

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# Empowering People, Transforming Communities

Good Neighbors exists to make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony.

We respect the human rights of our neighbors suffering from poverty, disasters and oppression, and help them to be self-reliant and have hope.

## VISION

Make a society where people live together in harmony

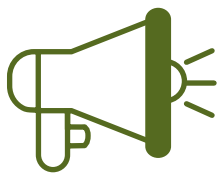
## MISSION STATEMENT

We strive in promoting wellbeing of children, their families, and communities and help them to achieve self-reliance

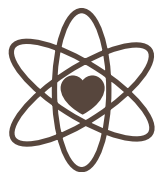
## CORE VALUES



Empowerment and self-reliance



Promotion of rights of children



Cooperation and solidarity



Transparency and accountability



Networking and partnership

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### Good Neighbors International (GNI) Nepal

is a non-profit, international non-governmental organization (INGO) that works to improve the lives of children and families in need. Since 2002, through its programming in child protection, education, public health, and social economy, it has been implementing programs to support children and communities in need across Nepal.



### Worked in

- 377 wards
- 19 municipalities
- 28 rural municipalities
- 19 districts

### Benefited



134,341 women  
90,933 men

### Worked with



584 schools



165 health facilities



65 cooperatives



### Partnered with

27 non-governmental organizations

## Highlights of 2023

GNI Nepal partners with local communities, government agencies, and like-minded organizations to bring transformation and lasting changes in communities.



### Sponsored children

11,533 girls  
10,175 boys



### Local sponsorship

560 girls  
605 boys



# Child Protection



**Children are prevented and protected from violence and exploitation**



Nepal's constitution acknowledges child rights as a fundamental entitlement, with several legal instruments in place to ensure their protection. For instance, the Children's Act of 2075 (2018) and the Civil Code Act of 2074 (2017) inhibit provisions aimed at preventing crimes and discrimination against children. Furthermore, the Local Government Operation Act of 2017 includes provisions to safeguard and advance children's rights.

Even with legal provisions and policies at the state level, mechanisms, and practices for ensuring child rights and safeguarding are often lacking at Nepal's community and family levels. Consequently, children in Nepal encounter various challenges that hinder their overall development. Traditional practices such as child marriage, discrimination against menstruating girls, and inadequate monitoring mechanisms for enforcing relevant laws are some examples of obstacles that jeopardize children's well-being and protection in the country. GNI Nepal, a child-centric development and humanitarian organization, strives to address the prevalent child-protection-related issues by adopting right-based approaches.



More than **48,000** individuals engaged in child rights and protection activities

## Our interventions

In 2023, GNI Nepal remained committed to its child protection initiatives to ensure that children feel secure and safeguarded. Our interventions primarily focused on enhancing the local child protection system, capacitating the local child protection actors empowering and mobilizing children, raising community awareness, offering sponsorship services to disadvantaged children, and capacitating youths. GNI Nepal's efforts collectively engaged more than 48,000 individuals in child rights and protection activities during 2023.



**1,212** children received birth registration certificate



**1** ward declared as Child Friendly Local Government



**5** wards declared as child marriage-free zones



**56** child rights committees functionalized

## Strengthening the Local Child Protection System

In 2023, our efforts were focused on fortifying the local child protection system through proactive measures and responsive support structures at the family and societal levels. We concentrated on three key areas: enhancing the community-level child protection system across 44 local governments, developing the capacities of child protection actors and stakeholders, and reinforcing complaint-handling mechanisms within schools. Moreover, GNI Nepal also continued collaborating with the local governments to combat child marriage and early marriages within the community. These concerted efforts aimed to create a safer and more supportive environment for children, ensuring their well-being and protection.

Through our comprehensive approach, we aimed to strengthen child rights and protection, thereby enhancing

the overall well-being of children in communities. As a result, we obtained significant achievements such as improved birth registration rates, effective handling of cases through complaint-handling mechanisms, establishment of child-marriage-free zones and child-friendly local governments, and the reinforcement of child rights committees. Additionally, we successfully strengthened and mobilized child clubs to advocate for children's rights more proactively. Overall, we capacitated 544 children and 1,268 child protection actors, equipping them with the necessary knowledge related to child rights, thereby contributing to a safer and more supportive environment for children in communities.

## Supporting a Local Government on its Path to Achieving CFLG Status



Ward number 3 of Modi Rural Municipality of Parbat was declared a Child-Friendly Local Government (CFLG) Ward in 2023. The ward, consisting of 507 households with 1,512 children, has a major population of *Dalit* community. The ward now has a child protection mechanism in place. The local government has published a ward-level status report, endorsed a child-friendly budget plan, and provisioned tiffin for all children studying at schools in the territory. Child clubs actively partake in all concerned meetings and contribute to child-friendly planning as provisioned.

A few years ago, the situation for children in Ward number 3 of Modi Rural Municipality was direly different. Child labor, child marriages, and a general neglect of children's well-being were rampant issues. Neither the local government nor the community and families paid much attention to the children and their needs at that time.

In 2018, GNI Nepal entered the village with a specific focus on children. As part of its intervention, GNI Nepal strengthened the child protection mechanism at the community level and supported the local government in capacitating the elects and staff to prioritize children's interests. The local government's focus on children continued to increase, as demonstrated by its efforts to be a child-friendly local government.

Such achievement has been possible only because of the joint effort of child clubs, schools, health posts, community leaders,

and groups like FCHVs, which were capacitated and mobilized under various interventions of GNI Nepal. Melina BK, president of the child club of Himalaya Secondary School, says, "I feel proud to be the leader of the child club, which supported the ward in its process of becoming a child-friendly local government."

Besides, the local government also took ownership of the initiative and prioritized child protection by collaborating with GNI Nepal for awareness raising, carrying out activities to meet the standard indicators, reinforcing child-friendly behavior at institutional and community levels, and allotting the budget to function as a child-friendly local government.

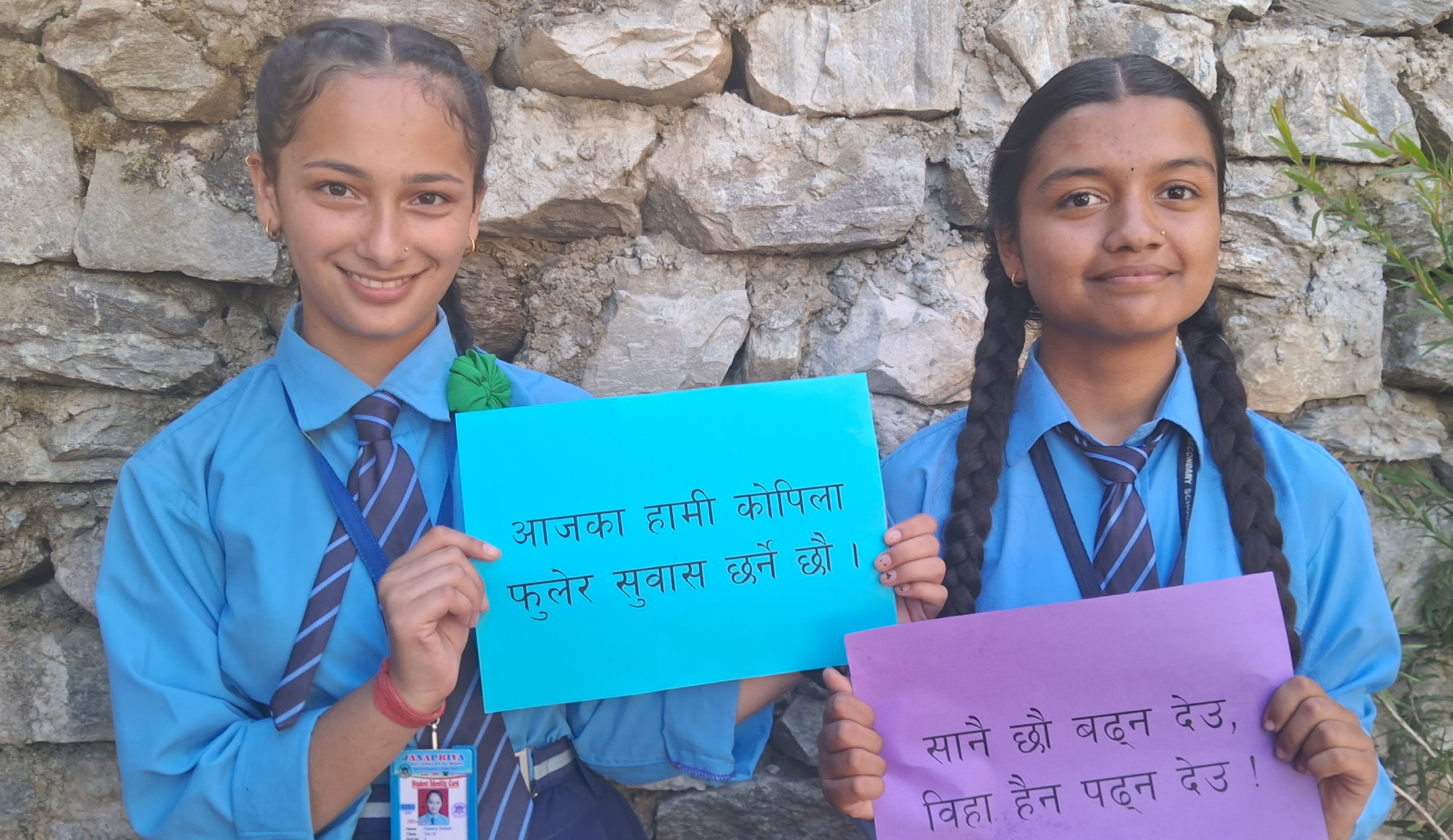
Devendra Chhetri, Ward Chairperson, shares, "Meeting all standards and indicators, our ward has become the child-friendly local government, and our plans and policies focus on children's development. We are grateful to GNI Nepal for joining us on this journey and look forward to continued support from the organization". While accompanying the local government in its pursuit, GNI Nepal aided in areas like strategic planning, child-friendly infrastructure, capacity building collecting, analyzing, and publishing indicator-based data.

Chairperson of Modi Rural Municipality, Ms. Hiradevi Sharma, shares, "Replicating the learning of Ward -3, we will also convert the remaining six wards into child-friendly units, and we have proceeded with necessary preparation".



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Meeting all standard and indicators, our ward has become the child-friendly local government, and our plans and policies focus on children's development.”



**58** child clubs functionalized



**16** children's cases addressed through the school complaint handling mechanism



**45** child clubs/networks formed and reformed



**58** children's cases responded through child helpline (1098)

## Organizing, Empowering, and Mobilizing Children to Claim Their Rights

Organizing, capacitating, and empowering children to claim their rights have been one of the persistent efforts of GNI Nepal. By making the children well-acquainted with their rights and government provisions to ensure such rights, the children were mobilized to raise their voices against the malpractices and misconducts by associating them with child clubs. Their representation in community-level, school-level, ward-level, and municipality-level mechanisms was

promoted to mainstream their voice and needs. To enhance their creativity, understanding, and leadership capacities, children were not only capacitated to lead extracurricular activities but were also empowered to report child abuses and handle such cases through community-based child protection units and school complaint-handling mechanisms in communities.

# A Tale of a Vigilant and Proactive Child Club Network



Sirjanshil Child Club Network operates at the ward level within ward number 4 of Budhiganga Municipality. Established with assistance from GNI Nepal in 2021, the network comprises 11 members, including eight girls. Two representatives from the network are actively involved in the municipality-level child club network's advocacy committee and regularly participate in pertinent municipal meetings.

Focused on combating child rights violations and promoting children's well-being in the area, the network remains dedicated to addressing prevalent issues like child marriage. In 2023 alone, the network successfully intervened in two cases of child marriage. Additionally, it collaborated with Budhiganga Municipality to conduct a child marriage survey and contributed significantly to transforming a settlement of the ward into a child marriage-free community.

Members of the network actively engage in community dialogues and express children's needs emphatically. GNI Nepal has played a pivotal role in establishing and sustaining the network by providing foundational support, including training in leadership and child club management. This comprehensive

support has enabled the network to operate effectively and make tangible progress in safeguarding child rights.

Man Bahadur Shah, chairperson of ward-4, shares, "Our ward-level child club network is active. It is very vigilant regarding child rights violations, especially child marriage. With the support of the network, we dissolved two child marriage cases in our locality."



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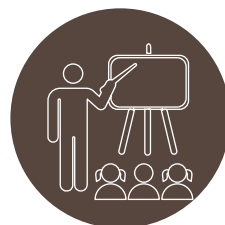
Our ward-level child club network is active. It is very vigilant regarding child rights violations, especially child marriage. With the support of the network, we dissolved two child marriage cases in our locality.”



**1,589** parents sensitized on child rights and protection



**3,789** adolescents sensitized on CRC



**618** adolescents received life skills training



**7,500** participated in children's day celebration events

## Sensitizing Society and Families

Recognizing the importance of making families and societies responsible for child rights, GNI Nepal continued raising awareness among family members and communities about their respective roles and responsibilities. Disseminating information through radio, organizing campaigning events with street dramas and community-level dialogues, and celebrating pertinent days are some examples of our endeavors. We conducted various activities to sensitize parents on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),

the appropriate way of childcare, the adverse impact of child marriage, and governmental provisions regarding such wrongdoings. Altogether, 1,589 parents got sensitized on the matters pertaining to child rights and child protection. More than 7,500 community people, including children's guardians, participated in the child day celebration, and 82,319 individuals were reached out with child-rights-related information through radio.



# Education



## Children enjoy the rights to quality education

The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscore the pivotal role of education in eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and fostering peace and prosperity. In Nepal, the priorities of school-level education align closely with SDG Goal 4, encompassing its objectives, strategies, and interventions. Enshrined within the Constitution of Nepal, education is upheld as a fundamental right, reinforced by the Compulsory and Free Education Act of 2018, which introduces specific provisions and incentives to safeguard the educational rights of socio-economically marginalized communities. Through various interventions, the government endeavors to ensure universal access to compulsory and free education up to the school level. The National Education Policy 2019 envisions a society with educated, empowered,

and healthy individuals, aiming to eliminate all forms of exclusion, marginalization, disparities, and inequalities in educational access, participation, and outcomes. The School Education Sector Plan for 2022/23-2031/32 strives to provide equitable access to a complete school education cycle for all children, guided by diversity, inclusiveness, equity, integrity, and good governance principles.

In alignment with global and national goals, GNI Nepal's educational initiatives seek to expand access to quality learning opportunities for children from marginalized backgrounds, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged families in remote areas. These efforts are geared towards realizing the full potential of every child through equitable and quality education.

Despite ongoing efforts, Nepal's public education sector faces persistent challenges. Issues such as parental negligence towards a child's education, lack of required learning environment in schools, and practice of conventional pedagogy are prevalent, resulting in low educational attainment levels.





**21,737** children received education material support

## Our interventions

In 2023, GNI Nepal continued its efforts to improve access of deprived children to quality education by supporting needy children with educational material and higher study support, upgrading infrastructural and other learning facilities in schools, promoting ICT-aided education, early childhood education and development, and early- grade learning.

Recognizing the exclusive rights that the constitution of Nepal has assigned to the local government for implementing and monitoring school-level education and the need to capacitate them for proper planning, GNI Nepal supported executive authorities and members of the municipal/village education committee to identify prevalent education-related hindrances and formulate plans to overcome them, aligning with national policies and international practices. In 2023, we also focused on improving school governance by capacitating school management committees and promoting home-school collaboration.



**2** schools' libraries established



**7** schools' math labs established



**46** schools have print-rich classrooms



**24** schools received classroom management support

## Promotion of Learning Opportunities through EMS and Physical Facilities

In pursuit of helping deprived children enjoy their educational rights, 21,708 sponsored children, encompassing 11,485 girls, received direct education support. We also supported the promotion of multiple learning facilities at school by establishing library/book corners, science, and computer laboratories, as well as providing furniture and furnishings to create child-friendly classrooms and learning materials. In total, 92 schools benefited from such support, which has eventually improved teaching-learning practices and students' learning outcomes. We also supported 157 schools in conducting extracurricular activities with the participation of 6,208 students.





**5,951** parents received parental education training



**1,111** parents narrated stories in story-telling programs



**1** school building constructed  
**8** school buildings renovated



**262** teachers capacitated



“The parental education session has made me a more responsible parent. I am committed to nurturing a learning environment for my children. Previously, I used to be hesitant about visiting my children’s school and discussing their progress, but now I regularly attend school events and participate in teacher-student discussions. My elder son Basant has recently secured the first position in the second terminal examination, making me feel rewarded and more motivated.”

- Man Kumari Tamang, mother of Basant Tamang, a sponsored 5th grader at Prabhat Basic School, Madi Rural Municipality 8, Kaski



## Amplifying Efforts to Promote Early-grade Learning

Children in rural areas lack sufficient reading materials and a child-friendly learning ambiance, which impedes their reading skills and habits. Considering the prevalence of such setbacks, GNI Nepal has adopted an integrated approach to promoting early-grade learning focusing on utilizing book corners established in grades 1-3, capacity building of teachers, upgrading learning facilities, developing a print-rich classroom environment, and promoting home-school collaboration. Based on the 5T modality (adequate Time, frequent Tests, adequate Text, effective Technique, and use of the mother Tongue), GNI Nepal has designed capacity-building and material support interventions to promote early-grade learning. This practice has benefited children of 59 schools in Bajura, Mugu, Humla, Doti, and Darchula.

The approach has stimulated interactive learning, enriched vocabulary and language proficiency, and sharpened cognitive skills among early learners.

Home-school collaboration was strengthened by engaging parents in school activities such as storytelling, educational fairs, and parent-teacher capacity-building activities. Such efforts have effectively advocated shared responsibilities of parents and teachers towards the mutual goals of academic, socio-emotional, and behavioral development of children from early years. Altogether, 5,951 parents received parental education and parenting skills development support across all project districts, resulting in increased participation of parents in school initiatives and the creation of a better learning environment at home.



**1** ECED building constructed



**55** ECED centers received child-friendly classroom management support



**20** ECED centers received digital learning material support



**380** ECED facilitators trained

## Strengthening Quality Learning Services for ECED Children

To ensure the holistic development of preschool-aged children and better prepare them for school education, GNI Nepal continued its support in enhancing services at early childhood education and development (ECED) centers, making them accessible to larger numbers of children. Our interventions focused on areas like capacity building of ECED teachers, parental education, ECED classroom management, and learning materials development in 2023.

20 ECED centers adopted interactive classroom activities for early learners, espousing audio-visual mode. GNI Nepal also provided technical support to the Center for Education and

Human Resource Development (CEHRD) of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) for developing the 'ECED Learning Materials User Manual' to enable ECED teachers to apply non-local learning materials corresponding to curriculum standards. Through our intervention, 55 ECED centers were supported, benefiting 1,352 children comprising 642 girls in 2023.



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“ECED Learning Materials User Manual, which has been collaboratively developed by CEHRD and GNI Nepal, is quite comprehensive. It has been helpful for both trained and untrained teachers, aiding them in conducting learning activities that align with curriculum standards”.

- Shobha Kumari Adhikari, Director, CEHRD, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST)

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Previously, we lacked proper seating arrangements for children, leaving our young learners in cold and disorganized rooms. Thanks to the support of GNI Nepal, we have transformed our classrooms into cozy, print-rich, and welcoming spaces. Utilizing the skills I have gained through GNI Nepal, I can now create engaging and interactive learning environments for my students”.

- Tara Bham, an ECED Teacher of Shree Nepal Rashtriya Basic School, Ward -12, Chhayanaath Rara Municipality, Mugu

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GNI Nepal has initiated access to ICT in education in some schools of Modi Rural Municipality. Recognizing the positive impact of this approach on enhancing educational quality, Modi Rural Municipality has extended additional support to six schools to develop ICT-based education further. We have allocated resources from our standard budget and the President Educational Reform Program to fund this endeavor. We express our gratitude to GNI Nepal for spearheading this crucial initiative.

- Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Education Officer, Modi Rural Municipality, Parbat

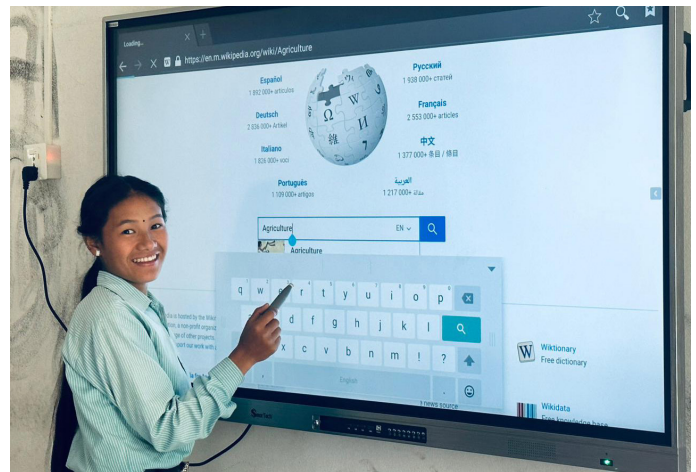


## Continuity of ICT-aided Classroom Support to Promote SMART Pedagogy

GNI Nepal has been at the forefront of promoting ICT-based education through its SMART classroom initiative, which began in 2017 with support to schools in Kaski and Parbat. Building on this experience, we have continued enhancing ICT integration by focusing on capacity building of teachers, providing necessary infrastructure and equipment to schools, and offering technical assistance for managing SMART classrooms.

In 2023, we extended support to 28 schools with digital equipment to facilitate ICT-aided education. Among these, three schools successfully launched ICT-aided classes using SMART boards, while 25 ECED centers have implemented interactive classroom activities for young learners through audio-visual methods.

Furthermore, GNI Nepal collaborated with local governments to support GNI-linked schools in promoting ICT-aided education. Specifically, Madi Rural Municipality in Kaski,



Modi Rural Municipality in Parbat, and Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality in Doti supported six, three, and one GNI-linked schools respectively within their territories. This support encompassed providing necessary equipment, conducting teacher training sessions, and ensuring the maintenance of ICT resources in these schools.



**8** schools received ICT equipment support



**40** SMC and PTA members oriented on school governance



**44** teachers trained on ICT integration in instructional processes



## Access to Learning for Disabled Children Project

GNI Nepal has successfully implemented the Access to Learning for Disabled Children Project, comprising Phase I and Phase II, to facilitate children with disabilities (CwDs) in accessing formal education. During the initial phase of the project, operational in Mithila Bihari Municipality, Mukhiyapatti Musharniya Rural Municipality, and Bhangaha Municipality of Dhanusha and Mohattari districts from January 2022 to March 2023, below stated achievements were realized:

- Provision of assistive devices to 57 needy children
- Promotion of disabled-friendly learning environments in six schools
- Assistance to three local governments in formulating and endorsing policies to support people with disabilities

The second phase of the project, implemented from September to December 2023, provided assistive devices to 27 children and psycho-social counseling support to 62 individuals, including community stakeholders, for required behavioral change.



## Nurturing Self-Reliance with Assistive Devices

Madhu Kumari Mahara, a 14-year-old, lives in ward number 6 of Bhangaha Municipality in Mahottari District. Her family has six members, including her parents, grandparents, and an elder brother. A sixth grader of Janga Basic School belongs to an economically deprived family whose income source is wage-based labor.

By birth, Madhu had a fragile leg. She could not walk and carry out basic activities like toileting properly because of her physical problems. Despite their economic constraint, Madhu's family was deeply concerned about her physical condition and made efforts for her medical treatment. They took her to the local health post, and the health personnel recommended consulting an orthopedic hospital. Nevertheless, they could not afford to take her to the orthopedic.

Now, Madhu can walk and do her physical activities easily, thanks to the support of GNI Nepal. At the beginning of 2023, under the Access to Learning for Disabled Children Project, a screening camp was organized in her adjoining village. Madhu also participated in the screening camp with her family. The screening confirmed the need for mobility aids for her. Consequently, the project provided her with the required assistive devices, including a mobility walker, Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO), Knee Gaiter, and a commode chair. Her parents were also oriented on facilitating Madhu to use the assistive equipment.



Madhu and her family are grateful for the support of the project. Madhu's mother expresses her gratitude, "The assistive devices have made Madhu's life much easier. Now, she can walk on her own with the devices." Madhu's father shares, "We are very happy with the device support. Madhu's confidence is improving gradually. Seeing such changes, I feel grateful."

“

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Seeing such changes, I feel grateful.”

## Strengthening the Capacity of Schools and Youth Clubs

Sensing the importance of a well-equipped and pleasant learning environment, the “Strengthening the Capacity of Schools and Youth Clubs” project supported two schools in Makawanpur and Saptari districts to improve children’s learning by creating a conducive classroom environment and ICT-aided pedagogy. Altogether, 1,101 students and 28 teachers directly benefitted from the project support. Besides, a youth club in Saptari was also supported with furniture and digital devices for conducting activities to raise awareness of child rights and education.



### Revolutionized School for Enhancing Education

Gitawar Basic School is located in Bakaiya Municipality-5, Makawanpur, amidst the *Dalit* and Janjati communities. The school has 254 enrolled children and owns well-arranged classrooms and an ICT-aided learning environment. However, this positive environment was not always the case. Until a year ago, the school faced challenges due to a lack of essential resources like proper furniture, teaching materials, sanitation facilities, and a computer laboratory. The traditional teaching methods also hindered students’ engagement.

In November 2022, GNI Nepal’s Strengthening the Capacity of School and Youth Club Project intervened to transform Gitawar Basic School. Through this initiative, the school received crucial support to create a conducive learning environment and integrate ICT into its teaching methods, leading to significant improvements.

The project provided 18 desktop computer sets, a laptop, a printer, two smart boards, a sound system, 50 desk-bench sets, and eight whiteboards. This influx of equipment

revitalized the school, replacing old furniture and outdated teaching techniques with modern, ICT-based learning methods. The once-dormant computer lab is buzzing with digital learning opportunities, bringing new life to education.

Bipana Moktan, a seventh grader, expresses joy, “Earlier, we only read about computers in books, but now we have them in our school, and we get to use them.” The introduction of smartboards transformed teaching practices, capturing students’ interest, and significantly boosting attendance rates. Mr. Prasant Lama, a computer teacher, shares, “Thanks to digital devices like computers and smart boards, delivering lessons has become more effective, and classes have become more interactive.” Principal Mr. Harihar Khanal echoes the sentiment, “Students show enthusiasm for learning with computers. They grasp lessons better when taught with digital devices, leading to improved performance.” Through collaboration, Gitawar Basic School has undergone a remarkable transformation, paving the way for a brighter future for the students.



**21,708** children received sponsorship support



**11** children received critical treatment support



**3** local governments adopted local sponsorship modalities



**18,887** sponsored children received food support



## Sponsorship Service

Since the inception of GNI Nepal's involvement in Nepal, we have consistently worked towards securing a better future for children of underprivileged communities through sponsorship support services. In 2023, we provided direct educational support to 21,708 children from economically disadvantaged families across 17 districts. In addition to educational support, sponsored children benefited from supplementary services like annual health checkups. Furthermore, GNI Nepal remained committed to offering critical medical treatment to vulnerable children, with 11 children receiving such vital support during the year.

Our efforts extend beyond mere education; we implement a range of interventions aimed at fostering the holistic development of these children and their communities, covering areas such as livelihood, public health, education, and child protection.

Through the Food Security and Essential Goods Support Initiative, GNI Nepal distributed essential food items to address sponsored children's nutritional needs. In total, 18,887 sponsored children across 17 districts received such support.

To reach out to a greater number of needy children, GNI Nepal has initiated supporting interested local governments in localizing sponsorship support. In such pursuit, three local governments were collaborated in 2023.



*GNI Nepal has made substantial contributions to the educational, social, and economic progress of Malikarjun Rural Municipality through collaborative programs with the local government. The organization has made a positive impact by providing sponsored support, educational materials, and health-related assistance to children from impoverished families. Moreover, GNI Nepal has extended its support to the families and communities by implementing income-generating projects and engaging in public health and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) activities."*

- Hira Singh Dhami, Chairperson, Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula.



# A Glimpse of Local Sponsorship Program in Malika Rural Municipality



Malika Rural Municipality of Myagdi is an economically and socially deprived territory of Nepal where indigenous and disadvantaged groups like Magar and Dalit reside in larger numbers. These communities face various challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities due to age-long discrimination. GNI Nepal has been supporting the communities with a special focus on children since 2021 through its Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP).

Till now, 1,415 children, consisting of 689 girls residing in the territory of Malika Rural Municipality, have received sponsorship services from GNI Nepal interventions. Among them, 765 children are currently supported directly by the rural municipality. The rural municipality is among a few local governments with localized sponsorship services to ensure the secure future of the children of their areas.

To localize sponsorship support, aiming for sustainability and broader reach to more children, GNI Nepal mapped potential local governments for collaboration. As part of the endeavor, the organization held coordination meetings with various local governments, including Malika Rural Municipality.

During these meetings, GNI Nepal provided detailed orientations to the authorities of Malika Rural Municipality about the sponsorship model and its substantial benefits for needy children. The rural municipality expressed keen interest and a strong commitment to localizing sponsorship support.

The collaborative effort and commitment culminated in the establishment of a formal program starting in 2021, demonstrating a proactive step towards ensuring the welfare and secure future of children in Malika Rural Municipality through localized sponsorship services with enrolment of 765 children of 2, 5, and 6 wards in the local sponsorship program. The local

government has designated two field-based staff members to manage the service effectively.

Khim Bahadur Jugjali, Principal of Malika Basic School in Bima, acknowledges the positive impact of the local sponsorship program. He says, “Previously, the students at our school tended to be irregular, and the drop rate was also significantly high. That was mainly because of poverty. However, the local sponsorship program has helped deprived children to be regular their studies.”

GNI Nepal has equipped the local government with the necessary accessories and resources to effectively manage the sponsorship data of local sponsorship children. Additionally, the organization conducts refresher workshops on the sponsorship modality twice a year for the pertinent elected members and officials of the local government. Furthermore, designated staff members from the local government are regularly invited to district-level periodic staff meetings and capacity-building workshops conducted under the ICDP. These initiatives foster a collaborative and informed approach to managing and supporting local sponsorship programs, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and effective communication.

Ashok Rijal, Education Officer, Malika Rural Municipality, shares, “Local sponsorship programs have helped children from poor families to continue their education. The rural municipality is obliged to GNI Nepal for support in institutionalizing the good practice, and we are committed to continuing it.”

“Local sponsorship programs have helped children from poor families to continue their education.”



## Youth Empowerment

### Equipping Youths with Skills

With the aim of fostering leadership qualities in youths and empowering them to become agents of positive change while leading dignified lives, we undertook various initiatives to equip them with essential skills, knowledge, and resources. This included organizing skills enhancement programs and career counselling sessions at both local and national levels. Altogether, 758 sponsored graduates received support in honing their skills and leadership capabilities.

### Connecting Youths to Broaden Their Perspectives

In association with Good Neighbors Global Citizenship Education 'Global Youth Network' Program, GNI Nepal also contributed to the pursuit of bringing change by connecting youths. The program focused on cultivating a sense of community among children and expanding their understanding through various initiatives. Nineteen groups of primary-level students and four groups of secondary-level students enthusiastically participated in an exchange program centered around Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate action.

## A Preview of Counseling for an Apt Career Path

Bigyan Sanjel, a 17-year-old, is a 12th grader at Jan Jagriti Higher Secondary School of Lamki Chuha Municipality. He is pursuing his studies in Science faculty. Bigyan, a sponsored child of GNI Nepal, is a diligent and intelligent student. He plans to compete for civil service after completing 12th grade. Bigyan shares, "Many young people seek job opportunities abroad, but after attending recent career counseling, I realized the potential for ample job opportunities right here in Nepal."

Rakesh Chaudhary, a sponsored student from the same locality, has achieved an impressive GPA of 3.82 in grade 11. He plans to remain in Nepal and contribute to his father's furniture enterprise after completing 12th grade.

Similarly, Laxmi Chaudhary from Geruwa Rural Municipality in Bardiya also aims to stay in Nepal and pursue a career in computer design. She mentions, "Previously, I was uncertain about my career path. However, the counseling workshop has instilled determination in me to achieve my goal".

Bigyan, Rakesh, and Laxmi were among the 53 participants who attended the Career Counseling Workshop organized by GNI Nepal in Dhangadhi. This workshop was specifically designed to provide counseling to sponsored graduates from Bardiya, Kailali, Doti, Bajura, and Darchula districts in 2023.

During the workshop, participants were guided through a process to identify their career goals by evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, they received guidance on enhancing their creativity and decision-making skills, empowering them to make informed choices about their future careers and endeavors.



# Public Health



## People exercise essential healthcare service and facilities



GNI Nepal's initiatives in public health are closely aligned with both national priorities and global aspirations. Rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly focused on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, these initiatives adopt a holistic approach addressing health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) concerns.

Strategically aligned with the Nepal Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP) 2023-2030, GNI Nepal aims to facilitate universal health access, foster multisectoral collaboration, and strengthen health systems through coordinated actions. Emphasizing the enhancement of the public healthcare system and promoting WASH facilities and practice in communities, GNI Nepal endeavors to ensure uninterrupted access to quality healthcare services for local communities.

This endeavor resonates with the strategic objectives of NHSSP, especially in enhancing service delivery at grassroots levels, thus directly contributing to the plan's first and fourth objectives. This alignment supports the overarching vision of the 15th National Development Plan, which envisions a resilient health system accessible to all population segments.



**123** traditional healers are mobilized for social behavioral change reaching **5,165** community members

## Our interventions

Overall, GNI Nepal's focus areas within public health encompass functionality of local health facilities, improving maternal and child health services and promoting comprehensive sexuality education. GNI Nepal continued its efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery at the local level, drive social mobilization for behavioral shifts in the community towards accessing healthcare services, empower adolescents with ASRH and CSE education, and advance WASH initiatives in schools, particularly focusing on menstrual health and hygiene. Additionally, our focus extended to maternal and child healthcare in remote regions such as Mugu, where we engaged with 14,901 parents of children under two years of age and strengthened the service delivery capacity of health posts through capacity building activities and equipment support. Furthermore, we assisted local governments in adopting and scaling up efforts to improve WASH conditions in healthcare facilities.



**4** drinking water systems constructed at school



**62** health facilities received equipment support



**715** individuals received WASH education



**123** health workers capacitated

## System Strengthening of Health Service Delivery at the Local Level

In 2023, GNI Nepal remained dedicated to strengthening the local health service delivery system. We supported health facilities through equipment, basic utilities, maintenance, and capacity building for health workers and management committees. Critical treatment support was also extended to needy-sponsored children, along with health checkup services. A total of 20,374 sponsored children benefited from annual health check-ups facilitated by GNI Nepal. GNI Nepal also collaborated with 21 local governments to provision annual health check-ups of 12,231 non-sponsored children enrolled in GNI-linked schools.

GNI Nepal's effort in advancing the system development of public health and WASH extends beyond the local level to the provincial and federal levels as well. As an active member of the Health Working Group (HWG) of the Associations of International NGOS Nepal (AIN), we contributed to the Digital Mapping of Health INGOs in Nepal (<https://ain.k8s.yipl.com.np/organizations/23>) for the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). Additionally, as a member of the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management Partners' Alliance (MHM PA), GNI Nepal contributed to setting MHM-related indicators for the forthcoming 16th Five-year Plan of the Government of Nepal (<https://mhmpa.org/>).

# A Well-equipped Health Post Saving Lives in a Remote Village



Kharpunath Health Post, situated in Kharpunath-5, Humla, was established in 1997. Though the health post was established nearly three decades ago, until a couple of years ago, it was unable to provide even basic health services to the inhabitants of its area because of lack of required equipment and human resource capacity. The needy were compelled to walk to the district hospital seeking basic health facilities. Pregnant women and elderly people had to suffer the most because of such urgency. Unfortunately, many pregnant women lost their lives and their infants because of the unavailability of basic health services.

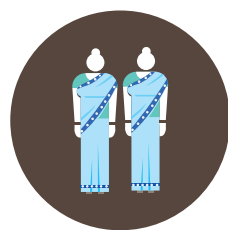
However, the area's populace now has access to required health services in the nearby health facility. The health post has adequate health workers and necessary equipment, offering 24-hour emergency health services. Approximately 435 households encompassing villages such as Khapelgaun, Durpa, Takla, and Bama benefit from the health post's services, with 20-30 people utilizing them daily.

Mr. Hari Bhakta Shahi, the health post's in-charge, shares, "In the last fiscal year, we handled 38 delivery cases with the

support of our skilled birth attendant (SBA)-trained auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs). We are determined to eliminate home deliveries in our community." He further mentioned, "We have also started catering to ECG tests. Till now, six cardiac patients have had the test. This progress has been made possible due to the support from GNI Nepal".

In 2022, GNI Nepal extended equipment support worth NPR 808,307 to the health post. The catered basic equipment enhanced screening, diagnosis, and maternal and child health services, including safe delivery services of the health post. GNI also supported the health post in enhancing skills in areas like health information management (HIMS) and maternal child health care, along with support for capacity building and mobilizing FCHVs.

A local resident, Shobha Shahi, shares, "Our health post has all the required facilities. We no longer need to rush to district headquarters for treatment. Previously, many pregnant women lost their lives, but, hopefully, our community will not have to face such issues anymore."



**1,287** FCHVs oriented and their mobilization facilitated



**4,849** individuals oriented on MHM



**18** MHM corners established in schools



**439** individuals received MCH knowledge



**1,477** adolescents orientated on ASRH



**590** HFOMC and ORC management members received health education

In the past, whenever a child in our community experienced any illness or health issue, we typically relied on traditional methods of treatment. But now our mindset has changed, and we now prefer seeking medical treatment at the health post.”

- Kalu Saud, Chaurpati Rural Municipality, Achham District

## Supporting Communities to Exercise Healthcare Services and Facilities

We facilitated comprehensive sexuality education and training on Adolescent and Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) to enable adolescents to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and sexuality. We continued supporting schools in managing MHM and maintaining WASH facilities and rural communities in being aware of maternal childcare. Recognizing WASH as a fundamental and crucial aspect of public health, we championed the cause of menstrual health and hygiene. This involved reinforcing WASH facilities in schools by helping them with drinking water supplies, toilet renovation, MHM corner establishment, and capacity building of schoolteachers and students.



## Bringing Health Service Seeking Behavioral Changes

GNI Nepal remained committed to promoting behavioral changes, enhancing the utilization of health facilities, and generating demand for health services within communities. To achieve these goals, our efforts were focused on capacitating and mobilizing FCHVs, engaging traditional healers, organizing campaigns related to MHM, and celebrating significant days and weeks to raise awareness about community health and WASH education.

We also assisted two wards in becoming MHM wards and endorsed a municipality’s MHM plan, primarily by mobilizing traditional healers.





## Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) Project

In 2022, GNI Nepal, with the support of GN UK, launched a WASH FIT pilot project in Modi Rural Municipality of Parbat District. The project aimed to improve the well-being of communities by enhancing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) conditions in health facilities within the rural municipality. The project's innovative implementation approaches and successful results garnered the interest of the adjoining Kushma Municipality resulting in the allocation of 50% budget and replication of the WASH FIT project in three municipal health posts by the municipality in collaboration with GNI Nepal. The extension of WASH FIT in Parbat led to the below results.

- GNI Nepal ensured water supply support to all three health posts as agreed. WASH FIT training was provided to health workers and WASH FIT Plan of all 17 health posts was prepared.
- 28 FCHVs were trained and mobilized to conduct monthly education sessions with health mother group members.
- 1,172 health mother group members were oriented on total sanitation.

# Expansion of WASH FIT in an Adjoined Municipality



The health posts faced significant challenges before the WASH FIT intervention in Kushma. They lacked access to drinking water and handwashing facilities, and their toilets were in disrepair and non-functional state. Child-friendly handwashing stations were absent, and there were issues with the management of placenta disposal from the birthing center. Waste management in the health posts was lacking, and health mother groups were not actively involved. Furthermore, no plan or mechanism was in place to maintain WASH standards. Overall, the situation was unpleasant.

Ms. Gita Pokhrel, FCHV of Durlung Health Post, expresses her gratitude for the WASH FIT project, noting that the health mother group, previously inactive, has become more functional and community-oriented, she shares, “The positive impact on the community is evident. People have started keeping their homes, water sources, and taps clean. Now, community members boil water before consumption. As a result, there is a decline in waterborne diseases”.

The positive impact of the WASH FIT project is visible in the improved WASH conditions of the associated health posts. These health facilities now have essential WASH facilities such as handwashing stations, safe drinking water sources, waste and placenta pits, child-friendly and gender-sensitive toilets, and sanitation kits. Moreover, health workers have received training on WASH FIT tools and infection prevention practices, and each health post has developed its own WASH FIT plan. Additionally, FCHVs and health mother group members have been trained in various WASH practices, contributing to the overall enhancement of WASH standards in the community.

Mr. Suresh Subedi, in charge of Durlung Health Post, remarks, “The WASH FIT concept is a relatively new approach. Only with the support of GNI Nepal have we come to understand the significance of this matter, which was previously neglected.”





## Maternal and Child Health Care (MCH) Project

GNI Nepal supported the residents of Mugu, with a particular focus on mothers and children, in accessing healthcare facilities through the MCH Project. This initiative combines hardware and software interventions, including infrastructure support for health facilities and the mobilization of community leaders and health volunteers, to address harmful cultural and traditional practices that hinder maternal and child healthcare.

In 2023, the project prioritized three key areas: increasing community awareness, ensuring service availability, and improving healthcare services. In its effort to raise awareness, the project organized various activities such as facilitating meetings of mothers' groups and fathers' groups, capacitating traditional healers and traditional birth attendants, conducting home visits by FCHVs, hosting *Deuda* (a local dance-song performance in Karnali Province) competitions and distributing behavioral changes materials.

To improve the accessibility of MCH services, the project concentrated on constructing birthing centers, and providing internet services to support timely reporting of healthcare facilities. Additionally, to enhance the quality of MCH services, the project empowered health workers of 10 health posts and district hospital through skilled birth attendant and implant training, facilitated meetings of Mugu District Hospital's hospital development committee, supported the formulation of Mugu Hospital's SOP and provided equipment support to three newly constructed birthing centres and other health facilities within the project territory.



# A Happy and Healthy Toddler



Samraj Budha, a 12-month-old infant, resides with his parents in Ruma, Soru Rural Municipality. His parents make their living as farmers. Samraj's mother, Rupa Budha, gave birth to him at home with the assistance of a traditional birth attendant (TBA). Unfortunately, the TBA lacked the necessary knowledge and skills for proper delivery, leading her to use a knife to cut the umbilical cord, resulting in an umbilical cord infection for Samraj.

The infection worsened because Samraj was not promptly taken to the nearby health facility, which is four hours away on foot from the village of Ruma. His parents hesitated to seek medical attention, believing the infection did not necessitate medical assistance.

In Ruma, a Health Mother Groups (HMGs) meeting is held monthly as part of the MCH Project. These meetings aim to increase mothers' awareness of various aspects of maternal and childcare. Rupa Budha, Samraj's mother, also attended one of these meetings. During the meeting, Samraj started

crying incessantly, drawing the attention of the MCH field staff. Concerned, Rupa explained her son's injury to the staff, who instantly advised her to visit the nearby hospital for urgent medical consultation.

Samraj was immediately taken to Shipa Health Post. He was referred to the district hospital for further treatment. With the medication and counseling, the infant's health was restored. Following the health workers' advice and prescriptions, the Budha family has adopted proper sanitation practices.

Due to the absence of a health counseling mechanism in the village and his parents' lack of awareness, Samraj remained untreated for six months. Thanks to the mother's group meeting, he was taken to the hospital and saved from further harm. His mother, Rupa, shares, "Now I understand well that home delivery is unsafe for both mother and children. Therefore, we should not follow such practices." She adds, "My son's life is saved due to the treatment he got in hospital. I urge all mothers to recognize this reality and not hesitate to visit the hospital whenever needed."



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Now I understand well that home delivery is unsafe for both mother and children. Therefore, we should not continue such practices.”



## Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) Project

Talking about sex and sexuality is taboo in Nepal. It is challenging for adolescents to talk, explore, and learn about it. It is equally challenging for teachers and parents to talk to children and guide them properly on the matter. Adolescent girls and young women remain deprived of the required information and knowledge because of social restrictions. In the Madhesh Province of Nepal, several cultural restrictions are imposed on girls and women, which limits their knowledge of sex, making them vulnerable to challenges relating sex and sexuality.

Sensing the issues, GNI Nepal piloted the CSE Project in Mahottari District to enhance the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents by providing CSE covering eight key concepts as per the international standard: 1) Relationships, 2) Values, rights, culture and sexuality, 3) Understanding gender, 4) Violence and staying safe, 5) Skills for health and wellbeing, 6) The human body and development, 7) Sexuality and sexual behavior and 8) Sexual and reproductive health. Besides contributing to better sexual and reproductive health, the project focused on equipping adolescents with

leadership, communication, analytical, and negotiation skills that strengthen holistic development and empower adolescents to advocate for their rights. Within a year, GNI Nepal succeeded in organizing 200 peer education sessions by mobilizing four girls' clubs that were formed under the project. Altogether, 129 adolescents and focal teachers of four schools received life skills training, and 1,145 adolescents received training on CSE in 2023.

The project trained the school principals, SMC chairs, focal teachers from target schools, parents, and community leaders, covering all nine wards of Bhangaha municipality, in addition to municipal-level government officials and stakeholders in CSE. Additionally, the project established adolescent-friendly information corners in schools and conducted community sensitization activities. Key activities of the project included community-level and municipality-level dialogues, policy development workshops, and province-level policy advocacy, culminating in the development of a draft policy on CSE.

# Girls Club Spreading Knowledge



Shree Rastriya Basic School is located at Ramnagar Birta, Bhangaha -4. In the school, there are a total of 552 students. Out of them, 282 are girls. In the school, Pragatishil Girls Club is actively functioning. With the support of GNI Nepal under the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Project, the 25-member club was formed on 15th June 2023 with the aim of disseminating information through peer education. GNI Nepal equipped the club members with facilitation, life skills training, and kit support.

As a result, the club has been actively conducting sessions on comprehensive sexuality education encompassing topics like menstrual hygiene, early child marriage, life skills, sexual violence, sexual and reproductive health, and rights. Mahesh Shah, Head Teacher of Shree Rashtriya Basic School, shares "Mithila is a conservative society. Speaking about sexuality is a taboo here. Providing comprehensive sexuality education is very important to transform society. We are thankful to GNI Nepal for its initiation, and we will ensure its continuity through the girls' club in the coming days."

GNI Nepal trained the schoolteachers and school management committee about the relevance of CSE in school. Later, the trained teachers were mobilized to

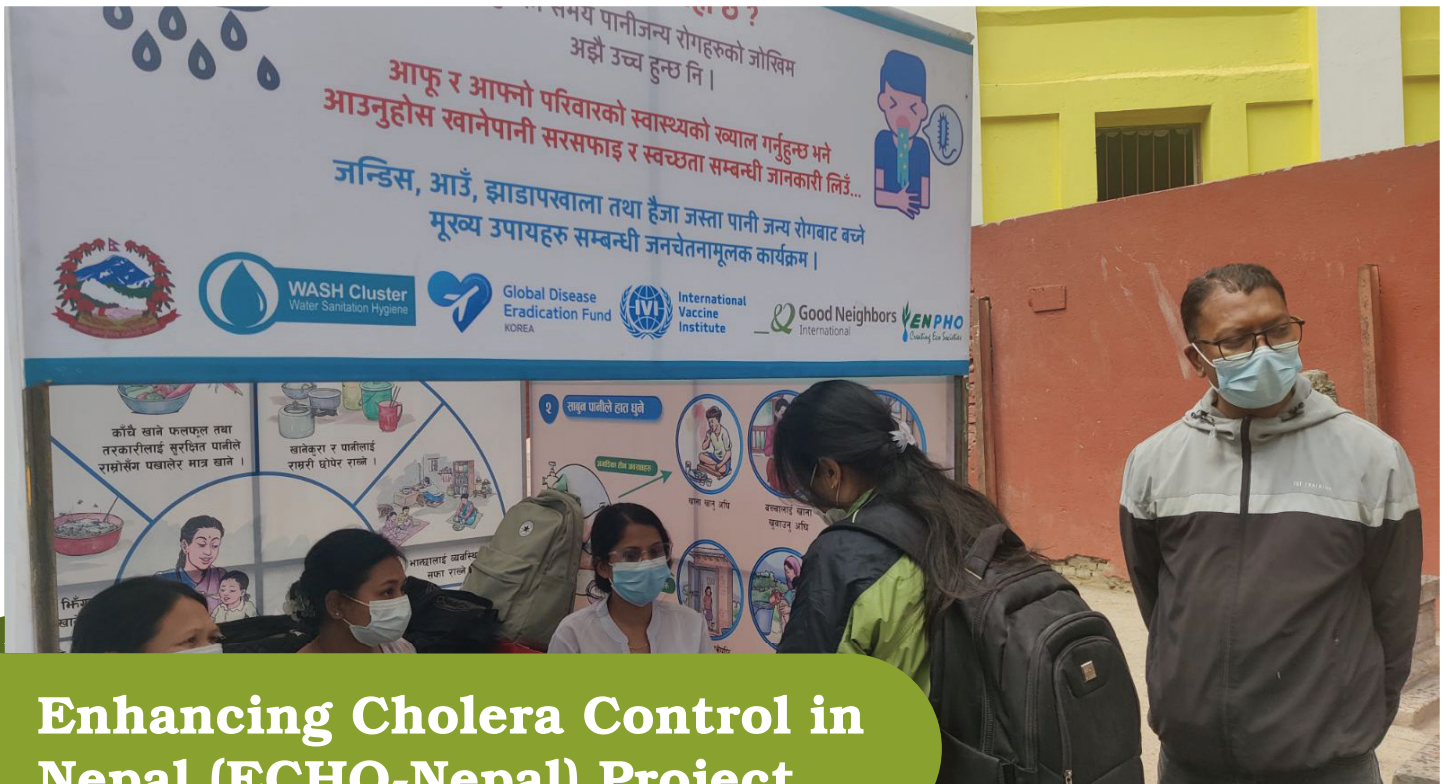
disseminate the knowledge among the club members, who circulated the information among their peers. Aarati Sharma, MHM Focal Person of the school, shares, "Through GNI Nepal we teachers and school management committee have been well acquainted with CSE. As a focal person, I do not have to put extra effort to convince my school management to agree to incorporate CSE." She adds, "The girl club has been instrumental in effectively disseminating knowledge and skills among the peers."

Within six months, the club organized 19 educational sessions, and all 191 students studying from grades five to eight participated. Besides, the club conducts street drama events to raise awareness against child marriage. So far, they have conducted three events of such dramas, which have been observed by more than 3,000 individuals.

Shruti Shah, president of Pragatishil Girls Club shares, "We conduct peer education sessions regularly. Such sessions have been beneficial to us. We know so many important things that we would not have learned about if GNI Nepal had not trained us." She adds, "My active engagement in club activities has made me confident and articulate."



“  
My active engagement in club activities has made me confident and articulate.”



## Enhancing Cholera Control in Nepal (ECHO-Nepal) Project

To contribute to enhancing Nepal's capacity to detect, respond to, and prevent cholera outbreaks, GNI Nepal implemented the Enhancing Cholera Control in Nepal Project in 2023. With the objective of preventing cholera, limiting outbreaks through strengthened rapid response capacity. GNI Nepal conducted various support activities in Kailali District and Kathmandu Valley. The intervention focused on enhancing healthcare infrastructure, health workers' capacity, testing water contamination levels, and awareness-raising activities. A glimpse of achievements is presented below:

1. Seti Provincial Hospital's microbiology lab was installed.
2. The hospital was supported with 98 lab items and 16 surveillance items for the microbiology lab.
3. WASH awareness and water quality tests were conducted in Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City and Gokarneshwor Municipality by installing testing booths in different locations.
4. Three rounds of WASH and cholera awareness campaigns alongside cholera vaccination camps were organized in wards 11, 12, and 13 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
5. 638 individuals, including health workers, health community volunteers, women's group members, and youths trained on preparedness and prevention of waterborne diseases.
6. Social media content for awareness raising reached 633,251 individuals.
7. 2,272 individuals were sensitized about waterborne disease through youth mobilization.
8. WASH materials support was made available to hotspot areas in KMC wards 11, 12, and 13.



# Social Economy



## People achieve economic empowerment



Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to poverty and hunger eradication, promotion of gender equality, sustainable economic growth, and mitigating climate change, GNI Nepal is committed to fostering a world free from hunger and societies living in harmony through economic and social empowerment. Our endeavors under social economy align with national policies and strategies, especially the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS 2015 to 2035), aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and income through the integration of sustainable agriculture practices. In adherence to the National Adaptation Plan, GNI Nepal advocates for climate-smart agricultural techniques. We have consistently strengthened cooperatives, by providing capacity building, fostering good governance, nurturing leadership development, and delivering financial management training abiding by the Cooperative Act 2017.

Underutilization of local resources is a primary driver of poverty in Nepal. Untapped resources have deprived youth of income-generating opportunities, leading them to low-wage and low-productivity jobs in the agriculture and unorganized sectors. Agriculture is the primary sector of Nepal's economy, with 62 percent of households engaged in it as evidenced by the 2021/22 agriculture census. However, the sector's potential remains largely unrealized due to technological limitations and a lack of commercial orientation, which is further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

In response to these challenges, GNI Nepal has prioritized initiatives aimed at generating income, fostering employment, developing agricultural value chains, promoting climate-resilient and eco-friendly practices, and strengthening cooperatives. Furthermore, we offer startup and business development support to rural families in need.



**2,030** events of agriculture onsite training conducted

## Our interventions

Addressing the prevalent issues concerning agriculture development, GNI Nepal focused on income generation and employment support, agricultural value chain development, promotion of climate-resilient agricultural methodologies, eco-friendly practices, strengthening cooperatives, and providing start-up and business development support to needy families of rural areas. In 2023, through its social economy interventions, GNI Nepal reached more than 32,700 households across 15 districts. Altogether, 6,933 micro-enterprises were established and upgraded, and 65 GNI Nepal-linked cooperatives achieved annual revenue exceeding NPR 45 million, indicating their potential for sustainable growth and impact.



**65** cooperatives received tailored support for sustainable impact



**11** cooperatives received support for business development



**6.2** million \$ capital accumulated in cooperatives



**38** cooperatives supported for accounting software

## Strengthening Cooperative for a Robust Rural Economy

GNI Nepal has persistently strengthened cooperatives as pivotal institutions for economic and social development in rural settings. The cooperatives received customized support for improving their governance, management, and market access, leading to increased sustainability and impact. Altogether, 65 cooperatives were provided with tailored support to help them improve governance, management, and market access, leading to increased sustainability and impact and 11 received support for their business development, and 38 were equipped with cooperative accounting software solutions to streamline operations, enhance transparency, and improve communication among members. GNI Nepal interventions have had a positive impact on the social and economic well-being of communities in Nepal, as evidenced by the accumulation of capital (\$ 6.2 Million) in

cooperatives, enterprise start-ups, and expansion support to 543 individuals in 2023 and the access to financial services guaranteed to more than 30,000 cooperative members.



## In the Quest of Being Self-reliant



Bhangara Ekta Agriculture Cooperative Limited was established with the support of GNI Nepal in 2014. Its office building was constructed in 2019 with a total investment of NPR 1,310,078, of which 46% contribution was from GNI Nepal. GNI Nepal also supported the cooperative in setting up the office by providing equipment like computers, printers, chairs, tables, and whiteboards and capacitated its staff and members to operate the cooperative effectively.

Currently, the cooperative has 390 members, among whom 296 are women, including parents of 150 sponsored children. The cooperative covers 400 households in Ward 9 of Phalewas Municipality of Parbat District. It imparts services in arenas like saving and credit, agricultural input support, and technical support for promoting agriculture-based enterprises, including goat-keeping, vegetable farming, and beekeeping.

Now, the cooperative owns a total capital of NPR 14.8 million. It has savings of NPR 5.2 million, and the current loan investment of the cooperative is NPR. 10.2 million. NPR 3.2 million has been mobilized as a subsidized loan for enterprise startup support.

Ward number -9 of Phalewas is growing as a honey hub. In the area, more than 400 households are beekeepers. Beekeeping is one of the most prominent areas in which startup support has been invested. At present, 51 people have received such support for beekeeping.

Top Bahadur Chhetri, a beekeeper of the area, claims, “My father pioneered beekeeping in the area two decades ago. People used to come to our home seeking it for medicinal use.” Later, the practice of beekeeping spread over the village. GNI Nepal has played a crucial role in expanding and promoting beekeeping

in the area. Through Bhangara Ekta Agriculture Cooperative, GNI Nepal provided technical and financial support to the beekeepers. GNI Nepal has also supported the cooperative in establishing a collection center. As a result, the beekeepers have the facility to sell their products to the cooperative. In 2023 only, the cooperative collected honey from the beekeepers that worthed NPR. 150,000.

Rosa Chhetri, Manager of the cooperative, says, “We started collecting honey at the beginning of 2023. We pay NPR 1,350 to the beekeepers per kilogram and sell it at NPR 1,450 with proper packaging and labeling.” She adds, “GNI’s technical and financial support has enabled us to start this venture.”

The cooperative plans to help its members adopt eco-friendly farming in its territory. So that the bees get chemical-free materials to consume, and better-quality honey can be produced. Madan Poudel, the cooperative chairperson, says, “Applying the learning and experiences of honey marketing, we plan to help the farmers expand vegetable farming and goat keeping in the coming days. Such endeavors will also help the cooperative be self-reliant.”





**6,933** individuals received enterprise start-up and expansion support through cooperatives



**4,087** (women 65.5%) farmers trained



**149** local resource persons developed and mobilized

## Expanding Employment and Income Generation Opportunities

Applying different tailored methods, GNI Nepal capacitated small farmers and emerging entrepreneurs for their sustainable growth. Through several training events, orientations, and workshops, 4,087 farmers, including 65.5% of women, received capacity-building support to enhance their technical know-how on agriculture and business management. A network of local resource persons is built

to disseminate knowledge and skills and make consultations available locally. Altogether, 149 local resource persons were mobilized for intensive and immediate guidance. As a result, 2,320 farmers received knowledge and skills in eco-friendly (natural) farming through on-site training events conducted directly in the farmers' fields, maximizing accessibility and impact.





## Facilitating Agriculture Value Chain

To bolster the rural economy through sustainable production and consumption, GNI Nepal is actively promoting various agricultural commodities. Our primary focus is on goats, seeds, dairy products, vegetables, and apples. In our efforts, we have concentrated on uplifting the goat value chain in the Darchula, Bajura, and Doti districts through collaborations with 13 cooperatives. A total of 360 goat keepers engaged in goat rearing have received training in goat farming, and frequent veterinary consultations that have directly benefited them. Consequently, there has been a notable 66% increase in the goat population, translating to an estimated NPR 15.9 million (\$127,200) in revenue for goat farmers. Our support in the goat value chain has primarily focused on sustainable production, encompassing start-up and expansion support, knowledge and skills enhancement.

Another key commodity we are actively promoting is dairy production, particularly in the Darchula, Kailali, Bajura,

and Bardiya districts. We have assisted four cooperatives in establishing milk collection centers, benefiting a total of 293 farmers. These farmers have received various forms of support, including livestock management training, fodder grass assistance, veterinary consultations, and tools provisions.

Additionally, we are fostering the development of a sustainable value chain for vegetables using eco-friendly farming techniques. Currently, 2,300 farmers are actively involved in vegetable farming, contributing to environmentally conscious agricultural practices. Moreover, through our partnerships with three cooperatives, we are promoting the seed value chain in Kailali and Bardiya, engaging 66 seed producers and reaching out to 1,039 farmers to ensure a robust and sustainable agricultural ecosystem.

## Prosperity through Goat Keeping



Padam Singh Dhama, a 52-year-old farmer, resides in Ward-3 of Malikarjun Rural Municipality in Darchula. His primary source of income is goat farming. In 2014, he embarked on goat farming with just two goats. However, thanks to the support from GNI Nepal through Shree Shailashikar Cooperative, he now owns 40 goats. With the scaling support received from GNI Nepal, he constructed accommodating sheds and increased his goat numbers.

He is content with the earnings from goat-keeping. He built a brick house with a toilet and other essential amenities using his income. His son, who recently completed sub-engineering in Kathmandu, is now employed at an internet service provider's company. Reflecting on his journey, he says, "Had I not started goat farming, I would not have been able to educate my children well and build this house. With the support of GNI Nepal, I have become a commercial goat keeper." Inspired by his success, seven households in his neighborhood have also ventured into goat keeping.

GNI Nepal consistently supports farmers like Padam Singh Dhama in improving product quality through technical training, exposure visits, and on-site support by mobilizing technical staff.

After undergoing goat-keeping training provided by GNI Nepal, he has effectively managed his sheds. The training has equipped him with the knowledge and skills necessary for maintaining a balanced diet for his livestock, as well as providing him with valuable business ideas.

He remarks, "Before the training, I focused on sales even with just 2-4 goats. Now, I prioritize increasing numbers, leading to better profits." Marketwise, he faces no issues as he can sell goats either through the cooperative or directly, given his reputation as a skilled goat keeper, attracting customers seeking quality goats.



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Before the training, I focused on sales even with just 2-4 goats. Now, I prioritize increasing numbers, leading to better profits.”



## Building Climate Resilience through Natural Resource Management and Ecological Farming in River Basins of Dhanusha District in Nepal

GNI Nepal implemented Building Climate Resilience through Natural Resource Management and Ecological Farming in River Basins Project in 2023. The project focused on interventions to establish sound natural resource management and eco-friendly practices by creating awareness against defective natural resource management practices, formulation, and execution of resource-friendly regulations in the community, building structures to control the impact of floods on agricultural land, promoting eco-friendly farming technologies through training and demonstrations, encouraging soil fertility management, and agroforestry practices. Within a year-long implementation period, the project successfully attained below accomplishment.

1. More than 2,000 people were sensitized on effective natural resource management practices by mobilizing 187 community leaders.
2. In three communities, river control structures were constructed.

3. 400 farmers received training in ecological agricultural practices.
4. Improved practices like riverbed farming, indigenous seed preservation, farm waste composting, manure management, and local methods for biofertilizer preparation were promoted in 20 farmer groups.
5. 403 soil samples were tested in collaboration with the Nepal Government's Soil Testing Laboratory. Of all tested samples, 103 showed sandy loam soil texture, whereas 300 samples contained loamy texture indicating the soil quality being suitable for most of the field crops.
6. The project supported 400 farmers to transplant 5,800 saplings of fruit, fodder, and timber trees along the river basin areas.
7. 20 farmer groups formulated regulations to protect the transplanted trees.



## Eco-friendly Farming (Natural Farming)

In Nepal, subsistence farmers still practice natural farming with their traditional approach; However, the push for increased income often leads farmers to adopt commercial farming practices, which typically involve using chemicals and conventional techniques. Conversely, eco-friendly farming promotes an agroecology-based diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees, and livestock while incorporating functional biodiversity.

Recognizing the detrimental impact of conventional farming on the environment and human health due to chemical usage, GNI Nepal took the initiative to promote eco-friendly farming practices in 2022. By 2023, this initiative had expanded to cover 13 districts, benefiting over 2,300 farmers associated with 32 GNI Nepal-linked cooperatives.

Initially, the project encountered challenges in convincing farmers about the effectiveness of eco-friendly farming

practices. However, an increasing number of farmers are now leaning towards this approach due to its numerous benefits. These benefits include reducing farming costs by up to 30%, enhancing soil quality, reducing the frequency of irrigation, and replacing chemical pesticides with homemade alternatives.

In its efforts to ensure the expansion of eco-friendly farming, GNI Nepal adopted several pragmatic and operational approaches, including.

### **Development and mobilization of Local Lead Farmers for continuous coaching:**

149 farmers were developed as local resource persons and mobilized to impart knowledge and guidance to the farmers affiliated with their groups. They helped farmers of their locality have conceptual clarity of eco-friendly farming and technical know-how of farming, which includes

appropriate knowledge of planting seeds, mulching, composting, transplantation and irrigation methods, and intercultural management.

### On-site Training:

The on-site training is an unprecedented training methodology adopted by GNI Nepal to help farmers integrate eco-friendly farming approaches. The training was not completed within a single time frame and in a particular venue; instead, it was conducted on-site by providing interval coaching in a practical manner, and the counseling to the farmers continued even after the training period.



### Publication and distribution of a training manual:

The project has published and distributed a pictorial training manual among the lead farmers. The manual contains instructive information about mulching, zero or minimum tillage, preparation and use of compost and nutrients using locally available resources, generation and expansion of indigenous micro-organisms, and preparation and application of fermented plant and fruit juice.

### Branding and market matching:

GNI Nepal supported the farmers with pickets to advertise their vegetables. Also, two possible markets - Raithane Bazaar (local traditional market), a one-stop platform for buying local products, and MATO (soil), a local retailer with an online platform selling fresh and healthy fruits and vegetables are under discussion. A documentary was developed and broadcast through a Nepali TV channel to raise awareness about the importance of such a farming method. Meanwhile, we have initiated coordination with the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) to validate the results of eco-friendly farming for its upscaling.



## Building Climate Resilience and Reintegrating Economically Displaced Workers through Climate Smart Agriculture in the Terai Flood Plain, Nepal

Building Climate Resilience and Reintegrating Economically Displaced Workers through Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Terai Flood Plain of Nepal (referred to as the CSA Project) is currently being implemented in the Dhanusha and Mahottari districts by GNI Nepal, with financial support from Global Green Growth Institute. The project aims to promote the widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices to reduce vulnerability and enhance food and job security, particularly targeting women, returning migrant workers, and youth. During the first year of the project implementation period (January 2023 to December 2023), the following achievements were realized.

- In total, 455 farmers, including 115 women and 340 men, learned to develop climate-smart agriculture business plans.

- 200 agriculture-based enterprises, among which 38 were women-led, were developed. Among all established enterprises, 26 were registered.
- 120 self-help groups, comprising 48% women and 7% returnee migrants, were formed, and mobilized to demonstrate CSA technologies.
- 3,009 farmers were oriented on basic principles and practices of CSA and supported with agricultural input materials to practice the learned technologies.
- 300 farmers received technology, equipment, and material support to develop 20 climate smart model farms.

## Diversified Ventures Fostering Growth



Ram Baran Yadav and his family of five reside in Mukhiyapati Musharniya. He works as a farmer and possesses 0.5 hectares of land, which is susceptible to damage due to frequent floods. Yadav previously adhered to conventional farming methods, resulting in low returns and making it challenging for his family to break free from a cycle of debt and food insecurity.

With the assistance of the Climate Smart Agriculture Project, Ram Baran has finally been able to get rid of the vicious cycle of loss. Yadav got to participate in a two-day business plan training program under the project. The training imparted to him the concept of a mixed farming model.

With his business proposal and unwavering determination, Ram Baran secured a loan of NPR 1,000,000 (\$8000) from NMB Bank. The project provided initial support and technical guidance, helping him construct a cattle shed and launch farm. With this support, he purchased two cows and two

buffaloes, beginning a new chapter filled with optimism and anticipation. Ram Baran's hard work and efficient use of financial resources resulted in positive outcomes. He shares, "I sell 35 liters of milk daily at 70 Nepali rupees (\$0.57) per liter, leading to a monthly savings of NPR 50,000 (\$400). This profit allows me to cover all family expenses, including loan interest payments on time".

Inspired by climate-smart agricultural practices learned during the training, Yadav expanded his enterprise by venturing into commercial vegetable farming on 0.3 hectares of land. He used cow manure and urine from his cattle farm to produce high-quality compost, enhancing crop yields. With the project's technical guidance and his steadfast determination, Yadav now earns an additional NPR 30,000 (\$240) monthly from vegetable farming. This extra income has allowed him to provide his children with quality education, setting the stage for a brighter future for them.

“

I sell 35 liters of milk daily at 70 Nepali rupees (\$0.57) per litre, leading to a monthly savings of NPR 50,000 (\$400). This profit allows me to cover all family expenses, including loan interest payments easily”.





## Greening Solid Waste Value Chain in Kathmandu Valley

Growing population, urbanization, economic development, and associated consumption levels are accelerating waste generation at a concerning pace. The condition in low-income countries like Nepal is particularly alarming, where only 40% of the generated waste is collected, and 93% is dumped (World Bank 2021). Thousands of scrap dealers and small-scale recycling companies are operating in Nepal. However, only around a hundred of them are formally registered. Recognizing the need to upgrade, update, scale up, and institutionalize recycling practices with increased investment and adoption of environmentally sound technologies in Nepal, GNI Nepal piloted the Greening Solid Waste Value Chain Project in Godawari Municipality in 2023.

Through its intervention, GNI Nepal contributed significantly to the systematic segregation of solid waste at the source by enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations, youth clubs, women's groups, and private sector companies in Godawari Municipality of Lalitpur District. The project

adopted a public-private partnership (PPP) model to create an efficient and sustainable waste management system. Key activities included raising community awareness about the 5Rs concept (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot) through CSO mobilization and organizing educational sessions in schools and colleges, improving waste segregators' skills in waste identification and segregation, assisting the local government in formulating necessary policies, conducting waste management demonstrations in targeted municipalities, and establishing waste-based enterprises in collaboration with the private sector.

“

We learned the importance of applying safety materials while undertaking our work to keep ourselves and our family safe.”

- Sudha Podar, a Waste Segregator

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- Altogether, eight schools collaborated to promote waste management. They were aided in managing waste by initiating a kitchen garden with the participation of students and supported with the installment of trash bins.
- School students were oriented on waste management through the 5Rs concept. Such support benefited 2,826 students in terms of hygiene maintenance and knowledge enhancement.
- We collaborated with three CSOs to raise awareness of the 5Rs concept, reaching out to a populace of wards 3, 10, and 11 of Godawari Municipality.
- Orientation to community members on waste management reached out to 96 individuals, including 68 women.
- Godawari Municipality was supported in formulating and endorsing the Clean Ward Declaration Procedure and installing trash bins in 60 spots.
- 40 unemployed women received skills in making handicrafts and dolls out of home-based waste.
- 60 community members, including 54 women were trained in compost preparation.



- We collaborated with three leading waste management companies. 60 segregators, including 18 women, associated with the companies were trained on safe and efficient ways of waste segregation.
- The collaborated waste management companies were provided with a dewatering machine and two shredders with 40 tons of organic waste recycling capacity per day and 250 kg of plastic recycling per hour, respectively.
- 60% of solid waste was segregated at the household level.

“

**“We have been trained to reuse wasted clothes and materials to prepare handicrafts like dolls, keyrings, and cushions. Using the acquired skills, we can start our own enterprises.”**

**- Dharma Keshari Kapadi, a recipient of Doll Making Training**

”



# Celebration of 20 Years of Service in Nepal



On 28th March 2023, GNI Nepal organized an event in Kathmandu to mark Good Neighbors' 20 years of service in Nepal. More than 250 people attended the celebration, including dignitaries from the government, the South Korean community in Nepal, the UN, intergovernmental and bilaterals, I/NGO representatives, partner representatives, GNI Nepal staff, community members, sponsored children, and media persons.

The Chief Guest of the Event was Honorable Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairperson of the National Assembly, and Special Guests were Honorable Dr. Jaya Kant Raut, Member of the National Planning Commission, Manoj Bhatta, Secretary of the Social Welfare Council, His Excellency Park Chong-Suk, Ambassador of the Embassy of Republic Korea, Yongsic An, Regional Coordinator of Good Neighbors International, Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Executive Director, KIDRAC Nepal, Shreya Adhikari, Child Club representative, and Jaekyun Rho, Country Director of Good Neighbors International Nepal, also graced the event.

Mr. Minho Choi, Secretary General of Good Neighbors, virtually delivered the welcome speech and Country Director of GNI Nepal also welcomed the guests. Government representatives appreciated

the efforts of GNI Nepal and the Republic of Korea in improving the lives of poor and marginalized children and communities for two decades.

They also thanked GNI Nepal for supporting the government in accelerating positive changes in rural areas of Nepal.

Fifteen students from a GNI Nepal-linked school performed a role play that depicted the contribution of GNI Nepal in empowering and protecting the lives of poor and marginalized children.

The event also had stalls showcasing Good Neighbors' work in Nepal through demonstrations, models, print materials, ethnic and cultural performances by members of a working community, experience sharing by teacher, cooperative representative, in-charge of Primary Health Care Center, traditional healer, and sponsorship service graduates.

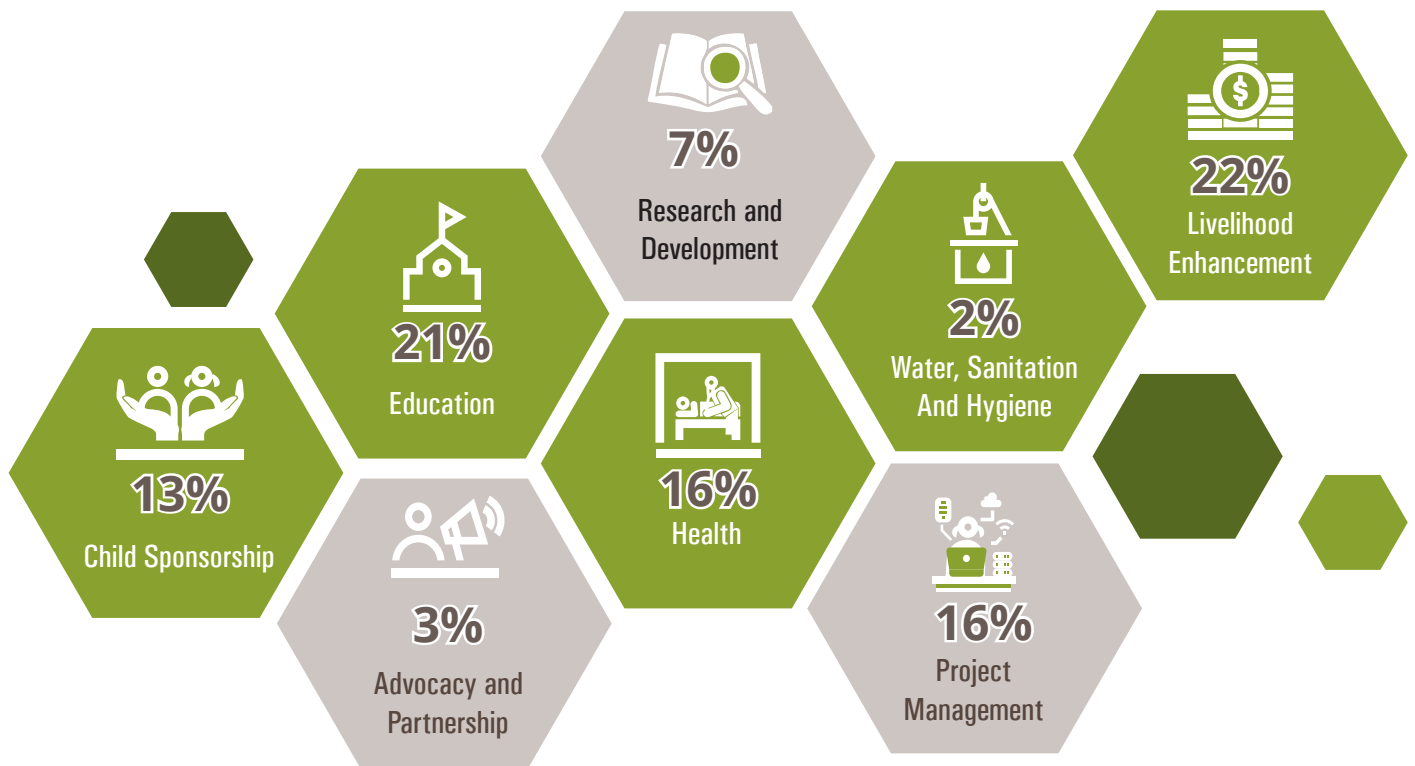
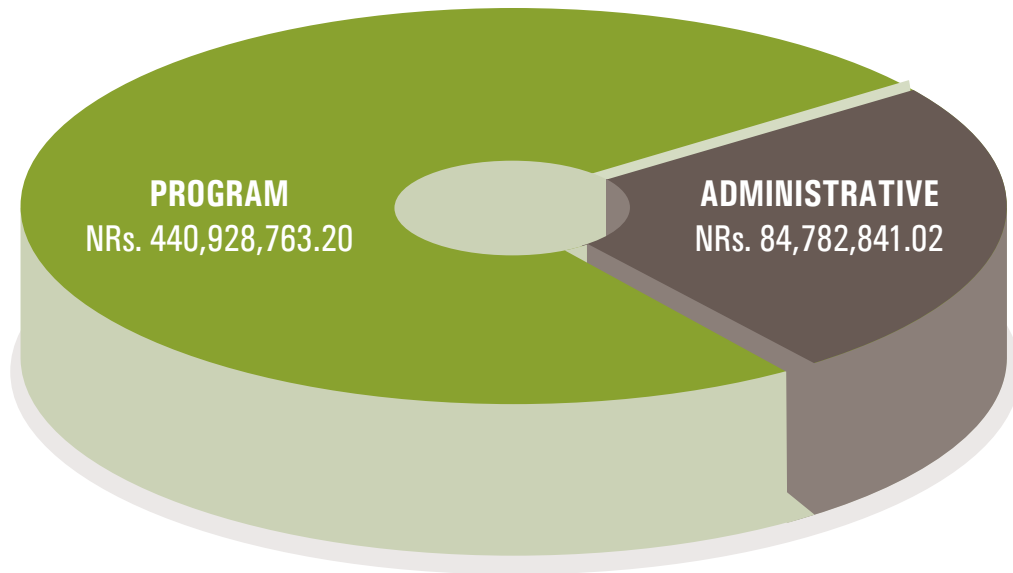
During its 20 years of engagement in Nepal, GNI Nepal partnered with 683 schools, 393 health facilities, and 141 cooperatives in 22 districts across Nepal's mountains, hills, and plains, bringing transformation and lasting change to the lives of 42,328 children, their peers, families, and communities.



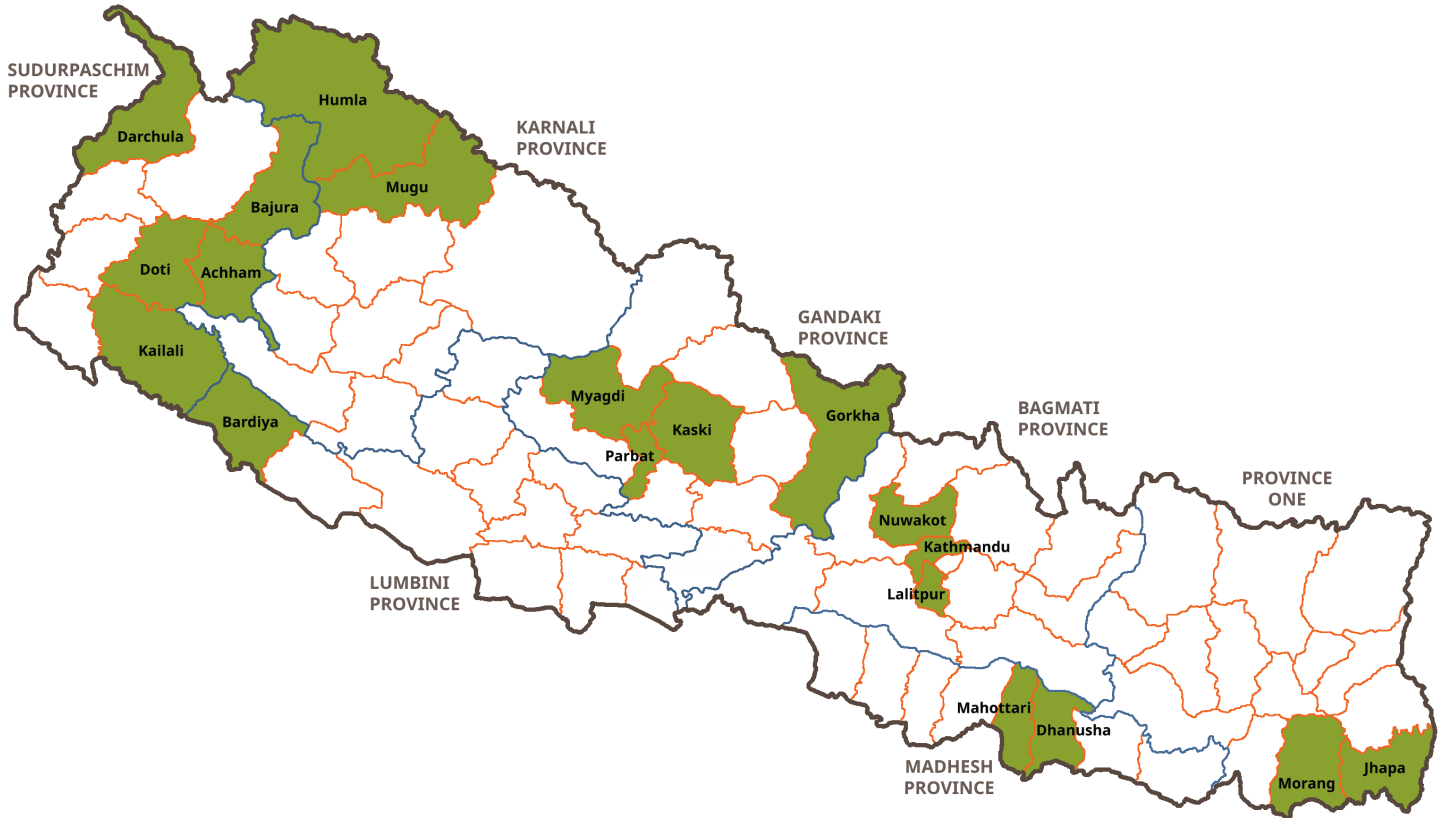
# Financials



**TOTAL**  
NRs. 525,711,604.22



# Working districts



*Good Change for the World*

 **Good Neighbors**  
International

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