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# AIN TGDMCC

Association of International  
Non- Government Organisations  
Task Group on Disaster  
Management and Climate Change

**Resilience in  
Action- Community  
Voices from the field**



# FORWARD

## ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS IN NEPAL

**O**n the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of AIN, we would like to congratulate the entire team of the Task Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change, TGMCC, for putting together this excellent publication. We appreciate TGMCC for its active engagement since its inception in 2002 as an integral part of AIN; it has been continuously updating and sharing information within the membership and taking responsibility to build and develop understanding on emergency, disaster and climate change issues in Nepal.

We are grateful that AIN TGMCC is committed to exchange knowledge and expand resources and technical expertise, recognizing the growing need to work in emergency situations on behalf of all disadvantaged people in Nepal, especially those vulnerable to natural disasters, by rigorously engaging with the government, donors, various sectors of civil society, NGO partners, communities and individuals.

Nepal is a highly vulnerable, disaster-prone country with incidence of widespread disasters year-round, including floods, landslides, fire, earthquakes, drought and now the COVID-19 pandemic. This compilation of voices from communities in the field is a positive expression of the impact that AIN members are having on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Humanitarian Response at all levels. The document will further foster a common knowledge and understanding of the changing context of the country, DRR and development, opportunities for increased impact, and ways of working in emergencies among AIN members and other relevant stakeholders.

These stories from the community have showcased the exemplary work done by AIN members in terms of reaching the unreached and in building disaster resilient communities including the most

venerable women, children, people with disability and the aging population.

We would like to applaud the TGMCC Coordinator Santosh Dahal and Co Coordinator Sajan Neupane for their leadership and great effort in creating this meaningful publication and thereby creating an environment for coordination and collaboration among members' activities in establishing synergy in DRR and Emergency Response in the country.

We are thankful to all the members of AIN TGMCC for making this possible. Keep inspiring.

All the best,

**Dr Sushil Koirala**  
Chairperson  
AIN

**Dr Corey O' Hara**  
SC Member  
Representative AIN TGMCC





## AN INITIATIVE OF COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE EVACUATION ROUTE MAINTENANCE

The Shivaran, Thulo Purva, and Rahar toles (villages) of ward number 6 are in-between west Rapti River and Joraiya stream. In total, 30 families including 171 population of Tharu (a caste under indigenous minorities) live in those toles. These villages become like Iceland when heavy rainfalls and increase the water level in both river and stream in monsoon. No one can move outside toles in an emergency. Many times, residents were rescued by helicopter or boats in past during the floods and inundation of water. By considering this problem, Raptisonari



Rural Municipality constructed a bridge (like a culvert where the small vehicle can pass) over the Joraiya stream. But, both sides of the bridge were damaged by flood and it was difficult to cross during the flood and water inundation time. Therefore, people used to disconnect with outside villages and faced problems to reach the markets, schools, health posts, and so on other day-to-day activities in monsoon period.

As per the demand of the residents of the area, the ward office and BEE-Group (a partner of AWO International) jointly constructed gabion wire retaining walls as the evacuation route for the emergency in July 2021. The objectives of the construction were to ensure a safe evacuation route during the flood, make feel safe to the 30 families and protect the constructed bridge. For this, an agreement was done among BEE-Group, the Ward office of Raptisonari ward no 6, and the construction committee for the construction of the retaining wall. Out of total cost, project contributed 82 % (external materials and stone), ward office-13 % (skilled labor) and community -5 % (unskilled labor). It was highly demanded support from the residents. Therefore, the beneficiaries constructed it within 2 weeks with the active participation of women. As a result of evacuation route construction, people feel safe and happy that they can access the markets, schools, health posts, and other day-to-day livelihood activities in the monsoon.

Note: AWO International has been implementing the "Building Resilience through Economic Development and Capacity Development project" in Raptisonari Rural Municipality of Banke District in partnership with local partner organization Bheri Environmental Excellence Group (BEE Group), Banke, Nepal.





## REACHING THE UNREACHED

### A case study of Sabita Tharu

**T**he market was closed, and there was no work. We ran out of supplies and reached people we knew to borrow loans and even the shops to get supplies in credit. But as they say, poor people are the ones who suffer the most, the same happened to us. Nobody would trust us because both of us, me and my husband have disabilities that limit us from the diversity of work." Sabita shared as she controlled the tears in her eyes.

Sabita and her husband Dilbahadur Tharu, with their two children, live in a small village in Thakurbaba Municipality in Bardiya. Dil Bahadur is the only bread earner of the family. Sabita is not able to work due to her disability. Recently Dil Bahadur has also started having some problems due to night blindness.

"We didn't have an easy life before the pandemic began, but my husband could still manage to get some labor work, which had our expenses managed. As the pandemic started to show its tantrums, our lives began being more difficult. The most painful thing was to see people turning their backs on us when we reached them for help. They did not have trust in us being able to pay back their loans or for the supplies bought in credit." Sabita added.

That was when they came to know of the support being provided by CARE Nepal and its partner to the most vulnerable households. Sabita continued, "We reached the distribution center with rays of hope. But our name was not there in the list of recipients. We were sad but we made an effort to request these organizations. They cross-checked, referred to the local government and, they supported us. That support of voucher assistance worth NPR 13,000 meant everything to us. We received all the food supplies that would last for two months. The happiness that came with is not expressible."

The markets have resumed now and Dil Bahadur has started getting some labor works like before. He is hopeful that he will be able to meet the basic needs of his family or at least will be able



to develop trust in people to borrow loans or buy supplies in credit now. Hadn't the support been provided, Dil Bahadur and his family had seen no options ahead. However, Sabita has her lesson from the pandemic experience and wishes not to go through the same again. She hopes she could also work and support her family.

She further shared, "I know I cannot do a lot like others as going around is difficult for me. But if I could acquire some life skills that require hand only, I will surely make some money out of it. I wish I had a hand-operated cycle that could help me pick up my husband from the bus station in the evening. If late, he can't

reach home on his own. Lockdown gave me a lesson with a bitter feeling of living in poverty, and with disability."

The commodity voucher assistance supported the vulnerable households to keep their hopes going until the market began to resume. With the effect of the pandemic on the economy, mostly the employment market, the families still fear to go through similar experiences again. With very few resources in hand and limited livelihood options, these families wish to acquire skills and ensure resources that will keep them safe in the worst of days.



## REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES THROUGH SHOCK RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

In the year 2020 and the beginning of 2021, the poor people in areas such as Saptari faced economic challenges because of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns which was further aggravated by subsequent floods and the cold wave which added to their woes.

Sunar Bati BK, a 75-year-old resident, who belongs to the Dalit community of Umar Tole of Saptakoshi Municipality Ward 3, had a bitter experience three years ago when his five-year-old grandson



was hospitalized due to cold. But this time he received NPR 2000 with support from DCA and its local partner Koshi Victim's Society (KVS) and Saptakoshi Municipality which he used to purchase clothes and essential food items to feed his family of six as soon as the cold wave hit.

"It was a very difficult time for our family then. We did not have money to purchase food, warm clothes or blanket which worsened the health of my grandson," recalled BK. "This year, we

received everything within a week as the cold wave hit our area with which we were able to manage the essentials".

Initiated by DCA in collaboration with the Municipality as a pilot project of combining cash transfer and integrating it within an existing SP system, BK and his family were among the 460 households supported. 229 male and 231 female from 11 wards.

"The impoverished communities are at the receiving end of the

harsh cold weather. Most of the poor people live in shacks built on unregistered land, which is unsafe and lacks basic amenities, increasing health risks. We have seen cases of pneumonia, diarrhea and common cold particularly which is very alarming," stated Biswash Pokharel social protection officer at Saptakoshi Municipality. "This pilot for Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP), opens up opportunities to collaborate with INGOs like DCA and local NGO like KVS, by using our SP to reach the disaster-affected population on time," stated Uttam Kumar Sharma, Mayor of Saptakoshi Municipality.

Although it was implemented on a small scale, the Vulnerability Index at the household level to hazards such as floods, cold waves and others were done. With the pre-disaster database in one system, in any disaster, the Municipality can quickly release assistance in the form of cash. DCA also provided technical support to the Saptakoshi Municipality for developing Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) guidelines, capacity development, and operational management support to deliver cash.

The SRSP is a relatively new concept in Nepal, and it envisions incorporating humanitarian assistance with the existing SP system. Vulnerable communities living in crisis-prone areas face greater exposure to shocks and stresses, thus, SP including cash transfer program can play an important role in helping families to prepare, cope, and recover from shocks and stresses well in time.





## COORDINATION TO BRING WIDER STAKEHOLDERS IN A COMMON FORUM

DPNet-Nepal as a Secretariat of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) has been coordinating with wider stakeholders including Government, I/NGO's, UN, Donor agencies, Academia, Media, Private sector and disaster affected community to bring in a common forum. The network has coordinated to represent the single Nepal delegation in international forums like Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR by organizing the preparatory meetings, drafting the Official position

paper etc. Similarly, the network also contributed in formulating the National DRR Policy 2018 and National DRR Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 by raising the basked fund through AINTGDMCC, which was used for organizing consultative workshops, steering committee meetings, thematic working group meetings and hiring six thematic experts. In general, it was a joint effort of the AINTGDMCC and DPNet-Nepal to support the Government.

Furthermore, coordination to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is another example of coordination with wider stakeholders. Each year the network coordinates with Ministry of Home Affairs, NDRRMA, AINTGDMCC, IFRC, NRCS, NGO's, Academia, UN, Donor agencies, Media, Private sector to jointly organize various DRR&M related programs. The main event of IDDRR 2020 was National Symposium which was chaired by Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive of NDRMMA, where the Hon. Prime Minister KP Oli delivered his remarks, similarly



Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and senior Government officials were also present in the program. Similarly, folk songs program, video documentary in DRR&M were produced and aired through national television, mass SMS circulation, radio program in DRR&M, essay competition was also organized. The events were fruitful in disseminating the message of DRR&M and the IDDRR 2020 was

marked in remarkable way with the joint effort and collaboration of stakeholders coordinated by DPNet-Nepal.

In overall, the timely and effective coordination has helped to bring synergic effect while bringing wider stakeholders in a common forum.



## POST EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

2015 was an unfortunate year for the people of Nepal. The April 25th Earthquake hit Nepal very hard. Earthquake survivors were in immediate need of shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs), WASH and health care services, and protection. We provided relief to 14,486 earthquake survivor households in Gorkha, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur districts.

Aligning with the needs of the earthquake survivors and our commitment to building back better, in 2016, we launched several



reconstruction and recovery interventions. We assessed damages to infrastructures and reconstructed 42 drinking water systems (DWSS) and 41 temporary toilets for 58 communities.

For restoring the health system, we built four health posts and eight outreach clinics (ORC) and trained 329 health facility operation management committee members. We oriented and organized training sessions for 10,356 health mothers' group members, 6,204 students and 350 health personnel and teachers

on ASRH, MHM, MCH, psycho-social support, etc. We provided School WASH and MHM kit to 32 schools for establishing MHM-cum-first-aid corners and personal MHM kits to 2,840 adolescent girls.

We produced and widely disseminated 23 units of IEC/BCC materials on maternal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, psycho-emotional wellbeing, and WASH among stakeholders.

In the target areas, institutional delivery increased from 57% to 78%, maternal mortality decreased from 6% to 2%, infant mortality decreased from 7% to 3%, adolescent sexual and reproductive health knowledge increased from 23% to 77%, and fear of attending school fell from 32% to 3%.

For contributing to restore education, we reconstructed seven school buildings (60 rooms in total) having child- and disabled-friendly design, gender-friendly toilets and 'standard size' classrooms, natural air circulation and lighting, and earthquake resistant features. Drinking water system, library, computer lab, and science lab were also established at these schools.

At 32 schools, we reconstructed six drinking water systems and established 33 menstrual hygiene management (MHM) corners, 23 gender-friendly toilet blocks, 25 drinking water systems, and 32 waste management systems.

These multi-year relief and reconstruction efforts have resulted in better health, education and WASH infrastructure in the earthquake-hit districts of Gorkha, Nuwakot, Kathmandu, and Lalitpur and benefiting more than 128,000 earthquake survivors.





## ISLAMIC RELIEF NEPAL RESPONDING TO THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Islamic Relief Nepal started its immediate response to second wave of covid 19 in the hospitals of Rautahat district in the third week of May 2021. The district as well as the entire country was badly hit by the second wave of COVID. The mortality rate increased up to 47% which was one of the highest recorded so far. The hospitals in Rautahat district lack the testing equipments, medical care supplies and other protective gears and were are facing difficulty to provide health services to potential COVID

patients from Rautahat based public health facilities. These shortages increased the chances of transmission as well as increased fatalities due to the pandemic at that peak time.

Islamic Relief together with its local implementing partner Rural Development Centre (RDC) conducted the needs assessments at hospitals, market assessment to check the availabilities of the required health care supplies and coordination with the local level government to attend the approval of intervention as well as gather other critical information in respect to the ongoing second wave of COVID-19. Based on the need assessment and the gap identified to better support the covid patient's treatment; the project supported 3 identified hospitals with the lifesaving health care facilities as an immediate response plan against COVID-19. The medical supplies supported the immediate need at the hospitals and strengthened the hospital management, significantly reduced the chances of transmission and supported lifesaving treatment to the covid patients.

The local level government have appreciated the effort of Islamic Relief Worldwide for supporting the government to respond to COVID-19. Similarly, the hospitals have shown their full satisfaction on the items that has been received.

"RDC and IR Nepal was the only organization who supported us at the time of utmost need during second surge of covid-19. The Oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrator provided by the organization supported a lot for the immediate lifesaving of the covid patient", DR. Krishna Sah, Gaur Hospital.



Similarly, the timely response is appreciated by the local elected representatives. "We are very happy and satisfied to receive the health equipment and medical supplies support from the organization. These are the very crucial resources and it was fully utilized during the times of emergency in our Paroha covid hospital", Shekh Wakil, Mayor of Paroha Municipality.

In Paroha municipality an 82 year old covid patient had to be provided with the oxygen supplies as his oxygen level lowered than the normal and at that time there was acute shortage of the oxygen supplies in the market. During that challenging time the treatment of the person was possible due to the timely support

of lifesaving health equipment including the oxygen cylinder and the oxygen concentrator from the organization shares Jalandhar Yadav, Health Superintendent of Paroha Municipality.

Apart from Rautahat, Islamic Relief has responded the second wave of covid response with the lifesaving health equipment's and medical supplies in 5 municipalities of Kapilvastu and Rupandehi and 1 rural municipality of Rasuwa district. Also in these aforementioned municipalities the secondary impact of covid -19 have been addressed through the distribution of the food items that sustain a family of 5 to 6 members for a period of month.





## WOMEN IN FAR WEST TAKING CHARGE TO BUILD DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Floods, landslides and soil erosion have displaced and disrupted the lives of many vulnerable people in the far west regions of Nepal worsening the already difficult conditions of the remote areas. Furthermore, women are more at risk while the lack of involvement and opportunities in disaster related work severely affects the ability of a community to develop resilience as a whole. The traditional norms that limit women within their houses and household chores has not only taken their opportunity to participate but.



The Managing Risk through Economic Development (MRED) project of Mercy Corps Nepal has been working in the four districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur, Baitadi and Dadeldhura in the far-western province of Nepal, with an objective to build resilient communities through income generating activities. Badbaika in Krishnapur Municipality of Kanchanpur District is one of such communities where sixty-five households are involved with this initiative. These households are at the high

risk of flood and have been living under constant threat as the floods may sweep their house any time in monsoon. Furthermore, the flood inundates cultivable land leading to loss of harvest. The families who rely on agriculture as their main source of income, rely on seasonal migration to India for labor work as an alternative.

The project supported the formation of the Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) highly prioritizing participation of female members. With technical support from the project, the

CDMC develop mitigation measures after assessing the situation at hand and its subsequent needs. It has been a revelation, as women - after being provided the opportunity - are actively participating in meetings and development of mitigation plans. It has served as a platform to show skills and had prominent decision-making roles. The project promotes eco-friendly, simple yet effective practices of disaster risk management.

Sukhira Rana, one of the CDMC members, lost her land during the previous floods. "Our men are bound to leave their homes for better economic opportunities due to the economic hardship caused by the flood," laments Rana. "But the bioengineering mitigation techniques introduced by the project not only helps protect the community and its land, but also provides us with economic opportunities to sustain our livelihoods," added Rana. The project supports communities to implement eco-friendly mitigation techniques such as building bamboo spurs, fascines while promoting riverside plantation to complement livelihood support. Plantation of crops like bamboo and sugarcane supports income generation of community members while the project provides additional support of market linkages.

"No matter male or female, we are equally responsible for our communities and its risk management. If provided with adequate skills and opportunities, females can equally contribute towards disaster mitigation and response," said Fuldevi Rana, one of the MRED participants. MRED has also supported creating linkages between various stakeholders including local government and private sector for sustainability.



## PEOPLE IN NEED'S EFFORT TO RECONSTRUCTION AND LANDSLIDE MANAGEMENT

The small village of Dhusa, Chitwan sits on a hill high above the Trishuli River. On most days, the 20 families who once lived here enjoyed crisp air and stunning views. But on April 25, 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the country. "I was returning from Phisling when the earthquake struck," says Dhusa resident, Phool Mati Praja. "When I reached my house, it wasn't there."

Too afraid to return to damaged homes, many people opted to

stay outdoors, including Phool. "We used old metal sheets to make a makeshift home," she recalls.

In 2018, Durable Solutions (DS) project funded by UK Aid and led by People in Need (PIN) in collaboration with the consortium partner Community Self-Reliance Center (CSRC), and technical partner Scott Wilson Nepal advised Dhusa residents on how to access the government support program. DS assisted the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) with the implementation of the resettlement program, launched nationwide after the 2015 earthquake. In total, more than 3,470 households were relocated and more than 11,000 landless households received government approval to stay in their place of origin, unlocking c. GBP 31 million of NRA grants, most of which would not have been released without DS's facilitation support.

After PIN's intervention, all 20 households in Dhusa received new land certificates. The new village of 20 homes is almost finished. As part of the UK Aid funded PIN's Hamro Ghar project, PIN also helped some families with construction, work. "It is good that the rural municipality, the school, the health clinic, and the police station are nearby," says Phool. "Most importantly, we are in a flat area, so there are no cliffs and we are no longer afraid of landslides."



Through PIN's protection programming, Phool and her fellow Committee members received trainings on topics like gender-based violence, trafficking, emotional wellbeing, land rights and safer migration.

### Continuing PIN's support to the people at risk of landslide

With the humanitarian funding from European Union, PIN along with its consortium partners CSRC, National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET), Scott Wilson Nepal, Durham University, and Northumbria University is implementing Pratibaddha Project to increase the resilience of communities in rural hill areas through effective mitigation and management of landslides. The project developed Rural Road Construction Guideline along with

monsoon preparedness and response plan as a part of disaster preparedness in the working municipalities.

During this monsoon, the consortium conducted geo-hazard assessment of 103 landslide affected sites in Barhabise and Bhotekoshi and planning to conduct similar assessment in Bigu and Tamakoshi Rural Municipalities of Dolakha.

In terms of disaster management at municipal level, Sushila Pakhrin, Deputy Mayor of Barhabise, shared that they were not able to conduct such assessments in the past due to lack of human resources, tools and support from concerned authority. "It proved difficult for us to formulate any Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans, especially for the landslide prone areas and landslide affected settlements. We are grateful that the Pratibaddha project is conducting the assessment now. We will use the reports to initiate evidence-based planning for all the landslide affected areas within the municipality" she stated.

It is an ongoing effort of the project to significantly boost capacities of local authorities to plan for disasters well in the long-term. We are supporting local government in all aspects of DSS, sensitization of all the stakeholders and advocating on both provincial and federal levels to incorporate DRR perspective into plans and policies.





## EXEMPLARY DISASTER MANAGEMENT AT RAMDHUNI MUNICIPALITY, NEPAL

It is said that disaster does not come with a bang. This means that any natural hazards could become disaster at any time. Even if this statement is true, prior to disaster occurrence, management of risk in advance can reduce the loss. Ramdhuni Municipality of Sunsari, Nepal has endorsed a disaster management plan this year as part of the SCRSSI project achievement.

“We have conducted a study on different types of natural hazards, the vulnerable population, and ways to mitigate these risks in



our municipality,” said Mr. Rabin Kumar Thakur, Contact Officer of Disaster Risk Reduction Unit at the Municipality. Accordingly, the policies will be formulated based on the study and we will manage and mitigate the disaster on its basis.

There is a stack of books on ‘Local Disaster and Climate-Resilient Planning’ which has been just published at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Forward Nepal has assisted the municipality to publish this resource book. ‘The book has identified hazards in nine wards of the municipality and outlines policies to deal with them,’ he said, with prior effective preparedness, we can minimize the risk of disasters. The municipality has also helped all the wards to formulate their disaster management plans which are

in the final stages of completion. Each ward has different disaster risks identified and prioritized, for instance, since three wards of the municipality are connected by the East-West Highway, road accident is listed as one of the top risks in these wards. To reduce the risks, the municipality has formulated policies of enforcing standards for safer roads, repairing potholes immediately, and mobilizing traffic police to make the operation of vehicles safe.

Since forest area is near the settlement, wild animal interaction is the primary problem of Ward No. 4. Mr. Thakur informed that monkeys and other wild animals used to destroy their crops and enter their houses frequently. For addressing this issue, we have installed a wired fence and increased human surveillance in those areas. The policy of Ramdhuni Municipality has also mentioned that if enough food is provided and wildlife settlement is conserved, then these wild animals will not attack the human settlements.

Although there are various disaster risks in each ward, the common problem in the entire municipality is flooding which affects thousands of people. This is because of the flat landscape of the municipality, added Mr. Thakur. To figure out the cause and find out the solution to the problem, the municipality organized a two-day discussion program in each ward. ‘Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment’ was conducted where ways to prepare for flood were also discussed. The municipality included children, women, and persons living with disabilities in risk identification and planning. Attempts have been made to include their issues

in the disaster and climate prevention plan. The municipality collected and verified the plans which was received from the ward. Also, the planning process was made participatory.

Based on the suggestions, we have built culverts in some areas said Thakur, and added that the change has been possible because of the support from Plan International Nepal. The organization has also helped in reforestation and to make drainage for proper management of rainwater. The risk of flood is even severe in the Jhumka area of Ward No. 5 on the west side of the Mahendra Highway. The municipality has recently built a canal in collaboration with the Irrigation Office. A diversion is made in such a way that if there is more water in the settlement, it falls directly into the canal, but if there is less water, it falls into the river. Similarly, the municipality has constructed culverts in wards 7 and 8 in collaboration with Forward Nepal. As a result of timely prior preparedness based on the formulated policy, it is believed and hoped that the impact of the flood will be reduced this year in Ramdhuni Municipality.

“Timely formulation of the policy has helped in cost reduction as well as helping in saving life and property,” said Mr. Thakur adding that every municipality must formulate such policies. This will help in disaster risk reduction like flood, landslide, road accident and fire. The recently endorsed policy has also enabled the formation of a disaster management committee to cooperate and collaborate with the concerned stakeholders on different disasters as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Practical ACTION

## SAFE-SHELTERS FOR FLOOD AND STORMS

**B**aide, which is around 15 kilometres from the district headquarter Tikapur, is one of the most flood-prone areas in Kailali district. Every year, floods wreak havoc in the area, causing huge loss of crops and property and endangering lives. When monsoon season arrives, villagers have to stay prepared for evacuation, leaving cattle and other immovable properties at the mercy of nature. Narendra Regmi, 50, had migrated to Baide from Doti, a hilly district in the far west, with the hopes of securing a better future in the plains.

But it did not take long for to realise that life in Baide came with its own set of challenges.

“The most painful part every year is that you have to flee the village and take shelter in the homes of relatives or even strangers. Since it is not possible to haul the livestock along, we usually left them in their sheds,” Regmi said.

Annual floods still greatly impact the life of the residents of Baide. And it would have continued to remain so for the foreseeable future in the absence of viable plans to mitigate the impact of the floods. Of late, however, Baide’s residents are no longer compelled to take refuge in other villages during the monsoon, thanks to the recently-built community shelter. This is a community building which serves as a safe shelter for residents of Baide, a sparsely populated village of around 800 people, during the flooding during the monsoon. For the rest of the year, the building serves as a community hall.

The shelter overlooking the village was built on April 5, 2017, through Practical Action’s National Flood Resilience Program. The donor, Practical Action contributed Rs 2,328,012, while residents chipped in with Rs 398,600. One resident, Shivaraj Pandey, donated 10 dhur of land in memory of his father, late Lilaram Pandey, to house the building.

“Last year, over 200 people took refuge in the safe shelter during the floods. Many used the ground floor to shelter their cattle, while villagers huddled together on the first floor,” said Bhojraj



Dhungana, a resident of Baide. Recalling his experience of living in the building during flood, Dhungana suggested that further improvements could be made to make the building better serve its purpose.

“We spent whole night squeezed in a corner after the rain entered the building due to the strong wind. It was very difficult for the children. Building walls on the first floor will make it more convenient, while also giving the villagers a proper venue to

organise community events,” he added, “The user committee is deliberating the issue at the moment.”

“The safe shelter is more than just a shelter to us. It is a community hall that could be used for various purposes according to our needs,” said Bidhya Chaudhary of Banjariya, where the community shelter is used by the villagers as storage for their rescue and relief materials to be used during emergency, “The building is one more way to bring the community together.”





## OUR DREAM COME TRUE

“I don't want to remember the uncountable sleepless nights during monsoon in past, but it is not so easy to forget those nights”, says Mr. Mohan Sah Kanu. It is the story of many people in Madi area. Mr. Kanu lives in Madi Municipality, Ward no. 3, New Ratani Dhobaha. Madi Municipality is in southern part of Chitwan District and has to cross 11 kilometers of 'Chitwan National Park' area while travelling from Bharatpur Metropolitan City. There are dozens of Rivers which flow from southern part, start from Chure Hill. 'Rakteni River' is one of them and flood is

1st hazard in Madi area. So, SHAPLA NEER with the implementing partner organization Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) started to work in 'Rakteni River' corridor with the concept of 'One River, One Community' since February 2020 focusing to the single river corridor benefiting to 14 toles/settlements and directly covering to around 800 vulnerable households from its up-stream to down-stream area.

Mr. Mohan Sah Kanu is an active member of 'Community Disaster



Management Committee-CDMC' in his tole. He has 1.70-hectare land and produces rice, wheat, beans. In past (before project intervention), he has bitter experiences like; sleepless night because of flooding in his tole. During flood time, many snakes used to come to his house (may be for searching safe place) but he used to chase by stick. At the time of harvesting agricultural products, they used to sweep away by flood. Now, he feels very safer for him and neighborhood after presence of the project. Problem by flood has been managed by the project. He added, "We can slip well. We do harvest our agricultural products safely. It makes us happier. There is no damage of household properties including pets.

So, it is not only the disaster risk reduction project, but a life-saving project for us. We never thought that this kind of project will be started in our area. In past, no any organization came to work focusing to the river from its' up-stream to down-stream area. Just a small type of support used to be provided for making infrastructure. But this project has made many infrastructures to save our lives and properties. It has made a river span wider i.e., 40 meter in down-stream area based on the requirement of water volume and flood history. There is Mud Dam in both side

of river. Gabion embankment has been made including proper drainage. Check Dam has been made in up-stream area to stop the debris flow. It has made many things in river corridor. Besides, we have been oriented about disaster, repair & maintenance plan for infrastructures, early warning system, our responsibilities to make the infrastructures more sustainable, coordination and link with Ward Office, Municipality Office. So, now what I feel is 'Our dream come true'."

People were compelled to face the problems like loose of household properties, houses, cutting and damage of fertile land etc. caused by flood every year. Because of debris flow, river bed is being higher than human settlement which is really a dangerous situation for settlements. So, the project made aware to community people about it and made 'Check Dam' in up-stream of river. Also made dipper river bed cutting the mud, sand and aggregates from river bed. Besides, project formed tole level 'Community Disaster Management Committee-CDMC' which is mobilized and monitored by 'Ward Disaster Management Committee-WDMC'. In local level, there is 'Local Disaster Management Committee' as guided by 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017'. Capacity enhancements of those committees, linkage between those committees have been done by the project for the sustainability of the infrastructures made by the project. Local Government has been coordinating for the smooth implementation of project activities in field even in a pandemic situation of COVID-19. Fund for this project is provided by Government of Japan through Ministry of Foreign (MoFA) and Embassy of Japan in Nepal.



## SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S NUTRITION USING CHILD GRANT BENEFICIARY DATABASE IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Save the Children has been implementing Child Sensitive Social Protection (CSSP) project in seven selected municipalities from Mahottari, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok, Jajarkot and Kalikot. Main goal of the project is to improve nutritional status of children under five by implementing Child Grant plus parenting program for parents and caregivers of the Child Grant beneficiaries in Nepal.

Save the Children distributed super flour to 4210 children of 6 to 59 months who were receiving child grant in Jajarkot, Dolakha, Kavre and Mahottari districts. The super flour was distributed to improve or maintain the nutrition status of children during the time of pandemic, considering the worsening situation of food consumption during lockdown in second wave of COVID-19.

**Beneficiaries:** Because of resource limit, only Dalit Child Grant beneficiaries in Mahottari, Dolakha and Kavre, and Child Grant beneficiaries from poor household (food sufficiency for less than 3 months) in Jajarkot were agreed as beneficiaries with the local governments. For new beneficiaries, the targeted children who are eligible to the existing SSA but not receiving the benefits are instantly enrolled in coordination with ward.

**Data base use:** The latest Social Protection beneficiary data from Vital Event Registration and Social Protection Management Information System (VERSP-MIS) of the Nepal government was used. In Kavrepalanchok and Dolakha- Child Grant is only for Dalit -used this category of Social Security Allowance (SSA). In the case of Jajarkot, Child Grant beneficiary list was extracted then filtered by the data of poor household which is already collected from municipality.

**Beneficiary outreach:** Communicated information about the program to the beneficiaries about their entitlements and rights - through ward members, social mobilizers and radio.



**Grievances Handling Mechanism:** Ward level grievance handling mechanism and Save the Children's Complaint and Feedback Mechanism were used. To assess the change brought by super cereal consumption, pre (baseline) and post (end line) weight measurements of children were carried out. A study was carried out to assess the impact of super flour distribution on nutritional status of children.

**Study Methods**  
This study used a pre-post study design. Data was collected in

December 2020 (pre-test) and July 2021 (post-test) in Jajarkot, Dolakha, Kavre and Mahottari districts. Baseline (pre-test) measurement was conducted among 1152 children and the end line (post-test) in 987 children. Each child received 9 kg super cereal for 3 months at baseline. The weight of the children was measured using a taring scale, as per the guideline provided by the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Results**  
The mean weight of children increased to 12.5 kg in end line from 11.4 kg in baseline and the prevalence of underweight decreased to 22.8% in end line from 25.0% in baseline, suggesting that the distribution

of super flour improved the nutrition status of children. The improvements were observed among male child, from Dolakha and Mahottari district, and children aged 11 to 47 months. Children who consumed the super flour at higher frequency showed greater improvements.

**Conclusion**  
Consumption of super flour among the child beneficiaries of CSSP project resulted in improved nutritional status of children during the time of COVID pandemic.



tearfund

## STORY OF RAM LAUTAN THARU

**B**anke District in the Southern Terai region was severely affected by the August 2017 flooding. Banke was one of the worst hit districts; 8 people died, 9,840 households (49,299 people) were affected, 1,249 houses were completely damaged, 6,245 houses were partially damaged and there were large scale loss of food stocks, livestock and agricultural production. Since September 2017, Tearfund has been working with their long-term partner, International Nepal Fellowship (INF), to respond to the needs of people in Banke District.

Ram Lautan Tharu is a 60-year (as of 2017) old male residing in Raptisonari Rural Municipality of Banke District. There are a total 8 members in his family, including his wife, two sons and their children. He is a farmer by occupation and depends solely on farming for his and his family's livelihood. Ram Lautan Tharu recalls the incidence of the August 2017 flood. "At around 3 o'clock in the morning, I woke up and felt that my bedding was wet. To my surprise, I looked around the room and realized flood water had entered our home and the water level had reached up to



my bed". Ram Lautan Tharu quickly woke up the other members of his family and they evacuated their home, taking with them some kitchen pots and utensils that could be rescued.

Ram Lautan Tharu and his family spent the rest of the night sheltering in their animal shed; the animal shed has an upper level, which meant they could shelter safely above the flood water level. The next morning, he and his family woke up to find their house had been completely washed away. The floodwater had also destroyed the family's savings, washing away 1 quintal of wheat, 1 quintal of lentils, 1 quintal of rice, their goat and ox. In just one night, Ram Lautan Tharu and his family had lost everything

they had. He stated in much grief, "All of my dreams were swept away by the river. It has not only left me numb, in tears but my whole community is mourning, and is in tears. At this point of time, we are not able to build a new home, as there is nothing left. The flood took any materials we could have used. We can also not cultivate our land as silt has covered our land and we do not have the tools to clear it. We feel hopeless. Even a small contribution would mean so much for us to recover from the effects of this disaster".

Initially after the flooding, the family received a distribution of ready to eat food from Nepal Red Cross Society, in coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC). The DDRC also worked with various agencies to serve some cooked meals in a nearby school. However, after this support stopped, the family were surviving on a small harvest of maize that survived the flooding and support from their neighbors and friend and continued to shelter in the upper floor of their animal shed.

Ram Lautan Tharu and his family were selected as beneficiaries of the Scottish Government/Tearfund funded Early Recovery Project in Banke District. Tearfund and INF worked together to provide him and his family with the agricultural tools, seeds and shelter materials they needed to rebuild their home and livelihoods. Ram Lautan Tharu was also given an orientation on how to construct a house using flood and earthquake resilient construction techniques. The family are now happily living in their newly constructed home and growing vegetables for their daily consumption.



## RESILIENT COMMUNITY BADAHARWA

### BACKGROUND

In August 2017, the monsoon rain hit the Terai region of Nepal – the worst in 15 years, resulting in devastating flood in the area. More than 1.7 million lives were affected by the flood and 460,000 people lost their houses to the flood. There were loss of lives, livelihoods, and assets of the individual and communities tremendous across the region. Rautahat was one of the most affected districts and VSO identified six different communities for recovery activities. Among the six, Badahrwa community of

Durga Bhagwati Rural Municipality was hit the worst. Schools, houses, and livelihoods were destroyed in the area which forced many people to seek temporary shelter causing unplanned migration.

### VSO Intervention

VSO mobilized a team of Volunteers, Staff and Partners to assess the recovery needs. Need assessment was done in coordination with local government, SOs and like-minded organization which helped to prepare the recovery plan including livelihood, WASH, education continuation and preparedness for future response. VSO through its flood recovery project launched a sustainable resilience livelihood improvement program including on-farm and off-farm training, tools, technology, seed money to affected farmers, raised handpump, sanitation awareness, safe shelter construction, and school renovation with teaching-learning materials for the survivors among other interventions. To address the effects of climate change in farming, VSO supported the local farmers to implement sustainable technologies like improved varieties of crops, sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices, gender friendly tools and water conservation techniques.

### CHANGE & IMPACT

Badaharwa is one of the most vulnerable flood prone areas in the municipality. Mr Lalan Mishra- a team member of Community Search and Rescue task force in Rautahat mentioned, "In 2019 flood, we felt safer and more confident to overcome the destructions because the flood recovery project supported us

with different types of DRR training including lifesaving skills. We had a flood simulation exercise within the community which became very effective in 2019 flood, and we were able to rescue over 60 people during the flood".

Likewise, Tun Tun Sah, a community volunteer and member of Search and Rescue Taskforce' said, "Through the local technique of making water bottle life jacket, we were able to rescue trapped people and save some lives during flood." Because of the Safe Shelter constructed at the area by VSO, most of the people moved on it with their belongings and livestock. When the water level rises during monsoon season, most of the houses are at high risk of full or partial damage as they are made from mud and thatch. Local resident said "It makes them safe and easy to survive during hard time"

Mr. Ram Adhar Yadav, Government Officer of Yamuna Mai Municipality Rautahat, Nepal said that this safe shelter is one of the best examples for those who are working in DRR and this needs to be replicated by government programs and projects in other high-risk areas as well. Chairperson of Durggahbhagwati Rural Municipality Mr. Arun Kumar Sah said that he is very thankful to VSO Nepal for the lifesaving trainings and the safe shelter. At the time of the flood, the shelter is the only one place where they can feel safe and can breathe well.

### Challenges and Lesson Learnt

Most people have opted the traditional farming approach from

a very long time. The farmers were unaccustomed to the new technology. Thus, it took time and efforts from their side as well as volunteers to help them embark upon improved farming approaches. The climate change was the major hindrance for decrease in the farming products. VSO volunteers taught the farmers about the climate change and how to cope with the change to have better cultivation.

The engagement of multi-stakeholders provided various aspects (leadership, endorsement, technical advice especially quality of safe shelter construction and proper use of building code, external partners' support) to make the initiative successful. Youth-led, youth-owned program and initiative keeps them motivated to further expand the activities and complete the mapping. Need more effort to empower the community youth to take lead construction work. Youth and expert volunteers can easily empower the community youth and other actors to complete the project in time. The commitment and support from the leadership made it easier for youth to work on the mapping and implement community safety programs. Collecting information and data from different sources took time. Monitoring and evaluation of youth facilitators' action plans after Safety training needs to be ensured for implementation as planned. Engaging with partners continues to be challenging including Complexities of managing Government interests, Willingness of stakeholders such as community-based organizations (CBO) to collaborate, importance and challenges in understanding who, what, where in each community.





## FLOOD MITIGATION WORK HAS SAVED AGRICULTURAL LAND AND THE VILLAGE: A STORY FROM BAJURA

In Bajedi village in Budinanda municipality (ward no 1) there are 58 households that are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. This agricultural land has a high productivity as it can be irrigated by the Baddigad Khola river that passes through this village. The SAMPURNA project, a joint project by partner NGO Peacewin and INGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH) had provided intensive training on Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) and engaged farmers in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to add value and increase the agricultural and food productivity and diversity.

An unexpected flood in 2020 in the Baddigad Khola river destroyed the irrigation system and 10 hectares of agricultural land. This flood seriously affected the livelihood of the households in the village: some farmer households could not grow crops that year, others had limited crop production due to damaged irrigation facilities.

The farmer households were devastated after these floods. As Pradeep Jaisi, a local resident and Chairperson of the flood mitigation work User Committee stated:

“We never had thought such flood would happen in this river... we could not sleep for many days after this flood as we lost our fertile land, and we didn't have other option for our livelihoods” However, after this first shock, the community people and the local government went to Peacewin and WHH to request the SAMPURNA project to assist in the mitigation of this crisis. The project teams visited the village and, together with the local community, conducted a feasibility assessment to protect the land for future floods and to reconstruct the irrigation canals that were damaged.

The assessment team came with several suggestions. One was to construct the gabion protection wall to mitigate the consequences of future floods. Another was to form a user committee to provide leadership in the construction work at local level, facilitated by the project partners. To ensure these activities could happen, the project team provided technical supervision of the construction work and a financial contribution of NPR 1,060,000.00 (One million



sixty thousand only). The result was the construction of 110-meter-long gabion protection wall that still provides protection to the village and their agricultural land!

As Mrs. Kalpana Joshi, a local residence and beneficiary of the project reflects: “...We want to thank the SAMPURNA project who supported us in the construction of gabion protection. Now our village and farmland are somehow protected from unexpected future floods.”

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is one of the working priorities of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) besides food and nutrition security, WASH,

governance, and empowerment. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) works closely with its local partners, the government, and communities to address their needs and to improve their food security and livelihoods.

This story is written by Ramesh Joshi, WHH Project Coordinator for the SAMPURNA project in Mugu and Bajura. This project implements food and nutrition security related activities including governance and DRR in 3 municipalities for the period 2017-2022.





## ELECTIVE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMIT TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### A case story of Krishni Devi Chaudhary

**K**rishni Devi Chaudhary lives in Pratapur, ward no 9 Lamki Chuha municipality, it is located in the south-eastern part of Kailali district, which is one of the most vulnerable local levels in terms of multi hazards including floods, epidemic, cold wave, earthquake, windstorm and fire among others. Several wards of Lamki Chuha Municipality are greatly impacted by



floods and inundation every year. Ward no 9, Pratappur of Lamki Chuha Municipality is one of these wards that are at high risk of disasters.

Mrs. Chaudhary is one of the elected representatives of her ward and she has greater responsibility and duties for her communities and ward, but she was not able to respond all especially community concerns related to disaster risk reduction and management (DRR&M) despite she has higher interest to response it. She remembers that many community members asked her about the process of disaster risk reduction and management efforts at household and community level.

One day, Mrs. Chaudhary got a chance to participate in the inception meeting as an elected representative. She attended the meeting with an aim to gather information on the project activities that were planned to be implemented at her ward. After the inception meeting, she realized that participating in the Household Disaster Preparedness Plan (HDPP) project activities could meet her dilemma on the ways to make these communities resilience and prepared on these disasters that strike every year.

The TAYAR “HDPP” project is conducted by World Vision International (WVI) Nepal in partnership with Conscious Society

for Social Development (CSSD) with the financial support of USAID in Pratappur, ward 9 of Lamki Chuha Municipality since November 2020.

Further, she recalls, “I was very excited and motivated myself to coordinate with the project team and also consulted with ward office on this. The ward also delegated me to support, coordinate and monitor project activities implemented at field level. Thus, I got engaged in the Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) and task force formulation at 9 communities (i.e. Pratappur, Dhanchhiya, Ekalgharuwa, Durgauli, Banbarsa, Bangalipur, Khamariya, Sohanpur & Bhurabhat). I got an opportunity to take part in the three-day Early Warning training where I was able to learn many DRR related issues.

Now, she seems very happy as she can respond quickly about the concerns of the community members. She thanks WVI Nepal, CSSD and USAID’s TAYAR project for allowing her engaging in the project activities.” She has commitment to work for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR&M) and its advocacy at various level.

From this intervention, capacity building of local representatives can help to raise awareness at wider level and address the DRR and humanitarian action.



**Disclaimer:** The content and consent on the statements represented in the case studies are the sole responsibility of the organization representing and in no way represent the views of AINTGDMCC and /or AIN.

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