

Aasaman Nepal



✓ Education

✗ Child Labor

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Chairperson and the Executive Director

The pandemic has had a negative impact on different aspects of people's lives throughout the country. Community, in general, have lost their loved ones and source of income. School-going children were adversely affected by school closure, financially downtrodden families struggled to maintain their two times meal posing threat to their overall health, and cases of violence surfacing more than ever putting women, girls, children, and people with disabilities at further risk. The future will surely be different and we might have to deal with the unexpected, however, our dedication, professionalism, and commitment will surely guarantee to keep moving on a path guided by the value that we exist to contribute and serve the people in need.

It was indeed a challenging time for all of us, and, in times like this, we are reminded of how interconnected we all are. So, ASN in close coordination with Local, Provincial, and Federal government authorities, and with the support of its development partners (*The Royal Norwegian Embassy, European Union, Welthungerhilfe, Kindernothilfe, Street Child of Nepal, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, Voluntary service Overseas/DFID, People in Need/UK Aid, World Education, and Population Services International*) has organized, coordinated, and implemented humanitarian assistance, and provided relief support to meet the urgent needs of COVID-19 affected population throughout its working area.

The key intervention modalities followed were Food items, Non-food Items (WASH, Health, Hygiene Kit), and cash-based emergency response, relief, and recovery. The relief support was targeted to cater to the needs of the adolescent girls and female population coming from marginalized communities, Pregnant and Lactating Women, children of 6-23 months, school-going children, the aged population, and individuals who have lost their source of income.

It is indeed difficult to encapsulate such an unprecedented time we had in 2020 in few words. However, by going through this report, you will find more about the initiatives, and events conducted by ASN at the local level for the marginalized throughout the last year.

We are pleased to say that even during the hardest time, the ASN team not only overcame many obstacles but made remarkable strides towards ensuring that relief distribution remains accessible to all concerned. Later when the lockdown was lifted by the Government our field-level staff through their continuous effort were able to implement the pre-set project activities and meet the project objectives.

We feel excited to lead such an incredible team and are hopeful that we will continue to expand our impact by reaching out to the people in need. We would also like to thank our stakeholders and partners for believing in ASN, its vision, and its mission. Our work/contribution would not have been possible without your incredible support.

Thank you all!



Harischandra Prasad Yadav
Chairperson
ASN



Nawal Kishor Yadav
Executive Director
ASN

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Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AI	Appreciative Inquiry
ALP	Accelerated Learning Program
ANC	Ante Natal Care
ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
ASN	ASN
AHW	Auxiliary Health Worker
BS	Big Sister
BTB	Breaking the Bond
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
CASA	Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness Program
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDC	Community Dialogue Centre
CDCAN	Central Dairy Co-Operative Association Ltd. Nepal
CE	Community Educator
CFC	Conflict Free Classroom
CEHRD	Centre for Education and Human Resource Development
CF	Community Facilitator
CLA	Citizen's Led Assessment
CLC	Community Learning Centre
CM	Community Mobiliser
CMC	Community Management Committee
CMIS	COVID-19 Management Information System (CMIS)
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CP	Child Protection
CRM	Complain Response Mechanism
CSC	Community Score Card
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSS	Comprehensive School Safety
CSSMPCR	Comprehensive School safety Minimum Package Climate Resilience
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAO	District Administrative Office
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DDG	Deputy Director-General
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTL	Distance Teaching Learning
ECD	Early Childhood Development

ED	Executive Director
EDD	Education Development Directorate
EQUIP	Early Grade Quality Improvement Program
EU	European Union
FM	Frequency Modulation
FP	Family Planning
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FLC	Functional Literacy Class
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GMP	Goods Manufacturing Practices
GON	GoN
HH	Household
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IEC	Information Education and Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IUCD	Intra-Uterine Contraceptive Device
JWAS	Janaki Women Awareness Society
KG	Kilogram
KNH	Kindernothilfe
LANN	Linking Agriculture and Natural resource Management towards Nutrition Security
LARC	Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
LG	Local Government
LICED	Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development
LSAR	Light Search & Rescue
LWR	Lutheran World Relief
MA	Medical Abortion
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Health Management
MNM	Marginalized No More
MoEST	Ministry of Education Science and Technology
MOOS	Married Out of School
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NEP	Nutrition Education Program
NERP	Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Program
NPR	Nepali Rupees
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSD	Nik Siksha Dia
NSV	Nutrition Smart Village
OB-GYN	Obstetrics and Gynecology
OTC	Outreach Therapeutic Centre

OOS	Out of School
PAN	Permanent Account Number
PD	Positive Deviance
PFA	Psychosocial First Aid
PIN	People in Need Organization
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
POCAP	Participatory Organizational Capacity Assessment Process
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PTA	Parents Teacher Association
PwD	People with Disability
QA	Quality Assurance
ReFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
RM	Rural Municipality
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SAS	Safe Abortion Sites
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHG	Self Help Group
SIFS	Sustainable Integrated Farming System
SIP	School Improvement Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
SS	Small Sister
SMT	Senior Management Team
SRGBV	School related Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right
SWC	Social Welfare Council
SZOP	School as Zone of Peace
TLC	Temporary Learning Centre
ToT	Training of Trainer
TV	Television
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USD	United States Dollar
USDOL	United State Department of Labor
VAC	Violence Against Children
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
WHH	Welthungerhilfe
WHO	World Health Organization
WHP	Women's Health Project
YEP	Youth Employment Project

Executive Summary

The pandemic has indeed shaken the core of human existence, and the worsening situation demanded support more than ever from all concerned to combat the effect of the virus. Considering the threat induced by the pandemic and rapidly worsening scenario at the local level, ASN with the support of development partners and local level government engaged in the response, & relief distribution activities to support the initiatives of the GoN and to cater to the need and demand of the situation. Special considerations were given to ensure that all health & safety protocols/guidelines and measures are well followed by everyone involved.

Following the guidelines of the Ministry of Education, and to provide education relief to the students affected by the closure of schools/educational institutions/community learning centers, ASN conducted different learning campaigns/activities to break the 'interruptions to education and keep the learning continued in Province 2. With the support of development partners, and in coordination with Local Government Units, ASN conducted different modes of alternative teaching-learning activities to keep the children engaged in regular learning. All these campaigns & activities were designed in a way to reduce the risk of regression and keep the education continued at the time of crises for vulnerable children facing lack of resources (mobile, radio, TV), and with those with access to limited resources.

We were also able to conduct community-level campaigns in all eight districts of the province to protect children, girls, & women from any forms of violence (gender-based/domestic violence, and violence against children).

Further, considering the need to promote effective and transparent health governance at both provincial and local levels, the organization has imparted formal training to local level governments' authorities and health workers for their capacity development to combat COVID-19. The training supported municipal staff in data management and record-keeping; and on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use and disposal method, quarantine management, code of conduct, and disinfection methods.

Responding to the appeal of the GoN for voluntary support in the government's fund to protect the underprivileged & the economically downtrodden people from the consequences of the pandemic; ASN have voluntarily supported the COVID-19 fund of the Province Government.

Major Highlights of the Year:

600+ volunteers mobilized throughout the project areas to support the overall relief, response, and recovery activities concerning COVID-19

- **300,000 HHs** received COVID-19 relief support.
- **35,000 children, adolescent girls** benefitted from the 'Alternative Teaching Learning Programs' (Distance learning, Phone learning, learning via FM, Television, and community level campaigns like *Each One Teach Five*, and *School at Home with Parents as Teacher*).
- **10,015 school-going children** received the 'Learning by Doing Textbook' developed by the MoEST, & the Education Cluster.
- **1100 school teachers** received different forms of need-based training (*Psychosocial First Aid - PFA training, training on the use of online communication technology, training to prevent violence and ensure that students have access to response mechanism*) as part of emergency preparedness and response mechanism.
- **52 contactless handwashing stations** installed at schools and at the municipal level to ensure proper hygiene and safety of children and all concerned.
- **27000 beneficiaries** (parent/family members/guardian of married, out-of-school adolescent girls, in school boys and girls, religious leaders, and representatives of LG) received gender-transformative workshops to prevent violence against girls and women, replicate good social practices and promote girls' education.
- **13,838 children (6-23 months)** and **PLW** benefitted from the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP)

- **697 MAM children** were supported with a nutritious food supplementation package; 105 SAM children were referred to the Outreach Therapeutic Center who were then treated with Ready-to-use-therapeutic-food (RUTF) sachet.
- **105 FCHVs and health workers** conducted **door-to-door MUAC screening of 6978 under 5 children**. FCHVs were equipped with *MUAC tapes, KN95 Mask, soap, hand sanitizer, and cotton* for screening. The screening result was reported to the Health Management Information System (HMIS) of the GoN; and relevant/need-based support was provided to the SAM, MAM children.
- **413 local government representatives and health workers benefitted from capacity development** activity on **PPE use and disposal method, quarantine management, code of conduct, disinfection methods** and data management and record-keeping using COVID-19 Management Information System (CMIS) of the GoN; conducted to promote health governance in the province

SECTION-I

About the Organisation

ASN (ASN)

Aligned with the national priorities and needs of the marginalized community of province 2, ASN – a leading national NGO has been serving the country for the last two decades. The organization is registered with the District Administrative Office (DAO) – R. No: 693/055/056, affiliated with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) Affiliation No: 10365, Inland Revenue office, Kathmandu – PAN No: 301419332.

The organization has worked for the overall well-being of the underprivileged children, girls, youth –*Dalits (Mushar), Janajatis, Muslims*, women, & community people since its establishment in Dhanusha, Janakpur in 1999. ASN has a strong and inclusive team of dedicated professionals, specialized in social mobilization and community development works. The entire team of ASN is continuously making effort to work at the community level to ensure that every individual regardless of their differences (caste, class, gender, age, socioeconomic status, academic qualification) is enabled to enjoy their basic rights without undergoing any forms of discrimination.

Vision, Mission, Goal of the Organisation



ASN envisages a society where all children are grown up in an enabling environment enjoying all of their rights to achieve their full potential.

ASN facilitates a process in creating an enabling society that respects, protects, promotes, and fulfills the rights of children where all children equally enjoy all of their basic rights.



ASN empowers marginalized communities and key stakeholders towards creating inclusive, responsible, and accountable governance mechanisms to ensure the rights of all children as enshrined in the legal and policy frameworks are respected, protected, promoted, and fulfilled.

Our Role as an Organisation

Facilitator/Mobiliser

ASN does not create structures parallel to existing government structures. The organization works as a facilitator and organizer. It works closely with the local communities.

Capacity Builder

ASN builds the capacity of the communities and service providers particularly VDCs, wards, and line agency staff in understanding various issues concerning child labor, good governance, health, GESI, CSS/DRR, and education for all. The stakeholders are thoroughly oriented on the harms of child labor for children, families, and society at large. Capacity-building processes lead to the sustainability of activities and programs.

Advocator

ASN has been and will continue to be a strong advocate of the protection and fulfillment of child rights. Based on its grassroots experience, it advocates the issues not only at the community and district levels but also at the national level. By advocating at the national level, it wishes to bring about policy changes in regards to teachers' accountability, enrolment of students throughout the year, reduction in the administrative procedures in enrolment, increase in the number of female teachers in schools, and reduction in the hidden costs.

Promoter

ASN works as a promoter of good practices, wherever they may happen. It shares and promotes the activities, strategies, processes, or events that it believes should be replicated in other places. It also learns from the experiences of other institutions and adopts them in their context.

Geographical Coverage in 2020/21

Province	Working Districts
Province 1	Sunsari
Province 2	Siraha, Saptari, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa
Province 3 (Bagmati)	Dhading
Province 4 (Gandaki)	Lamjung
Province 6 (Karnali)	Salyan, Surkhet
Province 7 (Sudur Paschim)	Accham, Bajura

Thematic Areas we worked in:

1. *Education and Child Protection*
2. *Health and Nutrition*
3. *Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Emergency Response, and Humanitarian Action*
4. *Natural resource Management and Livelihood*
5. *Good Governance*
6. *Women Empowerment*

SECTION-II

2020: An Incredible Year in Review

Central Level Learning Sharing Workshop

A central level workshop was conducted by ASN in coordination with the Society of Education Journalists' Group, Nepal in Lalitpur on 31 March 2021. The workshop observed the presence of the Honorable Minister Mr. Krishna Gopal Shrestha (Minister of Education, MoEST); representatives from MoEST, CEHRD, EDD, Province 2, various INGOs/NGOs, Local Government representatives, and Head Teachers from the school of Province 2.



Honorable Minister Mr. Krishna Gopal Shrestha (MoEST) addressing the workshop, Lalitpur

The Honorable Minister stated that *the pandemic has exacerbated the situation of the marginalized, and socially excluded groups in Province 2 putting them at further risk. So, the province is in dire need of support from concerned stakeholders.* So, the Honorable Minister made a sincere request to all concerned stakeholders to bring targeted educational interventions focusing on Province 2 and protect children from becoming the victim of violence.

The workshop came to an end with the closing speech by the representatives of CEHRD and MoEST. Mr. Dipak Sharma (Spokesperson, MoEST) appreciated the efforts of the organization and the NSD project for conducting the alternative education programs in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and engaging the children in regular teaching-learning activities during the pandemic.

Inauguration of the Child Helpline 1098

Based on Child Helpline Nepal 1098 operation guideline 2019, ASN had approval from the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) and National Child Rights Council to establish and operate Child Helpline 1098 in Dhanusha district to support children deprived of child rights particularly, at-risk children and those who are victims of any forms of violence. Child Helpline Nepal 1098 is the formal child protection mechanism to raise and report child protection concern free of charge. Children, parents, guardians, and any of the community people witnessing the children's protection risks shall have access to report to child helpline through their mobile or nearby landline phone without any charge. The helpline is for rescue, relief, shelter, protection, and counseling service for at-risk children.

The formal inauguration of the Child Helpline 1098 was done in Janakpurdham, Dhanusha by the Honorable Minister Mrs. Julie Kumari Mahato (MoWCSC). During the inauguration, the Honorable Minister stated that

deprived of education and information, women including their children are mostly subjected to child labor, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, dowry practice, & unsafe migration. The pandemic has further worsened the situation of girls, women, and children in the province. So, to achieve the goals and objectives of the current Fifteenth Plan, and the SDG 2030, it is high time now to focus on eliminating the evils, malpractices, and discrimination in the society and maintaining equality by providing equal access and opportunities to all regardless of any differences.

19th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

2020 was an extraordinary year completely dominated by a previously unknown and highly contagious virus; So, ASN could not organize the AGM in presence of all the stakeholders. However, the 19th annual general meeting was conducted on October 9, 2020, in the physical presence of the limited individual (Executive Board, Chairperson, Head of Program, and Head office-based staff). The Executive Director and the Governance and Policy Advisor attended the AGM virtually.

ASN's policy is that the term of the Executive Board shall be of four years. However, if needed the term can be changed within every two years. The current Executive Board was appointed in 2018 and has successfully served the organization for the past two years. So, in line with the organizational policy, and agreement with all present, the executive committee members are continued for two years (2020 and 2021).

The Chairperson Mr. Harischandra Yadav formally appreciated the entire ASN family for their relentless service in empowering the marginalized and socially excluded communities in the area of education, child protection, health and nutrition, livelihood, DRR, emergency response, and humanitarian action.

The Executive Director (ED) Mr. Nawal Kishor Yadav thanked all stakeholders, staff for their support and trust in the working modality of ASN over the last 19 years. He then acknowledged the contribution of all field level staff for their dedication to supporting people in need during the pandemic. The ED then stated that *the pandemic has disrupted plans of people, institutions, government, and the entire globe. However, as an organization committed to serving the people in need, we must rethink, plan, design, and implement context suited programs to support prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery; so that children (specifically girl and disabled) and women bearing the brunt of economic fallout from COVID-19 can be benefitted.*



Honorable Minister Mrs. Julie Mahato (MoWCSC) during the inauguration, Janakpurdham, Dhanusha



After the inauguration of the 'Child Helpline 1098'



19th AGM, Janakpurdham, Dhanusha



Mr. Dineshwar Shah, Head of Programs, addressing the participants during the AGM

The ED further committed to support the initiatives of the GoN & contribute towards the **SDG's 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 11**. He concluded his speech by stating that the pandemic has not only posed a challenge but has also allowed us to change and build back better. So, ASN with the support of government and non-government stakeholders, staff, volunteers, and local communities will continue *working towards building a better and just society in the years to come*.

Connecting ASN family during the challenging time

After the country-wide lockdown announced by the GoN on 24 March 2020, ASN offices were also closed until further notice. The first two months were difficult for all as the pandemic was one of its kind. The staff was overwhelmed with all the information about the severity of the Coronavirus infection coming from various sources. For this, the SMT meeting decided to print and disseminate the key message on 'safety measures' that was being circulated by the Government. So, pamphlets with 'safety measures' were printed in local languages and sent to all district offices for wider dissemination at the local level in communities. Further, 'Health and Safety procedure for COVID -19' was formulated by the organizations 'DRR and Emergency Response Unit' focusing on the overall safety and wellbeing of staff and volunteers. Also, the district-level focal point was appointed to coordinate and collaborate with concerned government and non-government stakeholders to collectively support the vulnerable groups.

For the first two months, the 'DRR and Emergency Response Unit' of the ASN coordinated with concerned stakeholders and kept the team well-informed on all safety measures, protocols as suggested by various government bodies. However, with the continuous lockdown staff were restricted to stay at home for a long time. Understanding that prolonged isolation can reduce morale and productivity; a decision was made by the SMT to conduct the weekly virtual meetings with all district staff via zoom every Sunday and Wednesday. The weekly meeting started on April 12 2020 and continued until December 6, 2020. The meeting helped the staff members share about i) their well-being status among each other's, and seek necessary help and support from all concerned; (ii) interactive discussion on project-wise relief and response activities conducted within individual thematic areas; (iii) the latest developments, concerns, and suggestions of stakeholders (Government, Civil Society, and Development Partners). Most importantly the virtual meetings helped foster an atmosphere that enabled the ASN family to remain connected during the challenging time and fulfill their project objective.

SECTION-III

COVID focused Interventions: Project Wise

Thematic Area: Education and Child Protection

Considering the urgency of the situation, during the lockdown period, ASN has been engaged in conducting different campaigns/activities to break the ‘interruptions to education’ and keep the learning continued in Province 2. Special consideration was given to ensure that all health & safety protocols/guidelines and measures are well followed by everyone involved.

When the Pandemic caused lockdown and schools were closed by the Government, ASN through the support of development partners, and in coordination with Local Government Units conducted different modes of alternative teaching-learning activities to keep the children engaged in regular learning. All these campaigns & activities were designed in a way to reduce the risk of regression and keep the education continued at the time of crises for vulnerable children facing lack of resources (mobile, radio, TV), and with those having limited access to resources.

The alternative teaching-learning methods adopted by the education projects during the pandemic have helped:

- Address learning loss of students and maintain coordination between school stakeholders and Local Government to support fulfill the gap in the education calendar.
- Start the non-formal education centers to help continue and provide education and motivate/support the out-of-school children, drop-outs to rejoin the formal school
- Support the continuity of learning for all primary children with a special focus on engaging children with disabilities and marginalized children
- Help ensure a child-labor-free zone within the four target municipalities by engaging the out-of-school children, and school drop-outs in the learning centers and bridge classes.

Project: Promoting Quality Education for Girls and Marginalized Children of Dhanusha, Terai Nepal
(*Nik Siksha Dia* – NSD)

Development Partner: The Royal Norwegian Embassy

With almost every stakeholder focusing on the distribution of *Safety Kit, WASH Kit, Food Items, Non-Food Items*; the NSD project team felt the immediate and urgent need of providing ‘Education Relief’ to support the students affected by school closure. The project team in coordination and consultation with the concerned municipalities and the development partner (The Royal Norwegian Embassy) implemented the alternative modes of teaching-learning activities at the community level to keep the children engaged in regular learning.

1. Education Radio Program ‘*Pathsala Apna Ghareme*’ was started on 18 April 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, Province 2. Through which local teachers via eight FM in Dhanusha district started teaching students of grade 1-5. Further, Education TV Program ‘*Ghareme Padhab*’, was conducted as part of the alternative teaching-learning



Radio listener group

method.

- *Altogether, 950 Radio Listener Groups and Television Audience Groups were created benefitting 1,318 children.*

The project team also developed a guideline for users to install & use the **'Ramailo Padhai App'** in the Maithili language to support technology-supported learning.

However, students lacking access to Radio/Television/Technology were unable to connect with the distance learning classes. Realizing the fact that not every student has access to radio, television, and mobile phones; the NSD project team in consultation with the concerned Local Governments implemented the community level campaign 'Each One Teach Five'.

On 26 April 2020 consultation meeting with the concerned Local Government, & local Police the project team had permission to conduct **'Each One Teach Five'**. A formal announcement by concerned Municipalities to mobilize teachers & ECD teachers to support the *'Each One Teach Five Campaign'* adopting all safety measures as suggested by the GoN and the WHO. Through this campaign, one individual had to teach/guide five children residing nearby their locality.

A total of 512 individuals (Youth, Big Sister, and Teachers & ECD facilitators, and Field Supervisors) were mobilized. 170 local youths supported the campaign voluntarily. These youths were later formally appreciated by the Municipalities. Consultation & coordination with LG was done to monitor the ongoing classes at the community level.



The campaign was accepted by children, their families, and the community. Parents were happy that their children are engaged in regular teaching-learning activities. The campaign became popular and was later adopted by other municipalities in Dhanusha. *The campaign benefitted 2560 children. However, the COVID-19 case was detected, and the project team decided to stop the EIT5 campaign. The project then came up with another home-based campaign to keep the children engaged in regular learning activities.*



Students participating in the Each One Teach Five campaign

The home-based campaign 'School at Home Parents as Teacher' also known as **'Ghareme School, Abhibhab Banau Shikshak'** kept the children engaged in learning at home under the supervision of their parent/guardian. For the effectiveness of this campaign 10,015 copies of the book **'Abhibhabak Ko Sahyog Ma Balbalikalai Gharmai Garanuna Sakine Kriyakalap'** were printed, distributed, and received by the ECD, and Grade 1 - 3 children. The book supported children to continue learning at home. The book is developed by the MoEST & the Nepal Education Cluster. The books were handover to the representatives of the four municipalities and the school stakeholders (Head Teachers, SMC,



Distribution of the 'Textbook' developed by the GoN

and PTA) between 2-12 June 2020. Meanwhile, the distance learning '**Mobile Teaching**' class was conducted by the project through the mobilization of its community-level staffs (Social Mobilizer, Big Sisters) benefitting 11,612 students (Female-2,771, Dalit-1,299).

Supporting the *School Operating Framework -2077* of the Government in November 2020; the NSD project supported to ensure a safe learning environment at school in preparation for safe school re-opening. For this, WASH-Kits were distributed to schools, and a school disinfection program was conducted.

Also, 100 volunteers (Female-84, Dalit-12) were mobilized in close coordination with the concerned Local Government to start Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) classes in the community and at the school level.

In total 2039 (Female-1131, Dalit 664) out-of-school and drop-out children were benefited from the TLC in Dhanusha. Out of 2,039 children, 617 children (Female-347, Dalit-239) re-joined the school, and 84 students (Female-49, Dalit 39) were enrolled in formal school.



Home based learning in the supervision of big sister



Kit distribution for school cleaning & safety



Case Story: Increase in students school attendance through active involvement of Mothers' Network

As we know, in community schools' retention of the student is less in comparison to private schools. The interesting thing here is that student attendance is not a topic of concern for either the SMC/ stakeholders or the local government.

In Ganeshman Charnath municipality there are 23 community schools, only in 8 community schools, the student retention rate is below 60%. As stated above, stakeholders have not kept the issue in priority. They only focus on physical structural development, financial & administrative sector development. For instance, in Shree Uday Amar Pra Vi. Ratmattay, the issue of student school retention was poor, however, one can now see some changes in the school. As currently, the retention rate is 82%. There are 132 students (for grades 0-5).



Mothers Network, Ganeshman Charnath

According to head counting in the months of Poush & Magh 2077, only 65% of students were seen attending the school. However, now in the month of Chaitra 2077 82% attendance of students is there. The positive change is brought by the 'Paarijat Mothers Network'. The chairperson of the mother's network - Mrs. Sangita Poudel, Vice-Chairperson Mrs. Binita Balampaki, in support of other members of the network started taking interest in school attendance, participating in a school meeting, and monitoring school activities. Finding that many students are absent at school on regular basis, they consulted the respective parent/guardian of the absentees and counseled them about the importance of regular presence at school. As per the Chairperson of the network, sometimes it was very difficult for them to convince parents in sending their child regularly to school. In such cases, they used to seek help from the Head Teacher, Ward Chairperson/Ward members to help them convince the concerned parent. The initiation and leadership of 'Paarijat Mother's Network' have helped bring all concerned stakeholders to take the issue of absentees seriously and maintain regular attendance at school.

The case signifies that when local community members start taking initiative and realize that the project is working for their benefit, positive changes can be brought.

Project: Sisters for Sisters Education (S4S II)

Development Partner: DFID, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal, & British Council

Sisters for Sisters' Education project was implemented within 24 four municipalities of four districts of Nepal namely *Dhading, Parsa, Lamjung, and Surkhet*, targeting marginalized adolescent girls. The project worked with 2000 teachers, 9150 in-school girls 320 big sisters, and 1280 little sisters with the overall objective to (i) improve access to quality education along with the education continuum, (ii) enhance confidence and self-esteem of in-school girls, and (iii) to enable the girl to influence and control their own sexual and reproductive health rights.

Reflecting on the project journey, the primary beneficiaries are now equipped with relevant skills and learning outcomes. They are now more confident and have high self-esteem to act as leaders. The increased skillset and confidence have enabled them to voice their opinion and influence and control their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). The project, therefore, has helped in the transition of beneficiaries/adolescent girls from basic to secondary, and secondary to upper secondary levels of schooling, along with the continuation in schooling for their overall empowerment and sustainable livelihood. After the lockdown, the S4S-II project team finalized an adaptation plan to continue key project activities virtually. As a part of the adaptation plan, the following activities were conducted by the project team during the pandemic:

Psychosocial First-Aid (PFA) Training: The project team after conducting a need analysis of the target group, found that the pandemic has ushered in a lot of stress among the beneficiaries' group that is more likely to go unnoticed. As many beneficiaries were overwhelmed with the socio-economic, and mental challenges posed by the pandemic. So, the project team decided to support teachers and community volunteers to cope with the stress healthily. For, this 5-days PFA training was conducted with teachers and community volunteers. A total of 23 teachers and 83 community volunteers were benefitted from the PFA training. Following up with these trainees, the project team found that the training enabled them to alleviate stress, acquire healthy habits, and adapt to the changing scenario applying the strategies learned during the training.

Mentoring Support to in-school girls: During the crisis, 83 community volunteers provided follow-up support to 2075 in-school girls in their learning continuity, for Menstrual Health Management (MHM), and to help protect them from any forms of violence, abuse, and harassment induced by the pandemic. The Big Sister (Mentor) and Little Sister (Mentee) approaches were used to mentoring the in-school girls. The mentoring was conducted via phone and messenger.

Need-Based Teachers Training: The pandemic has caused organizations to alter the workplace ecosystem and shift towards a remote working paradigm. As a result of which, employees across multiple locations are compelled to use online applications like Zoom, Skype, Microsoft, and others to keep the workplace productivity and collaboration ongoing. Realizing that video calls are now the force majeure of workplace/

meetings; the project team decided to orient the teachers on the use of the online application 'ZOOM'. Following the decision, altogether, 24 events of teachers' training were conducted to scale up teachers' knowledge on using Zoom. Besides, these teachers were also oriented on the 'Alternative Learning Guideline' issues by the GoN. The training has benefitted 950 teachers of 48 schools in Dhading, Parsa, Lamjung, and Surkhet.

Hygiene Kit and Learning Kit distribution: Due to economic disruptions caused by the pandemic, adolescent girls, and women groups from vulnerable and marginalized communities have lost access to hygiene products. Besides, families have prioritized survival over learning, so, majority of female students are devoid of learning materials at home. Realizing this need, the project team has distributed 1960 sets of hygiene kits and learning continuity kits for 1960 in-school girls to help the girls manage their daily hygiene and menstrual health.



Self-Learning Book Distribution: To support the home-based learning of the project beneficiaries; the project team has printed and distributed 7402 copies of the book developed by the MoEST and the Education Cluster to 3573 students of grade seven and 3829 students of grade 8. The book has helped bridge the learning loss during school closure. The book was very useful as the student continued using it even after the school re-open. Also, 500 sets of story and biography books were distributed to 500 students to help the students develop reading habits.



Students using the book distributed by the project

Installation of Contactless Handwashing Stations: Considering the COVID-19 crisis and the significance of proper response mechanism right after the school re-opens; the project has supported the installation of 48 units of contactless handwashing stations in 48 project schools. The installation is done to ensure proper hand hygiene at school.



Hoarding board installation for public awareness

Distance Teaching Learning (DTL) Support via Local FM/TV Stations: To break the interruptions to education caused by school closure, various DTL classes were aired by the local FM in the project districts. *Sajilo Sikai* radio learning program, *Obla air* English learning program, *Meena cartoon TV program*, and *Oodan* radio programs were conducted by the local FM stations. These DTL programs have not only supported the project beneficiaries/students but also other students in the project areas.

Hoarding Board Installation: Considering the risk of child marriage in the communities during the pandemic; 5 units of acrylic digital light hoarding boards were installed within the premises of 5 municipalities. The hoarding board had a message on legal provisions and punishment on child marriage.



Student sharing her overall view during the workshop

Provincial Learning Sharing Workshop: Four units of provincial learning sharing workshop were conducted in four different provinces i.e., Bagmati province, Gandaki Province, Karnali province, and province 2 with the formal representation of provincial and district level education stakeholders including the member of provincial parliaments in all the events. During the workshop, the overall project achievements, best practices adopted by the projects were shared. Education stakeholders attending the workshop committed to endorsing the best practices of the S4S project in the upcoming education policies.



Learning sharing workshop

Case Story: Every Effort Counts...

Sunita Lohar of Shree Nepal Rastra Ma. Vi. in Dokaila, Bahudar Mai Municipality-4 is 15 years old and studying in Grade 10. Born to Dina Nath Lohar, she has been a *little sister* in the ‘Sister for Sister Education’ Project of ASN for the last 6 years.

Just after she passed grade 9 her family members were ready to get her married. None of her elder family members asked for her approval and had fixed the marriage for Baishak of 2077. She tried to convince them to let her complete her schooling up to grade 12 but no attention was paid to her desire by her parents. Then after gathering a whole lot of courage, she shared this thing with her Big Sister Alka Sah. The Big Sister, Alka Sah consulted Raj Kumar, *Community Mobilizer*, about the situation of Sunita Lohar. Raj Kumar and Alka went to Sunita’s home to attempt to convince her parent’s decision but they failed.

Alka and Raj Kumar again pursued to convince Sunita’s Parents to at least allow her to take the SEE exam. But Sunita’s parents were seemed to be adamant about their decision. As a last try, the Big Sister Alka went to Sunita’s parents and warned them about the Governmental policies and the laws if they forcefully get her married under 18 years of age. Sunita’s parents finally agreed to let Sunita complete her schooling up to grade 12 and then marry her to the same groom after reaching precise age.

Later, following up on Sunita’s story, the project team found that Sunita has used her school holidays as an opportunity to learn tailoring nearby her house. During the lockdown too Sunita earned Rs. 50-100 per day; which she uses as her pocket money and sometimes for household expenses. She wishes to pursue an advanced course in tailoring after her 12th class and dreams of having her tailor one day. She wants to be self-dependent and make her family believe that girls are as worthy as boys.

Sunita is at home regularly studying and happy with the decision her parents made in the end. Just because of the initiation and help from *Community Mobilizer* and *Big Sister*, a little girl’s life was saved from child marriage. Each little effort counts and if we continue making such efforts, we can save various lives from a huge disaster.



Ms. Sunita Lohar



Sunita utilizing her tailoring skill

Project: Aarambha – Leave No Girl Behind

Development Partner: People in Need (PIN), UKaid

To remain connected with its beneficiaries the Aarambha project team prepared a contingency plan, & developed COVID-19 centered SOPs and guidelines for alternative activities to be implemented during the pandemic. The entire project team was oriented on ‘Distance Teaching Learning’ (DTL), safeguarding, reporting mechanism, and safety measures to be followed by them. The regular lesson plans that were implemented before COVID were customized/ revised. Also, the project output frameworks were revised.

Telephone tracking was done to obtain the overall wellbeing status of the beneficiaries’ group (Married out-of-school –MOOS girls). 1332 MOOS girls were contacted through telephone tracking. Later, 1635 MOOS girls were followed up to disseminate the awareness message for COVID-19 along with the most relevant details and information (details of service provider and services, important contact numbers). Teaching and learning activities were conducted through the DTL approach via using the phone. 200 MOOS girls were contacted via phone for the DTL as a piloting program. Later, 1249 MOOS girls engaged and benefitted via this form of DTL.

The project also broadcasted radio jingles on various relevant themes: *protection from violence, child marriage, precautions that should be followed by pregnant and lactating women (PLW)*, and sexual and reproductive health through local radio/FM stations. Also, weekly radio programs on harmful practices like *early marriage and more anticipated risks during Covid-19, safe motherhood during COVID-19* were developed and broadcasted through local radio/FM stations once a week every Friday. Information Education, & communication materials related to *COVID19*, its precautions, GBV issues, and referral mechanism were developed and provided to the 83 Community Learning Centers.

The project also supported 8 municipalities of Rautahat and Bara district for the preparation of the *municipal level education contingency plan*. Likewise, safety materials were provided to the 4 municipalities (Suwarna rural municipality & Devtal rural municipality in Bara & –Durga Bhagwati rural municipality, and Yamunamai rural municipality in Rautahat). Likewise, hand sanitizer and disinfectants were made available to the Chandrapur, Gaur, and Kalaiya offices. Through all these interventions, a total of 3619 direct beneficiaries (1135 OOS girls from cohort 1, and 2484 OOS girls from cohort 2)



Safeguarding adaptation of safety protocols during the training session



IEC material: poster on COVID-19



Safeguarding adaptation of safety protocols during the training session

Case Story: Because Girls Education Matters...

This is the story of Seema Gupta, who is a teacher at the Community Learning Centre (CLC) located in the Aadarsa Kotwal rural municipality of Bara district. The CLC is co-operated by ASN under an educational initiative by the Aarambha – Leave No Girl Behind project led by PIN as part of the UK Aid-funded Girls' Education Challenge. The CLC works with the married out-of-school adolescent girls, where they are taught courses on literacy, maths, and life skill.

Seema 23 years old female born and raised in a disadvantaged community of Bara district contracted polio when she was three. Her parents earn a living by selling the vegetables in a local market that they grow by themselves. The financial hardship did not stop her parent from sending her to school. Seema became the first member of her family to complete her secondary education. She aspires to continue studying at college in the future as she has not allowed her disability to keep her away from her studies.

She very much wanted to financially contribute to her family. So, after completing her secondary school, she applied for the position of CLC teacher with the Aarambha – Leave No Girl Behind Project. Seema was selected for the position and currently, she teaches 23 out-of-school adolescent girls of her community (the majority of them are married). She conducts classes in three groups every day, six days a week.

For most of her students, it is their first time in school, and several of them already have children. Seema says that she finds immense joy in seeing the girls interact with one another and open themselves up to learning new things. *“The girls at the CLC also help me by writing on the board, bringing me materials that are too far for me to reach, and being cooperative, so I feel comfortable with them,”* she says. Seema has also expressed her wish to continue supporting the girls in their studies even when classes at CLC are over. Seema also says *“I lost my ability to walk due to polio, but that doesn't define who I am”*. On the contrary, she defines herself by what she's become: an educator. She further says that *“Education opened the door to my dream of working for a reputable organization”*.



Seema teaching at the CLC



Seema taking help from relative to reach the CLC

Project: Safe to Learn (S2L)

Development Partner: Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal

Intending to contribute to end violence and strengthen the government school system with tools, systems, and capacity to make learning safer, ASN implemented the Safe to Learn (S2L) project in 50 schools of five districts of Nepal namely Dhading, Parsa, Lamjung, and Surkhet. Violent discipline, child marriage, child labor, and trafficking are common in many households, the project aimed to reach out to the children, who were taught about violence, provided self-defense training, taught about sexual and reproductive health, and trained on incident reporting.

Supported school governance and management to be responsive for safe to learn environment

The project-oriented 532 SMC/PTAs/ governance groups on child protection, safeguarding, gender-responsive School Improvement Plan (SIP), and school safety plan development. Also, 50 schools were supported in preparing & updating SIP, Complain Response Mechanism (CRM), and school safety plan incorporating safe

to learn. The project supported, 50 schools with grants to create enabling gender & disability-friendly learning environment and helped schools to modify facilities like toilets and ramps to create enabling environment for safe to learn. Thus through 776 stakeholders participated in policy dialogue for safe to learn

Trained teachers and educators on gender-responsive pedagogy, Appreciative Inquiry, positive behavior for implementing learner-centered and safeguarding practices in school

To develop the capacity of teachers & educators on positive discipline and classroom management because of eliminating corporal punishment, the project 215 teachers/ educators received training on gender-responsive pedagogy & child safeguarding practice. Also, teachers were made aware of the scope and possibilities of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach for creating a positive and enabling environment in the school and to enhance positive communication skills of teachers and were aware of GBV and they committed to raise issues of GBV and refer the cases if any.

Enhanced students' knowledge and skills on violence, bullying, and harassment for a safe learning environment

Children especially those coming from marginalized lack access to child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice. In this regard, to facilitate empowerment for children on violence, child safety, self-defense and trained on incident reporting, the project equipped 1026 children with School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV), Child Protection (CP), and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH). Also, 1222 children were oriented on CRM and incident reporting and 1234 children were oriented on GBV, early marriage, bullying and harassment, and reporting mechanism.

Oriented parents on violence, bullying, and harassment for child safety

Violent discipline, child marriage, and child labor are common in many households and many parents continue to strongly support norms that justify violent behaviors. Thus, to empower parents and communities to equip with violence-free parenting and learning, education value and benefits of safe schools and keeping children in school, 1063 parents received orientation on GBV, early marriage, bullying and harassment, and the legal provision, it's reporting, and referral service. Also, the project captivated 470 religious leaders and power holders on GBV, early marriage, bullying, and harassment.

Case Story: Case Story: Together we can help end child marriage

A girl aged 15 years, named Lalasa Kumari Chauhan of Shree Ram Chatritra Secondary School, Pakhamainpur, Parsa studying in class 10 was forced to get married by her parent. The girl threatened her parents that she will die if they forced her to get married. Then, our GBV Champion, Pooja Chauhan counseled the girl and asked her parents to not marry their daughter at such an early age. The GBV champion also briefed the parent on the consequences of early marriage on the health (physical, and mental) of their daughter.

The parent however seemed to be reluctant and so, the GBV champion warned the parent that if they are not able to stop their daughter's early marriage, then she will report to the police. Finally, her parents agreed not to get their daughter married at such a young age. The project's intervention helped save the life of a girl child and she was rescued.

Later, again parents forced the girl to get married. Her marriage date was also fixed. But with the help of our GBV Officer, GBV volunteer, and the Ward Chairperson of Pakhamainpur-3, Mr. Madan Sah Kanu, parents were convinced to not get their daughter married immediately. As the Ward Chairperson warned them on the legal consequences they might bear if they get their underage girl married; the parent of the girl has become conscious. So, due to the project's initiation, the girl's life is saved and the parents are aware of the legal, physical, and mental consequences of getting their daughter married early.



Beneficiary prevented from getting married early

In support of World Education, the project is implemented by ASN in Dhanusha district in Province 2. The project's major focus is to help improve the capacity of the civil society organization (CSO) so that they can: (i) identify and document the accurate, independent, and objective information on the nature and scope of child labor and or forced child labor, and violations of acceptable conditions of work in the brick kiln, zari, and carpet industry; (ii) raise awareness for the protection of workers from child labor and or forced labor abuses and violations of acceptable conditions of work, and (iii) implement initiatives to address child labor and or forced labor and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

Relief support to the family of child labor:

As part of the COVID-focused intervention, the project has provided humanitarian support to the family whose children are involved in brick kilns/factories as child labor and affected by the crisis of COVID-19. For this relief distribution was conducted within both the working municipalities (Mithilabihari Municipality, & Bideha Municipality) in Dhanusha. Following activities were conducted by the project team:

Consultation and approval from concerned local governments were obtained to initiate the relief distribution program. An initial survey was conducted in all Wards of the working Municipalities to find the exact detail/status of children involved in child labor. The data obtained by the project team was later verified and finalized by the Ward and the Municipal Office.

The beneficiaries were provided with a coupon in coordination with the concerned Ward representatives for systematic relief distribution. A total of 127 children (and their families) received relief support in presence of the local government representatives. The relief material consisted of food items (Rice, Dal, Soya Chunks, Salt, and cooking oil). All safety measures concerning COVID-19 were mandatorily followed by the project team, beneficiaries, and others present at the venue.



Banner placed at the distribution venue for relief distribution



Beneficiaries (parent/guardian of the child labor) in the queue to receive/receiving the relief support at the distribution site

Case Story: Relief distribution to the family affected by COVID-19

Kamlesh Das, a 5 years old boy from Mithila Bihari municipality-3, is one of the brightest students of Mithileshwor Secondary School who was studying in grade 9. Despite being one of the intelligent students in his school and having the utmost passion towards study, Kamlesh could not continue his further studies due to his family's poor financial condition. Having nothing in the name of the land or any other assets except the house where they stayed, Kamlesh's parents used to struggle for a daily wage to sustain their livelihood as a result, they were unable to educate their son. Facing financial hardship in his house Kamlesh dropped his studies at began working at the Raja Motorcycle Workshop in Shahid Chowk – 03 of the Mithila Bihari municipality to assist his family financially.

But when the GoN enforced a nationwide lockdown, he was forced to leave his job temporarily, and his family's income status deteriorated day by day, making it difficult to manage the family's groceries and daily necessities. In this condition, Kamlesh and his family members have gone through mental and economical disturbance and were unable to eat twice a day due to a lack of money and groceries. Also, his family took loans for groceries and other daily essential goods to sustain their livelihood. Finding the status of Kamlesh and his family during one of the community visit programs conducted by the project team, the organization prioritized the family of Kamlesh along with other community families who were highly affected by the COVID crisis with the Food item and non-food items to sustain their livelihood. Kamlesh further stated that "In this difficult time, ASN appeared them like a miracle to assist them. They expressed their gratitude to USDOL, World Education, and ASN for their assistance in making their lives beautiful and normal during the pandemic.



Kamlesh

Project: Safe Learning – Creating a Safer Learning Environment in Nepal's School

Development Partner: World Education

“Safe Learning – Creating a Safer Learning Environment in Nepal Schools” was a campaign that focused on preventing violence against children and adolescents in schools, homes, and communities. The campaign contributed towards the goal of institutionalizing the response mechanism for protecting children from violence and mobilizing key stakeholders, including youth, for sustainability. The campaign aimed to prevent children and adolescents from VAC, GBV, any forms of exploitation, abuse, and harassment through the collaboration with the 37 municipal governments within the 8 districts of Province 2. At the policy level, the campaign helped (i) engage provincial stakeholders to address risks and incidents of violence against children; (ii) review and operationalize the Comprehensive School Safety, and the SZOP policies. Likewise, at the school level, the campaign reached out to the educators, youth leaders, students, and school stakeholders of 250 to address any forms of VAC. The campaign at the community level involved and engaged the community to spur behavior change and shift social norms that induce VAC.



Teachers during the 'Conflict Free Classroom' (CFC) training, Mahottari

The significance of a safe learning environment was well presented and publicized by the project team in 250 target schools located within 37 municipalities of 8 districts in Province 2. The SMC, PTA, Child Club, focal teachers, and teachers, in general, have started talking about the significance of a safe learning environment. Schoolchildren have an understanding of key terminologies related to VAC, GBV, and CP. Schoolchildren, school families, communities, and local government are now aware of the impacts of VAC (bullying, harassment, neglect, discrimination, abuse, & exploitation) on children. Further, the LG units and schools have enhanced knowledge on the significance of formulating and implementing relevant policies to prevent children from violence.



Street Drama on GBV for public awareness, Bara



Student receiving prize, Municipality level campaign, Saptari



Student taking part in drawing competition on the topic – VAC, Dhanusha

Case Story: A young girl was prevented from getting married at an early age

As known to all – child marriage/ early marriage is a violation of children’s rights. Despite being prohibited by national and international law, children are married at an early age, robbing their childhood. Understanding the negative effect of early marriage on the life of children; the project team in the Dhanusha district was able to prevent a young girl from getting married at an early age. The incident is about a young girl studying in grade 9 at Shree Mithileshwar Mauwahi Vidhyalaya, Mithila Bihari Municipality, Dhanusha.

The project staff Ms. Mamata Yadav (SM, Dhanusha district) during one of her school visits found that a female student is going to get married soon. The SM decided to intervene and protect the girl from all forms of physical, mental, reproductive, and economic consequences of early marriage. The SM went to the girl’s house, talked to her parents. But the parents seem to be reluctant about what the SM had to say. Then the SM explained to the parents about the legal action and the consequences that they had to face in case they force their daughter to get married at an early age. The mother of the female student was afraid of getting reported to the concerned authorities. So, she requested the SM to not take the issue to the authorities. The SM then finally won over the situation by convincing the parent to drop the idea and preparation for the marriage. Consequently, the marriage was canceled and the young girl had an opportunity to resume her schooling with even high confidence. The young girl has promised to study well and be aware her peers of the impact of early marriage on one’s life.



Meeting with the Parent at their house



Beneficiary (young girl) prevented from early marriage

Project: Early Grade Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP)

Development Partner: Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal

Considering the pandemic, & the significance of the proper response mechanism right after the school re-opens, the EQUIP program aimed to establish (i) a Contactless handwashing station, and (ii) Reading corner for ECD, Grade 1, 2 & 3 in the 33 schools located within the 9 municipalities of the Parsa district. The handwashing station established at the schools has helped ensure that proper hand hygiene is maintained by all concerned at the school level. The reading corner established at the school has helped ensure that the student is motivated to re-start their schooling/learning with added interest.

As part of the emergency preparedness and response mechanism, the program also provided Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) training to teachers of the selected 33 schools so that these trained teachers can later help provide psychological counseling & care to reduce the emotional & social distress of children & and support the student's well-being through positive & optimistic approach to a new normal.

Project: Breaking the Bond (BTB) and Marginalised No More (MNM)

Development Partner: Street Child of Nepal

Breaking the Bonds is the DFID-funded project which is being implemented by Street Child of Nepal, ASN, JWAS, and SAHAS-Nepal. Where through ASN Musahar girls had access to Accelerated Learning Program to rapidly acquire functional literacy and numeracy skills. The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) is a course designed to improve the literacy of out-of-school Musahar girls aged 15-18; working towards the development of Musahar communities' girls aged 15-18 by advocating for their empowerment through education. Musahar girls have access to the ALP to rapidly acquire functional literacy and numeracy skills: This has contributed to obtaining freedom from debt bondage (Debt bondage occur because of their weak financial status) contributing to the achievement of No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reducing Inequality (SDG 10) in Nepal.

Girls are now literate enough to transition into the livelihood program for further employment opportunities. The cases of debt bondage are in decreasing trend due to the awareness among the girls, and their immediate family. Vital registration (birth certificate, citizenship, marriage registration done): This has helped the beneficiaries to access the social services and improved participation in the decision-making process at the family level. Also, as vital registration is done, siblings from the family of the Mushar Girls were re-enrolled and have continued their school education, child marriage has stopped and the girls can access relevant support and available services from various sources (government & non-government). If provided with opportunity girls from weak socio-economic settings can become independent, voice their opinion, and use their skills towards living a dignified life free from any forms of bondage and debt.

Distance Teaching Learning (DTL) activities were conducted by the project during the lockdown period. Phone class and Audio classes were conducted. ALP classes were to be conducted physically. However, due to the unprecedented global crisis, the modality of ALP classes was changed into the Distance Teaching Learning (DTL) approach. An audio class by prerecording of contents and worksheet and via phone was conducted. The suggestion box was kept in every center to collect feedback from stakeholders; however, the feedbacks weren't collected as expected. So, the notice board & suggestion box were kept, and to address the safeguarding issues the weekly counseling desk was also implemented starting from BTB 2nd cohort and a toll-free number was used in some context as well.

Phone Class:

- For phone class, participant's mobile numbers were collected. Before starting the phone class, the CEs were oriented on *DTL safeguarding policy*, and about taking consent mandatorily from their parents. CEs conducted one hour class per day by phone. To monitor the learning progress of the participants - baseline, midline, endline surveys were done; and regular attendance was recorded.

Audio Class:

- As the lockdown came to ease, the audio classes were started in BtB 2nd and 3rd cohorts in all centers. The worksheet was designed for audio class for 10 weeks and audios were recorded by CEs according to the worksheet. For the Audio class, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed by the consortium team and was also oriented to all field staff. Before starting the class, consent was taken from Palika, Ward representatives, and parents.
- The project mandatorily adopted the SOP for the DTL; so, classes were conducted in small groups following COVID-19 guidelines in all the centers. The CEs visited the centers three days a week to exchange the weekly script in pen drive and worksheet and took the weekly assessment.

Case Story: Story of Aarati Sada

Aarati Sada was born in Tilahi Village in Dhanusha district of province 2. Aarati's father Mr. Prithlaal Sada, and mother Mrs. Lalita Devi Sada had a dream to send their children to school and enable them to earn a living by themselves. However, due to their weak financial status, her elder brother studying in grade 8 had to drop out of school and was compelled to work and earn a living for their family. Gradually time passed, and when Aarati was of seven years, her mother helped enrolled her in one of the schools in the village called 'Shree Tapasi Baba Higher Secondary School'. Pooja used to commute to and from school by herself. Pooja was the only female from her village enrolled in that school, and so, she did not have any friends. She found it difficult to go to school all alone every day. Her mother helped her to go to school. Soon, Pooja had few friends at school and she started enjoying her school. Pooja reached grade 5 in a few years. Her friends at school now started dropping out and staying back at home supporting their parents in house chores. Pooja also did the same and became a school dropout. After Pooja was of age 14, she wanted to go to school again, but then she used to think will she be able to resume school after such a long gap; that it would be difficult for her to compete with her few friends who continued schooling; maybe she is over-aged for going to school; what would her teachers say; maybe her journey to school has now ended and she should give up on her dream to continue schooling.



Meanwhile, Pooja came to know about the Marginalized No More (MNM) project giving the opportunity of learning to Mushar girls of age 10-14; and Breaking the Bond (BtB) project giving opportunity Mushar girls aged 15 – 25 enabling them to live a dignified life. Pooja was enrolled in the MNM project and had an opportunity to revise her course. After a year she along with her seven friends of the MNM project were enrolled in grade 8 at a formal school (the same school where she used to study earlier) by the MNM project teacher. Pooja is now happy that the project helped her bridge with her school. She has now promised to continue and complete her schooling and has thanked her teacher (of the MNM project) and the entire project team for such an opportunity.

Thematic Area: Health and Nutrition

Project: Women's Health Project (WHP)

Development Partner: Population Services International (PSI) Nepal

Province 2 being one of the most affected provinces with a high number of COVID cases, promotion of hygiene and sanitation and distribution of relief and safety material was in high priority. To improve the health and quality of life of marginalized and poor women in Nepal concerning reproductive and maternal health especially during the COVID crisis, ASN implemented the Women's Health Project in five districts of Nepal; Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Siraha & Parsa.

Following the high cases of COVID, during the community interaction event, women were not only equipped with the information on family planning and safe abortion service but were also informed about the safety measures on COVID-19.

Following the government restriction of mobility during COVID-19, it was quite difficult to deliver health services in the community. Thus, to deliver quality health services, a PPE set (surgical masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizers, goggles, IR Thermometers) was distributed among all health service providers. Also, for demand generation activities mask, sanitizer, gloves were distributed to projects staff & women from marginalized community and surgical gloves, the gown was distributed to the OK provider coach for Quality Assurance (QA).

Also, mass media activities through radio programs were initiated in all working districts. Information regarding Family Planning, Sexual Reproductive Health, and Medical Abortion were aired through a radio jingle. Also considering the COVID-19 havoc, a radio jingle on prevention and protection measures on COVID-19 was aired and disseminated throughout the targeted districts.



During an interaction meeting with the beneficiary



Meeting with the health workers

सुरक्षित गर्भपतन, भ्रविष्य जतन

नेपालमा सुरक्षित गर्भपतनको सेवा कानूनी रूपमा लिन सकिन्छ ।

महिलाको स्वईच्छाले

- १० हप्ता सम्मको गर्भलाई औषधीद्वारा गर्न सकिन्छ र
- १२ हप्ता सम्मको गर्भलाई औजारको प्रयोगद्वारा

गर्भपतनको सेवा नेपाल सरकारबाट मान्यता प्राप्त सुरक्षित गर्भपतन सेवा केन्द्रबाट मात्र लिनु पर्छ ।

-डा. तुमला शाह (प्रसूती तथा स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञ)

तर परिवार योजना साधनको विकल्प गर्भपतन कदापि नै । त्यसैले अनिच्छित गर्भ रहन नदिन जहिले परिवार योजनाको साधन प्रयोग गरौं ।

Hoarding Board disseminating message on safe abortion services to prevent maternal & neonatal death



Miking (in local language at community level): to deliver message concerning family planning methods

Case Story: Praveena's Story: An example of why women's reproductive health and overall wellness are important?

Praveena, a 30-year-old female of Golbazar Municipality, Siraha. She has 3 children. So, she decided to take birth control pills. Praveena was taking traditional hormonal pills for one year on daily basis. Praveena used to have anxiety thinking of unplanned pregnancy in case she missed the birth control pill. Also, as shared by Praveena, after taking pills, she gained weight and had adverse effects such as nausea, drowsiness, vaginal bleeding for 2 months along with clotting and spots. She gradually started feeling weak. She shared her problems with her husband Mr. Rammohan. Her husband somehow was aware of the women's health program conducted by ASN. So, he suggested his wife have a meeting with the project staff for further consultation. After that Anita met with the project staff-Ms. Anita Pradhan and explained her situation and problems.

The SDO elaborated on the methods of family planning to Praveena. Having a chance to know about the family planning methods in detail, Praveena wished to use a family planning method called IUCD. In few days, Praveena had her IUCD insertion done in an OK clinic. After the insertion, Praveena had a tender breast and had cravings for food. These symptoms however disappeared in few days.

During the pandemic, she including her family was struggling to make the ends meet as her husband was unemployed. Praveena was finally free from anxiety and happy with the family planning method that works for a long time. She thanked the project staff and the organization for conducting such an informative program that save women's lives.

Note: As per the request of the beneficiary, the actual name is kept confidential, and the photo is not displayed.

Project: Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security in the Kamala River Basin in Siraha district Development Partner: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

ASN implemented a project titled 'Building Livelihood Resilience and Nutrition Security in the Kamala River Basin in Siraha district' to improve the resilience and nutrition security of vulnerable communities in the catchment area of the Kamla River in Siraha district. In total 5,000 households (approx. 27,600 persons) in the 3 municipalities of Kalyanpur, Karjanha, and Siraha (45 local administrations) are expected to get direct benefit from the initiation. Working towards food and nutrition security especially targeted to children pregnant and lactating women, the global pandemic of COVID-19 created havoc in the working area, as Siraha district was one of the highly affected districts by COVID-19.

However, in the light of COVID-19, activity was contextualized to support selected participants cope with the impacts of the COVID-19. As an immediate relief, the project initiated the handwashing campaign through a change agent in the community following government rules of maintaining social distance. Mass media was operationalized to disseminate information on prevention, precaution, and management measure for COVID-19 and nutrition education. Further to advocate handwashing campaign, ASN supported establishing contactless hand wash stations to all 35-health facilities in 45 wards and 11 Agriculture Cooperative along with the support



Beneficiary during the screening session



Project demonstration on 'Poshilo Litto'

of 5000 sanitizers and gloves. Also, the project facilitated capacity strengthen activity for 176 health workers for prevention, control, and quarantine management of COVID-19

Considering the ongoing crisis created by COVID-19, ASN supported with nutritional food package to 1774 MAM children along with sapling distribution to 1354 MAM children from Dalit, Muslim and marginalized communities as a part of the *Home-Based Nutrition Promotion Program*.

Besides that, under the project initiation ASN handover rubber boat to Siraha Municipality for Disaster Response and Preparedness. Also, 3 municipalities (Siraha, Kalyanpur, and Karjanha) were supported for the development of the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) and 16 core wards in the establishment of an emergency fund.



Contactless handwashing station

Case Story: Project's initiation helped change the nutritional status of a child

Laxminiya Sada, a 19-month-old female child was living in Karjanaha-5. Her mother Urmila Sada used to work as a farmer in other fields to sustain their livelihood. On the day of Vitamin, A Campaign 6 July 2020, she came with her child for vitamin A supplementation. MUAC Assessment was done by FCHV and the child was found in red while measuring the upper arm. The child was immediately referred to the health post for further nutritional assessment.

The child's MUAC was 110 mm. Similarly, her length was 72.5cm and her weight was 7.2 kg, so, her z-score was found to be <-2 SD (Standard Deviation). Thus, based on her MUAC measurements, the child was found severely malnourished.

The project staff explained to the mother the child is suffering from 'Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)'; and to cure her child, she had to be fed with Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). The mother was also explained about the protocols to be followed while feeding the child. She agreed to follow the instructions accordingly. Health post provided her with 21 packets of RUTF and asked her to bring her child for the next follow-up after a week.

Sada came to Health Post for a *follow-up* of her child on 13 July 2020. While taking her anthropometric measurements, her MUAC was found to be 114 mm and her length was 72.5 cm. Her weight had increased from 7.2 kg to 7.7 kg. She was provided with another 45 packets of RUTF and was asked to visit the health post for the next follow-up. She came for her *second follow-up* on 27 July 2020. During her visit, she had the following anthropometric measurements: MUAC - 120 mm, height - 72.8 cm, weight - 7.8 kg, Z-score - <-1 SD. The child's *third follow-up* was on 20 August 2020. This time the MUAC had increased and reached 124 mm. Similarly, her weight had also increased and reached 7.9 kg. Her length was 72.8 kg and her z-score was <-1 SD. So, she was discharged from OTC on that day.



MUAC Screening

As now the child is discharged, during a counseling session, the child's mother committed that she will pay attention to the food that she provides to her child. She also said that she will maintain hygiene, provide a variety of food as per the dietary requirement of the child. During discharge health worker also counseled the mother about the hygiene and sanitation to be maintained while feeding the child.

The little girls looked very healthy and active after the treatment and regular follow-up. The mother of the girl was also very happy with the overall project's initiation, and the treatment/follow-up service received by her daughter. The mother used to call RUTF 'Lito', and according to her RUTF /lito brought magical changes in her child's health. She thanked the project team including the Nutrition Officer and health workers for their relentless support. The project team and the health workers counseled the mother on the significance of 'proper care and preparation of home-based nutritious food for the child'. The project wishes for a better and healthy future for the child.

Project: Advocacy and Strengthening Resilience through LANN+ - Linking Agriculture and Aatural Resource Management towards Nutrition Security

Development Partner: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

ASN has been implementing the LAAN+ project at Salyan district of Karnali Province with the support of Welthungerhilfe with an objective " to provide sustainable food and nutrition security in the climate-changing context of 7850 HHs in 3 target communities in Salyan district" Working to improve food and nutrition security for socially and economically vulnerable impoverished households (women, particularly those of reproductive age, families with malnourished children, landless people, Dalits, and ethnic minorities) the worldwide COVID-19 epidemic wreaked havoc in the workplace.

Delivering the project activities was not easy and could not go as planned in the field because of the limitation of movement and restriction of gathering during the lockdown period as the majority of activities need the participation of a significant number of individuals. Thus, Social Mobilizers were coordinated within the working Palika regularly and to assist with COVID-19 awareness initiatives. SM contact each HHs member personally, communicate COVID-19-related messages, and send persons who are suspicious or have symptoms to an isolation facility or hospital.



LANN+ training to project staff and social mobilizers

Working to improve food and nutrition security for socially and economically vulnerable households including women, particularly those of reproductive age, families with malnourished children, and ethnic minorities, and the project reached out to beneficiaries through mobilization of social mobilizers at the Palika level during the havoc period of COVID-19. LANN+ basic Training of Trainer (ToT) training was conducted for the project staff and social mobilizers as a part of capacity building maintaining social distance and government guidelines. Similarly, Anthropometric training was conducted for health post staff who were imparted with the information on screening of SAM and MAM children, NERP camp, and positive deviation.

Following the training to project staff, social mobilizers coming from the same community were mobilized to deliver a message on nutrition education. They further informed beneficiaries on the importance of breastfeeding for the children of age 0-59 months, the importance of nutritious food for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age group 5, the importance of nutrition kitchen garden.

Also, following the threat of the pandemic, social mobilizers were coordinated from the same community to assist beneficiaries with COVID-19 awareness initiatives. SM contact each HHs member personally, communicate COVID-19-related messages, and referred individuals who were suspicious or have symptoms of COVID to an isolation facility and health post.

Project: Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP)

Development Partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

The pandemic has a long-term negative impact on powerless portions of society. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic has compelled vulnerable groups to suffer more. The economic impacts of the lockdown measures have negatively affected people, mainly the poor whose livelihoods are dependent on daily subsistence; with households undergoing food shortage, and insufficient stock/food to meet their minimum dietary needs. Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) & children (6-23 months) living in the resource-constrained settings in the districts of Province 2 are severely affected by the crisis as they are suffering from malnutrition. These groups, therefore, are doubly susceptible to compromised health as malnutrition can result in a weak immune system increasing the vulnerability to acquire COVID-19 with a high incidence of stunting & wasting among children.

So, considering the need and demand of the situation, and in response to the above, ASN in support of the WFP implemented the *Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP)* in the two food-insecure districts (Parsa and Bara) in Province 2. The BSFP benefitted 13,838 beneficiaries (PLW and children aged 6-23 months).

The program contributed towards the prevention and reduction of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups through (i) preventing malnutrition among children (6-23 months) and PLW, (ii) Knowledge enhancement on optimal nutrition and feeding practices of mothers, caretakers, and community members. All safety measures were mandatorily followed during the distribution program by all concerned.



Project beneficiary after receiving the super cereal



Registration corner at the BSFP distribution site



Queue for registration



Beneficiary receiving the super cereal

Case Story: Impact of cultural taboos on health service utilization

During the BSFP/super cereal distribution in the program districts; it was found that due to cultural taboos newly married females are not allowed to move out from their residence. As a result of which, these females are unable to visit and utilize the available health services. Specifically, health service utilization is very poor during ANC visits. So, the number of home delivery is in an increasing trend as compared to institutional delivery.

Also, the super cereal was to be received by the PLW in presence of their caretakers if needed. However, it was observed that, mostly, mother-in-laws came to receive the super cereal in place of their daughters-in-law with the beneficiary cards in their hand.

Taking the advantage of the situation, the project team had an opportunity to counsel the mothers-in-law on the importance of *appropriate age for marriage, suitable age to get pregnant, the significance of timely utilization of health services by the PLW, and institutional delivery.*

So, during the BSFP, the majority of mothers-in-law were made aware of the significance of the *beneficiary visits to the health centers.* These mothers-in-law have committed that they will come together with their daughter-in-law at health facilities/centers for timely screening.



Beneficiaries' caretaker receiving the super cereal

Project: Nutrition Education Program (NEP)

Development Partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Considering the need and urgency of the situation generated by the pandemic and the significance of nutritious diet for the PLW, mothers, and 6-23 months children and those coming from the socially excluded, marginalized, and financially downtrodden families; the NEP program was implemented throughout the eight districts (*Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Siraha, and Dhanusha & Saptari*) in Province-2.

The NEP targeted the community, with a specific focus on mothers, caretakers, and the individuals coming from the poorest segment of the society. These groups most often are not aware of the values of locally available nutrients/food that they have in their home instead. They seem not to know which foods are the go and grow foods; they simply feed the children so that they are not hungry, not to attain a balanced diet.

Realizing the significance of relevant *Nutrition Education*, mothers were educated/sensitized about complementary feeding, because this is where the child is breastfeeding but along with breast milk and other solid foods are given. Therefore, an intensified nutrition education program was conducted in the districts of Province-2 to educate/sensitize/inform the communities on the significance of improved dietary habits in achieving overall nutritional well-being.

The NEP primarily aimed for improvement in (i) food habit (ii) food hygiene & sanitation, (iii) selection and use of locally available food resources, (iv.) significance of food preparation/cooking and use of nutritious food (v) nutritional requirement of PLW, growing children, and geriatric people. The program focused on disseminating culturally appropriate nutrition education reaching out to the most marginalized communities in Province-2. The follow-up conducted by the project team found that the right/appropriate message, nutrition facts along its role in the body has benefitted the community by enabling them to use/consume micronutrient-rich locally available foods within their area/locality/household.

The NEP involved counseling of project beneficiaries (BSFP beneficiaries) through nutrition message broadcasting via FM/Radio, telephone conversation/counseling, and interaction between facilitators and main beneficiaries. The topics on which the PSAs were aired are *Breastfeeding, Complementary feeding, Use of cash, Preparation of WSB+, Growth Monitoring, Institutional Delivery, Nutrition During Pregnancy, COVID-19, Additional food to sick and Sutkeri Shyaha*.

This has helped sustain general public awareness through the Public Service Announcements (PSAs). PSAs audios imparting nutrition education were aired in all 8 districts of Province-2. Not only via the radio PSAs but the program beneficiaries were also reached out through telephone communication/tele-counseling. The NEP overall has helped:

- Spread information and awareness to help enable behavioral change regarding proper dietary practice
- Reduce the incidence of nutritional deficiencies among children under two, and PLW
- Promote the utilization of locally available food and benefits of nutrition garden
- Increase knowledge of mothers and caretakers on different food groups and how they can be combined to make a balanced diet.

Case Story: Counselling the beneficiary: Imparting relevant nutrition education

Women named Ramdulari Sah of age 23 years have two children. One of them is a baby boy and another a baby girl. The boy is of age 5, and the girl is of 4 months. During the counseling, it was found that the mother is completely unaware of the significance of *minimum dietary diversity, locally available nutritious food, health service utilization, and family planning methods*. The project staff (Community Facilitator-CF) stated that - *I have suggested to the mother how to take care of her baby girl and herself during such a challenging time. Further, I have also informed her of the 'National Immunization schedule', thereby, suggesting that her baby should be taken to the health post for all vaccines for immunization.*

The CF further informed the mother that 80% of brain development among babies takes place during pregnancy. So, it is very crucial to take one's care when pregnant. The CF has also educated the mother about food diversity and what a balanced diet means, along with the concept of *harek baar Khana char*. However, during the communication, the CF found that it is difficult for mothers like Ramdulari to manage a nutritious diet. Realizing this, the CF counseled the mother on locally available nutritious food resources, their benefits, and cooking techniques.

The CF during the counseling stressed the use of *high protein food (Soyabean for vegetarians, and eggs for non-vegetarians), Iron-rich food (spinach, karkalo ko pat, and Brinjal), high vitamins rich food (pumpkin, papaya, lemon, tomato, and banana)*, green leafy vegetables, dairy products like milk, curd, ghee, paneer, chicken, mutton, fish, eggs, rice, wheat, and pulses. The mother was also suggested to visit the health post for ANC visits in the 4th, 6th, 8th, and 9th months during pregnancy.

The mother thanked the CF and the NEP team for all necessary information wholeheartedly and said that - *if it was not her then she would never have known about this crucial information ever.* The mother promised to utilize the knowledge imparted to the best of her capacity and happily said that *she would love to share this information with other pregnant women, lactating mothers in her locality.*

Project: Regional Program for Promoting a Multisectoral Approach for Nutrition Smart Villages in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India

Development Partner: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

The project was implemented in Rajgadh Municipality of Saptari district, Paroha Municipality of Rautahat district.

Considering the unprecedented scenario brought by COVID-19, the project implemented various field-level activities targeting the vulnerable groups within the project coverage area. Following activities were conducted by the project:

- **Door-to-door screening of under 5 children:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project decided to carry out door-to-door screening of under 5 children with MUAC rather than taking height and weight. All FCHVs and health post-in-charge were oriented on measuring Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC). Total 102 FCHVs and 15 health workers participated in the one-day orientation program conducted by the project. The orientation program was organized in different slots to avoid overcrowding, reduce the number of participants and maintain government guidelines. The orientation was closely monitored by the local government representatives. A total of 6978 children (2719 in Rajgadh, Saptari and 4259 in Paroha Rautahat) were assessed on nutrition during the screening conducted by FCHV using the MUAC in collaboration with the Government Health facilities. The screening results have been reported in the Health Management Information System (HMIS) of the GoN. After the screening, MAM children were provided the nutritious food supplementation package whereas SAM children were referred to the Outreach Therapeutic Centre or Nutrition Rehabilitation Home. Regular follow-up of SAM and MAM children was done by the project team particularly by social mobilizers.



Beneficiary at the distribution site



Beneficiary with the coupon at teh distribution site

Distribution of Nutritious Food: The project distributed nutritious food supplementation to Moderately acute malnourished children. 697 children (286 in Saptari and 411 in Rautahat) were supported with a nutritious food supplementation package. During the food distribution, demonstration on proper handwashing technique, nutrition education, and counseling on the right way of food preparation was also done to the mothers and the food package recipients. Local leaders, FCHVs, and SMs were also involved in the distribution program. They realized the need for a similar program in the local level plan. Additional 47 children of Poor and Dalit families were supported with food items in Paroha Municipality. The data of SAM/MAM families were kept by the concerned municipalities for further ownership.

Hygiene kit support to the households with SAM children: A total of 105 Severely Acute Malnourished Children (SAM), 56 in Paroha and 49 in Rajagadh, were referred to the Outreach Therapeutic Center of the respective municipality and were treated with Ready-to-use-therapeutic-food (RuTF) sachets. During the treatment, follow-up was done by the FCHV and social mobilizers of the project using the standard checklist. An additional 11 poor and Dalit families having under-five children were supported with a WASH kit in Paroha Municipality. All the SAM children's households were supported with a Hygiene Kit and counseling and demonstration was done for the proper and continuous use of the materials and requested to continue and replenish the materials from their resources.

- **Nutritious Food and Hygiene Materials support to the Pregnant women:** The nutritious food and hygiene package was supported to 1888 (820 in Saptari and 1068 in Rautahat) pregnant women and lactating mothers having under 1-year children.
- **Follow-up on SAM and MAM case:** The follow-up of all 802 malnourished children was done by the social mobilizers, FCHVs, and project staff. SMs and FCHVs were counseled to malnourished families on OTC center facilities, regularity, and benefits. They also observed SAM/MAM HHs and suggested the best practices of WASH, sanitation, and making nutritious food. SAM cases were referred to the OTC center. RUTF and better care child practice were provided to 49 SAM HHs by the OTC center. OTC center has also provided growth monitoring cards to all referred SAM children. OTC center has also provided growth monitoring cards to all referred SAM children.
- **Food Support in Quarantine:** The food in the quarantines were not targeted to the children and provide a meal of adult to the children as well. The NSV project focused the children specific food and provided food support to the 14 under 5 children and 7 pregnant mothers quarantined in Paroha Municipality. Milk 250 ml, Boiled egg 1 piece, and mango 1 pc daily were provided to them for 10 days. It was done in the quarantine center at Laukaha and in Tejapakad Quarantine, Paroha Municipality.



Beneficiary after receiving the package

Case Story: Use of Bio-fertilizer replacing Chemical Fertilizer: A story of SIFS champion

Doman Mahato, 49 years old, has two daughters and two son who lives in Khapar tole, Narkatiya of Paroha Municipality. He has one Bigaha (0.4 acres) of land. His main source of livelihood is agriculture. He grows vegetables and does seasonal mono-cropping. He uses chemical fertilizer and chemical pesticides on his farm. This has deteriorated the quality of the soil of his farm. He has to expense more in purchasing fertilizer and pesticides.

Nutrition Smart Village Project was implemented in Paroha Municipality in 2018. He was selected as a group leader of the Gopal Farmer group. He feels lucky to be a farmer group leader and get training in a Sustainable integrating farming system. He was selected as SIFS champion based on his performance during the training. The project supported him to develop the SIFS model farm. There are more than six sub systems in his model farm. He has two buffaloes. The dungs were found scattered and had created a nuisance. He could not have utilized the dung as fertilizer in an appropriate way.

To replace chemical fertilizer and utilize the dungs, he was supported to initiate Vermicompost. He has developed one chambered pit to make compost using vermin. Project managed to provide vermin in his pit and remold his buffalo shed so that he could collect the urine and dung cleanly. The vermin have reproduced in large numbers. He has now used vermin compost in his vegetable farm which has yielded more than the chemical fertilizer. At the same time, he is using Jholmal using the collected urine and locally available herbal plants. As the border is sealed, chemical fertilizers are not easily available and are expensive than in the usual time.



Doman Mahato expresses his happiness as “The vermicompost is very beneficial; it enriches the quality of the soil. I want to expand it and do it on large scale for a commercial purpose. It will be beneficial for my land and surplus can be sold too. To do this, I need more technical support from the Project. I need specific training for Vermi-compost”.

Nutrition Smart Village Project is developing 30 model farms (18 in Paroha and 12 in Rajgadh). A joint effort of Project and Farmers is being implemented. In this model farm, zero waste is the main theme of yielding diverse foods. Jholmal, vermin compost, a community nursery, etc are being practiced. Sac gardening, multilayer farming is being promoted. This will increase the availability of diverse foods in the community. The consumption of diverse foods in a balanced way will reduce the malnutrition prevalent in the community.



Doman Mahato, sharing his experiences with other farmers

Thematic Area: DRR, Emergency Response, and Humanitarian Action

Project: Relief Distribution in Rautahat District

Development Partner: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

With the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GoN announced a nationwide lockdown that impacted not only the livelihoods of marginalized communities, particularly females, Dalits, and Muslims coming from minority and indigenous communities but also many families lost their livelihood resulting in starvation. In this context, to respond to the evolving COVID-19 context and address the needs of the beneficiary population and their communities, and to address health and hygiene of girls and women and fulfill their primary basic needs of food, a Relief distribution program was commenced in the Rautahat district with the support of UNESCO. The relief distribution in Rautahat district specifically was targeted to support adolescents' girls and young women who were the participants of the Functional Literacy Class (FLC) program that was implemented by ASN with support from UNESCO in 2018 & 2019.

The program aimed to address the menstrual hygiene issue of women and girls and promoted healthy WASH habits. Thus, intending to create an enabling environment for the most vulnerable women and adolescent girls and their families from relief support of food items and non-food items, ASN conducted



Relief distribution to FLC graduates



Beneficiaries' selection at Rautahat

the relief distribution program that supported 420 FLC graduates and 16 Facilitators. With the recommendation and approval of the concerned local government, final beneficiaries were selected for the relief distribution who were FLC graduates from marginalized, ultra-poor communities of *Rajdevi*, *Rajpur*, and *Debahigonahi*. Further ASN obtained approval from the District Administrative Office (DAO) Rautahat and three local governments - *Rajdevi Municipality*, *Rajpur Municipality*, and *Debahigonahi Municipality* for the distribution of relief materials and conducted the program taking the necessary precaution measure guided by the GoN and World Health Organization (WHO).



Beneficiaries receiving relief material

Case Story: Story of Khusbu Paswan, FLC Graduate -2019 Batch

15 years old Khusbu Paswan is from Rajdevi Municipality ward no. 6 Rajdevi Tole. She lives with her mother, father, and 3 siblings including 12 family members in her family. She is one of the participants of the Functional Literacy Class 2019 batch which was conducted by ASN and supported by UNESCO, Kathmandu. Khusbu's family weak economic condition never let her get enrolled in the school but when she heard about the functional literacy class that was going to be conducted in her locality, it gave her rays of hope to enhance her basic knowledge like every other child of her age.

Forced to stay at home, Khusbu was spending her day taking care of her sibling and playing with them. Khusbu's mother was the first one who heard about the functional literacy class through ASN staff and showed interest in enrolling Khusbu for the same. When asked about her experience in the FLC class, Khusbu shared that, "she was happy to be part of the FLC as she was very introverted as a child but after taking the class, she has made more friends and outspoken. Khusbu is now able to write her name in English and do basic maths".

As a free-spirited girl, Khusbu wanted to continue her studies and support her family. But coming from economically weak family background, she never got a chance to study. Adding to that, COVID-19 has accelerated the decline of the work and squeezed the income source of her family who was sustaining their livelihood by doing labor work. Since the GON declared the nationwide lockdown in March 2020, the Khusbu family had to go through a hard time due to the COVID-19 crisis. When ASN in support from UNESCO distributed the relief material in her Palika,

Khusbu was also one who received the relief. Miss Khusbu was very happy by getting relief materials and said that the relief material will be enough for 15 days to 1 month for her family. She expressed her gratitude towards Aasaman and UNESCO for timely support during the hardest time when she and her family needed support.



Project: Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED)

Development Partner: Lutheran World Federation - LWF

ASN promotes governance through people's participation so that the socially marginalized and economically poor citizens have access to accountable governmental services and actively participate in inclusive local development processes. Therefore, ASN implemented the Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED) project with the objective of *'Upholding the rights of the poor and oppressed community through the process of empowerment and public accountability'*. The project was implemented at Shahid Nagar Municipality of Dhanusha district with the support of the Lutheran World Federation and aimed to reach out to most marginalized people, disable people, schools, and the community.

With the project initiation, the project reached 10 committees of PwD (People with Disability) formed at all 9 wards and Palika with 74 (Female-22, Dalit-17 & Muslim-4) people and orient about the entitlement of PwD in the presence of ward chair and vice-chair. Through the project initiation, surveys were conducted to explore the concept of disability to enhance understanding of the situation of disabled people in Shahid Nagarpalika- Dhanusha. Surveys were conducted among PwD according to caste & ethnicity, which covered 349 disable people (121- Female, 110 Dalit, 124 Janjati, 14 Muslim, 96 OBC, and 5 others) in Shahid Nagar municipality. Further, the project reached 1147 people through different activities & raised awareness on Disability. 4 Wheelchair support was provided to the disabled children for purpose of movement as an easier way. Also, GESI orientation has been provided to HTs/GFTs of 24 schools of Palika in the presence of EFPs.

Considering the health crisis created due to the pandemic, and the importance of delivering information on hygiene & sanitation ASN not only conducted an awareness-raising campaign on prevention and precaution measures against COVID but also supported strengthening the WASH facility. In this regard, ASN supported in repair and maintenance of toilets and tube well in 5 schools. ASN through the project ASN supported with dustbin and filter in 12 schools for the improvement of wash facilities in the school.



GESI training to Head Teachers, Shahidnagar Municipality, Dhanusha



GESI training to the gender focal teachers, Shahidnagar Municipality, Dhanusha

Project: Rapid Response Program

Development Partner: Street Child of Nepal

Lack of access to health infrastructure, Province 2 was recognized as one of the highest risk areas of Nepal affected by COVID-19 with a high number of active cases resulted due to cross border transmission due to migrant movement from India. Following the COVID crisis, the GoN enforced a lockdown that exacerbated the socio-economic status of people; especially among vulnerable and marginalized communities in Province 2. Thus, in response to support to the vulnerable communities with prevention and preparedness measures, ASN with support from Street Child implemented *'Rapid Response Program'*



CMC cascading community awareness on COVID-19

that further supported 4500 HHs (45,000 families) with Relief Item (including food items and health & hygiene kit) in 4 districts (Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, and Sarlahi) of Province 2. The project aimed to increase COVID-19 prevention and preparedness enabling effective mitigation in high-risk communities along with increasing coping capacity of women-headed households reporting a loss of income due to COVID-19.

As part of the rapid response initiation, 4,500 households who were most vulnerable to starvation were identified and supported with a food item as part of the relief package. 2500 HHs including adolescents' girls and young women were supported with a menstrual hygiene kit. Radio advocacy program on protection and preventive measures against COVID-19 was broadcasted in the targeted districts. Also, psychosocial counseling service through mobile communication was provided to the targeted beneficiaries who were highly affected by the COVID crisis. Further, 17 Community Management Committee (CMC) was formed and oriented to cascade the information on prevention and preparedness strategy on COVID in the local communities.



During relief distribution



Distribution of health & hygiene package

Case Story: Timely relief helped sustain a family during the crisis

Fulmatiya Devi Das, a permanent resident of Durgabhagwati ward no. 2, Rautahat District, is physically disabled by birth and a single woman for many years. She lives with her son and daughter-in-law. Before lockdown, she used to feed her family by working as a domestic help in her neighbor's household. Her son went to Kathmandu to apply for foreign employment. However, the first wave of COVID-19 hit the country and lockdown started against the pandemic as a measure to protect people from the consequence. Due to the unfavorable situation, her son had to return home without doing further processing for foreign employment. Whereas, on the other hand, she also lost her work at the local level. Due to this, she was having difficulties in running a family. Besides, she was also going through household violence (she used to get bullied by her daughter-in-law for not being able to earn).



Fulmatiya after receiving the relief item

When ASN in consortium partnership with Street Child and JWAS Nepal started a household survey for relief distribution, Fulmatiya Devi was identified as a neediest single and physically disabled woman for whom food items were urgent. Based on the survey, the ASN team provided Fulmatiya Devi with food items including 25 KGs rice, 3 liters oil, 3 KGs salt, 2 KGs black peas, and 5 KGs lentils. After receiving the relief package, Fulmatiya expressed that she felt relieved that she doesn't have to worry about food for at least a month and also, she would

get rid of the regular insult by her daughter-in-law for her inability to work and earn to sustain their livelihood.

She took her relief material with the support of her neighbor and expressed her gratitude to the ASN team after receiving the relief materials. She further adds, *“The relief items are very supportive for my family, as we are suffering from a food crisis caused by the lockdown. I would like to thank the Aasaman team for their support. She further added, “As I walk by my two hands and one leg, it is very essential for me to wash hands regularly, hence it would have been much better if I could have received soaps as well”.*

Beneficiaries’ expectation from the stakeholders has been high, and this is the time when concerned stakeholders need to focus on bringing targeted interventions to support the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Project: Recovery of living conditions for the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 in Nepal

Development Partner: Australian Aid (Australian Lutheran World Service and The Lutheran World Federation)

The project is implemented in the Sahidnagar Municipality of Dhanusha district in Province 2 with a general objective to ‘Uphold the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 and, enhance their social cohesion and livelihoods’, and specific objectives to (i) Strengthen the capacity of the most vulnerable people in terms of water, sanitation and health, psychological wellbeing, and community support groups to recover from COVID-19 crisis; (ii) Improve food security of the most vulnerable people, through increased production, income-generation, and recovery capacity. Intending to support the poorest and the most vulnerable communities residing in 9 Wards of the Sahidnagar Municipality of Dhanusha district, in Province 2; this project has supported in the following:

Improved food security through restoration and promotion of farm-based livelihoods:

Total 1645 HHs (1200 HHs supported by the Sahidnagar Municipality, and 445 HHs from the Project) have received vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and organic compost (vermicompost) to promote vegetable farming at the community level. Also, 16 demonstration events on ‘improved farming practices are planned by the municipality in all 9 Wards to increase farm production and lower the risk of food insecurity specifically among the vulnerable groups.

445 Farmers from Wards 6, 7, 8, & 9 were trained on adopting new technologies, agricultural practices for improved farm production. Farmers are now applying the knowledge in their farming practices. In collaboration with the LG, farmers will also be linked with ‘Geokrishi’ for direct digital advisory services and solutions concerning the issues, & challenges faced by the farmers in all stages – from production to marketing. As per the need analysis of the municipal office, the project will provide 1 computer set, manage the Wifi connection, and also the technical training support to the Municipality office to help them render effective digital service to the farmers.

To obviate the seasonality of primary agricultural production, and help cater to the everyday needs of the target families, 15 youths (Female: 10 -1 Disabled, and Male: 5 – 1 disabled) were financially supported (NPR 15,000 each) supported to establish off-farm business/enterprises (grocery shops, tailoring business, mechanics, and tea/snacks shops). The average income of these youths ranges from NPR.15000 per month per person.

Households have received support to build manual water pumps:

40 handpumps have been installed in the HHs of selected beneficiaries with proper drainage facilities benefiting 103 community people for their increased access to safe and clean water. The installed hand pumps have proper drainage facilities and have helped the HHs to access safe & clean water. One installed hand pump has benefitted 3-5 HHs at the community level to access safe and clean water for their everyday use and maintain a cleanliness, hygienic environment. Further, to ensure proper water, sanitation, and health of the vulnerable groups, and to collaborate with the project the concerned local government has committed to supporting 100 HHs with the hand pump installation in the upcoming days.

Support the most vulnerable communities for the construction of latrines:

Understanding the significance of supporting the most vulnerable HHs with hygienic sanitation facilities, 40 latrines are constructed/renovated. The latrine construction has helped in the proper solid and liquid waste management and in promoting the maintenance of proper personal hygiene. Further, in a meeting with the local people the concerned LG (representative of the Municipal Government- Mayor, Sahidnagar Municipality) has committed to help construct handpump for 100 HHs in the nearest future to provide increased access to a latrine and thereby help promote proper hygienic behavior at the community level.

Improved WASH and hygienic behaviors of the local communities:

To initiate the behavior, change and support in improving the local people's behavior on sanitation and hygiene, the project team as per the plan and with coordination of local government has helped in the distribution of 230 WASH items (soap, mug, plastic buckets for hand washing purpose) in all 9 wards of the Sahidnagar Municipality at the community level. The distribution occurred in presence of the Ward Member, Ward Chairpersons, and community leaders. The community people were happy to receive the materials and were seen motivated to use them to develop healthy handwashing habits. The project team understands that developing a habit and sustaining it is not an easy task, as behavior change is a long-term process and it might take time for people to stick to a certain habit. However, the project team believes that with continuous follow-up, & interaction on the importance of hygienic behavior there will be an improvement in the overall WASH and hygienic conduct of the local communities.

Sensitize community leaders on how to intervene in situations of domestic violence, exploitation or abuse cases:

Understanding the positions of unparalleled authority & influence of community leaders/activists, and their major role in addressing the harmful practices but preserving the core values and culture; various capacity development events were conducted. Also, interactive sessions were conducted in the presence of community leaders/local leaders, community people, and ward members of all 9 Wards. As per the project plan, a total of 87 community leaders/participants have been capacitated on how to intervene in the situation of domestic violence, exploitation, or abuse. The session with these community activists/leaders is expected to build resilience through their involvement, increased outreach, and dialogues with the affected families/communities in case of urgency (any issues of GBV, exploitation, and abuse).

Strengthened advocacy of community leaders, human rights defenders, and organizations run by people with disabilities to lobby with governments for accessing basic needs and services:

Events involving the presence of community leaders, human rights defenders, and representatives from the organizations run by people with disabilities (PWD) has been organized within the reporting period. The major objective of the one-day orientation event was to capacitate, & empower the stakeholders to start lobbying with concerned local governments to help increase the access of the vulnerable



Beneficiary from Ward 7 Mrs. Nirmla Devi Yadav after handpump installation



Beneficiary practicing the proper hand washing technique



Distribution of Seed and fertilizer to the beneficiary

people towards the available government services, and entitlements.

As a result of which PWDs from Sahidnagar Municipality have formed a disability coordination committee in every 9 wards of the municipality. The coordination committees have also organized campaigns to aware the community people of services, benefits, & facilities available from the local government.

Improved coordination and facilitation to access micro-finance, private, and market sector services:

To increase the access of vulnerable HHs on agricultural inputs, & financial resources, the beneficiaries are being linked with the relevant market actors (micro-finance, wholesalers, & cooperatives) as per their need. The linkage will help the vulnerable HHs in expanding their business and provide the opportunity to augment their income. The private institutions have also assured to provide relevant employment opportunities to the youths as per the skills they have.

Further, advocacy events (i. celebration of International Days of PWD; & ii. 16 day's activism against GBV) have been celebrated in close coordination with the concerned LG, Judicial Committee, and local police offices along with the support of other projects of ASN. 3 street dramas were demonstrated to aware people of 'domestic violence and its impact on the family'. Besides, on the occasion of disability day, an orientation session was conducted on 'inclusive education'. The session has contributed towards increasing the school enrolment of children with disabilities from 2 (before orientation) to 32 (after the orientation). Also, an orientation session was organized on 'gender and social inclusion' involving the presence of community leaders focusing on women empowerment and mainstreaming women in the decision-making forums. Not only this, the community leaders, local leaders, were made aware of child rights, and child protection to protect children from any forms of bullying, harassment, neglect, abuse, & exploitation.

These advocacy events have helped identify the problems, and types of violence faced by the community people based on gender. The event has also stimulated the participants to generate ideas and to develop strategies to mitigate the issues of GBV, & domestic violence. During and after the event, the participants realized that this is high time to prioritize the (i) presence of women at decision-making levels (at family, & community level); (ii) equal distribution of power in different parts and phases of societies; including the (iii) effective guidance to the stakeholders for implementing the system to reduce, & eliminate any issues of violence's (GBV, domestic violence). Most importantly, the events have contributed towards the effective use of the allocated budget (at LG level) in strengthening the system of social security by addressing the GBVs, & other violence issues at the community level.



LWF representative & the PM (ASN) in conversation with beneficiaries during the joint monitoring visit



Distribution of WASH item to the beneficiary by the Project officer



Interaction meeting on domestic violence and GBVs with community representatives (Ward Chairperson, Ward Members, Members from the DPO, and Beneficiaries)

Thematic Area: Women Empowerment

Project: Shashakta

Development Partner: Kindemthilfe (KNH)

ASN has been implementing the Shashakta project at two municipalities (Ganeshman Charnath & Bideha) of Dhanusha district with the support of Kindemthilfe with an objective "to the uplift living standard of women, young mother, married girls and children improved through socio-economic & political empowerment". The project intervened with 540 Self Help Group (SHG), 112 Palika level stakeholders 1784 households, and 1062 children. Talking about the SHG group members, through the project initiation women had the opportunity to get engaged in the module training, where they were made aware of the significance of women in political participation and their right. SHG members developed the prime understanding of gender-based violence, early marriage, dowry system, child labor, issue of child protection, participation, self-dignity (citizenship, birth registration), and physical harassment among other issues. Further, women had the opportunity to get engaged in seasonal labor work by taking a loan from the group.



Bhalakusari with the SHG group, Ganeshman Charnaath Municipality, Dhanusha

But the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic created a challenge to conduct the field level activity and interrupted all the regular meetings and training in Self Help Group (SHG). The widespread COVID- 19 pandemic not only created health-related humanitarian crises but also simultaneously exacerbated socio-economic crises that led to pre-existing gender and socio-economic inequalities. Therefore, ASN with consultation with KNH shifted the project focus from module training to awareness-raising on health & sanitation, female hygiene, and prevention & precaution measure, and psychosocial counseling against COVID-19.

Through the project initiation, ASN supported all 540 SHG members with food items (including eggs, pulses, beans, etc.) and nonfood items (including soap, mask, hand sanitizer, and sanitary napkin), who were struggling with crisis due to a lack of basic resources. 665 pregnant & lactating women and children below 5 received Nutritional food items (including eggs, Pulses, Rice, Beans) and hygiene kits including (bath soap, mask, hand sanitizer, sanitary pad). Also, 542 school-going children whose studies were hampered and were forced to drop out of school due to ongoing lockdown were supported with educational material/ reading writing material (including copy, pencil, eraser, storybook, and workbook). Further, regular psychosocial follow-up support was provided to SHG members through mobile contact and scheduled meeting (maintaining social distance.

Case Story: Relief support provided by the project helped us sustain during the hardest time when we had nothing left to eat

Rinku Devi Paswan is a 30-year-old member of Ekrupta SHG from Ganeshman Charnath Municipality. She is a mother of four sons of age seven, five, three, and one year old, respectively. The land they are residing in is the government's land. Rinku Devi and her husband worked as a laborer and made their living. But she was forced to quit her work to take care of her children and her husband was the only one earning after she got pregnant with her youngest son. When lockdown started, like many people, Rinku's husband lost his job that led to hard times. Consequently, feeding their four children and sustaining life was a huge challenge for the family.

Whatever money they had saved was used to maintain their home during the rainy season and they had no money left with them. Rinku stated, *“during the paddy planting season, my husband got an opportunity to work in the field and but his income was still not enough to feed the family of six members”*.

During the community visit by the ASN team to disseminate the information on COVID, one of the social mobilizers came to know about Rinku’s difficult situation. Thus, during the relief distribution planned at the Ganeshman Charnaath, Rinku Devi who herself was lactating mother was kept in priority and thus, was provided with the relief material (nutritious diet and hygiene kit).

Remembering the hard time brought by the pandemic, Rinku Devi after receiving the relief shared with the project team stating that, *“the pandemic has put us in a situation when we had to cut off our two times meal and also reduce the food portion as there was nothing left to eat in the house. We were going through a severe food crisis, and at that time receiving the relief with food items was of great help to me and my family.”*



Rinku Devi with her children at her house, Ganeshman Charnaath Municipality, Dhanusha

Thematic Area: Natural Resource Management & Livelihood

Project: Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness Programme (CASA)

Development Partner: Swiss Contact

ASN (ASN) promotes economic growth and food security among economically disadvantaged people, with a focus on women and marginalized groups. Agricultural extension services, production, planning methods, and a collective marketing framework are always in efforts to serve farmers improve their livelihoods, ASN implemented the “Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness program” with the support of Swiss Contact and implementing partner CDCAN, Pathway, Mangalam Dairy & Food Industry, Nepal Dairy. The project aimed “to involve smallholder farmer businesses sustainably in agricultural value chains, thereby improving their living conditions and economic situation. Conducting project activities at the field level in the aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic proved difficult as the project implemented district i.e., Bara district had a high number of instances.

The planned activities, which included group activities and interactions, were paused and later re-purposed to meet the local and developing national environment, given these tensions and the risk of the COVID-19 spreading. At the end of the last quarter, Nepal Dairy had selected 1 microprocessor and had started the construction to upgrade the facility however due to the lockdown all construction has come to a halt. However, the partner remains quite optimistic that the activities will be caught up as soon as the lockdown eases and work started on the construction. During January- March 2021 ND (Nepal Dairy Private Limited) has completed their commitment to convert raw milk from SHF for a month. Through this effort, around 1,795 farmers were benefitted.

Major issues and challenges were faced by the projects during the second wave of COVID as the CDCAN (Center Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal) completed COVID support for animal replacement in which 30 households were selected with support from partners eligible for the grant, who received NPR 20,000 each, as immediate relief. In total, NPR 600,000 was allocated for support for animal replacement (in case of

death) activity. This was designed for farmers, who had no income due to the death of their milking animal during the lockdown. The relief would supplement their immediate basic expenses for survival until they would be able to buy a dairy animal, sell milk and revive their income. Completed facilitation on credit service and interest rebate in which NPR 40,000 was allocated by the project to facilitate credit service and interest rebate. Interested farmer members of the MPCs were provided access to this fund. Each farmer received an amount of NPR 10,000. Completed the support for reviving productivity (revolving start-up fund for mineral and vitamin supplements in-kind) in which NPR 1500,000 (in-kind contribution) was allocated for reviving the productivity of milking animals. All 15 partner MPCs for the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) project have been allocated a fund of 100,000 each. Completed support for reinstatement and continuity of breeding and health services in which 15 MPCs were provided with NPR 65,000 each as support towards the continuation of breeding and animal health services, which had been severely affected because of the COVID crisis.

Case Story: The story of Sita Mainali

Sita Mainali, a 35 years old dairy farmer lives in Piluwa, Bara from Province 2 of Nepal. It was a family of four members; husband, wife, son, and daughter. They had a cow as a pet. The cow milk was the main source of income, also she with her husband were working in other fields for additional income. She has a total land of 1 Katha (20 Dhur) only, which is occupied by her small house and a shed for her cow. The land is not enough for crop cultivation. The cow used to give 12–15-liter milk per day. She is a shareholder at Dumarwana MPC and she was supplying cow milk at a branch of Dumarwana MPC.

On 28th April 2020, Sita almost lost her world; her cow died. It was no less than a death of a family member. Her cow was sick for few days, the color of urine and stool were not normal, it changed to red. She was worried, shared the cow's situation with neighbors, and even took extra care. She did not have enough money to call a veterinary doctor and the cow passed away. She had insured her cow under the cattle insurance policy but due to the lockdown, she could not renew the insurance which was expired during the death of a cow. Now, this was one of the biggest financial losses for her. She with her husband started working harder, but the sorrow was not over yet. After few months, her husband was ill. Sita says, "My husband did not have any prior disease, it was all of a sudden he fell ill. He had bed rest for weeks, I tried all the homemade medicines but none of them were effective. According to the neighbors, the symptoms were quite similar to COVID-19. We could not go for the COVID test as it was not available in our nearby cities as well and within few days my husband left us forever". Now Sita is all alone with her two children.

As Sita lost all her support, she was facing a huge financial crisis. She did not receive a single amount from the insurance company against the cow's death and also her husband's death shattered her life. Her relatives helped her during such time and provided her a loan to buy a cow. Now she has a cow and a big loan over her head. She was provided with Rs 20,000 as COVID-19 relief from the CASA program on 3rd March 2021. She used the amount for the payment of her loan, which was used for cow purchase. And from the day onwards, she is selling milk to meet her expenses.



Sita Mainali

Project: Provision of Follow Up Support to Out-of-School Adolescent Girls and Young Women who Completed Vocational Skills Training in Rautahat and Sarlahi Districts

Development Partner: UN Women

ASN implemented the follow-up assignment titled "Provision of follow-up support to out-of-school adolescent girls and young women (aged 16-24 years) who completed vocational skills training in Rautahat and Sarlahi districts" with the support of UN Women. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting the project activity at the field level was challenging. As Rautahat and Sarlahi districts share an open border with India, the incidences of COVID cases were highest in Province 2. Given these tensions and the possibility of the COVID-19 spread, the planned activities which included group tasks and interactions were halted and eventually repurposed to suit the local and evolving national context.

As an immediate action, ASN supported 30 women (15 from Rautahat and 15 from Sarlahi) for COVID response support to start or revive income-generating activity to sustain their livelihood. Altogether 15 trained women from Rautahat in the tailoring trade received the support of raw materials like fabric, thread, needles for mask production. Whereas, in Sarlahi, five trained women engaged in soap and detergent business received raw material like soda, powder, gas to produce soap, and 10 trained women in off-season vegetable farming received the support of equipment and tools including seed and fertilizers required for farming.

To encourage women to get engaged in the income-generating activity, ASN bought the masks and soaps produced by these women and handed those over to the municipality for distribution. Also, masks were procured from another project intervention of ASN thus establishing these women as producers. Further, there has been a verbal commitment from local government units to contact them when they need to place an order for masks. As a result, apart from sustaining their livelihoods, these women were recognized by the local stakeholders and community members as producers, which increased their prospects to leverage future procurement opportunities.

Further in the context of COVID, 500 women along with their family members were provided with psychosocial support through a radio program named KOSHISH in both districts. This provided an opportunity to highlight the prevalent harmful and discriminatory norms against girls and women in the project districts and how they act as barriers to women's



Beneficiaries making soap



Mask distribution by project team, Rautahat



Mask distribution, Chapur Municipality

economic empowerment and development. Mentors were mobilized to follow-up and make sure that trained women tune into the radio program through phone and community visits (with precaution when the situation permitted). Further, mentors were also engaged in the collection of feedback and concerns of trained participants and their family members on the issues discussed in the radio program. As a result of this, many women came forward to receive psycho-social counseling and three of them were further referred to another program supported by the UN Women for counseling support.



Project beneficiaries making a mask

Thus overall, the COVID situation brought to the surface the deep-rooted challenges of gender-based discrimination faced by the participants, and the pandemic further exacerbated the ground realities for women with loss of means of income, increased domestic burden, livelihood insecurity, and domestic violence. But with the re-purposed activities, the project intervention was relevant to the need of the women by diverting efforts in economic recovery and radio-based awareness programs. As a result, ASN and UN Women have been established and recognized as credible partners by the LGUs.



CTEVT training to project beneficiaries on poultry farming, Budhiganga, Bajura



CTEVT training on Tailoring, Mangalasen, Achham



CTEVT training on Tailoring, Ramdhuni, Sunsari



16-days CSIDB training on doll and cushion making, Lalbandi, Sarlahi



Beneficiaries displaying the doll made by them, Punarwas, Lalbandi, Sarlahi



16 days CSIDB training on embroidery, Dewahigonahi, Rautahat

Case Story: Vocational training enhanced the skill that helped me sustain during the challenging time

37 years old Anita Chaudhary lives in Chandrapur municipality-10, Baderawa, Rautahat with her husband and in-laws. Coming from an economically weak family, Anita could not continue her study after grade 10 and was compelled to get married at the age of 19. Since then, her life revolved around her family supporting her husband in agriculture and poultry farming.

In 2017, Anita came to know about the 3-months vocational training on tailoring conducted by ASN in partnership with UN Women. She enrolled herself in the three-month tailoring training to gain skills that would help her generate income. After receiving the 3 months long tailoring training, she started working on her own. She emerged as an entrepreneur in her ward shortly after the completion of her training and started running her tailor shop in her house, where she used to earn NPR 10000-15000 monthly. Apart from stitching clothes, Anita also took ToT training, which helped her to become a certified legal trainer, and now she is working as a trainer as well.



Anita utilizing her skill

But since the whole nation is amid the coronavirus pandemic, and going through the lockdown, like every other worker, Anita's work has also been halted. The inability to open the doors for a prolonged period has been devastating as her family is facing difficulties in fulfilling daily requirements.

"April and May's month are the wedding months and during this time I used to get lots of orders from the customers. But due to the fear of the COVID-19, marriages have been postponed and there is a decline in orders I used to get from clients, consequently, there is loss of income and I have to suffer from a huge loss" (Anita).

As the work was reeling for the past two months, Anita found the ray of hope to support her family in this difficult time, when the local entrepreneur offered her to prepare 2000 masks. Anita was contracted by the local women entrepreneur Ms. Nirmala Thapa who is also a trained tailor from Rautahat, from whom she took the order of 2000 pieces of the mask. All the materials required to prepare the mask including elastic, cloth, and thread was provided by the third-party contractor. To date, she has been able to complete the order of 1000 masks and has earned NPR 5000 in just 4 days. The remaining production of 1000 masks has been stopped due to the unavailability of raw materials.

Anita further states that the 3-month vocational training on tailoring has been an opportunity for her to support her family, especially during this pandemic period. Even though she lost her regular order of dressmaking; she had an opportunity to make the mask and earn to support her family.

Anita says that *"The skill I have gained 3 years back through vocational training on tailoring helped me to get this opportunity during this period of crisis. We have been facing a crisis of clinical masks, in the local market. During this crisis, homemade masks are a cheap and affordable, and simple solution to limit the transmission of disease. Following the orders for making a mask, I am also giving the training to prepare a mask to my sister-in-law and she will be helping me to complete the order. Besides taking the order of dresses, now making a mask for local and selling it is also a great option for us."*

Project: Vocational Skill Training Program to Safeguard the Livelihoods of People made most Vulnerable by COVID-19 in Province-2

Development Partner: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

With the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world had to face extraordinary challenges of health-related humanitarian crises and socio-economic crises. This led to an unprecedented cessation of economic activities and erosion of income opportunities for millions, especially those in the informal sector. As a result, pre-existing gender and socio-economic inequalities are further exacerbated. With the support of UNESCO Nepal, a context-suited vocational skill training program was conducted in close coordination and collaboration with the local level authorities in Dhanusha, Mahottari, & Sarlahi for rehabilitation of youths/adults with alternative solutions of their local employability and entrepreneurship.

50 vulnerable individuals affected by the pandemic, migrants, women, individuals from marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged groups working in the informal sector were benefitted from the skill enhancement training. Participants were selected for the 390 hours (3 months) agriculture (off-season vegetable farming) training and the electrician (building electrician) training.

Trade fair was conducted in all three districts where participants had an opportunity to network with relevant stakeholders (local market, job providers, entrepreneurs, financial institutions) in presence of the concerned local government

Participatory Approach' was adopted to provide the training with the involvement of the concerned local government, and community. Further, a soft skill & business skill enhancement session was provided to ensure that trainees have a good understanding of basic/standard life skills (IG activities, business & entrepreneurship development skills). This in turn has helped enhance their confidence to use their entrepreneurship ability or find future employment opportunities

Also, to respond to the evolving COVID-19 context and address: (i) the needs of the beneficiary population and their communities; (ii) health and hygiene of women and fulfill their primary basic needs of food items (Rice, Lentil, and Cooking Oil) and Soap to promote handwashing. The relief material was supported by all 50 participants. Relief support provided to the participants coming from the marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged groups including women, Dalits, and Janajati during such an unprecedented time was not only help to them but to their families as well.



During a practical session, Off-season vegetable farming, Golbazar, Siraha



During a practical session, building electrician training



Participants, Off-Season Vegetable Farming, Siraha



Relief distribution to project beneficiaries, Golbazar Siraha



Participants displaying their farm products during the 'Trade Fare'

Case Story: Prestige and income increased by skill training

Jayshankar Yadav belongs to a small and poor family. He lives in Janakpur-17, Dhanusha, and was a daily wage laborer. He already had difficulty managing his family; COVID-19 further exacerbated the situation and he was under huge stress about how to run the family.

He had a high interest in getting trained as a building electrician, however, considering the financial crisis his family was going through, he was unable to take the training. Due to his high interest, he learned a few basics from here and there and also used them to repair the electrical equipment.

Jayshankar was extremely happy to hear about the news of free building electrician training to be provided by UNESCO. After his selection, even the trainer said that he is one of the passionate learners, never missed his classes, and was always an inquisitive one during the practical sessions.

Right after two months of training, he had an opportunity to do the house-wiring of two buildings in Janakpur, with payment of NPR 15000.00, and NPR 18000.00. He was happy to share the news with the trainer and his participant friend. However, he also said that he did not have the tools required to do the job. As he was determined, he was supported, and thus, he completed his first job by borrowing some tools from the training and others from his friend.

After his first income, he bought some tools. The work opportunity and the OJT training have helped build his self-confidence. He says that training is very useful to individuals like him, as they get certified and people, market trust them; which increases their credibility and provide them further opportunities to earn. Jayshankar now says "People now respect me as a technician and I am proud of my skill". He aims of becoming a renowned building contractor in this market in the future.



*Jayshankar during the skill enhancement training/
practical session*

Thematic Area: Governance

Project: Promoting Citizen Empowerment and Inclusive Democracy in 2 Municipalities of Rautahat and Saptari - *Utthan*
Development Partner: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

As a part of the COVID response, the project conducted various activities targeting its beneficiaries. Following activities were conducted:

- **Distribution of relief items targeting the vulnerable groups:** 3600 WASH kits, 1900 nutrition package, 420 food packages were distributed to SAM & MAM families, pregnant and lactating women, Dalits, and other marginalized communities who were directly affected by the pandemic
- **Implementation of 180 nutrition camps (NERPs) for 3600 children with moderate acute malnutrition from 6-59 months together with government health personnel:** 5209 children of 6-59 months were screened in Dakneswori Municipality of Saptari district and Rajpur Municipality of Rautahat district. After screening, Nutrition Education



*Door-to-door NERP camp, Dakneswori Municipality,
Saptari*

Rehabilitation Program (NERP) camp was conducted for MAM children, and SAM children were referred to Out-patient Therapeutic Center (OTC) center for further treatment. SAM children after getting treatment from OTC attended the NERP camp and their mothers received nutrition education and learned how to prepare nutritious food.

Nutrition Education Rehabilitation Program (NERP) Camp:

After anthropometric measurement, 663 MAM children along with their mothers attended NERP session for 15 days. There they received nutritional education and learned to prepare nutritious food with locally available materials. During the reporting period, 15 NERP sessions were conducted. They were supported by FCHVs and Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery. The NERP camp food menu was developed based on the findings of PD (Positive Deviance). It provided positive behavior on childcare, maternal care, feeding practices, and health care which the community is practicing to keep their children healthy and well-nourished. Out of 663 MAM children who attended NERP sessions, 625 were able to gain weight while 38 were not able to recover. These unrecovered children were sent for a further check-up to the health hospital for TB checkups. After the NERP camp, we were conducted a follow-up camp for NERP attended children for progress and improvement and behavior change in the families. Also, this proved to be an effective tool to change the knowledge and attitude of mothers and caretakers regarding nutrition, care practices, hygiene, maternal care, etc. Looking at the result of this camp, Dakneswori Municipalities, Saptari has also allocated 10 lakhs for NERP camp and nutrition program activities.

- Facilitate training and input support for kitchen garden within built nutrition component:** The project had distributed different types of vegetable seeds (e.g., radish, cabbage, mustard-leaf) to 1800 HHs (750 HHs in Rajpur and 1050 HHs in Dakneshwori Municipality) and 750 Hajari (water sprinkler) targeting to ReFLECT and PLA LANN+ group. The distribution was done based on the discussion in ReFLECT and PLA LANN+ session on kitchen garden promotion for food and nutrition security. The FCHVs received training from a technical expert on organic farming in Kabilasha, Dakneshwori. The target group is small holders' farmers, landless and agriculture laborers. The beneficiaries have successfully developed their kitchen garden and have been consuming vegetables from there. It was linked with kitchen garden promotion training given to the mothers' group (MAM mothers) under this project. Besides this, the project has also distributed fruit plants named a) Papaya, b) Amala and c) Banana to 714 HHs of both Palikas.



Door-to-door NERP camp, Dakneshwori Municipality, Saptari



GBV campaign, Dakneshwori Municipality, Saptari



Committee members in the Community Score Card program

Case Story: Promoting hand hygiene as a part of COVID response

Realizing the importance of hand hygiene and considering it as one of the powerful tools to reduce the spread of COVID-19; the project has helped install the contactless foot-operated hand washing stations with a regular supply of water, hand washing liquids, and sanitizers in Dakneshwori Municipality of Saptari district and Rajpur Municipality of Rautahat district. The support is provided in different quarantine centers and health posts in the Saptari district to respond to preparedness against a possible outbreak of COVID-19. The handwashing station is child-friendly and a message on handwashing is also displayed at the station for public awareness. Besides, the health workers and FCHVs of these municipalities were made aware of hand hygiene through formal orientation to further disseminate the message at the community level.



Contactless handwashing station

Project: Promoting Citizen Empowerment and Inclusive Democracy in Province 2 - *Nagarik Sakriyata*

Development Partner: The European Union (EU)

Apart from the government efforts, ASN together with implementing partner organizations namely DSMN, MN, and ECDC also supported the local government, health workers, and frontline workers for their better preparedness to combat the COVID-19 crisis.

in need-based capacity development. The health workers were not well trained, and the medical protective equipment was also limited. Therefore, it was observed that there is a strong need to support the government in province 2 and local level governments to promote effective and transparent health governance in working palikas. A huge gap was observed between the province and local government in terms of strengthening the health system. Therefore, capacity building through orientation/training of the provincial and local governments' authorities and health workers was conducted under the utilization of a contingency plan. The objectives of the program were to: (i) support the provincial and local level governments authorities and health workers for their capacity development to combat COVID-19 as to promote health governance; and (ii) mobilize media for communicating COVID-19 related messages effectively targeting the vulnerable communities



CMIS orientation, Rautahat

- **Support Palikas staff in data management and record-keeping by using COVID- Management Information System (CMIS) of the GoN**

Under this activity, six events (one in each Palika) were organized in which 37 participants attended the orientation. Under this activity, IT officers, computer operators, chief of planning section, administration, and information section were oriented. The key objective of the orientation was to capacitate the Palika staff for proper data management and record-keeping.

The orientation focused on the introduction of CMIS and its importance to ensure proper data-keeping, methods to prepare Palika profile in detail, details of quarantines, beneficiaries receiving *Rahat* (relief materials), and details of *Rahat* distribution. Out of six palikas, two Palikas already started entering the data into the CMIS system.

- **Orientation and demonstration on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use and disposal method to the health staff (in the province and 6 Palikas)**

14 events (two in each Palika and two events at the provincial level) were organized in which 213 (66 women, 147 men) persons participated. The key objective of the orientation was to orient the health workers about the proper use and disposal of PPE. Under this activity, health workers: health posts in charge, provincial hospital staffs, staffs of health offices, health assistants, ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) were oriented about the COVID-19 pandemic, advantages, and disadvantages of PPE, effective use of PPE, measures for infection prevention; use of sanitizer after its removal; use, removal, cleaning, and disposal method of PPE. The health workers opined that they are now more familiar with the process and aware of the necessary actions to respond during the time of the pandemic.

Laxmi Kumari Yadav, ANM of the health post in Rajgadh rural municipality- 3 expressed that *"the orientation was beneficial in terms of updating the skills of health workers regarding the use and disposal of PPE through practical demonstration. The practical demonstration made them understand the use of PPE in a better way"*.

- **Orient local government representatives on quarantine management, code of conduct, and disinfection methods (in the province and 6 Palika)**

Under this activity, 13 events (two in each Palika and one event at the provincial level) were organized in which 163 (9 women, 154 men) participants attended. The objective of the orientation was to support the Palika staff to ensure proper application of the government's code of conduct and disinfection methods in quarantine centers. The Palika chairperson, local government representatives, staff, chief administrative officer, health coordinators, security forces were oriented on the subjects. The provincial-level event included the provincial health director, public health officers, health division chief, provincial secretary, laboratory technicians' supervisors, etc.

The local government representatives and officials have assured to implement the bilateral code of conduct between the local government and schools (that are being used as quarantine centers) in Saptari. The elected bodies have planned to share their knowledge on quarantine management through other programs/workshops.

Broadcasting radio program with key messaging on COVID-19: Under this activity, radio jingles with messages on COVID-19, its symptoms, and safety measures to be adopted for its prevention were aired in all the



Orientation on the proper use of PPE, Siraha



Orientation on quarantine management and code-of-conduct, Siraha

working Palikas for three months. Similarly, 18 talk shows (15 via television and 6 via local FM stations) were broadcasted. The talk show concentrated on interviews and interactions with local and provincial government stakeholders on different issues like initiations adopted for the COVID- 19 response, awareness-raising, facilities for mass tracing and treatment of positive cases, identification and distribution of relief materials to the vulnerable groups, management of quarantines, participatory planning process and coordination between different levels of government. This program made the government stakeholders and service providers further realize their responsibilities to overcome a pandemic situation and promote accountability.

Case Story: Immediate result due to media advocacy

The radio talk show focusing on the distribution of relief materials to the vulnerable communities brought together the mayor and community representative. A member of the Community Dialogue Center (CDC) who received relief material in the common platform in Karjanha municipality of Siraha district. The CDC member shared, that she and many other communities people did not receive the actual amount of relief materials assigned in the receipt. The issue raised compelled the mayor to call for an immediate meeting with the ward secretary and members who were involved in the process. The mayor also committed to verify the process and monitor the distribution of relief materials to the communities in the second phase.

As a result of advocacy via media mobilization, Mayor was himself involved during the second phase of the distribution of relief materials. The packaged relief materials were verified and weighed on a sampling basis. This made the service providers more accountable and the communities transparently receive the support.



Women making bamboo handicraft, Kalyanpur Municipality, Siraha



Bamboo products by the women trained on 'Bamboo Handicraft', Kalyanpur, Siraha



Jagriti Women Youth Group participating in the practical class of vegetable farming, Baudhimai, Rautahat

SECTION IV

Future Ahead: Ambition and Strategies

- Advocate for the campaign '*All Children should be in Full-Time Formal Day School*'
- Operation of *Child Helpline* & promote child protection
- Contribute to the *Beti Padhau – Beti Bachau* campaign

All Children should be in Full-Time Formal Day School

Why the campaign?

As a committed organization working towards creating an environment that says yes to education and no to child labor, ASN would like to vow to leave a long-lasting impact on communities. This will be ensured by eliminating any forms of child labor and by promoting full-day-full-time formal schooling for the children/students in Province 2. As the condition of child labor is more critical in Province-2 in Nepal because of higher illiteracy, cultural rigidity, social asymmetry, and a higher prevalence of poverty. The decision to send one's offspring to work at an early age reflects the intertemporal sharing and allocation of resources and the long-term benefit/returns of education versus work. As stated by Dofitori, 2004, poverty should not be a reason behind a child leaving their education.

The provision of sending children to attain full-time formal day school will help curb the prevalence and intensity of layers of social discrimination (*child labor, child marriage, gender inequity*) and improve the likelihood of them staying in school (Ersado, 2005). So, **ASN in coordination with Palikas and local communities** would like to sustain the momentum of “**no to child labor and yes to school**” by declaring communities and Palika- a child labor free zone (communities/Palika) in the nearest future.

Considering the transformative power of education, we believe that sending children to Full-Time Formal Day School & providing free and quality public education can be a sustainable approach to overcome the problem.

The movement is now initiated throughout the 1,271 wards & 136 Palikas in Province 2. In doing so, ASN has set **four criteria** which will be the indicators for evaluating our work and for declaring communities and Palika- Child labor Free Zone.

About the campaign

'*All children should be in full-time formal day school*' is a campaign created to promote meaningful involvement of all children in educational institutions throughout Nepal, including 7 Provinces, 77 Districts, and 753 Local Levels. Every child, regardless of color, gender, or disability, should have access to a high-quality education that is free of prejudice and respectful of their dignity. Unless and until every child in the country is properly educated, a nation cannot grow and move towards social changes that lead to development. The efforts both by commercial and governmental sectors have been found to be insufficient for satisfying a global requirement for excellent education, in the context of a developing nation like Nepal.

In order to make a positive impact, the campaign will advocate for the slogan "no to child labor, yes to education". Also, the campaign in close coordination and collaboration with Palikas and local communities will help the communities/Palikas to become a child labor-free zone. Realizing the transformative power of education, the campaign will help aware all concerned that investing in children's education brings vital development in a different field, thereby contributing to the mission of nation-building. We believe the campaign will pave sustainable ways to send children to full-time formal day school and provide free and high-quality public education. The campaign also aims to inform, and aware children that school is the best place to learn. For this, school stakeholders will be made aware to make school the best place with a friendly environment, where they can enjoy learning.

The purpose of this campaign is to promote the full constitutional rights of children, in terms of education and learning; and most importantly, to encourage individuals to make a substantial contribution to nation-building by investing in child education. So, our prime goal is to help create a favorable environment for children to attain full-time formal day school so that they can exercise their rights to education for overall better life.

The objective of the campaign is to strike a balance between 'children's and educational institutions' involvement. In particular, the SDGs goal 4 (Quality Education) will be promoted, and the significant implementation of citizens' educational rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal 2072 Part 3 (Article 31) will be promoted.

We believe that 'youngsters of today are not just the nation builders of tomorrow, but also our companion who holds the responsibility to change the world for the better'. For this, they should exercise their right to education. Our responsibility is to create a favorable environment that enables children to attain and complete their schooling.

Aims & Objectives of the Campaign:

We believe that '*Children's Education is our Prestige*', so, formal education is what the campaign will prioritize, promote, and advocate for. The major objective of the campaign is - '*All children should be informal full-time day school*', which is to enroll every child at school and to have regular follow up of their activities inside and outside the school. So, we aim to make easy access to quality education for every child & parent.

Further, the campaign also aims to:

- ◆ Encourage people to use locally available educational institutions; help facilitate to make these institutions sustainable.
- ◆ Raise awareness on the importance of quality education and full-time formal day school among all concerned throughout the country.

The goal of the Campaign:

The goal of the campaign is to ensure that:

- ◆ Children are in full-time formal day school as suggested by the *Nepal-2072 constitution* (that states all children should attain equitable and high-quality primary/secondary education).
- ◆ Children have access to an educational institution that is equipped will for future responsibilities at a minimum elementary and secondary education.
- ◆ Children are not subjected to any forms of violence - *child labor, child abuse, child/early marriage, neglect, discrimination, exploitation, or harassment*.

The Campaign will help facilitate to:

- ◆ Create a platform for children/youngsters to share their knowledge, information, and talents.

- ◆ Boost the self-esteem and decision-making abilities of children.
- ◆ Advocate that any form of Violence against Children (VAC) is not acceptable (because VAC has a lifelong impact on their overall health and progress)
- ◆ Identify the child's best interests.
- ◆ Make children/youngsters responsible for their actions based on the circumstances.
- ◆ Educate children/youngsters to be decent citizens.
- ◆ Facilitate to create a favorable environment for school enrollment of every child
- ◆ Help bring awareness amongst all concerned that children/youngsters are full of potential and abilities to contribute to society.
- ◆ Aware concerned stakeholders to provide relevant opportunities to help unleash the potential of children, and as based on their achievements
- ◆ Help increase ownership of children/youngsters of their rights and responsibilities.

Child Helpline 1098

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in education, with most marginalized children being impacted disproportionately. Families are likelier to prioritize survival over schooling, with children with disabilities and girls likely to bear the brunt of these difficult decisions by being deprioritized. The pandemic has induced GBV, early marriage, domestic violence and household drudgery for women, forced marriage, abortion, child labor & other forms of violence. Further, social and gender exclusion and discrimination are significant barriers to the well-being and holistic development of girl children in Dhanusha. Due to the patriarchal mindset, females are confronted with unequal power relations, which are the cause of gender-specific violence and sexual exploitation. Deprived of education and information, women including their children are mostly subjected to child labor, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, dowry practice, & unsafe migration. Further, in lack of schooling/education, girl children have very low self-esteem & confidence to voice their opinion and thus have to undergo layers of discrimination at the societal level. The widespread social & gender exclusion of girls has resulted in limited access to educational, social & economic opportunities. Consequently, a large number of children are unable to exercise their fundamental rights.

Child Helpline Nepal 1098 is the formal child protection mechanism to raise and report child protection concern free of charge. The helpline is for emergency rescue, relief, protection, and counseling to the children at risk. It provides emergency rescue service, shelter service to the rescued children, family tracing, and family reunification support to the children. Children, parents, guardians, and any of the community people witnessing the children protection risks shall have access to report to child helpline through their mobile or nearby landline phone without any charge.

ASN got approval from Nepal Government, Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizen/National Child Rights Council based on Child Helpline Nepal 1098 operation guideline 2019 to establish and operate Child Helpline 1098 at Dhanusha district to respond to child protection concerns in the province. The Child Helpline is established and operated in the Dhanusha district and provides support to other neighboring districts of province 2. The Child Helpline Nepal in Dhanusha will support rescue, relief, protection, counseling, and family reintegration support to the children at risk in province 2 in coordination and collaboration with the provincial government, local government, Wing of Nepal Police and partnership with concerned NGO and community of practice in the province.

Principle of Child Helpline: The Key principle of child helpline is emergency rescue and protection, the best interest of the child, Nondiscrimination, Right to Privacy, Promotion of Child-friendly behavior, Improvement of coordination, support, a collaboration between concerned stakeholders, Support to implementation of international standard of child rights in favor of the environment, behavior and practice, Family Reunification, social and institutional reintegration. ASN will be fully be obliged to fulfill the principle of child helpline through the operation in the Dhanusha district.

Target Group: Children at risk, and victims of any forms of violence, deprived of child rights in Dhanusha and neighboring districts.

Service of Child Helpline: the child helpline in Dhanusha will provide the following service to the children based on the Child Helpline Nepal 1098 Operation Guideline 2019. The services include emergency rescue, ambulance service, relief support, psychosocial counseling support, emergency shelter, health support, family counseling, family support, legal assistant and support, family reunification, social and institutional reintegration support, regular monitoring, facilitation and feedback, preparation and submission of the report to the concerned authority, promotion and awareness on child rights, coordination support, collaboration and facilitation to the concerned authority and NGO in the district and province.

SECTION V

Organizational Capacity and Growth

Human Resource

For ASN, its staff/employees are a valuable asset. In the year 2020, the organization was able to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic through the incredible professionalism and commitment shown by all of its staff. It was through the relentless effort of these staff that ASN adapted to the new ways to convene, connect, coordinate, and collaborate with stakeholders; offering hope, encouragement, and support to marginalized communities and people in need.

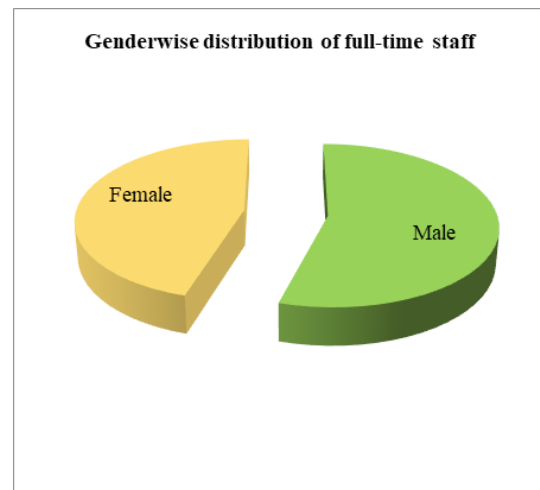
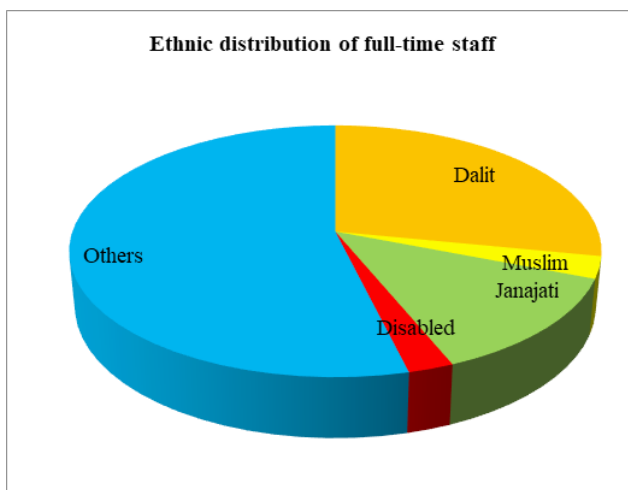
ASN is proud to have remained interconnected with local communities, and stakeholders through its wonderful set of 281 full-time staff and 700 + volunteers in the year 2020. ASN believes that volunteers coming from the local communities are crucial to identify problems and ensure sustainable community-owned and community-led solutions.

All staff members adhere to the following conditions:

1. All school-age children are in school and all members of the family are literate.
2. One member of each household is affiliated or represented at least in one local institution and structure.
3. Each member of a household has access to government services and entitlements including their identity
4. No child marriage and polygamy take place.
5. Every human rights violation event is reported.

Details of the Full-Time Staff [Jan – Dec 2021]

Total	Male	Female	Dalit	Janajati	Muslim	Disabled	Others
281	146	135	86	30	5	3	161
(100%)	52%	48%	31%	11%	2%	1%	57%



Projects in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 (Jan 2020 –Mar 2021)

RM: Rural Municipality, M: Municipality

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Education/Child Protection	<p>Dhanusha GaneshmanCharnath M, Sabaila M, Laxminiya RM, Nagrain M</p>	Empowering marginalized children and girls including those with disabilities.	Total: 42,638 schoolchildren, SMC, PTA, Teachers, Mother's group, Girls Network	The Royal Norwegian Embassy	Oct 2019- Sept 2022
Education/Child Protection	<p>Dhading Nilkantha M, Siddhalek RM, Tripura Sundari RM, Ganga Jamuna RM, Benighat Rorang RM</p>	Enable out-of-school girls to access education and to complete a full cycle of secondary education to grade 12 and to demonstrate improved learning outcomes.	Total: 9150 school going girls including 2000 Teachers; 320 Big Sisters; and 1280 Little Sisters	Voluntary Service Overseas/ DFID	Apr 2017- Jun 2021
	<p>Parsa Parsagadhi M, Birgunj Metropolitanity Bindabasini RM, Bahudaramai M, Pokhariya M, Kalikamai RM Dhobini RM, Pakahamainpur RM</p>				
	<p>Lamjung Madyanepal M, Sundarbarazar M, Besisahar M, Kholasothar RM, Dordi RM, Marsayangdi RM</p>				
Education/Child Protection	<p>Surkhet Birendranagar M, Bheringagar M, Lekhbesi M, Gurbakot M, Barahatal RM</p>	Promote youth engagement in community development and seek youth to promote as an active citizen to uplift education system of Dhading project school	Total: 5500 Youths	Voluntary Service Overseas/ DFID	Oct 2019- Oct 2020
	<p>Dhading Tripura Sundari and Siddhalekh RM</p>				

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Education	Aarambha Our Turn – Leave No Girl Behind Bara <i>Subarna RM, Devtal RM, AdarshaKorwal RM</i> Rautahat <i>Yamunamai RM, DurgaBhagwati RM & Katahariya M</i>	Improving life choices and opportunities of married out-of-school adolescent girls in Province 2 through increased literacy and numeracy and enhanced life skills.	Total: 8,500 Married Out-of-School adolescent's girls	UK Aid, People in Need (PIN)	Nov 2018- Jan 2024
	Education / Child Protection Sakriya- Civil Society Action to End Exploitative Child Labour Dhanusha <i>Mithila Bihari M, Bideha M</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity of CSO to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and document accurate, independent and objective information on the nature and scope of child labor; Raise awareness for the protection of workers from child labor and or forced labor abuses and violations of acceptable conditions of work Implement initiatives to address child labor and or forced labor and violations of the acceptable condition of work. 	Total: 4,750 HH's & 175 children	World Education	Oct 2019- Sep 2020
Education / Child Protection	Siraha <i>Saptakoshi M, Shambhunath M, Bodebarsain M, Dakneswori M, Bariyarpatti RM, Aranama RM, Sukhipur M, Golbazaar M</i> Dhanusha <i>Bideha M, Sahidnagar M, Ganesman Chaarnath M, Mithilabihari M, Aurahi RM, Ramgopalpur M</i> Mahottari <i>Samsi RM, Balawa M, Bhangaha M</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen/develop school systems Improve teachers' capacity Enhance students' empowerment Increase community engagement 	Total: 37 Municipalities 250 schools (Head Teachers, SMC, PTA Teachers, Students)	World Education	Jun 2020- Feb 2021
	Bara <i>Jeetpur Simara Sub Metropolitan city, Parwanipur RM, Parsauni RM, Pheta RM, Devtal RM, Siwarna RM</i> Parsa <i>Birgunj Metropolitan City, Pokhariya M, Jagarnathpur RM, Jeerabhawani RM</i>				
	Saptari <i>Saptakoshi M, Shambhunath M, Bodebarsain M, Dakneswori M, Bariyarpatti RM, Aranama RM, Sukhipur M, Golbazaar M</i> Rautahat <i>Garuda M, Dewahi Gonahi M, Paroha M, Yamunamai RM, Maulapur M</i>				
	Sarlahi <i>Lalbandi M, Barhathawa M, Chakarghatta RM, Basariya RM</i>				

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Education / Child Protection	<p>Dhading Nilkantha M, Siddhalek RM, ripura Sundari RM, Ganga Jamuna RM, BenighatRorang RM</p> <p>Parsa Parsagadhi M, Birgunj Metropolitanity Bindabasini RM, Bahudaramai M, Pokhariya M, Kalikamai RM Dhobini RM, Pakahamainpur RM</p>	Strengthened safe and learning environment in 69 schools	Total: 7564 School Stakeholders (Head Teachers, Teachers, SMC, PTA, Children) and local community	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	Jun 2020- Mar2021
Education/ Child Protection	<p>Parsa Parsagadhi M, Birgunj Metropolitanity Bindabasini RM, Bahudaramai M, Pokhariya M, Kalikamai RM Dhobini RM, Pakahamainpur RM</p>	Support schools in Parsa for safe school re-opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish reading corners at school for ECD, Grade 1, 2 & 3 students Install contact less hand washing station Facilitate in providing psychosocial first-aid training (PFA) to selected school teachers 	Total: 33 Schools	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	Aug 2020 – Sep 2020
Education/Child Protection	<p>Sunsari Bara M, Inarwa M, Duhabi M, Koshi RM, Bhokaraha RM, Gadhhi RM, Barju RM</p> <p>Saptari Shambhunatha M, Bode Barsain M, Dakneshwori M, Rupani RM, Surunga M, Agnisair Krishan Savaran RM, Balan Bihul RM, Khadak M, Mahadewa RM, Rajgard RM, Chinamasta RM, Belahi RM</p> <p>Mahottari Bhangaha M, Loharpatti M, Aurahai M, Ramgopalpur M, Bahwa M, Pipara RM, Mahottari RM</p> <p>Dhanusha Janakpur Sub Metropolitan City, GaneshnmanCharnath M, Dhanushadham M</p> <p>Siraha Lahan M, Dhangadi M, Golbazar M, Mirchiya M, Karjahan M, Kalyanpur M, Arnama RM</p>	To overcome poverty and marginalization, empower the Mushar girls through education & livelihood support so that they can access employment, and ultimately, break free from bonded labor.	Total: 3000 Musahar girls (BTB) 7500 Musahar girls (MNM)	Street Child of Nepal	BTB: Jan 2018 – Mar 2021 MNM: Sep 2019- Sep 2021

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Health/Nutrition	<p>Dhanusha Janakpur Sub Metropolitan City, Dhanushadham M</p> <p>Sarlahi Barahathawa M, Malangwa M, Lalbandi M, Hariwan M</p> <p>Siraha Lahan M, Dhangadimai M, Narha M, Golbazar M, Karjanha M</p> <p>Parsa Birgunj Metropolitan City, Pokhariya M</p> <p>Rautahat Gaur M, Garuda M, Chandrapur M</p>	<p>Improve health and quality of life of marginalized and poor women in Nepal in relation to reproductive and maternal health</p>	<p>Total: 6621 Women 1121 Referrals</p>	<p>Population Service International</p>	<p>Feb 2020- Dec 2020</p>
Health/ Nutrition	<p>Saptari Rajgadhi RM</p> <p>Rautahat Paroha M</p>	<p>Contribute to food and nutrition security (SDG 2) amongst women of reproductive age and young children from vulnerable and food-insecure families in Nepal, Bangladesh, and India.</p>	<p>Total: 13,382 HH's, 66,912 individuals, 10,000 women (age 15-19) and 6000 children (under age 5)</p>	<p>Welthungerhilfe (WHH)</p>	<p>Sep 2018- Aug 2019</p>
Health/ Nutrition	<p>Siraha Siraha M, Karjanha M, Kalyanpur M</p>	<p>Improvement of resilience and food security of vulnerable communities in the catchment area of the Kamla River in Siraha District</p>	<p>Total: 5000 HH's</p>	<p>Welthungerhilfe (WHH)</p>	<p>Sep 2018- Dec 2020</p>
Health/ Nutrition	<p>Parsa Chipharmari RM, Pakhamainpur RM, Kalikamai RM</p> <p>Bara Baragadhi RM, Suwarna and Bishrampur RM</p>	<p>Contribute for the prevention and reduction of the secondary socio-economic impact of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Total: 13838 (Children from 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women)</p>	<p>World Food Programme (WFP)</p>	<p>Jan 2021- Jun 2021</p>

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Health/ Nutrition	Dhanusha <i>Kamala M, Sahidnagar M</i>	<p>To ensure improved health & nutrition condition of PLW, and children under 5 in Province 2, through nutrition education activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spread information and awareness to the communities to enable behavioral change regarding proper dietary practice. Reduce the incidence of nutritional deficiencies among children under five, and PLW. To promote the utilization of available local food and benefit of nutrition garden. To increase the knowledge of mothers and care takers about the different food groups and how they can be combined to make a balanced diet. 	Total: 7000 PLW, Caretakers, Children below 5 and local communities	World Food Programme (WFP)	Jan 2021 – May 2021
	Mahottari <i>Bahwa M</i>				
	Sarlahi <i>Balara M, Malangwa M Rannagar RM</i>				
	Saptari <i>Rajbiraj M, Saptakoshi M</i>				
	Siraha <i>Bariyarpatti RM, Siraha M, Kalyanpur M, Karjanha M</i>				
	Bara <i>Baragadhi RM, Suwarna RM, Bishrampur RM</i>				
Health/ Nutrition	Parsa <i>Chhipaharmai RM, Pakhmainpur RM, Kalikamai RM</i>	Sustainable food and nutrition security in climate changing context in 3 target communities in Salyan district	Total: 7850 HHs	Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Nov 2020- Dec 2023
	Mahottari <i>Bahwa M</i>				
	Salyan <i>Kumakh RM, Darma RM, Siddha Kumakh RM</i>				
Humanitarian Response/ Livelihood	Dhanusha <i>Sahidnagar M</i>	Uphold the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 and, enhance their social cohesion and livelihoods Provide opportunities and support to COVID-19 affected population in terms of improved sanitation and hygiene practices; food security/ production/ and distribution; including enhanced income generating opportunities through trainings.	Total: 2300 HHs with marginalized/ economically deprived, Dalit, single women, differently abled person, migrant workers/dependent on daily wages	Australian Aid (Australian Lutheran World Service and The Lutheran World Federation)	Oct 2020- Dec 2021

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Livelihood/ Humanitarian Response	Vocational Skill Training Program to Safeguard the Livelihoods of people made most vulnerable by COVID-19 in province-2	Provide technical assistance to the planning, design and roll-out of targeted short-term vocational and skill TVET certified trainings for vulnerable community members affected by COVID-19 including <i>returnee migrants, women, and other marginalized, socially excluded and disadvantaged group working in the informal sector</i>	Total: 50 Youths from most marginalized & socially excluded groups including returnee migrants	UNESCO	Jul 2020- Dec 2020
	DRR /Livelihood	Mahottari <i>Loharpatti M</i>	Provide intensified prevention, preparedness and protection intervention to impact the household in hard to reach remote and rural parts of Province 2	Street Child	Nov 2020- Mar 2021
		Siraha <i>Golbazar M</i>			
Dhanusha <i>Janakpurdham Sub Metropolitan city, Sabaila M</i>					
Livelihood/ Humanitarian Response	Bara <i>Suwarna M, Pheta RM, Parsauni RM, Pachrauta RM, Devtal RM, Adarsha kotwal RM, Bishrampur RM</i>	Deliver intensified prevention, preparedness and protection intervention to impact the household in hard to reach remote and rural parts of Province 2	Total: 4500 Direct Beneficiaries	Street Child	Nov 2020- Mar 2021
	Parsa <i>Parsagadhi RM, Pokhariya M, Kalikamai RM, Pakhmainpur RM</i>				
	Sarlahi <i>Haripurwa M, Lalbandi M, Parsa RM, Haripur M</i>				
Livelihood/ Humanitarian Response	Rautahat <i>Rajdevi M, Rajpur M, DevahiGonahi M</i>	Provide a follow-up service to the trained participants who have completed the skills training in phase I, but have not started income generation, by leveraging their vocational and entrepreneurial skills to foster entrepreneurship development and to support their entry and retention in the labour market.	Total: 500 Direct Beneficiaries adolescent's girls and women of age 16-24 1500 Indirect Beneficiaries	UN Women	Sep 2019- Sep 2020
	Sarlahi <i>Balara M, Lalbandi M, Haripurwa M</i>				
	Rautahat <i>Rajdevi M, Rajpur M, Devahigonahi M</i>				
Livelihood	Navalparasi <i>Sunahaul M, Baradaghat M</i> Bara <i>Nijgadh M, Kolbi M, Jeetpur Simara Sub-metropolitan City</i>	SME agribusiness, smallholder groups & business groups to increase productivity & access to market	Total: 167	Swiss Contact	May 2020-Apr 2022

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
<p>DRR/ Humanitarian Response</p> <p>Relief Distribution to Functional Literacy Class Programme</p>	<p>Rautahat <i>Rajdevi M, Rajpur M, Devahigonahi M</i></p>	<p>Create enabling environment for most vulnerable women and adolescent girls and their family from relief support of food items and non-food items</p>	<p>Total: 420 young women & adolescent girls (10 – 24 Yrs.) 16 Facilitators</p>	<p>UNESCO</p>	<p>Oct 2020- Dec 2020</p>
<p>Local Initiative for Community Empowerment and Development (LICED)</p>	<p>Dhanusha <i>Sahidnagar M</i></p>	<p>Enhanced food and nutrition security of refugees, host and People at risk</p> <p>Increased income and employment with improved skills and knowledge with access to finance and market</p> <p>Refugees, host population and disaster affected populations have timely, relevant, quality and inclusive lifesaving assistance</p> <p>Increased protection, psychosocial well-being, and voice and participation of refugee, host and People at risk to gain equal access to rights, entitlements and opportunities</p> <p>Strengthened capacity of local structures and duty bearers responding to disaster and risk, ensuring safety nets, rights and entitlements of communities, and promoting social cohesion and harmony between refugees, host and transboundary communities upholding national laws, policies and international framework and standards</p>	<p>Total: 167 (including 50 disabled children, 30 Pallika representative)</p>	<p>Lutheran World (LWF) Nepal</p>	<p>Jul 2020- Dec 2020</p>

Name of the Project	Geographical coverage in terms of District, M/RM	Project Goal/Objective	No. of Beneficiaries contributed by the project	Donor/Funding Organisation	Duration (in Year)
Women Empowerment	Shashakta (Empowered)	Ensure a dignified living standard of women, young mother and early married girls and their children in the households of Ganesman Chharnath and Bideh municipalities of Dhanusha District	Total: 718 women 1784 HHs (Indirect Beneficiaries)	Kindernothilfe (KNH)	Sep 2018- Aug 2020
Governance	Saptari <i>Dakneshwori M</i>	The living condition of disadvantaged population groups in the areas of hygiene, nutrition, and social protection in the communities of Rajpur, Rautahat District, and Dakneshwori, Saptari district have improved through increased citizen participation.	Total: 13,000 HH's	Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Aug 2018- Jul 2021
Governance	Rautahat <i>Ishnath M, Baudhimai M</i>	Socially marginalized and economically poor citizens to have access to accountable government services and actively participate in inclusive local development processes.	Total: 43, 245 Individuals from Marginalized Communities 10,685 Dalits (10,225 Musahar, 460 Dom) 32,560 Muslim citizen	European Union (EU)	Jan 2019- Dec 2022
	Saptari <i>Rajgadh RM, Bishnupur RM</i>				
	Rautahat <i>Ishnath M Baudhimai M</i>				
	Siraha <i>Kalyanpur M, Karjanha M</i>				
	Dhanusha <i>Ganesman Chharnath M, Bideha M</i>				

Financials

SUJAN SUBEDI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants

Address: Baneshwor-31, Kathmandu
Phone no. -98516073738
Email address: casujan.11@gmail.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF M/s AASAMAN NEPAL

- 1 We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **M/s Aasaman Nepal** which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at Ashad 31, 2077, (July 15, 2020) and the related Statement of Income & Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows, Fund Accountability Statement and Notes to Financial Statement for the year then ended.

Management's Responsibility for the financial Statement

2. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial Statements in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

- 3 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depended on our professional judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we considered the internal control relevant to organisation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that our audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Opinion

4. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement present fairly, in all material respects of the financial position of **the Organization**, as at Ashad 31, 2077 (July 15, 2020), and of the results of its financial performance, its statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to Financial Statement for the period from Shrawan 1, 2076 to Ashad 31, 2077 (July 17, 2019 to July 15, 2020), in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

- 5 On the basis of our examination, we would like to report that:
- We have obtained all the information and explanations, which were considered necessary for the purpose for our audit.
 - The organisation has kept proper books of accounts as required by law, in so far as it appears from our examination of those books of account.
 - The Statement of Financial Position as at Ashad 31, 2077 (July 15, 2020) and the related Statement of Income & Statement, Fund Accountability Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to Financial Statement dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the organisation.
During our examination of the books of account of the organisation, we have not come across the cases where the Board of Directors or any member thereof or any representative or any office holder or any employee of the organisation has acted contrary to the provisions of law or caused loss or damage to the org., and
 - We have not come across any fraudulence in the accounts.


CA Sujan Subedi

For Sujan Subedi & Associates

Chartered Accountants

Date: 21 September, 2020

UDIN 200924CA01383NJuyO

Aasaman Nepal
Janakpurdham, Janakpur, Nepal

Statement of Financial Position
As on 31st Ashadh, 2077 (July 15th, 2020)


Amount in NPR


Particulars	Sch.	Current Year	Previous year
Assets			
Non Current Assets			
Fixed assets	3	19,030,991.79	14,186,601.79
Total Non-Current Assets		19,030,991.79	14,186,601.79
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	82,913,592.20	68,202,870.33
Advance, Deposit and Prepaid	7	12,320,252.58	15,746,404.77
Debtors and Account Receivables			
Total Current Assets		95,233,844.78	83,949,275.10
Total Assets		114,264,836.57	98,135,876.89
Funds & Liabilities			
Capital Reserve (Project Assets)	3	15,661,491.79	10,817,101.79
Corups Fund	3	3,369,500.00	3,369,500.00
Restricted Fund Balance	1	66,549,205.88	59,290,539.06
Total Funds		85,580,197.67	73,477,140.85
Non Current Liabilities:			
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-
Current Liabilities:			
Creditors and Payables	8	28,684,638.89	24,658,736.04
Total Current Liabilities		28,684,638.89	24,658,736.04
Total Liabilities		28,684,638.89	24,658,736.04
Total Funds and Liabilities		114,264,836.57	98,135,876.89

Notes to Financial Statement
Schedule 1-9 form integral part of this Financial Statements

9

As per our report of even date


.....
Harish Chandra Yadav
Chairman


.....
Laxmi Kumari
Bishwakarma
Treasurer

.....
Nawal Kishor Yadav
Executive Director


.....
Rakesh Songamikha
Finance Manager



CA Sujan Subedi
For, Sujan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants



Date: 21 September, 2020
Place: Kathmandu



Aasaman Nepal
Janakpurdham, Janakpur, Nepal

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the period from 1st Shrawan 2076 to 31st Ashadh 2077

Amount in NPR

Income	Sch	Current Year	Previous Year
Restricted Grant Income		308,427,044.11	266,569,107.03
Total Income (A)		308,427,044.11	266,569,107.03


Expenditure	Sch	Current Year	Previous Year
Project Expenditure	4	308,427,044.11	266,569,107.03
Total Expenditure (B)		308,427,044.11	266,569,107.03
Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-	-
Surplus/deficit balance transferred to Balance Sheet		-	-

Notes to Financial Statement

9

Schedule 1-9 form integral part of this Financial Statements

As per our report of



.....
Harish Chandra Yadav
Chairman

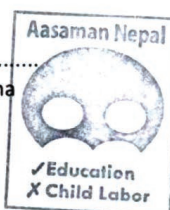

.....
Nawal Kishor Yadav
Executive Director


.....
CA Sujan Subedi
For, Sujan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants




.....
Laxmi Kumari
Bishwakarma
Treasurer


.....
Rakesh Songamikhya
Finance Manager



Date: 21 September, 2020

Place: Kathmandu

Aasaman Nepal
Janakpurdham, Janakpur, Nepal
Fund Accountability Statement

Particulars	Sch	Aasaman Nepal Fund	Aide et Action (A/E/A)	Poverty Alliviation Fund	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMEA)	Population Service International (PSI)	Swiss Contact	Welthungerhilfe - NPL 1036/BMZ	Welthungerhilfe - NPL 1057	Welthungerhilfe - NPL 1058	Welthungerhilfe - NPL 1059	Welthungerhilfe - NPL 1054	Welthungerhilfe - CGI Support
Surplus Carried Forward.		22,424,975.48	(90,440.77)	(525,136.88)	8,379,954.61	2,162,753.97	(295,904.50)	(106,286.94)	-	1,635,261.07	(2,247,568.59)	7,559,315.75	-
Fund Received	2	5,871,145.64	-	-	28,637,978.75	10,832,757.94	-	(175,240.00)	-	23,630,728.70	21,837,161.65	21,618,112.00	485,000.00
Other Income	1	207,560.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets	3	4,844,390.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Previous Year Adjustment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available Fund		33,348,071.51	(90,440.77)	(525,136.88)	37,017,933.36	12,995,511.91	(295,904.50)	(281,526.94)	-	25,265,989.77	19,589,593.06	29,177,427.75	485,000.00
Expenditure	4	3,091,313.00	-	-	27,784,897.69	11,575,207.92	-	(281,526.94)	-	22,921,366.29	17,680,075.39	28,250,578.53	-
Balance of Fund	1	30,256,758.51	(90,440.77)	(525,136.88)	9,233,035.67	1,420,304.00	(295,904.50)	-	-	2,344,623.48	1,909,517.67	926,849.22	485,000.00
Represented by													
Fixed Assets	3	19,030,991.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash & Bank Balances	6	12,012,971.80	11,112.23	40,371.00	8,779,072.61	2,269,070.00	1,000.00	-	143,922.68	2,249,902.48	2,438,083.57	1,030,187.89	385,000.00
Advances/Receivables	7	4,406,761.92	-	157,687.56	1,020,114.00	88,004.00	145,346.50	-	92,030.00	371,005.45	407,075.00	915,269.67	100,000.00
Payable	8	(5,193,967.00)	(101,553.00)	(723,195.44)	(566,150.94)	(936,770.00)	(442,251.00)	-	(235,952.68)	(276,284.45)	(935,640.90)	(1,018,608.34)	-
Balance		30,256,758.51	(90,440.77)	(525,136.88)	9,233,035.67	1,420,304.00	(295,904.50)	-	-	2,344,623.48	1,909,517.67	926,849.22	485,000.00

Notes to the Account
Schedules 1-9 form integral parts of this Financial Statements

Laxmi
Laxmi Kumari Bishwakarma
Treasurer

Nawal
Nawal Kishor Yadav
Executive Director

Hrish
Hrish Chandra Yadav
Chairman

Rakesh
Rakesh Songamkha
Finance Manager



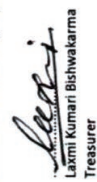
Sujan
Sujan Subedi
For, Sujan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Date: 21 September, 2020
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

Aasaman Nepal
Janakpurdhham, Janakpur, Nepal
Fund Accountability Statement

Particulars	Sch	Volunteer Service Overseas GEC T	Volunteer Service Overseas ICS	Volunteer Service Overseas VAD	British Council - EDGE	UNESCO	UNWomen	Ncell - CSR	LWR/WHH-TBR	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)- Flood Relief	UNICEF-CSS	Australian Embassy_DAP	Swiss Contact_YEP II
Surplus Carried Forward.		6,463,337.31	554,178.73	-	2,948,451.00	3,810,499.92	(3,134,769.57)	123,059.76	4,211,393.26	-	2,574,097.85	(354.56)	(898,028.18)
Fund Received	2	21,934,265.40	5,298,473.00	-	3,591,612.02	3,599,637.00	3,932,623.05	-	4,583,226.12	653,200.20	22,234,959.00	-	1,779,837.74
Other Income	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Previous Year Adjustment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available Fund		28,397,602.71	5,852,651.73	-	6,540,063.02	7,410,136.92	797,853.48	123,059.76	8,794,619.38	653,200.20	24,809,056.85	(354.56)	881,809.56
Expenditure	4	30,543,895.39	5,464,827.01	-	6,525,572.40	5,311,173.00	2,318,181.00	-	8,581,461.79	653,572.50	24,809,056.85	-	1,045,073.00
Balance of Fund	1	(2,146,292.68)	387,824.72	-	14,490.62	2,098,963.92	(1,520,327.52)	123,059.76	213,157.59	(372.30)	-	(354.56)	(163,263.44)
Represented by													
Fixed Assets	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash & Bank Balances	6	1,811,235.55	812,159.72	526,598.45	1,059,381.17	295,453.65	281,017.38	35,389.76	275,756.89	79,866.45	942,982.29	27,400.35	512,076.87
Advances/Receivables	7	28,669.00	-	50.00	-	2,017,132.27	31,636.00	149,670.00	279,701.05	-	-	21,745.09	-
Payable	8	(3,986,197.23)	(424,335.00)	(536,648.45)	(1,044,890.55)	(213,622.00)	(1,832,980.90)	(62,000.00)	(342,300.35)	(80,238.75)	(942,982.29)	(49,500.00)	(675,340.31)
Balance		(2,146,292.68)	387,824.72	-	14,490.62	2,098,963.92	(1,520,327.52)	123,059.76	213,157.59	(372.30)	(0.00)	(354.56)	(163,263.44)

Notes to the Account
Schedules 1-9 form integral parts.


Laxmi Kumari Bishwakarma
Treasurer


Nawal Kishor Yadav
Executive Director


Harish Chandra Yadav
Chairman


Rakesh Songamkha
Finance Manager




Sujan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Kathmandu
CA Sujan Subedi
For: Sujan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Date: 21 September, 2020
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

Aasaman Nepal
Janakpurdham, Janakpur, Nepal
Fund Accountability Statement

Particulars	Sch	European Union (EU)	Kindernothilfe (KNH)	People in Need (PIN)	Street Child-BIB	Street Child-MinM	Christina Aid	World Education-Sakriya	World Education-Safe to Learn	Current Year Total	Previous Year Total
Surplus Carried Forward		15,595,297.21	1,571,546.71	(80,632.58)	842,140.80	-	-	-	-	73,477,140.86	41,817,746.71
Fund Received	2	32,752,470.74	6,914,603.57	46,684,734.00	19,399,493.00	17,980,743.00	11,372,048.45	873,257.00	-	316,322,827.97	295,281,909.86
Other Income	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	207,560.39	41,487.45
Assets	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,844,390.00	2,905,103.85
Previous Year Adjustment		(55,000.44)	-	(450.00)	(789,227.00)	-	-	-	-	(844,677.44)	-
Total Available Fund		48,292,767.51	8,486,150.28	46,603,651.42	19,452,406.80	17,980,743.00	11,372,048.45	873,257.00	-	394,007,241.78	340,046,247.87
Expenditure	4	23,672,709.23	4,951,589.66	39,779,749.22	16,477,180.64	15,195,109.20	11,102,272.84	773,384.50	196,324.00	308,427,044.11	266,569,107.03
Balance of Fund	1	24,620,058.28	3,534,560.62	6,823,902.20	2,975,226.16	2,781,633.80	269,775.61	99,872.50	(196,324.00)	85,580,197.68	73,477,140.84
Represented by											
Fixed Assets	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash & Bank Balances	6	25,538,745.04	3,830,055.48	7,657,983.20	4,039,186.61	5,114,860.50	213,034.58	199,714.00	-	82,913,592.20	68,202,870.33
Advances/Receivables	7	206,063.00	28,599.90	36,447.00	1,469,280.17	66,495.00	280,000.00	1,470.00	-	12,320,252.58	15,746,404.77
Payable	8	(1,124,749.76)	(324,094.76)	(870,528.00)	(2,533,240.62)	(2,699,721.70)	(223,258.97)	(101,311.50)	(196,324.00)	(28,684,638.89)	(24,658,736.04)
Balance		24,620,058.28	3,534,560.62	6,823,902.20	2,975,226.16	2,781,633.80	269,775.61	99,872.50	(196,324.00)	85,580,197.68	73,477,140.85

Notes to the Account
Schedules 1-9 form integral parts of

(Signature)
Kamini Kumari Bishwakarma
Treasurer

(Signature)
Naval Kishor Yadav
Executive Director

(Signature)
Harish Chandra Yadav
Chairman

(Signature)
Rakesh Songamkha
Finance Manager

(Signature)
CA Sujjan Subedi
For, Sujjan Subedi & Associates
Chartered Accountants



Date: 21 September, 2020
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

Partner Organizations

