitated to incorporate zero home delivery campaign.

Public institutions and community capacities increased to prevent and respond to gender-based violence

LIFE facilitated MoWCYS to organize thematic group meetings. The GBV thematic group meeting was held on 8th February and on 28th March 2022. The 1st meeting was virtually conducted with 25 participants (13 females 12 males). Whereas the second meeting was physically conducted with 45 participants (20 males and 25 females). 3rd GBV thematic group meeting was held on 27 June 2022 where 28 persons attended. The meeting discussed GBV and protection issues of the province.

Similarly, LIFE Nepal supported Gujara Municipality in Rautahat and Kaudena Rural Municipality in Sarlahi district to finalize the GESI Policy. The final draft of the GESI policy was submitted to the Gujara and Kaudena on 29 and 30 June 2022 respectively. A total of 33 (male 25 and female 8) participants in Kaudena and 29 (male 19 and female 10) participants in Gujara attended the Policy handover ceremony. The policy was handed over to the Mayor of the Kaudena Rural Municipalities and to the deputy mayor of the Gujara Municipality due to the absence of mayor in Gujara municipality.

Furthermore, LIFE Nepal organized one day orientation program to the OCMC, safe house and protection network members about humanitarian principle and safe GBV referral mechanism in emergency on 03 June 2022 at Chapur, Rautahat. The program was attended by 34 participants (23 Male and 11 Female). The program has agreed to initiate similar kind of orientation to the ward executives and palika executives by utilizing the OCMC funds and technical support of LIFE Nepal including UNFPA. Rautahat OCMC committed to fund for the similar orientation program to the ward executive members in palika for the effective GBV referral mechanism in the district.

3. Good Practice with Innovation

Girls are taking actions against child marriage



One of the significant activities in this reporting period was review and implementation of plan of action of girls' club/network because girls are taking actions against child

marriage once they found in the community during their door-to-door home visit, follow up, and monitoring (based on their plan of action) by

either calling at toll free number or making police complaints. In addition to that, they were engaged in the communities by organizing extra-curricular and awareness activities for stopping child marriage. They also have vowed to marry after 20 years only. This contributed in increasing awareness on ending child marriage and reducing the instances of child marriage in the project area as 105 cases of child marriage were reported in this reporting period. This has ultimately contributed to promote girls in education as drop out number of girls reduced from 142 in 2077 BS to 99 in 2078 BS.



LIFE Nepal reviewed the plan of action of girls' clubs that was developed previously and was in function. Through this, LIFE engaged 246 girls during this reporting period. In addition to this, LIFE followed to find the fact regarding how much local resources allocated by local governments in response to implement the plan of action of girls' clubs. In the response, LIFE found that 90% of the planned activities of the girls' club like conducting life skills sessions to parents and students, extracurricular and awareness activities on ending child marriage, door-to-door home visit, motivation and counselling for girls and parents etc. were successfully implemented and for that local governments allocated about NPR 500000.00.

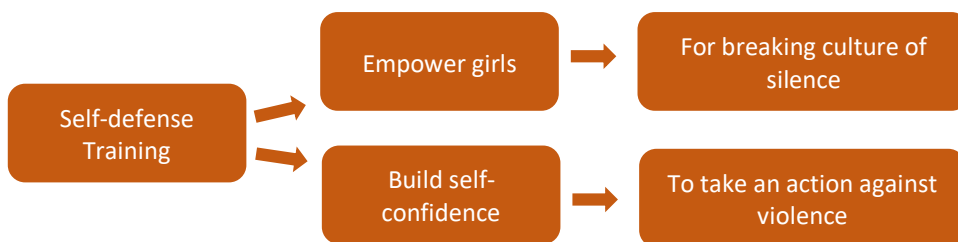


Girls empowerment and improved self-confidence



Another most efficacious activities of this project in this reporting tenure were self-defence training because it played a valued role in empowering girls and building self-confidence in terms of taking an action against

discrimination, verbal abuse, or violence (verbal teasing, child marriage) if any they faced either in home, or in the communities or schools. LIFE Nepal organized 10 events of self-defence training to 182 schoolgirls in the project area as there was the high number of girls’ violence reported in the project area during and after COVID pandemic. They were at high risk because even local police offices were not registering abuse or violence related cases in that period. The overall objective of the training was to enhance knowledge of schoolgirls and enable them to break the culture of silence by taking an action against the abuse or violence if they happen to face as well as equip them with technical skills of self-defence (a part of Martial Art) to protect themselves.



“During the training one of the girls shared that drug addicted youth were verbally abusing adolescents’ girls on the way to school. Due to that, they felt that they were not safe anywhere. Another girl shared her experience that they were even violated by their family members in home. With the awareness and empowerment embedded, it was the high time to break the culture of silence against violence. For that, this training proved to be very much fruitful for marginalized girls and adolescents, as it enriched them with self-defense tips and tricks shared by another trainee girl.”

Young women-built confidence that they could earn now because they are skilled

LIFE Nepal provided vocational training to 13 child marriage survivors who were socio-economically deprived. In addition to that, it supported materials like scissor, scale, tape, clothes, chalk, needle, thread, etc. to them in relation to start their small business and improve their daily/monthly income to uplift their economy. Through this training and support, three young women were able to increase monthly income by NPR 5000-6000 through their tailoring shops. They have built the confidence that they could earn good sum as they had got the required skill.



Vocational skill training

- Supported vocational skills training to 13 child marriage survivors with socio-economic deprivation
- 11 child marriage survivors enhanced tailoring skills and 2 young women were skilled with beautician training

Materials support

- Supported materials to 13 trainees to start small scale tailoring shops (11) and beautician (2)
- 11 child marriage survivors started tailoring business and 2 survivors started beauty parlour at local level
- 13 child marriage survivors improved their monthly income by NPR 5000-6000

Case 4: Punita started tailoring to improve her income



This case study is based on **depth interview** with and **observation** of Punita Sah (changed name), a resident of Auraha, ward no. 4, Chherswarnath Municipality. Punita's parents had to spend every day in the river, hoping to catch enough fish to sell, so that they could afford to send their children to school. This profession was also the source for buying the family's bread and butter. When her father died, life got even harder for the family. She was 12 years when she got married to a 29-year-old man. Her mother said that the man would take care of her, her siblings, and herself, due to the alarming poverty levels. She knew that her mother couldn't afford to feed her, buy clothes, and pay school fees. She had the understanding at the tender age that if she refused to get married, she wouldn't have

anywhere else to go.

After six months, she discovered her pregnancy. When she was pregnant, Punita's husband accidentally fell from house roof and in that accident, he broke his waist.

Punita, who was supposed to be in school got married at a very young age. Due to the **traditional culture and beliefs**, she got **married early** at the age of just 12 years for managing the pride of family and society. Eventually, she **dropped out from the school** at grade 6. After the accident of her husband, she became alone with her two children (four and two years). Her financial condition deteriorated as the solo breadwinner of her family was limited on his abilities. Her economic status rapidly took a downhill (**economic crisis**). She was facing a tough time raising her children.

The project **selected Punita and participated in the vocational training in response to the child marriage survivor**. In addition, project **supported her by providing sewing machine as seed money**. After the training, she **started sewing clothes of neighbors that contributed to her daily earnings and savings**. After that, she **added a small business of general stores** along with a small tailoring shop at her own house as well. The project **staffs and the neighbors counseled her**. Now, her situation is improving gradually, and people are coming to her for getting the stitching done. In addition, she was **encouraged to continue her education**. However, she expressed that she was interested but it was not possible for her right now having the responsibly of two children and financial burden. Hence, the project is **facilitating her that at least enroll her child at early childhood development center** and has planned to support (stationaries and education materials) her child in education. Now she is very **happy**. She **feels relief from the social stigma and financial burden**. She expressed that this is a good initiative of LIFE Nepal/GFF which is providing a platform for those girls who became a survivor of child marriage and doesn't have any skill to generate income for family. She feels very lucky to be a part of this training. She added that no one should suffer like her. Child marriage is a course especially for girls living in a conservative society and must be eliminated from society, so that every girl can live long and healthy life. **She suggested that investing in the education of girls brings high returns in terms of breaking cycles of poverty. It also helps to enrich awareness so that they can delay marriage and pregnancies.**

Finally, **it is learned that a small support (seed money) and minor initiations (skill training, counselling, encouragement, and facilitation) could bring the change in the life of the people and make them happy.**

Boys club members are becoming able to facilitate and refer the child marriage cases to police cell

LIFE organized life skill and leadership training with 26 boys club/network members. The overall objective of the training was to equip life skill and leadership skills of boys' club members, so that they could negotiate, communicate properly, and decide for themselves confidently as well as take a lead for campaign against child marriage. Finally, they enhanced their leadership and life skills and they mobilized in the



community jointly with girls' clubs to take as actions against child marriage. Due to that, 105 cases of child marriages were reported and referred in this reporting period. In this way, boys club members are becoming able to facilitate and refer the child marriage cases to police cell.

Case 5: Mukesh's campaign against child marriage and promoting education



*This is a story of Mukesh Sah who lives in Govindpur village of Sabaila Municipality of Dhanusha district. He is 18 years of age and is an active member of boy's club and is working under the **Ending Child Marriage** program implemented by LIFE Nepal in financial support from Girls First Fund. Through the club, Mukesh is involved in the campaign against child marriage and promoting education. He began to raise awareness among the teenagers and parents in the village about the consequences of child marriage. He performs street dramas, visits door-to-door, and interacts in their communities. He also meets those who have had child marriages and make them aware of its consequences through various activities. During his interaction with community people, he got to know that most of the boys in the early 20's didn't know about their future ambition and are fully dependent on getting dowry from marriage. They are*

unclear about their career.

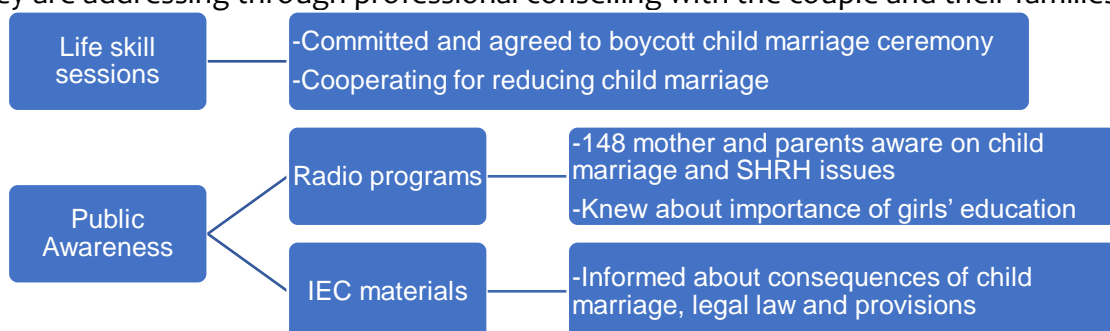
He also participated in the leadership training organized by LIFE Nepal in July 2019 where he learned about his role and responsibilities as a Boys club member. He started to bring changes by visiting every family in the village, and started explaining the health, social and human rights problems associated with child marriage. After his campaign against child marriage, the boy's club members are collecting follow-up information on the status of adolescents who were married early in his wards. He and his team provide counseling to adolescents and their parents to create a comfortable living and learning environment in the community. Before the campaign, there was no one with them, but when the campaign started, the local level representatives and local leaders also joined hand with his club.

He also motivated and convinced the boys and girls in the community to "Say No to Marriage before 20". He is training more young people to recognize and stop child marriage in the community with the goal of eradicating child marriage forever. He is now a role model in his community as he is working as an activist for ending child marriage and promoting education.

Students, parents as well as religious leaders agreed to boycott the child marriage ceremony and local police is assisting in ending child marriage.



Similarly, to inform and aware mothers/parents especially on the causes and consequences of early/child marriage, SHRH and legal provision of the government of Nepal, LIFE Nepal designed and developed radio programs as well as poster and pamphlets in Nepali and local languages and hoarding board disseminated in the project area, Palikas and schools. Through these IEC materials about 450000 community people were made aware and were sensitized. They enhanced knowledge on the consequences of child marriage, legal law, and provisions. In addition to this, they knew about the importance of girls' education. Finally, they committed and agreed to boycott the child marriage ceremony. They are cooperating for reducing child marriage; however, exceptionally, they have a threat of child marriage in the case of love marriage which they are addressing through professional counselling with the couple and their families.



Similarly, religious leaders are also responsible for fighting against child marriage, therefore, the project conducted dialogue with 221 religious' leaders. Through this, they sensitized about SHRH and child marriage issues. They knew the government law and provision regarding the child marriage. Finally, they committed to boycott who got child marriage to discourage child marriage in their communities.

Also, GC along with girls and boys club network members facilitated classes on early/child marriage and SHRH to 900 students in coordination with teachers because they believe that students are the key agent of knowledge transfer to other



students and children in the community. Through this, students were aware about the consequences of child marriage, legal law, and provision. They realized the importance of education. Finally, they committed not to marry before 20 years and boycott child marriage in their villages.



Case 6: Dipika Ojha is supporting to end child marriage

This is a story of Dipika Ojha who is the Sub-inspector in Dhanusha District at Madesh Province Police Office. She is the Chief of Women & Children Cell and supporting to End Child Marriage. She has stopped more than 36 cases of child marriage in the community. She began to raise awareness among the different stakeholders in the village about the legal provision and consequences of child marriage. She acts when any cases of child marriage arises from village, get information from help line number and receives information from LIFE Nepal. She also facilitates the session about child marriage and its side effects with stakeholders. She strongly responses the call and delegation of girls/ child club. She has started the series of awareness campaign from fliers, rally and stall demonstration to make change in the community against child marriage. Till now, she has been able to stop the many cases of child marriage. She is always promoting the campaign words "Say No to Marriage before 20". She also gave a message to everyone, "If anyone see a child marriage happening in your community,



please contact me in my mobile number or call Child helpline at 1098 or police control room 100 or child marriage prevention officers to alert the authorities."

Case 7: Owners of Printing Press were committed to mention the legal message in the Wedding Card

This is the story of group of owners of Printing Press who print the Wedding Cards

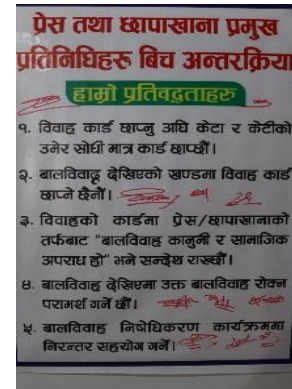
in JanakpurDham. One day, they all were invited to join the interaction meeting on ending child marriage and to mention the legal message on the Wedding Cards. They were discussed the roles and responsibility of printing press for ending child marriage. This was first interaction meeting with printing press proprietors on child marriage issues. In this meeting, LIFE Nepal shared the data of child marriage of Dhanusha District, and its legal provision. In addition, LIFE requested proprietors of printing press to print invitation cards for people after ensuring that the couple is of a legal age. After the discussion they realized that invitation wedding cards play an important role on promoting awareness to end child marriage. They also agreed to add one message that "Child Marriage is Illegal and Social Crime" in the



Wedding Cards. They have signed with 5 major points: 1. before printing the wedding cards, verify the age of Girls and Boys is must 2. Boycott the print if there are cases of child marriage 3. Add the message which reads, 'child marriage is illegal and social crime' in the wedding card. 4. Convince the parties if they are going to attend the child marriage, and 5. Support to end child marriage from their sides.

Case 8: Krishna Chandra Jha started the awareness against child marriage from his home.

This case study is based on depth interview with and observation of Krishna Chandra Jha, resident of JanakpurDham Sub-Metropolitan City. He is a famous Astrologer and Priest from Hindu Religion referred as Pandi Ji. He works as an astrologer in Mahabir Temple in JanakpurDham. He has done master's degree in astrology from Patna Bishwavidyalaya. He is a priest who carries out rituals making Kundali and provides advice to his clients on what to expect in their immediate and long- term futures. He also finalizes the day of marriage according to religion. Even though child marriage is considered as a punishable crime in Nepal, child marriage is still prevailing in Nepalese society. According to Hindu philosophy and culture there is no place for child marriage. One day he was invited to come in "interaction meeting with religious leader on child marriage" to help them raise awareness among the local people about the child marriage since most couples and their families consult these religious leaders before getting married. After this meeting, he expressed that he would start to aware and provide advice to those parents who wants to marry their children in early age. In another interaction meeting, he shared that, three marriage proposals of girls whose ages were nearby 14 to 17 years old were coming for his son who is studying computer engineer in Bangalore of India. He boycotted such proposals and announced that he would marry his son with educated girl whose age will be at least 25 to 29, and that too only after finishing his son's education and once he is involved in any job.



A GBV survivors improved daily income through an IGA support

Shivakaliya Kumari Mahato, a GBV survivor whose husband left her with two children and was staying at the maternal home after being tortured and ignored by the husband and his family, is now operating her Panipuri stall with IGA support from Life Nepal. Her first day's income from the stall was 600 rupees. Up to now, she has earned 800 rupees per day as her highest income. She wants to improve the business by adding local food items to the



stall. She has a habit of saving money in a piggy bank. At the very least, she saves 20 rupees a day.

IGA support uplifted income of a GBV survivor contributed to educating children



Asha Kumari Mandal was married at the age of 17. Within a year of marriage, her husband involved in polygamy because he believed that Asha wasn't beautiful enough. Since then, he started living separately parting Asha who now holds a 2-year-old child. With the time, she faced ignorance and torture from the law's family. The family didn't even helped Asha get the birth certificate of the child and her marriage certificate. According to Asha, she was verbally abused while raising the issues of legal

identity of her son. So, she decided to leave her husband's house and came to her maternal parents. As the maternal parents were aware about Asha's issue and due to their supportive nature, Asha came to the city area leaving her son in the maternal home. In the city, she learned the basics of the beauty parlor course and was seeking the support to run a beauty parlor as she had interest as well as skill of cosmetics and parlor. Luckily, a day, LIFE Nepal came to know about her through the local ward members and offered her the equipment worth 20,000 as a support cost for the initiation of a small-scale parlor. Gradually, she started earning from the parlor, and she also brought her son who was in the care of her maternal parents, to the city area. From the earning, she got her child admitted into the boarding school and now, she is living happily with her little son. She says that her son wants to be a doctor, and she will be working devotedly to fulfill his son's dream.

Municipality is in a standby position to response to floods



Shahid Nagar Municipality is one of the vulnerable municipalities of Dhanunsha district in Madhesh Province in terms of flooding as the Kamala River wreaks havoc. More than 14 thousand people are living in this municipality where 274 household are in high risk of flood. Each year, about 12 people go missing and die from flood.

Hence, Sahidnagar Municipality in coordination with LIFE Nepal is implementing flood preparedness and response program from 2020-2022 with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF. Here,

Municipality managed the search rescue materials like rubber boat, siren, life jacket, helmet, pedal, rubber tube as well as PPE set. The shelter house was also well managed by Palika with wash facilities. In addition, the early warning system with siren house was also started. Paliks also established a capable and trained team of LDMC, first aid and rescue. It had established a good coordination with



Area Police Office and Armed Police Force. All these are contributing to the flood response. Mr. Uday Kumar Barbariya, Mayor of Municipality also realized that they are capable to response the flood as they have sufficient rescue and search materials with helipad in his municipality. They are always in a standby position to response to floods.

Municipality is ready to cope with flood

Two years ago, the community people from Rajpur Municipality of Rautahat District were badly affected by heavy rainfall and flood. In response, Rajpur Municipality decided to prepare a Local Disaster Management Committee before the onset of monsoon. Also, it managed the shelter houses with toilet facilities and arranged rescue materials like, life jacket, helmet, siren, tube, hand pump, cleaning materials with PPE set, mask, sanitizer, dustbin, Jug, shop, hand wash, first aid kit; with the financial assistance of UNICEF and in coordination with LIFE Nepal. There are 274 vulnerable houses in ward number 9 of Rajpur. Hence, Ward Commissioner Md. Asraf Ali, Health Assistant Md. Khurshid Alam and the Chairperson of Risk Reduction Committee Md. Katful Baral became responsible in response to them. They realized that they are now capable to manage flood response in the Palika. They are very thankful to UNICEF and LIFE Nepal for the praiseworthy contribution in technically equipping them with the gadgets to cope with floods.

4. Peoples Voices



“Ending Child Marriage Program is very effective for girls. It helps to save daughter and educate daughter. It is also contributing in promoting girls’ education. It is needy for girls especially in Madhesi communities. There will be our full support to make this campaign and program a grand success.

Mr. Dinesh Yadav

Mayor of Shahid Nagar Municipality



Different types of awareness activities of LIFE Nepal brought the change in our community which are worth praising. LIFE Nepal always starts the awareness in the local language with different slogans, wall paintings and radio broad casting. A great change in promoting girls’ education and ending child marriage is seen.

Mr. Punya Pratap Yadav

Ward Chairperson, Janakpur Sub -Metropolitan City -14



Ending child marriage program is helpful for us. In our Muslim community, child marriage is a common practice. In our society, girls far below the age of puberty are often forcibly married to older persons. He says, “I got married with a girl while she was young before reaching the age of puberty.” LIFE Nepal has done very appreciative work in curbing child marriage.

Mr. Mohamad Harun Darji

Parents from Janakpur Sub – Metropolitan City



Mrs. Pinki Sah, a teacher takes an action in case of child marriage. She teaches Nepali subject to children in Sohani Mujeliya School. She is passionate about girl’s education. She says that child marriage directly affects girl’s education. Due to child marriage, girls drop out from schools. Increasing education, training for girls can end child marriage. She added that the government needs to provide both quality education and need to create free skills training programs for girls and create opportunities through schooling.

Mrs. Pinki Sah

Teacher of Ma. Vi. Sohani Mujeliya , Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan City



“The only solution for girls to avoid marriage is through education”. Ending Child Marriage program is very good initiative of LIFE Nepal. It is contributing to promote girls education. It is needy for girls especially in Madhesi communities. There will be our full support to make s this campaign and program a grand success.

Mr. Bandhu Prasad Bastola

CDO of Dhanusha



LIFE Nepal always actively working for ending child marriage in our Palika. It brings helpful program for girls as well as parent sensitization. Child marriage is illegal, the laws are very clear, and it is a punishable offence. Ignorance and negligence cannot be accepted as excuses. We will support this program from our municipality.

Mrs. Anita Shah

Deputy Mayor, Mithila Bihari Municipality



Ending child marriage program is helpful for us. It is supportive to promote girl's education. We also support this campaign from our school. If any child marriage happens, then the teacher's team will take action to stop. We also take classes to show the hazards of child marriage.

Mr. Jibachha Yadav

Ward Chairperson, Mithila Bihari Municipality



Child marriage is an illegal and deemed as social crime. We need to stop it completely. We all must support to end the child marriage. We are going to declare our Palika as child marriage free zone. We have also allocated budget to end child marriage. Our budget focuses on girl's education. We will support in raising awareness to stop child marriage as a campaign.

Mr. Ram Darash Yadav

Chief Administrative Officer, Mithila Bihari Municipality

5. Lesson Learned

- ⊗ The distribution program was closely and jointly monitored by provincial, district based key stakeholders and concerned agencies (Representative from health directorate, CDO) as well as local government representatives to ensure the quality of program delivery. In addition, there was a response team of LIFE Nepal's staff, local government representative, and concerned health facility staffs, in case of any problem found in the field. A team facilitated the issue of ID card of PLW and children, identified the real beneficiaries and issued ID card for them in response to receive BSF support. In this way, **Joint effort and teamwork are essential for the successful implementation of the program, and it helps to reach to the real and needy people.**
- ⊗ Upon the request from PLWs, at some of the distribution site, FCHV cooked BSF, demonstrated, and took a session to the PLWs how to use it properly. It helped PLWs in cooking and using BSF properly for children. Hence, **organizing an education session with demonstration is vital to PLWs about use of BSF properly.**

6. Way Forward

LIFE Nepal is committed in the area of education, psychosocial counselling, information sharing, awareness, and sensitization, establish positive social norms, girls champion mobilization, vocational and life skills, zero discrimination, engagement of youth, adolescent, women, child protection, disaster risk management and climate change, water sanitation and hygiene, socio-economic empowerment, strengthening good governance, conflict resolution and peace building, and advocacy through its five years strategic plan of 2020-2025. Most of these areas are covered by LIFE Nepal this year. Hence, LIFE will look to continue these areas next year as well. Also, LIFE will concentrate on the newer areas which have not been covered till date. Next year, with its strategic interventions like **water sanitation and hygiene, conflict resolution and peace building, and socio-economic empowerment**, LIFE Nepal will spread its wings.

In addition to these, some key problems are identified by LIFE Nepal during the program implementation.

- ⊗ Most of the people did not have identity card, birth registration, immunization card, citizenship which hindered to meet the target of opening account in bank or linking vulnerable households with bank
- ⊗ Due to the absence of technical human resource and equipment at local government, it is hard to manage (keeping data safely) and maintain child protection related data (secrecy) at local level
- ⊗ The newly elected representatives at local level are seeking technical guidance to declare safe motherhood Palika, hence, the coordination between health office and palika executives is needed
- ⊗ Lack of province level facilitators in Siraha and Saptari for the district level safe motherhood roadmap orientation
- ⊗ Beneficiaries who reside in rural areas lack confidence and did not have much idea on income generation activities
- ⊗ Usually vulnerable families/children are extremely poor due to large family structure and due to dependent family members.

Hence, LIFE will also develop a strategy to focus on those areas like ensuring identity card of beneficiaries, technical capacity building of local government representatives, confidence building of people through life skills and economic empowerment activities as well as reproductive health and family planning in the coming year.

7. Institutional Development

This year LIFE Nepal developed essential policies like prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), conflict of interest, and cost sharing based on the funding agencies requirements and context specific.

PSEA Policy

This policy applies to all persons acting for the LIFE Nepal or in collaboration with LIFE Nepal programs, including the following persons working with LIFE Nepal and partner organizations: employees; volunteers; board members; contractors; agency workers; consultants; suppliers and trainees (collectively, LIFE Nepal representatives and partners). Furthermore, this policy applies to actual and suspected acts of SEA by LIFE Nepal representatives against individuals in the communities in which we work. The policy is a guide for LIFE Nepal representatives to act ethically in their professional and personal lives. LIFE Nepal representatives are often in positions of power in relation to the communities with whom it works, especially women and children in situations of vulnerability. LIFE Nepal representatives have an obligation to use their power respectfully and must not abuse their power and influence over the wellbeing of participants and community members in communities where LIFE Nepal works.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The purpose of the conflict-of-interest policy is to protect organization's interest when it is contemplating entering a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not to replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to non-profit organizations.

Cost Sharing Policy

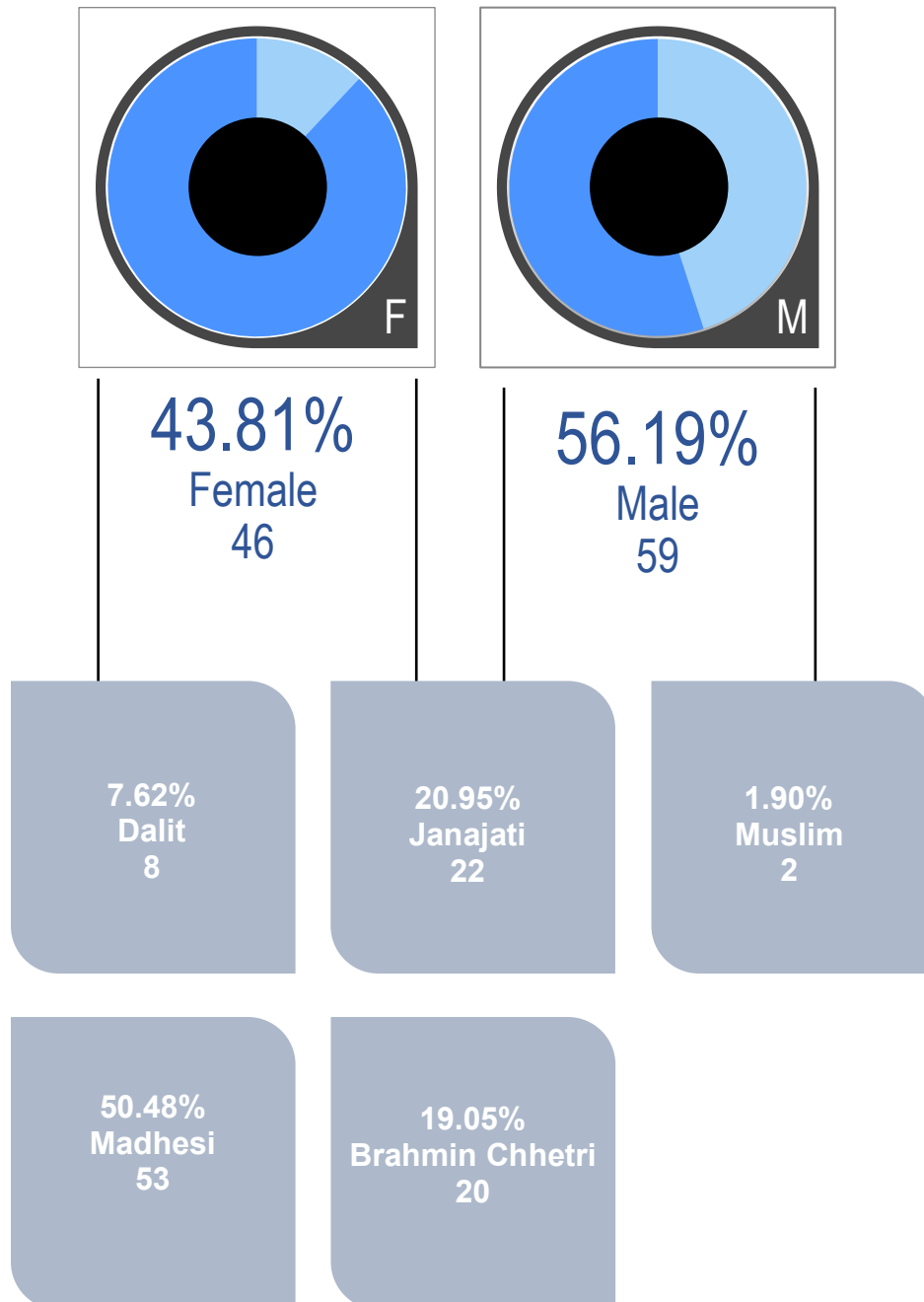
LIFE Nepal's policy on cost sharing and the procedure for monitoring grant-by-grant cost sharing. The policy was developed to fulfill the following purposes:

- To provide guidance regarding the circumstances in which cost sharing is permitted by funding agencies, including what kind of services, expenditures, or assets may be shared
- To provide information to the funding agency communities regarding the contractual, financial, and administrative implications that result from the commitment to cost share
- To establish procedures which give funding agencies the ability to provide information which demonstrates that the agencies have fulfilled any cost sharing commitments that have made as a condition of obtaining external funding
- To establish procedures for recording cost-shared expenditures in funding agency's accounting system to segregate cost sharing for inclusion in the funding agencies.

In addition, LIFE Nepal celebrated events on the completion of its 10th year of engagement in development sector, organized general assembly, regular board meetings, and staff capacity building training, updated website, Facebooks, disseminated annual report, published IEC materials and research reports and diversity its thematic and geographic area in coordination and collaboration with different funding agencies and local governments.

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 43.81% (n=46) presentation of female, 80.95% marginalized people in staffs.



9. Supporting Hands



LIFE Nepal

For Child Rights Protection

“Information is the means of empowering people”

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