

"Women as an engine for fostering and promoting democracy."

Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal

Uniting passion for building a peaceful and democratic Nepal

Issue IX 2021

1. Social Empowerment program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM)



Since 2010, SEWAM program has been working with the marginalized and deprived women groups in Chitwan, 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 ten 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. Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and marginalized (SEWAM) aims to develop the capacity of the poor for more earnings that supports the improvement of their living status with the generous support of World Accord.

The SEWAM Year 10 (August 2020 – July 2021) was built upon the achievements made, lessons learnt, recommendations provided by the SEWAM women groups and partners and observations made during monitoring visits by WPD –Nepal during SEWAM 10 program. The project continues to serve the marginalized and deprived 8 women groups of Chitwan, Sarlahi and Dhanusha. The project activities were focused on capacity building activities on agriculture, livestock and fodder management and awareness programs on social inclusion, gender equality, health and hygiene and environment for women of the target districts. During the one-year project period 109 women were engaged in different types of income generating activities like Animal raising (63), Vegetable Farming (32), Grocery Store (5), Tailoring (2), Shop (5), Poultry Farming (2), clothing store (3), Auto Riksha Business (2), The women obtained technical and vocational trainings on refresher training on farming, fodder management, and animal husbandry, and awareness& education on covid -19.



Activities under SEWAM Program (2020-2021)

Fodder Management training



A 3 days fodder management training was conducted in Hariyon, Sarlahi. The women were given training on selection of male and female goat for breeding vaccinations, medicines, veterinary charge. The training was facilitated by Mr. Jagnath Lama.



Training on Animal Husbandry



A two days training on animal husbandry was conducted in Srijana and Milijuli women groups of Chitwan. The training was conducted to enhance knowledge and skills on animal husbandry (goat, cow, buffalo) raising and to encourage the target women to initiate goat, cow, buffalo raising business.

2. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP)

The Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP) was initiated with a mission of establishing a peaceful and harmonious society where women and marginalized enjoy economic opportunities. The NERP19-Year 1 program was built upon the achievements made, lessons learnt, recommendations provided by the NERP women groups and partners and observations made during monitoring visits by WPD –Nepal during NERP-16 Year 3 program. The project has been kindly supported by HOPE International Development Agency. The project was focused on serving 212 Dalits and vulnerable women of 15 Women Affinity Groups of Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot districts through socioeconomic empowerment program through enhanced gender relations. The two districts were severely affected during the earthquake that occurred on April 25th, 2015 which destroyed almost all the houses and caused immense damage.



The project conducted capacity building activities on agriculture, livestock, micro credit, small scale businesses and awareness and education on emerging issues in the target communities for the 212 target women. During the one-year project 157 women were engaged in different types of income generating activities like goat raising (81), pig raising (5), Buffalo raising (17), poultry farming (23), vegetable farming (9), shop (11), carpet weaving (8), Ginger farming (1) and cow raising (2).

Activities under NERP Program (2020-2021)

Encouraged women to start kitchen gardening



NERP women have been supported with different vegetable seeds (radish, spinach, cauliflower, onion, coriander and tomato seeds) to 322 target women in both Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot to initiate kitchen gardening.

NERP Women in their kitchen garden



Plastic tunnel distribution to NERP Women

The lockdown enforced by the government to control the COVID-19 spread affected the marginalized communities very much. Realizing the context, the women groups were encouraged and motivated to focus more on agriculture and the need for food security. The women have started the kitchen gardening and vegetable farming and have grown different kinds of vegetables and have earned profit by selling the vegetables. The profit gained has encouraged and motivated more women to be involved in vegetable farming. While working in the vegetable farming the women experienced the need of plastic tunnels to do on and off-seasonal vegetable farming. Also, as the irrigation was not very good in the community, the women realized the importance of drums and reserve water for irrigation. Therefore, as per the requests made from the women 20 plastic tunnels, 7 drums and vegetables seeds were distributed to 10 WAGs in Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot



Training on vegetable farming under plastic tunnel



A one-day training on vegetable farming was conducted on March 20, 2021 in Tindhara, Sindhupalchowk where women from Milijuli, Lamatol, Mendomaya, Gairitol, Mainali, Milan and Panchakanya WAG participated. The objective of the training was to inform on how to build plastic tunnel and what vegetables to grow under plastic tunnels to earn maximum benefit from its use. The training was facilitated by Mr. Nabraj Katuwal. Hence, there were altogether 22 participants who participated in the training

Goat distribution to NERP Women



The target women in Dumindanda and Kuwapani, Sindhupalchowk are so poor that they do not own land to initiate vegetable farming. Moreover, the women also expressed that they are unable to do vegetable farming due to water problems. Hence, the women requested goats instead of plastic tunnels to support them economically. Therefore, 8 goats were distributed to the target women of 4 WAGs (Lalupate, Pipalbot, Makhamali and Godawari).



3. Rights and Economic Development for Nepal's Empowered Women (RENEW)

The living condition of Dalit's and most vulnerable groups of Nepal are socially, economically and politically marginalized. The state has declared the country as gender equality in all aspects but in practice it has not been followed. In the society, inequality between men and women and gender discrimination still exists. However, it is important to empower poor and marginalized women socially and economically to reduce gender discrimination and inequality between women and men.



RENEW is a fully gender equality four years project which aims to enhance the socio-economic empowerment of women and girls, especially from Dalit and most vulnerable groups of Makwanpur and Nuwakot districts. The 5 major components of RENEW is climate change adaptation, micro- small enterprises, cooperative education, social inclusion and women leadership, human rights and gender equality. The ultimate outcome of the project will be achieved by bringing a human right- based approach (HRBA) to economic and social growth – focusing on climate change adaptation (CCA), enhanced performance of micro/small-scale enterprises, increased access to the products and services required by these enterprises, as well as on the social empowerment of women and girls enabling them to effectively engage in their communities. The HRBA helps to promote a strong sense of community inclusion and sisterhood which will boost women's and girls' aspirations, confidence, decision-making autonomy and leadership and as a result women and girls can enjoy their human rights (HR). Furthermore, capacity-building by our local partners will enable them to increase women's and girls' participation and leadership in community decision-making while better promoting and advancing human rights (HR) and gender equality.

Activities under RENEW (2020-2021)

Cornerstone training

The four days cornerstone training was conducted in Makwanpur and Nuwakot districts. The objective of the training was to create a social, capital and harmony by building confidence of the participants, trust towards one another and to develop positive thoughts for value-based community development. The training was conducted in all 30 target women groups. Total 836 (Nuwakot 356 and Makwanpur 480) targeted women and 58 men (Nuwakot 36 and Makwanpur 22) along with local authorities (chairperson of ward, State deputy speaker and teachers) had participated in the training.



Micro credit loan management training



The four days training on micro -credit loan management was successfully conducted in Nuwakot and Makwanpur. The objective of the training was to provide knowledge and skills required to mobilize the Village Women's Group funds effectively by the groups such that they become capable of meeting members' financial needs and empowerment in the community.



Human Rights workshop



A one-day workshop to identify HR issues affecting most vulnerable women and girls was conducted in Nuwakot and Makwanpur. During the workshop the participants were oriented about the general concept of human rights and constitutional provision of fundamental rights in Nepal. The issues like early child marriage, domestic violence, inadequate health and education services gender and social inequality were found in both the target districts. Similarly, the local stakeholders and local authorities have shown commitment to support and create a human rights friendly environment and culture in the target area.

Training on climate change



The training on climate change adaptation in agriculture was conducted in Makwanpur from 1-4 February, 2021 and in Nuwakot from 17-20 February, 2021. The objective of the training was to share knowledge and skills about the best practices of climate change adaptation in agriculture and to aware and sensitize targeted women and local stakeholders and local authorities about CC and CCA. The training was participated by 98 women (Nuwakot 47 and Makwanpur 51), local stakeholders and local authorities of the target communities.

4. Nepal Rebuilding Program (NERP Bansbari)

NERP Bansbari was initiated with a mission to give shelter home to the women of Dalit communities in Bansbari, Sindhupalchowk. Bansbari is a village of Melamchi municipality located in the Sindhupalchowk district, Bagmati zone. The village is approximately 70 km northeast of Kathmandu valley and can be easily reached via Araniko Highway. Most of the residents of Bansbari village are identified as *Dalits*, and underprivileged community. The families in Bansbari village have been living in poverty for generations, exploited by other communities and have been deprived of social and economic development. WPD-Nepal provided loans with 0% interest to build 15 permanent houses in Dalit and marginalized community which was affected by earthquake. A group was formed by WPD Nepal and provided different income generating activities and vocational training which enhance economic opportunities to improve the socioeconomic conditions of Dalit and marginalized women of Bansbari village through a process of economic and social empowerment. Until now, altogether 15 houses have been built in Bansbari. NERP Bansbari has conducted different training such as Cornerstone training, self-help group training, goat rearing training.



Activities under NERP Bansbari

1. Cornerstone Training.



A four days training was conducted in Basbari, Sindhupalchwok to create a social capital and harmony by building confidence of the participants, trust towards one another and to develop positive thoughts for values-based community development.

2. Goat Raising training

A two days Goat raising training was conducted in Bansbari, Sindhupalchwok to enhance knowledge on goat raising.



3. Self Help Group training



A two days Self-help group training was conducted in Bansbari, Sindhupalchwok to explain about the process of SHG formation, its importance and necessity.

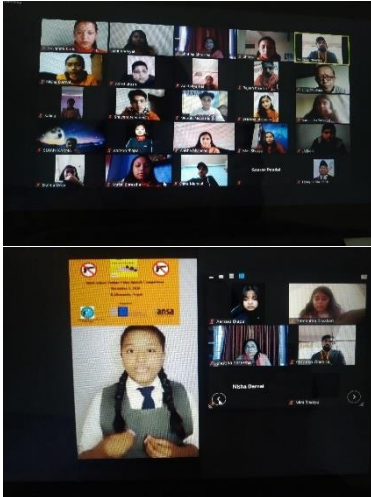
4. Construction of 15 houses



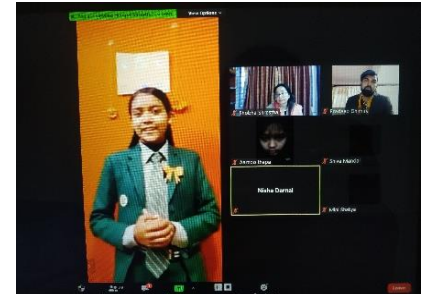
WPD Nepal built 15 houses for Dalit and marginalized community of Bansbari, Sindhupalchwok who were affected by earthquake.



5. Celebrating “The Global Week of Action”, 2020



WPD Nepal organized a video contest to give young people from five different schools in Kathmandu a chance to reflect on the 16 Days theme and to make a video on the topic of ceasefires, gun violence, and GBV. The winning video entries were presented and discussed in a webinar organized later by WPD-Nepal. Teachers and students, who have been confined at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, reported that the contest gave them a welcome chance to be more active and think about arms control, and the students felt the ceasefire topic is so important that it should be shared with youth living in the rural areas along the Nepal-India border that have become a transit point for the illegal guns trade, and where many women have been affected by guns in their home



6. Round table seminar on " killer robots “The Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAW)- a treat to humankind



WPD Nepal organized a round table seminar on " **killer robots: The Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAW)- a treat to humankind**" on February 24, 2021`at Hotel Ambassador, Kathmandu. This event was conducted to make people aware about the effects of robots on humankind. The seminar was attended by 52 participants from different areas: 2 participants from parliament member, 1 former parliament member, 7 Security force (Nepal Army, Nepal Police, 4 political parties, 6 civil society, 7 Student union, teacher association, 5 Academician, 3 Journalist and 2 advocates. Ms. Shobha Pradhan Shrestha introduced all the brief information of LAWS through her presentation. whereas the round table discussion was moderated by Mr. Malla Kishor Sundar, former member of Parliament. The event was conducted successfully and at the end of the program all the participants signed the banner in support of stopping killer robots.



7. Covid-19 response work by WPD Nepal

Nepal is not an exception to COVID-19 and is currently facing a challenge to prevent the spread of infection. Although the government implemented early school closure and lockdown, the management to contain COVID-19 does not appear to be adequate. Understanding the current situation regarding COVID-19 in Nepal is important for providing a direction towards proper management of the disease. Hence it is very important to give education and awareness on COVID-19 at a community level to help women and socially excluded groups to prevent themselves from getting infected as well as to adapt safety measures and precautions during social gatherings.

Covid-19 response work by WPD Nepal:

Awareness program



To respond to the crisis caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, WPD Nepal conducted awareness program on COVID-19 and its impact on gender in Makwanpur, Chitwan, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot districts. An awareness program was organized to educate and create awareness on COVID-19 safety measures and to reduce the risk of domestic and gender-based violence in the target groups. Education materials on COVID-19 were developed and published and were shared with the women groups of the target communities during the awareness program.



Mask and soap distribution:



WPD Nepal distributed mask and soaps to all the targeted women groups in Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Sarlahi and Dhanusha.



Facebook Page (Covid Bujhau) WPD Nepal created a Facebook page named as *covid bujhau* to create public awareness. Covid-19 related information are shared in the page.

8. Success stories



Sita Mijar, aged 35 is a residence of Indrawati 6, Sindhupalchowk. Her family consists of 8 members: 5 daughters, 1 son and her husband. She and her husband are involved in animal husbandry for 7 years and have been raising goats and pigs.

After being involved in the women group, Sita received various kinds of trainings such as: poultry farming, pig raising, adult education and also participated in the awareness campaign on Covid-19. After receiving various kinds of training, she became confident and took a loan of Rs 25000 from the trust fund and bought 5 baby goats. She raised the goat and sold 3 out of five, from which she was able to make a profit of Rs. 1,00,000.

Again, she took a loan of Rs.25,000 and bought 5 pigs. The pigs gave birth to piglets after

few months. She sold 3 of them after raising and made a profit of Rs 1,50,000. At present, she has 13 pigs in her farm and is doing animal husbandry business with her husband. Today, she is a confident and an independent woman. *Sita Mijar says, "After being involved in the Lalupate women group, my life has changed. I have become more confident and am able to support my family financially". She expresses her thanks to WPD Nepal and HOPE for all the support*



Hasina Chaudhary age 36 is a member of Makhamali women group and a motivator. Her family consists of 4 members; husband, son, and daughter. Her husband has a small shop and is very supportive to her. Before she joined the Makhmali women group, her only income source was the only small shop they had, which she and her husband used to run.

After the lockdown their business went down and she was finding it difficult to meet their daily household expenses. She realized that she could utilize her skills of tailoring she

learned from the tailoring training she took from the SEWAM program and earn and support the family. Hasina started sewing clothes. Initially she started sewing clothes for her daughter and the members saw her work and slowly members of the group started ordering to tailor their clothes. Her work was liked by the women members and slowly it became famous in the Haripur community. She started getting many orders from her friends, relatives which helped her to earn during the pandemic. She was able to make Rs. 10,000 from her tailoring business during the lockdown period. Recently she has been appointed Secretary in "**Haripur Samajik Udhmi Mahila Sahakari Sanstha**" Cooperative which in operated under Haripur Municipality. Today she is happy that she used the skill and knowledge she had received from the SEWAM program which helped to meet the daily household expenses of her family in the difficult time. Hasina Chaudhary says, "*The knowledge and skill which I had gained from the SEWAM program helped me during the difficult time.*" Hasina extends her gratitude to the world Accord and WPD Nepal for providing all the support to enhance knowledge and skill of the women of Haripur which is the big assets for the women.



ReetaTheeng, age 32, is a permanent resident of Manahari-3, Kalidamar. There are five members in her family; her husband, two daughters and a son. She got married at a very young age because her parents had financial problems. Unfortunately, her life was still full of misery even after marriage. To overcome poverty, her husband went abroad for foreign employment. However, her husband was out of contact for many years and did not send any money to her. She had to take full responsibility for her family, which made her life very difficult to survive.

A ray of hope aroused in her life after she became a member in the Phulbari women group. After being involved in the group, she participated in different training and programs.

Although it was difficult for her to spare time to attend the group meetings and training, the hunger to learn and do something encouraged her participate in the trainings. After taking training she took a loan of Rs 10000 from the group and started vegetable farming. With the profit of Rs 20,000 she invested it into goat raising and bought 2 goats. She also invested it in cow raising. At present, she is involved into multiple businesses and has become an example to other women in the group.

Today Reeta is a confident and independent woman who takes care of her family on her own. She shares that people in the community also respect and trust her due to her hard work and dedication. She expresses her happiness by saying ***“I am thankful for all the training that was given to us which has enhanced my confidence to take loans and initiate income generating activities. No matter how small the loan amount is, we should start with it. Small penny earned today can make a huge amount tomorrow if invested wisely.”***

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 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 the 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 consider 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 the enhancement of security within the society.

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