

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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We are committed to working together with all stakeholders to create a brighter future for children, girls, women, youth, people with disabilities, religious minorities, excluded groups, and adolescents in Nepal.

With deep appreciation and commitment,

Surait Thakur
LIFE Nepal
August 11, 2024

Acronyms

CSO	Civil Society Organization
CHC	Complaint Hearing Committee
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CFLG	Child Friendly Local Governance
CBID	Community Based Inclusive Development
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of People with Disability
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DC	District Coordinators
DID	Disability Inclusive Development
EDP	External Development Partner
e-LMIS	Electronic Logistic Management Information System
EWPN	Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal
FCHVs	Female Child Health Volunteers
FP	Family Planning
GFF	Girls First Fund
GC	Girls Champion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GECD	Gender Sensitive Global Citizenship and Life Education for Youth
HCD	Human Centered Design
IEC	Information Education Communication
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LG	Local Government
MToT	Mater Training of Trainers
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MPAC	Municipality Project Advisory Committee
MoWCYS	Ministry of Women Children, Youth, and Senior Citizens
MPAC	Municipality Project Advisory Committee
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
OCMC	One-stop Crisis Management Center
OPD	Organization of People with Disability
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PNC	Postnatal Care
P4FC	Public Finance for Children
PFM	Public Finance Management
PSEA	Prevention of Social Exploitation and Abuse
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RH	Reproductive Health
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SBC	Social Behavior Change
SMC	School Management Committee
SHG	Self Help Group
SM	Social Mobilizer
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

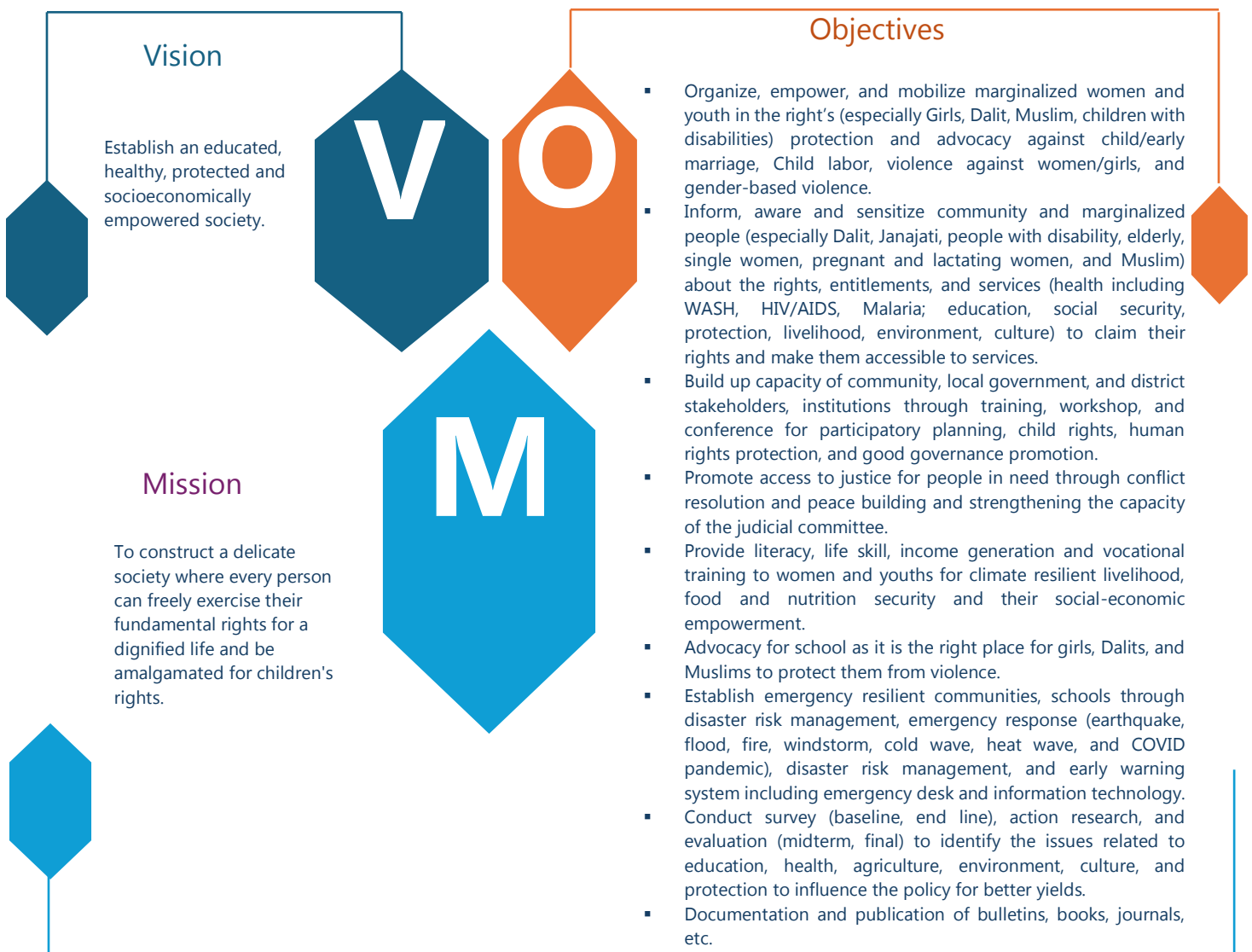
Organization in a brief

History

LIFE Nepal is women-lead non-profit making organization committed to uplifting marginalized communities in Madhesh Province, Nepal. LIFE Nepal is established in 2012 and registered with the District Administration Office, Dhanusha (*Regd. No. 1929/2068/10/18*), and affiliated with the Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu (*Regd. No. 34352/2068/10/27*). The organization is dedicated to improve the life situation of women, children, adolescent, youth, girls, marginalized communities, dalits, religious minorities and people with disabilities.

The mission of LIFE Nepal is to ensure access to essential services including health, nutrition, education, water sanitation and hygiene, child and social protection, and livelihood opportunities. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills enhancement through technology transfer, participatory approaches, and community engagement, LIFE Nepal strives to create a justice and equitable society where everyone can thrive (www.lifenepal.org.np).

VMO (Vision, Mission, Objective)



Geographic Coverage

136 Palikas of eight districts i.e., Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, and Parsa of Madhesh Province, Nepal



Target Groups



Strategic Approaches

- Community engagement
- Reached to unreached people
- Networking and partnership
- Local resource mobilization
- Human rights-based approach
- Do No Harm principle
- Role Model Promotion

Area of Focus

- Education /Financial Literacy/Formal & NFE
- HCD, SBC, Child and Social Protection, Gender Equality
- Health, Nutrition and Food Security
- Livelihood /Income Generation/Vocational and Life Skill
- Youth, Girls, and Women Empowerment
- Emergency /DRR/Pandemic/Early Warning
- Shock Responsive and Social Protection
- Cash plus intervention & cash support to vulnerable HHs
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Programs or Projects Implemented



Gender Sensitive Global Citizenship and Life Skills Education for Youth (GCED)

Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Gender Sensitive Global citizenship and Life skills Education for Youth" (GCED)" project which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

Funding Agency

AFLATOUN

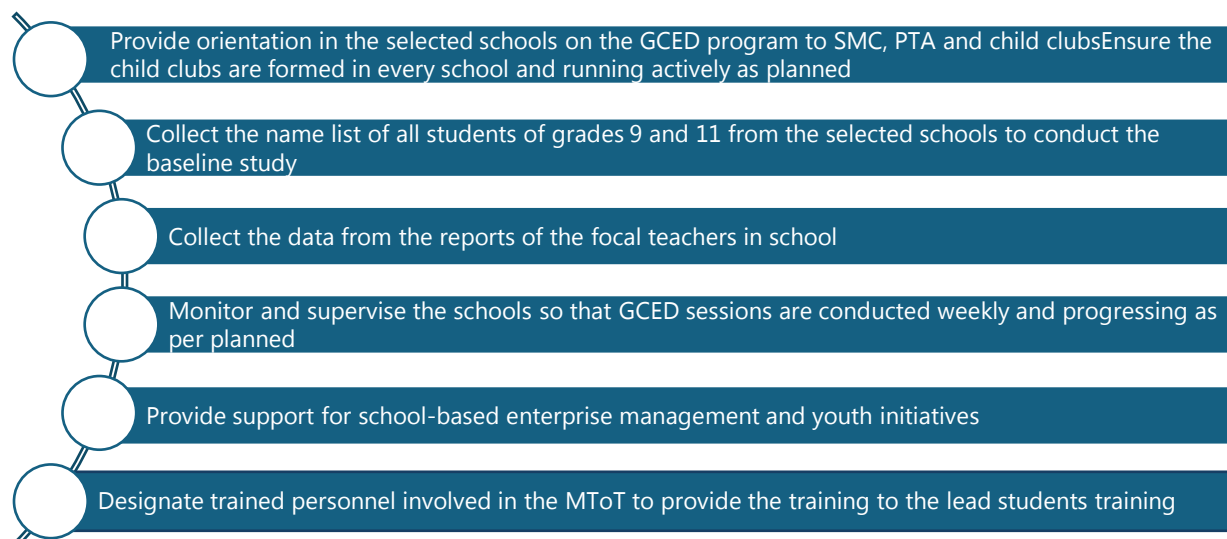
Locations

17 schools of Jaleswor & Bardibas Municipality of Mahottari & Janakpurdham Sub-metropolitan City of Dhanusha in Madhesh Province, Nepal

Objective

To transform the lives of girls and boys aged 14-19 through life skills, financial education, and entrepreneurship with a gender lens, provided through student-centered learning methods.

Strategic Interventions



Major Achievements

- 51 individuals, including head/teachers, educators, and students enhanced knowledge about financial literacy, inclusion and access, basic aspects of electronic financial services, currently available electronic financial services in Nepal, methods and benefits of electronic payments, precautions to be taken while conducting electronic transactions, secure electronic transactions, customer protection, and Nepal Rastra Bank's efforts in promoting electronic payments on the occasion of **global money week** celebration with the slogan of **protect your money, secure your future** dated 22 March 2024.
- 230 individuals, including head/teachers, educators, and students observed demonstration program on financial education with students that included the **stalls of 1. Art. 2. Handicraft. 3. Pani Puri, Achar 4. Mehndi 5. Chatpete 6. Lunch house and 7. Agriculture.**
- 61 lead students (girls 31, boys 30) trained about delivering sessions to the students in the project schools based on **Aflatoun+ manual (having 42 sessions focused on gender equality, financial literacy, inclusion and access, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, cooperation, decision-making, financial management, communication, respect for diversity etc.)**
- 289 (124 F, 165 M) SMC member, parents, teacher, child club, lead students oriented about overall program to reach the most vulnerable youth by providing **financial literacy, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, cooperation, decision-making, financial management, communication, respect for diversity.**



Students Training

People Benefitted

People

570



Students

61



Global Money Week Celebration



Demonstration Program



Students Orientation



Ending Child Marriage Programme

Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Ending Child Marriage Initiative," which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Objective

A gender sensitive and responsive environment enabled at local level.

Funding Agency

Girls First Fund (GFF)

Locations

Eight Palikas i.e., Janakpur sub-metropolitan city, Dhanushadham, Mithila, Kshireswarnath, Sabaila, Mithila Bihari, Sahid Nagar, Laxminiya of Dhanusha district in Madhesh Province, Nepal

Strategic Interventions

Activities with girls

- Girls Club/Network Mobilization (Action Plan Development and Implementation)
- Social Mobilization

Activities with boys

- Boys Club/Network Mobilization (Action Plan Development and Implementation)

Activities with Parents and/or Family Members

- Conduct Life Skill and education Sessions particularly about early marriage by GC for Mothers/Parent Groups
- Conduct Public Awareness Campaign and sensitization event

Activities with Leadership

- Referral to Judicial Committee, Women and Children Cell the people at-risk, Married and Formerly Married Girls
- Conduct Dialogue with Religious Leaders

Activities with Educators

- Conducted classes on early/child marriage, MHM, SHRH, AIDS by facilitators to students in coordination with teachers

Activities with Other Population(s)

- Palika level interaction on child marriage free Palika
- Organize External Monitoring (SWC, Joint, Board)

Major Achievements

- The incidence of child marriage has been in decreasing trend because the prevalence of child marriage has been reduced to 22% in 2024, 24% in 2023 from 30% in 2021, 37% in 2020 and 50% in 2019. The prevalence of child marriage in girls reduced by 4% from 2023 and 14% from 93% in 2021. It has been playing a vital role in promoting girls' education as this year alone, 122 girls enrolled in +2 programs and 73 in bachelor's or technical studies within the project area. In addition to that, 19 cases of child marriage were successfully stopped in this period, where 82 cases were referred to judicial committee of respective Palikas or district-based women police cell or complain hearing committee in school. In this way, there was a significant role of individuals like parent or group or institution or religious leader or pressure group in facilitating 101 child marriage cases and successfully stopping child marriage. However, 59 cases (out of registered 160) were not resolved due to community or political pressure, secretly married, and a small destination married.
- A total of 240 members, 120 from girls' and 120 boys' clubs/networks were mobilized, and the action plans of 8 girls' clubs and 8 boys' clubs were implemented.
- A total of 1,014 community members (908 females and 96 males) reached through 96 life skills and education session conducted by Girls' Champions (GCs) focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and the issue of child marriage.
- 1,810 adolescents (1,050 girls and 760 boys) attended in rallies against child marriage and knew the information about the importance of ending child marriage and encouraging school enrollment for girls.
- 550 parents (350 females and 200 males) engaged in conversations about preventing child marriage in the community through video clips dissemination with interactive discussions against child marriage.
- 680 participants (460 females and 220 males) attended in celebrations for International Girls Day and in the 16 Days of Activism against violence and aware about gender equality.
- 260 religious' leaders (52 female, 208 male) engaged through dialogue on child marriage and reinforced the important role religious leaders play in preventing and addressing child marriage.
- 198 (67 female, 13 male) local governments engaged to address child marriage and strengthen community interventions through discussing strategies for creating child marriage-free communities that helped increase local engagement and understanding of child marriage prevention efforts.

People Benefitted

Girls

1170



Boys

820



Parents

550



Community members

1694



LG and Religious Leaders

458



Manisha's Journey: Overcoming the Pressure of Child Marriage

Manisha Rout is the daughter of Pukari Rout, a resident of Sabaila Municipality, Ward-6, Dhanusha, Madhesh Province. She studied at Shree Saraswati S. School, Thilla. During the Ending Child Marriage and Promoting Girls' Education program, LIFE Nepal formed a Girls' Club with the school head teacher, where Manisha was also selected as a club member. In the club, she learned about child marriage, its side effects, and the legal provisions against it. She actively participated in each monthly review meeting and all the club's activities. After becoming aware of the issues surrounding child marriage, she shared everything she had learned with her family and community members.

Manisha is the eldest daughter in her family and has one younger sister. Manisha's father works in Qatar. Her mother said they would marry their daughter when he returned from Qatar. Because they have two daughters, their parents wanted to marry Manisha off at an early age. Her father even started saving money in the bank for Manisha's marriage. When Manisha joined and participated in the club, she wanted to convince her mother, but her mother was not convinced. In the parent session, her mother shared that in their community, boys and girls marry without their parents' consent, often falling in love during school and eloping. She believed that if any daughter eloped, it would destroy the family's reputation. Therefore, she thought child marriage could also help maintain reputation and save on dowry.

After attending several sessions regularly, her mother realized that what Ranjita shared about child marriage was true. Manisha's mother had also married at a very young age and faced many problems, including health issues, financial difficulties, and dropping out of school. Manisha also convinced her mother not to marry her at an early age. Her mother decided that Manisha would complete her +2 exams before getting married. After Manisha completed her SEE exams, she joined a basic computer course in Sabaila Municipality during the three-month gap. Later, the municipality also provided an opportunity for her to complete the basic computer course.

Good Practices

Local government allocated budget for implementation of action plan of girls, boys' clubs/networks

Local government level interaction on child marriage free Palika under **activities with other population** played a crucial role in terms of gender responsive and sensitive local level planning, local resource allocation for action plan implementation of girls, boys' clubs/networks, and monitoring because Palikas had developed a common understanding (through series of meetings, interactions, and technical sessions on significance of gender sensitive and responsive, plan formulation, implementation and monitoring), initiated, and planned activities for vocational training, day celebration, Palika level child club network formation, training for child club, scholarship, rally, street drama, and allocated budget (about NPR 350000-1000000) for that. The details of the Palika wise plan presented below:

SN	Palika	Planned Programms/Projects	Allocated Local Resources
1	Janakpurdham Municipality	Vocational training/Day celebration /Palika Level Child Club Network Formation	NRs. 10,00,000.00
2	Laxminiya Rural Municipality	Child Club training/Scholarship /Day celebration /Palika Level Child Club Network Formation	NRs. 5,00,000.00
3	Mithila Bihari Municipality	Vocational training/Day celebration /Palika Level Child Club Network Formation	NRs. 7,00,000.00
4	Chhereswarnath Municipality	Vocational training/Day celebration /Palika Level Child Club Network Formation/	NRs. 3,50,000.00
5	Mithila Municipality	Rally, Street Drama, WD/GD celebration, Palika level girls and boys Network formation	NRs. 3,00,000.00
6	Dhanushadham Municipality	Rally, Street Drama, WD/GD celebration, Palika level girls and boys Network formation	NRs. 5,00,000.00
7	Sabaila Municipality	Rally, Street Drama, WD/GD celebration, Palika level girls and boys Network formation	NRs. 3,50,000.00
8	Sahidnagar Municipality	Rally, Street Drama, WD/GD celebration, Palika level girls and boys Network formation	NRs. 4,00,000.00

After the completion of the Girls Summit 2023, the Ministry of Sports and Social Welfare, Provincial Government, had allocated NRs 12,00,000 for the celebration of the Day Against Child Marriage, which will be held on April 30, 2025.

Young women (early married adolescent girls) economically empowered after vocational training and seed money support

LIFE Nepal conducted vocational training program to address the needs of young women and adolescent girls. The focus of training was providing essential vocational skills, particularly in Mithila Painting, Mehendi, tailoring as well as offering material support for the establishment of mobile shops, such as grocery and vegetable stores. This initiative aimed to empower young women to start small-scale businesses, fostering financial independence. As part of the training, Mithila Painting, Mehendi and tailoring training were conducted. After the training, LIFE Nepal followed up to the participants. Among them, four participants started small business. The details are:

S. N.	Name of Girls/Young Women	Attended Training/ Type	Seed Money Support/ Materials	Started own Business. Yes/No	Name of Business	Monthly Earning/ Season-Based Income	Use of Earned Money
1.	Arti Kumari Paswan	Mehendi	Materials Supported	Yes	Home Business	8000.00 monthly	Clothes, Grocery Items, and School books & copy
2.	Soni Mukhiya	Mehendi	Materials Supported	Yes	Home Business	9000.00 monthly	Grocery Items/ Medicine
3.	Priyanka Mukhiya	Mehendi	Materials Supported	Yes	Home Business	8000.00 monthly	Grocery Items
4.	Phekani Paswan	Tailoring	Seed money / Materials Supported	Yes	Home Business	3000.00 monthly	Children's school books & copy

Four girls/young women had successfully started home-based businesses after receiving training and materials support. Arti Kumari Paswan, Soni Mukhiya, and Priyanka Mukhiya, who attended Mehendi training, now earn NRs. 8,000 to NRs. 9,000 monthly from their home businesses. They use their earnings for essential items such as clothes, groceries, medicine, and school supplies. Phekani Paswan, trained in tailoring and supported with seed money and materials, earns NRs. 3,000 monthly, which she spends on her children's school books and supplies. These initiatives have enabled them to become financially independent and support their households.



Street Drama Demonstration by Girls and Boys Club



Vocational (tailoring) Training to Child Marriage



Wall Painting to spread awarness to End Child Marriage



Celebrating the International Girls' Day



Interaction with Religious Leaders



Declaration Child Marriage Free Tole

Kajal Jha's mother is from Laxminiya Municipality. In her community, girls are not permitted to get an education or work outside the home. However, she is a very passionate mother. She consistently attended mother sessions. After participating in these sessions, she became highly motivated and wanted her daughter to pursue higher education and secure a job. Kajal's father intended to marry her off early upon his return from Saudi Arabia, but as Kajal's mother, I persuaded him otherwise. Thanks to my daughter Kajal and LIFE Nepal for selecting her as a Girls Champion. I am also grateful to my daughter for encouraging me to



The Complete Safe Motherhood Programme

Introduction

LIFE Nepal executed "The Complete Safe Motherhood Programme". The programme had contributed to major outcomes i.e., i) sexual and reproductive health, ii) supply chain management policy and strategy development, iii) adolescents and youth, iv) gender equality and women's empowerment, v) health, gender-based violence, and child protection system, and vi) population dynamics of UNFPA in Nepal.

Objective

To announce Madhesh Province as a complete safe motherhood province.

Funding Agency

UNFPA

Locations

Seven Palikas i.e., Gaur, Gujra, and Yamunamai of Rautahat district; Malangwa, Godaita, and Kaudena of Salrahi district and Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district in Madhesh Province, Nepal

Strategic Interventions

Sexual and reproductive health services

- Orientation about Safe Motherhood Roadmap 2030
- Training on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)
- Reproductive Health (RH)/Family Planning (FP) review workshops

Supply chain management policy and strategy development

- Capacity building for zero home delivery initiation
- Review Meetings
- Human resource support to Province Health Logistic Management Centre (PHLMC)
- Safe motherhood message dissemination
- Family Planning Day celebration
- Oriented on forecasting and quantification

Adolescents and youth

- Orientation on seven steps local level planning process
- International Youth Day celebration

Gender equality and women's empowerment

- International Women's Day celebration
- Mark 16 days campaign against gender--based violence (GBV)
- Celebrate International Day of the Girl Child (GESI) policy
- Protection/gender-based violence network meetings
- Finalize gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) policy
- Orientation on basic humanitarian principles and safe GBV referral during emergencies
- Orientation on GBV, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and harmful practices and survivor centered services

Health, GBV and child protection systems

- Technical assistance support to Ministry of Women, Child, Youth, and Senior Citizens (MoWCYS)

Population dynamics

- Celebrate World Population Day
- Sensitization workshop on Population and Housing Census preliminary data use

Major Achievements

- A roadmap for safe motherhood was developed by mayors, deputy mayors, elected representatives, and government officials during a workshop. Key focus areas included equipping birthing centers with skilled manpower, discouraging child marriage, and promoting ANC and PNC visits according to government protocols.
- A provincial health and nutrition cluster meeting emphasized achieving 100% coverage for Typhoid vaccination, managing near-expiry COVID vaccines, and setting indicators for safe motherhood and nutrition to declare the province safe for motherhood and malnutrition-free. Proper management of materials supported by EDPs in hospitals was also discussed.
- The Provincial Supply Chain Management Technical Working Group decided to improve COVID-19 vaccine data entry in e-LMIS, train store focal persons in all districts, ensure Oxytocin availability in birthing centers, and conduct focus group discussions on mental health and nutrition. Regular follow-up in palikas improved e-LMIS reporting in Madhesh Province.
- At the International Women's Day rally, Hon. Pramila Singh and Mr. Keshab Prasad Bimali highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to combat gender-based violence and address women's rights in Madhesh Province. The event encouraged integrated action among stakeholders in Dhanusha Districts.
- A MoWCYS thematic group meeting formed a technical team to update the RPM tool and GBV control guidelines. Regular virtual and physical GBV meetings were scheduled.
- Godaita and Gujara Palikas committed to co-financing the zero-home delivery campaign in the next AWPB, with newly elected representatives seeking guidance to declare a safe motherhood palika.
- The GESI policy was handed over to Kaudena and Gujara municipal leaders for discussion and approval, with regular follow-up needed for implementation.
- Rautahat OCMC committed to funding GBV referral mechanism orientation for ward executive members in palikas.
- An interaction program among policymakers, health providers, and community advocates identified gaps in family planning services for marginalized communities and emphasized equipping health facilities with modern methods of family planning.
- The third thematic group meeting agreed to finalize the GBV prevention guideline, prepare a GBV resource roster for Madhesh Province, and orient members on referral processes and case management against child marriage.
- In the RH/FP workshop, local representatives prioritized RH/FP programs, filling nursing staff vacancies, operationalizing FP services in birthing centers, and establishing BEONC sites with allocated budgets.
- Local youth activists, Ms. Kamli Sada and Ms. Kazal Jha, shared their experiences combating child marriage and GBV during a 16-day campaign.
- Local government executives were trained to use census data for evidence-based planning and decision-making, advocating for its best use in policy implementation.

People Benefitted

Stakeholders

3637



Health Personnel

701



Family Planning Day Celebration" Interaction program with FCHVs and health coordinators at Kaudena



International Day of Girls Child Celebration "Drawing Competition".



Health Cluster Meeting awareness videos at Janaki Temple



Inclusive Climate Resilient Community Development in Nepal (IRDCN)

Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Inclusive Climate Resilient Community Development in Nepal (IRDCN)" which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include **SDG 1**: No Poverty, **SDG 2**: Zero Hunger, **SDG 3**: Good Health and Well-being, **SDG 4**: Quality Education, **SDG 5**: Gender Equality, **SDG 8**: Decent Work and Economic Growth, **SDG 10**: Reduced Inequality, **SDG 13**: Climate Action, and **SDG 16**: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Objective

To contribute to building inclusive and resilient communities.

Funding Agency

CBM
Global Disability Inclusion

Locations

Three Palikas i.e., Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitan City, Mithila Bihari, and Aurahi of Dhanusha District in Madhesh Province, Nepal

Strategic Interventions

Increase knowledge on lobby and advocacy among persons with disability (men, women, girls and boys) and their families:

1. Facilitated to Self- Help Group (SHG) formation and conduct regular meeting,
2. Orientation to self-help groups,
3. Identify, capacitate, and mobilize inclusive development champions from SHGs,
4. Conduct community awareness on inclusive development process,
5. Develop lobby and advocacy guideline for Organization of People with Disability and SHGs on inclusive community development and orient SHG members,
6. Placement of posters/flex with positive messages in public places
7. Develop and disseminate different IEC materials on inclusive health, education, DRR and livelihood,
8. Project Sharing and Start-Up Meeting with Local Governments and Key Stakeholders,
9. Mapping of persons with disability and establish the database at the municipal level,
10. Advocacy with the local government for disability screening and ID card distribution and for the engagement of people with disabilities in local development processes, the implementation of endorsed laws, policies and program,
11. Celebration of International Day on People with Disability,
12. Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) Meeting,
13. Capacity building of OPD and SHGs on local planning process and their role,
14. Orientation to communities on violence, exploitation, negligence, abuse and discrimination against persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities and their families participating in subsistence and income generating activities:

1. Carry out the need assessment of person with disabilities for livelihood and support to develop the business plan,
2. Conduct need based agricultural IG activities and pilot the climate adaptive livelihood practices,
3. Inclusive cultural entrepreneurship (Mithila craft, traditional business strengthening etc.) and build linkages for promotion using different platforms,
4. Support on micro enterprises (grocery shops, mobile shops etc.) for persons with disabilities,
5. Promotion of disability inclusive and climate resilient technologies and practices through improved or heritage seeds,
6. Support on vegetable farming activities (individual or group) seasonal farming and other livelihood efforts

Institutional strengthening of partners and OPD and skills development for smooth management and program delivery:

1. Reasonable accommodation and accessibility across all activities,
2. Advocacy capacity building training conducted for LIFE Nepal and DSJ,
3. Project orientation to Project Team and Board Members,
4. Training on CBID and DID to project team and board members,
5. Participate in Disability inclusion, CBID and climate change related learning and sharing platforms,
6. Conduct baseline,
7. Review existing policies of Life Nepal from DI lens and update,
8. Review existing policies of DSJ from DI lens and update,
9. Develop/update GESI and safeguarding policy of LIFE Nepal,
10. Develop/update GESI and safeguarding policy of DSJ,
11. Structural Adjustment of LIFE Nepal office for accessibility



Improve access of children with disabilities to inclusive and accessible education and access to health services by person with disabilities:

1. Awareness raising with parents of children with disabilities at risk of not enrolling, or dropping out of school,
2. Orientation on inclusive education to local government, teachers, school management committee members, mothers' groups, FCHVs, social leaders, and traditional healers
3. Conduct accessibility assessments of the selected schools, primary health service, municipality and support to implement assessment findings,
4. Provision of assistive devices to person with disability for mobility and accessibility,
5. orientation on disability and inclusion to health service providers and municipal representatives

Strengthened local government, DPO and SHG capacity on climate change issues and adaptation interventions:

1. Study on CCA and DiDRR in Madhesh Province,
2. Capacity building to partners on climate change issues and local government officials,
3. Capacity building and skills transfer on climate change to OPD and partner organizations,
4. Basic DiDRR and climate change awareness training in schools



Major Achievements

- A total of 1,260 individuals, 845 (396 males, 218 females, 147 boys, 84 girls) from 48 Self-Help Groups (32 in Janakpurdham, 10 in Mithilabihari, and 6 in Aurahi), 354 family members/guardians (145 males, 209 females) along with 36 ward chairpersons, 25 ward members, and OPDs members focused on disability-related issues received orientation on various topics, including legal provisions, vital registrations, CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), advocacy strategies, local resource mobilization, climate change, and relevant local concerns. These groups held monthly community meetings to discuss their rights and agendas, such as participating in the planning process, disability identification, ID card distribution, school discounts and scholarships, and skill development training. They gathered issues affecting people with disabilities (PWD) and presented them to the respective municipalities during local planning processes. They also submitted demand letters for inclusive development. They did regular follow-ups with the concerned wards, and finally, out of 41 wards, 10 wards allocated budgets in the last fiscal year, and all the wards committed to bringing an inclusive budget, policies, and programs for the next financial year.
- SHG networks were established in Mithila Bihari Municipality and Aurahi Rural Municipality. They advocate for meaningful participation in the planning process, inclusion in government structures and committees, accessible education and healthcare, public service centers with accessible infrastructure, and equal opportunities for livelihood support and employment. They submitted their demand letters to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. They committed to allocating the budget and incorporating plans and programs regarding disability-inclusive development.
- Forty champions (12 women and 28 men) of inclusive development received basic and refresher training on disability inclusiveness, related legal and institutional arrangements for people with disabilities, and effective advocacy for their rights. They released a nine-point declaration outlining their rights and discussed various issues, including ID cards, government structure participation, service provision requests, budget allocation, and involvement in the planning process with ward chairpersons.
- 217 (132 males and 85 females) ward chairs, ward secretaries, women ward members, male ward members, inclusive development champions, as well as representatives of social leaders, FCHV, mothers' group members, youth clubs, and community leaders, were informed about disability-inclusive development. They are committed to voicing the concerns of people with disabilities in local plan development processes and activities at the grassroots level. The ward chairperson allotted a budget for people with disabilities for the fiscal year 2023/2024.
- A lobbying and advocacy guideline has been finalized and printed. Altogether 401 participants (86 women with disabilities, 138 men with disabilities, 92 children with disabilities, and 85 parents of people with disabilities) were oriented to advocate and lobby for the inclusive development process. They decided to submit a memorandum to ensure the rights of people with disabilities at the ward and municipal levels.
- The Municipality Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) has been established in three Palikas, namely Aurahi, Mithila Bihari, and Janakpur. In a meeting, decisions were made regarding disability screening and ID card distribution, creating accessible infrastructure at public service points, budget allocation, and the formulation of inclusive policies in health, education, and agriculture. They also planned to update the official website for digital accessibility and provide support for livelihood and assistive devices. During the orientation program, Aurahi Rural Municipality decided that the municipality will pass the guidelines for the distribution of disability identity cards through the municipal assembly, make the committee 11 members and complete it, hold regular committee meetings and provide the correct card on time. After the discussion in the program, the committee immediately convened a meeting and distributed disability identity cards to 9 people.
- A total of 18 students (7 in Mithila Bihari, 4 in Aurahi, and 7 in Janakpur) enrolled in schools because of an enrollment campaign and home visits

People Benefitted

People

3933

Champions

40



Outcome of Income Generation, Cultural Entrepreneurship, and Micro-enterprises Activities

Mr. Bhagat Mandal Kebat, who resides in Janakpurdham-15, has a physical disability. He engaged in cow farming with support from the project, using climate-adaptive livelihood practices. He manages to collect 7 liters of milk daily, which he sells in the local market. Additionally, he produces organic fertilizer and pesticides for vegetable farming using cow urine and dung.

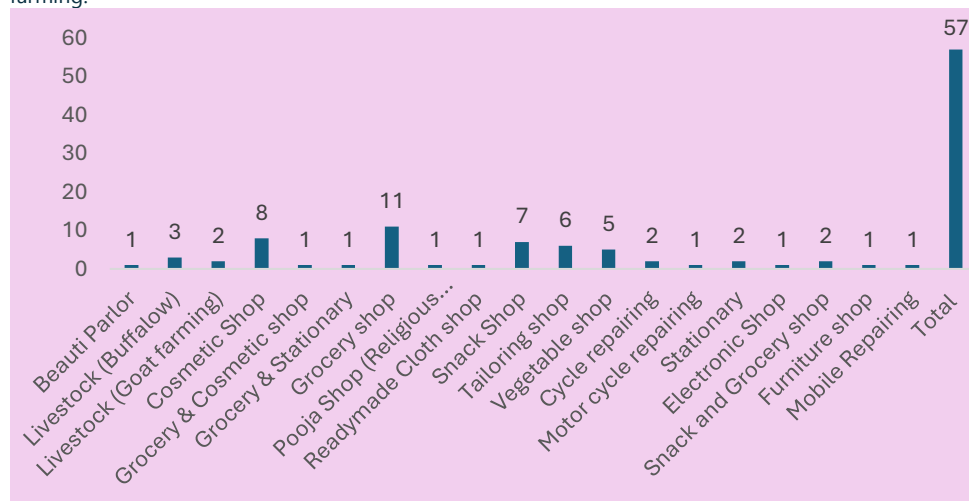
Mr. Ramcharitra Thakur, the husband of a person with a physical disability, lives in Aurahi Rural Municipality. He operates a salon as part of an inclusive cultural entrepreneurship initiative.



Similarly, Mr. Habib Dhobi, who resides in Mithila Bihari Municipality and has a physical impairment, runs a clothing ironing business in the local market.

In addition to this, individuals like Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Mr. Ramsagar Mandal Khatwe, and Mr. Jibachha Mahaseth, who live in Janakpur, along with Mr. Sunil Mandal and Mr. Jainul Dhobi in Aurahi, all having physical impairments, operate grocery shops in the local market. Meanwhile, Mr. Ganesh Rajak, an inhabitant of Mithila Bihari with a vision impairment, manages a stationary shop in Tarapatti Bazar. Lastly, Mrs. Hiradevi Mandal, who also resides in Mithila Bihari and has a hearing impairment, runs a grocery and breakfast shop in the local market, with the assistance of guardians, as part of micro-enterprises.

- Seventeen mothers' groups, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), social leaders, and traditional healers received training on inclusive education. They pledged to help identify people with disabilities, emphasize the importance of disability ID cards, advocate for inclusive education, and encourage school enrollment for dropouts and out-of-school children. Ward chairs and secretaries committed to ensuring the participation of people with disabilities in planning and developmental activities.
- Thirty teachers and members of school management committees received orientation on inclusive education. They agreed to use respectful language when addressing children with disabilities, collaborate with parents to encourage school enrollment and regular attendance, advocate for accessible infrastructure and resource teachers in schools, incorporate inclusive education into the school's mandate, collect data, request disability scholarships from the local government, identify children with disabilities, and implement disability-friendly teaching and evaluation methods.
- Twenty-eight health service providers and municipal representatives received orientation on disability and inclusion. They agreed to support the identification of people with disabilities, maintain a record of people with disabilities in register books, integrate awareness programs about disability into regular activities, participate in health management committees, work towards accessible infrastructure at health posts, and coordinate with LIFE Nepal for higher-level medical referrals.
- Information boards were designed and erected at 10 public places in the project area. Additionally, printed flex banners were mounted at schools, ward offices, health posts, and community buildings to disseminate and promote positive messages about disability-inclusive development and meaningful participation in all local developmental activities.
- During the lobby and advocacy event for the implementation of endorsed laws, policies, and programs with local and provincial governments, elected members committed to gradually implementing the laws and policies and fulfilling the demands as per the laws. Following discussions, a ward chairperson committed to supporting and developing an inclusive budget and announced the allocation of 1 lakh for the next fiscal year 2024/025.
- To disseminate positive messages in the community, LIFE Nepal developed and disseminated IEC materials such as pamphlets on dignified language towards people with disabilities and brochures on disability rights regarding health, education, rehabilitation, livelihood, and skill development, as well as provisions in the Local Government Operation Act 2017.
- Information on 1160 (727 Male, 433 Female) people with disabilities was collected through disability mapping to establish a database at the municipality level.
- To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) and draw attention from concerned stakeholders to the rights of persons with disabilities, LIFE Nepal celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2023, at Janakpurdham with 250 participants (100 female and 150 male).
- 299 (192 Male and 107 Female) local government representatives were oriented about inclusive governance. They committed to developing policies and guidelines in an inclusive manner, incorporating issues of people with disabilities, and allocating an inclusive budget.
- To ease the mobility of people with disabilities, LIFE Nepal distributed wheelchairs to 9 beneficiaries (8 Male, 1 Female), 4 tricycles (3 Male, 1 Female), 3 walkers, 3 crutches, and 3 white canes following the disability screening by Orthosis & Prosthesis experts and technical recommendations.
- An accessibility audit was conducted at 3 health posts (one in Janakpurdham-15 and two in Mithilabihari-3) and 2 offices (one in Janakpurdham-6 and one in Mithilabihari-4). After the audit, the entrance ramp and toilet ladder in Mithilabihari-4 were restructured.
- For social and economic empowerment and a dignified life, 71 beneficiaries (53 Male, 18 Female) were supported with fertilizers and seeds for vegetable farming, including potatoes, onions, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, radish, tomatoes, carrots, peaches, brinjal, coriander, pumpkins, leaf mustard, and chiles. Additionally, paddy crops were provided to 120 beneficiaries (85 Male, 35 Female) for the seasonal farming.



- To make it easier for people with disabilities to live a dignified and quality life with economic empowerment in society, LIFE Nepal provided support to 57 beneficiaries (40 Male, 17 Female) for running micro-enterprises, including beautician services, livestock, cosmetics, grocery stores, stationery, ready-made goods, snacks, tailoring, motor/cycle repairing, electronics, furniture, mobile repairing, and religious goods.



Social and Behavior Change (SBC) through Community Engagement (CE) and Human Centered Design (HCD) in Madhesh Province

Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Social Behavior Change through Community Engagement and Human-Centered Approach in Madhesh Province" which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

Funding Agency

UNICEF

Locations

64 Dalit, communities of 32 Palikas of 8 districts in Madhesh Province, Nepal

Objective

To create a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society within Madhesh Province, where communities are actively engaged in shaping their future, and where positive social behavior changes lead to better living standards and improved overall well-being.

Strategic Interventions

Output 1: Children and caregivers from hard to reach communities increase awareness on COVID 19 prevention, birth registration, regular immunization and child marriage

- Door-to-Door visits and SBC messages delivered by SMs
- Installation of Community Information Board
- Review meeting at ward level with community
- Monitoring by the focal person of local governments

Output 2: Palika elected representatives and programme focal person increase capacity on Social Behaviour Change and Community Engagement

- Staff, Palika stakeholders and front-line worker have built capacity on SBC
- Review with staff and volunteers on messages and communication approach/skills
- Palika level SBC training

Output 3: Child club, health workers, FCHVs and youth volunteers increase skills and knowledge on human centered design and interpersonal communication skills

- IPC orientation to health workers, FCHVs and volunteers
- Mobilize health staff in community
- Ward level SBC and HCD training
- Coordinate with women and children section and start women empowerment session
- Train men, boys, and influencers of the community on gender and community engagement
- Strengthening mother's group through FCHVs
- Child club capacity building training
- Child club and adolescents group mobilization

Major Achievements

- Under the supervision of three District Coordinators (DCs), a team of sixteen social mobilizers (SMs) was organized to conduct home visits, host school orientations, engage in conversations with community members, and convey important messages regarding COVID-19 prevention, birth registration, immunization, child marriage, and toilet usage. Additionally, information boards were installed in 64 communities, and 32 ward-level review and planning meetings with 998 ward and community members took place. Access to government services were closely monitored by 128 focal persons of local governments. A total of 64 community information boards were erected within the selected communities aligning with the wards of the converging municipalities from that 3810 people benefitted. These boards served as vital tools for conveying information about the status of education, health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, social protection, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) within the communities. This effort reached a total of 124,152 people, raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention, birth registration, immunization, and child marriage.



33800



35403



54949

- Furthermore, a group of twenty-two program staff members and 533 Palika stakeholders and frontline workers underwent training in Social and Behavior Change (SBC), acquiring expertise in SBC principles, theories, and models, understanding social norms and values, Human-Centered Design (HCD) principles, rapid inquiry methodologies, stakeholder mapping, risk management techniques, program and HR structures, action, and annual planning, and updates related to program interventions in different sections. These interventions helped to increase the capacity of Palika elected representatives and program focal persons about Social Behavior Change and Community Engagement.
- Additionally, initiatives such as sharing at palika and action plan development with 357 palika-level stakeholders, training to 260 elected representatives and focal persons on community engagement and social mobilization tools, mobilization of 16 health staff in community to promote immunization and inform them when to take which vaccine, IPC (Interpersonal Communication) orientations for health workers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), and volunteers across 16 wards, totaling 286 participants (111 males and 175 females) were implemented. Efforts to mobilize 16 health staff in the community, provide ward-level training on social and behavior change (SBC) and human-centered design (HCD) to 724 persons (412 males, 312 females), and coordinate with women and children development sessions for women empowerment are evident. Notably, there's a focus on gender inclusivity, as indicated by separate training sessions for 1309 men, boys, and influencers on gender and community engagement from 16 palikas. Furthermore, activities such as strengthening 329 mothers' groups through FCHVs and capacity-building training for 406 child club members aim to empower community members. The gender balance is also apparent in child club and adolescent group mobilization efforts, fostering inclusivity with 192 boys and 214 girls participating. Overall, child club members, health workers, FCHVs, and youth volunteers increased skills and knowledge in human-centered design and interpersonal communication skills.

People Benefitted

Households

20692



People

124152



Staffs

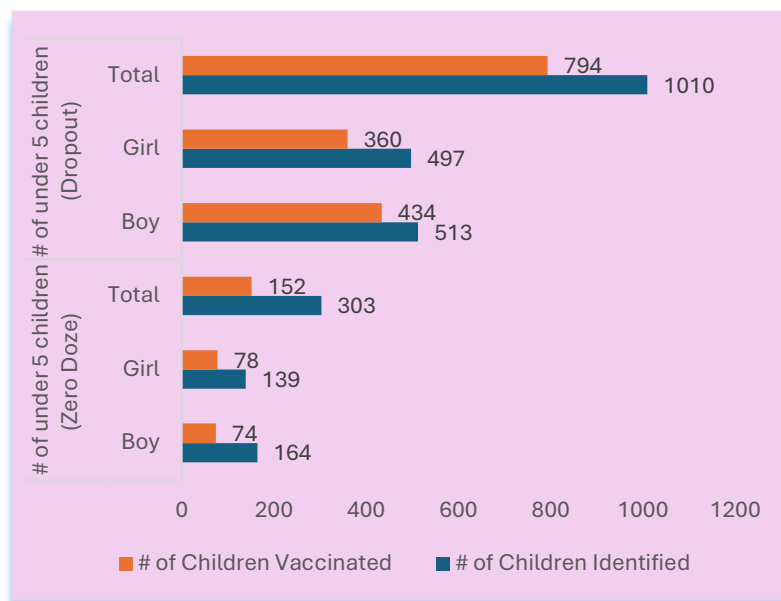
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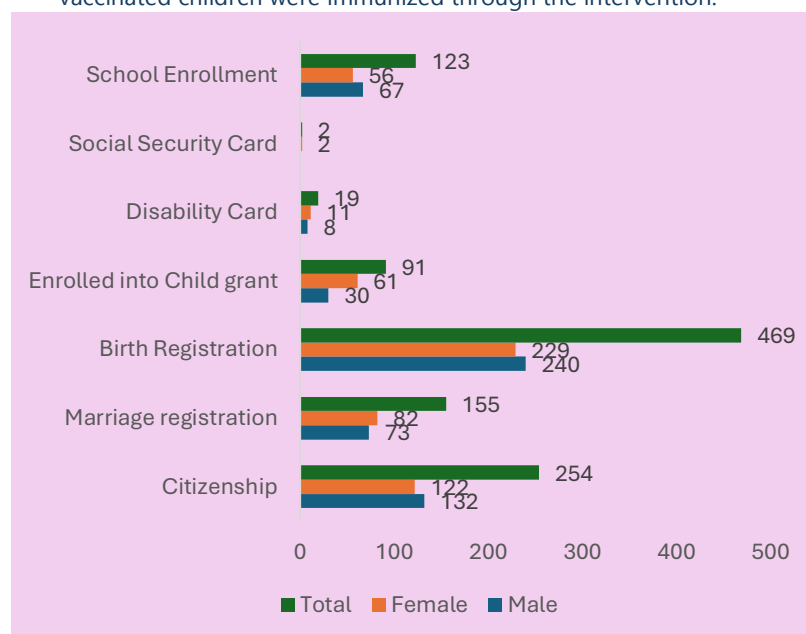
Children from marginalized communities enrolled in school.



Measuring the arms of child by MUAC Tape to analyze the level of nutrition in community.



- Finally, based on the baseline 64 communities profile developed, 1010 vaccination dropped, and 303 Zero Dose vaccinated children under 5 identified. However, at the end 794 (79%) drop out and 152 (50%) Zero vaccinated children were immunized through the intervention.



- Also, four hundred sixty-nine children secured birth registration certificates. Moreover, 123 children who were out of school were successfully enrolled in nearby educational institutions. Two hundred fifty-four individuals obtained citizenship. In addition, assistance was provided to 19 people with disabilities in obtaining ID cards. In addition, 91 children enrolled into child grant and 2 people secured social security card, and a marriage certificate was issued to 155 people through collaboration involving the ward chairperson, ward secretary, municipal registration section, and community members.



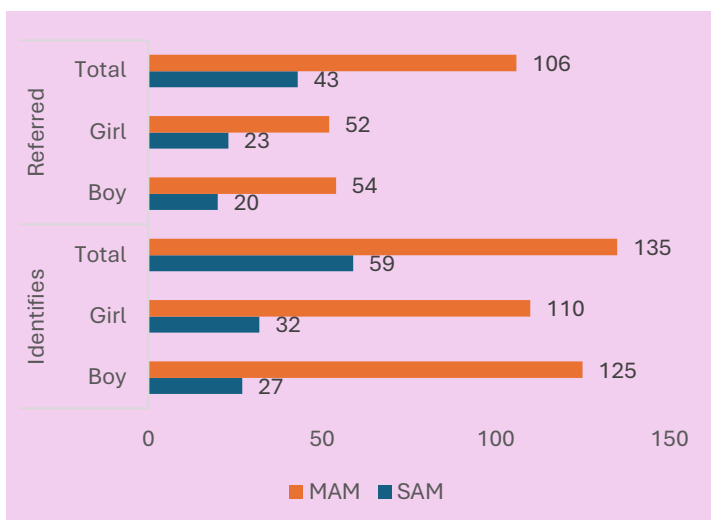
A couple received the marriage registration card in Aurahi Municipality-9, Aglisara, Sada Basti



Sarmila Kumari Sada, 20 years old unmarried girl received a citizenship card after consultation with her parents.



A family member who got the citizenship, marriage registration, and birth registration of their three siblings



- A combined total of 59 (B27, G32) cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 235 (B125, G110) cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were detected and out of them 43 SAM cases were referred to Nutrition Rehabilitation Center to get the RUTF (Ready to use therapeutic food) under the supervision of a healthcare professional and 106 MAM cases referred to the health post to get 'Bal Vita'.



Navigating Cross-Border Marriage: A Journey to Legal Recognition and Citizenship

11 years ago, Mrs. Koshila Devi (32 yrs), a native of India, married Mr. Tejawa Mushahar (48 yrs) from Aurahi Mun-9, Aglisara, Mahottari, Nepal. They have two daughters and one son, but due to the absence of a marriage registration certificate, their children lack birth registration documents, depriving them of governmental services and facilities. Tejawa, being a Nepalese citizen, desired to register their marriage and grant Nepalese citizenship to Koshila. Despite numerous visits to government offices, they faced difficulty understanding the legal procedures and counseling provided. This left them in a state of uncertainty.

Recognizing their plight, a social mobilizer (SM) inquired about their challenges. They explained their unsuccessful attempts and requested assistance. The SM then approached the ward chairman, Mr. Raghunanda Chaudhary, and the ward secretary, Mr. Mukesh K. Singh, detailing their predicament and seeking clarification on the legal process. The ward secretary informed them that Koshila's Indian birth registration certificate was required. Subsequently, the ward secretary guided Koshila and Tejawa through the process, outlining the necessary documents. Koshila obtained her birth registration certificate from her maternal home and, with the assistance of the SM, visited the ward office where they were provided with the marriage registration form. Upon completing the legal requirements, they obtained the marriage certificate. Following this, they applied for Koshila's Nepalese citizenship, which was facilitated by a recommendation letter. The next day, they visited the citizenship office in Ramgopalpur, Aurahi Mun, where Koshila was granted Nepalese citizenship. Koshila, now a Nepalese citizen, is delighted with the outcome. She plans to register their children's births soon, enabling them to access governmental services and facilities.



Hope Rises: The Journey of Riyansh Sada from Neglect to Health

The story of Riyansh Sada reflects the challenges faced by many children in impoverished communities, particularly in terms of access to healthcare and proper nutrition.

Riyansh's condition, marked by developmental delays and severe acute malnutrition, underscores the urgent need for intervention in such communities. The fact that he hadn't received any vaccines further highlights the lack of access to essential healthcare services.

The intervention by SM Prakash Dutta, who emphasized the importance of vaccination and facilitated Riyansh's access to healthcare, is commendable. By bringing Riyansh to the nearest Urban health post and ensuring he received his first dose of vaccination, Prakash played a crucial role in potentially saving Riyansh from future health complications.

It's heartening to see Riyansh's parents embracing the importance of vaccination and committing to completing his vaccination schedule. Additionally, the provision of supplementary materials such as Bal Vita and RUTF (Ready to use food) by the health post demonstrates a holistic approach to addressing Riyansh's nutritional needs.

As Riyansh continues to receive proper care and support, including home-made foods and healthcare supplements, there is hope for his improved health and development. This story underscores the significance of community engagement and access to healthcare in ensuring the well-being of vulnerable children like Riyansh.



Navigating Citizenship: A Case Study on Social and Legal Dynamics in Dharampur Sada Tole

In Dharampur Sada Tole of Kanchanrup Municipality, Ward No. 12, where a Social and Behavior Change (SBC) intervention began in early March 2023, there are approximately 165 people living in 31 households. During the initial inquiry, Rambha Sardar, SBC SM, met with Dhaneshwor Sada, who shared the difficulties in obtaining a citizenship certificate for his 17-year-old daughter, Sita Sada. The issue stemmed from discrepancies in the mother's name in legal documents due to the family's migration from Theliya Tole, Ward No. 11, to their current location. This issue was resolved by issuing a referral letter from the municipality office confirming the identity of Sita Sada, enabling her to obtain her citizenship certificate.

However, the news of Sita Sada receiving her citizenship certificate before marriage caused a scandal in the community. During subsequent visits, Rambha faced questions and discussions regarding the issuance of citizenship certificates to unmarried daughters. Some community members argued against issuing citizenship certificates before marriage, citing concerns about legal safety for daughters and the preference for the husband's name on the certificate. Rambha countered these arguments by highlighting the benefits of obtaining a citizenship certificate before marriage, such as employment opportunities, financial independence, and the ability to participate in civic duties like voting.

By January 2024, during Rambha's follow-up visit, it was noted that individuals who previously opposed issuing citizenship certificates before marriage, including Bhunai Sada, had obtained citizenship certificates for their daughters. This shift in attitude was attributed to witnessing the positive outcomes of early citizenship issuance. Consequently, more parents in the community expressed willingness to obtain citizenship certificates for their daughters before marriage.

Furthermore, it was observed that many daughters-in-law in Dharampur Sada Tole were married before turning 18 and had one or more children but lacked citizenship certificates. Some faced resistance from their husbands when requesting citizenship certificates, often citing trust issues within the marriage.



Equity in Education: Overcoming Discrimination in Dome Tole

In Dome Tole of Pachayanpur, Kalaiya Sub-metropolitan City-19, 25 households accommodate an approximate population of 146, including 40 males, 35 females, 40 boys, and 31 girls under 18 years old. Shree Nepal Rastriya Adharbhut School, located nearby, offers education up to class 5, catering to children from Patel, Sah, Gupta, Sharma, Dome, and Muslim communities. Dome Tole was chosen for the implementation of the Social and Behavior Change (SBC) project, backed by UNICEF and executed by LIFE Nepal.

During data collection for the community profile, Social Mobilizer (SM) Mrs. Min Kumari Lama discovered that children from Dome Tole were discontinuing their education due to feeling discriminated against at school. The guardian stated, "Our children enrolled in school to study but stopped attending due to unequal treatment, particularly during breakfast where Dome children were served on paper plates while others received steel plates."

This sentiment was echoed by the children themselves. Following this revelation, SM arranged a meeting with the ward chairperson to discuss the issue, but initial skepticism was met. Nevertheless, promises were made to investigate further. Subsequently, the District Coordinator (DC) and SM raised the matter with the headmaster and staff of the school, only to face denial, citing sensitivity in their approach.

However, after continued coordination and advocacy by SM, a positive change was observed. The guardian and children expressed their gratitude, noting that after SM's intervention, equality was restored, with Dome children now receiving their breakfast on steel plates like their peers. Consequently, Dome children resumed attending school, marking a successful outcome of the advocacy efforts.



Strengthening Social Protection System and Child-Friendly Governance in Madhesh Province

Introduction

LIFE Nepal, in collaboration with UNICEF Janakpur field office, is being implementing the program titled "Enhancing Social Protection Systems and Child-Friendly Governance in Madhesh Province." The project is playing a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by reducing poverty, hunger, and inequalities (SDGs 1, 2, and 10). The initiative ensures access to healthcare and education (SDGs 3 and 4), support gender equality (SDG 5), and promote decent work by reducing child labor (SDG 8). It also contributes to peace and justice by protecting children's rights (SDG 16) and foster partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17). The project is aligned with the provincial government's flagship initiative "Beti Padhau Beti Bachau-BPBB" and contributing to the EU/UN joint collaboration project "Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal- EWPB".

Outputs and Activities

O1. CFLG framework is adopted by selected local Governments that promotes child participation:

1. Orientation to PCA partners/CSO key staff on Programme, MEAL, Finance, Social Protection, Gender, PSEA, CFLG, Disability, 2. Training to a local level official/Social mobilizer (CSO) on Child-Friendly Local Government, EWPB, 3. Technical support to LGs for CFLG adoption, 4. Inter-Ministerial advocacy to workshop and prioritize revised CFLG strategy at province level, 5. Consultative meetings, Advocacy and lobby meeting at local government with the relevant stakeholders for supporting the CFLG adopting, 6. Re/formation, capacity enhancement of municipal level child club networks (ensuring 50% girls) and active engagements in planning process, 7. Providing support to organise Bal Bhela in 10 Local governments, 8. Media mobilization, documentation and dissemination, 9. Technical support, and supervision by concerned line ministries (Govt and CSO)

O3. Strengthened social protection programme including girl's empowerment:

1. Orientation to local governments on EWPB and social protection, 2. Support for social protection policy mainstreaming into periodic plans at the province level, 3. Policy dialogue with provincial parliament committees on social policy, Disability, CFLG, women empowerment, 4. Consultative workshop on existing Social Protection Schemes and practices with line provincial Ministries and local governments, 5. Lobby and Advocacy Meetings with concerned Provincial Government Stakeholders including the committee members of Girls' Empowerment, 6. Mobilization of Social Mobilizers to promote Women's empowerment, Social, 7. Protection, Disability, PFM including CFLG and Public Finance for children, 8. Technical Support to the Provincial Ministry of Social Development to draft a Provincial Social Protection Strategic Action Plan, 9. Consultative Workshop to draft the Provincial Social Protection Strategic Action Plan with provincial line ministries, municipal representatives, 10. Technical support, and supervision by concerned line ministries and local government, 11. Awareness raising campaign in LNOB community on BPBB, online registration and child grant, 12. Wider dissemination workshop on Provincial Beti-Padhau Beti Bachau programme design and develop the implementation action plan

Funding Agency

UNICEF

Locations

12 Palikas of 6 Districts in Madhesh Province, Nepal

- Saptari - Agnisair Krishnasavaran RM
- Siraha – Sakhuwanankarkatti RM, Nawarajpur RM and Siraha Mun
- Dhanusha – Janakpur Sub-Metro City and Nagarain Mun
- Rautahat – Baudhimai RM and Yemunamai RM
- Bara – Adarshkotwal RM
- Parsa – Bindabasini RM, Birgunj Metro City and Pakahamainpur RM

O5. People with disability have improved access to social protection allowance:

1. Advocacy workshop with Province ministries and stakeholders on disability, 2. Local government level orientation to local level representatives and officials on local government disability screening app, 3. Orientation to disability committee and key stakeholders of local government on disability rights and provisions, 4. Community awareness/interaction (PSA) on disability screening APP and various services available for persons with disability

O7. Strengthened social protection system that is inclusive and shock responsive:

1. Consultation workshop on shock-responsive social protection at local governments, 2. Technical support to develop shock-responsive social protection system action plan at province and 2 local government and 2

O2. Strengthened public finance for children and citizen's engagement to mainstream women and children's agenda in planning and budgeting:

1. Palika level training on -Public Finance for Children (P4FC)/PFM to key representatives of local government, 2. Technical support to Palikas to draft and produce the 'Citizen Engagement Policy and Citizen's Budget, 3. Orientation to citizens' groups, and child clubs' members on Citizen Engagement Policy and LGs budget, 4. Consultation and review workshop to finalize and endorse the 'Citizen Engagement Policy with the key Palika-level stakeholders, 5. Workshop to finalize and endorse the 'Citizen Budget with the key Palika-level stakeholders, 6. Advocacy workshop with local governments to mainstream women and children' agenda on Local-level planning and public finance for children, 7. Province-level consultation meeting with stakeholders for the formulation of province annual planning- each year, 8. Technical support for public finance for children, annual planning, 9. Joint program review with government and CSOs

O4. Children and people from marginalised groups have improved access to basic services through skill-based trainings:

1. Support for quantitative and Qualitative Assessments/ research of access to services along with areas that need to be focused to capacitate LNOB, 2. Support and facilitate from LNOB group children for them to meet their social protection need including education, 3. Facilitation with ILO for training participants from identified marginalized groups for the training, 4. Social mobilizer mobilization to identified LNOB community, 5. Conduct community action process

O6. The local governments have strengthened grievance handling mechanism:

1. Strengthening/establishing citizens' Grievance Handling mechanism in 10 LG, 2. Community awareness Campaign on Grievance Handling mechanism (flyer and tea/snacks), PSA through radio and FM

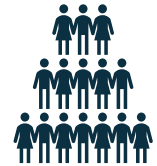
Major Achievements

- Total number of 5 (4-M, 1-F) core staff (Program Manager, Social Protection Officer, MEAL Officer, and Admin & Finance Officer, including the chairperson attended two days orientation program. They enhanced knowledge Social Protection, Gender, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), and Disability. Oriented helped in effective implementation of programs.
- Total of 30 participants (17 male and 13 female) from all 12 LGs attended a comprehensive 3-day provincial level training on Child-Friendly Local Government and Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal under the esteemed chairmanship of the Dev Kumari Khatri head of the department of Ministry of Sports and Social Welfare (MoSSW). They trained on child-friendly Local Government (CFLG) localization and adoption, women and disability for child and women centered planning and budgeting, the concept of social protection and its provision in Nepal and local-level planning and budgeting for incorporating children and women issues. It helped in establishing a collaboration with the National CFLG Forum.
- In total of 339 (Male-253 and Female-86) participants from 12 local governments attended one-day orientation program on Empowered Women Prosperous Nepal (EWPEN) and Social Protection. They equipped with the knowledge and skills to implement gender-responsive policies and social protection mechanisms effectively.
- To strengthen community engagement on critical issues six social mobilizers (4 Male and 2 Female) hired responsible for all 12 and mobilized focusing on promoting women's empowerment, social protection for vulnerable groups, disability inclusion, responsible Public Financial Management (PFM) practices, the adoption of Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) principles and ensuring adequate public finance for children's needs. They are actively engaged in advocating for child grants and facilitating birth registration to ensure that children in need receive the necessary support.

People Benefitted

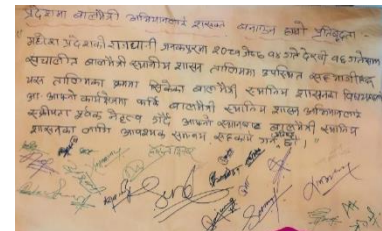
LG Representative

369



Champions

11



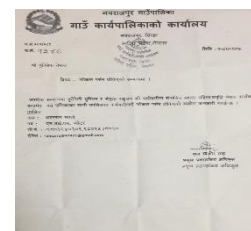
Commitment from local government representative on child-friendly



IEC materials developed



Invitation letter from MOSSW to local government



Letter from local government appointing EWPEN program focal person





Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage

Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage" Programme in coordination with local and provincial government of Madhesh Province which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequality.

Funding Agency

UNICEF

Locations

100 schools of 13 Palikas in 3 districts i.e., Dhanusha, Mahottari, and Saptari of Madhesh Province, Nepal

Objective

Output1: Improved knowledge, skills, attitudes and capacities of adolescent girls and boys for making informed choices and decision about their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy through the implementation of Rupantaran social and financial skills package

Output 2: Improved awareness and skills among mothers and fathers, extended families, community members and teachers on negative consequences of child marriage, importance of education, psychosocial wellbeing and about alternatives to child marriage.

Aim: To empower and support adolescent to reach their full potentials

Major Achievements

- The RUPANTARAN gallery was prepared, and RUPANTARAN sessions were facilitated by 400 peer leaders (192 boys and 208 girls). Through these sessions, 10,054 children (4,624 boys and 5,430 girls) were directly reached, while approximately an additional 35,000 children and parents were indirectly reached as the children further informed their parents and friends (child-to-child and child-to-parent knowledge transfer) about the lessons learned from the RUPANTARAN sessions.
- Out of 100 schools, 44 schools that did not have a Complaint Hearing Committee (CHC) formed a committee, and 56 schools re-activated previously formed CHCs. Additionally, 100 suggestion/complaint boxes have been placed at appropriate locations in each respective school. CHCs have started collecting and addressing complaints.
- Schools have been providing a communication charge of 1000 per month to the focal teacher for complaint hearing from their own resources (e.g., Basahiya School, Dhanusha). 180 oriented focal teachers (116 male and 64 female) served as champions, guiding peer leaders in conducting the RUPANTARAN sessions and supporting the establishment of suggestion boxes at schools.
- After the parent's sessions about 15,000 parents and community members now feel confident in their ability to provide an enabling and protective environment for children and adolescents.
- After the palika-level interaction meetings religious leaders signed a seven-point declaration for addressing and responding to child marriage. Religious leaders disregarded four cases of child marriage.

"We raise our voice to stop child marriage. I have refused to participate in a child marriage function. In Matihani, we have also stopped a child marriage," shared one of the Muslim religious leaders during a province-level review meeting.

- The Mayor of Manara Sishwa Municipality promised to conduct different activities through the "BAL-BALIKA SANGA MAYOR KARYAKRAM" to reduce child marriage, which was disseminated via YouTube.

सेवाको विवरण	संस्था	स्थान	सम्पर्क व्यक्ति	सम्पर्क नं.	सेवाको अवधि	सेवा पाइने क्षेत्र
सम्पूर्ण तथा सम्पूर्ण सहयोग	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	रमणी प्रसाद पराजुली	९८२०२५२५०	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
अल्पकालीन संरक्षण केन्द्र/स्थान	बास संरक्षण केन्द्र	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	सीता अधिकारी	९८४०६३४०८८	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
	दिली मध	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	नामदेव	९८४०२२९९७	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
बास कल्याण गृह						
प्रशिक्षण/सामाजिक परामर्श सेवा	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	पुष्प कर्ण	९८०३६९४६८	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
	एकद्वार सफ्ट व्यवस्थापन केन्द्र	बर्दिया जम्नाता	सुखिका अधिकारी			
सहायक सेवा	बर्दिया जम्नाता (औषध)	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	कुण्ड महर्जन	९८०३६०३४२	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
सुरक्षा सेवा	नगर प्रहरी	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	सिंह बापा	९८४०३४४२८	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
कायुदी सहपदा	न्यायिक समिति	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	सरस्वती महली	९८२३४३८८८१	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
विधिको पार्जन तथा व्यवसायिक तालिम	कुपि एकाइ	बर्दिया नगरपालिका	विष्णुदेव साह		निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू

तारार देवी
नगर उपप्रमुख

Referral path way People Benefitted

Children

10054



Parents

35000



Peer Leaders

400



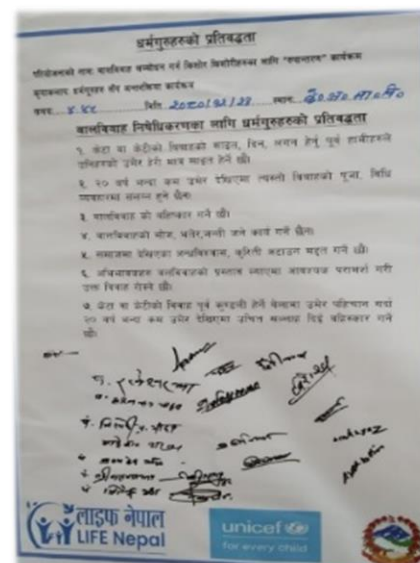
Teachers

478



Religious Leaders

288



Religious leaders signed seven points declarations for addressing and responding child marriage

Milestone Accomplished

Conduct peer leader training to instruct peer leaders: 400 peer leaders (192 boys and 208 girls) trained and enhanced their skills to conduct RUPANTARAN sessions among their peers (T: 400, A: 400, M: 192, F: 208).

Orient to teachers: 180 focal teachers (Male-116 and Female-64) from 100 schools oriented and serving as champions to support and guide the efforts of the peer leaders (T: 200, A: 180, M: 116, F: 64)

Suggestion/complain boxes support to schools: 100 schools established suggestion box and complaint hearing mechanism (T:100, A: 100).

Deliver RUPANTARAN package to peers by peer leaders: 10054 (Boys-4624, Girls-5430) adolescents from schools reached through trained peer educators on RUPANTARAN social and financial skills (T: 10000, A: 10054, M: 4624, F: 5430 among them PWD: 5).

Orientation to complain hearing mechanism committee: 298 teachers (Male-193 and Female-105) of 100 targeted schools orientated about complain hearing mechanism (T: 300, A: 298, M: 193, F: 105).

Provincial level review meeting: Two events of the province level coordination meeting were jointly organized by Life Nepal and Social Organization District Coordination Committee (SODCC) (T: 2, A: 2).

Palika level interaction meeting with religious leaders: 288 religious' leaders-oriented child marriage and the issues they have been facing in addressing child marriage (T: 300, A: 288).

Day's celebration: In coordination with Ministry of Sports & Social Welfare of Madhesh province, LIFE Nepal celebrated day against child marriage, 16 days campaign against violence, and international women's day (T:2, A: 3).

Orientation to parents and community members: 5150 parents (Male-2500, Female-2650) of adolescents residing in and around school catchment area oriented about child marriage, its causes and effects (T: 5000, A: 5150, M: 2500, F: 2650).

Establish links and a referral pathway: Links and a referral pathway established at 12 Palikas for accessing public and private services such as education, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and livelihood support in close cooperation with local governments. (T: 12, A: 12).

Good Practices and Learning

● **Strengthened grievance hearing mechanism at schools:**

- A total of 168 cases recorded (8 GBV and 160 others); 167 cases were responded to by the Complaint Hearing Mechanism Committee, and one case was referred.
- Three child marriage cases were stopped.
- One teacher was disciplined for inappropriate touching.



● **Ownership of province and local government improved for strengthening the child protection system:**

- Chhinmasta Municipality allocated a budget for RUPANTARAN sessions.
- Laxminiya and Mithila in Dhanusha, and Manara Siswa in Mahottari appointed child welfare officers.
- Mithila Municipality established complaint boxes in all community schools and appointed a focal teacher.
- The provincial government circulated a letter to local governments for functional coordination.
- Local governments prioritized the program by attending events and monitoring program activities.

Success stories

Shikshya's Stand: Resisting Child Marriage and Advocating Education

Fifteen years old Shikshya (name changed) has said "No to her early marriage." She has continued her studies and is committed to stop child marriage in her community. Born to a family of five, Shiksha lives with her parents in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district in Madhesh province of Nepal. Coming from a financially poor background, it has been challenging for Shikshya's parents to educate their children. Parents of two daughters, they find it difficult to cover household expenses. Understanding the need of giving dowry in daughter's marriage and fear of daughters eloping, they see daughters as a burden to their family. As a result, Shikshya's elder sister got married at an early age and has been struggling to survive for a living.

In a society where child marriage is prevailing, Rupantaran program has been implemented in Sakal Bhawan Kanya Secondary School for 6 months. Four peer leaders from this school have been trained to advocate for stopping child marriage in their school/community. Shikshya heard about ongoing Rupantaran program from her friend (a peer leader) at her school. Shikshya is a student of grade 9 in same School and is a member of child club as well. She shared about her ongoing marriage talks at home. Her parents had been talking about her marriage. During that time, one of her friends (a peer leader) told her about ongoing Rupantaran program at her school. She informed about gender-based violence and consequences of child marriage. She had seen her elder sister suffering after marrying at an early age. She realized how risky it was to marry at an early age.

Finally, Shikshya strongly opposed her marriage in front of her parents. She is dedicated towards her higher studies and convinced her family not to marry her below 20 years of age. Though her parents did not agree with her decision in the beginning, however, they allowed daughter to continue her studies later on after frequent consultations and counselling. Shikshya believes in herself and wants to be financially independent before marriage. Currently, she is in touch with her elder sister and keeps sharing about her learning to her elder sister.

Anupam's Transformation: From Shyness to Advocacy Against Child Marriage

Anupam Srivastav, 14-years old, is a Rupantaran Champion from Dhanusha district. He studies in grade 10 in Yagyabalkya Sanskrit Secondary Gyankup in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city. He has been selected as one of the peer leaders from his school who participated in peer leader training conducted by LIFE Nepal with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF under "Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage" program in the month of January 2024.

Born to a family of five, Anupam lives with his family in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district. He describes himself as a shy and introvert person from his early age. He could not express himself to others. He was afraid of talking with girls. He was shy to talk to her sister. He could not share his views in front of many people. Anupam finds peer leader training very effective in bringing positive changes within himself. Learning the contents of Rupantaran package helped him to understand himself and people/society around him.

"Section 2 of Rupantaran package introduced us to "Mero Sansar" chapter really helped him understand himself. There were many sections in Rupantaran package that introduced them to adolescence, sexuality and social inclusion, gender-based violence, etc. He understood about changes that comes in adolescence period, both in girls and boys. He bought sanitary pad for his sister after he came to know about her need. Now, he can express himself and speak in front of many people.

Anupam expressed interest to support during parent meeting conducted nearby school area. He actively participated & expressed his views during parents meeting. He wants to pursue his career as a software engineer in future and serve his society and people by participating in various awareness raising activities on ending child marriage.

Recommendation

- The RUPANTARAN sessions conducted by peer leaders should be monitored by resource teachers, schools and municipalities.
- The municipality should plan for the effectiveness and sustainability of the RUPANTARAN program.
- The RUPANTARAN package should be digitised (RUPANTARAN mobile based apps should be developed) to make it more effective and reach more adolescents and parents.

Programme glimpse



RUPANTARAN session conducted by Peer Leader



Complain box support



Provincial coordination meeting



School level coordination meeting



Pre-test RUPANTARAN session



Interaction with peer leader



Peer leaders training



Peer leaders activity monitoring by LG

Programme in a media



Good Practice and Learning

- Enhanced multi donor management capacity of LIFE Nepal through overall leading and managing girls' summit at provincial level.
- LIFE Nepal lobbied, advocacy, and mobilized resources from different funding agencies to address community issues.
- Established partnership and mobilized Organization of People with Disability
- Shifted a role of organization through providing a technical assistance to PHLMC, education and social welfare ministry.

Institutional Development

- Policy Revisions: Financial, Human Resource, GESI, and Child Protection Policies are revised in line with disability inclusion
- Staff capacity building training: orientation to newly recruited staffs as a part of induction.
- Project geographic expansion: with the support from Restless Development
- Annual Report: Publication and Dissemination through social media like website
- Website Update: Regular update of website
- Engagement with organization social media platforms: Regular update of the activities of organization at social media platforms like Facebook, linked in, and twitter

Advocacy

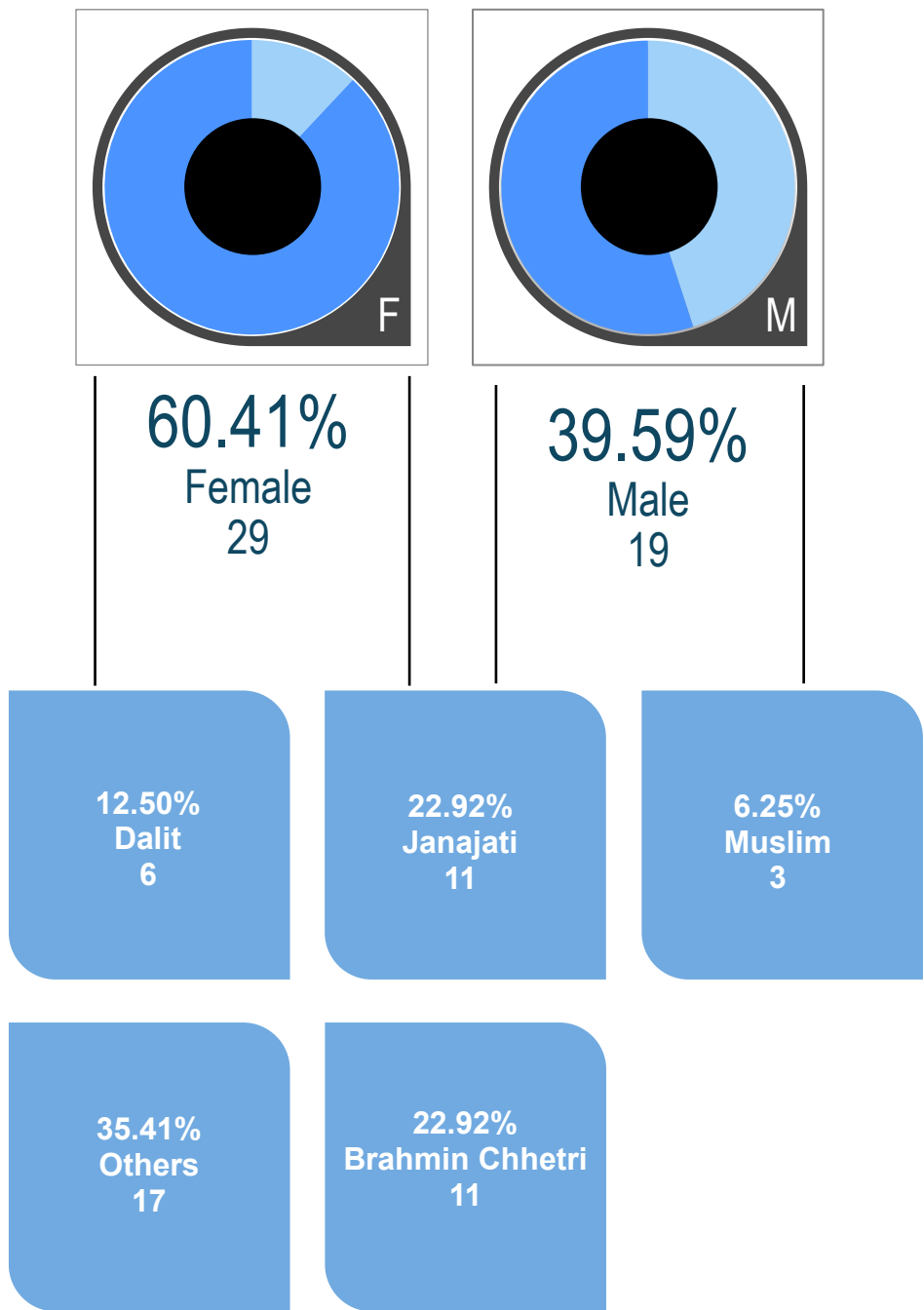
1. LIFE Nepal, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Social Welfare and other development partners, jointly organized the Madhesh Adolescent Dialogue Summit in Janakpur on April 29, 2024 as a part of celebrating Day Against Child Marriage in Madhesh Province that was decided by a girl summit held in 2023. The day was celebrated with the slogan 'Marriage only after the age of 20'. By the summit, a key awareness message i.e., "Girls and boys are equal, marriage only after the age of 20" was disseminated through a mobile based ringtone at NCELL and NEPAL TELECOM against child marriage through which

Way Forward

1. Expansion geographic coverage: Other provinces along with Madhesh Province
2. Expansion of LIFE Nepal's Branch in other districts: (Mahottari, Bardibas, Imadol, Lalitpur)
3. Thematic area coverage: SBC, Social Protection, Child Protection, PWD, emergency/DRM, Climate Change, Girls/Women/Youth Empowerment, Health, Nutrition, Education, Livelihood
4. Policy formulation/revision and implementation: contextual policies are formed, revised, and implemented

Human Resource Mobilization

LIFE Nepal is dedicated to promoting gender equality, disability, and social inclusion by actively involving individuals from Dalit, religious minority, people with disability, religious minorities, and Janajati communities in the organization's decision-making roles. As a result, LIFE Nepal has taken steps to ensure the representation of women and marginalized communities, including Dalits, Muslims, and Janajati in leadership roles. As a result, LIFE Nepal mobilized total 48 staffs and volunteers this year. Out of them, women constitute a significant 60.41% (n=29), while a substantial 77.08% of employees come from marginalized communities.



Supporting Hands



LIFE Nepal

For Child Rights Protection

“Information is the means of empowering people.”

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