

## ISSUE VI 2018

### 1. Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM)

Since 2010, SEWAM program has been working with the marginalized and deprived women groups in Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi and Dhanusha for their socioeconomic upliftment through various economic empowerment programs. SEWAM program has been providing skill oriented trainings, income generating program, vocational trainings, agricultural development, and awareness program to the women groups for their socioeconomic empowerment. For the past seven years, SEWAM has helped to improve women's participation in income generating activities by providing seed money through trust fund and micro-credit loans to operate small business. Today, women have begun to invest funds and loans that are mobilized through the trust funds and micro credit loans.



SEWAM has helped in improving women's participation in income generating activities. The program has led to bring positive changes in the lives of 498 women of 18 women groups from Sarlahi, Makwanpur, Chitwan and Dhanusha districts of Central Nepal. The economic conditions of the women entrepreneurs have improved after undertaking the business, which have also empowered them in decision-making in both business and household matters. This has led them to be independent, confident, self-reliant, and have gained strong will power.



### 2. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP)

Along with the rebuilding of shelter homes for the poorest of the poor families, community rebuilding program such as "Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program" ( NERP) was initiated in Sindhupalchowk and

Nuwakot targeting women from 90 households (one women from per household who were supported with shelter homes).

The project NERP focuses on rebuilding the affected communities through socio-economic empowerment for women and marginalized. The major objective of the NERP is to support the poorest of the poor earthquake affected communities with shelter homes and schools items and to enhance economic opportunities to improve socioeconomic conditions of marginalized women through a process of economic and social empowerment for sustainable development. Altogether, 60 shelter homes (20 in Sarkigaun and 20 in Tindhara, Sindhupalchowk and 20 in Sunkhani, Nuwakot) have been built.

Six Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) were formed in three communities (Sipapokhare, Jyamire and Tindhara) of Sindhupalchowk and two Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) were formed in Sunkhani, Nuwakot. Each WAG consists of 15 women. The NERP has conducted different programs like adult education, cornerstone training, recruitment of motivator and institutional support for local partners and women groups, and also provided trainings such as Goat Raising, Tailoring and organic vegetable farming followed by micro credit loans which led to strengthen the capabilities of women.



### Support to the students affected by April 2015 Earthquake

Computers were provided to Kumbheshwari Secondary school of Sunkhani, Nuwakot and Bal Balika Sudhar Secondary school of Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk



School Uniforms were provided to the students of Bal Balika Sudhar Secondary School, Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk.



### 3. Control Arms Campaign

WPD Nepal has been working on control arms campaigns to educate and create awareness on illegal possession of and trade of small arms and other portable lethal weapons and its impacts of proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on women and girls. WPD-Nepal has been working to create awareness among people at local, national and international level about illicit use and trade of small arms and weapons. Various national and international programs are conducted yearly for this approach. WPD Nepal lobbied with Parliament members, policy makers, social leaders, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, and Security sectors to ratify arms trade treaty and to stop all kinds of illicit trade of arms and save the lives of the innocents.

***June 13, 2018, Kathmandu: Round table meeting with H. E. Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa***



The Round table meeting with H. E. Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa, Japan to Geneva and President of the Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Mr. Dumasani Dladla, Head of Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, Ms. Yoko Owatari, First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament and Members of the Parliament, Representatives of different Political Parties and Civil Society of Nepal was held to discuss on how State and Civil Society can take important roles to accede the Arms Trade Treaty in the country and stop illegal arms trade, stop human suffering and save lives of the innocents.

On behalf of Members of Parliament of South Asia and South Asia Coalition for Control Arms (SACA), Mr. Hiranya Lal Shrestha, former Ambassador and former Member of Parliament, presented the Outcome document of South Asia Roundtable Conference that was held on May 17-18 in Kathmandu, Nepal.



***May 30, 2018: Side Event "ATT Implementation Efforts around the World"***

Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair of Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal shared how she worked with Control Arms to bring governments and civil society together in South Asia to deepen knowledge about the Arms Trade Treaty and Partnerships and collaborations necessary for success at the side event during the Working Group and Preparatory Meeting ( May 29- June 1, 2018) #CSP2018 at Centre International de Conférences', Genève - CICG.



Shobha Shrestha, on behalf of Control Arms Coalition provided a deliberation on Gender Based Violence against women and children at the Preparatory Meeting for Conference of States Parties (CSP4), Geneva, Switzerland.



*May 17-18, 2018: Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Universalization in South Asia*



An interactive 2-day roundtable meeting was organized by Women for Peace & Democracy – Nepal (WPD-Nepal) and Control Arms with funding supported from New Zealand in Kathmandu, Nepal on 17-18 May 2018. This meeting on “Promoting Universalization and Strengthening Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in South Asia” brought together government representatives, parliamentarians and civil society from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

Seeking to advance the universalization and strengthen the implementation of the ATT in the region, the meeting encouraged information sharing and best practices to deepen the knowledge of the ATT among government representatives and civil society, creating a platform where different stakeholders could discuss the ATT and discuss region-specific challenges. Participants examined the concern over porous borders, imbalance within the ATT, lack of capacity and expertise, the necessity of financial and technical assistance, transit countries becoming end-users, and the need for a strong, regional coalition to maintain momentum around the ATT.

The roundtable concluded with the adoption of an outcome document that laid out a roadmap towards strengthening ratification, accession, and implementation efforts, identified key areas where capacity building is necessary, and initiated the establishment of a South Asia Regional Coalition.



#### 4. Celebrating "The Global week of Action", 2018

WPD Nepal organized an art competition on **May 7, 2018**, on the *Global Week of Action* on the topic "Effects of Gun Violence on Society" where 7 different schools from Kathmandu had participated. Its main objective was to aware students and local people about illicit use of small arms, its effects on disrupting peace of any country and the need for arms trade treaty. The competition was held at Kanjirowa National Higher Secondary School, Kathmandu. Two students from each school had participated and prepared art based on the theme. The event was supported by International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), UNSCAR and WPD – Nepal.



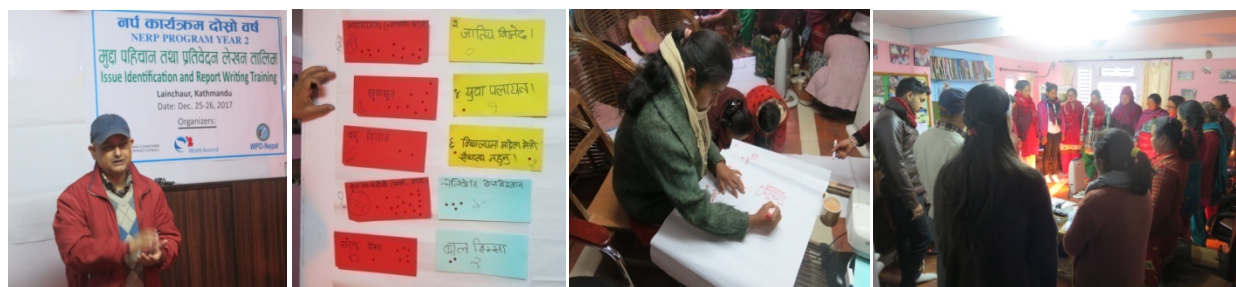
#### 5. WPD-Nepal Exposure Visit to MYRADA, Kolar, India

WPD Nepal team had an exposure visit to Myrada Spoorthy Training Center, Kolar, India from January 27- February 3, 2018 supported by HOPE International Development Agency. The purpose of the visit was to understand and analyze the work of Myrada as learning to make effective improvements in the working areas of WPD Nepal. WPD Nepal team was facilitated by the Myrada staffs throughout the visit. WPD Nepal visited different areas where Myrada has been working like Community Managed Resource Center (CMRC), Farmer Producers Organization (FPO), Soukhya Samruddhi Samasthe (SSS), Self Help Affinity Group (SAG), Community Radio Station, Sanitation and Watershed programs. The visit to Myrada was an excellent opportunity for WPD Nepal to enhance knowledge about SAGs and to strengthen the work plan for effective output to bring changes in the lives of the women.



## 6. Report Writing/ Issue Identification Training

On December 25–26, 2017, WPD –Nepal had organized training on Issue Identification and Report Writing for Central Office staffs and Field staffs of Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot. Two days training session was conducted at the central office, Kathmandu. Training session on Issue Identification and Report Writing was given by Mr. Sarad Neupane, Program Manager, UNDP. The training mainly focused on to identify social issues in the community and to write report. In addition, the training had involved activities like introduction through drawing, meditation, group discussions, playing games and so on. The participants were divided into different groups and the issues were identified through the group discussion. The identified issues were prioritized by the voting system as well. Moreover, Mr. Sarad Neupane facilitated throughout the training and provided some important techniques to improve report writing skill.



## 7. HOPE Visit to make a Documentary Film

HOPE International Development Agency, an international partner and supporter of WPD Nepal had visited Sindhupalchowk, Nepal from December 6-17, 2017, to make a documentary film of Manmaya Tamang, an active member of Milijuli Women Affinity Group (WAG), NERP. The devastating earthquake on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, had led her to poverty, homeless, and hopeless. When WPD Nepal initiated Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP) for the earthquake victims of Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot, Manmaya Tamang was helped to build a temporary shelter home. Later, she joined the Milijuli Women Affinity Group (WAG) formed under NERP by WPD Nepal. After joining the group, her life had been changed and improved. The documentary of Manmaya was filmed to show how her life has been improving and doing better after joining Milijuli WAG. Moreover, the film also focused the comparison between the lifestyle and living standard of two women: Manmaya Tamang one who has been involved in WAG and Sanchamaya Tamang, the other one who has not been involved in any WAG. The team of HOPE was able to shoot the film on time and praised to carry on the progress made by the women.



## 8. Celebrating 16 Days of Activism against Gender- Based Violence Campaign

WPD-Nepal with the support of IANSA (**I**nternational **A**ction **N**etwork on **S**mall **A**rms) organized a mass rally on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017 to mark the international day of activism against gender based violence. It was to aware the students and the local people that a great deal of gender based violence occurs due to arms. The rally began at Maitighar Mandala and ended at Shantibatika, Ratnapark in Kathmandu. Big banners bearing messages like, “Real Men don’t need guns” and “Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls” drew the attention of thousands who were in attendance. Almost a hundred attendees participated in the rally which included students from different colleges, teachers, civilians and reporters.



## 9. World Accord Visit to Nepal

World Accord, an international partner and supporter of WPD-Nepal organized 14 days long visit to Nepal to assess the situation of women and marginalized supported by World Accord. The team of World Accord included David Barth (Executive Director, World Accord), Sandy Annett (World Accord supporter), Mary Pearson (Treasurer, World Accord), Bill Arnold (World Accord supporter), Aaron Grigsby (World Accord member), Gary Farb and Judith Farb (World Accord supporters), Richard Kirsh and Margaret Kohr (World Accord supporters). The team of World Accord visited various working districts of WPD-Nepal like Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Janakpur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot. The team interacted with the women group of respective districts, where the women shared their stories and changes that has taken place in their life after the support from World Accord. The team of World Accord was happy and inspired to listen to the stories of women and their achievement and have promised to keep extending their support to these women.





**10. Relief Materials to Flood victim**

June, 2017, was a tragic month for Chisapani Women Group. The heavy monsoon rain caused flooding and landslides and the people were compelled to displace from their home with severe shortage of food, drinking water and shelter. With the support of World Accord, 27 members of Chisapani women group and their families were supported with food and shelter. Also, Hemi Shrestha, Karen Cuthberston and the entire team of Medical Mercy Canada supported 27 Chisapani women with Mosquito nets, mattress and blankets. On behalf of Chisapani Women group, WPD-Nepal would like to thank all our supporters for helping us in difficult time.



**11. WPD Nepal distributed Tailoring Machine to Sindhupalchowk**

WPD Nepal works with the target women to bring a socioeconomic transformation in their community through different empowerment programs. WPD Nepal distributed 3 sewing machines to the women of Kuwapani community of Sindhupalchowk with the support of Rohit Singh Bhandari and his team from Westminster College, USA on June 29, 2017. WPD Nepal also recruited a trainer for facilitating the tailoring training to the women group. With this training, WPD-Nepal hopes to help the women of Kuwapani realize the business opportunity from tailoring to make them financially and socially independent.



## 12. Celebrating "The Global Week of Action", 2017

On June 9, 2017, WPD–Nepal celebrated the global week of action by organizing a speech competition on the theme "The Road to Development and Peace Begins with Silencing the Guns". The objective of this program was to highlight the consequences of misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons along with the need for Arms Trade Treaty. In the program, 6 schools of Kathmandu district had participated, among which 2 participants from each school delivered their speech based on the theme. The program was able to aware the students and teachers of the respective school about the illegal use and effects of small arms in Nepal. The event was supported by International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), UNSCAR and WPD Nepal.



## 13. WPD Nepal women (Som Laxmi Praja) wins the Local Level Election 2017

Six women of WPD–Nepal; Som Laxmi Praja (Makwanpur), Saraswati Shrestha (Sindhupalchowk), Ambika Lamichhane (Sindhupalchowk), Suku Maya B.K (Sindhupalchowk), Mano Devi Sada (Janakpur) and Sushmita Nepali (Nuwakot) stood in the Local Level Election, 2017 from their respective communities. Among which, three women of WPD Nepal have won the local level election, 2017. Som Laxmi Praja, one of the field motivators of SEWAM program of WPD, won the local level election representing Nepali Congress from Manahari ward no. 1, Handikhola. Saraswati Shrestha, an active member of Milijuli Women Group also won the local level election representing CPN from Indrawati Rural Municipality. Similarly, Mano Devi Sada, member of Arati Women Group, won the local level election from Janakpurdham sub metropolitan ward no. 23 representing Nepali Congress. These women are the inspiration to other women to work in hand to hand with men to build a peaceful and prosperous society.



#### **14. Arms Trade Treaty Conference of State Parties in Geneva**

**September 11- September 15, 2017:** Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair of WPD Nepal, participated in the Third Conference of State Parties (CSP3) about the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference saw the participation from more than 500 people representing Arms Trade Treaty States Parties, signatories, industry, and civil society representatives. The conference focused on the Arms Trade Treaty progress and effective implementation of the treaty. The ATT is the first global treaty to regulate the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to ensure that governments attend to a number of risks including human rights concerns when making arms transfer decisions. Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, also the regional coordinator of Control Arms gave her statements on the CSP3 urging the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat to focus more on substantive part of mandate such as technical advice on implementation of Arms Trade Treaty.



#### **15. Plant Peace Project organized by WPD- Nepal**

WPD–Nepal with the joint support of International Women Peace Group (IWPG), organized Plant Peace Project in Sunkhani, Nuwakot on August 10, 2016. The main objective of this program was to declare Sunkhani village as "Hills of Peace" and a global village. WPD Nepal had distributed more than 500 orange plants to around 200 families of Nuwakot. Ms Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, the executive chair of WPD-Nepal planted *Avocado* plant in front of the community hall of Nuwakot, addressing the initiative. The program saw the participation of more than 500 people. Linking the villagers with IWPG, WPD Nepal successfully operated the "Plant Peace Project".



## 16. Internship



WPD-Nepal welcomed two new interns this year, Amrita Paudel and Shristi Shrestha. Amrita Paudel, an undergraduate student from Kathmandu is currently studying Social Work at Himalaya College. Similarly, Shristi Shrestha has completed her high school from Xavier Academy on the field of Management. While they were at WPD Nepal, they were involved in different volunteering activities and also assisted WPD staffs. They both worked hard and completed their internship to gain experience and enhance their knowledge about social work. They were with WPD Nepal for three months period. Both the interns would like to work in the nonprofit fields in the future once they are graduated.

## 17. SEWAM Hero



***"I feel so proud of myself that I can support my family." says Jamuna Bartaula.***

Jamuna Bartaula, aged 43 is a member of Milijuli women group. Her family consists of 5members; husband, two daughters and a son. Her husband works as a farmer. Jamuna was not allowed to go outside the house and show her participation in any discussions/ trainings. She was not allowed to give her opinion; even if she tried to give it was ignored. She used to take loan from others for household expenses where she had to pay high interest.

After being involved in Milijuli Women Group, she had participated in various trainings like animal husbandry, mushroom farming, doll making and vegetable farming. After attending the trainings and group meetings Jamuna's confidence was enhanced. Jamuna was allowed to attend trainings / meetings if it was organized in the community. A gender equality awareness program was organized in the community where Jamuna convinced her husband to participate and he did. After participating in the awareness program, Jamuna's husband now encourages and allows Jamuna to participate in meetings and trainings that are organized outside the community.

Jamuna took loans from the trust fund to initiate vegetable farming, rice cultivation and for raising cows. Jamuna's initiative has been supported by her husband. Her vegetable farming and cow business is doing well and she saves approximately Rs. 25,000 every month.

After being involved in women group, she manages her household expenditures with the profit she makes and is able to send her children to study in good school. ***"I feel so proud of myself that I can support my family" says Jamuna.*** She believes that the SEWAM program has changed her life completely and now encourages other women to be a part of this group too. She is also thankful to WPD- Nepal and World Accord for providing her bicycle to do vegetable farming business which has made her life easier. Also, women in the group believe in her continuous hard work.

## 18. NERP Hero



***"I feel so proud of myself that I am able to support my family and bring smiles to their faces" says Man Maya Tamang.***

Man Maya Tamang, 32, lives in Bhotsipa , Sindhupalchowk. Her family consists of 6 members which includes her three daughters, a son and her husband. Man Maya and her husband both used to work as laborers. Even though they both worked hard every day still it was difficult to run the family with the money they earned.

The devastating earthquake of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 took away the little they had (food and clothes). They lost everything making them live under the open sky. Man Maya shares, "I never felt so hopeless in my life. I saw my children suffering from hunger and shelter and I was helpless". Man Maya was relieved when WPD-Nepal conducted a relief camp in her village and provided her with emergency relief materials like rice, tarpaulins, medicine and clothes. Man Maya started to live under the tarpaulins after that. Though, Man Maya started working as a laborer in others agriculture farm the constant sorrow of not having a home troubled her.

Manmaya happiness knew no bounds when she was provided with a shelter home through Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP). Man Maya shares, "To have my own home and not live under the tarpaulins anymore was like a dream come true for me". Man Maya joined the Milijuli Women Group formed under NERP program. After joining the group Man Maya received participated in literacy classes and in trainings like cornerstone, poultry farming, organic vegetable farming, goat raising and awareness program on climate change.

After participating in the trainings Man Maya took a loan from the trust fund to start poultry farming in the community. Today, Man Maya and her husband runs a very successful poultry business in Tindhara and earns approximately Rs.30, 000 every month. Man Maya was nominated as the chair of the group and she has become an inspiration for many women in the community. ***"I feel so proud of myself that I am able to support my family and bring smiles to their faces" says Man Maya Tamang.***

**Vision:** A Just Society where Nepalese people can live in Peace and Prosperity

### **Missions**

- Promote equitable access to resources and economic opportunities to end poverty and hunger (SDGs) and ensure that all targeted communities can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality in a healthy and secure environment.
- Ensure all women and marginalized (transgender) can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs peacefully.
- Promote sustainable consumption and production, manage natural resources sustainably, and reduce effects of climate change.
- Advocate for peaceful, just and inclusive society, which is free from human rights violations and armed violence

### **Objectives**

- Empower women and marginalized to improve their own wellbeing by enhancing their access to resources and livelihood skills.
- Promote economic opportunities for the women and marginalized which enhance their capacities and take into account their needs and aspirations
- Strengthen the capacities of women and marginalized so they may participate in peace building measures actively and constructively.
- Lobby with the key stakeholders to use the resources effectively and efficiently for enhance security of the society.

### **Target Area**

24 Rural communities of the six districts: Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk of Central Development Region.

### **WPD Nepal Partners**

#### **International Partners**

- World Accord, Canada
- Hope International Development Agency, Canada
- Control Arms Coalition, New York, USA
- International Action Network for Small Arms Control(IANSA),UK
- Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, CA
- Westminster College, United States
- Colby-Sawyer College Enactus, New Hampshire, United States
- Where Do the Children Learn(WDCL), Geneva
- Naya Yuba, Help Nepal, United Kingdom

#### **Community partners**

- Tharu Sanskritik Sangrahalatya, Bachhauli, Chitwan
- Manakamana Mutual Development Organization
- Darpan Mutual Development Organization
- Rural Developemnt Foundation, Janakpur, Dhanusa
- Nepal Manav Chahar Sangh, Haripur, Sarlahi
- Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum(CDECF), Sindhupalchowk