

"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 X 2022

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 2022) 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 training on goat raising, economic literacy and coordination meeting with local stake holders was held.



1.1 Goat raising training

Two days training on goat raising was conducted at Chitwan where Women from Janabhabana Women group and Namuna Women group participated. The training was given to enhance knowledge and skills on goat raising and to encourage women to initiate goat raising.



1.2 Economic literacy

Education to women, formal or informal, contributes towards both developments of economic independence and welfare of the individual and her family. The economic literacy training was provided to give information about household cash management, money management and introduction to business. SEWAM women are involved in various kind of businesses and some of the women are willing to start their own business. Therefore, total 62 women members from Dipjyoti WAG and Janabhawana WAG of Sarlahi were trained on Economic literacy.



1.3 Coordination meeting

Coordination meeting was conducted with local stakeholders, local government officials, community members, women groups and WPD staff at Shree Tribhuvan Adarsha Higher Secondary School, Bindhi, Dhanusa. Total 36 local stakeholders and women members had participated in the meeting. Coordination meeting was conducted to inform about WPD Nepal, its target areas, groups, goals and work, to enhance relationship with the Sub-Metropolitan city, ward and explore areas for collaboration for sustainable community development and to be informed about needs/problems in the community.



2. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP 19)

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 326 Dalits and vulnerable women of 22 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 329 target women. During the one-year project 160 women were engaged in different types of income generating activities like goat raising (75), pig raising (5), Buffalo raising (10), poultry farming (40), vegetable farming (20), shop (6), carpet weaving (1), Ginger farming (1) and cow raising (2).



2.1. Goat raising training and goat distribution

A Two days training on goat raising was conducted in Pokhara, Sindhupalchok, where target women from 4 WAGs (Makhamali, Lalupate, Pipalbot and Godawori) participated in the training. The training was conducted to enhance knowledge and skills on goat raising and to encourage the target women to initiate goat raising business. The training was conducted by taking all the safety measure such as wearing mask, using sanitizer. Total of 25 women participated in the training. The training was facilitated by Balkrishna Sapkota.

The target women in Dumindanda and Kuwapani, Sindhupalchowk expressed that they are unable to do vegetable farming due to water problems and most of the women of Dumindanda and Kuwapani were interested in goat raising. Hence, the women requested goats to support them economically. Therefore, 8 goats were distributed to the target women of 4 WAGs (Lalupate, Pipalbot, Makhamali and Godawari). The women who have received the goats will pass the first kid to another woman and the pass on process goes on.



2.2. Self-help group (SHG) Training

The group management training is essential to deal problems and challenges to reach the group's goals and objective. The self-help group management training was in Tindhara, Sindhupalchwok where women from (Milan, Panchakanya, Mainali, Mendomaya, Milujuli, Lamatol and Gairitol) WAGs participated. Similarly, in Kuwapani, Sindhupalchwok, where women of Makhamali, Godawori, Lalupate and Pipalbot) participated in the training. The training was facilitated by Radhe Shyam Khatiwoda. The training was received by target women, motivators and also monitored by program officer.



2.3. Training on pickle making



A five days training on pickle making was conducted in Tindhara, Sindhupalchwok to enhance their knowledge and skills on pickle making. Target women from Milijuli, Lamatol, Gairitol, Mendomaya, Mainali, Milan and Panchakanya WAGs participated in the training. Total of 30 participants participated in the training along with the field supervisors. The training was facilitated by Sajana Nakarmi.



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2.4. Training on business management.

Three days business management training was conducted in Kathmandu, with the objective of providing knowledge and skills on business management so that target women can run their business smoothly. Target women from Sindhupalchwok and Nuwakot participated in the training. The motivators, field supervisor and 15 target women from each WAGs participated in the training. The training was facilitated by Krishna Nepal and Bishnu Shrestha.



2.5. Training on existing law for women

Training on existing law for women was conducted in Kathmandu to provide knowledge on existing laws for women. Target women from Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot participated in the training. Altogether 30 Women participated in the training. The training was facilitated by Rup Narayan Shrestha and provided knowledge on existing laws made for women.



2.6. Review and planning meeting/ Next Phase of program proposal Development.



A review and planning meeting was conducted on February 23, 2022 in Kathmandu to review and share the progress made from the NERP-19-year 3 program throughout the year. During the meeting, the participants discussed on the achievements made, obstacles encountered, strategies undertaken to



overcome those obstacles and the lesson learned. During the meeting the participants recommended for NERP-19 year 4 activities. The program coordinator, program officer, field supervisor and motivators and target women participated in the meeting to share and discuss about NERP-19-year 3 progress and experience from the field.

2.7. Education/ Awareness on emerging issues (gender, health, climate)



The second wave of COVID-19 affected everyone but mostly the marginalized communities of Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot. To respond the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic, WPD -Nepal created a Radio PSA under NERP-19 program to provide awareness on covid-19 and was podcasted through radio mission in Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot for a month. The radio PSA was podcasted every day for five times a day at 7:55, 8:00, 10.:00 AM and 6:30 and 7:30 PM from September 10,2021 to October 10,2021. Also, the field supervisors and motivators played the jingle and discussed about the following topic during the monthly meeting with the target women.

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.

3.1. Workshop with Local Authorities and women leaders “A progressive journey to Gender equality & Women’s Empowerment”

On July 20–21, 2022, a workshop with local government officials and female leaders was held at the Hotel Country Villa in Nagarkot. The workshop's goals were to discuss the accomplishments that Renew has made and to make plans for what can be accomplished in the coming days.



3.2. Training of Trainer (TOT) on Human rights

On June 17, 2022, a training session on human rights was held at the hotel Country Villa in Nagarkot. All of the partner organizations and the women of women group participated



3.3. Annual discussion meeting on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

To build the capacity of the local partners, local stakeholders and Village Women Groups on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) series of discussions on social and economic empowerment of women and girls were organized in Makwanpur and Nuwakot between and among local government, civil society organizations, academicians, women networks and members of village women groups



3.4. Annual discussion meeting on social and economic empowerment of women with local authorities

An annual discussion meeting on social and economic empowerment of women and girls with VWGs, local partners local government and other civil society organizations was conducted in Makwanpur and one in Nuwakot. A total of 56 participants, 25 motivators of VWGs, 17 local authorities (Nuwakot 11, Makwanpur 6) and 14 CSOs (Nuwakot 6, Makwanpur 8) participated in the discussion. These activities are key to the success of our project and demonstrate the impact it is having on the key stakeholders as they are not only willing to share on these topics but also include the lessons learned so as to improve its overall quality



3.6. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Training



VWG members are also using other alternative techniques, influenced by the training. VWG has started using Jholmol, a homemade biofertilizer instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in order to grow organic vegetables. Similarly, after receiving training on climate change adaptation, the women members of Makkari community have become environment friendly. VWG have started to collect cattle urine to use as organic fertilizer in their kitchen garden to increase productivity.

3.7. Market readiness training



Market readiness trainings (including market information and higher quality production) to micro and small-scale enterprises managed by women and girls were conducted in Makwanpur and in Nuwakot.



3.8. Financial Literacy Training

The training manual on Financial Literacy "Paishako Jagerna" was developed with the help of 60 women members of four VWGs, namely Bandevi, Laxit, Jun Tara and Bhimsentan (Nuwakot) who participated in its pretest. Furthermore, ToT (training of Trainers) on financial literacy was offered to the motivators and field supervisors. 2 days training on financial literacy was conducted in 8 VWGs of Makwanpur and 2 VWGs of Nuwakot. A total of 280 women members (Makwanpur 240 and Nuwakot 40) participated.



3.9. Review and Sharing meeting

The workshop was conducted at Dhulikhel on December 30, 2021. Total 49 participants from RENEW partners, WPD staff, motivators and field supervisors from 30 VWGs of Makwanpur and Nuwakot participated in the program. They updated about the group and shared about the situation in the target communities. They also shared their feedback and learning after receiving different training or workshops and transformation stories on how women have been applying the knowledge gained and lessons learned in the community. Besides this, they also shared problems or challenges faced due to domestic violence or gender-based violence and shared their ideas and experiences how to overcome those challenges.



3.10. Leadership Training



The leadership training was conducted in 15 VWGs of Makwanpur on August 21- 30, 2021 and 8 VWGs of Nuwakot on September 2-3, 2021. 3 events in Makwanpur and 1 event in Nuwakot have been completed. Total 63 (Makwanpur 37 and Nuwakot 26) women members participated in the training. During the reporting period (October,2021- March,2022) the training was conducted in 7 VWGs of Nuwakot on December 9-10,2021. Total 35 women participated in the training.

3.11. Training on Human rights issues and gender-based Violence to local authorities



Two training sessions on HR, Sexual and GBV for local authorities took place in Makwanpur and in Nuwakot. 108 (Female: 51, Male: 57) from Rural municipalities, Vice chairperson and Ward members from Manahari RM and Shivapuri RM participated in the training. A training manual on sexual and gender-based violence was also created. A total of eleven workshops to identify HR issues affecting most vulnerable women and girls were conducted in Nuwakot and in Makwanpur. 362 community members (F: 335, M: 27) members, along with the local authorities and local stakeholders attended.

Also, five public hearings on Human Rights Violations (HRV), GBV in the community between service users and service providers were conducted this year in both Nuwakot and Makwanpur. Not only women and men from elected representatives participated but also ward members, government officials from health, education and housing, reconstruction unit chiefs and motivators. A total of 176 women and 71 men participated.

3.12. Street Drama (Awareness on women and rights and gender-based violence)



4. Celebrating “The Global Week of Action”, 2022

On Dec 7,2021, WPD Nepal celebrated global week of action by organizing a poem competition on the topic “Be the change disarmed gender-based violence now” where 18 students from 8 schools from Kathmandu participated. Its main objective was to educate students and local individuals about the illicit use of small arms, its effects on disrupting peace and the need for an arms trade treaty. The competition was held at a grammar public school in Kathmandu. The event was supported by the International Action Network on small Arms (IANSA) and WPD Nepal.



5. 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 24th 2022 at Hotel Ambassador, Kathmandu. The conference was attended by participants from various educational institutes such as Universal college Maitidevi, Acme Engineering college, Sitapila, Kathmandu Engineering College, Kalimati, Institute of engineering- Pulchowk campus. The attendees belonged to various Information technologies backgrounds, Members of the Robotics Association of Nepal. A round table discussion was conducted focusing on “Challenges of Killer Robots” moderated by Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair, WPD- Nepal, where 4 presenters from the different educational institutes, addressed their perspective regarding the pros and cons of "Killer Robots" and how it can have an adverse effect in mankind. The Program concluded by engaging all the participants in the signature campaign along with many fruitful discussions regarding the impact that killer Robots could have in developing countries like Nepal and the identification of Human Civilization as a whole. This conference was tremendously effective in a better understanding of the novice term " Killer Robot" among the participants. The outcomes of the conference provided proper guidelines for further advocacy and propagation of the emerging and existing issue of 'Killer Robots'.



6. National workshop to promote the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)



In collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific (UNRCPD) the Women for Peace and Democracy in Nepal (WPDN), hosted a national workshop to promote the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and support Nepal’s accession to the Treaty. The workshop, which took place at the Club Himalaya Hotel in Nagarkot on the 24 and 25 November 2021, was first in-person event since the outbreak of Covid-19. The workshop aimed to gathered a diverse group of participants and stakeholders whose coordination is key to the accession and implementation of the ATT, including government officials of key ministries, members of parliament representing different political parties, civil society organizations including the media, and international experts. The workshop raised awareness of national representatives of the ATT’s provisions, decision-making processes, and the incentives for Nepal to accede, as well as the Treaty’s compliance with gender responsive control of small arms and ammunitions. The workshop was funded by the European Union as part of a global project led by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to support gender mainstreamed policies, programs and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse.

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.

Contact information:

Women for Peace and Democracy- Nepal (WPD-Nepal)

Central office:

Post box:20297, Lainchaur , Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: +977-1-4024099, Fax: +977-1-40244100

E-mail: info@wpdnepal.org.np, shresthashobha@gmail.com

Website: www.wpdnepal.org.np , Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/WPDNEPAL